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Jamaica Plain GAZETTE

JP OBSERVER P. 2

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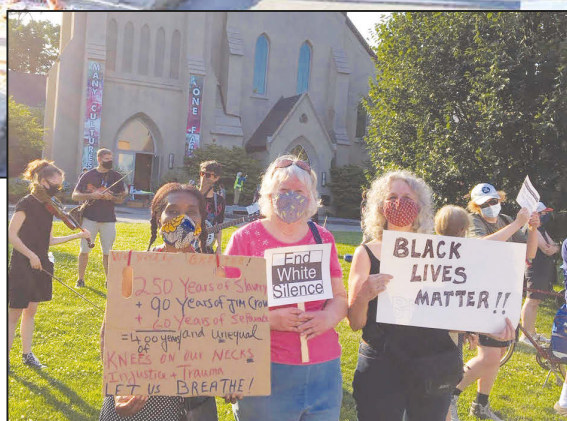
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PHOTOS COURTESY OF JIM MICHEL

The vigil began with sign-holding on Centre Street (above). Organizers of the Black Lives Matter JP monthly vigil gather in front of the First Baptist Church (right) on July 2 for their 52nd consecutive monthly BLM vigil. The vigils have been held each month for more than four years.



Black Lives Matter JP group logs 52nd consecutive vigil on July 2

BY SETH DANIEL

There has been no let-up for the Black Lives Matter JP group outside the First Baptist Church

on Centre Street, as they held their 52nd monthly vigil featuring Rev. Darrell R. Hamilton, II.

The BLM-JP group has met the first Thursday of every month

for more than four years – celebrating their fourth anniversary of fighting against racial violence

Continued on page 17

La policía de JP presentan las estadísticas de delincuencia de junio

BY LAURA PLUMMER

El jueves 2 de julio, el Distrito E-13 del Departamento de Policía de Boston (BPD) presentó una reunión comunitaria virtual a través de Google Meet.

El Sargento John Dougherty compartió un informe del centro de inteligencia regional de

Boston sobre las estadísticas de delincuencia durante el último mes. El informe se genera mensualmente a petición del Comisario de BPD William Gross y el Alcalde Marty Walsh para informar tanto a la policía como al público sobre las tendencias actuales.

Según el informe, la delin-

cuencia de la Parte Uno ha caído un por ciento en la ciudad de Boston respecto al año pasado. El departamento ha realizado una reducción de arrestos del 31 por ciento. Jamaica Plain está superando el índice delictivo de la ciudad, con una disminución

Continued on page 4

Markey, Kennedy answer questions posed by inmates in socially distanced forum

BY LAUREN BENNETT

On July 7, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department held a Senate Forum with Senator Ed Markey and Congressman Joe Kennedy III, candidates for the US Senate in this year's election.

The forum, which was moderated by Suffolk County Sheriff Steven Tompkins, was closed to the public, but was live streamed on Facebook and included questions from men and women in custody at the South Bay House of Correction. Each candidate

had their own round of questions and were not in the room at the same time, and masks were worn by everyone and social distancing was observed.

Questions ranged from concerns about transportation access to ensuring support after prison to childcare and housing.

In his opening statement, Senator Markey said that the criminal justice system needs to be "overhauled," and that resources

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District E-13 June crime stats

BY LAURA PLUMMER

On Thursday, July 2, District E-13 of the Boston Police Department (BPD) hosted its community relations meeting virtually via Google Meet, where it reviewed crime statistics from the previous month.

Sgt. John Dougherty shared the Part One Crime & Firearm Overview from the Boston Regional Intelligence Center. The report is generated monthly at the request of BPD Commissioner William Gross and Mayor Marty Walsh in order to inform both law enforcement and the public about current trends.

According to the summary, Part One Crime is down one percent in the city of Boston compared to this time last year and 31 percent fewer arrests were made. Jamaica Plain is beating the citywide reduction in Part

One Crime with an overall decrease of nine percent over 2019.

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

Despite the overall reduction in crime, both fatal and non-fatal shootings are up 25 percent in Boston compared to last year. Jamaica Plain accounted for 8.3 percent of the city's shootings in 2019, and 9.5 percent this year, making E-13 the fourth highest in shootings of Boston's 12 districts. Only Districts B-2 (Roxbury), B-3 (Mattapan/N. Dorches-

Continued on page 4

For the latest news in JP that you need to know, check jamaicaplaingazette.com

Email stephen.quigley@reverejournal.com or patricia@jamaicaplaingazette.com or call 781-485-0588

JP OBSERVER

JP@Home members stay active during pandemic

By SANDRA STOREY / SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Staying at home and distancing from others since mid-March has been more important but more difficult for older Jamaica Plain residents than it has been for younger people during this covid-19 pandemic.

