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COMMUNITY CELEBRATION



PHOTO BY KEIKO HIROMI

WHO? WHO? Why it's Norah Panzer – that's who – holding a homemade owl mask over her face at community celebration for Mary E Curley School in Spontaneous Celebrations last Friday, Jan. 31. It was the first time the school came together for a community celebration – which was meant to mark the 100th day of the school year. See more photos on Pages 12 and 13.

APAC Program is in full swing

BY JOHN LYNDIS

Most people don't want to think about it but it's the time of year to begin thinking about filing 2019 tax returns. For many working people in Jamaica Plain there's some relief from the confusing process of figuring out taxes.

Action for Boston Community Development's (ABCD) Jamaica Plain APAC site, in partnership with the City of Boston, kicked off its annual Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) program at its office at 30 Bickford

Continued on page 2

BTD: construcción de carriles bus en Columbus comenzará en primavera

BY LAUREN BENNETT

El Departamento de Transporte de Boston (BTD) anunció que los carriles bus y llegarán a Columbus Avenue después de escuchar quejas de que la con-

gestión ha causado que los autobuses viajen más lentamente.

Este proyecto es parte del Plan de Acción de Transporte de Jamaica Plain y Roxbury, en

Continued on page 3

New bus lanes scheduled for Columbus Ave.

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The Boston Transportation Department (BTD) announced that bus lanes and pedestrian improvements are coming to Columbus Avenue after hear-

ing complaints from riders that congestion has caused buses to travel more slowly.

This project is part of the Jamaica Plain and Roxbury Transportation Action Plan, in which several communities and loca-

tions were identified as needing improvements that were "high priorities for residents," according to the city's website.

BTD held two open houses

Continued on page 3

Local students get first-hand learning at the State House

BY SETH DANIEL

Math problems, reading assignments, persuasive writing reports and civics lessons happen in classrooms all over the city for young students, but at The Neighborhood School in Jamaica

Plain this semester, those lessons have been intertwined with a cause – and their work took 15 students to the State House on Tuesday, Feb. 4, to deliver letters to state legislators and encourage a group of undocumented immigrants staging a hunger

strike.

Earlier this year, in 5th/6th Grade Teacher Lisa Nam's English and Social Studies classes, the cracked open the novel 'The Only Road' by Alexandra Diaz, a

Continued on page 6



PHOTOS BY MIKE MEJIA

A group of students from The Neighborhood School visited the State House on Tuesday, Feb. 4, as part of a long-term project they were doing on immigration and the Movimiento Cosecha advocacy group, which was staging a hunger strike at the State House to call for driver's licenses to be granted to those without legal status. The Movimiento Cosecha supporters joined the Neighborhood School student's in a circle, where both sides shared messages of gratitude and appreciation.

JPNC denies 10 Stonley Rd. project; discusses Soofa signs

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council met for its monthly meeting on January 28, where there were no special presentations, but council committees presented updates.

Zoning Committee

The Zoning Committee, led by David Baron, heard seven proposals last month. Five were approved and two were denied by the full Council.

At 79 Moss Hill Road, the proposal was to add a second story to an existing single-family residents on an existing footprint, which was approved. At 7-9 Wenham St., the applicants wanted to change the building from a two family to a three family, which was also approved.

Approved at 35 McBride St. was a change of occupancy from a two family residence with a retail store to a three family residence and no work to be done. At 46 Lochstead Ave., the applicants want to finish 2/3 of a existing basement and add a bathroom, laundry room, home gym, and office space, which was approved by the Council.

At 11 Halifax St. #2, the approved proposal was to complete

interior and exterior renovations of an attic with installation of formers and new exterior windows.

At 3305 Washington St., a proposal to combine existing lots into one 9,378 square foot lot and construct a four-story, mixed use building with commercial space, fourteen residential units, and a garage with 12 parking spaces was approved by the Council.

The two projects denied or deferred by the Council were at 387-399 Centre St., and 35 Brookley Road/10 Stonley Road. At the Centre St. propoerty, the proposal was to change the existing beauty salon into a body piercing studio. The issue was not with the change of use, but with a dispute between the beauty salon owner and the landlord, as the beauty salon owner said he is being displaced from the building despite saying he was able to pay the new rent for the building. The Zoning Committee recommended that the dispute be worked out amongst those involved, and that the committee would become involved again should they change of use definitely be taking place.

At 35 Brookley Road/10 Stonley Road, the proposal is to demolish the existing building to construct a new 46 unit devel-

opment. AS previously reported in the Gazette, this project has a lot of community pushback and many oppose it, especially the Stonybrook Neighborhood Association. The Council ultimately voted to deny this project.

*The Jamaica Plain
Neighborhood
Council election is
coming up in April.
Stay tuned for
candidate bios and
more information.*

Public Service Committee

Committee Chair Michael Reiskind reported that there is a request from the Jamaica Mi Hungry restaurant for a new all-alcohol license at the existing location on Centre St. They are also considering a seasonal 15 seat patio and want to extend their closing time from 10:00pm to 1:00am. Reiskind said that the applicants did not leaflet the neighborhood in time for the Public Service Committee meet-

ing, so it was unable to be heard at the last meeting. It is on for the February agenda. He added that the applicants did have an abutters meeting.

As previously reported in the Gazette, Soofa signs are being proposed for the business district on Centre St. Soofa has presented the proposal to several neighborhood groups already, including the Jamaica Pond Association. The signs are about seven or eight feet tall, and feature e-ink similar to Amazon's Kindle, and they function as a community bulletin board. Residents can send in information about upcoming events to be featured, and the boards also display advertisements. They are solar powered and bolted into the sidewalk.

Reiskind said that most people liked the proposal at the Public Service Committee meeting, but many on the Jamaica Pond Association were not fond of the idea, saying that there is already too much clutter on Centre St. These signs already exist elsewhere in greater Boston. JPNC member Peg Preble said she saw one in Coolidge Corner in Brookline, "but most people ignored it."

The Soofa sign presentation was purely informational, and no vote was taken by the Council on whether or not to approve them.

Housing & Development Committee

Carolyn Royce, Chair of the Housing & Development Committee, asked for a vote from the Council on a letter to the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) asking them to meet with the community regarding PLAN: JP/Rox.

"It would be helpful to know how they BPDA sees the play; do they want to adjust anything, do they see affordability working out, just an overall general discussion," Royce said.

Lindsey Santana, the Mayor's liaison for JP, said that this will be happening with the BPDA soon as several people have requested this at the mayor's office.

Michael Reiskind had some issues with the way the letter was written, and said that he "sees it as mainly disagreeing and trying to change PLAN: JP/Rox rather than asking for a discussion." David Baron suggested changing the wording of the letter to make it ask for more of a discussion about how the plan is working. The full Council agreed to send the letter to the BPDA with minor revisions to change the active verbs.

APAC

Continued from page 1

St. The office will be opened Monday through Friday to help begin the tax filing process. Taxes for qualifying residents can be done through appointment by calling the APAC office at (617) 522-4830.

If you earned less than \$56,000 in 2019, you may qualify.

For many working people in Jamaica Plain the program has provided some relief from the confusing process of figuring out

taxes. Qualified hard working low-wage workers often receive significant EITC credits and see a big increase in their tax returns through the free program. This is money that can directly help low-income residents who work hard for their money. It can be used to pay the heat, food and rent costs that are weighing people down.

Last year, ABCD's APAC sites returned over \$24 million in refunds back into the pockets of Jamaica Plain and Boston residents through the EITC program. APAC was one of several

free tax preparation sites in the city that made filing taxes trouble-free for hundreds of Jamaica Plain's low-income residents and families.

In 2019, the average EITC refund amount was \$2,400. Yet, according to the Internal Revenue Service, an estimated one in five EITC-eligible workers fail to claim this valuable credit each year.

Last Friday Mayor Martin Walsh's encouraged Boston residents to take advantage of free tax preparation services available at more than 30 sites across the Boston area during an event at ABCD in Roxbury.

"The free tax services provided by the Boston Tax Help Coalition are a fantastic opportunity for hard-working residents to save money," said Walsh. "The services help taxpayers avoid the costs of for-profit tax preparation agencies while still claiming cash back on their tax returns. These savings can provide a critical boost to a family's financial health."

The EITC credit can be accessed retroactively for the past three years, so qualifying low-income workers may qualify for a considerable sum.

Also seniors aged 65 and older were eligible to receive tax refunds from the State of Massachusetts through the "Senior Circuit Breaker Tax Credit". This credit was available to all eligible seniors who paid unsubsidized rent or property taxes and was also retroactive for three years. The "Senior Circuit Breaker" offered a tremendous financial opportunity for those who qualify.

Initiated by the IRS in 1969, the EITC and VITA is a nationwide program that assists taxpayers earning up to \$58,000 a year. VITA sites are generally located at community and neighborhood centers like APAC, libraries, schools, shopping malls and other convenient locations such as community colleges in low income areas.

Last year, the Coalition served

nearly 13,000 taxpayers and enlisted hundreds of IRS-certified volunteers to return

In addition to tax preparation, the Coalition provides clients with other services to improve their financial health. For example, the Coalition connects taxpayers to Bank On Boston, an initiative launched by Mayor Walsh that helps residents identify banking services that are safe, affordable, and non-predatory. Trained financial guides also offer taxpayers the Financial Check-Up, a key component of Boston Builds Credit, the City's free credit building program. A Financial Check-Up is a one-on-one session in which a taxpayer can review his or her credit score and obtain personalized credit-building strategies. A new funder of this work is the SunTrust Foundation, which this year provided a \$50,000 grant to support Boston's credit-building programs.



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Bus lanes

Continued from page 1

several communities and locations were identified as needing improvements that were "high priorities for residents," according to the city's website.

BTD held two open houses regarding the project, one on January 27 and one on January 30 where residents could look at the plans and speak with the team to discuss any questions or concerns about the proposal.

The proposal is to create bus lanes down the center of Columbus Avenue that would expedite bus reliability as well as save between four and seven minutes on bus trips on the corridor. The

three bus routes that currently utilize that corridor are the 22, the 29, and the 44.

Additionally, there will be enhanced station stops with countdown clocks, shelters, lighting, better signs, and emergency call boxes. Bus stops would be accessed via crosswalks to the center of the street, similar to the above ground trolleys on the Green Line.

Pedestrian safety will also be improved through better ADA access, more pedestrian signals, and shorter crossing distances. Bike enhancements will also be evaluated by the BTD as it is further discussed with the community.

"The goal is to implement something this year and so we're

trying to move quickly," said BTD Transportation Planner William Moose. "We've heard a lot of feedback from the community. A lot of people are excited and in favor as-is," he said, but "some people have reservations."

He said that some residents are concerned about Columbus Ave. going down to one lane of traffic on each side to accommodate the bus lanes, but Moose said that there will still be room for turn lanes at a lot of the intersections "that will be able to alleviate some of that." Additionally, they are looking to add in another left turn lane that doesn't exist today.

Moose said that traffic "probably will be impacted to some extent" from this project, but "we

had our consultants build a traffic model which indicates that you can process basically the same amount of traffic with adjustments to the traffic signals."

"The ultimate goal is not to make traffic worse but to make the bus faster and more reliable," Moose said, and "to give bus passengers a more comfortable, reliable trip every time down the corridor."

Many residents have several complaints about the current status quo on Columbus Ave. Aside from the bus delays, the BTD said that residents feel that Columbus Ave. is "unfriendly" to pedestrians, cyclists, and people who use public transportation. Additionally, residents feel that on-street parking is an im-

portant part of the district and that curb space could be better managed, as well as the timing on some signals that could be improved for both vehicles and pedestrians.

Also, during peak hours a bus trip can take two to three times longer than off hours for bus passengers who travel down this corridor, Moose said. He said they want to "give people a sense that they can actually rely on the bus."

Moose said construction on the new lanes, stops, and pedestrian improvements will begin this spring. More information about the project can be found at bit.do/columbusbuslanes.

SNA Propuesta

Continued from page 1

el que se identificaron varias comunidades y ubicaciones que necesitaban mejoras.

BTD realizó dos reuniones comunitarias con respecto al proyecto durante las cual los residentes pudieron ver los planes y compartir cualquier pregunta o inquietud.

BTD propone carriles bus en Columbus Avenue que mejorarán la puntualidad y los tiempos de ruta. Las tres rutas de autobús que actualmente utilizan ese corredor son la 22, la 29 y la 44.

Las nuevas paradas de autobús contará con relojes, techos, iluminación, mejores señales y teléfonos de emergencia. Estarían situados en el centro de la calle como las paradas de tranvía de la Línea Verde. La seguridad peatonal y la infraestructura bici también se mejorarán con el proyecto.

"El objetivo es implementar algo este año y por eso estamos tratando de avanzar rápidamente", dijo el planificador de transporte de BTD William Moose.

Algunos residentes se quejaron de que las nuevas paradas aumentaría la congestión de vehículos.

Moose dijo que el tráfico a lo largo de Columbus "probablemente se verá afectado de cierta manera", pero que un ajuste a las señales de tráfico ayudaría. Dijo que el objetivo final del proyecto es dar a los pasajeros un paseo más cómodo, rápido y puntual.

