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JP'S WEEKLY TEST RATE INCREASES, PAGE 7

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The James Michael Curley House on the Jamaicaway has become the new operational headquarters of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy – a very active and growing non-profit that promotes and preserves the entire Emerald Necklace from the Back Bay to Franklin Park. While the group began to move into the Home in March 2020, that was blocked by COVID-19 and now they are hoping to begin a full relocation and have a welcome party when it's safe to do so. Late last month, they decided to have a virtual Open House, which was hosted by the Friends of the Curley House and other interested parties.

Emerald Necklace Conservancy settles into Curley House

BY SETH DANIEL

When the Emerald Necklace Conservancy was chosen by the City to be the new tenant for the James Michael Curley home on the Jamaicaway, most said it couldn't have been a more perfect fit.

Loads of supporters from all over the City – and neighbors in Jamaica Plain – were ready to celebrate the re-location of such a major non-profits headquarters to a historic home abutting one of the gems of the Necklace, Jamaica Pond. In early March 2020, the Conservancy started moving

in furniture, arranging their part of the Landmarked home to their liking, and preparing to welcome the community into the long-underutilized home.

Then came COVID-19 on March 13 and the grand entrance

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The Miracle in our Backyard

Reggie Lewis mass vaccination site offers community special access to appointments

BY SETH DANIEL

When the Reggie Lewis Center mass vaccination site opened a few months ago, the idea from the get-go was to appeal to the local communities like Jamaica Plain – and particularly to make it easy

for skeptical Black and brown residents in those communities to access information and the vaccine right in their backyard if they so choose.

To the astonishment of many, when it opened, the community

really didn't come.

Initially, most of the appointments were taken by people from other parts of the city, or more likely, from far-flung suburbs

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Acting Mayor Janey launches campaign for four-year term

BY LAUREN BENNETT

Acting Mayor Kim Janey on Monday announced the All Inclusive Boston Campaign, which aims to help the tourism and hospitality industries recover equitably from the effects of the pandemic.

“The goal is to curate new narratives and aspirational content about Boston, enticing a broader and more diverse set of consumers to visit later this summer or fall,” according to a release from the city. “The local focus is a vital part of All Inclusive Boston. The vibrant small businesses, local attractions and eclectic neighborhood offerings across the city are pillars of this campaign. Ultimately, All Inclusive Boston will reposition the city to a new demographic of visitors while spotlighting its rich cultural and commercial assets,



Acting Mayor Kim Janey.

including those beyond traditional tourist sites. Mayor Janey is dedicated to supporting all of Boston's communities throughout the recovery.”

The campaign was funded using CARES Act money, and

Continued on page 2

JP police present March crime overview

BY LAURA PLUMMER

On Thursday, April 1, District E13 of the Boston Police Department hosted its monthly virtual police and community relations meeting. Around 10 members of

the public were in attendance.

The monthly meeting is an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions of local law enforcement. At every meet-

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La policía de JP presenta resumen del crimen en marzo

BY LAURA PLUMMER

El jueves 1 de abril, el Distrito E13 del Departamento de Policía de Boston llevó a cabo su reunión mensual de relaciones policiales y comunitarias. Asistieron unos

10 miembros de la comunidad.

La reunión mensual es una oportunidad para que el público haga preguntas a las autoridades locales. En cada reunión, los ofi-

Continued on page 4

JP Main Streets employees will benefit from new MBTA and Bluebike pilot program

By JOHN LYNDIS

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic many inequities have been exposed. From the virus disproportionately affecting people of color to essential workers not having the luxury of working from home thus jeopardizing their health and safety.

Many essential workers who have been on the frontlines throughout the pandemic have relied heavily on public transportation.

Now a new pilot program in Jamaica Plain and other neighborhoods heavily impacted by the COVID-19 crisis will make public transportation more equitable for essential workers.

Acting Boston Mayor Kim Janey announced this week that the City of Boston is piloting a new program to offer up to a

\$60 credit for MBTA and Bluebikes passes for 1,000 employees who work in Jamaica Plain's Main Streets District, as well as employees in four other Main Streets Districts.

The city has begun registering employees in Main Streets Districts in Jamaica Plain, Mission Hill, Nubian Square, East Boston and Fields Corner for the pilot program and registration will end on April 19.

These five Main Street districts are all served by MBTA subway and Bluebikes stations.

"Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, many essential workers have continued to utilize public transportation because they have been unable to work from home," said Janey. "I'm proud to launch this pilot program with the MBTA and

Bluebikes to learn more about the impacts on commuter patterns when the cost of public transit is covered. And as more workers begin in return to workplaces, making transit more accessible is critical to our equitable recovery from the pandemic."

Janey said the goal of the program is to incentivize employees returning to work and workers who currently drive to work to use public transit. With an expected increase in post-COVID-19 traffic, the City of Boston is piloting this incentive program to help alleviate small business districts of congestion and free up curb space for local neighborhood customers. The pilot program also seeks to lessen vehicular traffic to help reduce its environmental impact.

"We are excited to partner

with our local Main Street Districts to pilot free public transit options for those working in Boston's neighborhoods," said Transportation Commissioner Greg Rooney. "Creating incentives to use public transit or bike to work options helps our economy, our environment and our local businesses. As more workers plan on restarting their commute, the Boston Transportation Department is committed to exploring creative ways to reduce traffic, carbon emissions and support Boston's workers."

The city managed pilot program is aimed at measuring how financial incentives for public transit impact commuting behavior and will be phased over the next two months.

Of the 1,000 qualified workers, some individuals will be ran-

domly selected to get an MBTA pass with the full \$60 credit loaded, and the remainder of the individuals will receive smaller stipends over time, which will end up totaling \$60.

Bluebikes pass-holders will be able to take unlimited trips during the two-month period. Bluebikes trips must be completed within 45 minutes to avoid usage charges. There is no obligation to continue paying for the Bluebikes pass once the two months are over.

Data from the pilot program will be used to inform the city's long-term transportation demand management strategy.

To learn more about the pilot or to sign up for the program, please visit: boston.gov/FREERide or text FREERide to 866-396-0122.

Gun arrest after shots fired in JP

By JOHN LYNDIS

Police arrested a South Boston man and charged him with illegal gun possession after responding to a call of shots fired on Heath Street in Jamaica Plain.

On Tuesday, March 30 members of the Boston Police Youth

Violence Strike Force arrested 23-year-old Reymundo Ortiz of South Boston after responding to a call for shots fired in the area of 123 Heath St. .

The incident occurred at 11 p.m. on the above date when officers from Jamaica Plain's E-13 station were on patrol near the

Bromley-Heath Housing Development when they heard the sound of gunfire in close proximity.

The officers located numerous spent shell casings and observed ballistic damage to three motor vehicles as well as one nearby residence.

As additional responding officers units began to canvas the area they observed the suspect, later identified as Ortiz, fleeing the scene on foot. Officers observed what appeared to be an unknown heavy object concealed beneath the front of his hooded sweatshirt.

Officers stopped Ortiz in the area of 70 Parker Hill Avenue and performed a pat frisk, which led to the recovery of a 9mm handgun from the suspect's waistband. Officers noted that the 17-round magazine was completely empty.

The suspect was placed in custody without incident and was arraigned in Roxbury District Court on charges of Unlawful Possession of a Firearm and Possession of a Large Capacity Feeding Device.

Janey

Continued from page 1

"in accordance with the regulations, the project must provide resources or assistance to mitigate effects on health and/or provide economic support," according to the city.

Colette Phillips of Colette Phillips Communications said at Monday's press conference that she is "grateful for the opportunity to have worked on this project," adding that she believes "this campaign is one that I believe is a game changer."

Janey said that revenue is "down as much as 70 percent" for the tourism sector, and hotel revenue is down 80 percent.

"Boston is one of the hardest hit cities when it comes to the tourism sector," she said.

Janey said that "our public health recovery is essential for the recovery, reopening, and renewal of Boston's travel and hospital sector."

She added that the campaign asks residents of Boston as well as residents of the surrounding region to "rediscover Boston's neighborhoods."

Janey said that she is "proud of this campaign and what it represents," and "with the launch of All Inclusive Boston, we will begin to write the next chapter in Boston's safe recovery, reopening, and renewal."

The campaign began "with a

very comprehensive and strategic research component to it," Janey said, with surveys of past and potential visitors conducted.

"The All Inclusive campaign is showing visitors that Boston has it all—by highlighting the city's many sides, stories, shops, small businesses, festivals and flavors," according to a release from the city. "It is running locally—on billboards, bus shelters, bike shares, bus wraps, radio, social media, print, and digital publications—to encourage Bostonians to try new restaurants or explore new neighborhoods. The 6-week campaign is targeting a drive market of people searching for a safe stay-cation. The preview video tells the story of those who live and work in the City of Boston, and features communities and businesses beyond traditional tourist sites. It will direct people to allinclusivebos.com, a microsite full of curated resources: restaurants, events, itineraries, hotels, neighborhoods, and experiences both known and unknown."


Daren Bascome, founder of Proverb, said that "Inside of our efforts, we really wanted to connect neighborhoods, we wanted to attract visitors, we wanted to increase visibility, demand representation, support small business, and shift the lens."

For more information on the campaign, visit boston.gov/news/all-inclusive-boston-campaign-promotes-equitable-recovery-covid-19.


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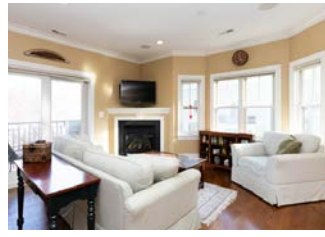
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JPA hears two zoning matters; chats with D6 City Council candidate Kendra Hicks

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The Jamaica Pond Association (JPA) met virtually on April 5, where members voted on two zoning matters and heard from District 6 City Council candidate Kendra Hicks.

ZONING

The two zoning issues were at 79 Perkins St, where the proposal was to change the existing three unit building to a four unit building and install a partial sprinkler system, and at 56 Lochstead Ave., to construct an addition on an existing deck.

Christopher Page, the owner of the building at 79 Perkins St., said that he wants to be able to provide an affordable unit for one or two of his children, who were raised in the city and would like to remain close by. Page lives down the street at 67 Perkins St.

The violations cited in this proposal are insufficient off-street parking, insufficient lot area, and excessive Floor Area Ratio (FAR).

JPA member Franklyn Salimbene said that he is very familiar with the street, and in looking at the violations, it “appears there is not sufficient off-street parking” and also noted the citation of excessive FAR.

“We’ve been talking a lot about mass and crowding, at least with some of the projects coming forth,” he said, adding that he believes changing a three unit building to a four unit one is “perhaps too far.”

He added that while “I appreciate the family element,” he wondered why one of the existing three apartments couldn’t be freed up for Page’s children to live in.

Page said that there are currently tenants in all of the units, and that he does understand there “is an issue with parking.” He said there is room for six tandem parking spaces, though he acknowledged that the city doesn’t prefer that arrangement.

He said that the parking “works well now,” as there are “four, if not five, cars there.”

Peter Steiger spoke about the argument for increasing density for affordable housing versus a “general resistance within the neighborhood to increase the units in a particular zoning” district. He asked how affordable this unit will be.

Page said it will be “affordable

for my children because I could make it affordable for my children.” He said he “didn’t think about making it affordable for someone else.”

Page said he has 21 letters of support from neighbors on Perkins and Zamora Streets as well as direct abutters. He said that one neighbor did express concern about the parking situation.

Julie Glowacki, who said she lives across the street from 79 Perkins St., said that Page and his tenants are “good neighbors,” and pointed out that the proposal includes three bedrooms and three full baths. “Are there going to be three cars additional to the neighborhood?” She asked. “There’s no parking on that side of the street; the parking is on my side of the street. She said many commuters drive into the neighborhood to park and then take the 39 bus to work.

Page said that only one or two of his children would live in the building.

“I can’t imagine a six car tandem parking,” Moloney said. “That is really impractical to have three cars lined up at the end of the driveway and three cars behind it.”

Moloney said he wanted to oppose this project, but JPA member Micah Sachs stated why he believes the JPA should not oppose this project. He said that the 21 letters of support from neighbors “who apparently are not concerned about the parking,” are a reason not to oppose.

“For us to say that the parking is the acute issue that this should be rejected on I don’t think is valid,” Sachs said. “The actual people in the neighborhood are saying that it is not [an issue.]”