People over 65 and those with underlying medical conditions are more vulnerable to becoming seriously ill with the virus, as most people know, so they have to be extra careful. Gov. Charlie Baker's statement regarding reopening earlier this month advised that people would be "safer at home" and seniors, in particular, should continue to stay there as much as possible.

Adding to the urgent contagious virus problem, being lonely and isolated can contribute significantly to seniors having poor health, recent studies show.

Fortunately, Jamaica Plain has JP@Home, a program of Ethos. During the shutdown,

members have devised ways to socialize and obey the safety guidelines at the same time. Many of the program's regular group activities—which are proposed and, once approved, led by members—have moved to Zoom, where they are flourishing and, in some cases, expanding.

Living Alone and the Men's Group meet twice as often since being ordered to stay home. During the pandemic, a third section of Aging and Spirituality was formed so everyone interested could participate.

Lasting Words, the writing group, "has continued providing opportunity for writing and sharing our ideas," member Tracy Powers reports.

She is also a volunteer in the Teach Tech to Me group which, she says, has been particularly active during the pandemic, helping members get comfortable with attending and hosting Zoom

meetings.

One popular activity since JP@Home launched in 2014—dining out in local restaurants—had to be suspended in March, of course. But members Judy Kilgore and Jim Kilgore report the Soup Group moved its activity to Zoom as well. Instead of cooking and sharing homemade supper in person, they spoon their soup on-screen while conversing.

Walking has always drawn lots of members to local open spaces, and now walks take place five days a week. Organizers and walkers are careful to always wear masks, stay six feet from people, and follow all the safety protocols.

According to Jane Bowers, the roughly 25 total walkers take their strolls at Ward's Pond, Franklin Park, and Arnold Arboretum.

"We get our exercise out of doors and get to socialize with

a dynamic group of folks," Alexa Dailey, co-chair of the JP@Home Advisory Council (AC), said of the Walking Group.

Mindfulness and Meditation, Knitting and Current Affairs—all very appropriate for our times—continue to meet. Climate Legacy members are being updated on climate news by Sharlene Cochrane via email this summer, and the group and will meet again in the fall.

How about going to the movies and discussing them with friends afterwards—all while staying home? Member Renee Miller has organized the Movie Discussion group where people watch a movie on their own, then get together to discuss it on Zoom. The first movie that participants talked about was "Quartet."

"It's so nice to look at the weekly calendar and have scheduled meetings/activities to look forward to!" Tracy Powers wrote in an email, echoing what many people with fewer regular appointments than usual for past three months have been saying.

In a recent survey of members, respondents were asked how JP@Home supported them during the Covid crisis. Quite a few said they appreciated "the ongoing group meetings...the increased frequency of group meetings...and/or the quick transition to the use of Zoom for these meetings," according to the survey committee.

Members of the AC, elected annually, have been calling each

of the 139 members periodically since March to find out how they are doing, which many people commented they liked. Members also noted they felt supported to know that the Member Services & Recruitment Coordinator Jennifer Quinlan and other services are available to them if they need something. Ethos has remained open and fully operational throughout the pandemic with most of its staff working remotely.

JP@Home, a program of Ethos, is part of a nationwide village movement to help older adults age in place. The program, open to residents of Jamaica Plain, Roslindale, West Roxbury, Hyde Park, Mission Hill, Roxbury and the Town of Brookline—has membership fees and no government funding. The connection to nonprofit Ethos, which has been serving older adults and those with disabilities in southwest Boston for 47 years, has allowed members easy access to home delivered meals, home care services, and other referrals during these difficult times.

There are opportunities to learn more about JP@Home on two Tuesdays this summer (via Zoom or phone conference) at 7 pm, July 21, or at 1:30 pm, August 18. To RSVP and/or for more information contact Jennifer Quinlan at jquinlan@ethocare.org or 617-477-6934. Training on Zoom is available beforehand.

Sandee Storey is a member of JP@Home

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NEDC builds 'sanitization station' for Mass General doctor

BY LAUREN BENNETT

JP resident Dr. Sarah Bernstein is a maternal-fetal medicine specialist at Massachusetts General Hospital, and over the past few months, has been on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic.