"Durante las horas pico, un viaje en autobús puede durar dos a tres veces más", dijo Moose. Quiere que las personas tengan "la certeza de que realmente pueden confiar en el autobús."

La construcción está programada para la primavera. Puede encontrar más información sobre el proyecto en bit.do/columbusbuslanes.

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Baker-Polito Administration announces over \$2.6 Million in Brownfields Funding for 16 projects

STAFF REPORT

On January 23, Governor Charlie Baker, Housing and Economic Development Secretary Mike Kennealy, and MassDevelopment President and CEO Lauren Liss joined City of Boston Chief of Housing and Neighborhood Development Sheila Dillon, Brownfields Advisory Group Chair and President and CEO of MACDC Joe Kriesberg, Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation (JPNDC) Executive Director Richard Thal, and state and local officials to announce over \$2.6 million in Brownfields Redevelopment Fund awards to support the environmental assessment and cleanup of 16 contaminated and challenging sites across the Commonwealth.

Once complete, the 16 projects are projected to redevelop 44.3 acres, create or preserve 682 housing units, and provide 1,625 full-time, part-time, and construction jobs. MassDevelopment oversees the Brownfields

Redevelopment Fund, which helps to transform vacant, abandoned, or underused industrial or commercial properties by financing the environmental assessment and remediation of brownfield sites in “Economically Distressed Areas” of the Commonwealth. Since the Fund’s inception in 1998, it has supported 743 awards for a total investment of more than \$107 million.

“The Brownfields Redevelopment Fund breathes life into vacant or underused properties where redevelopment may be complicated by environmental contamination,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “Today’s awards will provide communities with the resources they need to transform some of the state’s most challenging sites, clearing the way for much-needed new housing units and opening the door for new jobs across the Commonwealth.”

“Along with other state resources like MassWorks and the Site Readiness Program, the Brownfields Redevelopment Fund helps municipalities un-

lock key sites and set the stage for economic development to occur,” said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito. “We are proud to help cities, towns and other local economic development partners overcome barriers to growth, and to bring projects to completion.”

“Both an environmental and economic development tool, the Brownfields Redevelopment Fund provides early-stage financing for site assessments and cleanup activities that drive development forward,” said Housing and Economic Develop-

“The Commonwealth’s Brownfields Redevelopment Fund is a key tool in righting environmental justice wrongs and in helping community development projects cross the finish line...”

— Rep. Liz Malia

ment Secretary Mike Kennealy. “Here in Boston and across the state, this program is building vibrancy by revitalizing complex sites into critical housing units, office space, industrial uses, and more.”

“In the 20-plus years since its creation, the Brownfields Redevelopment Fund has been a proven resource for converting challenging properties into assets for a community,” said MassDevelopment President and CEO Lauren Liss. “MassDevelopment

is proud to administer the Fund on behalf of the Commonwealth, and we thank the Baker-Polito Administration and the Legislature for their continued support.”

Today’s awards announcement took place at the Hattie Kelton Apartments, a 47-unit affordable housing facility in Jamaica Plain. JPNDP received a \$36,000 award from the Brownfields Redevelopment Fund in 2015 to conduct an environmental site assessment of this site. The organization is receiving funds this year as a member of Jackson Square Partnership LLC to remediate properties at 25 Amory Street and 250 Centre Street, which will host two housing developments creating 154 mixed-income housing units, 88 of which will be affordable.

“I want to thank the Administration for this funding, which will enable the City of Boston to move forward with the much needed revitalization at these six project sites,” said Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh. “Through this partnership on brownfield remediation, we’re excited that we’ll be able to move forward with the creation and preservation of hundreds of units of affordable housing. I look forward to our continued work ahead to transform these blighted properties into homes for our residents.”

“The Commonwealth’s Brownfields Redevelopment Fund is a key tool in righting environmental justice wrongs and in helping community development projects cross the finish line,” said Representative Liz Malia. “So many formerly blighted parcels in my district would be bad neighbors to this day, if

not for the Brownfields Fund’s invaluable technical assistance and grants. I thank the Administration and MassDevelopment for continuing to prioritize the fund and to put it to good use statewide.”

“I’m honored to represent a district that is constantly coming together to make beautiful change that has enduring impact,” said Representative Nika Elugardo. “Thank you Baker-Polito Administration and team for helping Jamaica Plain and communities across Boston take this critical next step in neighborhood transformation.”

“We can’t overstate the importance of Brownfields funding to Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation’s ability to create affordable housing,” said Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation Executive Director Richard Thal. “As is the case with many past projects, the homes we’re about to break ground on in Jackson Square would not happen without it.”

“We are thrilled to see these investments in community driven projects across the Commonwealth,” said Joseph Kriesberg, President of the Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations and Chair of the Brownfields Advisory Group. “The Brownfields Redevelopment Fund provides critical early stage capital to clean up our neighborhoods and unlock their true economic potential. Community development corporations would be unable to complete these important projects without this vital funding.”



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Rep. Elugardo provides updates to the JPA community meeting

BY LAUREN BENNETT

State Rep. Nika Elugardo was a guest speaker at the Feb. 3 meeting of the Jamaica Pond Association. She talked about bills she's filed this past year as well as what she looks forward to this year.

Elugardo said she has filed 15 bills, including five housing bills, which she said have gotten some movement. The end of the legislative session is July 31 of this year, so she said there is still time to get the others passed. Some priorities for last calendar year were housing, healthcare, and education. She said that progress was made in education and they're working on housing, but she's not sure about progressive changes coming to healthcare very soon, though they are making strides at the State House towards bigger changes. Additionally, Elugardo said she is working on developing an expertise in affordable and elderly housing.

Elugardo said that there aren't any champions at the State House with a "well-thought out strategy for the housing crisis,"

rather there are individuals who are doing piecemeal work to make strides in that area. She also said that she and others are trying to convince the House to have a debate on housing.

She also spoke about her priorities for the district, which are based on the calendar year, not the fiscal year like the legislative priorities. Last year, Elugardo's district priorities were housing, public safety, and jobs, especially for youth and elders. "Public safety is doing much better," Elugardo said. "We're embracing our neighbors and decreasing criminal behavior." She said that housing is going pretty slowly, and it will remain a district and policy priority "for the foreseeable future," Elugardo said.

"Based on conversations I'm having with you throughout the year, priorities can change," Elugardo said. This year, she said she has decided to change the district priorities by replacing public safety with small and mid-size businesses and entrepreneurs. She said that public safety issues are now able to be handed off to

people who can help out without much intervention from her office.

"When it comes to these [smaller] businesses, it's important to not treat them like bigger corporations," Elugardo said. "We need to make sure that small and mid-size businesses are thriving."

On the transportation front, Elugardo said that legislators want to figure out how to make a gas tax less regressive so as to not worsen the problem of less wealthy people paying more than wealthy people. She said she also hopes to become more well-versed in the transportation sector. "We'd really like to get some interconnectivity going between our pedestrians, cyclists, and transit,"

she said. "I want our district to be a model for how that could look at the city and state level."

She said one of the places she would like to start with that concept is the E line, as it "has a real problem with safety, but it's also not a good place for that line to end."

Though the Shattuck Campus is not in her district (it's in Rep. Liz Malia's), she said she does stay informed on the matter and listen to everyone's opinion about what should happen on the site.

Additionally, Mildred Hailey apartments have had a drop in coordinated resources, Elugardo said, so the JPA voted to set aside a budget of not more than \$500 to

donate as a gift. They will discuss further at a later date how they will distribute the money, whether it will be in increments on an ongoing basis, or a one-time donation.

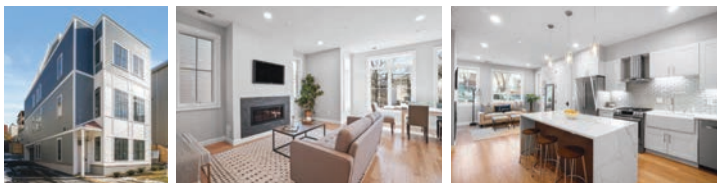
Franklin Park Community Master Plan Workshop #1

The first community workshop for the Franklin Park Master Plan was held on Jan. 28, which community member Sarah Freeman said was very well attended. The Shattuck, golf course, and zoo are not included in this master plan; it's just for the remainder of the land in Franklin Park. There is an online survey and more information at franklinparkmasterplan.com.

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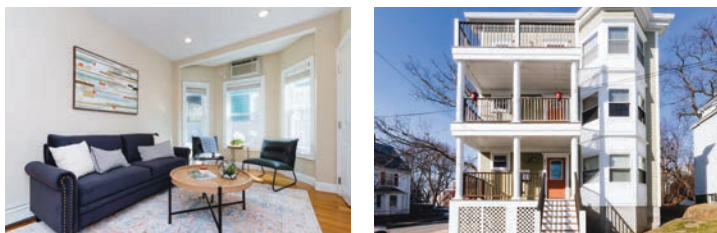
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State House

Continued from page 1

book that chronicles the journey of migrants from Guatemala to the border. That led to a lesson on immigration and public policy around immigration – but it took a practical turn when Nam and students began to structure a project from real life to go with that lesson.

“We read the book and began studying the history of Naturalization policy, the book we read, how asylum works, our current laws and what the United Nations says about the topic,” she said. “We wanted to do an applied project that would combine all of that knowledge. I reached out to the Movimiento Cosecha group and learned about what they are working on. One of the first things we did was invite Cosecha members to our class. Two members of the group who are undocumented visited us. They explained Cosecha and the current actions they were taking to get a bill passed to allow immigrants without legal status to have drivers’ licenses. Many of the students didn’t have first-hand experience with these issues and were immersed in their stories.”

Cosecha has become very ac-



Student Nina Sly reads her letter addressed to Speaker Bob DeLeo.

tive in the last year, establishing local chapters in places where undocumented immigrants, their allies and families are present. They have a major presence in Boston, East Boston, Chelsea, Lawrence and other locales. Their major push this year has been to get the long-lingering driver’s license bill passed – an issue that has come up in the state legislature for years and years.

Volunteer organizer Amelia Gonzalez Pinal said Cosecha began activism with several circles, or local chapters, around the state on Nov. 3, 2018 to bring the issue to the forefront once again. The campaign is called Manejando Sin Miedo, or Driving without Fear, and the group has done everything from traditional lobbying to



Maya Lanfer, with a letter in hand, leads her classmates to Rep. William Straus’ office.

spending a weekend camped out on the State House Lawn.

“We realized nobody has really engaged with the community,” she said in a recent interview. “There has been a lot of good work done. This is one of the big issues that those in our organization all struggle with...Our argument is the roads would be safe and our communities would be safer. Many other states have passed it. It won’t be the first time for us. There is precedence...This issue has been hanging around the State House for 15 years. Unfortunately, it has been very long, but the issues and the struggles of those in the community haven’t changed.”

One of the challenges for undocumented residents who drive is that they can easily be pulled over, and without a license, that often can lead to deportation, Pinal said. She said some men from the organization in Lawrence were working construction in New Hampshire last year. There was no public transit, so they had to drive to a job site. The driver had no license, and got pulled over. Two of his co-workers were undocumented, and the situation led to them being detained by the federal government.

It’s a constant fear in that community and within the Cosecha circles – even for something as simple as picking up a child from school or going to the supermarket.

This week, Cosecha made a final push by staging a hunger strike at the State House to draw attention to the bills that are pending.

For Nam and her students, it was a perfect opportunity to support their new friends at Cosecha and to engage in an active and current learning experience.

They worked with the art department to create artistic projects that would convey the stories that were shared by the members of Cosecha, and they also engaged in a persuasive writing assignment to create letters to present to Speaker DeLeo.

They even brought in translators from a local high school to help them learn to use the Spanish language correctly in their art and writing. Then they headed down to the State House with School Director Trish Morrow on Tuesday to present their projects as a form of advocacy.

“They really got to have a conversation and dialog about it,” said Nam. “They got good feedback from those who were on the hunger strike and those on the strike had a very emotional reaction to the art. The students felt the leaders had gifted them their stories, and the students wanted to take the art to them as a gift in return. It was very profound.”

Interestingly enough, Nam said that while none of the leaders they talked to were children, most of the student projects seemed to be told through the

eyes of children experiencing these issues.

When they had finished speaking with them, they then went to deliver their letters to state legislators, including Speaker Bob DeLeo. There, they read portions of their letters aloud – advocating for the driver’s license bills – and the letters were even received by Speaker DeLeo’s Chief of Staff, Seth Gitell.

Nam said it was a two-month learning experience that culminated there at the State House with an action that easily translates to an adult experience. She said there was tremendous benefit for the kids as they learned so much, without maybe knowing they learned things.

“It wasn’t all about the project,” she said. “Along the way, there were hours and days when it was skill building...We spent two weeks mastering what the difference is between a rhetorical question and an analogy. There were tests, quizzes and research that may be considered a little more boring. However, using all of that we were able to bring it together for a project. In the end, using those skills was effortless for them...They were motivated to use what they learned and apply it to our project.”

For the political and civic piece, Nam said some might question the stance taken by the students, but she said it was really about building a skill set to be able to use to help society improve – no matter what the opinion might be.

