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NEW RANGERS



PHOTO BY STEVE KRUSZKOWSKI

The Boston Park Rangers welcomed a new class of seasonal Rangers with a ceremony held at Franklin Park on May 15 within proper social distancing guidelines. This year's class includes Brighton residents Tyler Bowman, Alexander Hartgrove, and Michael Materia, Dorchester residents Michael McRae and Randall Pinkham, Jamaica Plain residents Eli King and Emily Wright, and Connor Decarlo of South Boston. The new seasonal Boston Park Rangers receive their certificates presented by Boston Parks Commissioner Ryan Woods and Chief Boston Park Ranger Gene Surillo in a properly socially-distanced ceremony in Franklin Park on May 15.

JP's Self Esteem Boston turns to technology to provide services to women

BY LAUREN BENNETT

For more than 25 years, JP-based Self Esteem Boston has been providing self-esteem courses for women living in transitional living facilities, substance abusers, victims of domestic violence, and the unemployed. These programs are typically delivered

in person, but, like many other programs and events, have had to go virtual because of COVID-19.

President Marion Davis and Operations Director Jeri Levitt spoke with the Gazette about how they have adapted these programs to continue to help women during this period of uncertainty.

"These women's lives were

not that different than being in a pandemic—abuse, destroying their bodies, emotional traumas, a big spectrum of things," Davis said. "The programs are helping them to be more resilient throughout this. This is a true

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JPNC Housing & Development Committee continues discussion on sustainability and construction

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC) Housing & Development Committee held a virtual meeting on May 19, where members and residents continued their discussion of sustainability standards in construction and talked about electrification and the construction of affordable housing.

The City's Department of Neighborhood Development (DND) released recommendations regarding affordable housing construction, which was used as the basis for some of the discussion, and the Committee was

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Without proper Memorial Day exercises due to COVID, visit one of Jamaica Plain's Hero Squares and learn about history

BY JOHN LYNDS

There are over 1,700 Hero Squares across Boston and several in Jamaica Plain that pay tribute to residents that made the ultimate sacrifice by giving their lives for their country during wartime.

"These squares are found in intersections like the one we are in today," said Mayor Martin Walsh. "These squares deserve to be noticed and those memorialized for their commitment to service should be remembered."

In 1898, the first Hero Square in Boston was named Dewey Square at South Station. Since then, the city has dedicated more than 1,700 Hero Squares

also looking for ways it could advocate for affordable housing to meet sustainability goals.

Last month, the Committee heard a presentation from Aidan Foley, who talked about the issues, concerns, and opportunities for electrification of new construction in the neighborhood. He said that things like life cycle cost consideration, health concerns, and what has been done in Brookline with banning new hook ups for gas and oil are all things that should be considered. In Brookline, the ban applies to single family homes and most buildings

for service members killed in action. The gold star on each sign represents the ultimate sacrifice that was given. It is designated only for those killed in action.

In 2013, the city created and added biography plaques at each Hero Square. These plaques have a barcode you can scan that takes you to a website with more details and photos about the service member.

For example there is a Hero Square for Charles H. Arnott at the corner of Brookside Avenue and Minton Street.

On 13 November 1942 Arnott was aboard the USS Monssen during the Battle of Guadalcanal.

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JP OBSERVER

Let's not waste the corona virus crisis; good things can result

BY SANDRA STOREY / SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

The covid-19 pandemic has been a three-month nightmare for us in Jamaica Plain and pretty much the entire world. No one knows how long it will continue to plague us. Just describing and responding to the new, invisible, travelling killer is torturous, because it affects every aspect of both our personal and public lives.

More than 570 Boston residents have died from it and more than 12,000 have caught the highly contagious virus. As of May 14, 605 people in JP alone had caught it, according to the Boston Public Health Commission.

Fighting the virus has left us with struggling businesses, nonprofits and individuals who suddenly lost their jobs. Meeting basic needs has become a challenge for man. We will never be the same.

Even while grieving our losses and fighting the coronavirus's rippling effects, it's important to heed what Rahm Emanuel said at the height of the recession in 2008: "Never allow a good crisis to go to waste." Barack Obama's Chief of Staff, later to become mayor of Chicago, went on to point out that crises can show us opportunities to change and improve.

"We pressed pause," former JP resident Naomi Storm says of the shutdown and restrictions that started in early March.

So, frozen in place, we have been given a chance to reflect on life around us. vulnerabilities and

injustices. Buried in all the predictions and talk of "new normal," the one thing we know is that there will be some permanent changes as a result of covid-19. Our job is to use this time to recognize that and start make sure it's change for the better.

One of the most promising potentials to emerge from this health crisis is the huge increase in awareness of crucial issues the covid-19 has delivered.

People started saying, "We are all in this together," almost simultaneously in ironic response to the social distancing we have to do. We use it to mean groups the size of a family, a neighborhood, a state, a country, the entire world.

We certainly are all in this together, but, looking around, it becomes quickly apparent that though we are all vulnerable, we are not equal. One basic good we can take from the crisis right away is to vow to turn it into a true equalizer. We should be able to turn to our companions and say, "What happens to you on happens to me." That can drive us to improve all of our lives.

What follows are some things I have observed we should consider doing, inspired by what has emerged so far from the tragedy. Other people are coming up with ideas for improvements, too.

"Local" seems to be even better than we were thinking before this happened to us. Let's keep some "extremes" we adopted for the crisis. Let's all agree to close down the world for 10 or so days a year.

Let planet earth catch its breath and again enjoy the clean air that resulted this time.

Then let's encourage people (tax breaks?) to choose workplaces and living spaces based more on how close they are to each other. Those long commutes have been no good for psyches, climate or economies, and they've been getting worse. So many people sent home to work have said not having to commute has made them surprisingly happy during this time.

Meanwhile, public transport needs to be upgraded and made safer. Very importantly, it needs to be expanded throughout the country. Those of us in old cities are used to having it, but many Americans have none. Think of how the economy and the climate would improve if people could more easily get to stores and jobs and education, as well as be able to stay home more, too.

Working from home, if done carefully and with the right jobs, can be fabulous. Let's have more of that, mixed with some local in-person co-worker interaction, too, to promote problem solving and creativity. In-person conferences that participants must fly to should be rare. Flying should be for vacations and visits.

Improve video-conferencing and internet access for everyone. Improve the technology. Everybody deserves WiFi. Teach people skills not only in using it, but also in managing online gatherings and life-management activities online. Make sure seniors, children, students, and people of all income levels are included.

Make sure everyone has a smart phone, at least. Better if every household can get a laptop; it already started when the City of Boston raised funds to get Boston school children computers so they could study remotely.

Let's pay all the people we just noticed are "essential" a minimum wage of at least \$15 an hour to start immediately. Who are essential employees? People who take care of other people and/or the stuff (including information) we need day to day. Government help

Supporting local, independently owned businesses will be extremely important to a positive

future. They, especially restaurants, create the living rooms of our communities—the next circle past our houses and streets that pulls us together. They also bedrock the economy and employment in this country. Nonprofit organizations need to be respected as basic forces in the economy as well as people's lives.

Meanwhile, the whole idea that the US has somehow properly evolved into a service/research and development economy and other countries like China should do the manufacturing has got to go. It's bad for employment, economic security, and even health security to not have more manufacturing here. Things will cost more, but it will be worth it for our total economy and general well-being.

Though everyone is "in this together," people here are much less advantaged than people from other places, we see in the covid spotlight. Of all the countries hit hard by the virus and its repercussions, the US is the only one where everyone wasn't instantly covered by universal health care.

Workers often here aren't guaranteed sick pay, paid leave to take care of sick family members, rights to protective gear and rules provided by employers and other rights one would expect. That needs to change, including for essential works, along with their pay.

People in the US are diverting a good deal of their incomes, too, to paying student debt instead of purchasing goods and services. Allowing billions in student debt makes no sense. We need to shift the cost of education to government more, and free up people's incomes to be spent vibrantly, not simply "paid back" as long-term loans to some lenders.

The incredible inequality that poverty and race brings to many of us in our layers of communities has been exposed in dramatic ways the past three months. Rather than hear from political podiums about low income people struggling to feed themselves and their families we have seen the long lines of cars waiting for hours for a free box of food.

Instead of just hearing about racial and income "disparities" in health care, we are seeing up

close that people of color and low incomes are literally more vulnerable than other neighbors to the virus.

And people are donating to their fellow humans in amazing amounts—from money to food banks to face coverings for people who need them.

The shortage of housing affordable to ordinary working people everywhere in the US has been a growing crisis for years. With the huge, sudden unemployment that's hit, temporary measures from the CARES Act, etc., won't help for long. We are seeing that many people sharing small houses and apartments have trouble distancing enough from one another to protect themselves.

The federal government as well as the states need to ante up more. Government has to subsidize housing to a much greater extent than it does now. No more fantasies that—unlike with other basic human needs—we can expect the private sector to shore up people's housing costs on a permanent basis. And, just as people with SNAP (food stamps) don't need to shop in special stores, many more housing vouchers should be "mobile" and apply to any qualified housing, as some are now.

Of all the large gatherings the pandemic has messed up, arts have done the best, even flourished, as creative types find new ways to reach the public, with some technical wizardry required at times. Plays, concerts, museum tours, poetry readings thrive on Zoom, YouTube, Facebook and TV. Let's hope they continue even after artists and audiences are allowed back in person and that they find the funding to do it.

We don't know yet how sports will fare without crowds of fans on hand. It's one of hundreds of unsure futures we confront.

Video conferencing seems to have improved access to hearings and public meetings immensely. Ordinary people who may have had trouble getting to them in person due to busy schedules or transportation issues can now participate.

Ever since the crisis started, people seem to be talking more

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Memorial Day

Continued from page 1

The Monssen was hit by some 39 shells; including three of battleship caliber. Twenty minutes later, the ship was completely immobilized and was ordered abandoned. After daybreak the Monssen was still afire and continued to blaze until early afternoon, when she sank. Sixty percent of the crew couldn't escape the inferno and went down with the ship... Arnott was one of the sailors who were trapped or killed and his remains are buried with the ship at the bottom of the Pacific. In 1992, an expedition found the wreck of the Monssen.

"The wreck of the Monssen lies upright on the bottom of the Iron Bottom Sound, with gun turrets still trained out to the starboard side as they had been in combat."

Arnott was awarded the Purple Heart, Victory Medal, Presidential Citation, American Campaign Medal, and the Atlantic and Pacific Campaign Medals.

There's a Hero Square for John A. Coughlin at Asticou Road and St. Ann Street.

