



COVID TEST RATE INCREASES NEARLY 40 PERCENT, PAGE 5

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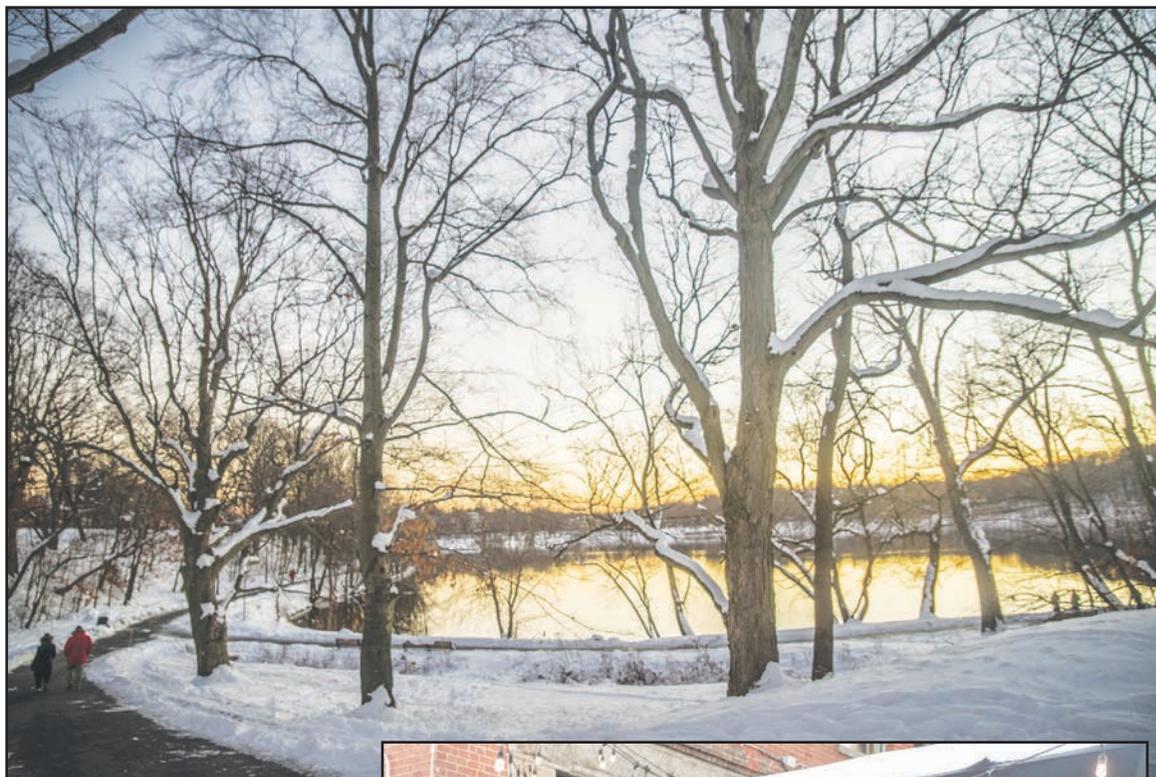
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JP UNDER SNOW



Snow fell on JP last Friday and many residents enjoyed their time outside around Jamaica Pond (above) or fighting the cold with some hot coffee, (right) and, of course, playing in the snow as can be seen on Pages 4 and 5.



City, JP Cannabis Museum offering informational sessions

By JOHN LYNDS

Mayor Michelle Wu announced this month the City of Boston, in collaboration with the Core Empowerment Social Justice Cannabis Museum in Jamaica Plain, will offer a series of free introductory informational sessions beginning Tuesday, January 18 on the cannabis industry and entrepreneurship for those who intend to operate a cannabis business in the City of Boston.

Wu said the objective of these January sessions is to increase the number of equity owned cannabis business licensees and applicants in the City of Boston.

“As we build a cannabis in-

dustry in our City, it’s crucial to uplift the communities that have lived the harms of previous marijuana laws and enforcement,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “I encourage all interested entrepreneurs to use these resources to ensure equitable growth for this emerging industry.”

In November of 2019, the City of Boston passed an “Ordinance Establishing Equitable Regulation of the Cannabis Industry,” which requires the development of procedures and policies that encourage participation in the regulated cannabis industry by communities that have been dis-

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Crime in JP down 32 percent in 2021

By LAURA PLUMMER

On Thursday, Jan. 6, District E13 of the Boston Police Department (BPD) hosted its first virtual police and community relations meeting of 2022. The monthly meeting, which is carried out virtually over Zoom, is an opportunity for members of the public to learn about local crime and ask questions of law

enforcement.

At every meeting, Sgt. John Dougherty provides Part One crime data assembled by the Boston Regional Intelligence Center. Part One crimes are the most serious, and don’t include offenses like vandalism, drug dealing or possession of firearms.

Overall crime in Boston de-

Continued on page 3

La delincuencia disminuyó un 32 por ciento

AUTOR: LAURA PLUMMER

El jueves 6 de enero, el Distrito E13 del Departamento de Policía de Boston (BPD) organizó su primera reunión virtual de relaciones comunitarias y policiales de 2022. La reunión mensual, que se lleva a cabo virtualmente a través de Zoom, es una oportunidad para que los miembros del público aprendan sobre el crimen

local y hagan preguntas sobre la aplicación de la ley.

En cada reunión, el Sgto. John Dougherty proporciona datos sobre delitos de la Parte Uno reunidos por el Centro Regional de Inteligencia de Boston. Los delitos de la Parte Uno son los más graves y no incluyen el vandalismo, el tráfico de drogas o la

Continued on page 3

JPNC discusses requests from SEED dispensary

By LAUREN BENNETT

The Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC) met virtually on January 11 for a make-up December meeting, as there was not a quorum of council members to hold a meeting in December.

The Council first heard a presentation from the team at SEED,

the cannabis dispensary at 401A Centre St., which requested a change in closing hours as well as the removal of language about a shared valet.

SEED Chief of Staff Tomas Gonzalez, as well as CEO April Arrasate were on hand to present the proposal and address comments and questions.

Arrasate said that SEED’s current hours are 11am to 8pm but their original proposal was for 10am to 10pm, so that is what they are proposing now.

“We are trying to get in line with our competitors,” Arrasate said, adding that they believe the

Continued on page 4

Latest BWSC sampling shows lead in tap water exceeds MassDEP standards

BY JOHN LYNDS

Looking at the Boston Water and Sewer Commission's (BWSC) Lead Service Map, Jamaica Plain residents would be shocked to see how many old lead pipes still enter homes across the neighborhood and bring in drinking water.

The map, which can be found at www.bwsc.org/environment-education/maproom/lead-service-map, allows users to search for specific properties in Jamaica Plain that are known or suspected to have a private lead service line.

The map is dotted with dozens of Jamaica Plain homes that still have private lead service lines that connect to the BWSC main water lines in the street.

At the source of supply Charlestown's drinking water, which is provided by the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA), is lead-free when it leaves the reservoirs. Neither MWRA's, nor the BWSC's water distribution mains contain lead.

Lead can enter the drinking water when the water remains unused for long periods of time and water service pipes and household plumbing containing lead dissolve into the water. Excessive amounts of lead in the body can cause serious adverse health effects including damage to the brain, red blood cells and kidneys.

The greatest risk is to infants and young children, whose physical growth and mental develop-

ment can be impaired by lead contamination. Also vulnerable are pregnant women, whose fetuses can be harmed by lead.

This week the BWSC reported the latest round of sampling, tap water samples taken from four Boston properties exceeded the Environmental Protection Agency and MassDEP action level for lead of 17.4 parts per billion. Due to the excess, the BWSC is required to provide notification to its customers and the public. Additionally, as required under federal and state regulations and working with MassDEP, the Commission will be conducting increased monitoring, providing public education materials to the public as well as removing additional lead service lines in the distribution system.

Under State and Federal regulations, the BWSC must annually collect tap water samples from residential properties that have lead water services or copper services with lead solder and have the samples analyzed for lead.

"The longer water remains in contact with plumbing materials containing lead, the greater the possibility that lead will dissolve into the drinking water," said John P. Sullivan, P.E., Chief Engineer. "This means that the first water drawn from a tap that has not been used for several hours may contain elevated levels of lead."

Sullivan said all water consumers who have lead service pipes or other plumbing that contains lead flush water that has not been used for several



A BWSC map pinging all the private lead service lines that still exist in Jamaica Plain.

hours for a period of 30 seconds to 2 minutes or until the water feels cold prior to using the water for drinking or cooking.

The BWSC continues to work with Jamaica Plain property owners and recently increased the financial assistance it provides to property owners toward the cost of lead removal through its Lead Replacement Incentive Program. The Program provides owners with up to \$4,000.00 towards the cost of removal of the private lead service lines. In keeping with regulatory requirements, the Commission is

expanding its Public Education Outreach campaign to advise all consumers of the dangers of lead in drinking water and the general environment and to inform them of the steps to take to avoid lead exposure.

This past year, BWSC has replaced over 400 lead service lines through its Lead Replacement Incentive Program. The goal of the outreach program is to continue these efforts towards the removal of all lead service lines in Jamaica Plain.

For more information about lead in drinking water and to

find out how to test tap water for lead, Boston residents may contact the Commission at the Lead Hotline at (617) 989-7888 or (617) 989-7000. Customers may also visit the Commission's website at bwsc.org with any questions and obtain free brochures about lead in drinking water. The website also has the Lead Service Map (<https://www.bwsc.org/environment-education/maproom/lead-service-map>) where residents can see if their home has a lead service line.

Sessions

Continued from page 1

proportionately affected by the "War on Drugs" -- particularly the Black and Latino communities.

In March 2021 Jamaica Plain's first adult-use cannabis dispensary and the nation's first Social Justice Cannabis Museum opened in Hyde Square.

Core Cannabis's Seed Dispensary and attached Social Justice Cannabis Museum opened at 401 Centre St. in Jamaica Plain. Eighty-two percent of Core is owned by locals, 72 percent wom-

en owned and the owners of the company have spent collectively over 10 years incarcerated by the war on drugs.

"The Core Social Justice Cannabis Museum is pleased to partner with the City of Boston to host Boston CannaBiz 101," said Core's Chief of Staff Tomas Gonzalez. "The three day seminar will provide participants with the tools they need to navigate the legal cannabis industry. The event will include a keynote address from the Cannabis Control Commission as well as a guided tour of the current exhibition, American Warden. We look forward to furthering our mission

to educate citizens and elucidate the injustices of American drug policy in our unique space."

These three day-long informational sessions will be held at the Core Empowerment Social Justice Cannabis Museum at 401A Centre St. on January 18th, 19th, and 20th, and will be a resource to benefit all cannabis businesses and entrepreneurs, including Boston Equity Applicants.

The informational sessions will cover every aspect of the industry that are integral to opening and maintaining a successful cannabis business, ranging from: Legislative history of the legalization of cannabis and the

need for social justice within the industry; Various Licensing types available from the Cannabis Control Commission (CCC); Financing; How to create a corporation; City of Boston Host Community Agreements (HCA); Site Control; as well as standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for all license types offered by the Cannabis Control Commission.

In August of 2020, the Boston Cannabis Board held its first transactional hearing. In accordance with Massachusetts Zoning Law, Boston must have a minimum of 52 licensed cannabis establishments.

With that, Wu said she is com-

mitted to ensuring that all of Boston's diverse communities are able to benefit from this emerging industry. These informational sessions will help identify a pipeline of equity applicants and cannabis entrepreneurs.

For more information about this free series for cannabis entrepreneurs in Boston, including the schedule and list of presenters, interested attendees can RSVP at www.eventbrite.com/e/boston-cannabiz-101-tickets-208635092177?aff=ebsdoporg-profile.

Wu, public officials discuss Mass/Cass; more than 80 individuals relocated to low-threshold housing

BY LAUREN BENNETT

Mayor Michelle Wu held a press conference on January 10 to provide updates on the public health crisis at Mass and Cass.

“Our efforts here at Mass and Cass have been driven by a public health and housing-led approach,” Wu said, adding that the encampments “are not a safe or healthy place for anyone to be living.”

There is no heat or running water and fires have broken out in the area as people attempt to stay warm.

With this week’s frigid weather especially, there are “ongoing issues around frostbite and hypothermia as temperatures drop,” Wu said.

The Wu administration has surveyed folks living in the Mass/Cass area and between December 6 and December 8, identified 145 people who resided in the area. She said that the city is trying to “meet each person

where they are” when it comes to what their needs are regarding housing and medical care.

Almost all individuals who were surveyed then stated that they’d like to move into low threshold housing,” Wu said, “but that many of the existing shelter options were not meeting their needs.”

Wu said that following the December survey, resources were provided to those surveyed on December 16 and they were also told that tents would be removed after January 12.

She said that as of Jan. 10, 83 people were living in low threshold housing, and space is available for the 62 remaining people.

Wu said that on Jan. 12, the city will take down tents that had been left as well as “begin clearing the street.”