“What we did was political in nature,” she said. “Some people would question that...As a school, we’re trying to do things about equity and racial justice. That doesn’t come out of thin air, but are part of our school goals... The skills these kids learned can be applied to any opinion they want to have as an adult. What they did with this project is valuable no matter what people think about the issue.”



Savan Boxer, student at the Neighborhood School, presents an art piece designed as a board game titled “Driving As A Game Of Chance” to Amelia Pinal, Douglas Enriquez, Scot Sternberg, and Darvin Orozco.



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Matilda Sanchez and Nina Sly making their way to Rep. William Straus' office.



Will Thompson reads a portion of his letter outside of Speaker Bob DeLeo's office. After reading their letters, the Neighborhood School students handed off their letters to Speaker DeLeo's Chief of Staff, Seth Gitell.



Ayelet Abramowitz presenting her art piece to Movimiento Cosecha leaders Omar Martinez, Emilia Lovo, Irma Lemoz, and Juan Pablo Orjuela.



Ana Ortiz listens intently to Trevor Gracombe describe his art work, which is held up by Edgar Ramirez.



Jacob DePalm, who holds his art piece that reads "Fear Or Worry," is surrounded by his classmates Tevor Gracombe, far left, and Mateo Saldaña, Chris Choy, and Zach Breneus to his right.

ZBA denies 14 unit building on Rock Hill Road

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The Zoning Board of Appeal on January 28 denied an application for a four-story, 14 residential unit building at 12 Rock Hill Road, with ancillary parking spots at 29 Rock Hill Road, citing that the building was too dense for the area.

Attorney Derric Small said that his client was seeking relief to combine the lots at 29, 31, and 12 Rock Hill Road and erect a building for 14 residential units with 26 parking spaces. Currently, the site consists of three "dilapidated garages and one storage building which needs to be torn down," Small said. There would be eight tandem spots on

site, and six ancillary spots at 29 Rock Hill Rd.

Additional relief was requested for Floor Area Ratio (FAR), which has a requirement of .6 in the area, but the proposed FAR is 1.8. Additionally, relief would be needed for height, as the requirement is 35 feet or three stories but the proposed height is 36 feet and four stories.

Lindsey Santana from the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services said that "the applicant worked closely with the community and abutters to address concerns." She added that the project has received support from the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council. Also in support were City Councilors Matt O'Malley

and Annissa Essaibi-Gero, as well as the Carpenter's Union and a neighbor at 28 Paul Gore who also owns 21 Rock Hill Road. "I think the project speaks for itself; I've been looking at these derelict buildings for 40 years," he said. "I'd love to see this go up and I think it would be a shame if it weren't built."

Not all neighbors shared the same sentiment. Sharon Kurinsky, an abutter at 31 Paul Gore Street, said that she was before the ZBA on behalf of abutters at several addresses on Paul Gore St. and "approximately a hundred residents of Paul Gore St. who signed a petition opposing this project."

Kurinsky said that she feels this project is inappropriate next to Jamaica Plain Auto Body, which is also located on Rock Hill Road. She and others were also concerned about the parking, the fact that it does not fit within the context of the neighborhood, and how busy Paul Gore St. already is without the addition of 14 new units that will inevitably use Paul Gore St. as a way in and out. There was also concern about emergency vehicles being able to easily get onto Rock Hill Road.

"I believe that contrary to what seems to be policy, the wishes of residents who have lived here and been taxpayers to the City of Boston for years and decades should be considered more important than providing hous-

ing to outsiders who are trying to move to the city," she said.

Small said that his client, Matthew Hayes, also owns the auto body shop and that the only cars that currently park on the street are ones for the auto body shops. "Rock Hill Road is a private way and there have been fire trucks down it before," Hayes said. He said that the auto body shop is a fully sprinklered building and the new construction would be as well. He added that they have letters of support from the abutters on Cranston St. as well as direct abutters of the project.

Ultimately, the ZBA decided to deny this project based on density, and told the applicant that he is able to come in with a different proposal within a year.

Walsh recommends three JP projects for CPA funding

By JOHN LYNDIS

Mayor Martin Walsh and the City's Community Preservation Committee (CPC) recommended three projects in Jamaica Plain for inclusion in the next round for the Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding. The CPC held a public meeting last week to vote on the Mayor's recommended slate of projects for funding.

The projects in Jamaica Plain are among 40 projects totaling more than \$24 million citywide.

In Jamaica Plain \$1.9 million of CPA funding could be heading this way and includes \$1.5 million to the Pine Street Inn and the Community Builders project; \$200,000 to the Haffenreffer Brewery complex; and \$200,000 to the Footlight Club, the country's oldest community theatre.

"We're in the middle of a housing crisis that requires bold and

creative solutions," said Mayor Walsh. "I'm proud that through this new round of funding, we are dedicating the majority of this funding round to affordable housing projects. All of these proposals will support our community in countless ways. We look forward to continuing to use this revenue to build on our work related to affordable housing, historic preservation and open space."

The \$1.5 million to the Pine Street Inn and Community Builders will go towards building a portion of 202 affordable rental units, including 156 for formerly homeless households, at 3368 Washington Street. The six story, mixed use building with office space and 100% affordable housing will go up on Washington Street where an existing building owned by Pine Street Inn is located and used for office space.

The \$200,000 to the Haffenreffer Brewery complex will go to restoring the roof and windows for a "Prosperity Center" providing small business services, job training, ESL classes, and other programs.

The entire Haffenreffer complex was redeveloped by the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation, which owns and operates it today. The Boston Beer Company, brewer of Samuel Adams beer, has been an anchor tenant and investor since the mid-1980s, and offers tours of the brewery there. The main brewery building is included on the National Register of Historic Places.

The \$200,000 to the Footlight Club will go to remediating structural problems and stabilizing Eliot Hall, a Greek Revival wood-frame structure built in 1831.

The Footlight Club is the oldest continuously-running community theatre group in the United States of America, having performed every year since 1877. Based in the Jamaica Plain the club currently owns and resides in historic Eliot Hall, which its members purchased in 1889 to provide a home for performances and save the building from demolition. It currently produces five main shows each season and also hosts member-produced performances under the 7A Series



The Haffenreffer Brewery complex



The Footlight Club in Jamaica Plain.



The Pine Street Inn and Community Builders

Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll



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banner, named after the club's address at 7A Eliot Street. The three Jamaica Plain projects will be submitted to the Boston City Council for approval with an anticipated vote from the Council in the coming weeks.

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City Councilor Flaherty announces his 2020 committee assignments

Committee assignments for the two-year Boston City Council term beginning in 2020 have been announced, and Boston City Councilor At-Large Michael F. Flaherty has been assigned as the Chair of the Community Preservation Act (CPA) Committee for the second consecutive term. Councilor Flaherty has also been assigned as Vice-Chair on the Committee on Government Operations, the Committee on PILOT Reform, and the Committee on Rules and Administration.

"I am looking forward to my leadership roles on these critically important committees and to helping move Boston forward

with effective legislation and constituent services," said Councilor Flaherty. "I am particularly excited about my role on the PILOT reform committee, working with my colleagues and our City's tax exempt institutions to ensure that the benefits they are reaping from our great City are being returned equitably so we may all continue to prosper."

Councilor Flaherty has been a longtime champion of the CPA since its adoption by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 2000, and was a key figure in its adoption by the City of Boston in 2016. In his role as CPA Committee chair, Councilor Flaherty will be central in the allocation

of funds generated through the CPA, and their ultimate disbursement to affordable housing, open space, and historical preservation projects across the city.

Councilor Flaherty said "The success of the Community Preservation Act in the City of Boston is something I take great pride in, having spearheaded efforts to support it for almost 20 years now. I am honored to continue serving in my role as Chairman of this important committee and working to ensure that deserving projects in every neighborhood of our City continue to receive this important funding."

Mayor Walsh recently released his recommendations for

what will be the third round of CPA funding—a total of roughly \$24 million, spread across 40 projects around the City. The Mayor recommended a majority of the funds be directed towards affordable housing projects, in direct response to the affordable housing crisis that Boston currently faces. With this round of funding, the City will have granted approximately \$67 million for projects in every neighborhood. The Mayor's recommendations for this round of funding have been approved by the Community Preservation Committee, and they will now be submitted to the Boston City Council's CPA Committee for final approval in

the coming weeks.

Councilor Flaherty will now begin the public hearing process to determine the merits of each proposed project, ensuring that they meet all of the appropriate criteria and maximize public benefit. The Councilor welcomes input from all community partners and constituents throughout this process. Any concerned party is welcome to contact his office at 617-635-4205 or by email at michael.flaherty@boston.gov. A formal announcement of the CPA Committee hearing on this matter will follow once the hearing has been scheduled.

Two arrested, drugs and two guns recovered in Jamaica Plain

By JOHN LYNDS

On Wednesday, Jan. 29 police from District E-13's Youth Violence Strike Force made two arrests, recovered drugs, two firearms and multiple rounds of ammunition during a traffic stop in the area of 124 Minden Street in Jamaica Plain.

Police arrested Emerson Baez, 19-years-old, of Dorchester and the rear passenger, Jefferson Baez, 21-years-old, of Roxbury. Both were arraigned in West Roxbury District Court on charges of Carrying a Loaded Firearm, Unlawful Possession of a Firearm, and Unlawful Possession of Ammunition. Emerson Baez is additionally charged

with Possession with Intent to Distribute Class D Drugs.

Just after 7 p.m. on Jan. 29 officers on patrol in the area of the Bromley Heath Housing Development observed a motor vehicle proceed through the stop sign at the intersection of Schiller Street and Minden Street without stopping.

Officers initiated a traffic stop in the area of 124 Minden Street. As officers approached the vehicle they observed the rear passenger's side occupant, later identified as Jefferson Baez, quickly duck down and then pop back up.

Officers spoke with the operator, later identified as Emerson Baez, who was neither in

possession of his license nor the rental agreement for the vehicle. Officers noticed a jacket and backpack had been shoved into the corner behind the operator's seat.

Officers removed the three occupants from the vehicle and located a Smith and Wesson .40 caliber firearm loaded with twelve rounds of live ammunition from inside of the backpack

behind the operator's seat, as well as a Smith and Wesson .40 caliber firearm loaded with four rounds of live ammunition inside of a backpack within the trunk of the vehicle. Additionally, inside of the separate backpacks, officers located paperwork containing the names of Emerson and Jefferson Baez, as well as the rear passenger's name.

While Emerson and Jefferson



The two guns and ammo recovered during an arrest last week in Jamaica Plain.

Baez were taken into custody the front passenger was identified and released from the scene.

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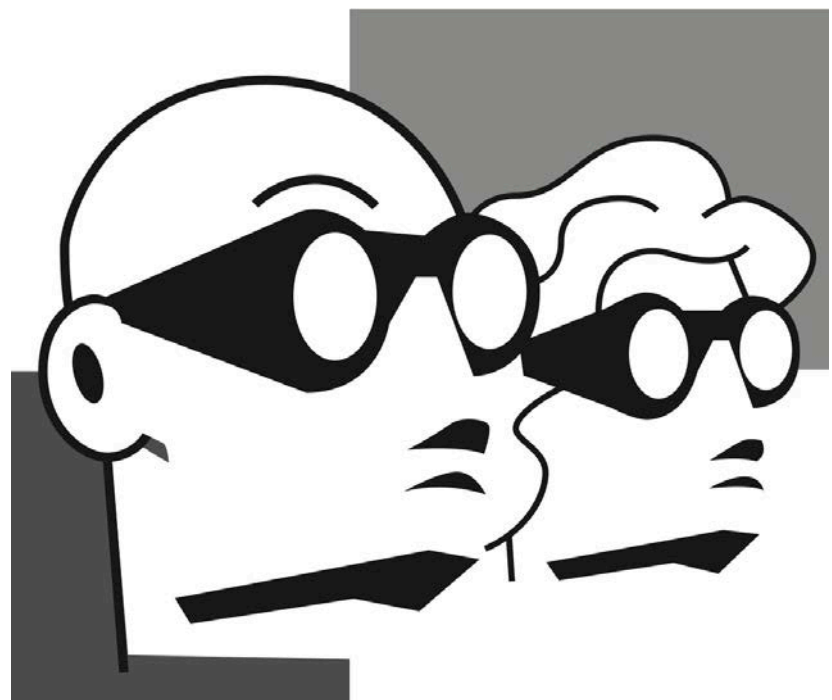
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A DIFFERENT BUDGET: Supt. Cassellius' budget reflects what she heard

Major investments proposed for seven schools in JP

BY SETH DANIEL

The world of school budgets within the Boston Public Schools (BPS) has rarely been marked by intrigue or excitement in year's past, but new Supt. Brenda Cassellius said this week that her first budget proposal is different than any previous ones because she simply did what parents asked her to do – and that will be grounds for excitement in the schools.

Cassellius presented her first School Budget proposal to the School Committee Wednesday night, Feb. 5, and it was one that was quite different from previous budgets – full of supportive services, basic fixes and laying the groundwork for expansion, all buoyed by a new commitment from Mayor Martin Walsh of \$200 million over three years. It also came after her exhaustive tour of every school building in the city, and hosting several community meetings also, throughout the city since last August.