Coughlin was born to Alfred C. and Jean H. Coughlin on December 4, 1917. After graduating from Jamaica Plain High Graduate, Coughlin enlisted in the United States Air Force on February 17, 1942. Staff Sergeant Coughlin served as a gunner on a B-24D in the 9th Bombardment Squadron, 7th Bombardment Group, Heavy.

On March 13, 1943 his crew was part of a four plane mission to bomb the Pazundaung Bridge at Rangoon, Burma. At least seven Japanese fighter planes attacked the formation. Half of the formation, including Coughlin's plane, were gunned down. The aircrafts crashed into the Gulf of Martaban, leaving no survivors. For his extraordinary heroism in service to our country Coughlin was awarded the Purple Heart, the Air Medal, and the Presidential Unit Citation. He is memorialized on the Tablets of the Missing at the Manila American Cemetery.

On the corner of Creighton Street and Sunnyside Street there is a Hero Square for John J. Magee.

Magee was born on February 21, 1947 in Boston, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Magee, and grew up in Jamaica Plain.

He was inducted into the United States Army on July 27, 1966 and began his tour of duty in Vietnam on October 6, 1967. He served as a Light Weapons Infantryman with Company A, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, 198th Infantry Brigade, American Division in Vietnam.

On February 28, 1968 in Quang-Ngai, Vietnam, Magee was killed by metal fragments from a landmine. For his heroism displayed in his service Magee was awarded the Purple Heart.

Then there's James L. Maguire's Hero Square at Centre Street and Orchard Street

Maguire was born on May 23, 1917 in Boston. Living in Jamaica Plain prior to WWII, he worked as a library assistant. Before joining the army Maguire was a graduate of Boston College Class of 1938 and attended the Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

On June 10, 1943, Maguire was inducted into the United States Army. There he served with the 95th Infantry Division as a Private First Class (PFC.).

Maguire was killed in action on November 26, 1944 while fighting in France. He was awarded the Purple Heart and is memorialized on the walls of the Harvard Memorial Church. "Hero Squares allow us to pay tribute and honor to our fallen service members in a very visible and permanent way," said the City's Veterans Commissioner Robert Santiago. "The Hero Square program is very meaningful to the family and friends of a fallen soldier as well as the community they lived in."

To check our more Hero Squares in Jamaica Plain and for a complete list visit <https://www.boston.gov/departments/veterans-services/hero-squares-veterans>.

Unique Times Require Creative Approaches.



JPNC

Continued from page 1

less than 15,000 square feet.

"Our focus as a committee," committee chair Carolyn Royce said, is that "we often end up looking at bigger Article 80 projects." She said that other JPNC Committees such as the Zoning Committee, hear smaller cases so it's important to see "what we can advocate for in Jamaica Plain," especially with the Housing & Development Committee's goal of supporting affordable housing in the neighborhood.

Jennifer Pinck, President of Pinck and Co., a real estate consultant in Boston, talked at the meeting about sustainability and how it relates to the construction of affordable housing.

Pinck worked on the construction of the Erie Ellington Apartments in Dorchester in 1999 and 2000, which were known as being "green" and energy efficient. "It's interesting to note that everything we did plus many other things that became popular and desirable," she said. "The savings in operating costs actually made it more financeable to developers."

She said that in subsequent years "as green became more popular" and the U.S. Green Building Council and LEED certifications became more popular, "the movement grew and the awareness of this was increased all around."

Pinck said that she believes that lenders began to understand that they might have to spend a little more during construction, "but in terms of operating costs and reducing fuel use, from a financial point, there is more money left in the...budget to pay debt." Additionally, there have been studies that show that the cost increase is little or none for constructing buildings with zero emissions.

She said that while city agencies like the Boston Water and Sewer Commission are "caught up" on sustainable practices, "utilities are still dinosaurs."

She spoke about the DND recommendations, calling them "interesting" and saying that its recommendation to build "simple massing" is easier, less expensive to build, and will perform better from a sustainable point of view, but in many areas of the city there is "tension" between a developer, an owner, and the neighborhood "to deliver something to an affordable market." There is also the consideration of how the building looks, which is important to residents across Boston neighborhoods, Jamaica Plain being one of them,

"Some contractors have the upper hand with the building boom we've been in," Pinck said. With more prefabrication available, the cost is somewhat reduced.

She suggested that what the neighborhood group should be advocating for as far as affordable housing "is going to be more greatly influenced by the economic climate."

Sam Montano, a member of the Committee, said that passive housing "is definitely something we can do." She also said that exploring 3d printing housing could also be done. "These are great goals to have neutral housing but the fact that so many folks across the country are homeless...that to me is the real issue," she said. "How can we bridge the two?"

Montano added that "costs have to be factored in with women and folks of color," which have a stake in the construction of affordable housing. "Can we afford to pay the labor?"

Pinck also said that construction has "gotten to be an incredibly complicated business," and thinks that electrification could be an an-

swer for simplifying things. "I think it has a lot of potential in terms of reducing complexity in the building business and maybe controlling costs," she said.

A question was raised about retrofitting existing homes for electrification, which Pinck said was "much thornier than new construction," as "there are so many costs and risks to renovating an old building." She said that adding electrification to new construction is typically "a piece of cake," but "it is the existing housing and building stock that is the challenge."

A suggestion was made by Kathy Brown to have someone from the DND come out and talk to the neighborhood about this topic. "The advocacy is really important for us to do," she added. "However we can press on that so the resources are there—we shouldn't have to compromise our health and our kids' future for the environment."

Andy Waxman of The Community Builders agreed that pushing the rule makers in a certain direction will allow more to happen, because "we have to follow what those folks say."

Royce talked about takeaways from the meeting and what the committee can do going forward. "There's a role for our committee in advocating for affordable housing to meet sustainable housing goals," she said, adding that a "point we can make over and over again" is the long term costs versus short term costs of electrification.

"We still have some questions for our committee to consider in terms of what we can support and what we can advocate for," she said, and next month's meeting will begin by taking a look at some of those questions as well as to think more clearly about what it is the Committee would like to advocate for on this topic and who else can be involved in the conversation.

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Baker-Polito administration releases phased reopening plan

BY LAUREN BENNETT

Governor Charlie Baker on Monday announced the phased reopening plan for Massachusetts, and urged residents to continue being vigilant to prevent further spread of COVID-19. The plan has been the task of the governor's Reopening Advisory Board for the past several weeks, where it has met with leaders from many sectors and industries across the Commonwealth.

"Our collective success depends on everyone," Baker said. "We cannot move forward until we commit to slowing the spread."

Before getting into specifics of the plan, Baker said that it will progress through four phases, each lasting at least three weeks but could last longer "if the public health data doesn't support moving forward."

He also said that the plan lays out what businesses and individuals must do in order to be able to reopen during each phase. "The advisory board made every effort to be as clear and direct as possible," Baker said. "This is something no one's ever done before."

In Phase One, called "start," which began on May 18, places of worship were allowed to open "with guidelines," and "outdoor services are encouraged." Additionally on May 18, essential businesses, manufacturing, and construction were allowed to operate.

Beginning on May 25, lab

space, office space (except in Boston), limited personal services—hair salons, pet grooming, and car washes—and retail with remote fulfillment and curbside pickup are allowed to open. On June 1, office space can open again in Boston.

Last week, Baker announced a list of employers who have committed to continuing their work from home policies "for the foreseeable future," including Wayfair, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, Harvard Pilgrim Healthcare, Liberty Mutual, and several others. He encouraged employers to continue work from home policies where it's possible to reduce the number of people coming into contact with each other.

On May 18, hospitals and community health centers were also permitted "upon attestation" to "provide high priority preventative care, pediatric care and treatment for high risk patients and conditions," and on May 25, additional health care providers will be permitted to do the same.

On May 25, beaches, parks, drive-in theaters, some athletic fields and courts, many outdoor adventure activities, most fishing, hunting, and boating, and outdoor gardens, zoos, reserves, and public installations will be permitted to open with specific guidelines.

Baker said that people are still to cover their noses and mouths when six feet of distance cannot be maintained, wash their hands and surfaces often, continue to

social distance, and stay home if sick.

"Sticking with these critical tasks is everyone's responsibility," Baker said. "State and local governments will continue to step up testing capabilities alongside the community tracing program. Positive case rates are moving in the right direction," he added.

Baker said that the steps taken in the first phase are for businesses that have "limited face-to-face and customer interactions." He said that people are going to have to change their behaviors and things will not be the same as they were before the virus.

"At some point there will be treatments and a vaccine," he said, but "for the foreseeable future, everyone needs to continue to do the same thing."

This goes hand-in-hand with the Baker-Polito administration's new "Safer At Home" advisory, which advises people to stay at home "unless going to a newly opened facility or activity," he said. Those over the age of 65 and who are at high-risk for the virus should remain at home.

"The virus will be with us throughout the reopening process," Baker said. "How well everyone does these things will determine how well we move into later phases."

He also said that "we'd all prefer to believe that the virus is less serious now and that it's behind us," but "if we don't keep up the fight and do things we know we have to do and can do we run the risk of creating a second spike in the fall."

He thanked those who have been vigilant in playing their part to reduce the spread of the virus and asked that everyone continue everything they've been doing.

"This plan required a tremendous amount of thought, planning, and preparation by the board," said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito. "Our work would not have been possible without an extensive municipal engagement," she added.

Polito said that things like campgrounds, community pools, playgrounds, restaurants and more, could resume in Phase Two with specific guidelines, and in Phase Three, arts and entertainment, gyms, and other activities "push us towards Phase Four

of all resumption of activity," in what will be called the "new normal."

However, as the governor has said several times over the past few weeks, public health data will determine whether the state will enter a new phase, and he said it is possible to revert to a previous phase if necessary.

Polito said that a restaurant, accommodations, and tourism work group has met and will continue to have discussions with these industries about "industry specific protocols for meeting safety standards."

She also said that the business community will continue to be supported "as they implement the mandatory workplace safety standards" that the administration announced last week. She added that businesses opening up in Phase One will be required to comply with these standards before they are allowed to open.

"The administration will require businesses to self-certify," Polito said, adding that they must develop a COVID-19 control plan and implement the safety standards.

The state has also created sector-specific guidance that "aim to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmissions in each industry." Materials for these guidelines and safety standards are available on the Reopening Massachusetts section of the mass.gov website.

CHILDCARE AND TRANSPORTATION

Polito also said that "key components" of beginning to reopen the state include childcare and public transportation.

In March, the administration created an emergency childcare system for children of essential workers and others on the front-lines of fighting the virus.

She said that the emergency childcare system already in place will be used to meet the needs of "people with no alternative for care" as people slowly return to work in Phase One. She also encouraged families to find alternatives to group care, and that currently, only 25 percent of emergency childcare is occupied. "The system we established has capacity for 10,000 children statewide," Polito said.