She said that the public works department will be “investing in street repairs and regular cleanings,” and the Boston Police Department will “ensure a

safe environment for residents, businesses, and individuals accessing care.”

Wu also said that it will take “more than one day” to get rid of the encampments.

She also said that the city continues to work on longer term efforts, as Wu and city officials visited Long Island last week to assess the condition of the buildings. She said that more “regional investment” as well as collaboration with the state and other cities and towns will be needed.

Chief of Housing Sheila Dillon said that housing for 200 people “has been identified,” and as of the press conference, 159 spaces were up and running and all feature 24 hour staff.

“We’re taking a comprehensive public health approach to this issue,” said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission. “The need for these services will continue and will be great even when the tents in this area are gone.”

She said the approach includes “increasing access to low threshold housing,” as well as “intentionally focusing on health equity.”

Wu acknowledged that there are more than 62 people remaining at Mass and Cass, as there are “people constantly coming and going,” but “our approach is to really understand who is truly living in the encampments and living in this area” and help

provide them with services and housing, “then connect with any other folks who might be in the area.”

The administration said that folks are living at the Envision Hotel on S. Huntington Ave., as well as at 112 Southampton St. and Woods-Mullin shelters. The Roundhouse Hotel is also housing folks, as are the new cottages at the Shattuck Campus in Franklin Park, though not all are ready for occupants yet because of delays in getting electricity to the units.

Dillon said that each cottage is heated individually, and that more will be “coming on next week.”

Delincuencia

Continued from page 1

posesión de armas.

En general, el crimen en Boston disminuyó un 15 por ciento en 2021. Sin embargo, Jamaica Plain experimentó una reducción del 32 por ciento. Según el resumen, hubo 818 delitos denunciados en 2020, y solo 618 denunciados el año pasado. Los delitos que vieron una disminución en 2021 incluyeron el homicidio, el atraco, el asalto, el robo y el hurto. Los únicos delitos que experimentaron un repunte fueron la violación y el robo de automóviles.

Otro gráfico comparó las estadísticas de tiroteos fatales y no fatales de 2020 a 2021. Jamaica Plain registró un total de 13 tiroteos en 2021, frente a los 20 de 2020, una disminución del 35 por ciento. En 2021, Jamaica Plain fue la cuarta más alta en tiroteos, representando casi el siete por ciento del total. Solo Roxbury, Mattapan y Dorchester tenían tasas más altas.

La reunión de relaciones con la policía y la comunidad se lleva a cabo el primer jueves de cada mes a las 6:30 p.m. Se anima a participar a los miembros del público que tengan inquietudes sobre la seguridad.

Crime

Continued from page 1

creased by 15 percent in 2021. However, Jamaica Plain experienced a 32 percent reduction. According to the summary, there were 818 reported crimes in 2020, and only 618 reported last year. Crimes that saw a decrease in

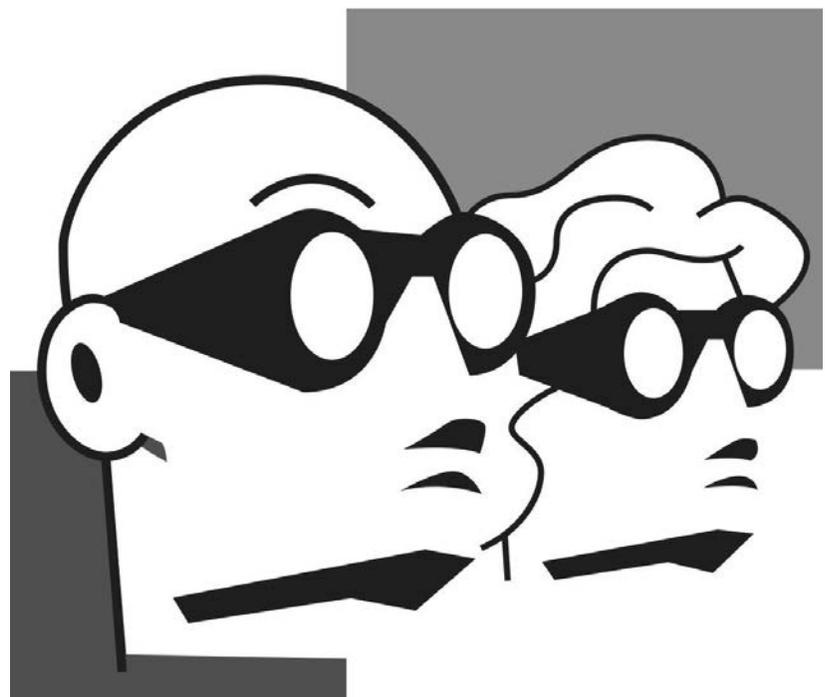
2021 included homicide, robbery, assault, burglary and larceny. The only crimes that saw an uptick were rape and auto theft.

A second chart compared the statistics of fatal and nonfatal shootings from 2020 to 2021. Jamaica Plain saw 13 total shootings in 2021, down from 20 in 2020, a decrease of 35 percent. In 2021, Jamaica Plain was the fourth highest in shootings, ac-

counting for almost seven percent of the total. Only Roxbury, Mattapan and Dorchester had higher rates.

The police and community relations meeting is held on the first Thursday of the month at 6:30pm. Members of the public who have safety concerns are encouraged to participate.

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PNC Subcommittee on Police Procedures holds second listening session

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The Subcommittee on Police Procedures, which is a part of the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council's (JPNC) Public Service Committee, held a second public listening session on December 16, where residents were invited to share ideas and concerns about police in the neighborhood.

Several residents came out to express their thoughts and opinions on various topics relating to police matters. The conversation began with a discussion about traffic and po related issues in the neighborhood.

Resident Scott McCready, a resident of Moraine St., said that there are "massive trucks that come down my street; people speeding; people that come and dump their cars."

He proposed that these issues could be resolved if resident permit parking was enacted on the street, as there currently are no restrictions on who can park on Moraine St.

"Why can't BTD do something?" He asked, referring to the city's transportation depart-

ment. "I want tangible results." McCready said that he has reached out to Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz "multiple times" about these concerns, but said "they just go through the motions and give you lip service."

Jim Allen, who lives on the Arborway, said that "I think the thing that bothers me the most is traffic and noise and what to do about it. It's a quandary."

Louise Johnson said that "I think that it's easy to blame the politicians for all our traffic problems and for everybody running red lights and all the other irritations that go along with living in the city."

She said that the lack of "adequate public transportation" and other methods of getting around contribute to the problem as well.

"Yes, we can blame our public officials," she said, "but I think we all have a role to play in this problem."

On the topic of implementing resident permit parking, JPNC Public Service Committee member Paige Sparks said that it "may impact folks disproportionately," as there are many

residents who rely on outside services coming to their homes and the resident permit parking would prevent them from staying for more than two hours.

The conversation shifted to one that was more directly related to the police and how they operate. A comment was made by Jacob Leidof about how he does not feel that the city's Office of Police Accountability and Transparency (OPAT) is not moving as quickly as he thought.

Sparks said that she has spoken with Stephanie Everett, the Executive Director of OPAT, who told her that there are some "delays associated with trying to get the department off the ground," Sparks said, but hiring is happening. She also said that the office has "been having conversations about things like subpoena power," and is "intending to put together some civilian advisory boards."

JP resident Sarah Freeman said, "I love the idea of getting more mental health responders in action," and wondered how that was being implemented.

Michael Reiskind said that

it's being piloted in Boston by sending mental health responders along with police, which he said is "definitely a baby step," and added that a panel has been created to provide advice on executing this.

There was also a discussion around community police officers in Boston, with Reiskind saying he feels that community officers "have a very different idea of policing than the main group."

Dorothy Farrell said she believes that community officers "are not challenged," and "are like public relations" professionals who "promote the good side." Freeman said she is "sort of a fan of the ice cream truck" that the Boston Police bring to different events in the neighborhoods.

"I think the whole point is for the police and the kids and maybe adults, too, to recognize each other and then if they happen to encounter each other in a more tense situation, it's not as likely to come as a bad outcome. You're going to know each other and that's the basis for de-escalation."

Others had a different feeling

about the truck.

"Sometimes it comes off as very oppressive," resident Slim Weathers said, adding that the community officers are "very nice," but "I actually don't agree with us interacting with them too much." He said that a civilian review board is necessary and must include "people who are knowledgeable of what's going on."

Sparks said that she has concerns that community events like the ice cream truck could be a "false sense of security that we give ourselves."

She continued, it's "one of those things where I don't want it to be the reason that someone doesn't get shot is because they were given ice cream. I want it to be that people are not shot to begin with."

Lastly, there was discussion of sending a letter to Mayor Michelle Wu about following up on some of these issues and "upcoming negotiations," as well as requesting a meeting with her staff.

JPNC

Continued from page 1

extra hours are needed because they have "had to turn people away on both sides."

She also said that the shared valet service was never established, nor is it needed. There are "six dedicated parking spaces" for a maximum of 15 minutes outside the store. She said the average customer transaction time is 1.9 minutes, there are an average of 22 customers per hour, and an average of 276 customers per day. Additionally, 21 percent of purchases in the store are online pickups, and half of SEED's customers come from Jamaica Plain.

Gonzalez said that when SEED first opened during the pandemic, the city was not allowing any shared valets, so they "couldn't even get it off the ground." The original idea was to have a shared valet service with the restaurants around the store.

The JPNC voted to approve both the change in hours and the removal of language.

The Council also brought up some other promises that were made by the SEED team when they were first in the approval process.

JPNC member Michael Reiskind asked about the police detail that was promised for the first month, as well as the safety and security plan. Reiskind said that the "operation seems fine" so far, and called it "excellent," adding that he "hasn't seen any issues" but still wanted to bring up these "series of high level promises that have faded away."

Gonzalez said that the police detail was at the store for the first week or so, but it was difficult to find officers to fill the position, he said. Also asked about was the promise to make adjustments to the crosswalk in the area.

Arrasate said that the crosswalk was "part of the shared valet" idea, and there haven't been enough people to warrant heavy use of the crosswalk for the store.

"It just wasn't warranted," she said.

Arrasate also said that the traffic and safety teams introduced during the approval pro-

cess have been involved in their intended capacities, and now that the store is up and running, "everybody's trained," she said, and protocols are being followed.

Arrasate also said to Reiskind, "I can understand and appreciate your perspective," but added that the team "wanted to put together a plan that had flexibility baked into it."

She said that "I'd rather spend money" on things like local events and getting involved with the community, "rather than things we promised that no longer turned out to be necessary."

JPNC member Gert Thorn said that "if you commit to something," it's "not your decision to get rid of something. You promised the community that you'd do it," he said, speaking of the crosswalk improvements.

"It was part of an overall traffic plan," Arrasate reiterated. Arrasate said that the SEED team would be "happy to stay in touch with the community wherever we can."

ZONING COMMITTEE

Dave Baron of the Zoning Committee presented five differ-

ent zoning matters that required a vote from the full Council:

1. At 26 Egleston St., a proposal to add a driveway and a curb cut on the right side of the existing house to create two off-street parking spaces in the rear and one parking space in the driveway entrance was approved.

2. At 23 Iffley Road, a proposal to add a driveway next to the existing three-family building was approved.

3. At 88 Rockview St., a proposal to build a sing-family house on the existing lot was approved.

4. At 265-267 Amory St., a proposal for a new four-story, nine unit residential building with nine parking spaces as well as a new three-story building with classroom and office space and a ski shop on the first floor as the headquarters and community center for Youth Enrichment Services (YES) was approved. Baron said that the proposal also includes a bus turnout for buses to pick kids up at the location and take them skiing, as this is a major program offered by YES. He also mentioned that

there is some "tension between PLAN: JP/Rox and the zoning code, which says the limit for building height is 35 feet. The buildings proposed are 45 feet tall, which is in line with PLAN: JP/Rox. There are also no affordable units proposed. He said that at the Zoning Committee meeting, there were people both in support and in opposition of the project, and those in opposition were mainly from across the street from the proposal. The 'opposition was primarily about height," he said.

5. The proposal at 3484 Washington St., which is the new Doyle's proposal, includes the new restaurant, as well as a total of 29 residential units in three buildings, and a 5,000 square foot market. The restaurant, the market, and 16 residential units will be located at 3483 Washington St., along with 22 parking spaces, seven residential units will be located at 60 Williams St., and six affordable units will be located at 69 Williams St. The Council also voted to approve this proposal. This project is set to go before the Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA) on January 18.

JP's weekly COVID test rate increases nearly 40 percent

By JOHN LYNDIS

The COVID 19 virus continues to spread across Jamaica Plain with 2 out of every 10 residents tested for the virus last week turning out to be positive. Deaths from the virus are also rising at an alarming rate citywide as Boston hospitals deal with the latest surge

According to the weekly report released Monday by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), 3,491 Jamaica residents were tested and 19.1 percent were found to be positive--this was a 20 percent increase from the 38 percent that tested positive between December 27 and January 3.