JPA member Martin Thompson said that “there’s a shortage of housing as we know throughout the city,” adding that he doesn’t know if there is enough of a negative impact on neighbors to warrant opposition. He said that the neighborhood should “encourage units within the housing stock that exists rather than allowing large developments in their place.”

The JPA ultimately voted four to two, with two members abstaining, to oppose the proposal. 56 LOCHSTEAD AVE.

The proposal at 56 Lochstead Ave. is to create an addition on an existing deck.

Owner Frank Schillace has lived at the property with his wife and kids for about two years, and Schillace said that the property abuts the Rogerson House, which has not expressed any concerns about the proposal.

He said that there are a lot of employees who park along the fence, and that he finds trash from that property in his yard.

“We have an uncovered porch,” he said, adding that he and his family “want to extend it towards the fence line...” so a privacy fence and greenery can be put up. He said there is a 10 foot setback on the side yard, and he wants to bring the deck out to around five feet of that, which requires

a variance.

He said that he has not received any objection from any neighbors.

The JPA voted not to oppose this project.

KENDRA HICKS, CANDIDATE FOR DISTRICT 6 CITY COUNCIL

Kendra Hicks spoke to the JPA about her campaign and her vision for the city should she be elected as District 6’s next city councilor.

She talked about her “personal walk up stream” that began when she was in sixth grade and was invited to join a festival organization program at Spontaneous Celebrations. She

began to learn about the history of Jamaica Plain, where she was raised. She said she “learned about how people in my neighborhood fought against the highway” and other issues.

“Stories like this really ignited me early on,” she said. She also talked about how she founded Beantown Society, which was “for youth by youth.”

She also worked as the youngest street worker in the city, and one of only a handful of women.”

Hicks said she believes real change will come from “structural policy changes,” and her many

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Janey, Martinez announce the BPHC Hope campaign to drive awareness about the COVID-19 vaccine

By LAUREN BENNETT

Acting Mayor Kim Janey held a press conference on April 6, where she and Chief of Health and Human Services Marty Martinez announced the Hope campaign, “a new multilingual public awareness campaign, encouraging residents to get the COVID-19 vaccine when it is their turn,” according to the city.

“Every dose gives us new hope for brighter day ahead,” Janey said, and urged every resident to get vaccinated when they’re able to.

The campaign, led by the Boston Public Health Commission, began last week and is expect-

ed to run through June for the first phase. It features a series of advertisements that can be seen in social media, on television, on streaming services, on billboards, and in print.

“The ads feature a diverse group of people who speak a variety of languages and aim to build trust with communities of color and other populations disproportionately impacted by COVID-19,” according to a release from the city. “It will be localized to target specific neighborhoods and reach individuals in their own languages.”

Janey added that the “ads are designed to inspire communities of color and others who are

disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.”

In a statement, Janey said that “this campaign was created to speak to the heart of what has been missing in our lives and what can be better, if we get vaccinated. Every dose of the COVID-19 vaccine brings us one step closer to putting this pandemic behind us.”

She also said at the press conference that it is “good news that vaccine eligibility is expanding,” and the Equity and Vaccine Access line is available for older residents and residents of color to call for help scheduling a vaccine appointment. The number is 617-635-5555.

Marty Martinez said that the

city’s positive test rate as of March 28 was 5.2 percent, which has increased over the past few weeks.

“We’re grateful that those increases in rates and positivity have not been seen in hospital numbers yet,” he said.

He said in a statement that “this vaccine gives us hope as we continue to battle this virus and look forward to life after COVID. The best way to protect yourself, your loved ones and your community is to get the vaccine when it is available to you.”

He also said that that the city is continuing its work to “prioritize communities and residents hardest hit” by the virus.

Martinez said that this week,

the city is “expanding mobile vaccination efforts” through more community organizations and partnerships with community providers like the Whittier St. Health Center.

According to the city, as of March 30, 42 percent of those fully vaccinated are people of color, including 11,649 Asian/Pacific Islander residents, 22,328 Black residents, 12,284 Latinx residents, and 175 American Indian/Alaskan Native residents.

In total, 119,218 Boston residents ages 16 years or older are fully vaccinated.

“The latest data shows we’re making progress,” Martinez said.

Crimen

Continued from page 1

ciales presentan estadísticas actualizadas del crimen. Un cuadro examina los datos del crimen de la Parte Uno, que son los más graves.

El crimen de la Parte Uno distingue entre el robo, el hurto y el atraco. El robo implica acceder ilegalmente a una residencia o negocio con la intención de retirar artículos. El atraco es quitarle artículos a la persona por la fuerza o intimidación. El hurto no implica la fuerza e incluye carteristas o robar artículos del jardín de uno.

Según el resumen, el crimen de la Parte Uno ha bajado un 26

por ciento en la ciudad en comparación con esta época del año pasado. Ha habido 2.848 delitos denunciados, en comparación con 3.848 el año pasado.

Los delitos que vieron una disminución incluyen la violación, el atraco, el asalto doméstico y no doméstico, el robo comercial y el hurto de vehículo. Los delitos que experimentaron un repunte incluyen el robo residencial y el robo de autos. La cantidad de homicidios y otros robos no cambió.

Con respecto al aumento en el robo de autos, el oficial William Jones notó que el 67 por ciento de las víctimas habían dejado sus llaves en el encendido. Advierte a los residentes que no deben dejar las llaves en un vehículo, incluso

cuando está cerrado.

Otro gráfico comparó las estadísticas de tiroteos fatales y no fatales de 2020 a 2021. Jamaica Plain tuvo tres este año, lo que representa poco más del 10 por ciento del total. Este número está a la par con Hyde Park. Sólo Roxbury, Mattapan y el distrito C11 de Dorchester registraron números más altos. Sin embargo, en general, los tiroteos se redujeron en casi un siete por ciento desde 2020.

Los miembros de la comunidad hablaron sobre un posible cambio en el formato de la reunión para permitir una mayor discusión sobre los problemas de seguridad pública.

La reunión de relaciones con la policía y la comunidad se lleva a cabo el primer jueves del mes a las 6:30 pm en Zoom. La próxima reunión será el jueves 6 de mayo. Están invitados todos los miembros del público interesados en la seguridad pública.

Police

Continued from page 1

ing, officers provide 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.

Part One crime distinguishes between burglary, robbery and larceny. Burglary involves accessing a residence or business unlawfully with the intent to remove items. Robbery is taking items off one’s person by force or intimidation. Larceny doesn’t involve force, and includes shoplifting, pickpocketing or stealing lawn items.

According to the summary, Part One crime is down 26 percent in the city compared to this time last

year. There have been 2,848 reported crimes, compared to 3,848 last year.

Crimes that saw a decrease include rape and attempted, robbery and attempted, domestic and non-domestic assault, commercial burglary and larceny from a motor vehicle. Crimes that saw an uptick include residential burglary (up by one) and auto theft. The number of homicides and other larceny remained the same.

Regarding the spike in auto thefts, Officer William Jones noted that 67 percent of victims had left their keys in the ignition. He cautions residents against leaving keys in a vehicle, even when locked.

A second chart compared the statistics of fatal and nonfatal shootings from 2019 to 2020. Jamaica Plain had three so far this year, accounting for just over 10 percent of total shootings in the city. This number is on par with Hyde Park. Only Roxbury, Mattapan and Dorchester’s District C11 saw higher numbers. Overall, however, shootings are down by almost seven percent from 2020.

Members of the community talked about potentially changing the format of the meeting to allow for more discussion of public safety issues and law enforcement procedure.

The police and community relations meeting is held on the first Thursday of the month at 6:30pm on Zoom. The next meeting will be on Thursday, May 6. All members of the public interested in public safety are encouraged to attend.

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Curley House

Continued from page 1

derutilized home.

Then came COVID-19 on March 13 and the grand entrance was stopped, then delayed, and by now many have completely forgotten about it.

Conservancy Executive Director Karen Mauney-Brodek said they had worked with so many people, including the Friends of the Curley House, to make the transition possible – and also look forward to making it real after a “delayed welcome.”

“The City isn’t in the business, I guess, of renting out mansions,” she said. “This was zoned residential so there had to be some changes made there. Our organization and many others felt this was a very appropriate use being right by the Emerald Necklace...”

We were able to have one community time, but then it didn’t seem like the right thing...I know we will be back. We are there, but not all in a group and we really do look forward to welcoming the neighbors. The Friends of the Curley House are interested in doing tours in person when they can. It’s important to us to try to make this house as available as much as we can.”

For some time, the Conservancy has had its employees working remotely, and also at times com-

ing into the Curley House offices in staggered fashion to keep social distancing requirements. Over the summer, they had hoped to be able to have a welcoming celebration outside, but it was never possible. They looked for opportunities throughout the fall, and then time just marched on and on. So, on March 23, they held a virtual open house in real time where Carole Mathieson, former Assistant to the Chief of Public Property at the City of Boston, and Board Member of Friends, and John C. Bowman, III, former chair of the Boston Landmarks Commission, and member of the Friends of the James Michael Curley House, Inc. guided those online through the House – noting all the changes and renovations that have been made to accommodate the Conservancy.

Bowman – who was great friends with the late Dick Dennis, a step-son of Mayor Curley who grew up in the House from age 12 on – said he and the Friends couldn’t be happier with the entry of the Conservancy into the home.

“We are absolutely delighted because we worked for seven years or so to come up with a model for the House to support itself and not be a burden to the City,” he said. “At one point we thought about the City leasing it to us and we could have functions there to make money. For various liability reasons that didn’t work and we

became a constant thorn in the side of the City to find something interesting to do with the House. Finally the City put out an RFP and the Conservancy responded and we worked with them on that closely. At the time, they only had a small administrative space in the Back Bay Fens.”

Mauney-Brodek said the Conservancy had been growing in stature for some time, and they had decided to use their Visitor’s Center in the Fens to provide more interpretive programming. They wanted to attract even more visitors to the Center, and thus had to give up a lot of administrative space and meeting space. They frequently used free meeting space at Northeastern University, and it was a hassle to drag equipment and materials to a space that was not theirs, but they made do. When the RFP came out though, it was great synergy.

“It was a good opportunity to find another space,” she said.

There has been no small amount of work being done prior to and after COVID-19, though. The exterior of the home and the entire first floor – including the library, stairway, and other parts are Landmarked. A lot of thought had to go into how to create the office, make the home accessible again, and keep it historic.

The 21-room neo-Georgian Curley House was built in 1915, during his first term as Mayor,

and he lived there with his family for 41 years. The home was notable for its shutters adorned with Celtic shamrocks – a controversial choice in the mainly Protestant neighborhood of the day – and exquisite interior features such as its three-story staircase and hand-carved mahogany dining room, which were purchased and relocated from the mansion of an oil executive in Buzzard’s Bay. From both an architectural and historic standpoint, the house remains one of Boston’s most significant estates, as beautiful now as it was 106 years ago.

What’s just as interesting as the structure itself is the man that lived there.

Mayor James Michael Curley’s story is at once fascinating and complex: the son of working-class Irish immigrants who launched a political career spanning half a century, Curley led Boston through the Great Depression with programs improving public transit and infrastructure, all the while making friends and enemies of politicians and constituents alike. A career spanning four non-consecutive terms as mayor, as well as Massachusetts Governor and U.S. congressman, also included a prison sentence for mail fraud. By his death in 1958, Curley had left an indelible mark on city and state politics and remains one of the Commonwealth’s most noteworthy public servants to this day.

Mauney-Brodek said Curley’s legacy is much more far-reaching than most might imagine, and they hope to keep his story and legacy alive in partnership with the Friends group moving forward when the Home is able to fully open.

“In fact, the Building Inspector that helped us with the House was named for James Michael Curley,” said Mauney-Brodek. “Mayor Curley’s history runs deep in the context of Boston and Boston’s memory. For the Conservancy, we are excited to work with the Friends about Curley’s and Olmstead’s legacy here.”

Bowman said one of the most often-told stories about Mayor Curley and his home was the fact that it essentially was an open door for the City to take advantage of. Many people, some of them paupers, would come to the House at all times and ask to see Mayor Curley – and they were always accommodated.

“The family has said frequently someone would come to the back door, even during dinner with the family, and they would be shown to the Library and Curley would talk to them and maybe make a phone call and even give them a silver dollar if he had one,” said Bowman. “In that sense, he was quite accessible and people have always talked about that.”

Bowman related they fully intend to provide interpretation and other materials about Mayor Curley in the home permanently at some point, as well as offer tours and other events.