"Summer camps serve an important purpose," Polito added,

saying that additional health and safety standards are being reviewed in preparation for the opening of summer camps. She said that these health guidelines could be implemented in over 1400 camps across Massachusetts, and "pending public health data," camps could open in Phase Two "with limitations and standards in line with CDC guidance."

On the transportation front, "the MBTA has been and will continue to implement measures to prevent the spread," Polito said. "We cannot significantly reduce transmission" without the support of everyone in the state.

She said that riders of the MBTA are required to wear face coverings, and employers should implement work from home practices and stagger the workday to "reduce demand on rush hours."

Polito said that in Phase One, the MBTA will "support the transit needs of essential workers and those returning" by continuing with limited service. By Phase Three, there will be a modified version of full service, and the MBTA will continue to provide protective supplies to workers and clean stations and vehicles often, as well as "actively communicate public health guidance in stations, online, and over social media," Polito said.

"Today, as we move forward in implementing this plan for reopening, I am confident in everyone's ability to play their role," Polito said. "Everyone must do their part."

She said that the "next few weeks are really important," and by helping businesses incorporate workplace safety standards and making sure everyone follows guidelines, "the Commonwealth can stay ahead of this virus," Polito said.

"As we balance the shared goals of activating economy and public safety...our roadmap provides us with a plan and a direction point to get started," Polito said. "The people of Massachusetts are strong; we're resilient, we've come through tough times before and we will come through this tough time again."

To download the full Reopening MA report with details about which industries fit into which phase, visit <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/reopening-massachusetts>.

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As the state begins to reopen, Walsh continues to ask for “caution and commitment” from residents

BY LAUREN BENNETT

Mayor Marty Walsh held a press conference on Tuesday, a day after Governor Baker released his four phase reopening plan for the state.

As of Wednesday, Boston had 12,143 cases of COVID-19 and 591 people had passed away. “The number of active cases in the City continues to decline,” he said on Monday.

The City continues to ramp up testing in neighborhoods and “continues to build a Citywide strategy.”

Walsh urged residents to keep staying at home and working from home “as much as possible.” He also said that “we need to continue to practice physical and social distancing,” as well as washing hands, disinfecting surfaces, and wearing face coverings in public.

“Reopening means bringing the same caution and commitment to stopping the spread,” Walsh said, and “continuing to follow the science and the public health guidance.”

Walsh said that although Baker’s plan allowed for the start of construction on May 18, the City of Boston has implemented

a phased plan for the restarting of construction.

Similarly, the governor’s plan allows for the opening of office space starting on May 25, with 25 capacity, but Boston’s offices will not be allowed to reopen until June 1, which Walsh said gives the City more time to “work collaboratively on safety plans.” He said that Boston’s population of roughly 700,000 nearly doubles in size every day as people come in for work, so office space reopening in Boston will be carefully thought out to reduce the spread of the virus as much as possible.

Walsh said that this will include things like continuing to work from home wherever possible, communication with employees, cleaning protocols, ventilation in office spaces, and more.

He said detailed guidelines for office buildings will be released next week.

For small businesses, retail stores will be able to open for curbside pickup on May 25, and the City is “developing creative public space solutions in business districts,” he said.

“Reopening must only happen in a way that’s safe for you, your workers, and your customers,”

Walsh said. He added that just because the date will come where businesses are permitted to open doesn’t mean they have to if they do not feel safe doing so. He said that the City will continue to offer assistance and support to small businesses.

Governor Baker’s plan also allowed for the reopening of houses of worship at 40 percent capacity beginning on May 18. “I know that people are missing their in-person services,” Walsh said, but he advised seniors and those at high risk to skip the in person services and connect with their religious leaders to continue participating in services remotely.

For those who will be attending in person services, social distancing should be in effect and face coverings should be worn “at all times.”

Walsh said that the City “will not take steps that put anyone under risk,” and assured residents that the City will “continue to reach out to you with information and resources to help you and your family. Our goal is to not return to what existed before, but build a more equitable and resilient City.”

He also made note of the 46th annual EMS week, saying that Boston’s EMS workers “deserve a special thank you” this year for everything they have done to help keep Boston safe and healthy during this pandemic.

When asked about the Boston Marathon that has been rescheduled for September 14, Walsh said that when the original decision was made to move the marathon, the hope was that COVID-19 would no longer be a health risk. Walsh could not provide any spe-

cific updates regarding the marathon, but he said that he is having conversations with stakeholders “on the best way to move forward.”

At Fenway Park, Walsh said that he’d “love to see games played with no fans” this summer as long as players are comfortable doing so, but nothing official has been announced yet.

Walsh urged residents to keep up the work that they have been doing so far to stop the spread of the virus, and he said he appreciates the governor’s phased in approach to reopening the state, which has been criticized by some for being too quick, and by others for being too slow.

“I think the phased-in approach that the governor is taking is a very thoughtful approach,” he said.

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Observer

Continued from page 2

openly about mental health issues, including addiction. Maybe it’s because our crisis is health-related, or maybe because it is causing such universal public/private disruptions in our lives.

I have noted an unusual amount of public talk and writing using these words phrases: people’s sense of control, flexibility, gratitude, simplicity, resilience, patience, generosity, pace of life, anxiety, meditation, stages of grief, substance abuse, domestic violence and child neglect by government officials, media, entertainers, pundits and journalists to a great extent the past 12 weeks and in a quantity that matches the breadth and depth of the crisis. Hope that continues.

Though it should go without saying, with the slippery nature of public policy these days, I will say it: The Trump administration dumped the 69-page handbook on pandemic management and the pandemic office and plan by the National Safety Council created by the Obama administration. We need to recreate a handbook,

an office, and plans to retain vigilance and preparedness after the next president is sworn in in 2021.

A lot of good, it turns out, came from the Depression, of course, including Social Security. The plague made people realize they needed to build sewer systems and install toilets. Rahm Emanuel said last week that we should be repairing roads and bridges now, while there is so little traffic that makes it expensive.

Here are just a few more good things we are already getting from covid-19: the end of loud music in restaurants some places because it leads to loud talking which spreads germs; empty animal shelters as people with more time at home adopt homeless animals; telehealth appointments; the demise of department stores.

The list can go on... and everyone can contribute to researching and bringing about positive changes they want.

Best of all, taking on the viral pandemic has given us practice and a model for thinking about and tackling the existential issue of climate change. We, all of us who are in it together, have to do it, and we know much more now how and why we can.

City Council holds hearing on impact of third party delivery fees on restaurants

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The City Council Committee on Small Business and Workforce Development held a hearing on May 15 regarding the impact of delivery commission fees on restaurants during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Council heard from City administration as well as restaurant owners and delivery companies about the struggles they are facing in the midst of the coronavirus outbreak.

"Lots of folks are struggling," City Councilor Michael Flaherty said. "The restaurant and food industry is probably one of the hardest hit." Flaherty said that delivery services and venues are having a hard time because volume is down.

"Complaints have been that while everyone is supposed to be sharing sacrifice...delivery fees are high," he said.

Councilor Ed Flynn said that delivery companies charge 25 to 25 percent commission fees on delivery fees, adding that this is a "huge burden" when sales are already down. "Huge commission fees can wipe out revenue and the ability to retain or rehire. We're in a pandemic; we're in an economic recession. We're asking delivery companies to be reasonable. They haven't been reasonable. We don't want to put restaurants out of business."

Councilor Matt O'Malley said that while he understands the importance of these companies as he has used them himself, and they also provide web search optimization for restaurants, that talking specifically about the delivery component, changes need to be made.

O'Malley reminded everyone that this was week eight of no sit down service at restaurants in the Commonwealth. "The four

big vendors are doing well, and good for them," he said of the delivery companies. "They have got a windfall perhaps unlike anything they have seen before."

Kaitlin Pasafero of the City's Office of Economic Development said that "small businesses are the heart of Boston's economy," providing 170,000 jobs in the City. "The impact on the quality of life of residents cannot be overstated," she said.

She said that these third party delivery fees "threaten to wipe out a restaurant's entire profit margin." She said that her office continues to work with small businesses to provide grants and additional support through virtual workshops and other resources.

John Schall, owner of El Jefe's Taqueria in Cambridge and soon to be on Boylston Street in Emerson College's Little Building, said that the fees for third party delivery companies are a "huge part" of his cost structure.

"When paying 18 percent of total revenue to delivery companies, you're just not viable," he said, especially for restaurants that did not offer delivery prior to COVID-19.

"This problem isn't going to go away when restaurants open for sit-down dining," Schall said. "If this isn't addressed permanently, there will be another wave of restaurant shutdowns."

Amy Healy, head of public affairs for GrubHub—and the only representative from a third party delivery company who attended the hearing—said that she opposes a cap on these delivery fees. She said that a cap "will result in damaging unintended consequences for local businesses," and that it will "result in the exact opposite of what the legis-

lation is designed to accomplish."

She said that GrubHub has supported millions of dollars in meals and cash donations to help hospitals and others during this crisis.

"A cap will lower order volume," Healy said, and "raise costs to customers. Delivery workers would have fewer work opportunities and lower earnings. GrubHub is ensuring that workers in Boston can continue to provide for themselves and their families."

She said that delivery is one component of GrubHub's business. The company charges 10 percent to a restaurant to deliver, which she said is "certainly not enough to pay a driver." She said they also have to pay for personal protective equipment to provide to drivers.

The other part of GrubHub's business is marketing for restaurants, and offers a menu of different services to restaurants and they can choose what they would like.

"The fees are fully transparent," Healy said. "We have restaurants tell us all the time that it's too expensive to hire their own drivers. That's a choice the restaurant makes—to use us, or they pay their own."

Councilor Andrea Campbell asked Healy what seemed "reasonable or fair" from her perspective.

"We announced that all profits for the second quarter would be reinvested in programs for driving business to restaurants," Healy said. "That's what we believe is going to be most helpful. They need business, they need volume."

Stephen Clark, Vice President of Government Affairs for the Massachusetts Restaurant As-

sociation, said that in a recent survey, 46 percent of restaurants report not being open at all, and for many, takeout and delivery is "easier said than done," as it is hard to build up a delivery platform when many restaurants have never offered delivery before.

Clark also read an email from a restaurant who said that one of the third party delivery companies set up a website without their permission, even before the pandemic hit. Reading from the email, Clark said, "The concept is someone finds our restaurant on their site and orders from an abbreviated menu which they have selected. A driver comes to the restaurant and shows our hostess the order on his or her phone, pays with a credit card, and has the logo of the third party delivery company."

The owner proceeded to call a representative from the delivery company who said the person who set up the account in the restaurant's name was someone who had never worked for the restaurant. The owner also said in the email that the "dummy website" listed an abbreviated menu with outdated items and prices "were inflated by at least \$1.50."