She lives with her husband and three young daughters, and to help protect her family, New England Design + Construction (NEDC) built a shower in the basement entrance to her home so that when she gets home from the hospital, she can shower before coming into contact with her family.

The shower came at no cost to Bernstein and her family. "This is the very least we can do for these men and women who are stepping up as true heroes for the City of Boston," David Supple, NEDC founder and CEO, said in a release.

Supple said he reached out to Bernstein, whose family is an NEDC client, "as one of our steps to bring real help during these times," he said.

"Our creative team came up with the idea of creating a 'Sanitization Station' -- a temporary shower which we could install in the basement entrance to their



PHOTO COURTESY OF NEDC

The temporary shower installed in Dr. Bernstein's basement in JP so she can wash up before coming into contact with her family after her shifts at Mass. General.

home, thereby creating a facility whereby Sarah could shower instantly upon returning and entering their home," Supple said in the release. "In essence [it is] the creation of a clean and sanitary buffer between their heroic efforts, the grind of daily life and the sanctity and safety of home."

After taking measurements and planning how the shower would be designed, the materials

were ordered and then installed by Aaron Newell, one of NEDC's project managers.

"Here at NEDC, we try to do our best to do our part to help out not only our clients but anyone else that we can help out in need," Newell said in a video showing the shower being built.

The installation video shows the shower being installed in a portion of the basement that is

blocked off by plastic sheets covering the walls, one with a zipper where Bernstein can enter the rest of the house once she takes her shower. Any germs are contained within the "Sanitization Station" area.

"Thank you so much," Bernstein said in the release. "This is a tremendous help! Really so thoughtful of you."

Supple said, "At NEDC we are a part of Boston--and Boston

and the families which make this city are an integral part of who we are. We've helped build beautiful parts of this city and our clients' lives and well-being are interwoven with ours."

He continued, "To Sarah and all Boston doctors, nurses, health-care workers people of good will on the front lines, thank you for your courage, your care, and your willingness to selflessly help others."

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She became a nurse—a decision inspired by the support and dedication she received from her own medical team during her long years of treatment and successful recovery.

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



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Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll



'NIPSEY'

Nipsey is a friendly, active young guy looking for a home! At just over a year, he still has a lot of energy and would benefit from a larger home with lots of space to run around. You know that cat that loves to sprint down the hallway? That's Nipsey! My last human companion thought he would benefit from outdoor time, so if you are interested in learning how



to walk a cat on a harness (who isn't?) he'd love to learn! Nipsey does have a heart murmur, and staff would love to talk to you more about what that means. Give staff a call at the number below to learn more about him!

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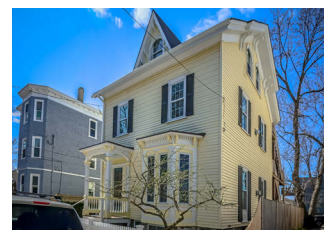
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#InThisTogether

Councilors Bok, Mejia, Arroyo, and Breadon discuss more inclusive and imaginative approaches to city budgeting

STAFF REPORT

Exactly six months into their first term on the Boston City Council, new Councilors Kenzie Bok, Julia Mejia, Ricardo Arroyo, and Liz Breadon filed two hearing orders this week to explore more inclusive and imaginative approaches to Boston’s budgeting process.

“As a new Ways and Means Chair for the Council, I made numerous changes this year to increase the quality of participation in the City’s budget process, including by adding staff clinics

and working sessions, posting responses to information requests online, and scheduling dedicated public testimony hearings. Over our first six months on the job, however, we first-year Councilors have learned that we need a deeper shift,” said Councilor Bok. “We need space for earlier budget conversations that can move from shifting marginal dollars to envisioning whole new programs, and we need a more robust role for the public beyond offering testimony on a mayoral proposal.”

The “Order for a hearing regarding participatory budgeting

in Boston”, introduced by Councilors Bok, Mejia, and Breadon, will explore models of participatory budgeting that could enable members of the public to take a more active and decisive role earlier in Boston’s budgeting process.