"We are going to fix things because we were listening to what the parents told us they want us to do," said Cassellius in an interview with the Patriot Bridge. "That's why I think it's such a different budget. It's based on what students say they need

and what teachers say they need. When I was on my tour, I'll never forget a girl I met in (Roxbury). She was asked why she liked her school. She said it's because they give her what she needs. We are going to give people what they need to succeed."

One of the first tenets of the new budget is to roll out a complete supportive service program in 33 of the most underachieving schools in the city. In JP, that will mean historic investments in six local schools, including three that will get complete supportive services.

The Curley K-8, the Hennigan K-8 and The English High School will be three of those 33 schools that will receive Transformation funding from the proposed budget. Meanwhile, the Margarite Muniz Academy and Rafael Hernandez K-8 will qualify for a Family Liaison position. The Greater Egleston High School will qualify for a new social worker position in the proposed budget.

The full Transformation program will include social workers, school psychologists, a family liaison and teaching instruction facilitators. That will also include revamping the curriculum in those schools, particularly high schools like English High,

to align with the Mass Core standards.

Cassellius said some schools don't offer Advanced Placement (AP) classes, while others do. That, she said, should change.

"We need to make sure teachers are up to speed to offer advanced programming, raising expectations throughout the city," she said.

That investment will also give teachers one extra hour to work with a type of coach to help them advance their teaching. While they do that, students will be able to participate in science, arts, performing arts, physical education and health – among others.

"This program hits every single neighborhood outside of West Roxbury at the schools that are in significant need of support," she said. "If you start with the schools that need it most in year one, all schools move up and work together as a cohort...All boats rise when you do that because everyone is getting the benefit of that...The momentum begins to build."

Overall, in that line of thinking, the schools are preparing for a decline in enrollment citywide. Nate Kuder, the BPS CFO, said they will have 1,000 fewer students citywide next year at this time. The goal of the investments in the budget is to stop that bleeding.

"If you don't interrupt that cycle of declining enrollment, de-

clining parent perception, you will continue to lose students," Cassellius said. "We have to stop the decline to stabilize and then to improve."

BPS buildings for years have had an issue with curb appeal, simple maintenance and basic cleanliness.

A major piece of the budget is trying to put an end to that by allocating \$15 million towards the small things, she said, touting the increased investments in janitors, new bathrooms and better facilities at schools in JP – both in this budget and the upcoming April Capital Budget.

Cassellius and Kuder said they have put on 25 new night janitors in the budget proposal, and will make even more investments in the Capital Budget for bathrooms and improvements in school facilities.

"I saw that need before I actually started," she said. "I was first approved on May 8 and saw this as a problem when I first came here. I was pretty surprised by that. The way things look around the buildings and particularly the cleanliness...This is a statement that says the learning environment matters. The way kids feel when they enter a classroom matters. You're going to see a change."

The new investment in the Curley, the Hennigan and English High, if approved, will mean a radical shift in how those schools operate in terms

of providing supports to students and families. That investment is meant to help the school community stabilize in and out of school so that teachers can focus on their work of teaching students.

At the elementary level in JP, the biggest pieces in the budget regard the expansion of the Manning School from a K-5 to a K-6 – one of six schools city-wide that will make that change in this year's budget proposal. That expansion includes budget supports for the change, as well as supports for other school that might be affected by the Manning adding a grade.

"As part of the expansion to sixth grade, that work will be supported by \$1 million for Building BPS support transitions," said Kuder.

JP residents will get a shot right off the bat to learn and comment on the new-look budget proposal as BPS has scheduled a budget hearing at the Curley K-8 on Feb. 13, where they will discuss the details of the new Transformation funding initiative.

There will be three hearings overall on the new Budget proposal throughout this month, including Feb. 13 at the Curley School in JP, March 10 at the MLK K-8 in Dorchester, and March 18 at the Bolling Building in Dudley Square. The final budget is expected to be voted on by the School Committee on March 25.



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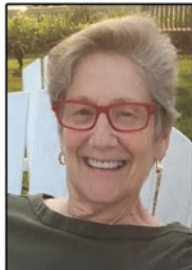
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MARY E. CURLEY SCHOOL COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

PHOTOS BY KEIKO HIROMI

The community celebration for Mary E. Curley School took place in Spontaneous Celebrations on January 31 – the first such event organized by the school. The free event, filled with music, performance, dancing, food and art, was well attended by staff, parents and students of the Curley school to celebrate their community and the 100th day of the school.



Rebecca Greening and Estella Bailote.



Molly Brigham and Riyo Hirota, who are main organizers for the event, posed with several of the other Curley School students and families at the celebration.

Shown to the right, Ellis Wilson getting face-painted at the celebration.

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MARY E. CURLEY SCHOOL COMMUNITY CELEBRATION



Curley School staff Eunice Leon, Freddy Quinones and Adalbert Guerrero.



Jasmin Guzman, Curley School Principal Katie Grassa (back), Jorian Soto (9) and Janelys Maldonado (12) at community celebration.



Curley School staff Jocelyn Hernandez, Joseph Robinson, Curleyschool parent Monica Roy and a student Lila Goldstone.



Hana Kamimura Gross, Rie Kamimura and Kai Kamimura Gross.



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JP Agenda

The deadline for listings is noon, Tues. February 18 for the February 21 issue. Send listings to reporter@jamaicaplain-gazette.com. Note: 617 should be dialed before numbers below, unless another area code is given.

Meetings

Stonybrook Neighborhood Association. Next meeting Monday, February 10, 7-9 pm, English High School Library, 144 McBride St. More/latest info: www.sna-jp.org

The Jamaica Pond Association will meet from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. on Monday, March 2, in the community room at the Jamaicaway Tower, 111 Perkins Street, Jamaica Plain. This is an open public meeting; Pondside residents who would like to take an active role in this neighborhood organization are encouraged to attend and consider joining the association. There is limited guest parking to the right of the main entrance; the site is a five-minute walk from the #39 bus stop at South Huntington Ave. and Perkins Street.

Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council. Open House at the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council(JPNC) will hold an Open House for anyone in the community interested in running for the Council to ask questions of the Council. This will be followed by the regular monthly meeting. On the agenda of the monthly meeting will be a presentation by Rep. Elugardo on her legislative agenda. Also on the agenda will be updates and recommendations from the working committees. All interested residents are invited to attend.

Police Community Relations Meeting will take place on Thursday, March 5 at 6:30pm at Curtis Hall, 20 South Street. Commanders from Boston Police Area E, MBTA Police and State Police will deal with all issues of public safety raised by the community. All interested residents are invited to attend.

Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council Zoning Committee scheduled meeting on February 19 is CANCELED. So, the Committee's next regularly-scheduled meeting will be March 4th at Farnsworth House. The agenda for that meeting will include 3368 Washington Street (new construction, five-story mixed-use development including residential (202 units), office use (14,000 square feet), community center, and basement-level parking (38 spaces); building to provide housing and supportive services for formerly-homeless individuals (140 units), administered by Pine Street Inn, and 82 affordable rental units; demolition of existing building on site); 3171 Washington Street (new construction of a four-story building with nine residential units and one ground-floor commercial space); 150 Chestnut Avenue (install driveway and curb cut for one off-street parking space); and 101-103 Green Street (renovation in existing finished basement to change laundry room/storage area into new full bathroom and new laundry room; modify utilities shared with other unit). After March 4th, the Committee's next upcoming meetings will be March 18th and April 1st.

Outreach Committee: Monday, February 10 at 6:30 pm at JP Licks, 659 Centre St. On the agenda will be a discussion on the website, brochures and upcoming elections.

Parks + Committee: Monday, February 10 at 7:30 pm at JP Licks, 659 Centre St. On the agenda will be:

Education Committee: Wednesday, February 12 at 7:00 pm at JP Licks, 659 Centre St. On the agenda will be: TBA.

Housing & Development Committee: Tuesday, February 18 at 7:00 pm. On the agenda will be: TBA.

Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council: Tuesday, February 25, 2019 at 7:00 pm, at Farnsworth House, 90 South Street. On the agenda will be: 1). A presentation on her legislative agenda by Rep. Elugardo; 2). Updates and recommendations from the

committees; 3). An invitation to anyone in the community interested in running for the Council to ask questions of the Council.

Please visit our webpage, JPNC.org, for any update

Vacancy on the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council People who are interested in the available seats on the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council can contact Kevin Rainsford, chair of the Council at (617) 866-7672 or kprainsford@gmail.com or come

The Egleston Square Neighborhood Association will meet on Monday, March 2 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The meeting is in the YMCA Building at 3134 Washington St. Agenda to be determined.

JP Problem Properties Committee, first Thursday of the month, 10:30am, Egleston Library, 2044 Columbus Ave. Info: Office of Rep. Malia, 617-722-2380

Youth/Families

The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA), invites children to explore the wide array of portraits on view at the Museum during February School Vacation Week, part of the annual Cogan Family Foundation Vacation Week Adventures.

Art-making activities throughout the week will give kids the opportunity to learn more about the MFA's collection and exhibitions while creating their own masterpieces. Activities include making pencil and oil pastel drawings inspired by the large-scale portraits featured in The Banner Project: Robert Pruitt and taking instant photographs like those seen on view in Elsa Dorfman: Me and My Camera. On Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, performances by Jean Appolon Expressions combine contemporary and folkloric Haitian dance. On Wednesday and Friday, visitors are invited to enjoy the magic and mystery of Bharatanatyam, an ancient Indian dance combining pure dance and mime accompanied by music and lyrics.

Activities are available from 10 am - 4 pm daily, except for Wednesday, February 19,

when admission is free after 4 pm and activities run until 8 pm. For a full schedule, please visit mfa.org.

Children Dance Classes: JP Dance Co-op is hosting two new classes this Fall: Parent & Child: Intro to Movement for ages ~3-4 on Sundays, 10-11 a.m., to Dec. 8 (Full course: \$100 / Drop in: \$15); and Pre-Ballet & Modern: Dance Basics for ages ~5-6 on Sundays, 11am-12pm, 10/6-12/8 (Full course: \$100). Classes held at Spontaneous Celebrations (FYI: no classes December 1 for holidays). Email Caitlin Fisher to register: JPDanceCoop@gmail.com.

Kids on Wheels: Play and learn, every Sunday, 3 to 5 pm – Ferris Wheels Bike Shop helps kids learn and practice safe riding skills while having lots of fun at the South Street Mall and tennis courts! Free helmet adjustments and free bike adjustments available. Heavy rain cancels. At the tennis courts at South Street and Carolina Avenue. 617-524-2453.

Tuesday & Thursday a.m. bike training rides: Paceline ride, great for training for charity rides or general conditioning. Leaves from Ferris Wheels Bike Shop, 66 South St. (1/2 mile from Forest Hills) at 7:00 a.m. sharp. Rain cancels. Call 617-524-2453.

The Roberto Clemente 21 Sports program is now accepting applications (boys and girls ages 6-16). Location: The Hennigan Community Center, 200 Heath St., Jamaica Plain. Info: 617-828-9524 or alliria-no@yahoo.com.

Spanish-English Language Exchange / Intercambio de Idiomas en Inglés y Español, Saturdays / sábados, 12 – 1:45 p.m. Connolly Branch Library.

Support Group for Young Parents, a program of Jewish Family and Children's Services, open to all faiths, for parents with children from birth to one-year, registration not required. Thursdays, 10:30am-noon. Info: 781-647- 5327/info@jfcs-boston.org.

Tiny Tots World Music and Movement, music classes for kids age 2-5 by Helder Tsinine, Mondays 11-11:45am; Saturdays, 10-10:45am, \$17 per class or \$90 for 6 weeks, Egleston YMCA, 3134 Washington St. Info: htsinine@gmail.com.

gmail.com.

Family art class, wheelchair accessible, Tuesdays 10:30am-11:30am, ages 3-5. Tuesdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m., ages 5+. Family Resource Center, 1542 Columbus Ave. Info: 522-1018.

Egleston Square Library, free homework help, Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, ongoing throughout the school year, 3:30-5:30 p.m., 2044 Columbus Ave, Roxbury.

Health/Fitness

Yoga, meditation and stress reduction classes at the MindBody Center (SJPHC-HPC) @ 10 Green Street. Low cost or free, in English and Spanish. For more information call 983-4226.

Fitness Walk, Saturdays, 8-9 a.m., Franklin Park Golf Clubhouse parking lot. Info: alison.g.m.brown@gmail.com.

Care to Care, a support group for family caregivers of people with Alzheimer's and other dementias, second Wednesdays of the month, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Springhouse, 44 Allandale St. Info: Meredith Griffiths, 522-0043/mgriffiths@springhouse-boston.org.

Forest Hills Runners, several weekly group runs, info/schedule: foresthillsrunners.org.

Seniors

Jamaica Plain Branch Library, 30 South Street, Jamaica Plain (617) 524-2053

Monthly Memory Cafe. February 24. 10:30-noon. Please join us for conversations that allow time to share memories, laughter and concerns. Participants experiencing memory lapses are welcome to attend –and anyone requiring special assistance should be accompanied by a caretaker. We will be working with collages. Refreshments will be provided by Laurel Ridge Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center. The Memory Cafe is held the last Monday of every month.