Six hundred sixty seven additional Jamaica Plain residents became infected with COVID-19 last week and the number of total cases since the start of the pandemic increased to 6,148.

The citywide weekly positive test rate also increased over 30 percent last week. According to

the BPHC 42,254 residents were tested and 31.9 percent were COVID positive--this was a 75 percent increase from the 18.2 percent that reportedly tested positive for the week ending on January 3. The weekly positive test rate has increased 239 percent in Boston since December 27.

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 27 percent last week and went from 108,336 138,042 cases to confirmed cases in a week. There were 40 additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total COVID deaths is now at 1,550. Deaths were up 471 percent last week when compared to the 7 deaths that occurred in the city between December 27 and January 3.

With COVID infections spreading like wildfire Boston Mayor Michelle Wu announced a new initiative to require vaccination in certain indoor spaces in the city, including indoor dining, fitness, and entertainment establishments. The new "B Together" initiative will begin January 15 and will phase in second vaccine doses and youth vaccination requirements. Both patrons and employees of indoor venues will be required to show proof of vaccination and the indoor mask mandate remains in effect.

"Vaccines are the most powerful tool we have to fight this pandemic. Vaccination saves lives, and closing vaccination gaps is the best way to support and protect our communities, businesses, and cultural institutions during this pandemic," said Mayor Wu at a City Hall press conference Monday. "The vast majority of COVID-related hospitalizations are of unvaccinated individuals, which is impacting our entire healthcare system and

compromising the health of our communities. Today's steps to protect community members in certain indoor establishments and throughout our city workforce will help ensure that everyone in Boston will be safe. City government must take down barriers and direct our resources for easy access to testing and vaccination to protect our city and all of our communities."

Starting Saturday, January 15, 2022, patrons of covered businesses will be required to show proof of vaccination upon entering the premises. The order states that individuals can demonstrate vaccination by showing their CDC vaccination card or a photo of their card, any official immunization record or digital image from a pharmacy or health care provider, or on any COVID-19 vaccine verification app. The city also announced plans to create its own app, modeled on the successful Key to NYC app that has supported the vaccine requirement effort

in New York City.

"COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations are on the rise in Boston. The B Together initiative is just one component of a multi-layered, comprehensive strategy that the city has implemented to address COVID-19 and promote the health and safety of Boston residents," said Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission Dr. Bisola Ojikutu. "We must also ensure that every Bostonian has easier access to vaccines and boosters, and we will be rolling out new sites across the city."

Businesses included will also be required to post a notice at all entrances. The city will begin a weeks-long campaign to educate residents and businesses about the new policy, utilizing city outreach workers and inspectional services. Businesses found not in compliance will receive verbal and written warnings. Repeat offenders may be subject to fines.

Baker announces that 26 million rapid antigen tests are forthcoming

By LAUREN BENNETT

The Baker administration on January 11 announced that the Commonwealth will be receiving 26 million rapid antigen COVID-19 tests over three months in a contract with iHealth, a company who produces the tests.

Baker said that the tests will be "prioritized" for K-12 education and childcare across the state, adding that the "rapid tests are convenient and efficient. They are also accurate in detecting when someone is about to infect others."

These new tests will be in addition to the 2.1 million tests distributed to 102 cities and towns across the state, Baker said.

He also spoke about a new public health advisory from the state's Department of Public Health (DPH) released earlier this week that provides guidance on when residents should be tested for the virus.

He said there are "two key scenarios" when the state "advises" that someone should be tested: if they have symptoms of COVID-19, and if they have been in contact with someone who has

tested positive for the virus. In that case, the test should be done five days after the exposure.

Baker said that the new DPH guidelines "recommend," but do not "require" a test five days after exposure, and quarantining is not required if a person is fully vaccinated but not eligible for a booster, if a person is fully vaccinated and has received a booster, or if a person had been infected with COVID-19 within the past 90 days.

Additionally, according to the state, "the new isolation protocols do not require a COVID-19 test to exit isolation after having COVID," which is also applicable to K-12 educational and childcare settings.

"Rapid tests, in most situations, are a very good alternative to PCR tests," Baker said, for which results can take 24-72 hours. Rapid tests provide results within 15 minutes in many cases, and are "highly accurate in determining" when someone infected with the virus is the most contagious.

"DPH advises that a positive COVID-19 rapid antigen does not need to be confirmed with a PCR test," according to a release

from the state.

However, if a person with COVID symptoms tests negative on a rapid antigen test, they "should isolate and either repeat an antigen test or get a PCR test in 24-48 hours if they continue to exhibit symptoms," the state said.

A negative test is not required "after returning from COVID isolation," Baker said, and "DPH does not advise employers, or schools and childcare, to require a test as a condition of returning to work or school," according to the state. He said if employers are asking employees to provide a test, the state recommends not requiring a PCR test.

Baker also stressed that "getting vaccinated and boosted remains your best possible protection from getting really sick."

He also assured residents that "the vaccines are safe and effective for adults and kids," and that more than 5.1 million Massachusetts residents are fully vaccinated.

"If you haven't gotten a vaccination or a booster, please book an appointment and get one now," Baker said, adding that five "state-sponsored vaccine and

booster sites" have been opened in recent weeks in Boston, Lynn, and Taunton.

For more information about

the public health advisory, testing, and to book a vaccine or booster appointment, visit mass.gov/covid19.



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SNOW SCENES IN JP

Snow fell on JP last Friday and many residents enjoyed their time outside working and playing in the snow.



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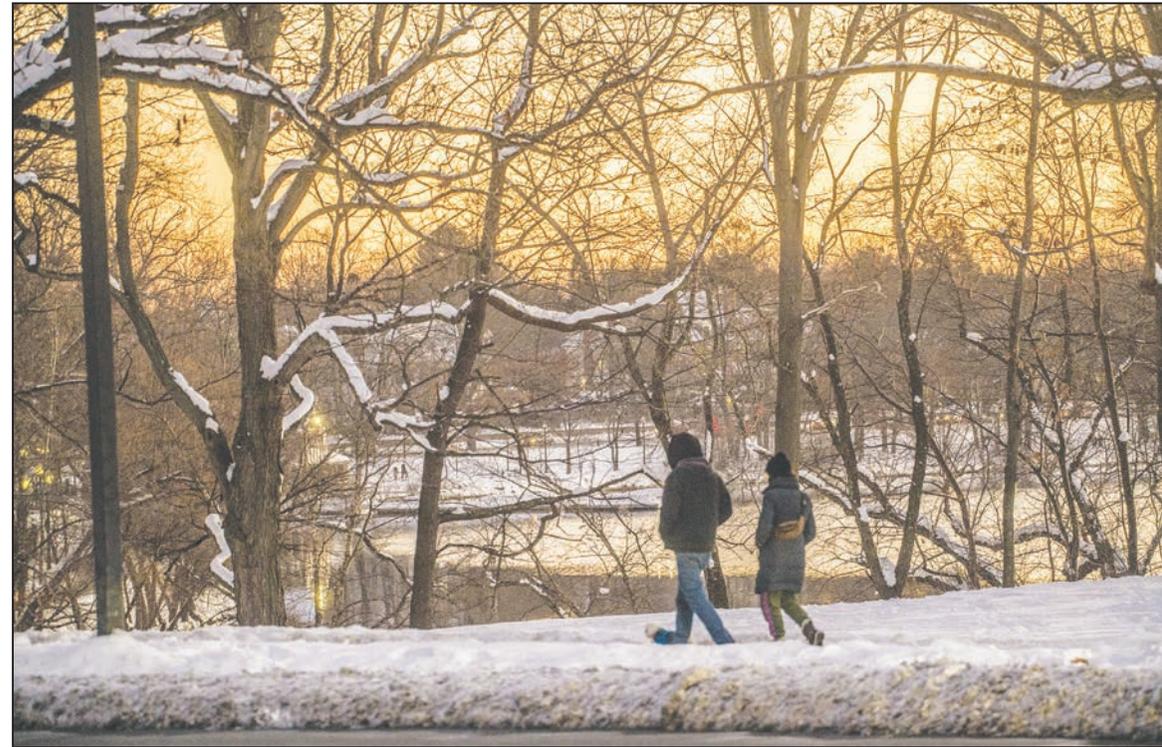
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NEWS BRIEFS

FENWAY PARK OPEN AGAIN AS STATE-SPONSORED VACCINATION CLINIC

Fenway Park is once again the site of a mass vaccination clinic, and has been open and running since January 6 providing first and second doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, as well as booster shots, for all people who are eligible to receive them.

According to the Red Sox, the Fenway Park site is run by Cat-aldo Ambulance and is able to provide 1,3000 shots per day.

Appointments can be made at vaxfinder.mass.gov, but the site is also accepting walk-ins.

Those looking to come to Fenway Park for a vaccine are asked to enter on Jersey St. at Gate A, and translation services are also available for those who need them, the Red Sox said.

WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY: CHECK CO ALARMS AND KEEP VENTS CLEAR OF SNOW

With the season's first significant snow, State Fire Marshal

Peter J. Ostroskey reminded residents to test their carbon monoxide (CO) alarms and keep dryer, furnace, and other exhaust vents clear of snow.

"Carbon monoxide is the leading cause of fatal poisoning, and home heating equipment is the primary source of carbon monoxide in the home," State Fire Marshal Ostroskey said. "As part of your storm planning, check your CO alarms to be sure they're working properly, and if an alarm is more than five to seven years old, replace it."

Residents should also be sure to keep outside vents clear of falling, drifting, or shoveled snow. In January 2005, 7-year-old Nicole Garofalo died when a heating vent was blocked by snow drifts outside, allowing carbon monoxide to accumulate inside her Plymouth home. This tragedy led to Nicole's Law, which requires CO alarms on every habitable level of a Massachusetts residence.

"Fuel-fired heating appliances like dryers, furnaces, boilers, and fireplaces are all sources of carbon monoxide," State Fire Marshal Ostroskey said. "If the vent or flue is blocked, this poisonous gas can reach deadly

levels inside the home. Know where the vents on your home are, be sure to clear them when shoveling, and be careful not to blow snow onto them if using a snowblower."

Massachusetts fire departments reported nearly 18,000 CO incidents in 2020, officials said, and 92% were in residential settings. The poison gas can cause headache, fatigue, dizziness, and/or nausea at lower concentrations and death at higher concentrations. Exposure while asleep is particularly dangerous.

"We can't see, smell, or taste carbon monoxide, but we can detect it with working CO alarms," State Fire Marshal Ostroskey said. "If your alarm sounds, get outside and call 9-1-1."

For more information on carbon monoxide and CO alarms, visit the DFS website.

SHOVELING TODAY? REMEMBER THE MAILBOX

It takes more than a few flakes to deter letter carriers from making their appointed rounds throughout New England. "But, if they cannot reach your mail-

box, they cannot deliver your mail," said David Guiney, Postmaster of Boston.

"The Postal Service treats safety and service with equal priority," Guiney said, "That's why we remind you to include that mailbox in your snow removal routine."

Letter carriers are on the front line of severe weather conditions. Doorstep deliveries, painted porches and steps quickly grow hazardous. "While salting and rubber-backed mats help, we rely on you to clear the snow," Guiney said. "If there's a warm spell, and the melting snow puddles, a quick freeze can make a sidewalk slick again."

Residents who receive delivery to roadside mailboxes also must keep the approach to, and exit from, the mailbox clear of snow or any other obstacles, like trash cans and other vehicles. "The carrier needs to get in, and then out, without leaving the vehicle or backing up," said Guiney. "The area near the mailbox should be cleared in a half-moon shape to give the carrier full visibility."

"Please watch for slow-moving postal vehicles, carriers on foot, and children that play near mailboxes or snow banks," he said. "And don't zip by neighbors who are clearing mailboxes or collecting their mail. Let's all stay safe."

The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

MVES OFFERS VIRTUAL HEALTHY AGING WORKSHOP JANUARY 24

Mystic Valley Elder Services (MVES) will present a FREE Virtual Healthy Aging workshop

series called My Life; My Health: Healthy Eating for Successful Living, offered on Mondays, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm from January 24 to March 7, 2022 (no class February 21). Throughout the series, you'll learn more about how nutrition, physical activity and lifestyle changes can promote better health. This virtual workshop series focuses on heart- and bone-healthy nutrition strategies to help maintain or improve wellness and prevent chronic disease development or progression in older adults. Healthy Eating uses the USDA's MyPlate as a framework.

Mystic Valley Elder Services works with our neighbors in Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Medford, Melrose, North Reading, Reading, Revere, Stoneham, Wakefield, and Winthrop.

Learn how to connect virtually thru a Zoom platform and take the classes from the comfort of your home. Class size is limited so reserve your spot today. To register, or if you have any questions about the program, contact Donna Covelle at dcovelle@mves.org or call 781-388-4867.