Clark said that third party delivery companies "will need to have increased regulation" moving forward.

Councilor Matt O'Malley asked GrubHub if they were participating in listing restaurants that do not agree to be listed on their website.

"We are looking at it," Healy said. "Our competitors do it and in order to stay competitive it was something that we started doing at the tail end of last year."

She said that "we don't like that practice either," and that she would be willing to work on "alternatives" with the Massachusetts Restaurant Association.

"I think the alternative is not doing it because it's a duplicitous practice and the fact that you're charging more for a meal and setting up an online portal for restaurants that may not even know about it," O'Malley said. "That's just very troubling."

He suggested capping the delivery fees now will support driving business to restaurants.

The councilors generally

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Council of Churches statement on reopening plan

STAFF REPORT

After Governor Charlie Baker announced on Monday that houses of worship would be allowed to reopen on May 18 with some guidelines, many houses of worship have chosen to continue offering online services to help to keep people safe. On May 18, First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain wrote on Facebook: "Hi friends! Until further notice we will continue to worship together online for the well-being of all."

On Monday May 18, 2020, the Rev. Laura Everett, Executive Director, and Rev. Jennie Barrett Siegal, President of the Massachusetts Council of Churches issued the following statement in response to the phased economic reopening plan which included new minimum safety standards for reentry to houses of worship:

Churches are designed to be places of healing, not sources of sickness. We receive these new minimum safety standards from the state with much concern for those people most at-risk in our churches and our communities.

Many Christians will remain in prayer and praise from home at this time. To those Christians that do decide to return now to their buildings, we advise all to act with extreme caution during

this pandemic.

We know that faithful Christians across the Commonwealth ache to return to their sanctuary for worship, and that the gathering of groups of people for worship in other states have been occasions for COVID19 transmission. Just because congregations may return to their buildings does not mean they should. "All things are lawful for me, but not all things are beneficial." St. Paul wrote to the divided Church in Corinth (1 Corinthians 6:12).

There is a distinction between the minimum safety standards set by local, state and federal authorities, and the guidance from ecclesiastical leadership. The Massachusetts Council of Churches connects a wide range of Christian traditions; some denominations have already declared that their churches may not gather in person until July 1, others until the end of the summer, and still others until May 2021 or until a vaccine is found.

The state's new minimum safety standards for reentry to houses of worship raise many questions and concerns for the clergy and lay leadership across the network of the Massachusetts Council of Churches. In the days ahead, the Massachusetts Council of Churches will issue further guidance for churches to support their discernment of phased re-entry into their

buildings.

As we said previously to the Massachusetts Reopening Advisory Board, any just response to the pandemic must prioritize care and resourcing of the communities hardest hit during the pandemic, especially churches in Black, immigrant and unhoused communities that often serve as multi-service centers in addition to spiritual homes. We remain deeply distressed by the lack of comprehensive testing in communities of color, unequal access to care and resources, the financial and logistical burden on churches to provide masks and cleaning supplies, and the decision fatigue of so many church leaders already overwhelmed.

While much of the response to "reopening" has focused on the economy, we want to remind people of goodwill that the word "economy" comes from the Greek "*οἰκονομία*" oikonomia- the whole household of God. To care for the whole household of God means prioritizing not just the care of the fit and healthy, but of the sick and the lonely, the very old and very young. To care for the whole household of God means prioritizing the care of those most impacted. We have yet to see this prioritizing from our national and state leadership. We expect the Church to behave differently.

Restaurants

Continued from page 6

agreed that more transparency is needed and further discussion on this topic will be necessary. Several councilors said they were upset by the fact that only one representative from the four major delivery companies (GrubHub, DoorDash, Postmates, and Uber Eats) to show up to the hearing.

"Thank you to Amy for testifying," said Councilor Ed Flynn. "Think of this; she's the only person that came here from one of the four delivery businesses to face the fire, face the tough questions. The other ones hid behind the computer and didn't want to engage in this topic and didn't want to engage in this subject. It probably shows the disrespect those other companies have for the residents of Boston in my opinion."

He said that he does expect the others to attend a working session on this topic "talking about solutions to the problem."

He said that "Boston definitely needs a cap," citing several other cities that have already implemented caps on fees. "Our restaurants play an integral part in our community and our neighborhood."

Councilor Michael Flaherty said that the Council is "trying to strike a balance at what's fair and reasonable," and trying to make sure that the process and fees are transparent.

"This is one piece of the puzzle that has to be addressed now and in the future," said Councilor Andrea Campbell. "I hope that this is an opportunity for us to do something to protect [restaurants]."

Councilor Julia Mejia finished out the hearing by saying she was "grateful to have had the opportunity to learn and listen to all sides," but she remains "concerned" about the fees and some of the restaurants not even knowing they were on these third party sites. "I think we have a lot of work to do," she said, "and so I appreciate the dialogue and look forward to the next steps."

Best wishes for a meaningful Memorial Day!

Liz Malia
State Representative
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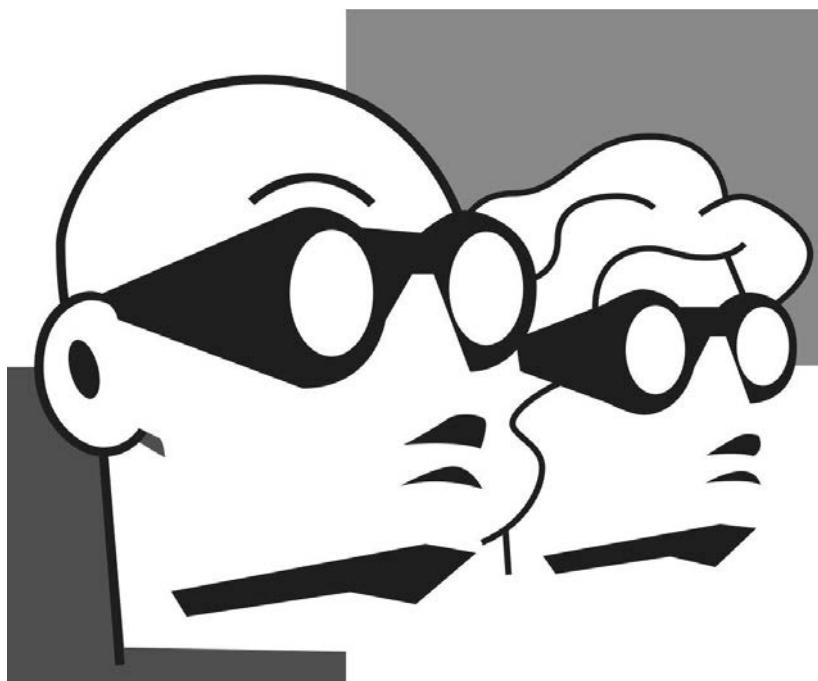
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Flaherty holds Community Preservation Committee Hearing to review \$24.3 million in CPA funding

Boston City Councilor At-Large Michael F. Flaherty recently held a hearing of the Boston City Council's Community Preservation Committee, in his role as Chair of the committee, to review and recommend the passage of the appropriation of \$24,309,000 in FY20 Community Preservation Fund revenues. The City of Boston's Community Preservation Committee recommended these funds be used to support 40 projects across the city. This year \$15,750,000.00 will be used to support 9 affordable housing projects; \$3,440,000 for historic preservation projects; and \$5,119,000 for projects focused on the creation and preservation of recreational use and open space projects.

Following a very productive virtual hearing on Tuesday May 5th with testimony from project advocates, neighborhood leaders, and representatives from the City of Boston, Councilor Flaherty is prepared to recommend passage of all 40 projects at the amounts designated by the Mayor. "I was pleased with the quality of the applications we received this year. Each and every project we reviewed was fully deserving of funding," said Councilor Flaherty. "Community

Preservation Funds are all about making sure residents have a voice in the betterment of their communities and I am confident that each of these projects will go a long way towards improving the quality of life in our City."

The Community Preservation Fund was created upon the adoption of the Community Preservation Act, Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44B in November 2016. In just three rounds of funding to date, over \$67 million has been awarded to 131 projects spanning across every neighborhood of Boston. Councilor Flaherty is proud of the success of this program thus far, having taken a leadership role in the campaign alongside the Yes for a Better Boston Coalition for its passage by popular vote in the City of Boston in 2016 and as the Chairman of the City Council's Community Preservation Committee since its inception. Many projects from earlier rounds of funding are at or nearing completion and have had a transformative effect on their neighborhoods already.

Among these 40 projects are three historical preservation projects in Boston City Council District 1, two projects in Charlestown,

and one in East Boston totaling \$820,000. In Charlestown, these funds will contribute to a sprinkler relocation project at the USS Constitution Museum to ensure that this cultural resource is available for generations to come, as well as critical roof repairs to the John F. Kennedy Family Service Center which offers early education, Head Start, and a range of crisis response, anti-poverty services to low-income families and seniors. In East Boston, these funds will contribute to the purchase and acquisition of the Donald McKay House, which will become the new home of the East Boston Museum.

"In district one, I'm thrilled to see CPA funds utilized for critical investments in historical preservation. Congratulations to both the Kennedy Family Services Center and the USS Constitution Museum for their respective grants to renovate vital learning environments for local children in Charlestown", said District One Councilor Lydia Edwards. "Thank you to the CPC for it's \$600,000 award to buy, preserve, and renovate the Donald McKay House in historic Eagle Hill to be utilized as the East Boston Museum. We are thankful to the East Boston

Museum and Historical Society, the EBCDC, and generations of activists who worked tirelessly to make this a reality. East Boston is one step closer in securing space for a museum that celebrates our neighborhood's rich history."

"These historic preservation projects are important to keep-

ing our communities connected to places that reflect the rich histories of Charlestown and East Boston", said Councilor Flaherty. "As our City grows and changes, it's important that we preserve spaces where we can honor our history and build and continue to serve our communities."

City Council holds hearing on language

By LAUREN BENNETT

The City Council Committee on Civil Rights held a hearing on May 15 regarding language access and information parity during the COVID-19 outbreak. This was the first time a Boston City Council hearing was available in languages other than English. The hearing was translated into Cantonese, Mandarin, Haitian Creole, and Spanish while the hearing was happening, and is now available for viewing on the Boston City Council YouTube channel in all five languages.

Sponsored by City Councilors Julia Mejia and Ed Flynn, the hearing focused on the issue of many non-English speakers who do not have access to a lot of important information surrounding the COVID-19 crisis, as many resources and applications were only available in English at first, leaving many out of opportunities to receive aid and important information.