Monthly Memory Café, Are you an individual with memory loss? Are you a caregiver to someone with memory loss? Are you looking for an enjoyable way to spend time together? Come and enjoy coffee, creative arts, refreshments and conversations with new friends of all ages. Amory Street Housing Development, 125 Amory St., in the community room. Meets the last

Sights & Sounds

The deadline for listings is noon, February 18 for the February 21 issue. Send listings to reporter@jamaicaplaingazette.com. Note: 617 should be dialed before numbers below, unless another area code is given.

Special events

Community Bible Study, 11 am to noon, First Saturday of each month. Discussion, Lending Library of Bible Study Materials. Christian Science Reading Room, 351 Centre Street. 857 719-3432

JP Toastmasters meets the second and fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at The Footlight Club in Jamaica Plain. The meeting will feature free food and drinks, introductions, and opportunities to practice speaking. As always, meetings are free for guests. JP Toastmasters is known for providing a warm, welcoming environment where members help each other improve their public speaking and leadership skills

Arts, music, and culture

JESUS DRINKS FREE! 1950s-70s

country, gospel, soul and RnB spun by 2 atheists (and guests) @ Jeanie Johnston 9pm-Close FREE SOUL music & COUNTRY music. Foundational sounds of the American experience spun monthly with love, admiration, and a deep want to create fun. Throw in a non-believer's true lust for spinning GOSPEL music and you have JESUS DRINKS FREE. The music comes from the 1950s thru the 1970s. We're @ The Jeanie Johnston Pub every first Thursday night of every month. Good times in Jamaica Plain."

The Haven, HOOTENANNY - JP's OPEN MIC EVERY WEDNESDAY, hosted by Tom Dowd. Sign up is 9.30pm and we have prizes every Wednesday for the most interesting acts.

Midway Café, All shows 21+ - Doors at 8:00 PM unless otherwise noted EVERY THURSDAY 9:30 PM - 2:00 AM: QUEERAOKE (Drink - Sing - Dance - Repeat!)

Boston's very best lesbian night (but everyone is welcome and all are invited!)

EVERY FRIDAY 6:00 - 8:30 PM (FREE!): HIPPIE HOUR with Mys-

tical Misfits and Uncle Johnny's Band (alternating weeks) and their friends playing the music of The Grateful Dead, Bob Dylan and more!

EVERY SUNDAY NIGHT 8:00 PM - 2:00 AM (FREE!): OPEN MIC AT THE MIDWAY Hosted by Angela Sawyer and Gabe Stoddard. Come one, come all! More info: <http://midwayorthehighway.com/>

Saturday 2/8 (Night Show) \$8.00: Il Mostro, Z/28, Oxblood Forge, Wrought Iron Hex

Saturday 2/8 (Day Show) 3pm (\$6.00): Murphy & The Mess, The Inebriations, the Deep State, Amoricans

Sunday 2/9 (Day Show): TBA Monday 2/10 (\$10.00): Punk Rockin' and Pastie Poppin' Tuesday 2/11: TBA

Wednesday 2/12 (\$5.00): Fully Celebrated Orchestra with special guests the Blues Dream Box Thursday 2/13 (before Queeraoke) \$5.00: Britt Walsh (monthly residency)

Friday 2/14 (after Hippie Hour) 8:30pm (\$7.00): LOVE LOVE with special guests Rocky Ludden, Opal Canyon, and Amy Fairchild

Saturday 2/15 (Night Show) \$10.00: The JP Music Festival presents Smell The Love 2020!

Saturday 2/15 (Day Show): TBA Sunday 2/16 (Day Show): Stop Calling Me Frank, State of the Union, The New Frustrations, The Steamies

Monday 2/17: Sloppy Joes Drag Night!

Tuesday 2/18: Jake Perrone, Hooly J. Chan, Aaron Wardwell, Hannah Jay

Thursday 2/20 (before Queeraoke): Richie Parsons Saturday 2/22 (Night Show): Summer Cult Tour Kickoff with special guests Why Try?, The Amy Incident, and Lower Falls

Jeanie Johnston Pub, 144 South St. Open Mic hosted by Tony Bluze, Sundays at 8 pm. More events at jeaniejohnstonpub.com.

Bella Luna & The Milky Way Weekly events include: Radio Mamba's Family Rumba, every Sunday 5pm-8pm, live Latin music. Every Monday Stump Trivia from 8 - 10 p.m., Teacher Tuesdays and Dirty Water Saloon line

dancing for queer folks and allies at 7PM. Every Wednesday live music from 6:30 - 9:30 PM. Throwback Thursday from 6-8pm with rotating DJ's barside. Visit www.milkywayjp.com for more late night events Thu-Sun.

Old time music, Southern/roots music, second and fourth Wednesdays, 7.30pm, back room at Doyle's Cafe, 3484 Washington St. Info: peggyconant@gmail.com.

First Fridays Youth Open Mic with renowned feature artists, first Friday of every month, 7pm at First Baptist Church, 633 Centre St. Free for performers and those under 25, \$10 suggested donation for those 25 and over.

Dance and comedy

Dance JP Revival! Free your mind, body, and soul, and lift your spirits with high-energy, feel-good, socially conscious music from around the world! All ages. Wheelchair accessible. Nov. 16, 7:30-9:30pm, First Baptist Church JP, 633 Centre St. \$5-\$15 (No one turned away for lack of funds). More info: <https://tinyurl.com/DanceJPRevival>, DanceJP-Dance@gmail.com

Gender-Free/English Country Dance, beginners welcome and encouraged. 2nd and 4th Tuesdays (5th Tuesdays: experienced) of the month, 7:30-11:30pm, First Church, 6 Eliot St. Info: www.lcfd.org/bgfe/512-5554.

Learn to stiltwalk with Spontaneous Celebrations, 45 Danforth St. Sundays, 11am-1pm, \$5. Info: 857-498-2438.

Family

Egleston Square Branch Library, 2044 Columbus Ave.

Free Drop-In Homework Help Mondays-Thursdays, 3:30-5:30pm The library provides free, drop-in afterschool homework help for students in grades K-8 throughout the school year. Spanish assistance is available Mondays and Thursdays. Help is provided by trained, high-achieving high school students. This program is available at locations across Boston on days that Boston Public Schools are in session. The full list of locations is online at www.bpl.org/homework.

Jamaica Plain Branch Library Jamaica Plain Branch Library, 30 South Street, Jamaica Plain (617)

524-2053 will be hosting the following events:

ESL Conversation Group. Every Tuesday, 2-3:30 p.m.

Spanish Conversation Group. Every Saturday, 11:30-12:30. Sponsored by Roslindale Branch.

Connolly Branch Library 433 Centre St., 522-1960, www.bpl.org.

Just a reminder that we are very happy to receive book donations. The sale of books is the main source of income for the Friends. As you may know, we fund many needs at the library, including books for reading groups and children's programs.

The date for the 2020 book sale has been set for Saturday September 26.

Stonybrook Fine Arts, Make Your Own Wedding Rings workshop and teen & adult classes in welding, foundry and mold-making, ongoing, 24 Porter St. Info: stonybrookfinearts.com.

Woodworking, sewing, art classes, fiber arts, photography, book arts. Children, teens, adults, year round. Eliot School of Fine & Applied Arts, 24 Eliot St. Info: eliotschool.org or 524-3313.

Shim Gum Do (Mind Sword Path), zen sword, karate and meditation classes, scholarships available, Spontaneous Celebrations, 45 Danforth St. Info: 429-8024/ mushimgum@gmail.com.

Meet-Ups

Narratives Boston, queer activist-writers group open to LGBTQ-identified adults interested in creative expression and social justice, first and third Wednesday evenings of the month, 7-9pm, Haymarket People's Fund, 42 Seaverns Ave. Info: narrativesboston@gmail.com.

Party for the Helping Hand Fund, hosted by Haymarket People's Fund, every 3rd Friday of the month, 5:30-8pm, 42 Seaverns Ave. Info: 522-3349/umnunity@gmail.com.

Networking Group, local chapter of BNI, meets on Wednesdays at the Farnsworth House at 7am. Consists of 30 members of different professions. Through development and trust and relationships amongst the members, objective is to promote each other's businesses. Members may live outside of JP, but common tie is either living in or servicing the JP area. Info: President of chapter Katelyn Atwater, info: 431-0929



PHOTOS BY MIKE MEJIA

Members of the community gathered at Spontaneous Celebrations for a night of fun and games hosted by Liberation Games on Saturday, February 1. Attendees enjoyed delicious foods from Olio Culinary Collective, music, and dozens of fun card and board games. The fundraiser also featured a Dominoes and Texas Hold'Em Poker tournament where players were given the opportunity to showcase their skills. The proceeds from



Julian Ramos.

the night benefited Black Lives Matter Boston, Mijente Boston, Sisters Unchained, GreenRoots, and Right To The City Boston.

GAME NIGHT AT SPONTANEOUS CELEBRATIONS



Travis Henderson was very excited after winning a big pot during the charity poker tournament.



City Councilor Ricardo Arroyo and his brother, Eroc Arroyo.



Muntaha Muhammad and Justin Jimenez.



Marcus Mizhaud, of Jamaica Plain, during a game of Schotten Totten.



Left to right: Darshan Riveratan, Chrystel Murrieta, Call Calvin, Hugo Shenk, and Anne Brooks gather during a friendly, yet competitive game of Chicken Cha Cha Cha.



Nat Sandalow-Ash pauses briefly from stacking his chips from a huge win to pose for a photo.

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OBITUARIES

Ronald Lee Scott

Bassist for the blues/rock band Red House

Ronald Lee Scott, 58, of Lexington and formerly of Jamaica Plain, passed away suddenly on Nov. 15, 2019.

Ron was the bassist of the popular JP blues/rock band Red House along with his brother, guitarist Jay Sicotta Henderson. Ron moved to Boston with his family from Trenton, New Jersey in 1963, settling in Jamaica Plain in 1974.

After graduating high school, Ron was employed at Brueggers Bakery, JP, and Abt Associates in Cambridge. He later worked for Careful Carrier Movers and most recently as a stagehand for music productions with the LiveNation Union.

Ron was a devoted friend to many, always ready to help or lend an ear if that's what you needed.

Picking up the bass at age 12, Ron became a sought after bassist leading to stints with several local area bands including Segue and Gargoyle. But for Ron's scores of friends and fans, it's those magical shows when he stood onstage, next to his brother, Jay, in Red House, delivering



their unique blend of blues, funk, and rock that will stay with us. Ron follows his mother, Mildred Lee Scott, and father, Jefferson Cleveland Scott Sr., who preceded him in passing. He leaves his brother, Jay and his beloved, partner, Janet Dephoure, who has been by his side for 16 years, as well as an aunt, Etheria Singleton, an uncle, Lewis Scott, and numerous cousins.

A Celebration of Ron's life and music will be held at Spontaneous Celebrations, 45 Danforth Street, Jamaica Plain on Saturday Feb. 8 from 4 to 11 p.m.

Call 857-505-9554 for information.

Judith Ann Music

Former Jamaica Plain Childrens Librarian

Judith Ann Music, 71, died on Feb. 1, 2020 at her home in White River Junction, VT almost eight years after being diagnosed with breast cancer. She spent her final days surrounded by her loving family, including her husband of 45 years, John Vogel, her children, and her grandchildren.

Judy was a brilliant woman with limitless intellectual curiosity. After graduating from Duke University, she earned a Master's Degree in Library Science at the University of North Carolina and a Master's Degree in English from the University of Virginia. She began her career as a research librarian which perfectly suited her quick and curious mind. Her career changed when she moved to Boston and became a children's librarian at the Sedgewick Street Branch Library in Jamaica Plain. It turned out to be an even more demanding job exemplified by requests from her young clients demanding she find "the blue book with a truck on the cover that her older brother had loved."

After her two children were born, Judy embarked on a new career as an acupuncturist and herbal medicine practitioner. She attended the New England School of Acupuncture where she received a Master's Degree in Acupuncture and completed advanced studies in Herbal Medicine. One of the highlights of her practice was working at the AIDS Care Project in Boston. It was early in the AIDs epidemic and she was able to help pa-

tients with neuropathy and pain management along with gentle, loving care.

When she moved to the Upper Valley in 2001, Judy set up an acupuncture practice in Norwich and also volunteered at the Good Neighbor Health Clinic. In her practice, she helped people dealing with pain and disease, infertility, and helping turn babies in utero to avoid a breach birth. She joined the board of the Good Neighbor Health Clinic and Red Logan Dental Clinic where she soon became the chairperson and helped it transition and grow.

Many obituaries describe the deceased as the perfect wife and mother. In this case it is true and we have documentary proof in the cards from her children calling her "the best mother ever." She was wonderfully patient and creative. After several rainy days, she would dress her children in rain suits and take them on duck walks. As cancer decreased her mobility, she could entertain her grandchildren on long car rides using her cane as a prop in creating stories and adventures.

A fanatic gardener, Judy was never happier than digging in the soil and creating beautiful gardens. She was an avid reader whose taste ranged from Anglo Saxon literature to mystery novels. To her friends, she was a loving companion noted for her wisdom and wonderful sense of humor.