For both the Friends and the Conservancy, they cherry on top of their collaborative success was a gem recovered from the history books where Curley and Olmstead coincided. As it turns out, Frederick Law Olmstead – whom the Conservancy seeks to elevate for his vision of the Necklace – had a landscape architecture firm that was active for many years out of Brookline. When the Curley House was built in 1915, the Olmstead firm performed the landscaping plan for the home. Going through the archives, that original plan was retrieved and presented to the Conservancy as a welcome gift.

“It was such a touching gift when we got it,” said Mauney-Brodek. “It was immediately placed above the mantle. It’s amazing to see the connection between the Olmstead legacy and the Curley House. It was very appropriate.”

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Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll



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Four-year-old Echo and one-year-old Annie are mom and daughter looking for a home together! Weighing less than five pounds each, these little ladies are Polish rabbits. They are a bit shy at first, but sweet and playful once they feel safe. They would do best in a home without dogs or young kids but may be able to live with other rabbits. Since these cuties are so small, they would do well in an x-pen enclosure or free-roaming. They’re working on litter box training and are sure to put a smile on your face with their love for each other. If you’re interested in this adorable pair of bunnies, inquire today!



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

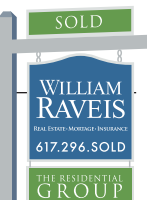
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JP's weekly test rate increases

By JOHN LYNDY

Last week both the weekly and cumulative COVID-19 positive test rate in Jamaica Plain increased according to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) last Friday.

According to the data 2,402 Jamaica Plain residents were tested last week and 2.4 percent were found to be COVID positive-- a 33 percent increase from the 1.8 percent reported by the BPHC on March 19.

Of the 35,155 Jamaica Plain residents tested for COVID since the pandemic began, 7.9 percent overall were found to be positive--this was an increase of 2.6 percent from the 7.7 percent reported on March 19.

Positive test rates continue to rise citywide. According to the BPHC 28,007 residents were tested and 5.2 percent were COVID positive--this was a 23.8 percent increase from the 4.2 percent positive test rate reported by the BPHC two weeks ago. This was the first time in weeks

the city went above its 5 percent threshold used to plan Boston's phased reopening strategies.

On Monday the Baker-Polito Administration announced that residents 55 and over and residents with one certain medical condition will be eligible for the COVID vaccine beginning on April 5.

In addition, the Administration announced that Massachusetts will adopt the CDC's updated list of medical conditions. This week, the CDC added more medical conditions that are linked to an increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19. Massachusetts will adopt this guidance and make individuals eligible starting April 5th if they have one of these medical conditions. As a result of adopting the CDC's list, more residents will be eligible starting April 5th.

The full list of conditions can be found at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html and the full timeline of the state's vaccine

rollout is available at mass.gov/COVIDVaccinePhases.

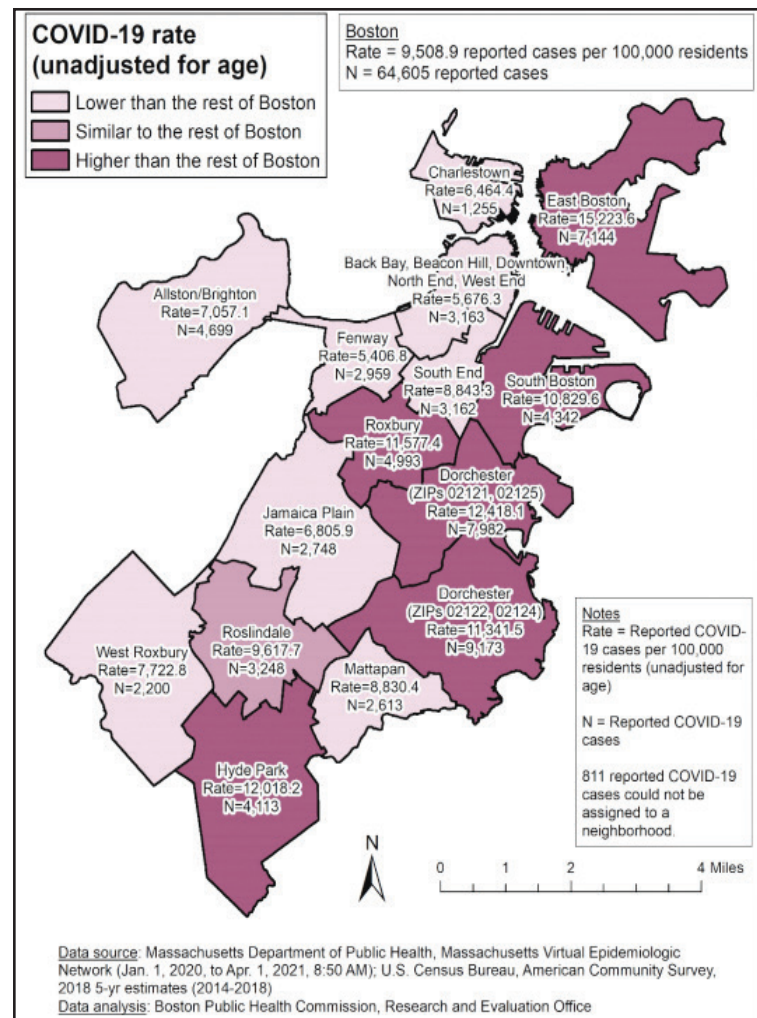
According to the BPHC data, Jamaica Plain's infection rate increased 4 percent since March 19.

Jamaica Plain went from 654 cases per 10,000 residents to 680.5 cases per 10,000 residents.

An additional 107 Jamaica Plain residents became infected with COVID-19 since March 19 and the number of total cases here went from 2,641 cases to 2,748 cases in the neighborhood.

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 increased 3.5 percent last week and went from 63,748 cases to 65,992 confirmed cases in a week. Fourteen additional Boston residents died from the virus last week and there are now 1,355 total deaths in the city from COVID.



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

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Reggie Lewis

Continued from page 1

where there was a clamor and an ease for grabbing appointments as soon as they appeared online. So it was, the lines for vaccines didn't initially look like the community around it.

Now, the operator of the Center – CIC Health – and its partners in the state, Roxbury Community College, the Black Boston COVID Coalition and Mass General Brigham have debuted a community outreach program for Mission Hill, Roxbury, Jamaica Plain, South End, Dorchester, Mattapan, Chinatown, Roslindale and Hyde Park. Anyone living in those communities, and eligible to be vaccinated, has direct and unimpeded access to 50 percent of the daily vaccine appointments before the general public.

"We know that there are folks still trying to get access and find out where to get it," said Shana Bryant, who is doing outreach on the program for CIC Health. "There are still the wait and see folks too. We now know that by the end of April everyone will be eligible, so wait times could increase dramatically. The turnover with this program is very quick – a callback within two or three days and getting them booked within the week. We want

to encourage those who have a positive experience to communicate that to friends and family. We have very unique access here and the ability to vaccinate many people in the community. That will allow us to experience the joys of being around friends and family and doing the things we enjoy again."

The allocation in the program is no small number.

At this point, the Reggie is distributing about 2,000 vaccinations per day, so residents of Jamaica Plain have a special deal on at least 1,000 appointments per day at the Center. Those reserved appointments stay in the system until a day before, and then any that aren't claimed are dumped back into the pool for the general public. While it's not just available to people of color – but rather to any qualified resident living in Jamaica Plain or the other mentioned neighborhoods – one focus group is people of color, as statistics are showing they are getting vaccinated at a lower rate than other groups.

Jeff Rogers, who lives near the Reggie, said he was open to getting the vaccine and did his research on the science behind it. He was convinced that all three were safe, but had questions about the rollout and operations pieces. Last Friday, he was able to get his second dose of the vaccine at the Reggie, and said the vaccine is a "miracle" and it

couldn't have been easier to get it in his own backyard.

"I feel very relieved now," he said, just about an hour after getting his second dose last Friday. "We've been immersed in COVID-19 for a year now. If you think back to March 2020 and there's this phantom disease and they want folks to go on lockdown...At that time, like everyone else, I was spraying my groceries with bleach. My mother is a senior citizen. I was doing everything to protect her. To think they came out with a vaccine so quickly and it's 100 percent effective against death... That's a miracle. To think that miracle is now available to me in my neighborhood from people I know is amazing...I don't think it's hyperbole to say it saved lives and saved Black lives to do it this way."

Prior to hearing about the Reggie Lewis program, he said his faith in the vaccine was faltering because the roll out seemed so skewed towards people not in the neighborhood and people who were not Black or brown.

"It looked like a big cluster to me," he said. "Then when the Reggie Lewis people called and set up the date, it felt real. I could tell also the people calling me back were Black people, and as a Black man, that gave me more confidence."

Rogers qualified after calling the number for the community

program, and was quickly booked into one of the special community appointments. He got a call-back within two days and was booked for his appointment a few days later. His experience was very smooth and quick, he said. There was no anxiety and he said he was impressed with how he was treated and catered to.

For Karleen Porcella, who lives only a few blocks from the Reggie Lewis, the experience was one of skepticism. From the get-go, she wasn't sure about the vaccine, but after giving the program at Reggie Lewis a shot, she has changed her mind and is looking to do the same for everyone she knows.

"There was a lot of anxiety around COVID and the vaccine and how it rolled out," she said. "I didn't know what to expect... There were so many hesitations in our community to take this vaccine. The history we've had with health care cannot be taken for granted. I saw people waiting for hours to get appointments and waiting for hours in line to get vaccinated. I literally walked in with no wait and came in and out in 20 minutes. Having it there with people that I recognized made all the difference. Also, having it right down from my house was convenient because I didn't have to take a day off of work and travel outside of the city to find a location. It was right here."

Now, Porcella said she's been telling friends and family all about the experience, the professionalism and the ease for using the special community appointments.

"We have this opportunity in

the community and we're not taking full advantage of it," she said. "We have to step up and think about taking the vaccine. Once I got the appointment and saw how easy it was, I was telling everyone they needed to do it too."

In addition to reserving 50 percent of the appointments, the program has also engaged in a robust campaign to flier the neighborhoods using information in eight different languages. There has also been a door-to-door neighborhood awareness campaign that seeks to get information from residents interested in getting vaccinated – allowing the CIC's phone bank to pro-actively call and set up appointments. The phone system is also easy to use and provides translation in 240 different languages. There are also weekly town hall meetings online with trusted community groups, community health centers and elected officials.

The community partners assisting in the CIC Health community program include: Black Boston COVID-19 Coalition; The Urban League; MassVote; Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers; Chinese Progressive Association; Massachusetts Immigration & Refugee Advocacy Coalition; and City of Boston's Office of Immigration Advancement.

To access the community preference appointments, call (617) 675-0005 and start the process of finding out qualification and appointment booking. To access the appointments online, go to www.cichealth.com/reggielewis/outreach.

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Gov. Baker receives first COVID shot; talks about vaccine distribution

BY LAUREN BENNETT

Governor Charlie Baker was back at the Hynes Convention Center mass vaccination site on April 6, where he received his first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, and provided an update on vaccinations in the Commonwealth.

After receiving his shot, Baker said that “the process was quick and easy, and I feel fine.”

He said that the state Department of Public Health reported two days worth of data, which reported that there were 2,912 new COVID cases, 707 hospitalizations, and 603 in the ICU statewide.

Baker said that the total number of cases in people under the age of 50 now makes up a “far greater share of the total cases than they did previously.” He

said that the number of cases in people over the age of 60 “have declined pretty dramatically.”

Statewide, more than 1.5 million people are fully vaccinated, Baker said, and the state is “making significant progress in distributing the vaccine.” Massachusetts remains in the top 10 of all 50 states for number of vaccines administered.

Baker said that 82 percent of residents ages 75 and older have received their first dose of the vaccine, which he said is “significantly above the national average of 86 percent.” Additionally, Massachusetts is “one of 13 states that have vaccinated over 80 percent of our 75+ population,” he said. He added that 24 percent of the state’s Black residents and 16 percent of Hispanic residents have been vaccinated, which is “double the

national average.”

However, “we obviously still have more work to do,” Baker said.

As of April 5, residents ages 55 and older and those with one qualifying medical condition are now eligible to receive the vaccine. The list of those conditions can be found at mass.gov. Additional conditions have been added, including Type 1 Diabetes, as well as cystic fibrosis, Baker said.

“The goal is to make sure everyone in the Commonwealth who wants a vaccine can get one as quickly as possible,” he said. The state now has more than 300 vaccination sites run by a variety of organizations. Residents can still preregister for an appointment at one of the mass vaccination sites at <https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine>.