“I am proud to be working with my colleagues to make the budget process more accessible to everyone — because this isn’t the mayor’s budget, this is the people’s budget. The budget is the Council’s most important responsibility, and it is our job to bring the people to the table,” Councilor Mejia said. “Because

if we’re not at the table, we’re on the menu. We ran on a campaign of government accountability and civic engagement, and even filed a hearing on public hearings. We have always said that in order to realize community-driven goals, we need to involve the community. During the last few weeks of the budget process, we saw passion and activism that motivated and uplifted us, and we want to continue that through to next year’s budget.”

Breadon agreed, adding, “So many people feel excluded from the budget making process. Participatory budgeting is a positive way to directly engage with residents in order to bring more voices to the table when deciding how resources are allocated.”

Accompanying this will be an “Order for a hearing regarding zero-based budget visions for alternative community investment”, sponsored by Councilors Bok, Mejia, and Arroyo, which will adopt a “zero-based budgeting” approach

and invite community visions of new programs and departments to tackle issues like racial equity, shared prosperity, public health, and public safety.

“Our budget is a reflection of our values,” said Councilor Arroyo. “Zero-based budgeting’ allows Boston to create a budget in partnership with our communities, ensuring our budgets better reflect our shared values and that addressing racial and socioeconomic inequities are at the forefront of our budgeting process and the allocation of our tax dollars.”

Added Bok, “Creating space for community creativity and wisdom to feed into budget creation is the only way to enable a real transformation of how the City does its business and whom it serves. I’m very proud to have entered the Council alongside Councilors Mejia, Arroyo, and Breadon, and I’m excited about how we can shake up the budget process going forward.”



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Equal Housing Opportunity



Crime

Continued from page 1

ter) and C-11 (Dorchester) have higher numbers.

The police and community relations meeting is held on the first Thursday of the month at 6:30pm. These meetings are open to the public and all interested residents are encour-

aged to attend. Until in-person meetings resume, the public can attend the meeting remotely via Google Meet. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 2.

To join the meeting, go to [meet.google.com](https://meet.google.com/hgf-fdjq-cui) and enter the meeting code hgf-fdjq-cui. You can also join the meeting by phone by dialing 1-720-507-3856 and entering the code 724 468 894 followed by the pound or hashtag sign.

Policía

Continued from page 1

general del nueve por ciento respecto al 2019.

Los delitos que experimentaron una reducción incluyen el homicidio, el asalto agravado no-doméstico, el robo de residencias, otro robo, otro hurto y el robo de vehículos. Los delitos que registraron un aumento respecto al 2019 incluyen el atraco, el asalto agravado doméstico, el robo comercial, y el hurto de vehículo.

A pesar de la reducción general de la delincuencia, los tiroteos (tanto mortales como no mortales) han aumentado un 25 por ciento en Boston en comparación con el año pasado. Jamaica Plain contó con el 8,3 por ciento de los tiroteos de la ciudad en 2019, y

el 9,5 por ciento este año. Sólo los distritos B-2 (Roxbury), B-3 (Mattapan/N. Dorchester) y C-11 (Dorchester) tienen números más altos.

La reunión de policía y relaciones comunitarias se lleva a cabo el primer jueves del mes a las 6:30 pm. Estas reuniones están abiertas al público y todos los residentes están invitados. Hasta que las reuniones físicas puedan reanudarse, el público puede asistir a la reunión de forma remota a través de Google Meet. La próxima reunión se llevará a cabo el jueves 2 de julio.

Para unirse a la reunión, vaya a [meet.google.com](https://meet.google.com/hgf-fdjq-cui) e ingrese el código de reunión hgf-fdjq-cui. También puede unirse a la reunión por teléfono marcando 1-720-507-3856 e ingresando el código 724 468 894 seguido del signo de libra o hashtag.

Walsh creates task force to address illegal fireworks

By JOHN LYNDIS

Last month, long before the 4th of July, Boston Police began cracking down on illegal fireworks here in Jamaica Plain and in neighborhoods across the city.

Last week Mayor Martin Walsh said he has had enough and formed a new Task Force to address the increase of illegal fireworks in Jamaica Plain and other neighborhoods.

The Task Force will be made up of the Mayor's Chief of Civic Engagement, the four At-Large City Councilors, the Boston Arson Squad/Fire Investigation Unit, the Boston Police Department's Bureau of Community Engagement, and community leaders.

"Fireworks are a serious issue not only in the City of Boston, but all across the country. People lose

sleep, babies get woken up, some people with PTSD experience real harms, pets are terrified and they're fire hazards," said Mayor Walsh. "Working together with our partners in public safety, the City Council and the community as a Task Force is an important way to address this issue and work to take fireworks off the streets."