"As an immigrant myself, I know the struggles of securing housing while navigating government resources and living paycheck to paycheck," Councilor Mejia said in a statement. "Holding this hearing is the first step in working towards a more equitable and accessible Boston for all. Now more than ever we need to ensure that those living the realities are able to have access to the resources they need. Throughout my campaign, we always said we wanted to change business as usual in City Hall. A hearing around language accessibility, with interpreters, is something this city has never seen before. I am proud to be working with Councilor Flynn on this initiative to make sure Boston is really a city where all means all."

Councilor Ed Flynn said at the hearing that his district is comprised of a large Cantonese and Mandarin speaking community,

as well as Spanish speakers, and said that he is "proud to have four women of color who work for me." Each of these women speak a language other than English, and "I couldn't effectively do my job and represent my constituents if I don't have a dedicated staff that's committed to the residents of my district and the city," he said.

He said he is working to communicate in the languages spoken in his district and has held community forums in various languages since the beginning of the pandemic.

"Language access is not something that's nice to have; it's essential," said Councilor Kenzie Bok.

The City Council heard from various members of the community and organizations across the city about the struggles they have faced around this issue.

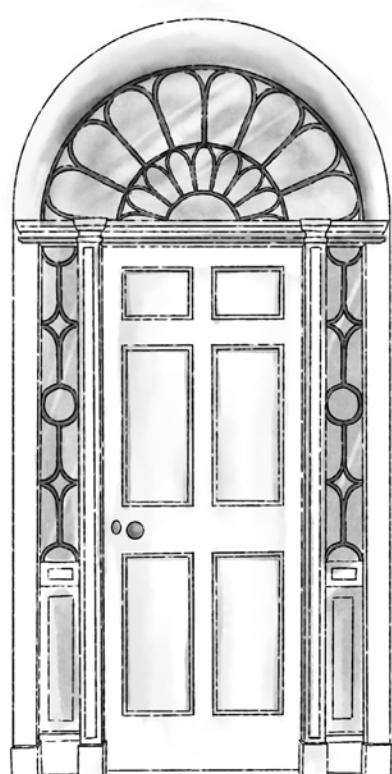
Melanie Roche-Laputka said that she has been able to translate some English documents for families, but no materials from some neighborhood association meetings were available in any other languages. "Many do not feel comfortable attending meetings," she said, because they will not understand what is happening nor will they be able to participate and be a part of the discussion.

Carlos Espinoza-Toro of the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation said that some businesses are afraid of applying for loans. "We work with them, supporting them and helping them understand these topics," he said.

Suzanne Lee said that in an effort to have more full participation from residents, four town halls were held in Cantonese and Mandarin, each time with about 150 people attending. The meetings were held in Cantonese and Mandarin and translated



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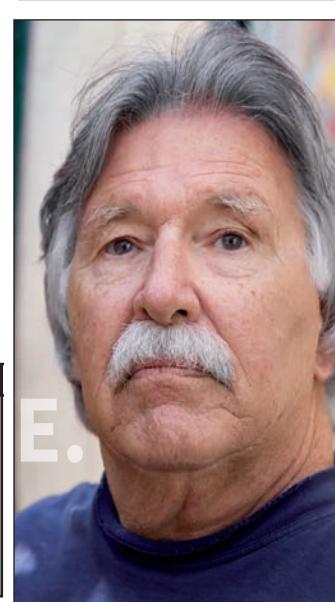
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Praise David Aiya Nursing	Hayley Esther Calderon Criminal Justice	Minouche Jacques Nursing	Joshua Napier Biotechnology
Omotoyosi R. Ajanaku Nursing	John Casilla Peguero Information System Technology	Magdala M Jeannite Nursing	Yarimar Navarro Radiologic Technology
Hetsron Nepheg Alexandre Criminal Justice	Daryl Dauphin Information System Technology	Samuel Barber Kanu Nursing	Kala Nguyen Nursing
Sylvia Alexis Early Childhood Education	Olimpia F DeAndrade Nursing	Claire Majorie LaBeach Nursing	Joshua Terrance Oquendo Information System Technology
Brittany M Appleberry Accounting	Jimmy Dorielan Engineering	Jaceli Lara Baez Nursing	Diya Ortega Criminal Justice
Nelson David Arias Radiologic Technology	Shataura Jeanine Driver Early Childhood Education	Sokvana Lee Early Childhood Education	Joao Manuel Pereira Criminal Justice
Jennifer Augustin Early Childhood Education	Kammica Leonora Ellison Criminal Justice	Kacey Marie Linehan Nursing	Liliana H Perez Nursing
Patricia Baker Early Childhood Education	Clive Morace Emmanuel Accounting	Robert G. Linton Information System Technology	Laura Marie Perez Information System Technology
Bria Baker Accounting	Yoelkin Fabian Pimentel Information System Technology	Grace Lynn Lopez Radiologic Technology	Ashley Mone't Pope Early Childhood Education
Aicha Baki Nursing	Nicole Marie Florence Criminal Justice	Cheyela Martinez Early Childhood Education	Martin Ramos Early Childhood Education
Princess Baptiste-Malone Criminal Justice	Angelica Faviola Flores Criminal Justice	Breyanna Paulette MartinRobinson Early Childhood Education	Annemerline Ravix Nursing
Stephanie Barreau Business Management	Catherine Ambo Fomuki Nursing	Sladhy M Mazara Nova Early Childhood Education	Francelina Resende Nursing
Soraya Kimberly Beaubrun Nursing	Tatyana Foote Criminal Justice	Samantha Nwamaka Mbawuike Nursing	Stephanie Resende Nursing
Heika Lynn Bergmann Nursing	Chanel Frammartino Nursing	Chani Tatiana Middleton-Rowe Criminal Justice	Nicole Rivera Early Childhood Education
Kiana Marie Bishop-Londy Business Management	Sarah Lynn Hanson Nursing	Marie Danielle Monestime Nursing	Colin Ruggiero Nursing
Suzanne Bordenave Nursing	Lanisha Kenyetta Harrison Nursing	Jocelyn Morris Criminal Justice	Nato Rusia Nursing
Kimberly A. Bradshaw Early Childhood Education	Kimberly Natasha Headley-Jeffrey Criminal Justice	Evelyn Mukabi Nursing	Lauren E Rutkauskas Nursing

CERTIFICATES

Rhyheemma Burns Licensed Practical Nursing	Mercy Ukhah Enyong Licensed Practical Nursing	Michael R. Joseph Accounting Certificate	Meseret Woldeyes Licensed Practical Nursing
John Casilla Peguero Information System Technology	Audilia R. Fernandes-Depina Licensed Practical Nursing	Valentine Wanjama Licensed Practical Nursing	

Self Esteem

Continued from page 1

test of their strong resiliency and spirit."

Davis explained that some of the programs include setting goals, writing affirmations, and learning how to eat healthily. Many women who are living in transitional facilities "will be in this program for a certain amount of time," she said, and Self Esteem Boston's in-person programs help them with experiential activities and skill sets that they can use going forward.

"Enter the pandemic," she said, adding that Self Esteem Boston wanted to "stick with our mission and commitment to help these women continue with their mission and their journey." They decided to see what they could do virtually using technology by putting resources and videos online.

"There used to be 11 groups," Levitt said. Now there are 18, as many groups had to be split up because of social distancing. Self Esteem Boston facilitators have been conducting video and audio Zoom meetings "based on the capabilities of each of our program sites."

Programs in East Boston and at the Dimock Center in Roxbury are using Zoom, programs in Mattapan are taped each week, and other sites are just utilizing audio.

"We are trying our best to be able to attract funds that are earmarked for COVID-19 to support what we're doing," Levitt said.

"We have transformed our service delivery completely now because women are on lockdown," Levitt said. "It was a very important need to adapt and be able to still get these support services to the women."

Before the pandemic hit, Self Esteem Boston had also been working on an online learning center as a way to serve the graduates of its programs and the surrounding community. The learning center, which launched last week, will offer access to six courses in things like goal setting, priorities, and other skills for building self-esteem.

"Our charitable mission is to make sure that we are making services available for everyone in our region regardless of ability to pay," Levitt said. She said the online learning center is offered at a "very low cost," and six more courses will be added by September along with a staff development program.

The program is also available to people who don't live in shelters and would like to take a self-esteem course and have the proceeds support another woman who cannot afford to do so.

"Who knew this was going to happen?" Levitt said of the pandemic. "Now we find ourselves having to focus on continuing to build the learning center and expand it to help people out in the community that are isolated and without support."

Levitt also said that Self Esteem Boston has a replication model that is different from the online learning center which trains other agencies to use self esteem skills. "We have trans-

formed this into a virtual format," she said, and JP's Ethos is one of the agencies using this group leader training program. The program also trans health center staff and community agency staff that work with at-risk families as well as provides curriculum to use with their clients in several different languages.

"We've also opened a curriculum store on our website," Levitt said, that offers material in many languages. All proceeds go to the continued work to deliver material to women in shelters and transitional programs who can't pay," Levitt said.

Davis said that a challenge for putting the programming online has been getting all of the women connected to the Internet, but with a lot of the women spending time on their phones, content related to stress management and self care has been put online for them to refer back to when they need it.

"Immune systems are already weaker" in women who abuse substances, Davis said, so guides on what to eat and how to exercise are vital. Self Esteem Boston has put together a booklet of "all things that are easily doable" insofar as healthy eating and exercise.

"A lot of our clients can think about only one day at a time," Davis said, and "if they're able to accomplish something each day, by the time they graduate from these programs, they think outside of themselves."

Davis and Levitt said that while these virtual programs are working for now and the women are responding well to

them, they cannot replace the in-person group activities.

"There's nothing like the in-person connecting," Davis said. While they online learning center will still be offered to clients when they graduate, "most likely we'll switch what we're doing to our ordinary curriculum."

Levitt said that they also want to continue to help other agencies bring these programs to their employees and clients. "That's an important direction for us," she said. "The online learning center also gives us the opportunity to support women and clients of all kinds that are leaving."

Davis said that they have worked with a lot of women who have said that Alcoholics Anonymous or Narcotics Anonymous meetings were their support system after leaving the program, but "we thought they need a little more," she said. "Technology is an awesome place for them to continue what they've learned."

She said that the women "love" the technology that has been pro-

vided during the pandemic, as many of them are "not foreign to the mechanism of technology" and the facilitators are skilled in using it as well.

"These groups are so well-attended," Levitt said. "This has been an interesting transformation for us."

The programs have helped women stay connected to their goals even as the surrounding world is full of so much uncertainty. "When you care about who you are, you take better care of your body, pay attention to who you're hanging out with and take care of yourself better," Davis said.

"Self esteem is not just for people in shelters," Levitt said. "Building self esteem is for everybody. It's how we make a difference in the world and how we can make the most of our lives."