Baker said that these sites are “highly efficient and they’re doing thousands of doses every single day.” The Hynes Convention Center is administering 7,000 vaccines per day.

“I just want to say that this vaccine is a critical tool to help end the pandemic,” Baker said. “It’s also a critical tool to help people feel safe and to help them protect themselves, their families, their friends, their coworkers, their neighbors, and their community from the virus.”

Baker said that the vaccine is safe, though it may cause some side effects. “That’s just a sign the vaccine is taking,” he said. “And you certainly won’t get COVID from the shot. The COVID vaccines also protect you from the variants.”

He then talked about the vaccine infrastructure in the state.

“We’ve built up a significant vaccine infrastructure to handle far more doses than what we get from the federal government on a weekly basis,” he said, and there has been an increase in doses shipped from the federal government.

He said that more than 2.5 million Massachusetts residents have gotten at least a first dose of the vaccine, and that 90 percent of all elementary schools in the state have returned to in person learning.

He said that people “just need to hold on a little bit longer. We all still need to get our guard up. People need to keep doing what they’ve been doing for the better part of the past year. Try to feel your informal gatherings small,” and “when it is your turn, go get vaccinated.”

JPA

Continued from page 3

years of service in positions such as at the Boston Public Health Commission, where she “supported racial justice and health equity work,” have helped her better understand the issues.

She said that a portion of the “ethos” of her campaign is “how are we going to bring people with us?”

Hicks also said that she has learned many things from talking to residents of the district, including that “though our challenges may differ,” many of the general values are the same across the board, such as the desire for safe and affordable housing and quality schools for the city’s youth.

She said by “anchor[ing] ourselves in these shared values,” it “invite[s] more people to the

table.”

Hicks said that it is important to “meet people where they’re at,” as not everyone has had the same experiences. She said she believes she can succeed at “finding creative solutions to complex challenges.”

JPA member Martin Thompson said, “We talk about change and yet change doesn’t really happen. I hope that you represent something that will actually happen.”

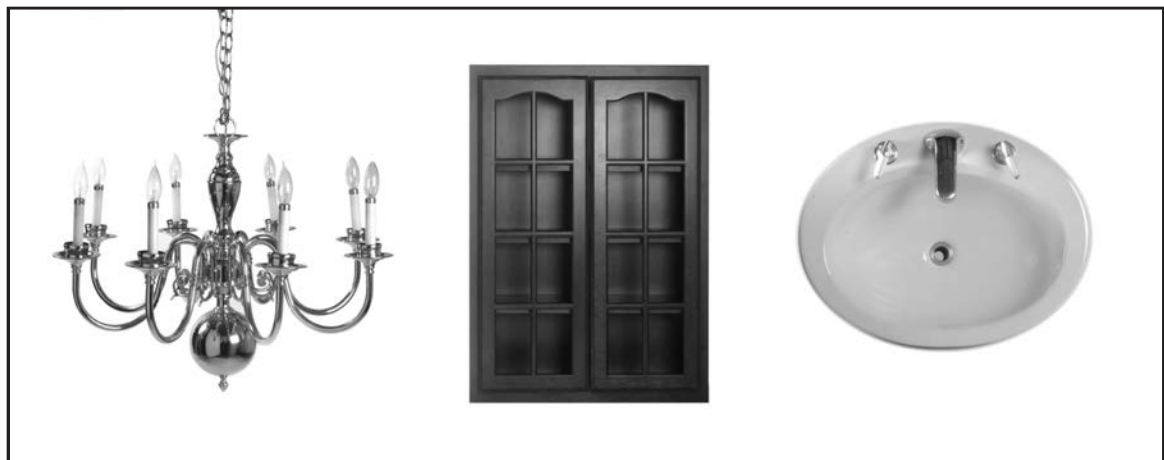
Hicks said that “no matter which neighborhood we live in,” people “want safe communities.” She said that it is important to be “fiscally responsible with our dollars” and “reframe the conversation” about “what, and specifically who, we’re investing in.” She said with things like “defunding the police,” she wants to “ensure that our tax dollars are being spent responsibly.”

She said that one of her top priorities is safe communities

and addressing the root causes of crime, as well as implementing “community-based violence prevention and intervention

strategies.”

For more information about Hicks’ campaign and policy platform, visit hicksfordistrictsix.com, and email hicksfordistrictsix@gmail.com with any questions, comments, or concerns.



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Exam School lawsuit gets hearing, law firm says there is a 'New Boston'

BY SETH DANIEL

The blockbuster case now in Superior Court before Judge William Young had a hearing on Tuesday in the case, and Judge Young has said he would rule some time by mid-April to allow for the school assignment process to move forward in some fashion – but within that hearing on large law firm arguing for the temporary system says Boston's changing demographics support their claim.

Brown Rudnick law firm has signed on to represent a plethora

of organizations and civil rights groups that are supporting the plan that looks to achieve socio-economic diversity in the three exam schools via using zip codes across the city and their corresponding median income – as well as school-age population while eliminating the exam school test for this year only. That sparked a lawsuit from 14 families in West Roxbury and Chinatown known as the Boston Parent Coalition for Academic Excellence Corp. and represented by Attorney William Hurd. They claim the zip code method

is a proxy for race-based admissions and discrimination against Asian American and white students.

Brown Rudnick Attorney Brian Alosco has filed an interesting amicus brief in the case that is one of several being considered, but it focusing on the fact that there is a new Boston that has changed so much since this argument started many years ago – when he says the City was much more segregated.

"Their understanding of Boston's neighborhoods focuses on what happened in the 20th Cen-

tury in Boston, but present day Boston isn't what it used to look like," he said. "Even in a certain zip code there is now diversity of race and socio-economic status... To say it's about race just is not accurate."

One of the examples Alosco's brief has cited is the Mission Hill/Roxbury zip code (02120) and the East Boston zip code (02128)

"We have a lot of examples, but both of these zip codes has a white population of about 34 percent," he said. "However, East Boston is going to gain 24 seats

and Mission Hill/Roxbury would see a reduction of about two seats."

He said only four zip codes have one racial group representing 80 to 90 percent of the population, which is the white racial group, and those areas are Beacon Hill, North End, Seaport and Downtown.

"Undoubtedly, race, poverty, and geography are inextricably linked; past and present racial and socioeconomic discrimination has confined communities

Continued on page 11

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State releases RFP on Shattuck Hospital with emphasis on public health

By SETH DANIEL

The state Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) is preparing to submit a project proposal for the Shattuck Hospital in Jamaica Plain that is heavy on making the entire 13-acre campus into a center for integrated health care, behavioral health and supportive housing.

The project proposal is scheduled for a public meeting on April 13, at 6 p.m. online, and the project proposal document was posted on March 24. The comments from that meeting, along with further state review, will result in a public-private partnership with a developer who will lead the transformation of the campus even before the Shattuck makes its move in 2024 to the South End's Newton Pavilion.

"The Commonwealth hopes to enter into a Public-Private Partnership to provide an integrated

program of health care, behavioral health, and housing services at the Site," read the proposal. "The selected developer/service provider will partner with the Commonwealth on master site planning and permitting, and implement a phased redevelopment approach with the goal of beginning site redevelopment prior to the Hospital relocating to the South End."

The project proposal has to meet the four stated needs below, much of these looking like what has commonly been referred to as a Recovery Campus. The goals for the state in the project include:

- Provide stable health care and housing options for underserved populations, including the chronically homeless;
- Provide integrated, 'person-centered' behavioral and physical health care and housing systems;

- Provide substance use disorder (SUD) and mental health services that play a critical role in regional public health and treatment systems;

- Provide safe, stable and supportive housing that contributes positively to health outcomes, and contributes to the supply of supportive housing in the region.

The project proposal has all the makings of hurrying the process along, which is very desirable for South End neighbors who would like to see more social services relocated to the Shattuck prior to 2024. One of the hurry-ups in the process is to quickly move on developing supportive housing on about two acres of the campus. A contentious planning process for that project took place in 2018, and ended up approving a supportive housing plan for that part of the campus.

The project plan asks for any

developer chosen to move on that piece and others before the 2024 move of the Shattuck.

"While the Hospital will not be relocating until 2024, a portion of the Site is already available for redevelopment and the opportunity to develop difficult-to-site Public Health Uses including Low Threshold Supportive Housing at a location that already provides services to this population is a unique opportunity that the Proposing Agencies would like to capitalize upon quickly," read the plan. "Additionally, the overall Site will benefit from the identification of a redevelopment partner for the coordination of long lead-time activities such as master site planning, including infrastructure planning, and permitting. Thus, the Proposing Agencies wish to move forward with the RFP as soon as is practical."

The public benefit of the

project includes integration of 'low-threshold' and 'person-centered' programs of supportive housing, detox/recovery beds, MAT treatment and Mental/Physical health treatment.

The project would also seek to integrate the campus in a better way to the park and nearby open space.

"Additional public benefit will come from intentional site design that will connect the Campus to park, open space and improved transportation options, and will consider site design as an integrated aspect of and an amenity for the public health uses," read the proposal.

The Virtual Public Hearing will be held on April 13 at 6:30-8 p.m. At the Virtual Public Hearing, the public may provide comments on the proposed project. Information on participating in the Virtual Public Hearing will be posted on the Project Website.

Exam School

Continued from page 10

of color to low-income sections of neighborhoods," read the filing. "Those sections, however, do not remain stagnant. More important, the racial boundaries that divide Boston's communities of color continue to take shape and change over time and are not confined to ZIP code boundaries... For example, historically Black and Latino neighborhoods in the

South End, Roxbury, Jamaica Plain, and Dorchester became demonstrably whiter between 1990 and 2017. Those communities cannot be identified by ZIP code because they are within and across most ZIP codes."

Alosco said there is such diversity now in Boston, and also between racial groups in Boston – such as Asian Americans – that the old arguments don't hold.

"You can't just say, 'This admissions plan discriminates against white and Asian students,' because even within that

group there is diversity of race and socio-economic status in zip codes," he said. "It just doesn't hold that there was some hidden agenda."

That, of course, is in the hands of Judge Young, and Alosco said

the judge has told them he will rule by April 15. Meanwhile, Boston Public Schools announced this week they are holding up all school assignments for grade 6 going into grade 7 in order to wait for the results of the

case. Because exam school assignments make up about 25 percent of the assignments, they have chosen to wait and have indicated that decisions will be sent out by late April so families can plan accordingly.

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ZBA approves proposal at 11 Danforth St.; denies 18 units at 632-638 Centre St.

By LAUREN BENNETT

The Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA) met virtually on April 6,

where members approved a proposal at 11 Danforth St., and denied the housing 18 unit residential building at 632-638 Cen-

tre St.

11 DANFORTH ST.

At 11 Danforth St., applicant Kyle Marder of the Wilbur Group

and KM Construction said that the owner of the third floor unit is “looking to finish an attic space with two bedrooms and two bathrooms,” and to add a dormer to the existing two dormers.

This project came before the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC) Zoning Committee, which approved it along with the full JPNC in February.

Lindsey Santana of the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services said at the ZBA hearing that the Mayor’s Office was in support of the project, and that an abutter’s meeting had been held on January 7 where “neighbors were very supportive.”

City Councilors Anissa Essaibi George, Michael Flaherty, and Matt O’Malley were also in support, and the ZBA reported that they received two letters of support.

The ZBA voted to approve the project with Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) design review.

632-638 CENTRE ST.

The proposal at 632-638 Centre St. is to change the proposal of nine residential units, office and retail space to 18 residential units and four commercial spaces with retail and office space, and add a fourth story onto the building.

Attorney Kevin Joyce said that the BPDA board approved the proposal in February of this year, and the project has also received support from 17 neighbors.

He said that the four story building would have 18,486 square feet of gross floor area, four commercial spaces on the ground floor, and 18 rental apartments, four of which would be affordable at 65 percent of the Area Median Income.

Nalin Mistry said that there are six two bedroom units ranging from 909 to 932 square feet, and 12 one bedroom units rang-

ing from 630 to 677 square feet proposed, with a total of seven parking spaces including one handicap space. All units are handicap accessible, and there is no roof deck proposed.

“That’s what causes the open space violation,” Joyce said, as neighbors requested the roof deck be removed from the proposal.

No one spoke in support of the project.

Lindsey Santana of the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services said that a public meeting was held on November 10 of last year, and there “have been concerns regarding the community process.” She said that both the Jamaica Pond Association (JPA) and the JPNC have opposed this project, and there is also “significant opposition from direct abutters,” so the Mayor’s Office is also in opposition.