Celebrating 45 Years of helping older adults keep their independence, Mystic Valley Elder Services is a non-profit agency located in Malden, Mass., that provides essential home- and community-based care and resources to older adults, adults living with disabilities, and caregivers who reside in Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Medford, Melrose, North Reading, Reading, Revere, Stoneham, Wakefield and Winthrop, regardless of their income level. Agency services include coordination of home care, transportation, Meals on Wheels, and information and referrals. For more information, please call (781) 324-7705 or visit www.mves.org.



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JPNC Zoning Committee approves proposed dormer at 20 Orchard St.

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The Zoning Committee of the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC) met virtually on January 5, where owners of 20 Orchard St. proposed to add a dormer to their third floor to create a new master bathroom.

This project had previously come before the Jamaica Pond Association (JPA), which voted to oppose the proposal because of concerns from a few of the abutters.

Erica Rice and her husband Justin live at 20 Orchard St. with their three children, and said they love living in the neighborhood. However, Erica said that “the challenge is, we are five people sharing one bathroom.”

The Rices are asking for a master bathroom with a tub, a separate shower, and a double vanity which will be located in the proposed dormer.

Architect Joseph Wood confirmed that there are two full bathrooms in the house, but one is in the basement. The Rices would like to add a bathroom on the third floor—where the master bedroom is located—but a variance is needed because of

an existing nonconforming side yard setback.

Kevin Moloney, chair of the JPA’s Zoning Committee, said that “records indicate that there are two and a half bathrooms in the building,” and also mentioned a meeting that was held with the Rices and the abutters following the November 2021 meeting of the JPA when this matter was first heard.

“Neither the Rices nor the close-by neighbors indicated that they were going to change their position,” Moloney said.

Residents Suzie Albert and Andy Pond said that they “had a similar situation,” with their own home and were “fortunate enough to not have any opposition, but the same issue was there” of an existing noncompliance.

“From our perspective, it’s been done in this neighborhood,” Pond said. “We think these lovely people in our neighborhood should be allowed to make their choices about how they want to live and how they want to raise their family.”

Claire Barker, a neighbor who lives at 32 Orchard St., also said she is in support of the proposal

and of making the neighborhood a place where people can raise their families.

Peter Elmuts, a member of the JPA and a resident at 21 Prince St., said that he is a lifelong resident of Jamaica Plain and that his “house directly abuts 20 Orchard St. There are four direct abutters who are directly affected and impacted by the proposed additional master bathroom dormer.” Elmuts is in opposition of the proposal.

He said that these abutters who are against the proposal have “several important and valid concerns,” and that “recommendations were offered,” but “the owners of 20 Orchard St. were unwilling to make any changes.”

Elmuts said that the family has two and a half bathrooms already, and the houses are already close together.

“The proposed addition of a dormer would decrease open air space,” he said, as well as “light and privacy,” and the “dormer would look out of place.”

He continued, “as a direct abutter along with the other direct abutters, we would be significantly impacted the most

because the proposed dormer would be visible and seen by us every day.”

Arlene Rothman, a resident of 19 Prince St., was also in opposition to the dormer.

But not all close neighbors are opposed to the project.

Teddy Rice, who lives next door to Justin and Erica, but is not related, said that he is “sorry there’s disagreement about the issue at hand. With respect to our position as abutters, we’re quite supportive of this project.” He also said that “I view the impacts as very marginal.”

Lee Goodman, a local developer who is on the JPNC Zoning Committee, clarified the zoning variance that’s at hand.

“What’s being triggered is a nonconforming side yard,” he said. “I think you’re envisioning them increasing a setback towards you at four and a half feet,” in reference to Wood’s earlier mention of the fact that “we’re essentially four and a half feet away from achieving this proposed dormer.”

Goodman said that “that is not what they’re proposing. It just happens to be that they’re triggering an existing nonconforming side yard,” and the setback will not be affected by the dormer. Goodman said he is in support of the project.

Erica Rice said that “we have

met with the abutters on many occasions; we’ve reached out to them on many occasions. A lot of people have tried to redesign this project. This is the best option.”

Wood said that at the meeting between the abutters and the Rices, “alternative designs” were discussed, but it was decided that this design was the best one for the Rices. They had said in previous meetings that they could go with a smaller design, but stood firm that the one being proposed is the one that will work best for their family.

In the Zoom chat, Sarah Cherry Rice wrote, “To be clear, as a point of fact—we are direct abutters in support of this project. Somehow it is being conveyed that the direct abutters are in common opposition. That is not the case.”

Dave Baron, the chair of the JPNC Zoning Committee, said “I want to support the JPA, who took a position on this as a neighborhood association of volunteers as we are. On the other hand, I’m a little concerned that the opposition seems to be purely legalistic.” He said that concerns he heard during the meeting included “looking at it” and “having to see it.”

All in all, the committee voted six to two with two abstentions to approve the proposal.

Me2/Orchestra 10th anniversary concert set for Symphony Hall

BY LAUREN BENNETT

After nearly two years of pandemic uncertainty, several local residents are gearing up for their upcoming performance with the Me2/Orchestra at Symphony Hall.

The Me2/Orchestra is a New England orchestra “created for musicians living with mental illnesses and the people who support them,” according to a press release from the orchestra.

The upcoming concert on January 23 celebrates the 10th anniversary of Me/2, and is titled “Stigma-Free at Symphony Hall.” The orchestra invites those with mental illnesses and their allies to attend.

Me/2 was founded in 2011 by Ronald Braunstein, who has bipolar disorder. According to Me2/, his “rising career as a world-class conductor was cut short due to the stigma surrounding his bipolar disorder diagnoses,” but he has created

this group for musicians like him who live with various mental illnesses to come together in a safe space.

There are multiple Me2/ ensembles in the New England area, including Boston, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine, as well as a flute choir in Boston. Each of these ensembles has been rehearsing for the concert and will come together on January 22 for a full rehearsal before the concert on the 23rd.

According to Me2/’s Executive Director Caroline Whiddon, half of the orchestra’s musicians have a mental illness.

“From a social justice and inclusion standpoint, it’s powerful for audience members to be free of traditional expectations at a classical music concert, and to see people like themselves on stage,” she said in a statement.

“We plan to make everyone comfortable at this performance by taking the pressure off the experience of attending a concert,”

she continued. “Our philosophy is ‘come any way you can,’ ‘be who you are; and ‘do what you need to do while you’re here.’”

Cynthia Peng is a Back Bay resident and a flute player in the Me2/Orchestra. She moved to Boston during the pandemic in the summer of 2020, and said she heard about the orchestra from a colleague.

She told the Sun that it has “been a blast,” since it’s been a while since she’s played live music. “It’s invigorating to get involved with a group.”

Peng also said she appreciates coming together to make music with people from a variety of “different backgrounds and ages,” as well as abilities. “It’s a very warm and welcoming environment,” she said.

The repertoire for the upcoming concert includes music from classical composers like Beethoven, Hector Berlioz, and

Continued on page 10



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Orchestra

Continued from page 9

Gioachino Rossini, as well as more contemporary composers like Milad Yousufi, among others.

“Everyone is very COVID safe and aware,” Peng said of the musicians, who currently rehearse at the VietAID in Dorchester.

“After having a weird introduction to the city, it’s so nice to be embraced and accepted and vice versa; getting to embrace and accept other people,” she said, adding that it’s “so huge” having the opportunity to perform at Symphony Hall.

Miles Wilcox, a Jamaica Plain resident who plays the viola, explained how the orchestra’s

rehearsals work.

“Every rehearsal starts with a moment of mindfulness,” he said, which includes group breathing to “center ourselves and feel like we’re on the same wavelength. We sort of recognize there are people that are coming to us with all different struggles all day.”

He also praised Braunstein’s leadership qualities. “He knows how to make people their best,” Wilcox said.

“It’s really powerful to be able to bring your whole self; that you don’t have to hide any part of yourself when you’re in rehearsal. In the Me2/Orchestra, it feels really safe,” and people are “allowed to feel anxious.”

Sherry Grossman is also a Jamaica Plain resident and plays both the oboe and the English

horn, and also said the orchestra is “very, very supportive.” She said that there are no auditions required to participate, which removes “anxiety” about auditioning that many people have.

“I think the concert’s important because we are working towards mastering these pieces,” she said. “To actually have the concert happen and do it right, we really are at a pinnacle of our growth as a group. It’s been a bit concerning about the surge with omicron; we don’t know what’s going to happen.”

Grossman said that in the past, the orchestra has played at various mental health centers, a prison, various congregations, and art museums. “There has been a lot of support for mental health causes,” she said.

She said that there are “Stigma-Free Zone” posters hung up at rehearsals, “and it just really makes a difference in terms of our mental health outlook and working to support one another.”

She added that being a member of this orchestra has been “a very profoundly positive experience. It really has changed my life.”

The January 23 concert is free to all, but reservations are required and can be made at bso.org/events/me2-orchestra.

To ensure an inclusive environment for all, Me2/ said in their release that Symphony Hall staff will help attendees move around during the concert “if staying seated becomes uncomfortable for them,” and there will also be designated quiet ar-

reas for people who need respite from the concert.

Additionally, accessible seating as well as assistive listening devices will be provided to those who need them, and large print and Braille programs will be available as well. Symphony Hall also permits service animals.

“We are a large collection of musicians who range greatly in age and ability,” music director and conductor Ronald Braunstein said in a statement. “I can’t wait to see what happens when we converge at Symphony Hall to play those first few notes. I expect it will be electrifying for us and for our audiences.”

For more information about the Me2/Orchestra, visit me2music.org.

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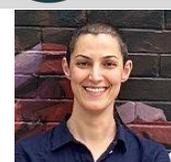
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YOUR BUSINESS HERE

SNA discusses proposals at 3430 Washington St.; 15 Meehan St.

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The Stonybrook Neighborhood Association (SNA) met virtually on January 10, where members heard presentations for two different projects: one at 3430 Washington St., and one at 15 Meehan St. Updates from subcommittees were also provided.

3430 WASHINGTON ST—STANLEY'S TOWING AND ACME BODY & PAINT

The presentation heard for 3430 Washington St.—currently the site for Stanley's Towing and Acme Body & Paint—was a very preliminary one, as the project team came with two conceptual ideas looking for feedback from neighbors.

Attorney Joe Hanley, along with Jumbo Capital Management and architect Dartagnan Brown, were on hand to present the proposal and address questions and concerns.

"We are here very early in what may or may not be a process to have some initial discussions," Hanley said, adding that no plans have been filed with the city.

Hanley said that the site is approximately 38,000 square feet, and is located at the intersection of Rockvale Circle and Washington St. Because of its location in the local industrial subdistrict, the site "has a certain level of contamination," he said, and "we think there's an opportunity for a little bit of environmental justice; to help clean up that soil."

One of the potential development options is a mixed-use storage facility, and the other is a mixed-use residential building, which was focused on more

heavily and seemed to be favored by residents over the storage facility.

For the residential idea, "this option is looking to put up a six-story residential building that comprises 61 one beds, 32 two beds, and eight three bed units," Brown said, for a total of 108 units.

There would be 57 parking spaces, and there was also brief discussion of material precedents in the area, which include brown brick, metal paneling and screening, as well as grey brick, but there have been no choices made in terms of materials yet.

There was also discussion of some of the goals of the residential building with regards to sustainability, as well as discussion of compliance with PLAN: JP/Rox.

"Personally, I heavily prefer the housing option," said SNA Steering Committee member Paige Sparks. She said that having more housing is "in line with PLAN: JP/Rox and the vision there." She asked the team, "When do you plan to take a deeper look at affordability?"

Hanley responded by saying, "It's tricky, because we need to understand what the building program is. We'd like to dive into that early on." He said that there are other things that need to happen before, such as "studying the corner; the scale."

Steering Committee member Jonathan McCurdy agreed with Sparks, saying he is "personally not a huge fan of the self storage building. We have a number of them in the neighborhood already. Adding new neighbors is a plus—neighbors who would

be living there, not just storing things there."

SNA member Jennifer Uhrhane added that "PLAN: JP/Rox discourages adding storage facilities to this area. We've got three storage units within less than two miles from this parcel, plus one being proposed on Stedman St. I don't think we need any more of those."

Uhrhane also said that if the team does move forward with this proposal, she would like to see "illustrations that really show how this will look in context with everything that's already been approved or is being proposed."

She also talked about open space, saying that "we're losing tons of trees, and we're not really gaining back any green spaces."

Hanley said that there are "ways" to look at open space and trees "with having different variations of scale and less lot coverage," and are open to looking at it further.

Since this is a very early presentation, no further action was taken at this point.

15 MEEHAN ST.

Attorney Ryan Spitz presented on behalf of the proposed project at 15 Meehan St., which is to increase the living space as well as add extensions for the egress porches in the back. The units will be for home ownership.

Spitz said that zoning violations include "conformity with the extension of the building alignment," which will "most likely be removed," as well as side and rear yard insufficiencies. These are pre existing violations, and this project will be "neither increasing or decreasing

these." The project has also been cited for insufficient Floor Area Ratio.

Architect Andrea Brue said that "we're maintaining the footprint of the building for the most part," and there will be a front porch with entrances to units one and two, as well as a rear deck for the first floor unit. Additionally, there will be a spiral staircase for the second floor "as a second means of egress," she said.