Judy was a proud feminist, advocate and supporter of many



social and environmental justice causes, a highlight being her 2004 trip to Washington D.C. with her daughter as part of the March for Women's Lives.

Judy was born October 1, 1948 and grew up in Raleigh, North Carolina. She is survived by her husband John Vogel, her son Daniel Music Vogel (daughter-in-law Tessa Heller Vogel), her daughter Diana Vogel Arnell (son-in-law Bobby Arnell), her three grandchildren: Elliott Vogel, Lydia Vogel, and Ruth Arnell; brothers Harry Barnes (sister-in-law Nancy Barnes) and Scott Barnes, beloved nieces, nephews, cousins, and John's siblings and their families, all of whom she loved dearly.

As she requested, she will have a green burial at Green Mount cemetery in Montpelier. After the Funeral, the family will engage in a modified version of Sitting Shiva at Judy's home in Wilder.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Good Neighbor Health Clinic, or spend additional time in a garden thinking of her.

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LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT DEPARTMENT SUFFOLK Division DIVORCE SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING Suffolk Probate And Family Court 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 Docket No. SU19D1644DR Sonia Diaz Plaintiff vs. Elvin A. Alemany Defendant To the Defendant: The Plaintiff has filed a Com-

plaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable breakdown. The Complaint is on file at the Court. An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411. You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon Sonia Diaz, 28 Paul Gore St., Jamaica Plain, MA 02130, your answer, if any on or before 03/05/2020. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of his action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register

of this Court. Witness, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: January 14, 2020 Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate 2/7/20 JP

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate And Family Court 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 (617)788-8300 NOTICE OF PETITION FOR

CHANGE OF NAME Docket No. SU19C0344CA In the matter of: Olivia Teresa Cummings A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Olivia Teresa Cummings of Boston, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: Olivia Teresa Salvatore Cummings Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Suffolk Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 02/20/2020. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: January 29, 2020 Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate 2/7/20 JP

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate And Family Court 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 (617)788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL

ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU19P1715EA Estate of: Thelma Lois Tacneau Date of Death 07/03/2014 To all interested persons: A Petition for Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment has been filed by Carmen L. Williams-Dwyer of Jamaica Plain, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Carmen L. Williams-Dwyer of Jamaica Plain, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in an

unsupervised administration. IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/12/2019. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you. UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRA-

TION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: August 16, 2019 Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate 2/7/20 JP

LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

BARRICKLO HAS BEEN NAMED TO THE FALL 2019 SHENANDOAH UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT'S LIST

Congratulations to Jenna Barricklo of Jamaica Plain. Jenna is a Musical Theatre major and earned a GPA of 3.9 or higher at Shenandoah University in the Fall 2019 semester. Jenna is one of 326 students that earned President's List honors in the Fall 2019 semester.

Shenandoah University was established in 1875, and is headquartered in Winchester, Virginia, with additional educational sites in Clarke, Fairfax and Loudoun counties. Shenandoah is a private, nationally recognized university that blends professional career experiences with liberal education. With nearly 4,000 students in more than 200+ areas of study in seven different schools, Shenandoah promotes a close-knit community rich in creative energy and intellectual challenge. Shenandoah students collaborate with accomplished professors who provide focused, individual attention, all the while leading several programs to be highly nationally ranked. Through innovative partnerships and programs at both the local and global level, there are exceptional opportunities for students to learn in and out of the classroom. Shenandoah empowers its students to improve the human condition and to be principled professionals and leaders wherever they go. For more information, visit su.edu.

CAMILO NAMED TO DEAN'S LIST

Samantha C. Camilo of Jamaica Plain was among more than 1,600 students named to The University of Scranton's Dean's List for the 2019 fall semester. The Dean's List recognizes students for academic excellence. A student must have a grade point average of 3.5 or better with a minimum number of credit hours during the semester to make the Dean's List. Camilo is a junior international

business major in the University's Kania School of Management.

ESPANOLA NAMED TO THE CHAMPLAIN COLLEGE DEAN'S LIST

Beatrice Espanola of Jamaica Plain has been named to the Champlain College Dean's List for the Fall 2019 semester.

Students on the Dean's List have achieved a grade point average of 3.5 or higher during the semester.

Founded in 1878, Champlain College is a small, not-for-profit, private college in Burlington, Vermont, with additional campuses in Montreal, Canada, and Dublin, Ireland. Champlain offers a traditional undergraduate experience from its beautiful campus overlooking Lake Champlain, and more than 90 residential undergraduate and online undergraduate and graduate degree programs and certificates. Champlain's distinctive career-driven approach to higher education embodies the notion that true learning occurs when information and experience come together to create knowledge. Champlain College is included in the Princeton Review's The Best 385 Colleges: 2020 Edition. It was named a "Most Innovative School" (for the fifth year in a row), ranked among the top 100 Regional Universities in the North, and is featured as "One of the Best Undergraduate Teaching Programs" and a "Best Value School" by U.S. News & World Report. The Fiske Guide to Colleges for 2020 calls Champlain one of the "Best and Most Interesting Schools" in the United States, Canada and Great Britain. Champlain is also a 2020 College of Distinction. For more information, visit: www.champlain.edu.

KILSON-KUCHTIC NAMED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE'S DEAN'S LIST

Caila Kilson-Kuchtic of Jamaica Plain has been named to the Dean's List at the University of New Hampshire for earning

Highest Honors for the fall 2019 semester. Kilson-Kuchtic is majoring in Communication.

Students named to the Dean's List at the University of New Hampshire are students who have earned recognition through their superior scholastic performance during a semester enrolled in a full-time course load (12 or more graded credits). Highest honors are awarded to students who earn a semester grade point average of 3.85 or better out of a possible 4.0. Students with a 3.65 to 3.84 average are awarded high honors and students whose grade point average is 3.5 through 3.64 are awarded honors.

The University of New Hampshire is a flagship research university that inspires innovation and transforms lives in our state, nation and world. More than 16,000 students from all 50 states and 71 countries engage with an award-winning faculty in top ranked programs in business, engineering, law, liberal arts and the sciences across more than 200 programs

of study. UNH's research portfolio includes partnerships with NASA, NOAA, NSF and NIH, receiving more than \$100 million in competitive external funding every year to further explore and define the frontiers of land, sea and space.

EMERSON COLLEGE ANNOUNCES LOCAL DEAN'S LIST HONOREES

The following students have been named to Emerson College's Dean's List for the Fall 2019 semester. The requirement to make the Dean's List is a grade point average of 3.7 or higher that semester.

Isha Marathe majoring in Journalism, and a member of the class of 2020.

Jonah Barricklo majoring in Musical Theatre, and a member of the class of 2023.

Jack Charles majoring in Media Arts Production, and a member of the class of 2023.

Augustus Lamb majoring in Media Arts Production, and a member of the class of 2022.

About Emerson College

Based in Boston, Massachusetts, opposite the historic Boston Common and in the heart of the city's Theatre District, Emerson College educates individuals who will solve problems and change the world through engaged leadership in communication and the arts, a mission informed by liberal learning. The College has 3,780 undergraduates and 670 graduate students from across the United States and 50 countries. Supported by state-of-the-art facilities and a renowned faculty, students participate in more than 90 student organizations and performance groups. Emerson is known for its experiential learning programs in Los Angeles, Washington, DC, the Netherlands, London, China, and the Czech Republic as well as its new Global Portals, with the first program launching this fall in Paris and the second next year in Switzerland. The College has an active network of 39,000 alumni who hold leadership positions in communication and the arts. For more information, visit emerson.edu.

Chinnaswamy, Republican activist, announces write-in campaign for Republican State Committee in Boston

Nicaela Chinnaswamy has announced her write-in campaign for Republican State Committee to represent the Second Suffolk district, including the neighborhoods of Mission Hill, Jamaica Plain, Roxbury, Mattapan, Dorchester, Hyde Park, Roslindale, and the South End.

Nicaela Chinnaswamy, 27, is a Republican activist and homeowner living in Mission Hill. A graduate of Boston College, she is currently working at a Roxbury-based nonprofit dedicated to developing small businesses across the country. Nicaela has staffed and volunteered for Republican campaigns at all levels in Massachusetts. Most recently, she was recognized by the Mass Young Republicans for her outstanding volunteer efforts for Boston City Council candidate Jennifer Nassour.

"Through my involvement with local campaigns, I looked to engage ward committees and

found that zero ward committees in this district were active," Nicaela Chinnaswamy explains. "This makes it extremely difficult to mobilize our voters against liberal Democratic candidates. I decided to run because I view this lack of organization as a failure on the part of our existing state committee representatives."

"I have the experience and the energy to help grow our grassroots network across the Commonwealth, beginning in my own district and other urban areas," says Chinnaswamy. "I will fight for Republican candidates at all levels. And I will oppose any policy - local, state, or federal - that would further burden the taxpayers in Boston."

Chinnaswamy also plans to engage the next generation of Republicans through Boston's many universities and young professional networks.

"There is no young person in the Second Suffolk district more

committed to growing the Republican Party than Nicaela," says Jennifer Nassour, former MassGOP chair who advanced to the runoff election for Boston City Council District 8 in November. "What we need now more than ever is someone with the energy and passion to grow the grassroots network that will get our candidates elected."

The election for Republican State Committeewoman is held on March 3, 2020, the same date as the presidential primary election. Only voters who pull a Republican primary ballot will be able to cast a vote for Republican State Committeewoman. There are no candidates listed for this position, as none successfully submitted the required signatures in November 2019. To cast a vote for Nicaela Chinnaswamy, voters may write in her name or contact Nicaela at nicaelachin@gmail.com or 508-873-1940 for a ballot sticker.



INVITACIÓN

Plazo para la sección de eventos: martes, 18 febrero para la edición 21 febrero. Mande eventos a reporter@jamaicaplaingazette.com. Los números telefónicos que siguen empiezan con 617.

Reuniones

Comité de casas abandonadas en JP, primer jueves del mes, 10.30, Egleston Library, 2044 Columbus Ave. 722-2060.

Asociación de Vecinos Stonybrook, 10 feb, 7-9pm, English High School

ESNA, lunes, 2 marzo, 6.30-8.30pm. YMCA, 3134 Washington Street.

Asociación de Jamaica Pond, lunes, 2 marzo, 7-9pm, 111 Perkins Street.

JPNC, reunión mensual, 25 feb, 7pm, Farnsworth House; Comité de urbanización, 4 marzo. Comité de vivienda y desarrollo, 18 feb, 7pm, Bowditch School. Comité de alcance, 10 feb, 6.30pm, JP Licks. Comité de parques, 10 feb, 7.30pm, JP Licks. Comité de educación, 12 feb, 7pm, JP Licks. jpgn.org.

Reunión de la policía con la comunidad, 5 marzo, 6.30pm, Curtis Hall.

Programa de comida comunitaria, comidas gratuitas, con opciones veganas. Comida ca-

sera sana. Cena cada miércoles, 6.30pm. Almuerzo, Crossroads Café cada sábado, 12pm. 524-3992, Churchoffice@firstbaptistjp.org

Just Cookin' Kitchen es una colaboración entre servicios de catering que necesitan acceso a una cocina. Ofrecemos una cocina económica, para pequeñas empresas de catering, preparación de comida para camiones de comida, y experiencias culinarias educativas. Kennia: 524-3992, Churchoffice@firstbaptistjp.org.

Buscamos a pequeños empresarios para nuevo programa de tutoría, para ofrecer una red de interconexión para pequeños empresarios. Con oportunidades de hacer conexiones con asociaciones de negocios. Con Renee Wong, una consultante económica de JP. Renee Wong: w.renee@gmail.com. Ginger Brown: directorjpcsms@gmail.com.

Línea de quejas sobre el ruido del aeropuerto, línea de quejas de Massport sobre el ruido, abierta 6 am to 6 pm. Llame cuando le molesta el ruido de aviones de la pista 27 de Logan: 561-3333. Los Congresistas Mike Capuano (621-6208) y Steven Lynch (428-2000) también quiere que la gente llame sobre ruido de aviones.

La eliminación de agujas, Las agujas/jeringas no se pueden tirar en la basura normal de la

casa. Lugar para depositar: AIDS Action Committee, 75 Amory St. Programa de intercambio de agujas para los usuarios de drogas inyectables disponible en AHOPE Boston en 534-3963. Si ha encontrado una aguja en un área público, llame a la línea directa del alcalde: 635-4500.

Compostaje comunal, sábados, 10am-2pm, mercado de agricultores de Egleston Square, 45 Brookside Ave. greenovateboston.gov.

Spotheoles, herramienta para reportar hoyos, 635-4500, con la aplicación móvil Citizens Connect, cityofboston.gov/mayor/24, y usando #spotheoles en twitter.

Niños/familias

Servicio de adoración, día de acción, 10am, 351 Centre Street.

Clases de baile para niños, introducción al movimiento para niños y padres, los domingos 10-11am; básicos de baile, los domingos 11a.m.-12pm. Spontaneous Celebrations. Registración: jpdancecoop@gmail.com.

Noches de Perros Calientes, todos los miércoles, 4.30-6.30pm, 42 Horan Way. Con música y comida.