The ZBA reported that they have received 11 letters of support and two letters of opposition.

Resident Joshua Brant, who said he lives on Greenview Ave., said that the project is at the “mouth of my one-way dead end street.”

He said that while he is “pro-density, pro-development,” he opposes this project because of the process it has gone through.

“The developer had permits in hand for a nine unit, three story building,” he said, and “instead chose to start construction on an 18 unit, four story building without permits in hand. As a result, what that has led to is a stalled project, a hole in the ground for years, and essentially blight on Centre St.”

City Councilors Matt O’Malley and Michael Flaherty were also in opposition.

The ZBA voted to deny this project with the proposed 18 units.

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Proposed Leonard Nimoy Memorial finds home at Museum of Science

BY DAN MURPHY

Last Friday, March 26, on the first official “Leonard Nimoy Day” in the City of Boston,” as well as what would’ve been the 90th birthday of the West End native best known for his portrayal of Mr. Spock on the classic TV series “Star Trek,” came the announcement that the Museum of Science would pay tribute to Nimoy – and Spock – with a memorial on its grounds representing the character’s iconic Vulcan hand salutation.

The museum, which has launched a fundraising campaign with a target of \$1 million, is partnering with the Nimoy family and Massachusetts artist David Phillips to build a large, stainless-steel monument depicting the Vulcan hand salutation, which comprises a raised hand with the palm forward and thumb extended while the middle and ring fingers are parted, that would be illuminated from within using LED lighting.

“It’s been kind of a roller-

coaster process,” Phillips said, “and I wasn’t sure how it would go, but when the Museum of Science committed, then the project really took off.”

Contrary to previously published reports that the monument would stand 20 feet, Phillips said the proposed height is in fact 25 feet.

Another clarification Phillips wants to make is that while a concept for the memorial is now finished, the engineering-driven design is still in the works, he said, and won’t be completed until a couple of months from now.

“It’s kind of has an energy of its own now, and that’s gratifying,” Phillips said. “It makes me feel good that all this work is paying off, but we still have a long way to go.”

Phillips’ involvement in the project can be credited to Tom Stocker, a South End artist who had undertaken an effort in earnest to memorialize Nimoy in his hometown, but wasn’t sure what form it would take un-

til he saw Phillips’ “Scrolls” - a 16-foot-high sculpture crafted from perforated stainless steel to resemble the form of a violin and illuminated from within via LED lighting that sits on the lawn across from the New England Conservatory’s Jordan Hall. Stocker then reached out to Phillips, a complete stranger, who was more than receptive to getting on board with a project that would pay tribute to Nimoy.

“Tom and I have been stressing that the main point of this project is Leonard Nimoy the man and his interest in science and the arts,” Phillips said. “Nimoy himself seemed to be a straight, rational thinker like [the character he played on TV].”

Stocker had started a grassroots fundraiser via Facebook to gauge interest in the project, which, between June and October of last year, raised just under \$5,000 for the cause.

In contrast, the Museum of Science, since launching its fundraising campaign last Friday, had raised more than \$15,000



COURTESY OF MUSEUM OF SCIENCE/DAVID PHILLIPS.

A rendering of the concept for the Leonard Nimoy Memorial proposed for the grounds of the Museum of Science.

as of Tuesday afternoon.

“The power of big corporations like CBS [which owns the rights to the “Star Trek” franchise] and institutions like the Museum of Science, as well as the Nimoy family, to raise money shows you what can be done quickly,” Stocker said.

Nimoy, whose parents

were Jewish immigrants from Ukraine, grew up as the son of a barber in the old West End. He honed his acting skills at the Elizabeth Peabody House and the West End House, as well as through a summer scholarship

Continued on page 17

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Carla B. Monteiro announces candidacy for Council at-Large

STAFF REPORT

Carla B. Monteiro (MSW, LCSW) announced her candidacy for Boston City Council at-large in Dorchester recently, surrounded virtually and in-person by family, community members, and leaders including Sheriff Steve Tompkins.

Monteiro lives out her deep-rooted values of compassion and caring for others through her professional career in social work. She believes we can achieve a Boston where everyone's basic needs are met if we're bold enough to imagine it and passionate enough to fight for it.

As a teen mother, Monteiro fought to overcome the housing insecurity, gun violence and mass incarceration that impacted her family and the lives of so many other Bostonians. With



Carla B. Monteiro of Dorchester announced her candidacy for at-large City Council recently.

life-changing resources and support from government and local organizations, Monteiro obtained vocational training that enabled her to work her way up from an

Associates' Degree to a Bachelors and ultimately, obtain her Masters in Social Work and begin a stable career.

"My story is possible because of all the resources that were available to help me succeed," she said. "We must ensure all families can live well. In this period of healing and recovery, Boston's City Council needs a social worker, one who knows how to put services in place for the people. As a social worker, I know what it takes to help our families and children be successful and how to prevent people from being left behind. I'm running for City Council to use my experience to ensure every Bostonian has what they need to thrive."

Carla B. Monteiro is running to represent every neighborhood of Boston as a City Councilor at-large. The preliminary election is on September 21, 2021. For more information, go to CarlaForBoston.com.

Kelly Ransom announces candidacy for District 6 seat on Boston City Council

STAFF REPORT

Family, friends, and supporters of Kelly Ransom (she/her) gathered on Tuesday, April 6, outside of the entrance of the now-closed Bella Luna Restaurant and Milky Way Lounge, where Ransom worked periodically for seven years.

Ransom is a queer formerly homeless events and communications professional. She is an experienced restaurant industry worker, former City Council staffer, and labor union enthusiast. Currently, she is Madison Park Development Corporation's Director of Communications and Public Affairs, where she will continue to work full-time throughout the campaign.

Jamaica Plain musician and artist Ray Liriano kicked off the announcement with uplifting original acoustic songs. "This is our first live performance in over a year! I'm so proud to know Kelly. She inspires me," Ray said.

Following the energizing tunes, Logan Ferraro, former Youth Pride Coordinator and LGBTQIA+ activist, gave a heartwarming introduction. Logan lovingly proclaimed, "Kelly was there the first time I came out publicly as transgender, and her first words to me were a promise to change all of the Youth Pride Commit-



Candidate for District 6 City Council Kelly Ransom.

Photo credit: Jenna Connolly

tee's paperwork to reflect my name and pronouns by the next meeting. As I inherited her notes years later, I can verify that she was true to her word." He also told the crowd, "Your passions become [Kelly's] passions, and your needs become [Kelly's] priorities."

Ransom then took the stage in front of a diverse crowd of supporters wearing Kelly green and yellow and holding eye-catching 'Kelly Ransom for District Six' signs (printed by Red Sun Press). She bravely and honestly disclosed how she grew to be who she is today. She spoke of her experience with homelessness, poverty, struggles with her self-image and identity, and how those moments connect to her dedication to advocacy.

During her speech, Ransom paused and went silent to collect herself before she stated, "Today, I stand before you, no longer insecure but empowered, full of confidence, and consumed with joy. Today, I am talking to all of you and my community, but I am also talking to past Kellys. The one with no front teeth and a permanent lazy eye. The one with no food for dinner and a tablespoon of laundry detergent. The one flirting with anyone for a place to spend the night. The one who always dreamed but never thought that [she] would be educated enough, brave enough, or secure enough to say 'I'm Kelly Ransom, and today, I am announcing my can-

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Continued on page 15

Ransom

Continued from page 14

didacy for District Six Boston City Council.”

After sharing her story, Ran-

som proclaimed, “As a nation, we are facing the grim reality of surviving the coinciding pandemics of COVID-19, white supremacy, and systemic racism. As a city, we are facing the potential collapse of our local economies, a housing crisis, a mental health

crisis, racial wealth inequities and disparities, inequitable public schools, inaccessible transportation, and the present and future impacts of climate change. We are going through a lot as a nation, as a Commonwealth, as a city, and as a district. And, there

is hope. There is love. There is joy. There is promise. There is an opportunity for collaborative change, and it has to start with all of us.”

Ransom ended by promoting the newly launched campaign website (www.VoteKellyRansom.com) and encouraged everyone

to read “The Work Ahead” section (her policy and advocacy platform points), and sign up to learn more about how to get involved with and support the campaign.

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Overwhelming community support for The Haven to move into the former Bella Luna space

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The Public Service Committee of the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC) met virtually on April 6, where members and residents heard from Jason Waddleton, owner of The Haven restaurant, about his proposal to move the restaurant.

Waddleton has proposed to move his restaurant from Perkins St. to the former Bella Luna Restaurant & Milky Way Lounge space at 284 Amory St. in the Brewery complex, where he said it will have more room.

He is asking for a seven day all alcoholic beverages license, as well as an entertainment license for instrumental and vocal music for up to seven performers, as well as DJ and karaoke options with a closing hour of 1:00am. Additionally Waddleton is requesting a 60 seat seasonal

outdoor patio that will close at 11:00pm.

“My background has been in restaurants since 1988,” Waddleton said, having worked as a bartender and a waiter in Scotland before coming to Boston, where he also managed Matt Murphy’s Pub. He also has a background in music and performing.

He said that The Haven, Boston’s only Scottish restaurant and bar, never closed when the pandemic hit, and “went right into takeout on March 17.”

With this larger space, Waddleton said that The Haven “could offer a lot of” what Bella Luna/Milky Way did, “with a different slant, of course.”

He said that The Haven is known for its “Burns Night” throughout the country, which is a special dinner that pays tribute to Scottish poet Robert Burns, and looks forward to con-

tinuing that in the new space with the space’s dedicated stage room.

“JP’s got an amazing array of talent,” Waddleton said, and he looks forward to having performers come to the restaurant, as well as hosting things like comedy nights and soccer brunches on the weekends.

“Once we get our liquor license, we’ll be able to really transform The Haven,” Waddleton said, adding that he “fell in love with the idea of single malt,” and can’t wait to share it with customers in the new space.

Currently, The Haven has a small kitchen space which has limited the ability to have a larger menu, but Waddleton said that he and his team “want to offer a more expansive offering of Scottish cuisine along with some other beautiful offerings, too,” such as pizzas.

“We’ve always been known for our comfort food,” he said. “We feel confident that our offerings will be well received.”

There was an outpouring of support from neighbors who attended the meeting, with each one saying they are excited for the Haven to move to the Bella Luna space.

“I totally support this and the neighborhood, from my interaction from folks, is really excited about this,” said Scott Shear, a resident on Brookside Ave.

“In their current space, I always enjoyed being there with friends,” resident Joshua Decosta said of The Haven. “I look forward to them having a larger menu and larger space.”

Denise Delgado, Executive Director of Egleston Square Main Street, “we’re just really excited to have the idea of The Haven being in the Bella Luna space

and the idea of having live entertainment.”

Nobody spoke in opposition of the project, but there were a few questions about the proposal, such as when the restaurant would open in the new space.

Waddleton said that after applying for the liquor license, it could take about three months at the city level and the state for approval, and then the restaurant would open “no earlier than the end of July.”

He said that the proposal does not require “a lot of buildout,” as the stage room is set and the patio will have to be prepared.

“Let’s just shoot for August or September,” he said.

The Public Service Committee unanimously voted to approve this request, and it will go before the full JPNC at the end of the month for an official vote.

Dimock Community Health Center receives \$2.4 million American Rescue Plan Funding

BY JOHN LYNDIS

U.S. Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley announced this week that Dimock Communi-

ty Health Center (DCHC) just across the Southwest Corridor Park received a \$2,456,000 grant through the American Rescue Plan.

DCHC on Dimock Street in Roxbury has been serving patients from Jamaica Plain and Roxbury since 1862 when it opened as the New England Hospital for Women and Children.

Pressley said DCHC will join 12 other Community Health Centers in her 7th Congressional District in sharing a total of \$56,833,875 in American Rescue Plan funds.

Dimock will use the funds to expand their COVID-19 vaccination and treatment services. The resources are part of the American Rescue Plan’s investments to expand access to vaccines in historically underserved communities.

“Throughout this pandemic and well before it, our Community Health Centers have served as a critical lifeline for our most vulnerable communities in the

Massachusetts 7th and all across the Commonwealth, providing life-saving and patient-centered resources to our children, people experiencing homelessness, immigrant families and veterans,” said Pressley. “With our vaccination efforts underway, this new funding through the American Rescue Plan will go a long way toward helping our CHCs—which play a central role in working towards equitable vaccine distribution—continue their important work.”