For more information on Self Esteem Boston's programs and offerings (as well as to purchase its Extreme Esteem Coffee blend!), visit selfesteemboston.com.

Language

Continued from page 8

comes for a range of routine procedures and can struggle to gain access to interpreters," the release says.

"I want to thank Councilor Mejia for partnering with me on this important issue," Councilor Flynn said in a statement.

"During this critical time, it

is imperative that we prioritize language access to ensure that residents who speak a language other than English have equitable access to information, services and programs relating to this pandemic. We know that our immigrant neighbors are some of the most impacted residents in this COVID-19 pandemic, and it's very important that our city provide the interpretation and translation services necessary to help our residents get through these difficult times."

Others spoke up as well, saying that some resources for businesses are only available in English, as well as some grant applications, which leaves out some who may be most in need of funds.

A recent press release from Councilor Julia Mejia's office states that "according to Boston Plans, there are over 111,000 Bostonians who speak English less than very well," presumably many who are unable to access critical resources during the COVID-19 outbreak.

In a recent ProPublica piece, it was even found that hospitals have left many Coronavirus patient who don't speak English alone, confused, and without proper care citing that, 'even in normal times, those who don't speak English have worse health out-

Parks parcel priority plan survey now underway

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department is encouraging park users and open space advocates to take part in the City of Boston's new Parcel Priority Plan (PPP) using an online survey. The survey results will be used in developing the open space acquisition Parcel Priority Plan, and the City of Boston encourages residents from every neighborhood to share their feedback.

Enhancing and enlarging Boston's network of resilient public open space is critical, and the Parcel Priority Plan will identify and evaluate lands in the city that should be acquired or protected as open spaces. This

will be used for the development of the update to the City of Boston's Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Questions that are a part of the survey include:

- Where would you like to see open space?
- What should the City of Boston focus on when acquiring or protecting open space?

Residents' responses will shape the future of Boston's park system.

Survey responses will be combined with data modeling and the City's priorities to create the Parcel Priority Plan. This is an essential first step in understanding where the Parks

and Recreation Department has opportunities to expand the open space network. Creating new open space and protecting existing open space will move forward as opportunities and funding are available.

The online survey is available in six languages in addition to English. To participate, please visit boston.gov/parcel-priority-plan.

Interpretation and translation services are available at no cost. To access these services or learn more about the project, please contact Maggie Owens at the Boston Parks and Recreation Department (617) 961-3025 or email maggie.owens@boston.gov.

provided during the pandemic, as many of them are "not foreign to the mechanism of technology" and the facilitators are skilled in using it as well.

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A prescription for a faster, fairer recovery

BY SEN. SONIA CHANG-DIAZ

On the night of May 1, reports emerged from the Bristol County jail that an incident involving coronavirus testing had turned violent. Guards had allegedly used pepper spray and K9 dogs against detainees in ICE custody, three of whom ended up in the hospital. Meanwhile, the Sheriff's office said it was detainees who attacked guards first and destroyed property in the unit. The following morning, I drove the hour from Boston to Bristol, determined to do my job as a State Legislator and investigate. My goal was to talk with staff and detainees about what had happened.

I didn't get any farther than the parking lot. There, I was turned away-- even though Massachusetts law empowers legislators to enter the state's correctional facilities at any time to provide exactly this type of oversight. Nor was I the only one kept out: lawyers and family members said that, in the wake of the incident, they were unable to reach their clients and loved ones. Their outpouring of concern, and the three independent investigations that have since been opened, have kept the spotlight on the Bristol County jail. But inside, detainees' health and safety are still at risk. Twenty-

sixty-six of those involved in the incident have since been placed in solitary confinement. Last week, a federal judge ruled that the Sheriff has been allegedly reckless with the health of ICE detainees throughout the coronavirus crisis. That Saturday morning, I drove down to Bristol County for a pretty simple reason: the people inside were intensely vulnerable. Two weeks later, that hasn't changed.

But it's not just immigrants in ICE custody who are shouldering far too high risks.

Chelsea, a city that's 45% immigrants, has become the epicenter of Massachusetts' COVID-19 outbreak. Coronavirus there has spread rapidly: infection rates are nearly six times higher than the state's average. Language barriers, high levels of air pollution, and significant numbers of essential workers who don't have the option to stay home have combined to make the virus even more dangerous than elsewhere.

And Boston's neighborhoods with among the highest immigrant populations—Dorchester, Mattapan, and East Boston—are also the city's coronavirus hotspots.

Beyond health and safety, immigrant communities are facing unique economic hardships.

Mixed immigration-status families, which include a taxpayer who is using an "Individual Taxpayer Identification Number" (ITIN) rather than a social security number, are barred from receiving the federal stimulus checks their neighbors are getting in the mail, even when some taxpayers in the family are U.S. citizens. The Trump Administration's public charge rule, rolled out earlier this year, has forced still more residents to put off applying for emergency assistance, weighing their future citizenship application against their need for cleaning supplies, homeschooling materials, or housing assistance in this moment of crisis. Immigrants are also disproportionately likely to hold low-wage essential jobs, or work in industries that have been hit the hardest by the pandemic. In Boston, 35% of healthcare workers and 46% of food workers are immigrants.

It's a daunting picture, and a deeply unjust one. But it's not one we have to accept, either. There's a lot we can do right now to make sure immigrants in Bristol, in Chelsea, right here in Mission Hill and Jamaica Plain, and throughout Massachusetts are safer and healthier, with the resources they need to care for themselves and their families.

Some of it must be agitated for on the federal level. In the next federal stimulus package, Congress needs to address the rule that's blocking taxpaying families with immigrant members from receiving their much-needed stimulus checks. ICE must act quickly to release non-violent and non-criminal detainees from their custody, where social distancing is physically impossible. And, critically, Congress must send additional aid to state and local governments to shore up the health, education, safety net, and worker protection systems that disproportionately serve low-income, Black, brown, and immigrant communities.

But there are also actions we can take right now at the state level to mitigate the disproportionate loss immigrant communities are bearing—as they stock our grocery shelves, care for our elders and the children of our essential workers, and help pay the taxes that fund our hospitals and stimulus checks. We can pass a strong and substantial safety net by expanding benefits for housing and cash assistance and increasing funding for Lifeline—the program that provides free or low-cost data and phone service. We can institute state-level stimulus checks to get cash directly into the hands of those who need

it most. We can provide strong and unflinching oversight over our prisons and ICE-contracted detention facilities to ensure the safety, health, and human rights of those inside are protected. We can pass meaningful environmental justice legislation to clean up the toxic air in communities like Dorchester and Roxbury (which have the highest rates of asthma in Boston) and Chelsea, where decades of accumulated air pollution are now linked to a higher risk of dying from COVID-19. And we can make drivers licenses available to all qualified state residents, regardless of immigrant status. With this change, residents who have access to a car will be able to get to and from their front-line service jobs, the doctor, and the grocery store without having to fear infection on public transit.

If we do these things—if we act swiftly and deliberately to tackle COVID-19 health disparities at their source—we will enable immigrant and low-income families to be agents of solution in this crisis, rather than victims. And that, in turn, means a faster track to recovery for everyone.

SONIA CHANG-DIAZ IS THE SENATOR FOR BOSTON'S SECOND SUFFOLK DISTRICT.



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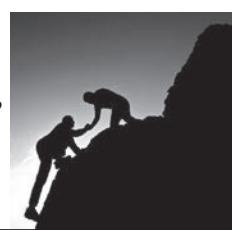
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OBITUARIES

Carol Ann Senter

Loving daughter, sister, aunt and great aunt



Carol Ann Senter passed away at the age of 70 on May 3. Carol was born in Quincy, the daughter of Shirley A. Senter and the late Arthur I. Senter. She graduated from North Quincy High School in 1968, received a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology and Psychology from Boston State College in 1972, a graduate degree in Adult Education and Counseling from Gordon-Conwell in 1981, and a Master's Certificate in Women in Politics and Government from UMass, Boston in 1997.

Carol was a life-long resident of Boston and was employed by the City of Boston working for Boston Community Centers and Boston Centers for Youth and Families. After retiring in 2012, Carol remained active in the community by volunteering at Boston City Hall, supporting local campaigns, and participating in numerous civic and social groups including her affiliation with the Red Hat Society. Carol was an avid reader who had a love for crafting, cooking and time spent with her family, especially her great nieces.

Carol was preceded in death by her father, Arthur, her brother-in-law, Glen Bruso and her nephew, Petty Officer First Class William Bruso, ET1 USN. She is survived by her sister, Barbara Bruso and her daughter, Carly of Gansevoort, NY; her sister Gail McGrath and her husband, Brett of Pembroke; niece, Katelyn McGrath and her daughter, Mackenzie, also of Pembroke; niece, Jessica Hall, her husband, David, and their daughters, Amyiah and Brelyn of Middleboro; sister, Nancy Senter, niece, April Whisman and nephew Sean, Whisman of Jacksonville, FL and also leaves many extended family members and cherished friends.

A private graveside service will be held at Mount Wollaston Cemetery, Quincy at a later date. Memorial donations can be made to JP Centre/South Main Streets, 670 Centre Street, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 or at jpcentresouth.com. For online condolences, please visit: www.dewarefuneralhome.com

Upcoming Meetings in Jamaica Plain

The next Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC) meeting will be on Tuesday, May 26, at 7 p.m. and will be held as a virtual meeting and will utilize Zoom. On the agenda will be a update from City Councillor Matt O'Malley and updates from the committees. All meetings will remain open to the public and are accessible either from a computer or telephone. The link to access the meeting can be obtained at www.jpnc.org. We want to ensure that our neighbors have an opportunity to respond to all upcoming issues and comments will be accepted by email atinfo.jpnc@gmail.com up until the JPNC Meeting on May 26. Additional Information about community events and future virtual meetings are also being posted at www.jpnc.org.

The Public Service Committee of the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 2, at 7 p.m. and

will utilize Zoom. On the agenda will be an update on changes to the sidewalks and streets along Centre Street in the main business district.

All meetings will remain open to the public and are accessible either from a computer or telephone. The link to access the meeting can be obtained at www.jpnc.org or by email at psc.jpnc@gmail.com.

All interested residents are invited to attend via Zoom.

Police Community Relations Meeting will take place on Thursday, June 4, at 6:30 p.m. via Google Meet. To obtain the link to the meeting, please call the Boston Police E-13 station at (617) 343-5623.

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 via Google Meet.

All BPS families to receive Pandemic-EBT benefits

BY JOHN LYNDS

The Boston Public Schools (BPS), in conjunction with Project Bread, announced last week that all BPS and charter school students will receive the Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT) food benefit that can be used to buy food from grocery stores while schools are closed.

According to BPS and Project Bread this will be added to SNAP cards for families who receive benefits, or a card will be mailed to others and there is no need to apply.