The team will be "maintaining the foundations" as well as the "exterior envelope" of the building. She said that the ceiling heights for Unit One will average about nine feet, and the floor for the lower level will be lowered about 30 inches to create a code-compliant height.

The materials proposed are "fiber cement cladding with fiber cement panel and fiber cement casings," she said, as well as a "two-toned" facade with "possibly a bluish color on the bottom and a lighter color on top," Brue said. There will also be painted railings that will be made of either wood or metal.

A Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services-sponsored abutters meeting was held on January 5, where the team said they garnered some feedback that will continue to be worked out.

Jenny Nathans, an abutter, said that "I did notice that it does cause a lot of shadows where we don't have them now," which she said is "not particularly welcome."

When wrapping up, the team said that they will be "continuing conversations about design."

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

A few of the SNA's subcom-

mittees on various projects had some updates. For the mural proposed as part of the formerly Flanagan & Seaton site, Jennifer Uhrhane reported that final numbers for cost to paint the mural have been received, and she said about \$1400 more needs to be raised.

For the Southwest Corridor Expansion proposal, which includes the potential creation of a dog park in the space between the Orange Line tracks and the Extra Space Storage building on McBride St. Paige Sparks reported that another meeting has been set for January 19 at 7pm, and said that at the last meeting, the group "discussed the land ownership issues with MassDOT and DCR."

The Doyle's project, which includes the new restaurant, a market, and 29 units of housing, is set to come before the Zoning Board of Appeal on January 18, and Sparks said that the SNA has submitted its letter of non-opposition to the board.

For 75 Stedman St., project proponents came before the SNA with a proposal for a storage unit in May of last year, but the SNA had several concerns about the inclusion of another self-storage facility in the area. Jonathan McCurdy said at the January meeting that the proponents are "moving forward with the self-storage [proposal] and the subcommittee is requesting a meeting with them for discussion. The neighborhood is not that happy about self storage, also, it doesn't match PLAN: JP/Rox."

ABCD urges residents to apply for fuel aid now as bitter winter weather, COVID surge, hit New England

Action for Boston Community Development announces that households at or below the federal poverty level can now receive \$1,650 in fuel assistance, while those with slightly higher incomes receive increased benefits on a sliding scale.

Due to the huge spike in energy costs and the ongoing economic crisis battering our most vulnerable households, benefits from the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) have been increased. Last year the highest fuel assistance benefit was \$1,210.

"We are thankful for this increase and look forward to the allocation soon of the significant funds committed by President Biden to get everyone safely through the winter and reduce the number of utility shut-offs in April," said ABCD President/CEO John J. Drew.

Drew calls on residents in need to Apply For Assistance As Soon As Possible. Boston-area residents can apply by calling ABCD Fuel Assistance at 617-357-6012. Those living in the Mystic Valley region can call 781-322-6284. Help with applications is also available at all

ABCD neighborhood centers. A new online system for first-time fuel assistance applicants can be accessed at toapply.org/Mass-LIHEAP. Go to bostonabcd.org/heat for detailed information, including a listing of neighborhood centers with contact information.

The 2022 federal poverty level for a family of four is \$26,500 in earnings annually or \$12,880 for a single person. To keep struggling families and elders from falling through the cracks, help with fuel costs is also available to those slightly above poverty level. For example, a family of four earning \$78,751 or a single

person with an income of \$40,951 may currently qualify for \$989 in fuel assistance.

Home heating oil in Massachusetts is currently at \$3.43 a gallon and up, almost twice the cost last year. It costs about \$800 to fill a tank, and that can run out in a matter of weeks in bitter New England weather. Vulnerable elders and others who cannot afford to keep their thermostats at a comfortable level put themselves at risk of getting sick – or worse.

Qualifying for fuel assistance opens the door to a comprehensive range of no-cost energy ser-

vices to keep families warm, safe and healthy including repair and replacement of heating systems, energy-efficient appliances, utility discounts, weatherization, programs to improve energy conservation, and much more.

ABCD also offers more than 70 programs to meet basic needs and to equip individuals with the knowledge and resources to pursue their goals and achieve financial stability. For information about and referrals to all ABCD programs and services, contact abcdconnect@bostonabcd.org or 617.348.6329.

JP HISTORY

JP Historical Society busy with upcoming events

BY LAUREN BENNETT

As the winter weather continues to intensify, the Jamaica Plain Historical Society (JPHS) is preparing for some upcoming virtual events, as well as continuing its regular work as an all-volunteer organization.

The Gazette spoke with the historical society's president Gretchen Grozier to learn more about what the organization has been up to.

On Sunday, January 23, an event called "The Industrial History of Green Street" will be held via Zoom from 2-3:30pm. Michael Reiskind will give a talk about "the section of Green Street that lays between Amory and Washington Street with its wonderful examples of large brick buildings," according to the event description on the JPHS website. Grozier said this event will provide "a little bit of hyper-

local history."

On Sunday, February 27 from 2-3:30pm, a talk about sculptor Evelyn Longman will be given by Dana Pilson, Curatorial Researcher at Chesterwood. According to the event description, "Evelyn was the only female student and assistant in the studio of Daniel Chester French. This talk will highlight the many intersections and cross-currents between their works, including the exquisite Slocum Memorial in Forest Hills Cemetery." This talk will also be online, and the registration link is available on the JPHS website.

On Saturday, April 2, from 12-1:30pm, there will be a Book Talk with author Wayne M. Miller, who penned *Burn Boston Burn* about 264 buildings that were intentionally set ablaze in the 1980s, according to the event description. For this event, there will be limited in-person seating

as well as an option to participate via Zoom, but that is subject to change with the status of the pandemic. The event will take place in conjunction with the Connolly Branch of the Boston Public Library.

Not yet listed on the JPHS website is an event tentatively scheduled for March 19 on "researching the history of your house," Grozier said. "This is a topic that comes up a lot."

She said that while the JPHS does have an online guide on its website walking people through how to do this, she said that a workshop is being created in response to several inquiries from residents.

The pandemic has shifted who can participate in a lot of JPHS's events, as Grozier mentioned that many people who grew up in Jamaica Plain but have since moved elsewhere can still attend virtually.

"We can record it, we can put it up on the website," Grozier said, so more people can learn about different topics even if they weren't able to originally attend.

In mid-May, the JPHS is planning on starting up its regular annual walking tour season, Grozier said, and are also "constantly adding to the website" when people reach out with new photos or new information they'd like to share with others.

She said that the organization is also "sort of contingently working with the Roslindale Historical Society" on a blog focused on Mount Hope Cemetery. The blog will feature posts about things like famous people who are buried there, different monuments, and information about what it's like to run a cemetery.

"That hopefully will be coming together," she said.

Additionally, the JPHS has created a calendar for its mem-

bers this year, and sold extras on the website. Grozier said that some residents expressed interest in having other merchandise—T-shirts, mugs, etc.—with photos on it similar to the ones used in the calendar.

This year is also the 35th anniversary of the founding of the JPHS, as well as the 25th anniversary of the website, and Grozier said they are still discussing how they will celebrate this milestone. It's possible that a cake will be available at one of the walking tours, but nothing has been made official yet.

In the meantime, Grozier asked that residents check out the JPHS website, which can be found at jphs.org, to find a "treasure trove of items," including photos, articles, yearbooks, and maps, and said it's the perfect activity for passing time during a cold winter day.

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Carol Truncale's story leaves us with two of the most contagious messages we know: don't give up, and remember to give back. If Carol's story inspires just one more person to make a difference, then its telling here has been well worth while.



This Month in JP History

The following are the Gazette's top headlines from this month in Jamaica Plain history:

2013

"Martha Eliot Health Center to cut service to adults"

The Martha Eliot Health Center (MEHC) at 75 Bickford St., which is run by Boston Children's Hospital (BCH), announced it would no longer care for adult patients in a letter to BCH's staff, associated personnel and volunteers.

The change affected about 5,000 adult patients, according to Dr. Shari Nethersole, MEHC's acting medical director. transferred the care of adult patients to other facilities in what was a months-long process that started immediately.

The focus on young patients is part of BCH changing its clinical services on "what it does best," Nethersole said at the time. There are about 4,000 child and teen patients at MEHC, she said.

"After much deliberation, we have decided that we must focus Boston Children's expertise and resources solely on providing patient care and developing community health and outreach programs for those we know best—the children and adolescents of the community," said the letter from BCH Chief Executive Officer James Mandell and BCH Chief Operating Officer Sandra Fenwick.

The move drew criticism from the Bromley-Heath housing development, which is next door to the health center.

"Of course, I'm very, very upset," said Mildred Hailey at the time. Hailey was the former executive director and founder of Bromley-Heath Tenant Management Corporation (TMC), which ran the Bromley-Heath for 40 years before the Boston Housing Authority (BHA) took over last spring.

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2008

"Arborway transit process misses deadline"

The state Executive Office of Transportation (EOT) missed a deadline to complete a series of community meetings about public transit improvements in the Arborway corridor currently served by the Route 39 bus, in apparent violation of a 2006 lawsuit settlement.

"There will be a meeting on this in February," said EOT spokesperson Adam Hurtubise at the time, adding that more information will be forthcoming.

The settlement agreement is between EOT and the Conservation Law Foundation (CLF), an environmental non-profit organization. CLF previously said it would consider resuming its lawsuit if the meetings do not occur. CLF staff attorney Carrie Russell sent the EOT a letter on Nov. 16 reminding it of the approaching deadline.

EOT oversees the MBTA, which in 1985 "temporarily" suspended Arborway trolley service and replaced it with the 39 bus. Trolley restoration was one of several transit projects EOT was required to complete as mitigations for the Big Dig under a previous CLF lawsuit.

The state and the MBTA have

attempted to get out of doing the restoration several times, but have repeatedly been ordered by environmental officials to complete it. Meanwhile, JP has become divided on the issue, and 39 bus ridership had fallen significantly at the time.

2003

"Airplane noise a nuisance to residents"

JP residents showed up at Agassiz School on Jan. 14 out of frustration with repetitive airplane noise from Runway 27 that they said begins as early as 5:30 a.m. and extends late into the evening.

Resident Martha Merson said at the time she is woken up regularly by a flight at 3 a.m.

Another resident said she recently bought a new home at the edge of Franklin Park. She said she expected peace and quiet, but what she got was the exhaust noise of one plane after another. "I totally thought I was losing my mind," she said.

Runway 27 is one of four runways currently in use at Logan Airport. According to Massport officials at the time, the runway is used when the wind comes out of the west so that planes may take off into the wind. This leads

Continued on page 14



The recent snow gives The Loring Greenough House a winter postcard look. Built in 1760, the House is a center for social, cultural, historical, and educational activities.



The Civil War Monument in Monument Square, rests under a blanket of snow that fell last Friday.

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The Cooperative Bank announces two new Board members

The Cooperative Bank (TCB) has announced that its Board of Directors has appointed Clayton D. Samuels and Heather B. Jenkins, to the Board of Directors. “Both Clayton and Heather’s wealth of knowledge and leadership will afford TCB the opportunity for continued success in the years ahead,” said John Battaglia, President and CEO of TCB. “We’ve been looking to fill two open board seats and I am extremely confident that TCB’s Board of Directors has chosen outstanding individuals for these openings,” continued Battaglia.

Clayton D. Samuels, of Hyde Park, has a Master’s Degree of Science in Finance and an undergraduate degree from Boston College. He is the CFO of MentorWorks Education Capital. He is also a Principal and Founder



Heather B. Jenkins.

of Greycliff Capital Advisors. Mr. Samuels has extensive experience in finance, accounting, and strategic planning. With 15 years of experience in private equity direct investment and M&A focused corporate development, Clayton Samuels has led the deal process to originate, evaluate

and structure leveraged buyouts, growth equity and recapitalization transactions of middle market companies within financial services, life sciences, software technology and business services sectors.

Heather B. Jenkins, resident of Charlestown, is a Managing Partner at Anova Consulting Group. Anova is a specialized market research consulting firm focused on providing B2B companies with insights that drive more effective sales and client retention efforts. She leads the firm’s client-facing Engagement Management team and is a key member of Anova’s global Financial Services practice. In addition to her time at Anova, Heather previously worked as the Director of Client Services at Chatham Partners, having

spent the early part of her career at Sun Life Financial. She holds a Bachelor of Arts from Colby College, where she graduated with honors. She is an active volunteer with several non-profit organizations, including a community preschool that she helped to get started in Charlestown.

“We are very pleased to have Heather and Clayton join the TCB Board,” said TCB Chairman of the Board, Phil O’Connor. “The connections they have to their communities, along with their skills and strategic approach will prove invaluable to TCB as we continue to grow and position ourselves as a leading community bank in 2022.”