DCHC can use the funding to expand COVID-19 vaccinations, testing and treatment for vulnerable populations; deliver preventive and primary health care services to people at higher risk for COVID-19; and expand health centers’ operational capacity during the pandemic and beyond, including modifying and

improving physical infrastructure and adding mobile units.

Pressley said she has been a steadfast champion for community-based health care programs throughout her time in Congress. She is an active member of the Congressional Community Health Centers Caucus and has advocated for increased resources for Community Health Centers before and during the COVID-19 pandemic.

DCHC has been recognized nationally as a model for the delivery of comprehensive health and human services in an urban community, DCHC provides over 19,000 people annually with convenient access to high quality, low cost health care and human services that might not otherwise be available to communities like Jamaica Plain and Roxbury.

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NEWS BRIEFS

CITY GOLF COURSES OPEN FOR SEASON

Mayor Kim Janey has announced that the City of Boston's two municipal golf courses are open for the 2021 season.

The City owns and operates the William J. Devine Golf Course in Dorchester and the George Wright Golf Course in Hyde Park designed by Donald Ross. Both have received national accolades as must-play courses when golfing in the Boston area.

Golfers can go to cityofboston-golf.com for tee times and rates. For updates, the City's golf courses can be followed on Twitter @FranklinParkGC and @GeorgeWrightGC.

Founded in 1938, the 18-hole

par 70 Donald Ross-designed George Wright Golf Course is a hidden gem in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Boston open seven days a week through November. Contact PGA Professional Scott Allen at 617-364-2300 for more information.

The second-oldest public golf course in America and part of the historic Emerald Necklace, the William J. Devine Golf Course at Franklin Park in Dorchester offers a pleasant golf experience only minutes from downtown Boston and is open year-round, weather permitting. The outdoor patio features chairs, tables, and umbrellas with seating for up to 100 people. Contact PGA Professional Kevin Frawley at 617-265-4084 for more information.

Kaitz named an "Up & Coming Lawyer"

Boston law firm Davis Malm is pleased to announce that attorney Robert M. Kaitz has been named a 2021 Excellence in the Law "Up & Coming Lawyer" by Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly. This annual award recognizes rising stars in the legal community who have practiced for 10 years or less yet have distinguished themselves in their firm and practice.

Davis Malm President, Amy Fracassini, stated, "Robert is a trusted advisor to our clients and an integral part of the Davis Malm team. Shareholders turn to Rob for support on complex matters, and fellow associates often seek his sound advice. He is well-deserving of this recognition."

Mr. Kaitz is an employment and trial lawyer who focuses on employment and business matters. He represents clients in employment discrimination, wage and hour claims, and close corporation disputes. He counsels employers in drafting and implementing company handbooks, restrictive covenants and severance agreements and also advises employees on navigating employment contracts.

The Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly Excellence in the Law Awards celebrate excellence throughout the legal community. In addition to this category, individuals were recognized in pro bono, paralegal work, firm administration/operations, and marketing. Mr. Kaitz and all



Robert M. Kaitz

honorees will be honored at the virtual 2021 Excellence in the Law event on May 13, 2021. To see all honorees and register for the ceremony, click here.

Nimoy

Continued from page 13

for acting lessons at Boston College in his teens. Nimoy, a 1948 graduate of English High (back when it was located on Montgomery Street in the South End), was also awarded an honorary degree from Boston University in 2012.

In his proclamation declaring Leonard Nimoy Day in the City of Boston, former Mayor Martin J. Walsh wrote that Nimoy, who died at age 83 in February of 2015, "through his fictional character, Mr. Spock – half human/half Vulcan – gave the immigrant, the refugee, and the oppressed, a hero for 'the Outsider.'"

The Vulcan hand salutation (along with its accompanying

spoken expression of well-wishing, "Live Long and Prosper") ranks among the most indelible and instantly recognizable images from the "Star Trek" universe, and Nimoy revealed in his autobiography, "I Am Not Spock," that he based it on a rabbinical blessing he saw performed during a religious service he accompanied his grandfather to as a boy at an Orthodox synagogue in the old West End.

"The 'Live Long and Prosper' symbol represents a message that my dad believed so strongly in," said Leonard's daughter, Julie Nimoy, in a press release. "My dad always loved Boston and he would be honored knowing that the Museum of Science would be the permanent home to this memorial. The sculpture not only depicts one of the world's most recognized and loved gestures

for peace, tolerance, and diversity, but it will also be a beautiful tribute to my dad's life and legacy."

Nimoy also had a strong personal connection to the Museum of Science during his lifetime, since in the '80s, he collaborated with the museum to voice the original introduction film for the Mugar Omni Theater.

"Leonard Nimoy was one of our own," Tim Ritchie, the museum's president, said in a press release. "Growing up a few blocks from the Museum of Science, he never forgot his immigrant roots. He was, and forever will be, a beloved part of our Museum family. He lifted our aspirations and hopes through his commitment to science, intellectual curiosity,

generosity, and, yes, logic. He reminded us about the best part of humanity and gave us a vision for building a society based on reason and tolerance."

To donate to the Museum of Science's fundraising campaign for the Leonard Nimoy Memorial, visit <https://donate.mos.org/campaign/leonard-nimoy-memorial/c329955>.

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Popular JP Cafe up for sale

By JOHN LYNDS

A popular Jamaica Plain cafe is up for sale after being unprofitable for the past two years.

Ula Cafe and Bakery in the Brewery Complex in Jamaica Plain.

The cafe was opened in 2007 by Korinn Koslofsky and her partner Kate Bancroft. In 2016, Rik Kleinfeldt and Paula Anderson, who were providing the cafe with their New Harvest Coffee Roasters of Pawtucket, RI.

While the cafe never closed during the COVID-19 pandemic, Kleinfeldt and Anderson report in the ad listing that Ula has not been profitable since the end

of 2019, after posting \$1.15 in revenues that year.

However, revenue has dropped to \$860,000 and the two owners are asking \$75,000 for the bakery/cafe so they can focus on their two businesses in Rhode Island.

“A neighborhood favorite since 2007 at a great location,” reads the listing. “Lots of free off-street parking and outdoor seating. Never closed during the pandemic and sales stayed strong despite no indoor seating. Primed for growth post-COVID but needs a new website, some internal work and effective management. 2019 revenue was \$1,150,000. It has not been profitable the past



Owners of Ula Cafe and Bakery in the Brewery Complex in Jamaica Plain are looking to sell.

two years.”

Inventory included in the asking price of the 2,300 square foot commercial space is \$5,000

worth of inventory.

Jamaica Plain residents were saddened by the loss of one of their favorite cafes according

to social media posts. However, many are optimistic the right new owner can turn the cozy cafe around post pandemic.



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District 6 City Council Forum

JP Progressives, Mijente, and NAACP Boston Branch are joining together to host a candidate forum for the District 6 City Council race. It has been ten years since the D6 seat was open,

and we have a chance to elect a bold progressive! Come join us on Wednesday, April 28 at 7 pm to hear from the candidates.

Register at zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYudOmpjgs for our

Zoom forum, and share the event with your neighborhood friends on Facebook! Candidates are Mary Tamer, Kendra Hicks, and Kelly Ransom.

RECYCLE YOUR YARD WASTE!

Check the Trash day app for your collection schedule, upcoming holiday delays or cancellations, and to search for items you can and can't recycle. Learn more at boston.gov/yard-waste

- Leaf and yard waste curbside collection
- Household hazardous waste drop-off
- Yard Waste drop off | 500 American Legion Hwy, Boston, MA 02131

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Gubernatorial candidate Ben Downing outlines his climate plan

By JOHN LYNDIS

Gubernatorial Candidate, former State Senator and Boston resident Ben Downing outlined his climate plan that he'd make a priority if elected to the state's corner office in 2022.

In his plan, the Pittsfield native said he wants to achieve 100 percent clean electricity in the Commonwealth by 2030 and 100 percent clean energy by 2040.

Downing, who became a clean energy business leader at a leading renewable energy company after leaving the Senate in 2017, unveiled his plan via his newly launched BEN TV (<https://www.facebook.com/>

watch/?v=305705040944045).

Downing said the first part of his campaign's policy agenda would be to focus on climate action.

"The Downing Climate Plan" is focused on urgency, equity, innovation, justice and jobs.

Aside from reaching 100 percent clean energy Downing said he's also committed to requiring 50 percent of climate spending to directly benefit environmental justice communities; undertake "Restructuring 3.0" to reform utilities and modernize the grid; create a climate impact mandate across state government; and maximize the economic benefit

of a clean energy economy in Massachusetts

"For years, the Massachusetts state government has approached climate change with sluggishness and delay," said Downing during the launch of his climate agenda. "So barely two weeks after we finally saw a major climate bill signed into law, we still find ourselves behind. It's past time we had a Governor who understands the fierce urgency of our changing climate, the disparate impact of our failures on disenfranchised communities, and the reality that if there is one resource we are flat out of, it is time. In the years ahead

there is no greater priority for our state than undertaking an aggressive, all-hands-on-deck campaign to bring emissions down, reform our energy sector, maximize green jobs, build up climate resilience, and fortify communities shouldering environmental injustice."

Downing said his climate policy plan is the first of many in his campaign.

"It's critical to me that voters understand my vision and priorities from the start," said Downing. "Our campaign's policy agenda will be a living, breathing effort, and we're looking forward to sharing ideas in the months

ahead, getting feedback, listening to concerns, and building out a collective vision for a fairer, stronger Massachusetts."

Downing was a leading voice for climate action during his 10 years in the state senate. He served as Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy where he passed transformative legislation to improve energy efficiency, jumpstart renewable development, and help the state meet its carbon reduction goals.

He later served as Vice President at Nexamp and also served on the board of the Environmental League of Massachusetts.

Mayor Janey announces opening of applications for youth jobs program

Mayor Kim Janey announced the opening of SuccessLink Summer Youth Job applications. SuccessLink is the City of Boston's online tool that enables Boston youth to register for summer jobs. Applications are open on the City's website now through May 9 for Boston teens aged 15 to 18.

With the support of the Mayor's Health Human Service (HHS) cabinet, the Department of Youth Engagement and Employment's (DYEE) commitment to youth jobs remains steadfast in spite of the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic. The City will aim to provide 5,000 jobs to youth and young adults this summer across more than 170 nonprofit, community-based organizations and city agencies.

"The SuccessLink Youth Summer Jobs program provides Boston's youth with valuable skills and opportunities that will empower them and lead them to future success in the workforce," said Mayor Kim Janey. "I encourage all Boston teens to apply for the program, as it will inspire personal growth and allow for a head start for future opportunities in the working world."

In FY22 Mayor Janey will invest an additional \$4.7 million in youth jobs, increasing the total budget to \$12.5 million that translates to enriching youth jobs in organizations located in neighborhoods across the city to give youth early exposure to various career paths. In the summer of 2020, there was significant interest in the Learn and Earn Postsecondary

Program. This engaged young people in college courses at partner institutions, such as Benjamin Franklin Institute, Bunker Hill Community College, Roxbury Community College, and Urban College of Boston, and provided career coaching to allow teens to earn their summer paychecks. A considerable number of youth engaged in virtual and hybrid project-based learning in partnership with Northeastern University/Practera and SuccessLink's peer-to-peer partnerships. The most involved investments and commitments came from local partner organizations. Nonprofits, community-based organizations, and city agencies designed creative approaches to host young people in internships and summer jobs.

Like last summer, SuccessLink will continue to offer a combination of hybrid, virtual and in-person work experiences in a range of fields, including the arts, government and advocacy, STEM, sports and recreation, childcare, education, and more. In partnership with DYEE, the Mayor's Office of Workforce Development will continue the Learn and Earn Postsecondary program. Virtual experiential learning through project-based activities will also be offered, focusing efforts on providing jobs to vulnerable youth populations through the Massachusetts Commonwealth Corporation YouthWorks partnership. This partnership ensures disadvantaged, vulnerable and youth with identified risk barriers have access to employ-

ment opportunities.

As an additional youth leadership development initiative, DYEE is collaborating with the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Advancement to further a Dreamers Fellowship initiative designed to engage immigrant youth.

To further strengthen the Boston summer jobs program, DYEE has introduced a grant funding component for partner organizations as part of the SuccessLink Youth Employment Program. This new approach will provide selected grantees with an allocated number of youth positions, where the wages for the youth employees will be funded through a grant. The partner organization will be responsible for managing the recruitment, hiring, and payroll process for youth participants. The goal of this revised service delivery model is to increase job placements and improve quality experiences for youth and non-profits who partner with the City of Boston to hire and create workforce development opportunities for young people.