Clases de música y movimiento para niños edades 2-5, con Helder Tsinine, los lunes, 11 - 11.45 am; los sábados, 10-10.45 am. \$17/clase o \$90/seis semanas, Egleston YMCA, 3134 Washington St. htsinine@gmail.com.

Clase de arte para la familia, accesible a las sillas de ruedas, los martes, 10.30 - 11.30 am, edades 3-5. Los martes, 3.30 - 4.30 pm, 5+. Family Resource Center, 1542 Columbus Ave. 522-1018.

Programa de Deportes Roberto Clemente acepta aplicaciones para niños y niñas 6-16. El centro comunitario, 200 Heath St. 828-9524 o alliriano@yahoo.com.

Intercambio de idioma inglés-español, sábados, 12-1:45pm, Connolly Branch Library.

Grupo de apoyo para padres/madres jóvenes, un programa de Jewish Family and Children's Services, para gente de todas religiones, para padres/madres de niños con menos de un año, no se requiere inscribirse. Los jueves, 10.30am-noon. 781-647-5327, info@jfcbsboston.org.

Intercambio de idiomas inglés-español, los sábados, 12-1.45pm. Connolly Branch Library.

Egleston Square Library, ayuda con la tarea gratuita, los lunes, martes, miércoles y jueves, durante el año escolar, 3.30-5.30pm, 2044 Columbus Ave, Roxbury.

Niños en ruedas, cada domingo, seguridad de bicicleta 3-5pm, en las canchas de tenis en South y

Carolina.

Paseos en bici, martes y jueves, 7am, Ferris Wheels, 66 South Street.

Salud/Bienestar físico

parkrun, evento comunitario de correo, con eventos de 5 kilómetros cada fin de semana. Todos los sábados, 8.45am, Sugarbowl. Carrera: 9.00am.

Paseo para el bienestar, los sábados, 8-9am, Lote de estacionamiento del club de golf de Franklin Park. alison.g.m.brown@gmail.com.

Clases de yoga, meditación y la reducción del estrés, bajo costo, algunas gratis, inglés y español, MindBody/Health Promotion Center, 10 Green St. 983-4226.

Care to Care, un grupo de apoyo para la familia de personas con Alzheimer y otras demencias, segundo miércoles del mes, 6.30-7.30pm. 44 Allandale St. Meredith Griffiths: 522-0043, mgriffiths@springhouseboston.org.

Corredores de Forest Hills, varias corridas en grupo semanales, info/horario: foresthillsrunners.org.

Adultos Mayores

Café mensual de la memoria, 24 feb. 10.30am-12pm. Jamaica Plain Branch Library, 30 South Street. Café mensual de la memoria, para la gente que sufre de la pérdida de la memoria y los que les cuiden, Amory Street Housing Development, 125 Amory St., El último jueves de cada mes de 1.30 - 3pm. Gratuito para todos. 440-1615 / bmclaren@uphams.org.

La Vida Buena Club para la Vida Sana de ABCD, sesiones mensuales del bienestar, para los adultos con más de 50 años, los miércoles, 10am. Mi Vida, Mi Salud, clase para adultos 50+ con condiciones de salud crónicas, clases semanales, jueves, 2pm. Clases de computadora para adultos 50+, los lunes, 3pm. 30 Bickford St. 522-4251.

Talleres de Ethos para el envejecimiento sano, el mantenimiento de las enfermedades crónicas los martes, 10am, SJPHC, 640 Centre St., herramientas poderosas los miércoles, 4.30pm, 555 Amory St. ethoscare.org.

Programa de auto-mantenimiento de diabetes, 1179 River St., los miércoles, 9.30am-12. Ann Glora, 477-6616.

Crossroads Café, almuerzo gratis y evento social para ancianos y sus invitados, con música en vivo y presentaciones educativas.

Comida de ingredientes locales. Pan, vegetales, leche y comida para llevar disponibles. Los sábados, 633 Centre St., 12.00-2pm. 524-3992, firstbaptistjp.org.

Trabajo Voluntario

Programa de aprendizaje para adultos, se busca voluntarios para enseñar inglés a adultos, orientación gratuita. jpcctutor@gmail.com o 635-5201.

The Boston Teachers Union School busca voluntarios para tutelar a alumnos de la secundaria, los martes y/o miércoles, 3-4.30pm. David Weinstein, maestro de matemáticas: dweinstein@bostonpublicschools.org, 857-334-9855.

Mentor o tutor, matemáticas, ciencia, historia, inglés, idiomas extranjeros, SAT, y más. Los martes, miércoles, jueves, 3-8pm, sábado 10am-2.30pm. hydesquare.org/get-involved/join-our-programs.

Chelsea Jewish Hospice & Palliative Care (CJHPC) busca voluntarios para ayudar a las personas con enfermedades terminales en JP, 1-2 horas/semana. Formación gratis. Aimee: 889-0779, afarrell@chelseajewish.org.

Coalición de Franklin Park busca miembros para la junta directiva, miembros del comité y voluntarios. admin@franklinparkcoalition.org (junta directiva y comité); volunteer@franklinparkcoalition.org, 442-4141.

Ethos busca compañeros para visitar ancianos en casa. Se requieren una orientación y un compromiso de una hora por semana. JP, Hyde Park, West Roxbury, Roslindale y Mattapan. ethocare.org/volunteer/application, 522-6700.

Cuidado hospicio de VNA, una organización sin fines de lucro, busca voluntarios para proveer amistad a los pacientes. Ninguna experiencia requerida, ofrecemos entrenamiento continuo y apoyo para todos los voluntarios. vna-hospicecare.org, 781-569-2811.

Inglés para nuevos bostonianos, se buscan voluntarios para servir como tutores de inglés. 982-6864, fmartinez@englishfornewbostonians.org.

Brigham and Women's Faulkner Hospital en 1153 Centre St. se buscan voluntarios para la tienda de regalos, la mesa de información, radiología, centro ortopédico y más. 983-7424, brighamandwomensfaulkner.org.

Programa de música FriendshipWorks, ¿Le gusta la música? Se buscan voluntarios para compartir la música y la amistad con los ancianos en JP. 277-5248.

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Chase Bank presents new proposal for development at 701 Centre St.

BY LAUREN BENNETT

A well-attended community meeting was held regarding the Chase Bank project at 701 Centre St. on January 30.

Three architects: Ed Forte, Gert Thorn, and Michael Epp found issues with the renovations that Chase Bank made to the storefront at 701 Centre St., formerly Bukhara restaurant. The building sits in a neighborhood design overlay district and therefore is subject to design review, resident and member of the Jamaica Pond Association Kevin Moloney said. However, these men and several other community members were dissatisfied with the work that was done to the building, saying it was inconsistent with the historical context of the rest of the district and that the community was not involved in the design process.

The three architects have met several times with the Inspection Services Department (ISD) and the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA), as well as Chase Bank several times to come to an agreement about what to do with the building. Chase has come up with a solution, and this meeting was an opportunity for the community to see the new proposal for the facade, as well as ask questions directly to the bank team.

"702 Centre St. is a beloved building in the community," Epp said. "We were disturbed when this incredible building was treated in a way that was disrespectful. It's about the process here; we don't want this to happen to the next one."

Ed Forte, who said he has done 134 storefronts with Main Streets and is familiar with historical facades in JP, said that 701 Centre St. is "one of the few remaining 19th century commercial buildings on Centre St." He added that "even very small alternations to a building in a design overlay district require a design review."

The building next door, Carrot Flower, has the historically significant characteristics that 701 Centre should also have, Forte said, including the tall glass, the low sill, the vertical and elegant proportions of the entry door, the setback of the glass, and the detailing below the sill.

"There was no respect or un-

derstanding of the guidelines," Gert Thorn said. "We wrestled with ISD, with the BPDA. We're not here as agents for ourselves...We need to manage as a community what happens here." Thorn proposed some sort of JP task force or committee that serves the JP neighborhood organizations and advises them on projects in these design overlay districts. "As a community we need to have a voice, and that voice needs to be heard," Thorn said.

"In this experience, we want to highly praise the bank. They've been very supportive, both Rick [Dube] on a lower level and the bank on a higher level," Thorn added. "In the end we want to make sure you agree with us."

Rick Dube, Senior Venice President at JPMorganChase, said that "I assure you that as the person who oversees real estate in New England that was never our intent. This is not the way we wanted to enter Jamaica Plain. Clearly there were some missteps and perhaps ambiguity on the rules and regulations. As a representative of Chase, we want to come into the community to do the right thing."

Architect Ken Mackenzie presented the new proposal to the community. "The direction that Chase is going is good neighbor; good for the building," Mackenzie said. "We are not going to be du-

plicating or recreating history."

The aluminum will be removed from the bottom of the building and insulated glazing will be inserted into a "high quality, wood/glass" system with all wood windows. He said that the detail for below the sill will be fabricated in a shop. "We're going to use modern, current technology to replicate history, not to repeat history," Mackenzie said. Additionally, the storefront will be painted dark green to match Carrot Flower.

There will be black awnings with the chase logo on them, and a blade sign that will not be illuminated.

There was concern from a resident about vinyl on the glass, but Mackenzie said there will not be any vinyl lettering on the big widows.

Another resident asked Chase Bank if they will publish an apology. "We sat to erase the board and re-establish ourselves," Dube said. "You will probably see something."

Resident Omer Hecht was not as enthusiastic as some about this project. "You do not represent me or the community at-large," he told the architects. "You are not elected officials and you do not represent the community."

Hecht said that the "none" of the community organizations who were listed as being in sup-

port of this redesign "represent JP," and he "does not feel the majority of the community is represented in this room."

"Shame on all of you, shame on these groups for espousing such passion for windows and grout lines..." he continued, citing that there are more important things to worry about. "All of you are very passionate about what a window looks like and what a sign looks like."

Michael Epp agreed with Hecht in saying that they are not elected officials, but "we asked for this meeting to happen so there is community participation. The whole notion is to have a community decision that also about our future and what the

community wants that to be."

He also said that things like education and affordable housing are efforts that should absolutely be supported, in response to Hecht's comments.

Rick Dube said that the next steps are to go back to the city to get these plans approved, which he said "will happen fairly quickly," then he will get the funding and the materials. He said the actual construction timeline will run anywhere from eight to ten weeks from when they start doing the work. He said that they hope to be done by April, but the project probably won't be fully complete until May. He said "the sense of urgency is going to be big."

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EDITORIAL

HAVE WE TURNED
A CORNER?

For the first time since 2014, life expectancy in the United States has risen after four years of decline, according to a report released this past Thursday by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Overall life expectancy rose to 78.7 years in 2018, a slight increase from 2017, when life expectancy stood at 78.6 years.

Despite the increase, life expectancy in the U.S. only stands at where it did in 2010. In other words, we've had a decade of stagnation in our country's life expectancy, the only Western nation to have no gain in this ultimate measure of national health.

Worse than that however, is this statistic: Life expectancy in the U.S. has fallen behind even poor nations, such as Portugal, Costa Rica, Cuba, and Slovenia, all of whom trailed far behind us in the 1990s.

Many factors have contributed to the recent national decline in life expectancy, most notably the opioid crisis, suicides, and alcohol abuse. These are what experts refer to as "deaths of despair," a statistic that has risen dramatically among the American white male population of all ages.

So here's one question: If it is true that we are still amidst the longest economic recovery of all time, why have America's "deaths of despair" reached an all-time high?

In our view, one obvious answer is this: The economic gains of the past decade have accrued only to the very wealthy, which in turn has resulted in many Americans falling out of the middle class and others not being able to get there.

Consider that the national minimum wage in the U.S. presently is a paltry \$7.25. And just how paltry is it? If the increase in the minimum wage had kept pace with the increase in the cost of living for the past 50 years (the minimum wage in 1968 was \$1.60), the minimum wage today would be about \$22.00. If you do the math, the lowest-paid workers in the U.S. should be making at least \$800 per week; instead, they are making only about \$300 per week.

However, the working poor are not the only ones who have been left out of our nation's supposed economic growth. The median household income in the U.S. in 1968 was \$7,700. If that figure had kept pace with the cost of living, the median income today would be more than \$90,000. However, median household income in the U.S. in 2019 was just \$63,000, far below where it should be.

So now ponder this thought: If things have remained bleak for many of our fellow Americans even during the longest economic expansion on record, what will happen when the next recession hits?

The bottom line in America in 2020 simply is this: The very wealthy are getting much wealthier, while everybody else is getting poorer, with the costs of housing, health care, nursing home care for seniors, and a college education increasingly eluding the grasp of the rapidly-sinking American middle-class.