The At-Large City Councilors joining the Task Force include Councilors Annissa Es-saibi-George, Michael Flaherty, Julia Mejia and Michelle Wu.

While there have always been some illegal fireworks leading up to the Fourth of July the Mayor said this year has been worse than usual.

Fireworks calls to the Boston Police Department were up by a factor of 5,543% in June 2020, compared to June 2019. There

were 139 calls last June and 7,844 this June, to date.

At a press conference last week the Mayor said illegal fireworks pose significant dangers to the safety of our residents and their property, and do not belong in our communities. Walsh pointed to Massachusetts General Law that states that it is illegal for residents to use, possess or sell fireworks in the state. It is also illegal to purchase them legally elsewhere and then transport them into the state.

The City has been holding outdoor community meetings to share information and create inclusive responses to the problem.

Walsh urged residents who hear or see fireworks being displayed in their neighborhood to please call 911 immediately for a police response. If you wish to report the illegal purchasing or

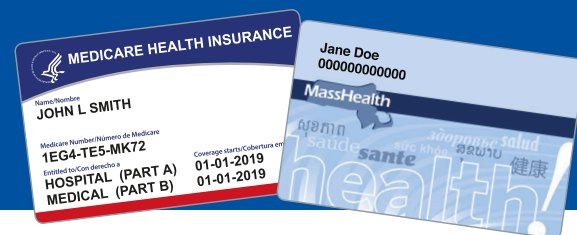


The BPD has confiscated significant amounts of fireworks so far this year.

selling of fireworks, you can do so anonymously by contacting the CrimeStoppers Tip Line at 1 (800) 494-TIPS or by texting the word 'TIP' to CRIME (27463).

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BPS partners with NWEA to administer exam school admissions test

The Boston Public Schools (BPS) last week named NWEA as the vendor to administer the assessment for its three high schools that require an exam as one part of admissions criteria.

The “examination schools,” Boston Latin Academy, Boston Latin School, and John D. O’Bryant School of Mathematics and Science, all serve students in grades 7-12. In February, BPS issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a new examination. The goal of the RFP was to ensure a fair test that is aligned to Massachusetts curriculum standards, is bias-free, and measures student knowledge and readiness for a rigorous high school curriculum.

Following extensive analysis of the proposals, the RFP Review Committee recommended the contract be awarded to NWEA. NWEA’s test is an untimed, computer adaptive Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Growth assessment in math, reading and language usage. Items on MAP Growth are strongly aligned to the Massachusetts Curriculum Framework grade-level standards, with a wide range of cognitive demand. Throughout the review process, NWEA provided compelling evidence that the assessment is valid for use with diverse student populations as evidenced by a breadth of bias reviews and statistical analyses.

“I am excited to partner with NWEA and appreciate their desire to work with BPS on our shared goal of increasing the diversity of our exam schools,” said BPS Superintendent Brenda Cassellius. “BPS has identified a fair assessment that is aligned to the Massachusetts state standards, tests students on material they have learned in school, and has been reviewed and validated for bias. Administering this new entrance test is an important step forward in expanding access to the exam schools for all students.”

BPS has worked to expand equitable access to the exam

schools, particularly for Black and Latinx students who have historically been underrepresented. The MAP Growth assessment provides data during the school year that shows how student learning is progressing, lending the insight educators can trust to meet the needs of learners as they teach. The assessment also includes several built-in accommodations for students with disabilities and English learners. These factors create visibility to critical learning needs of students, so they can get the right degree of support.

As the contract with the previous vendor was set to expire, BPS began the process of developing a new RFP during the 2018-19 school year. To develop the RFP, BPS participated in an extensive process that included input and recommendations from an internal working group. BPS received three proposals.

An RFP is required by law in order to contract with an organization for the admissions exam. The assessment is part of the admissions policy and is available to all Boston residents in grades 6, 8, and 9, including students who are not currently enrolled in a BPS school. All three exam schools accept new students for grades 7 and 9. The O’Bryant School also accepts a limited number of new students for grade 10.

“Our organization is driven by our mission of Partnering to help all kids learn. This begins by making the needs of all students more visible to educators, so they can take action in support of students who have not had the same opportunities as their peers,” said Chris Minnich, CEO of NWEA. “We believe that measures like MAP Growth, along with other measures, can help address bias and create a high school system that values diversity and fairness. We are looking forward to supporting Boston Public Schools as they push for greater fairness and equity for the students in the

district.”