With the introduction of grant partnerships, there are two ways for youth to get connected to a SuccessLink job:

- SuccessLink Direct Jobs: Youth will be hired by the City of Boston through the traditional SuccessLink portal to work across various organizations
- SuccessLink Grant Jobs: Youth will be hired directly through the grant partners'

online application process.

Because of this change, the DYEE youth jobs webpage has been redesigned to help young people navigate the application, onboarding, and hiring processes. This ensures that youth and families have access to the resources they need to effectively navigate the employment process.

Youth interested in applying to DYEE's SuccessLink Summer Job Program must meet the fol-

lowing requirements:

Must be a full-time resident of the City of Boston

Must turn 15 years old on or before September 1, 2021

Cannot turn 19 years old on or before September 1, 2021

Must be legally permitted to work in the United States.

For more information on DYEE's summer employment program and additional youth resources, visit youth.boston.gov.



**Virtual Walk for Change:
Healing for Every Survivor**

**Caminata *Virtual* por el Cambio:
Sanación para cada sobreviviente**

April 25 | 25 de abril

Register now | Inscribirse ya:

barccwalk.org/join

OBITUARIES

Arthur Johnson

Beloved father, grandfather, brother, friend, community lawyer and activist

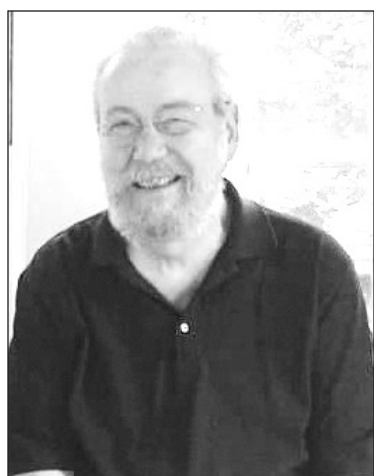
Arthur L. Johnson, a/k/a “Mr. JP” died peacefully at his home in Jamaica Plain on March 28.

Born in Toledo, Ohio, on September 17, 1946, Arthur was the oldest of Edith Dooley Johnson and William Johnson’s six sons. He graduated in 1964 from St. Francis de Sales High School in Toledo, Ohio and in 1968 from the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester where he was editor of the campus newspaper and participated on the varsity tennis team.

He served in the United States Navy from 1968 to 1970 and was stationed on a destroyer off the coast of Vietnam. When he returned, Arthur was granted an honorable discharge from the Navy as a conscientious objector to the war in Vietnam.

Arthur then moved to Boston, where he helped form the Legal In-Service Project to assist other servicemen. In 1971, Arthur co-founded the New England chapter of Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW) and was a principal organizer of VVAW’s May 1971 march on Concord, Lexington, and Boston; he also organized a VVAW protest in Washington, D.C. Long after the war ended, Art continued to help veterans connect with housing and other services.

Arthur earned his law degree from Northeastern University School of Law in 1974 and prac-



ticed law in Jamaica Plain for more than 40 years. In his legal practice, Arthur often chose to represent people who traditionally lacked equal access to legal services. His sharp intellect made him a strong advocate for his clients.

Arthur served as legal clinic educator for more than 18 years, teaching community economic development and real estate law at the Legal Services Center of Harvard Law School, Northeastern Law School, Boston College Law School and Suffolk University Law School.

Arthur was a committed community activist in Jamaica Plain.

In 1977, Arthur was an original member of the Board of Directors of the Neighborhood Development Corporation of Jamaica Plain (NDC), and he served on the NDC Board for almost forty

years, including several long terms as Board president. Among several significant projects, Arthur was particularly proud of his work in leading the NDC’s, a redevelopment of the former Haffenreffer Brewery complex into a nationally-recognized mixed-use historic preservation project. Arthur also served for many years on the board of the Commonwealth Land Trust, including as Chair.

Arthur was well-known to read three print newspapers every morning, and he was just as eager for a spirited exchange about the day’s news as he was for a discussion of local sports. His characteristic wit was evident to all who knew him.

Arthur is survived by his beloved daughter, Nora Vernazza; his son-in-law, Mark; his grandchildren, Charles and Abigail; his brothers: Dennis, Philip, Paul, Frederick and Francis and their families; and dear friends and neighbors, including: David Bor, Robin Barnes, Kevin Batt, and Terry Mason.

Arthur was predeceased by his partner of 30 years, Barbara Kaplan.

Private memorial ceremonies will take place at Forest Hills Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Arthur’s honor can be made to JPNDC at <https://jpndc.org/>

LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

LOCAL STUDENT MAKES DEAN’S LIST AT CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

The following student has been named to the Connecticut College dean’s list for the 2020 fall semester:

Mairead Hayes of Jamaica Plain, 2024, Dean’s High Honors, Undeclared

About Connecticut College
Founded in 1911, Connecticut College is a highly selective private liberal arts college of 1,800 students located on a 750-acre arboretum campus in New London, overlooking Long

Island Sound and the Thames River. The College’s mission is to educate students to put the liberal arts into action as citizens of a global society. Through an innovative four-year program, Connections, students integrate every aspect of their experience—from classes to majors to internships to activities to jobs on campus and abroad—into a meaningful pathway that allows them to synthesize different perspectives, solve complex problems, and contribute to the public good. For more information, see www.conncoll.edu or find us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn.

LEGAL NOTICE

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.
SU21P0317EA
Estate of:
Callie Jeanette
Smith

Date of Death
10/10/2020

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Darnell M. Bishop of Mattapan, 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: Darnell M. Bishop of Mattapan, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve With Corporate Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Peti-

tioner 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 04/28/2021.

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: March 22, 2021
Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate

4/9/21
JP

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH
OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND
FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Probate
and Family Court
24 New Chardon St.
Boston, MA 02114
(617)788-8300
CITATION ON
PETITION TO
CHANGE NAME
Docket No.
SU20CO255CA

In the matter of: Maya Mintz
A Petition to Change Name of Minor has been filed by Maya Mintz of Jamaica Plain MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: Charlie Alice Hatter

IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Suffolk Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/22/2021.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
Date March 22, 2021
Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate

4/9/21
JP

OBITUARIES

Effective Jan. 1, 2021

All obituaries and death notices

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Do You need to run a legal?

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

OP-ED

Goodbye and thank you, Boston

By FORMER MAYOR MARTIN J. WALSH

I left Boston City Hall for the final time as mayor. I packed up the last of the photos on my desk, say goodnight to the security guards as I've done a thousand times before, and head home to Dorchester.

It's been almost three months since I got the call from President Biden asking me to serve as secretary of labor, and the truth is I haven't had much time to reflect. My team and I have continued working around the clock on the response to COVID-19 and coordinating with the incoming administration to make sure city operations continue seamlessly. But now the Senate has confirmed my nomination, and a new team of leaders, both new and familiar faces, will take the reins at City Hall. All that's left to do now is to say goodbye and thank you.

I've been thinking about my mother, Mary, and my late father, John, who met in Boston after each immigrated from Ireland. They worked their entire adult lives to make a good life for my brother, Johnny, and me. They found friendship and solidarity among our neighbors in Dorchester, at St. Margaret's Church, in the immigrant community, and in the labor community. And it was community that helped me survive childhood cancer and get into recovery for alcoholism as a young adult.

Boston taught me at a young age that a supportive community is the greatest blessing, and serving that community is both a responsibility and a privilege. That's why I decided to run for mayor in 2013. After representing Dorchester for 16 years in the State House, and winning victories for marriage equality, LGBTQ rights, women's rights, disability rights, and immigrant rights, I knew that change was possible. I wanted to play a bigger role in making the American Dream a reality for more of my fellow Bostonians.

That's what we've done, together, as a city.

We created 140,000 new, good-paying jobs, fought for workers' rights, and built more pathways into the middle class. We invested more in public education than at any time in



(Jamaica Plain, MA 08/19/18) Mayor Martin Walsh attends the Dominican Festival and Parade. (Mayor's Office Photo by John Wilcox)

Boston's history. We built record numbers of affordable homes. We fought the stigma around substance use disorder and got more people into treatment. We invested millions of dollars in arts and culture. We've risen as a national leader in environmental justice and women's pay equity.

Over the last four years, especially, Boston has shown what we stand for. As the Trump administration launched attacks on immigrants, Muslims, and women, Boston made it clear that we reject racism, xenophobia, sexism, and bigotry. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Boston has rallied to support people in need and put public health first. And responding to calls for racial justice, Boston took action through powerful community investments, police reform, and cultural change. For all of this, I am tremendously proud and grateful.

If the last four years have taught us anything, it's that we cannot be passive observers of history. We must never take for granted public health, human rights, and our very democracy. Unless we fight for these principles, we could lose them.

Now is the time to invest in community health and well-being. We must address the inequities that made some people more vulnerable to the health risks and the economic devastation of COVID-19. This is the only way to emerge from this crisis stronger than we were before.

We also need to increase civic engagement in all levels of government and decision-making. This past November, we saw

record voter turnout, but those numbers should be higher. We need to end voter suppression and show people why their votes matter. And voting is only one piece of the puzzle.

Now is the time for everyone to consider how they can best serve their community and their nation, all year round. That doesn't have to mean running for office necessarily; you can make just as much of an impact on your community by reaching out to your neighbor when they need it most, attending a community meeting to offer a fresh perspective, or becoming a positive influence on a young person's life. Our nation needs more people from more backgrounds to share their ideas and their creativity as we work to build back better.

This is a commitment I will carry with me as secretary of labor. As I fight for the rights, protections, and dignity that all working people deserve, I will seek input from people of all backgrounds. I will continually work to become a better and more collaborative leader. I will also bring Boston's values with me. I'll fight for immigrants, for people struggling with addiction, and for young Americans who dream of a better future.

I may be heading to Washington, D.C., but Boston will always be my home, and my heart. I'll be back often, but for now, I'll just share some advice.

To all of Boston's emerging leaders: In every decision you make, think about the impact it will have on the next generation, 10, 20, and 30 years from now. Always put the needs of the most



August 24, 2019 - Mayor Martin Walsh offers remarks during the unveiling of the \$1.74M renovation to the Parkman Playground in Jamaica Plain. (Mayor's Office Photo by Jeremiah Robinson)



August 5, 2019 - Mayor Martin Walsh joins Comm Gross, the Boston Police Department and local residents in celebration of National Night Out in Jamaica Plain. (Mayor's Office Photo by Isabel Leon)



June 16, 2018 - Mayor Martin Walsh celebrates the one year anniversary of the re-opening of the Jamaica Plain Library. (Mayor's Office Photo by Isabel Leon)

vulnerable people first. Always ask yourself and other people in power, "Does this help everyone, or just the few?" And fight until the answer is everyone. Lifting up working people, and creating better opportunities for those

who have the least, is the best way to create positive change. It will be hard; you'll have to make very difficult decisions, and own the outcome, good or

Continued on page 23

EDITORIAL

Get the vaccine

For the vast majority of people, getting a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as they are eligible is a no-brainer.

COVID-19 not only has a high death rate for older persons and those with underlying health conditions, but it also has been shown to have serious after-effects for young, healthy people who experienced only mild symptoms when they contracted the disease.

The ramifications of the health consequences for the so-called COVID long-haulers promises to adversely impact the lives of millions of Americans, as well as burden our society and health care system, for years to come.

However, despite the obvious health risks posed by COVID-19, many of our fellow citizens say they will refuse to get the vaccine. No doubt many of those who tell a pollster that they will not get a vaccine are doing so just to be contrarian. In the end, they will get a vaccine.

But unquestionably there are segments of society on all sides of the political spectrum who are opposed to the idea of vaccinations.

In our view, vaccine-hesitancy in the face of a world-wide pandemic is both inexplicable and sad.

It is inexplicable because the benefits of vaccination are so clear. There is every reason to get it and absolutely no reason to oppose it.

But it also is sad because the vaccine-hesitancy movement shows that so many of our fellow Americans are susceptible these days to rumors, misinformation, and conspiracy theories to the detriment of their own health and that of their loved ones.

The COVID-19 vaccines are a modern scientific miracle. They represent the best avenue of protection for individuals, as well as the only chance for society to overcome the pandemic in order to return our economy to normal.

In addition, with early trials showing that the vaccines are 100 percent safe and effective for older children, a vaccination program for children will assure that our schools can reopen safely. In our view, a COVID-19 vaccine should be required for all children as a condition for returning to school, similar to the requirement that children be vaccinated against other diseases.