Founded in 1898, The Cooperative Bank (TCB) is a full-service community bank committed to meeting the financial needs of

individuals, families, and small businesses. Offering up-to-date products, competitive interest rates and the highest quality personalized service. TCB has assets totaling just under \$500 million and provides banking services to over 8,400 customers. With cutting-edge personal and business banking services, TCB aims to serve and be Boston’s Neighborhood Bank. Specializing in residential & commercial real estate and business lending throughout Massachusetts, TCB has branches in Roslindale, West Roxbury, Charlestown and Jamaica Plain. For more information on The Cooperative Bank, please stop by at one of our branches, visit www.thecooperativebank.com, or call 617-329-2900.

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History

Continued from page 13

to flights over eastern Jamaica Plain.

The flight path crosses Boston Harbor then turns southeast at the World Trade Center to fly over the Southeast Expressway, Franklin Park, and Forest Hills and Mount Hope cemeteries. The path came after a 1987 lawsuit by a group of Jamaica Plain, South End and Brookline residents called the “Runway 27 Coalition” that mandated an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The coalition wanted to disperse the traffic over a broader area, but the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) claimed that was too difficult to do. Using demographic information from the EIS, the FAA chose a flight path that would affect the least number of people. It was put into effect in August, 1996.

1998

“Residents take control”
Residents of Stony Brook Gardens Cooperative gained control of the housing development.

1993

“Policing, neighborhood style Suggestions made by residents”

The cooperative was established five years ago by Urban Edge, a Jamaica Plain-based nonprofit that develops affordable housing. Urban Edge signed over the control on Dec. 13 as the cooperative finished self-management training.

They underwent various kinds of training, such as “how to make a policy, how to understand financial management,” and maintenance, said Fran Price of Urban Edge at the time.

The city, state, and federal government and the private sector funded through Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership, Inc. over \$6 million to build the 50-unit town house compound located between Chestnut Avenue and Mozart, Lamartine and Roy streets.

Cooperative president David A. Johnson and a board of directors was expected to run cooperative in consultation with Urban Edge and follow the federal guidelines for the next 40 years.

JP residents met on both sides of town to discuss community safety and police involvement. On the northeast side, in the wake of gang related violence at the Stony Brook T station, the Hyde Square Task Force met to discuss crime on the Orange Line. Over on Green Street more than 20 JP residents came together to discuss long-term plans for community safety.

Crime decreases and safety increases when citizens are involved in the safety procedures of their own community, said members of the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council’s Neighborhood Policing Task Force at its first meeting on January 20.

To get more people involved in neighborhood policing, and to generate more ideas about what neighborhood policing means, Jamaica Plain residents were invited to discuss ways of moving beyond the perceived anonymous relationship police and community maintain, and develop a list of suggestions to share with the Boston Police Department and the rest of the community as they develop neighborhood policing strategies.

PLEASE WRITE...

The Gazette welcomes letters to the editor. Word limit: 500. Dead-

line: Friday at 5 p.m. one week before publication.

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LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

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TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304 Docket No. SU21P2616GD In the matter of: David Simpson Of: Jamaica Plain, MA RESPONDENT Alleged Incapacitated Person

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Mass Department of Mental Health of Westborough, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that David Simpson is in need of a Guardian and requesting that (or some other person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond. The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 01/13/2022. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without

further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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

WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: December 15, 2021 Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate

1/14/22 JP

LEGAL NOTICE

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

TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304 Docket No. SU21P2617GD In the matter of: Walter Fallas Of: Jamaica Plain, MA RESPONDENT Alleged Incapacitated Person To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

of Boston, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Walter Fallas is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Alvaro Fallas of Needham, MA (or some other person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond.

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

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WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: December 15, 2021 Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate

1/14/22 JP

LOCAL STUDENT EARNS ACADEMIC HONORS

AGGARWAL GRADUATES FROM UNIVERSITY OF THE CUMBERLANDS

University of the Cumberland is proud to congratulate Apar Aggarwal of Jamaica Plain, on completing their Master of Science in Strategic Management. The university wishes Apar all the best in their future endeavors. Well done, Patriot!

University of the Cumberland is one of the largest and most affordable private universities in Kentucky. Located in Williamsburg, Kentucky, Cumberland is an institution of regional distinction offering quality undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, and online degree programs. Learn more at ucumberland.edu.

LOCAL STUDENTS NAMED TO DEAN'S LIST

The following local students were named to the Dean's List at Stonehill College. To qualify for the Dean's List, students must have a semester grade point average of 3.50 or better and must have completed successfully all courses for which they were registered.

Emily German of Jamaica Plain
Ava Harris of Jamaica Plain
Stonehill College, a Catholic

institution of higher learning, was founded by the Congregation of Holy Cross in 1948. Located on the beautiful 384-acre campus and former estate of Frederick Lothrop Ames in North Easton, Massachusetts, it is a community of scholarship and faith, anchored by a belief in the inherent dignity of each person.

Through more than 100 academic programs in the liberal arts, sciences, business and pre-professional field, Stonehill College provides an education of the highest caliber that fosters critical thinking, free inquiry and the interchange of ideas for over 2,500 students.

Stonehill College educates the whole person so that each Stonehill graduate thinks, acts and leads with courage toward the creation of a more just and compassionate world.

SAINT FORT GRADUATES FROM MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE

Roosemide Saint Fort of Jamaica Plain, MA graduated from Mississippi College in recent commencement exercises. Saint Fort earned a Master of Science in Biology Medical Sciences.

Mississippi College honored the graduates of both summer and fall semesters in three campus ceremonies on Friday, Dec. 17. Dr. Blake Thompson, MC president, welcomed the gradu-

ates and gave opening remarks, while Dr. Tommy Leavelle, retired professor in the Department of Mathematics at MC and the 2020-21 Distinguished Professor of the Year, gave the Commencement Address.

Thompson reiterated MC's theme, "Rise Up," for the 2021-22 Academic Year, inviting the MC Family to make this a year built on the "good work" God calls us all to do. The encouragement taken from Nehemiah 2:18 illustrates that, although situations can change at a moment's notice, God will strengthen our hands.

Mississippi College, affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention, is a private, co-educational, Christian university of liberal arts and sciences serving more than 4,100 students from approximately 35 states and more than three dozen countries. Founded in 1826, MC is the oldest institution of higher learning in Mississippi, one of the largest private universities in the state, and America's second-oldest Baptist college. MC offers 84 areas of undergraduate study, 45 degree programs in graduate studies, more than 10 certificate programs, two educational doctoral degrees, a doctor of jurisprudence, and a doctor of professional counseling. MC seeks to be a university recognized for academic excellence and commitment to the cause of Christ.

JP BAPA Holiday Decorations Contest Winners

The Jamaica Plain Business & Professional Association had a Business District Holiday Decorations Contest during the 2021 holiday season. The judging was done by three judges on Saturday, December 11. 42 businesses in the Centre and South street district were seen to have decorations and were awarded points in three categories: most artistic, most festive, and most inviting to customers. The points for each business were added - and the

winners are:

\$50.00 winner for first prize - On Centre (676 Centre Street)
\$30.00 winner for second prize - Boomerangs (716 Centre Street)
\$20.00 winners - Blue Frog Bakery (3 Green Street)
Ferris Wheels Bike Shop (66 South Street)
McCormack & Scanlan Real Estate (68 South Street)
Susanna (683 Centre Street)

The Byte Shop (48 South Street)
Polkadog Bakery (44 South Street)
Ace Hardware City (656 Centre Street)
40 South (40 South Street)
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Cold weather advisory; practice home heating safety during cold snap

With bitter cold temperatures heading our way, State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey is reminding residents to “Keep Warm, Keep Safe” and avoid fire and carbon monoxide hazards while heating their homes this week.

“Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are your first line of defense,” State Fire Marshal Ostroskey said. “They should be installed on every floor of the residence and tested monthly to be sure they’re working properly. If an alarm is ‘chirping’ due to low batteries, replace the batteries right away – don’t disable the alarm. If the alarm is more than 10 years old, it’s time to replace it.”

Space Heaters

“It’s important to keep space heaters at least three feet from

curtains, bedding, and anything else that can burn,” State Fire Marshal Ostroskey said. “Plug them directly into a wall socket, not an extension cord or a power strip, and remember that they’re for temporary use. Always turn a space heater off when you leave the room or go to sleep.”

When purchasing a space heater, select one that’s been tested and labeled by a nationally recognized testing company, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL). Newer space heaters should have an automatic shut-off switch that turns the device off if it tips over. Unvented kerosene space heaters are illegal for sale and use in Massachusetts, officials said: the risk of fire and carbon monoxide poisoning that they pose is too great.

Fireplaces, Woodstoves, and

Pellet Stoves

Fireplaces, woodstoves, and pellet stoves should also be used safely. Open the dampener before lighting a fire; use only dry, seasoned wood; don’t use flammable liquids to start the fire; and keep a three-foot “circle of safety” around the fireplace or stove free of anything that can burn. Shovel ashes from the stove or fireplace into a metal bucket with a metal lid and place it outside on the ground away from the building. Officials recommend having the chimney inspected and flue cleaned at the beginning of the heating season: most chimney fires occur because of a build-up of creosote, a tarry byproduct of burning wood.

Natural Gas and Oil Heat

If you have a furnace, water heater, or oil burner with a pilot

light, keep the three-foot “circle of safety” clear of anything that could catch fire, and don’t store gasoline, painting supplies, or other flammable solvents in the home: their vapors can be ignited by a pilot light. These heating systems should be checked each year, as well. If you smell gas, don’t use any electrical switches or devices: get out, stay out, and call 9-1-1 right away.

Carbon Monoxide (CO) Reminder

“Carbon monoxide is the #1 cause of fatal poisonings, and home heating equipment is the leading source of carbon monoxide in the home,” State Fire Marshal Ostroskey said. “We can’t see, smell, or taste carbon monoxide, but CO alarms can alert you to the danger. If your CO alarm activates, leave the

residence and call 9-1-1.

Create and Practice a Home Escape Plan

Everyone should have a home escape plan that accounts for two ways out of every room, and everyone should be able to open the doors and windows along the way. Remember that children, older adults, and people with disabilities may need extra assistance.

More Home Heating Safety Tips

The Department of Fire Services offers a wealth of home heating safety information, including the “Keep Warm, Keep Safe” tool kit for local fire departments and care providers, on the DFS web site.

Baker-Polito administration launches tool for residents to access COVID-19 digital vaccine card

The Baker-Polito Administration has announced a tool that gives residents a new way to access their COVID-19 digital vaccine card and vaccination history. The new tool, called My Vax Records, allows people who received their vaccination in Massachusetts to access their own vaccination history and generate a COVID-19 digital vaccine card, which would contain similar vaccination information to a paper CDC card. The COVID-19 digital vaccine cards produced by the system utilize the SMART Health Card platform and generate a QR code that can be used to verify vaccination. The Administration is not requiring residents to show proof of vaccination to enter any venue, but this tool will help residents who would like to access and produce a digital copy of their record.

Access the new tool at MyVaxRecords.Mass.Gov.

How It Works: The new tool is easy to use: a person enters their name, date of birth, and mobile phone number or email associated with their vaccine record. After creating a 4-digit PIN, the user receives a link to their vaccine record that will open upon re-entry of the PIN.

The electronic record shows the same information as a paper CDC vaccine card: name, date of birth, date of vaccinations, and vaccine manufacturer. It also includes a QR code that makes

these same details readable by a QR scanner, including smartphone apps. Once the SMART Health Card is received, users are able to save the QR code to their phone, such as the Apple Wallet, screenshot the information and save it to their phone’s photos, or print out a copy for a paper record. The system follows national standards for security and privacy.

This system provides an optional way that residents can access their vaccination information and a COVID-19 digital vaccine card. This will provide residents with another tool to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination, should it be requested by businesses, local governments, or other entities.

The system leverages the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS), the official database used by health care providers across the state to

record vaccination information. The system relies on hundreds of providers inputting demographic and health information. Some users may not be able to immediately find their record, or may find an incomplete record. Residents whose record cannot be found or is incomplete can either contact their health care provider or contact the MIIS team to update their records. Learn more about the tool and view frequently-asked-questions at www.mass.gov/myvaxrecord.

Massachusetts has worked with VCI,™ a voluntary coalition of public and private organizations which developed the open-source SMART Health Card Framework in use by other states. The VCI coalition is dedicated to improving privacy and security of patient information, making medical records portable and reducing healthcare fraud.

My Vax Records is just one

way residents can obtain their COVID vaccination record. Pharmacies that administered the COVID vaccine and many health

care providers also are making SMART Health Cards available, or are providing additional options. Learn more.

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Mayor Michelle Wu swears in City Council, delivers speech noting the diversity of the governing body

By JOHN LYNDS

Last Monday, in one of the shortest and perhaps the coldest Boston City Council inaugurations in recent history, Boston Mayor Michelle Wu swore in returning and new members of the Council outside City Hall.

Due to the rising number of COVID cases the event was moved outdoors for safety reasons and with a brisk chill in the air the entire inauguration was over in less than a half hour.