Under the new plan BPS and charter school households will receive \$5.70 per eligible student per day, or \$28.50 a week.

"If already receiving these benefits, your P-EBT benefits will be added to your existing EBT card," said Project Bread President Erin McAleer in a statement. "If not actively receiving these benefits, you will receive a P-EBT card in the mail for each eligible student in your household."

From the onset of the Covid-19

crisis Project Bread advocated at the state and federal level for Massachusetts to receive a waiver to operate a P-EBT program, a crisis response nutrition program that helps feed children in low-income households.

"The father who called our FoodSource Hotline last week was representative of thousands of households across the Commonwealth," said McAleer. "Even as he has been able to continue working part-time, something for which he's grateful, the money is not enough to cover the needs of his spouse and two children. This is especially so since the kids are no longer receiving the free school meals they had come to rely on even pre-coronavirus. As he told us, 'It's been tough these past weeks trying to make sure there's enough to eat with everyone home.'

McAleer said while there are many ways the impact of COVID-19 has increased food insecurity in Massachusetts by a whopping 300 percent, school closures have significantly affected

households that rely on free or reduced price meals to help feed children and make ends meet. Providing two nutritious meals every weekday not only helps these kids thrive, it allows money that would have been spent on food to go toward other necessities like rent or utilities.

Some other good news about P-EBT is that it is available to households regardless of immigration status so undocumented residents are able to receive the funds as long as they meet the general conditions for eligibility.

"We know we need big solutions to solve a crisis of this size, and P-EBT is a great example," said McAleer. "We applaud our leaders here in Massachusetts and the Department of Transitional Assistance for taking action so more than 500,000 kids can buy food that will help keep them healthy during the crisis."

If you have questions about P-EBT or other food resources, call Project Bread's Hotline at 1-800-645-8333 or contact at food@boston.gov.

JP Centre/South Main Streets teams up with Egleston Square and Three Squares on relief fund for small businesses

BY LAUREN BENNETT

Small businesses are at the heart of the Jamaica Plain community, and many have been hit very hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. JP Centre/South Main Streets has created the Jamaica Plain Main Streets Relief fund to help those who weren't able to immediately receive financial assistance.

JP Centre/South Main Streets Executive Director Ginger Brown said that the organization was approached by a private donor, Adam Grenier, who is also a volunteer on the organization's economic vitality committee. He wanted to invest in the economic vitality of Jamaica Plain.

"We talked about it and decided to wait a little bit and see where the greatest need would be," Brown said, but they knew they wanted to help "residents and employees who were unable to receive any other kind of public assistance," prioritizing people of color, all genders, undocumented immigrants, people with disabilities, people formerly incarcerated, and those facing housing instability.

The fund was also opened to Egleston Square and Three Squares Main Streets, and had

an original goal of \$5,000. "We got a fantastic response," Brown said. The GoFundMe has now surpassed \$12,000.

"It's really exciting and gratifying to see our community come together to help people," she said. The application process was crafted by Grenier and the Main Streets directors, and only has two criteria: the applicant has to live or work in Jamaica Plain, and has to have been unable to receive other kinds of assistance.

Brown said the group wanted to make an application that would "identify the need without people feeling like they will be at-risk."

The application was open last Monday, May 11, through Friday, May 15, and received 52 English responses and 90 Spanish responses. The fund will allow 30 \$500 grants to be given out to eligible applicants as cash or gift cards, and the GoFundMe will remain open for donations for future rounds.

Brown said rather than have another application process, cash grants will continue to be awarded to the original pool of applicants.

This week, the selection committee, made up of Michael Reiskind, Adam Grenier, and at least

one representative from each of the Main Streets organizations, will be selecting the recipients, and have decided that it will be "totally need-based."

JP Centre/South Main Streets has also collected artwork for its "JP Together" art show, which will be a large-scale projection show onto the brick facade of JP Licks from 8:30pm to 9:30pm on May 22 through May 25. Some of the ideas for the artwork will include kids' artwork, "drawings of people in Jamaica Plain that you are thankful for, signs that show encouragement for people affected by COVID-19, artwork that shows how you're feeling, and what about JP makes you feel better, and visual messages of appreciation for frontline workers or local businesses," according to the JP Centre/South Main Streets website.

The projection will also be live streamed on the JP Centre/South Main Street's Facebook page as well as recorded for playback later.

JP Centre/South Main Streets is also helping residents and businesses in other ways. Brown said that a team of volunteers has reached out to local busi-

Continued on page 15

Larceny from motor vehicles are up in Jamaica Plain

BY JOHN LYNDS

Boston Police released the first quarter crime stats for Jamaica Plain and while there's a one percent decrease in Part One Crime in the neighborhood the data shows that car breaks have increased dramatically in the neighborhood.

Part One Crimes are the more serious crimes the Boston Police keep track of and when comparing January, 2020 through May, 2020 with the same time period of 2019 Larceny from Motor Vehicles have risen 64 percent in the first quarter of 2020 in Jamaica Plain..

In the first quarter of 2019 there were only 42 motor vehicle larcenies but that number has increased to 69 so far this year. It seems the number of motor vehicle

larcenies, an opportunistic crime that only takes seconds to pull off, is up all over Boston.

Citywide the number has gone from 777 in the first quarter of 2019 to 981--an increase of over 25 percent.

After three recent arrests of criminals breaking into cars the Boston Police released a statement.

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

with locking the doors and closing windows. Simple? Yes. But, highly effective."

In fact, simple steps can often spell the difference between your car being broken into and the would-be thief moving on to another, more desirable target.

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

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



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Relief Fund

Continued from page 14

nesses asking how they have changed the way they operate, and providing information to residents about the best way to support each business.

"We have come up with unique promotions in our community to support [businesses] safely," Brown said, including creating packages with items from different businesses and putting blue door mats in front of businesses that are open so people know they can go inside.

"As a Main Streets director, we are highly encouraging businesses to think of ways their businesses will change and stay in business for the next few months," Brown said. "We should be thinking about four to six months of continuing to operate like this."

She said that the Main Streets organizations are here to assist businesses and help them brainstorm ideas as they work towards a "new normal" for their operation.

"I'm grateful to the community for having come together to help out businesses and the people who live here," she said.



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For more information, please visit angell.org/COVID or call **617-522-7282**.

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animal medical center

angell.org

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EDITORIAL

Memorial Day, 2020

This will be a Memorial Day unlike any that Americans have known.

Ever since the official inception of the holiday on May 30, 1868, when the practice of decorating the graves of the fallen Union soldiers with flowers, wreaths, and flags officially became recognized by the order of General Logan at Arlington National Cemetery, Memorial Day (originally known as Decoration Day) has been a time for all Americans to come together to commemorate and honor those who made the Supreme Sacrifice to preserve our freedom.

When Memorial Day was moved to the fourth Monday of May starting in 1971, the three-day weekend also came to mark the official start of the summer season for Americans of all ages, who gathered for cookouts and other outdoor activities with friends and family.

But in this year of the coronavirus pandemic, all of the usual parades and festivities have been cancelled. With much of the nation still sheltering in place, gatherings of families and friends have been limited to the faux-reality of Zoom.

The pandemic also has brought another set of challenges to our nation, however. The stress we all are feeling, both from the threat of the virus itself and from the economic anxiety it has created, has brought into full view the many, deep fissures in our society which have been lurking beneath the surface for decades.

It is fair to say that America is as disunited as we ever have been since the end of the Civil War itself 155 years ago. This pandemic, rather than bringing us together to face and fight the common challenge of the coronavirus, is threatening to tear us apart and bring to an end the great American experiment.

In searching for appropriate words to capture this moment in which we find ourselves, the Gettysburg address that was delivered by President Abraham Lincoln on the site of the battlefield on November 19, 1863, rings most true, both in terms of honoring those who gave their lives in our nation's wars and for healing the wounds created by the current pandemic crisis.

We hope our readers take a moment to absorb Lincoln's words and reflect upon the meaning of Memorial Day in light of our current situation:

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate -- we can not consecrate -- we can not hallow -- this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain -- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.



LETTERS

On Forest Hill Cemetery

Dear Editor,

I thought it was only me who was shocked, disappointed and frankly more than a bit miffed by what seemed to me a little mean-spirited of Forest Hills Cemetery's all-of-a-sudden squishing visiting hours to 2-4 pm daily. What I surprise when I went to celebrate my husband's birthday something I do every year. I found the explanation about the need for more social

distancing on this multi-acre property ridiculous and somewhat unbelieveable.

Forest Hills is one of the most beautiful properties in the Commonwealth. It is beautifully manicured and just gorgeously punctuated with flowers, trees, streams and statues. Most of all I love that it is "alive" with history and that this liveliness is bolstered by the many people who visit whether to be closer to

their loved ones or just to soak up the beauty. Little kids learning to ride bikes, dog walkers and joggers. It is more like a park. At a time when there really isn't a lot to lift people, closing off a place of beauty, peace and solace and comfort just feels wrong spirited. I hope the good people who run Forest Hills reconsider.

JOYCE FERRIABOUGH BOLLING

Support your local animal shelter

Dear Editor,

During these unprecedented times, many are looking for ways that they can help those who are vulnerable or in need in our community. One way that you can support both people and animals is by supporting your local animal shelter. Many animal shelters across Massachusetts are providing essentials to

help families and their pets stay together.

Here in Jamaica Plain, the MSPCA has been supporting our community by providing pet food to families in need, by caring for animals whose guardians have been hospitalized due to COVID-19, and by providing other emergency services.

You can help the MSPCA

with this critical work by visiting mspca.org/wishlist to donate pet food that will be distributed to members of our community in need. I am so grateful that our animal shelters continue to be a valuable resource for both people and animals in our community, even during these difficult times.

NICOLE HEERDT

The celebrations may look different. But the reason to pause is as important as ever

Dear Editor,

On Monday, May 25, postal employees will pause to celebrate Memorial Day. While we'll be skipping the parades, beaches and cookouts this year, we will use the day to remember and honor those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our freedoms.

As we edge toward a new normal, the Postal Service wants you to know that we can help

you to exercise social distancing while staying connected with your friends, loved ones and business associates.

At usps.com you can buy stamps and have them delivered to your home. You can also order packing and shipping supplies and print postage and labels from your own computer, then schedule a carrier pickup and skip the trip to the Post Office. We make it easy to do all of your

mailing and shipping business without leaving your living room.

Regular retail and delivery operations will resume on Tuesday, May 26.

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

STEVE DOHERTY
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS
SPECIALIST NORTHEAST AREA

Forest Hills Cemetery to reopen; O'Malley advocating for less restrictions

BY LAUREN BENNETT

After being closed to the public for nearly a month except for visitation by lot and grave owners between 2 and 4 pm, Forest Hills Cemetery is expected to reopen gates to the public once again.