We urge all of our readers to get the vaccine as soon as they are eligible under state guidelines.

And to those who have some degree of vaccine-hesitancy for themselves or their children -- please stop listening to those wacky and ill-informed opinions on social media.

Royal family, common problems

On a certain level, it is easy to dismiss the recent interview of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle as frivolous and irrelevant to the lives of the rest of us. To most Americans, the concept of a royal family is a joke to begin with, an anachronism of history.

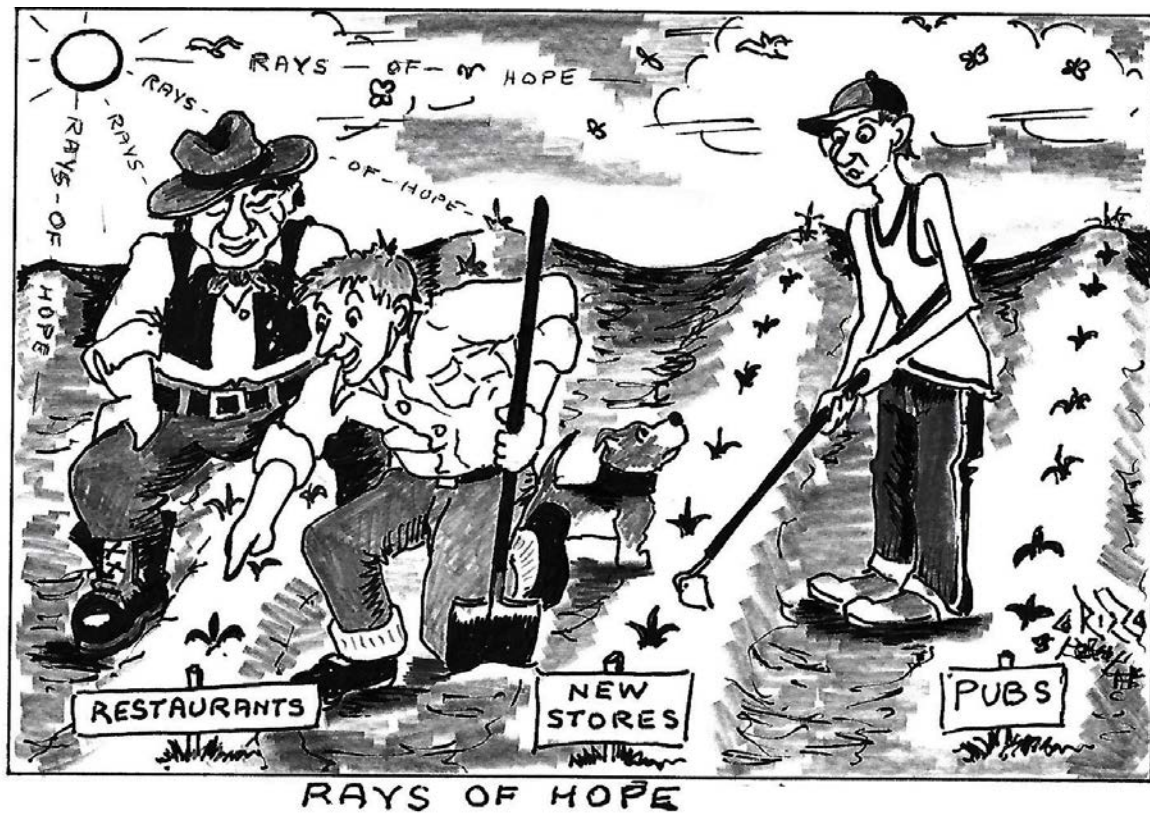
On the other hand, there were certain aspects of the interview that made the travails faced by Harry and Meghan all too real -- and extremely relevant to the 21st century.

The revelation that Meghan contemplated suicide, but received no mental health support among the royal family because it would make them "look bad," was shocking, but it is something to which ordinary families can relate.

Mental health problems still carry a stigma in society at-large. If nothing else, Meghan Markle's willingness to discuss her issues hopefully will serve as an inspiration both to those suffering from depression (among other mental health illnesses) and their families to seek help in the same way that we do for physical health issues before it is too late.

Then of course, there was the discussion of race, which demonstrated just how deeply embedded racism remains in every strata of society across the globe in 2021.

The concept of royalty may be a bunch of nonsense, but the issues of mental health and racism are not and we are grateful that Harry and Meghan were willing to share their personal and painful experiences to shed light on these matters that bear relevance to everybody, regardless of social status.



RAYS OF HOPE

LETTERS

Children need engaging outdoor learning opportunities

Dear Editor,

Now more than ever, with so many children learning remotely for some or all of the school day, it is crucial to provide them with engaging outdoor learning opportunities. To meet this challenge, the Friends of the Boston Schoolyards (FOTBS), a volunteer organization since 2018, serves as a clearinghouse for sharing information and resources with parents, teachers and community members regarding outdoor experiences for Boston public school children. FOTBS, working with a wide range of partner organizations, has developed practical resources that can

be used at school, at home—indoors or outdoors—that support and encourage outdoor learning.

Every week, in response to COVID-19, we hear about schools across the country that are teaching students outdoors. Here in Boston, we are well placed to be one of those stories. With over 80 schoolyards redesigned for outdoor learning over the past 25 years and teachers prepared to use them, Boston can provide access to all our students.

As we strive to address important issues of equity, the Friends of the Boston Schoolyards believes that outdoor teaching and learning should be a part of the

daily routine for all Boston's children. Once schools reopen, these spaces will be especially important, giving children the chance to fully flex their physical and cognitive muscles and enjoy the outdoor resources that exist right in their schools and neighborhoods.

Visit friendsoftheboston-schoolyards.org for more information and please help spread the word about these important resources.

MARY SMOYER

PRESIDENT, BOARD OF FRIENDS OF THE BOSTON SCHOOLYARDS

An historic moment

Dear Editor,

We celebrate this terrific historic moment for the City of Boston and its residents, that Kim Janey, an African American woman, is now Mayor. There's a correction needed for the misstatement that she is the "first Black person to become District 7 City Councilor" (front page March 26 JP Gazette article on Mayor Janey's swearing-in ceremony; also published in the April 5 Mission Hill Gazette and the March 26 Sun). For nearly forty

years District 7 has been represented by Black City Councilors.

Ms. Janey as District 7 Councilor had followed in the footsteps of a long and effective line of African American representatives elected by the voters of District 7, which includes Roxbury neighborhoods, and parts of the Fenway, Mission Hill and the South End: Councilor Bruce Bolling (City Council President in 1986-1987) was succeeded by Anthony Crayton and later Gareth Saunders, Chuck Turner and Tito Jackson. These District

7 City Councilors represented their local constituents, worked for social justice, and in other years, ran for at-large seats as well as in mayoral races.

District 7 has only existed since 1982 when the boundaries were created after the 1981 referendum that added district councilors to the Council body that previously was only at large.

Mayor Janey was the 6th Black City Councilor to represent District 7.

KAY MATHEW

LETTERS

We need ranked choice voting in Boston

Dear Editor,

As this difficult winter winds down and we move into spring, we see burgeoning forth around us an impressive display -- of candidates running for public office in Boston! The desire on the part of so many to serve their communities and change our city for the better is surely a testament to the vibrancy of our participatory democracy. However, one of the greatest ironies of our current system of voting is that the more candidates we have stepping forward, the greater the risk of splitting the vote, possibly resulting in a winner who is not supported by the ma-

ajority of voters.

For this reason, we at JP Progressives (JPP) urge all candidates running this year for Boston mayor and city council seats to make a pledge to bring Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) to Boston. Although there is not enough time to implement RCV for this year's election, candidates should commit to supporting a home rule petition and charter change that would bring RCV to our city and make sure that the voice of the majority of voters is heard.

(As a brief reminder, RCV allows voters to rank candidates in order of preference. If no single candidate gets more than 50%,

votes cast for the candidate with the least support get redistributed to the #2 choices marked on those ballots. This process repeats until somebody crosses the 50% threshold and is declared a winner. In short, RCV ensures that our elected officials are supported by the majority of voters and therefore have a meaningful mandate. Voters can straightforwardly cast their ballots for their preferred candidate without worrying about spoiler effects throwing the election to a candidate with opposing values. In addition, negative campaigning is reduced because candidates may need to depend on a

rival's supporters to back them as their #2 or 3 choice. Finally, with RCV we can do away with costly and time-consuming run-off elections.)

Boston voters strongly supported RCV in last year's ballot question (by 61.7%) even though it was defeated at the state level. Perhaps this is because our city still remembers the lessons of the 2013 mayoral election; with a crowded field of 12 candidates, half of whom were people of color, the progressive vote was split, and the top two vote-getters advancing to the run-off (Marty Walsh and John Connolly) earned only 18.5% and 17.2% of the votes in the primary. The pitfalls of our plurality voting system have been made clear repeatedly at the state level, but were recently highlighted again with Jake Auchincloss's victory last summer in the District 4

Democratic primary with only 22.4% of the vote, and the results of the 19th Suffolk Democratic primary a few weeks ago -- Jeff Turco, an anti-abortion, Democrat won with 36.2% of the vote when progressive support was split between two candidates.

It's time for us to finally learn from the past, and to catch up with the 21 cities and two states (Maine and Alaska) that are already using RCV, as well as the many cities and towns across the country that have recently voted to adopt RCV. We ask all mayoral and city council candidates to heed the voice of Boston voters who have already expressed their desire for voting reform -- commit to calling for a charter change and a home rule petition to bring RCV to our city.

CINDY LU AND MARTHA KARCHERE FOR THE JAMAICA PLAIN PROGRESSIVES

Growing Resiliency In Your Garden

Dear Editor,

Longer days and the color coming back into our landscapes are encouraging signs to break our cabin fever induced by months of New England winter and social distancing. A new season of productive growth is on its way, and now is the time to get our hands in the dirt and grow native plants to encourage ecological diversity and greater pollinator populations in our communities.

Why native plants? The native flora and fauna of our region have coevolved with native bees and other pollinators, providing them with food and a beneficial environment to thrive in. Native bees make the tremendous contribution of pollinating the plants in 1 out of 3 bites of food

we eat and is crucial that we protect their populations from further endangerment- a study published by the Ecological Society of America found that several species of fuzzy American bumblebees alone have declined from 65-100% in population in the last 20 years.

What can you do? Purchase and grow native plants (flowers, herbs, shrubs) for any size garden or terrace/balcony space you have, as well as build pollinator hotels- all activities that are family-friendly and allow for socializing at a distance. Here is a resource of the many native species you can choose from that will make a delightful addition to your greenspace: www.nwf.org/NativePlantFinder/Plants.

Participating in projects to conserve our urban wilds in the Greater Boston area, or planting native trees in local parks can also give back to both native bees and the community. The resiliency that we have practiced, as a city during this year of adjustment to the COVID-19 pandemic, is exemplary of how we can improve our local ecosystems when we plant native species to save our native pollinators. More about how to start your bee-friendly garden can be found at www.mass.gov/service-details/choosing-pollinator-friendly-native-plants-in-home-gardening-or-landscaping.

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Walsh

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bad. A true leader learns, grows, and becomes more connected to the community they represent as time goes on.

To the young people of Boston: I honestly believe there is no limit to what your generation can achieve. I have learned so much from conversations I've had with young students about racial justice, climate action, LGBTQ rights, workers' rights, and more. You have helped me grow as a leader and as a member of the community. You are the most passionate generation

I've ever seen, and you're challenging old notions of identity and societal roles. You have the power to change the world for the better. Focus on your education; trust your ability to make a difference; and be kind to yourself if you make mistakes or if life doesn't go according to plan. I'm proof that there are many paths to success. Don't let anyone tell you different.

Despite how difficult the past year has been, it also showed us how fast things can change, for better or for worse. Right now, we have an opportunity to enact swift, powerful, and positive change. The more people who are empowered to contribute, the more successful our recov-

ery from COVID-19 will be. So this is my call to all Bostonians to consider how you will get involved in your community. Just as important, think about how you will encourage and empower others to get involved too. You can make a difference, so don't hesitate. Just take it one day at a time.

The challenges before us at a national level are enormous. But Boston has taught me that nothing is impossible if we work together and open the door for more people to get involved.

From the bottom of my heart, Boston, thank you.

Martin J. Walsh is the former Mayor of Boston and the new U.S. Secretary of Labor.



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