After swearing in the 12 members of the Council, Mayor Wu addressed the body and noted the historic significance of the day.

“This year marks 200 years since the Town of Boston officially became the City of Boston and created its very first city council 200 years ago,” Mayor Wu began. “Those first 55 city councilors looked different from the body that we have just inaugurated today. One hundred years after the city council was created there still were no women and no people of color serving in the City of Boston. So as we mark this new year, it’s truly not just about the passage of time, but the progress that the city has seen, and that we will continue to rush into in this time of great consequence. I’m so excited to join my colleagues and celebrate our five

new city councilors.”

At-large Councilors include sitting Councilors Michael Flaherty and Julia Mejia, along with new Councilors Ruthzee Louijeune and Erin Murphy. Districts 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, and 9 will be represented by sitting Councilors Lydia Edwards, Ed Flynn, Frank Baker, Ricardo Arroyo, Kenzie Bok, and Liz Breadon, respectively. Brian Worrell is a new Councilor who will represent District 4, Kendra Hicks is a new Councilor who will represent District 6, and Tania Fernandes Anderson is a new Councilor who will represent District 7.

Wu said the incoming Councilors sworn in during Monday’s historic ceremony represent many key milestones.

“Tania Fernandes Anderson is the first African and first Muslim City Councilor who brings experience and service and creativity that shines through with every action and statement she makes,” said Wu. “Kendra Hicks is the first woman of color to represent District 6 and she is an activist, organizer, artist and inspiration and I’m so excited to work alongside her. Ruthzee Louijeune is the first Haitian-American City Councilor and someone whose love of Boston has been clear from the very earliest days growing up in the city, who gave tours celebrat-



Mayor Michelle Wu administers the oath of office to the Boston City Council. At-large Councilors include sitting Councilors Michael Flaherty and Julia Mejia, along with new Councilors Ruthzee Louijeune and Erin Murphy. Districts 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, and 9 will be represented by sitting Councilors Lydia Edwards, Ed Flynn, Frank Baker, Ricardo Arroyo, Kenzie Bok, and Liz Breadon, respectively. Brian Worrell is a new Councilor who will represent District 4, Kendra Hicks is a new Councilor who will represent District 6, and Tania Fernandes Anderson is a new Councilor who will represent District 7.

ing the beauty of Boston and has now brought her experience in law to serve her community. Erin Murphy, a BPS teacher, single mother, and advocate for those

struggling with addiction and substance abuse is already starting to fight for you and Brian Worrell, a small business owner and the first Black man to serve

on the Council since 2017 who is already a great partner.”

Wu added that she knows the deep responsibility that constituents placed upon her and the Council and knows first hand the power of the Boston City Council to make sure the city is moving forward on the issues.

“So as our new colleagues join alongside our returning colleagues, those who have been proud and honored to serve alongside for many, many years, I know the progress that we will continue to see in the city,” she said. “At this moment our constituents and our community expect us to move with urgency to open doors for everyone and to deliver results. We’re ready to partner in every way.”

Wu then addressed the surging Omicron variant of the COVID-19 virus that is spreading like wildfire across the city with nearly 2 out of every 10 people tested last week in the city were found to be positive.

“We are all here at an inauguration that looks very different from the one we expected even a couple of weeks ago,” said Wu. “Sitting here outside in the cold

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Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll

‘BUDDY’

Buddy is a lovable and playful young hound looking for an experienced family to help him blossom into a mature adult! He is house-broken, adventurous, and enjoys care rides. He loves his toys and food so much that he is not willing to share, so he’d do best in a home with dog-savvy teens 15 and up and as an only pet. He needs some help learning that he can share his stuff along with mastering his basic manners, as he’s still young can play rough. He’s an energetic pup as well, so an active family would be ideal! He is 9 months old.





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Urgent need for kitchen volunteers at Community Servings

STAFF REPORT

Kitchen volunteers are urgently needed at Community Servings to help the nonprofit's professional kitchen staff prepare and package 18,000 medically tailored meals that are delivered weekly to critically and chronically ill individuals across the region.

While Community Servings operates one of Boston's largest volunteer programs, the current COVID-19 surge has pushed January volunteer numbers to low levels. Demand for the nonprofit's nutritious, life-saving meals has increased by over

80% since the pandemic began.

"Volunteers have been at the heart of our mission since we began, essential to ensuring that we can feed our neighbors in need and help maintain their health," said David B. Waters, CEO of Community Servings. "Given the effects of this pandemic surge, we are making a plea for anyone with a few hours to lend a helping hand in our kitchen."

Volunteers help peel and chop vegetables; portion soups, stews and salads; and pack weekly meal bags for clients living with HIV/AIDS, cancer, diabetes and heart disease, among other ill-

nesses.

For health and safety reasons, all volunteers are required to be fully vaccinated, have their temperature taken, and wear a surgical or KN95 face mask (provided) at Community Servings' Food Campus in Jamaica Plain, which is on the T's Orange Line. The kitchen is equipped with hospital-grade air ventilation and filtration systems.

Anyone interested in volunteering can visit www.servings.org/volunteer to sign up for three-hour shifts Monday through Friday (9 a.m. to noon, 1 to 4 p.m. and 4 to 7 p.m.).



Volunteers in the kitchen at Community Servings in Boston. Photo courtesy of Community Servings

Wu

Continued from page 18

we must let this be a reminder of what so many in our city have to live with every single day. Our residents who have been standing outside in the cold for hours waiting for a test to make sure they can keep their family safe.

We must do better. Our residents who are living unhoused in tents at Mass and Cass and across the city, we're taking action and we must do better. And for so many residents who have been outside in the cold because of systems that have not seen and valued every single one of our community members we are going to do better and I look forward to

the collaboration with the City Council to make that happen. With this new year, let us find warmth in each other even as we face stiff headwinds. We will make progress and make sure that we are always holding the light of our Boston residents in front of us and build that community that we need and we deserve in 2022."

AN ARTIST VIEW



Joe Carrigg, a Boston Latin School 7th Grade Visual Art Teacher, painted this watercolor of his family and friends walking around Jamaica Pond to share with our readers.

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Kevin Hayden sworn in as Suffolk County DA

District Attorney Kevin Hayden hit the ground running on his first day after being sworn into office by Gov. Charlie Baker by naming Boston defense attorney Kevin R. Mullen as his first assistant district attorney and announcing the formation of a transition team to help review office policies.

“The Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office is staffed with exceptional attorneys and non-lawyers who are dedicated to justice and nurturing safe communities. That will not change with my administration,” DA Hayden said. “I am returning home by coming back to the office where I started my legal career. I could not be prouder to lead this office, which is so critical to preventing crime and harm in Boston, Chelsea, Revere and Winthrop.”

DA Hayden’s first action was to name Mullen, who was an ADA with DA Hayden in the

1990s, as his first assistant. In addition to his work as a Suffolk County prosecutor, Mullen, from Dorchester, has worked as a criminal defense attorney and been appointed a special prosecutor in other counties, frequently for cases where the DA’s office was presented with a potential conflict of interest. First ADA Mullen was sworn in today as well.

One of the priorities of DA Hayden is to reduce the number of illegal guns in the county to determine the proposer course of prosecution in each situation. “I am beginning a comprehensive review of all the gun cases pending in this office; each one has the potential to cause great harm to our communities,” said DA Hayden. “The harm that guns cause is incalculable and we must do everything in our power, use every tool at our disposal, to reduce that harm.”

In addition, DA Hayden said

he will meet with staff members, law enforcement partners, elected officials, and community partners, to engage in how best to support the communities of Suffolk County. He is also forming a transition committee which will be comprised of people who live, work and worship in Suffolk County to review SCDAO policies and make recommendations on how to improve performance.

“I am excited to start and humbled by the appointment,” said DA Hayden.



Gov. Charlie Baker (left) and District Attorney Kevin Hayden.

Former Suffolk County DA Rollins sworn in as the United States Attorney

Former Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins was sworn in as the United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts. U.S. District Court Chief Judge F. Dennis Saylor IV administered the oath of office in federal court in Boston during a private ceremony. A formal investiture will be planned for a later date.

U.S. Attorney Rollins was nominated by President Joseph R. Biden on July 26, 2021 and was confirmed by the United States Senate on Dec. 8, 2021 in a tie-breaking vote cast in favor by Vice President Kamala Harris.

“Today’s swearing was a proud and humbling moment for both myself and my family. It was particularly special for me to have my parents with me, on my father’s 74th birthday,” said U.S. Attorney Rollins. “Their support has been unwavering, and I owe so much of this moment to them. As I reflect upon the path that led me here, I cannot help but think about the many colleagues and mentors who have supported me along the way. I want to acknowledge my friends, colleagues and law enforcement partners at the Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office whose steadfast commitment and dedication

to keeping our neighborhoods healthy and safe has truly made a difference in the lives of so many. I am enormously proud of what we accomplished together.”

Rollins added, “As I begin this next chapter as the United States Attorney, I look forward to the challenges ahead. There is much to be done and I am blessed to be walking into an office with highly skilled attorneys and staff who have the same commitment to public safety and community wellbeing and health.”

U.S. Attorney Rollins, 50, of Boston, is now the top-ranking federal law enforcement official in the District of Massachusetts, which comprises 14 counties. With over 20 years of legal experience, U.S. Attorney Rollins will lead a team of more than 250 federal prosecutors and staff with three offices located in Boston, Worcester and Springfield.

U.S. Attorney Rollins has been the Suffolk County DA for the last three years. In 2019, the people of Suffolk County elected her as the first woman to serve as their DA and the first woman of color to serve as DA in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Rollins is now the first Black woman to ever serve as U.S. Attorney in the District

of Massachusetts, one of the two first U.S. Attorney’s Offices in the nation, established in 1789.

U.S. Attorney Rollins previously served as Chief Legal Counsel to the Massachusetts Port Authority. Prior to that she served as General Counsel for the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority. From 2007 to 2011, she was an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Massachusetts serving in both the Civil and Criminal Divisions.

Earlier in her career, U.S. Attorney Rollins was an attorney at Bingham McCutchen LLP and from 1999 to 2002 she was a field attorney for the National Labor Relations Board. U.S. Attorney Rollins began her legal career as a clerk for Associate Judge Frederick L. Brown of the Massachusetts Appeals Court.

U.S. Attorney Rollins earned a Juris Doctor from Northeastern University School of Law and a Masters in Law from Georgetown University Law Center. She received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education and African-American Studies from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

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EDITORIAL

We must never forget the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

As we were watching the recent coverage by the media of the events of a year ago on January 6, we were struck by the contrast between the Trump Mob's violent storming of the Capitol and the many peaceful marches on Washington that have occurred during our lifetime.

Perhaps the most-famous of the non-violent protests occurred on a steamy summer day in August, 1963, when more than 250,000 Americans from all across the country gathered at the Lincoln Memorial to demand "jobs and freedom," an event that was climaxed by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s immortal "I Have a Dream" speech.

The March on Washington was famous not only for Dr. King's iconic words, but also because the unprecedented mass gathering of Americans was completely calm. Pundits and others had predicted rioting, but there were no arrests, no incidents, no violence -- a stark contrast to the events perpetrated by Trump's Mob.

The March on Washington and Dr. King's many other peaceful protests of that era galvanized support for the goals of "jobs and freedom," eventually resulting in laws such as the Voting Rights Act and the Civil Rights Act that ended segregation in the South and discrimination in the North.

Even though the best efforts of a revered figure such as Dr. King could not stem the tide of violent rioting that marked the 1960s, most notably Watts in 1965, Detroit in 1967, and Chicago in 1968, it is Dr. King's legacy of peaceful protest that endures today.

For those of us old enough to remember the 1960s, it's hard to believe that it has been almost 54 years since Dr. King was assassinated while he was standing on a balcony in a motel room in Memphis, where Dr. King was marching to show his solidarity with that city's striking trash collection workers.

Every school child for the past generation knows well the story of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. But an elementary school textbook cannot truly convey the extent to which he brought about real change in our country. To anyone under the age of 50, Dr. King is just another historical figure.

But for those of us who can recall the 1960s, a time when racial segregation was lawful throughout half of our country and a stealthy racism prevailed throughout the other half, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stands out as one of the great leaders in American history, a man whose stirring words and dedication to his cause changed forever the historical trajectory of race relations in America, a subject that some historians refer to as the Original Sin of the American experience.

However, as much as things have changed for the better since 1968 in terms of racial equality in our society, the events of the past year -- from the January 6 riot to the countless voter-restriction laws aimed at minority communities in Southern states -- also have made it clear that we still have a long way to go before it can be said, as Dr. King put it in his speech at the Lincoln Memorial in 1963: "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

"What would Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. do if he were alive today?" we often ask ourselves. We can't say for sure, but we do know that although Dr. King accomplished much in his lifetime, he would be the first to understand that the work for which he gave his life still is far from done.

Dr. King advocated for non-violent protest and he practiced what he preached. That's a lesson that must be re-learned by each succeeding generation. We can only hope that his courage and perseverance will continue to inspire present and future Americans to bring about a world in which all persons are treated with fairness, dignity, and respect.