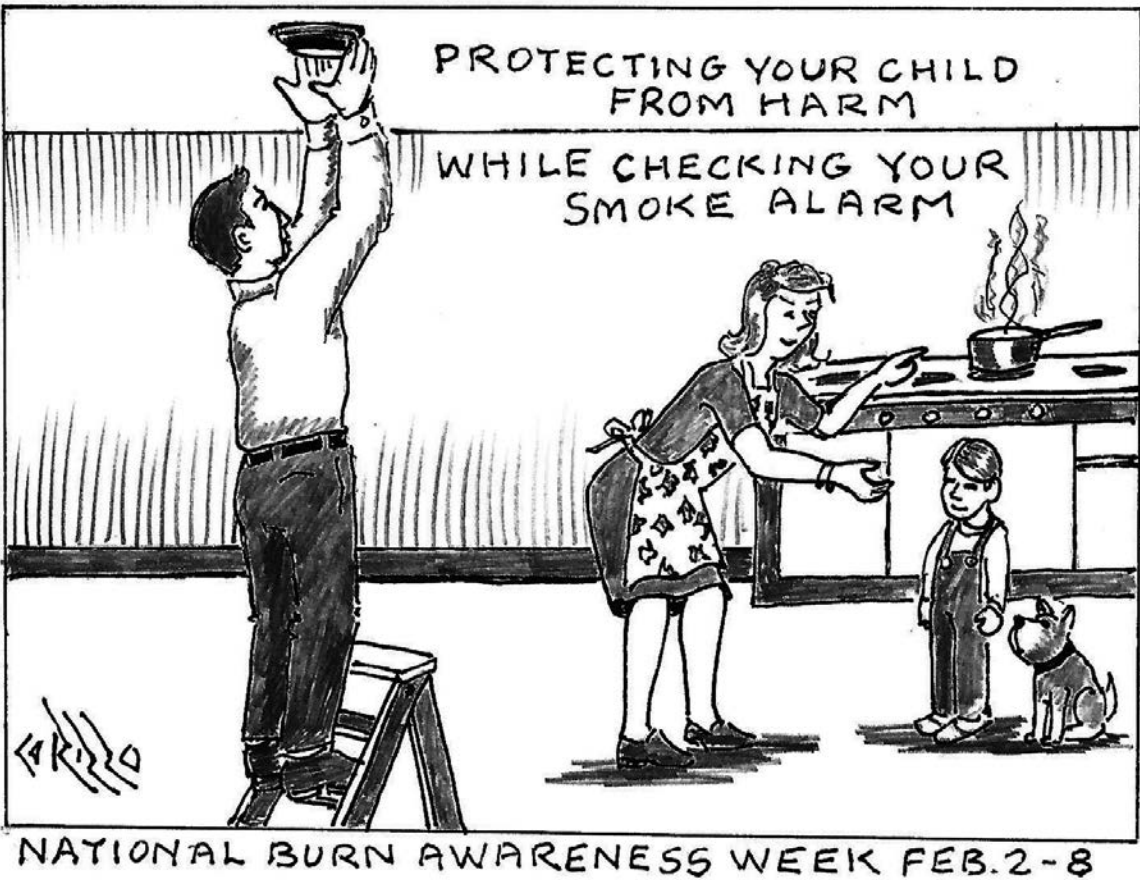
The end result of this economic dislocation can be seen in our national health statistics that show an increase in "deaths of despair" and an overall decline in our national life expectancy.

The stark reality of America in 2020 comes down to this: Americans today are living shorter -- and unhappier -- lives.

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



NATIONAL BURN AWARENESS WEEK FEB. 2-8

Op-Ed

Oh, the woe of losing things

By MELISSA MARTIN, PH.D.

Socks, gloves, ink-pens. The sneaky universe steals these things from me. Or the Sock Fairy visits while I sleep and hides one sock of each color. Or a hungry Glove Grinch lives in my coat pocket. And I've left countless umbrellas behind—only to be reminded on the next rainy day. I am the queen of losing one earring.

The Mystery of Missing Socks

Why do socks disappear? A sock monster with lots of feet. A black hole in the washer or dryer. Socks get divorced. What's the deal?

Here is one theory. During the wash, a sock runs away from home and creeps into the laundry drum. The rotations separate items and a sock gets caught behind the drum or into the wastewater hose.

The Mystery of Missing Gloves
We can understand why kids lose gloves, but what about adults? This winter I purchased new gloves and vowed to pay attention and not lose one. Within two weeks, I had an orphan glove. Did the mate jump out of my pocket and join the hand circus? I threw a party for a lost glove reunion, but no luck.

Memory Loss Related to Emo-

tional Problems

"Emotional problems, such as stress, anxiety, or depression, can make a person more forgetful and can be mistaken for dementia. For instance, someone who has recently retired or who is coping with the death of a spouse, relative, or friend may feel sad, lonely, worried, or bored. Trying to deal with these life changes leaves some people feeling confused or forgetful," according to article by the National Institute on Aging.

Memory problems can occur from trying to juggle too many balls in the air; not enough sleep from burning the candle at both end; and runaway stress. Some drugs list memory loss as a side effect.

Age-Related Changes in Memory

"Forgetfulness can be a normal part of aging. As people get older, changes occur in all parts of the body, including the brain. As a result, some people may notice that it takes longer to learn new things, they don't remember information as well as they did, or they lose things like their glasses. These usually are signs of mild forgetfulness, not serious memory problems, like Alzheimer's disease." www.nia.nih.gov

What's Normal

Absentmindedness occurs

when you aren't paying close attention to the activity at hand. Occasionally forgetting where you placed things. Forgetting facts over time. Like computers, our brains need to purge old data to make room for new. A "tip of the tongue" memory slip that you remember later. Utilizing reminders to help you remember. Despite memory lapses, if your personality and mood remain the same, it's a good indicator that it's probably not something more serious. That's according to Helena Chang Chui, MD, a neurologist at Keck Medicine of USC.

I lose my car in parking lots, often. Is misplacing your cell phone, purse, or keys part of your daily routine? Do you put special things in special places to not forget, and then forget? The land of the lost has recently claimed a pair of my favorite glasses.

My solutions: Wear mismatched socks on my hands and outsmart the Sock Fairy and the Glove Grinch. Handcuff car keys to my wrist. And buy an old lady eyeglass chain or strap.

Melissa Martin, Ph.D., is an author, columnist, educator, and therapist. She lives in Ohio. Contact her at melissamcolumnist@gmail.com.

OP-ED

Black history is more than a month. Join our year-round celebration.

BY MAYOR MARTIN J. WALSH

February is Black History Month and, in Boston, we have a full series of events planned to celebrate the achievements of Black Bostonians-- the women and men, seniors and students, veterans and clergy, business owners and activists who have been at the heart of our city's progress and success since the beginning.

Honoring this history and progress is something we must do every day, all year round. That's why Boston is helping to lead a national movement to recognize that Black history is #MoreThanAMonth. This year, Black History Month kicks off a year-round celebration, in partnership with Boston's Black community, that we are calling a Year of Black Excellence. Black Excellence events will reach all ages and offer a range of activities including arts, sports, history, culture, job resources,

and community programming.

Black History Month began on Feb. 3 at City Hall with a Black Heritage Kickoff Celebration. It continues with events like the Carter G. Woodson Basketball Tournament, the Dream Chasers Call for Artists, our Age Strong Black Heritage Celebration for seniors, the third Annual Fashionscape and Arts of Boston, our 4th Annual African American Veterans Brunch, and many more. The remainder of our Year of Black Excellence will be anchored by a series of signature events, in partnership with community members and leading Boston institutions.

In July, Boston will host the national NAACP convention. Being named the host city for this national event was a great honor. We saw right away what an opportunity it would be to not only celebrate our city's progress, but also to catalyze a future of Black achievement that pushes us ever closer to Dr. Martin Luther King

Jr.'s dream of equality, justice, and harmony. We are working closely with the community to host the greatest NAACP convention ever held. This event will be a milestone in Boston's history and a focus of the national conversation around social justice and economic equity.

Ultimately, real change is what it's all about. That's why our Year of Black Excellence also coincides with major new initiatives and investments we are making in affordable housing, equity in education, access to

transportation, and environmental justice. We will show that when we work to empower everyone and increase equity across our neighborhoods, our city becomes a better place for all-- and we can lead the nation forward as well.

We are being bold in Boston. We have made progress, but there is much work still to be done. We are inspired by the history of individual accomplishment and community progress that Black Bostonians have achieved, often against tremendous odds.

In January, we began the year by remembering the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He led the country to greater equality and justice, but the realization of his dream is not complete. His vision continues to inspire more progress every day. That's ultimately what our Year of Black Excellence is all about. I invite you to join us.

If you'd like to learn more, visit boston.gov/black-excellence.

Martin J. Walsh is the Mayor of Boston.

Absentee ballots and early voting dates now available for the presidential primary

The City of Boston's Election Department announced that absentee ballots are now available for the Presidential Primary taking place on Tuesday, March 3, 2020. Voters registered in Boston who meet one of the requirements below are eligible to vote by absentee ballot:

Voters absent from the city and unable to vote at the polls on Election Day,

Voters who have a physical disability preventing them from getting to a polling site,

Voters who are an active member of the armed services, and

Voters who cannot participate due to religious obligations.

The deadline to submit an application for an absentee ballot is Monday, March 2, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. and can be done by mail or in person at the Election Department in City Hall. In person absentee voting is available during regular business hours as well as on Saturday, February 15, February 22 and February 29 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Absentee applications can be downloaded at boston.gov/absentee. When requesting a ballot by mail, voters are asked to mail their applications to the Election Department early to be processed on time. Voted ballots must be mailed back and received by the Election Department no later than 8 p.m. on Tuesday, March 3, 2020. For more information please visit: boston.gov/absentee

Voter Registration Deadline: the deadline to register to vote or to update voter profiles for the Presidential Primary is Wednesday, February 12, 2020. On February 12, the Election Department will be open until 8:00 p.m. for those who want to register to vote. For more information on how to register to vote, please visit <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/>

Early Voting: early voting for the March 3, 2020 Presidential Primary will be avail-

able to all Boston voters from Monday, February 24 through Friday, February 28, 2020. Any registered voter can vote early. A listing of all early voting locations, dates, and times will be included with the annual city census. For more information on early voting please visit <https://www.boston.gov/departments/elections/vote-early-boston>

Polling locations for Election Day can be found using the Secretary of the Commonwealth's website.

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BPL celebrates Black History Month with annual “Black Is ...” Booklist and special events

The Boston Public Library (BPL) honors Black History Month with its annual “Black is ...” booklist of 60 recent works that relate unique aspects of the African American experience. Copies are available at all library locations and the list also appears on the BPL website at bit.ly/BlackIs-2020.

Cherry-picked by staff librarians from the Central Library and South End, Dudley, Codman Square, and Lower Mills branches, the 2020 list features books for adults, teens, and children by authors like Toni Morrison — the first African American to win the Nobel Prize for Literature — Feminista Jones, Kwame Alexander, Common, and Colson Whitehead. It includes a brief summary of each title and the BPL call number. See previous “Black is ...” booklists at bit.ly/BPL-BlackIs.

Dr. Kellie Carter Jack-



Dr. Kellie Carter Jackson.

son headlines this year’s BPL Black History Month events. On Tuesday, February 25, she will speak on her new book, “Force & Freedom,” which examines the conditions that led some Black abolitionists to believe slavery might only be abolished by violent force. See more at bit.ly/BPL-DrKCJ. Other programs include screenings of award-win-

ning films like “If Beale Street Could Talk” and “Hidden Figures,” and a music and history performance by Castle of Our Skins. See a full listing of events, including children’s programs, at bit.ly/BPL-BHM2020.

The Boston Public Library also produces curated booklists for Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15 - Oct. 15), LGBT Pride Month in June, and — new this year — Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in May.

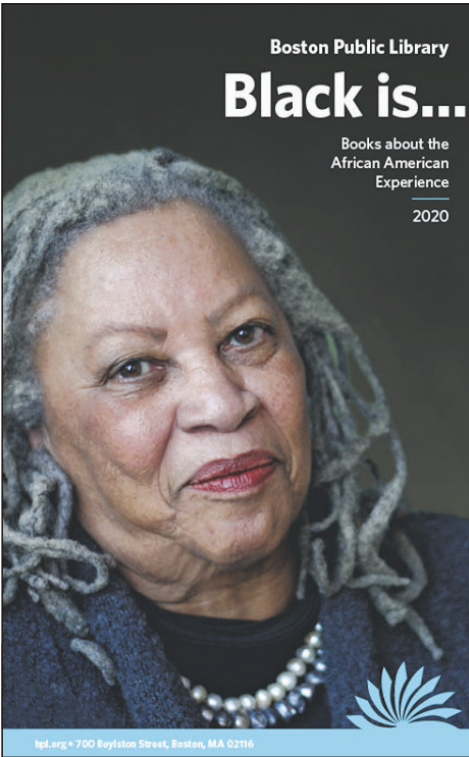
The Boston Public Library provides educational, cultural and civic enrichment free to all through its collections, services, programs, and spaces. Established in 1848, the Boston Public Library is a pioneer of public library service in America. It was the first large free municipal library in the United States, the first public library to lend books, the first to have a branch library, and the first to have a children’s

room.

The Boston Public Library of today encompasses the Central Library in Copley Square, which includes the newly-renovated and vibrant Johnson Building, 25 branches, the Norman B. Leventhal Map and Education Center, the Kirstein Business and Innovation Center, and an archival center. The Library provides access to world-class special collections of rare books, manuscripts, photographs, and prints, along with rich digital content and online services.

BPL hosts thousands of free educational programs and exhibitions, and provides free library services online

and in-person to millions of people each year. To learn more, visit bpl.org.



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