According to a message from May 15 on the cemetery's website, "the re-opening date will be determined with guidance from Governor Baker." Additionally, dog walking, bicycling, and jogging are "no longer permitted" in the cemetery. "We require all visitors to be respectful of our primary purpose which is to bury the dead and to provide a peaceful and tranquil setting for their families and friends," the announcement continues.

"We realize that this is a substantial change in policy and thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation." It also said that social distancing and masks are required to enter the cemetery, and anyone who does not follow the rules will be asked to leave.

City Councilor Matt O'Malley said that he spoke with Forest Hills Cemetery president George

H. Milley, III and "urged him to come up with some accommodations" to allow for more activity to be allowed in the cemetery.

O'Malley said that while he appreciates the fact that there would be some type of reopening to the space, "I encouraged him to go a little bit further in terms of allowing certain active recreation and dog walking," he said. "There could be a balance that's met here that will work for the cemetery and the neighbors as well."

He said that he is "sensitive to the concerns raised by the administration of the cemetery," and will continue to urge them to allow further public use of the space.

"This is a unique park and cemetery," O'Malley said. "It's been very much part of a community resource." He said that it's more important than ever right now to be able to have access to open space for exercise and fresh air.

"I'm looking forward to working with them," he said. So far, no official opening date has been posted on the website or any social media about when these new rules would go into effect.

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

Jamaica Plain GAZETTE

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LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

JAMAICA PLAIN RESIDENT INDUCTED INTO SIGMA THETA TAU INTERNATIONAL NURSING HONOR SOCIETY

Curry College is proud to announce that Rosa Volquez-Trinidad of Jamaica Plain, has been inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society.

Curry College's Chapter, Theta at Large, began in 1953 when it was chartered as only the seventh Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau. A group of nurses attending Boston University set out to establish an organization that would represent the best of what nursing offered in this part of the world. Boston University would stand tall for the ensuing 37 years, as the "institution of record" for our Chapter, until in 1990 when we were re-chartered to include Curry College in Milton, Mass., and Simmons College in Boston - thereby establishing our "at-large" distinction.

Today, the chapter has over 900 active members linked among three unique institutions. Theta at Large has many reasons to be proud as we forge into the new millennium. We are active in supporting local nursing scholars through our ongoing research and academic awards program. Our fall and spring programs offer members an opportunity to connect with each other and engage in scholarly educational discourse. We are thrilled to routinely send members to destinations around this country and abroad, to leadership conferences, academic events, member forums, and the biennial convention during which representatives from all chapters from around the world gather.

Founded in 1879, Curry College is a private, four-year, liberal arts-based institution located on 131 acres in Milton, Mass. Curry extends its educational programs to a continuing education branch campus in Plymouth, Mass. Curry offers 28 undergraduate majors, as well as graduate

degrees in business, accounting, education, criminal justice, and nursing, with a combined enrollment of over 3,700 students. T

FERNANDES GRADUATES FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Marino Fernandes of Jamaica Plain graduated from the University of New Hampshire on May 16, 2020. He/she earned a PHD degree in English.

Students who received the honor Summa Cum Laude graduated with a GPA of 3.85-4.0; Students who received the honor of Magna Cum Laude graduated with a GPA of 3.65-3.84; and students who received the honor of Cum Laude graduated with a GPA of 3.50-3.64.

Students are only graduated after the Registrar's Office has certified that all degree requirements have been successfully completed. Participating in the commencement ceremony is the act of honoring and celebrating academic achievement.

LEGAL NOTICES

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.
SU20P0634EA
Estate of:
Herbert Edward E.

Zimmerman

Date of Death:

02/13/2020

To all interested persons:

A Petition for Formal Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Jonna G. Zimmerman of Northborough, 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: Jonna G. Zimmerman of Northborough, 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 06/11/2020.

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION
UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM
PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
Date: April 30, 2020
Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate

5/22/20
JP

*Do You need
to run a legal?*

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

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SERVICES

"Litter Free" is a litter removal service for your property or parking lot. We can custom fit our litter removal service with your needs in mind. Call us for a free quote. 617-785-9409

TUTORS WANTED

Boston Gulin Center from JP is hiring ESL, ISEE/SSAT, SAT/ACT tutors. PT/FT. Please send resume to kennethzou@hotmail.com.

GUITAR LESSONS

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

Announcing 'JP Together' starting May 23

A Celebration of Our Community Through Art from May 23 - 25, JP Centre/South Main Streets will be presenting "JP Together" - a large-scale projection show onto the brick facade of J.P. Licks.

We invite the people of Jamaica Plain to join this celebration

by contributing artwork that expresses gratitude for the community. Kids' artwork is especially encouraged! Please submit your artwork on the attached coloring sheet. The sheet is available in hard copy at JP Licks.

Here are ideas of what you

Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll



BEMO AND JUNI

Bemo and Juni are a bonded pair of brothers looking for a home where they can be together! These guys are just shy of two years old, and they're both super sweet! Juni is a bit shyer than Bemo, who often tries to steal the limelight. Juni has

some eye trouble and is on medication for it, but otherwise both are healthy and ready to roll. We are doing adoptions by appointment, so if you are interested in adopting, call the shelter!

Email adoption@mspca.org for more information on Bemo and Juni!



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



"Gazette Pet of the Week" is a biweekly submission sponsored by Sarah Carroll, Sales Associate of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage 1375 Beacon St., Brookline, MA 02446 • 617-731-2447 (617) 522-5055 www.mspca.org



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could send:

- Drawings of people in Jamaica Plain that you are thankful for;
- Signs that show encouragement for people affected by COVID-19;
- Artwork that shows how you're feeling, and what about JP makes you feel better;
- Visual messages of appreciation for frontline workers or local businesses.

The slideshow will be broadcast live onto the brick facade on the front of the J.P. Licks building from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. each night, featured in a live stream at JP Centre/South Main Street's Facebook page, and recorded for people to watch at any time.

Please send your art to artwork@jpcentresouth.com by Wednesday, May 20 so it is included in the show. Scans or photos are acceptable.

If you are in a position to support the creation of the show, please donate.

Anunciando "JP Unidos"

Del 23 al 25 de mayo, JP Center / South Main Streets presentará "JP Unidos", una presentación por proyección en la pared exterior de JP Licks.

Invitamos a la gente de Jamaica Plain a unirse a esta celebración. Solicitamos arte que expresa gratitud por la comunidad. ¡Se recomienda especialmente arte y dibujos por niños! Por favor envíe su arte en la hoja para colorear adjunta. Se puede imprimirlo, o la hoja también está disponible en copia en JP Licks.

Aquí hay algunas ideas de lo que se podría enviar:

- Dibujos de gente en JP de quien uno está muy agradecido.
- Fotos de familiares o amigos reunidos en JP en tiempos felices
- Imágenes que muestran apoyo para las personas afectadas por COVID-19
- Ilustraciones que muestran cómo se siente y lo que hay en JP para sentirse mejor
- Mensajes visuales de agradecimiento para los trabajadores de primera línea o las empresas locales

La presentación se transmitirá en vivo en la pared exterior del edificio de JP Licks de las 8:30 p.m. hasta las 9:30 p.m. cada noche. También será presentado en una transmisión en la página de Facebook de JP Centre/South Main Street, y grabado para que la gente lo vea en cualquier momento.

Por favor envíe su arte a artwork@jpcentresouth.com antes del miércoles 20 de mayo para que se incluyan en la muestra. Si se puede apoyar la creación del programa.

City's Small Business Relief Fund helps Jamaica Plain businesses forgotten

BY JOHN LYNDS

By now it's common knowledge that the \$650 billion federal relief package intended to help small businesses during the COVID-19 crisis, like those that dot the Jamaica Plain and are the backbone of the community, ran out of money in 14 days back in April.

This left many of Jamaica Plain's shuttered mom and pop operations without a lifeline while larger corporations and chain stores across the United States swallowed up the money.

In Jamaica Plain 37 small businesses received funding through the city's Small Business Relief Fund, which kicked off with an initial funding dedication of \$2 million (see list).

The funding helped a wide range of Jamaica Plain businesses from restaurants to saloons to dry cleaners to independent day care centers.

"The Small Business Relief Fund grants are critical to help struggling small businesses across the city address challenges brought on by COVID-19," said Mayor Martin Walsh. "These businesses are the backbone of our economy, and the lifeblood of our communities. I'm proud we are able to assist them during this time, and am grateful to our partners who have stepped up in a big way to support Boston's neighborhood business community."

Walsh said in the City of Boston 58 percent of the businesses receiving grants are owned by people of color, 48 percent are owned by women, 44 percent are owned by immigrants.

Unlike the federal relief program Mayor Walsh said 95 percent of the city funding went to businesses with 15 or fewer employees.

An additional \$5.5 million in funding is being added to fully

fund all eligible grant requests that were submitted during the application process, which combines newly available federal funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development; as well as commitments from Citizens Bank and Eastern Bank.

The Jamaica Plain businesses that received Small Business Relief Funds are:

262 Barbershop

Achilitos Taqueria

Alex Cook

Alluring Beauty

BE Events and Consulting

Beauty By Venard

BostonSpeaks LLC

Brilliance Tattoo

CACAO

Commonwealth Swimming LLC

D'laly's Nail and Spa

Daniela's Family Day Care

Dave Hart Instruments

El Oriental de Cuba

Esperanza Travel & Tours

Genesis Beauty Salon

Glenn's Gardening & Woodworking

J&P Cleaners Inc.

Jamaica Plain Wellness

Jeffrey L Stiles Photography

Juicy Juju Music and Management

Lego Car Lego

Marcin Zebrowski

Midway Cafe

Mind Body Music Academy (also Vining Flute Studio)

Monumental Market

Ogusky Ceramics

Opus Affair Labs Inc.

Peak Performance Chiropractic

Rose JP Consignment

Sue Murad

Suite Musical Home

The Compliance Mentor Group

The Laundromat, Jackson

Square Laundromat

The Video Underground

Tony Williams Dance Center

WikidFit, LLC



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Jamaica Plain



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32 Myopia Rd. - Hyde Park
Offered at \$599,900
4 Bed | 2.5 Bath | 2091 Sq.Ft.



101 Lamartine St. #2 - JP
Offered at \$565,000
2 Bed | 1 Bath | 951 Sq.Ft.



161 Mt. Hope St. #5 - Roslindale
Offered at \$450,000
3 Bed | 1.5 Bath | 1719 Sq.Ft.



16 Wyvern St. #2 - Roslindale
Offered at \$419,000
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800 Hyde Park Ave. #3 - Roslindale
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