OP-ED

Pressley's statement on anniversary of January 6 insurrection

Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley (MA-07) issued the following statement on the anniversary of the January 6 insurrection.

"One year ago, the nation watched in absolute horror as a violent, white supremacist mob—incited by Donald Trump and Republican lawmakers' hateful rhetoric and dangerous lies—attacked our seat of government. The attack was a blatant attempt to silence the will of the people, particularly the record number of Black and brown voters who made their voices heard in the 2020 election. Today, one thing remains painfully clear: white supremacy continues to threaten our democracy, our communities and everyone who calls America home.

"The January 6th insurrection was traumatic for everyone involved, from custodial and food service workers, journalists, Capitol police officers, to Congressional staff and members

of Congress alike. As a Black woman in America—to experience the ancestral trauma of a violent white supremacist mob seizing the building, brandishing Confederate flags and erecting a noose on the capitol grounds was all too familiar—and tragically, the threat remains today. The same white supremacist threat fuels efforts by our Republican colleagues—many of whom supported and incited this attempted coup—to continue spewing lies and misinformation about the 2020 election results. It fuels the coordinated assault on our sacred right to vote. None of this is by happenstance.

"In this moment, we do not have the luxury of simply turning the page on this ugly and painful chapter in our nation's history. To heal our collective trauma, to protect our communities, defend our democracy and ensure an attack like this never happens again, there must be accountability. I am grateful for the work

done by Chairman Thompson and the January 6th Committee. The American people deserve to know exactly what happened that day and the Biden Administration must use the full weight of the presidency to investigate, prosecute and hold everyone involved accountable—including those in the previous Administration and sitting Members of Congress. And we must abolish the Jim Crow filibuster and pass meaningful voting rights legislation to protect our democracy and keep power in the hands of the people.

"Our work to root out white supremacy in all of its forms, safeguard our democracy, and protect the wellbeing of our communities is far from finished. We must remain uncomfortable with what happened that day and the trauma it caused. We cannot grow complacent and we must move with the urgency this moment demands."

OP-ED

Our kids need sports, I will stand up for our BPS kids!

ERIN MURPHY

Boston Public School parents were disappointed when some of them noticed the small blurb, only two sentences long, buried at the bottom of the newsletter this week saying that they have made the decision to continue the current pause in athletics.

Sports provide our children with way more than just the opportunity to exercise their bodies. There are social, health and psychological benefits that allow our kids to do better in life. As a mother of student athletes (Go BLA Dragons and Eagles!) who benefitted in so many ways from their time on school teams, and as a public school teacher who knows that educating the whole child has to include physical and social wellness to be successful, I will fight for school sports for our BPS kids. I know how participation on a school team, whether

it's volleyball, cheering, football, or soccer, can transform a youngster's life, increasing motivation and a sense of inclusion, and knitting together a closer school and neighborhood community.

I believe we should be doing everything possible to get our Boston Public School sports back on track.

Boston children who attend METCO, private and parochial schools are still playing sports. Kids in neighboring towns are still playing sports. Many of our BPS students are still playing sports in their neighborhood athletic organizations. As long as we are following the CDC guidelines, I do not think we should continue the pause that was started during winter break. Boston Public School kids need this outlet for their social and mental health, now more than ever.

This has to stop and I will

fight for our students on the City Council. It's the right thing to do because we all know that sports are good for everyone. The physical benefits are just the beginning. Kids who participate on school teams are far more likely to have improved grades, report healthier social behavior, and to reach higher academic and professional success after high school. Our own kids have the will, the talent, and the RIGHT to all the wonderful, life-long benefits that school sports offer. As the only teacher on the City Council, one with real lived experience, who knows firsthand what it means to be a BPS student, athlete, parent, and teacher. That's me. It's what I've done all my life, and as your At Large City Councilor it is what I will continue to do for each and every family in BPS and Boston.

Erin Murphy is a Boston City Councilor At-Large

LETTERS

Gnashing my teeth

Dear Editor,

I hold my breath every time I read a 'special editorial' by former JP Gazette Editor Sandra Story - wondering whether I will cheer or gnash my teeth. I am gnashing today at her claim that bicycling has "limited" climate benefits (Dec 17 edition - 'Bike transport is great, but climate benefits from expansion are limited'). In her writing, Ms Story, repeating tired myths about bicycling, reminds me of the angry motorist that yelled - while I was campaigning - from a blocked intersection at Forest Hills, that he would vote for Mayor Wu if she ripped out the bicycle lane on the Arborway. He was ignoring the fact that

he was helping to create the congestion and delay problem, which is something I have noted in Ms. Story's previous columns about traffic problems. Our addiction to private, CO2 spewing, congestion creating and injury/death causing vehicles is a 20th century habit that has no place in a rapidly heating world. As for her observation that the Danes are able to bicycle year round due to milder weather I invite her to consider the Dutch who endure some of the strongest winds (in damp cold) yet bicycle more than any other country. As a decades-long year-round cyclist (whose lungs are healthier than those of drivers sitting in cars) I can attest that the comfortable

riding season is getting longer and longer in large part due to our dysfunctional transportation system. And as for her claim that only the young have the physical ability to bicycle for regular transportation I invite her to try an electric bicycle, which increasing numbers of people are using to haul groceries and children. I wonder if Ms Story's sorry diatribe was an attempt to preempt the heartening story that followed about Mayor Wu's appointment of JP resident and bicyclist, Jascha Franklin-Hodge, as Chief of Streets.

ALAN WRIGHT
ROSLINDALE

COVID 19 Test Result – What to do if you test positive

Most people have mild COVID-19 illness and can recover at home without medical care.

If you used a COVID home test kit and your result is POSITIVE

- You have COVID and do NOT need to confirm result with another test.

If you have NO symptoms

- Stay at home for 5 days.
- Continue to wear a mask around others for an additional 5 days.

If you have mild cold like symptoms

- Stay at home for 5 days.
- If you have no symptoms or your symptoms are improving after 5 days, you can leave your house.

- If you have a fever, continue to stay at home until your fever resolves.

- Continue to wear a mask around others for an additional 5 days.

- If your symptoms are con-

cerning, please call your primary care provider for a telehealth visit.

If you have severe symptoms or shortness of breath

- Please seek immediate care at the closest emergency department.

- Our Emergency Department at 10 Gove St in East Boston is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Please check our website www.ebnhc.org for more information.

Archdiocese of Boston extends mask requirements for masses

In the light of the continued growth in the numbers of new COVID cases, Cardinal Seán is extending the current mask mandate.

It is mandated that that throughout the Archdiocese of Boston all people attending public Masses, including weddings and funerals, wear masks. This is an extension of the mandate cur-

rently in effect, and expires on Thursday, March 3, 2022, which is the day after Ash Wednesday.

Mass celebrants, deacons, readers, servers, choir members, and instrumentalists, must all wear masks except when they are speaking.

Children under the age of five are not required to wear masks. Children under the age of two

should not wear masks.

In addition, all churches must continue to provide a designated area in which social distancing is respected for those who want to use it.

Parishes should have masks available for people inasmuch as possible.

CLASSIFIEDS

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Looking for someone to shovel out two cars after snowfalls near the Monument this winter. Call 617 524 4488.

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

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42 North Dental Care, LLC, 200 5th Avenue,
3rd Floor, Mailbox 6, Waltham, MA 02451
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PLEASE WRITE...

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

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

Emerald Necklace Conservancy to bring back “Lights in the Necklace” this winter

The Emerald Necklace Conservancy is bringing back a wonderful reason to visit the Emerald Necklace parks this winter. “Lights in the Necklace” is a unique lighting exhibition which began last year and will return beginning February 1 and continuing through March 20.

Select bridges, and some trees, in the Emerald Necklace will be awash with an emerald glow. “Lights in the Necklace” celebrates the power of Boston and Brookline’s urban parks to bring visitors together, inspire and light the way in challenging times. Enjoy the lighting on a series of iconic Emerald Necklace bridges, from dusk to 9pm, daily. Also delight in the ten

trees at the intersection of the Commonwealth Avenue Mall and Charlesgate Park in Boston, which are already illuminated in emerald green string lights as part of “Lights in the Necklace”.

The Emerald Necklace’s 1,100 acres are home to more than 30 bridges. Connecting neighbors and bridging communities is what the Necklace was designed to do nearly 150 years ago by famed landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, who would have turned 200 this year. The Emerald Necklace and our shared green spaces continue to be some of the primary places of community connection amidst the ongoing pandemic. Not only will the emerald green bridges



Charlesgate Park Trees on the Commonwealth Avenue Mall

offer fantastic picture taking moments, they will also bring some fun and light to people as they explore the Emerald Necklace while commuting, crossing the parks on daily errands, or taking a stroll or run through the parks in the evening. “New England winters are long, and this winter we are excited to bring back Lights in the Necklace to offer a safe outdoor activity for park users,” said Emerald Necklace Conservancy President Karen Mauney-Brodek. “We hope this limited-time installation will once again give folks a reason to visit the parks – and maybe

even explore new areas of the Emerald Necklace for the first time.” Information about each bridge’s history and significance in the Emerald Necklace will be available on the Conservancy’s website and mobile tour guide. Signs posted at the Charlesgate Park’s emerald-lit trees also provide information about the ongoing revitalization of Charlesgate Park.

Illuminated Locations (subject to change, therefore please check website for the most up-to-date details):

- Charlesgate Park Trees on the Commonwealth Avenue Mall

- Liff Park Bridges in the Back Bay Fens

- Chapel Street Footbridge in Riverway Park

- Bridle Footbridge in Riverway Park

- Longwood Avenue Bridge in Riverway Park

- Leverett Pond Footbridge in Olmsted Park

- Wards Pond Footbridge in Olmsted Park

- Ellicott Arch in Franklin Park

For more information, visit www.emeraldnecklace.org/neck-lacelights.

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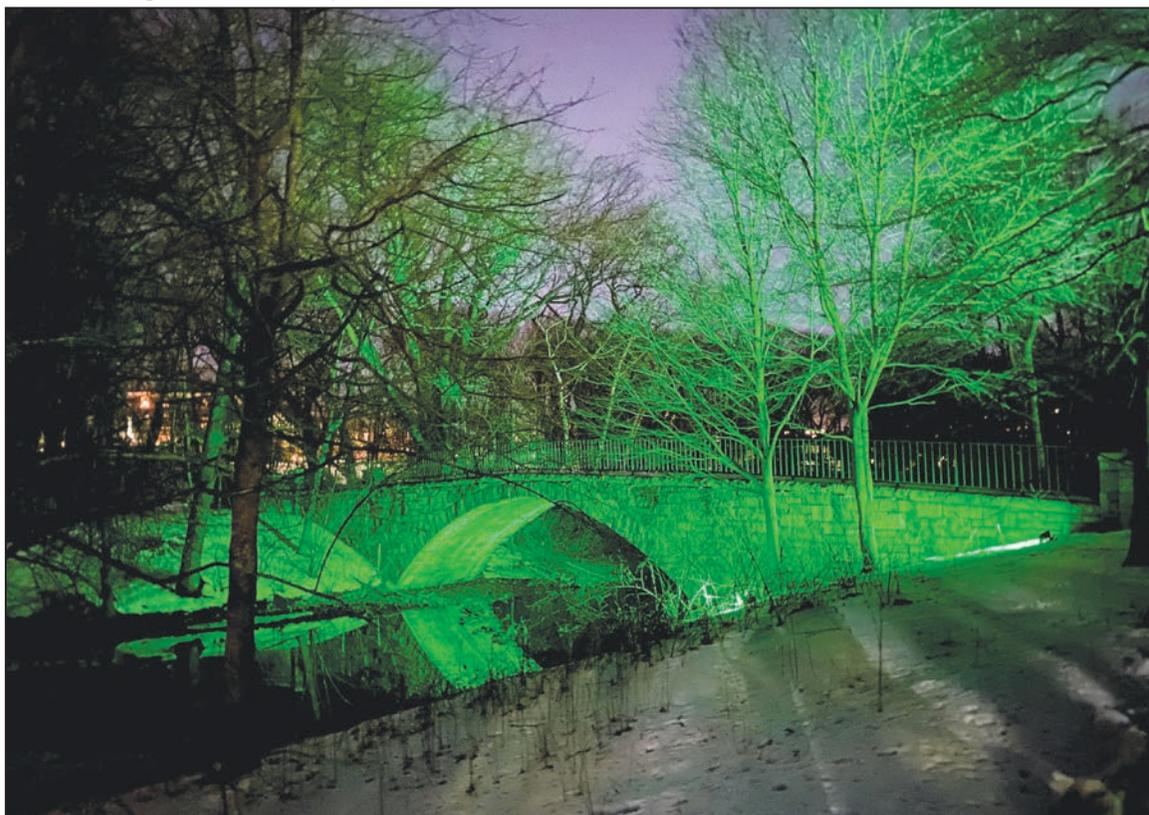
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