BPS has taken several steps over the years to increase equitable access to the exam schools. For the first time, during the 2019-20 school year, the district administered the entrance exam to BPS sixth-grade students in their home schools. This change allowed students to take the test in a familiar environment and have the test administered by educators they know. Previously, students taking the entrance test had to travel to one of a handful of testing locations on a Saturday morning.

BPS has also addressed equitable access and student representation at the exam schools

by creating and expanding the BPS entrance test prep program, Exam School Initiative (ESI), which focuses on serving Black, Latinx, English Learner, and economically disadvantaged students. With the support of Mayor Walsh and the Boston Latin School Association, the ESI program expanded from serving

400 students in 2014 to serving 775 in 2019. In addition, the BPS Office of Opportunity Gaps overhauled the direction of the program in 2017 and made important changes to ESI recruitment that resulted in enrollment shifts. This summer’s remote ESI program began Monday, July 6.

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Steve Bettis

Ocean Beach native and local surf legend Steve Bettis was diagnosed with MS in 2006. Although surfing is still central to his life, he hasn't been able to get out on the water in 10 years. For a man whose daily routine always included a few waves, more than a decade out of the surf is just too long. This is why the National MS Society teamed up with his buddy Robert "Wingnut" Weaver and used virtual reality to get Steve back on his wave. See their experience and find out how you can share yours at WeAreStrongerThanMS.org.

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MS National Multiple Sclerosis Society

Forum

Continued from page 1

are not currently provided to people to make sure they get the help they need before, during, and after prison. “We have to change that,” he said.

“You learn a lot about a country by who it imprisons,” Markey said. “We imprison the black and the brown citizens in our country in disproportionate numbers.”

When asked about the necessity for access to transportation, Markey said that he and Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley introduced legislation saying that public transportation should be free “so that you’re able to go to your destination, to be where you have to be, to do what you have to do.”

Congressman Kennedy agreed that “the obstacles that exist” for people to be able to get to and from places like work, school, and the grocery store “are massive” and possibly expanding or rethinking programs like the MBTA’s The Ride could be part of the solution.

Markey was also asked why prisons and jails are becoming “de facto mental health institutions,” and he said that de-institutionalizing people about 35 years ago put people with mental illness out on the streets.

“What we did was we took one program and ended it,” he said, adding that the government then did not provide funding to ensure that individuals received proper health care. He said that making access to treatment available “before they do something that results in the police taking them” is necessary, as are sufficient funds for the mental health system in general.

“We criminalize low level offenses rather than give resources,” he said, saying that mental health issues should be treated

like the diseases they are.

Markey was also asked why he is “interested in what we have to say if we are not able to vote as inmates?” In Massachusetts, those incarcerated for a felony are ineligible to vote, but are permitted to do so again once they are released.

Markey responded with “because you’re citizens; because everyone should be treated with dignity.” He said that one day, “you’re going to go back out there,” and after leaving prison, he wants to make sure they get the help and support they need to be successful. “We have to think of you as a part of a larger family,” he said, and make sure that many issues are treated as health issues, not criminal ones.

“Our country in this moment is in the midst of a massive cry for change,” Kennedy said in his opening statement.

Kennedy called for fewer people in jails, and “[making] sure we aren’t incarcerating folks who are sick.”

On police reform, Markey said that “every police officer should have to wear a camera. There should be no circumstances of where they aren’t and there should be a full recording of what took place.”

He added that “any police officer that engages in conduct that violates the constitutional rights of an individual should be held accountable...in the criminal justice system.”

Markey also called for more social workers, mental health resources, drug rehabilitation workers, and employment opportunities to be funded with the reallocation of resources. He said doing so will help rid of the “school to prison pipeline” in America.

“This is the moment of reckoning,” Markey said. “We need police accountability” and to deal with the “racial bias that is built into the system.” He talked about sentencing guide-

lines and the discrepancy that exists between crack and powdered cocaine.

Markey was also asked about his initiatives against gun violence, and why there is a lot of housing for people dealing with substance abuse but not those involved in gun violence.

Markey said that despite the National Rifle Association (NRA) not wanting it, he succeeded in adding \$25 million to the federal budget for the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to conduct research on the causes of gun violence. He also agreed that more assistance and funding for those involved in gun violence is necessary.

“A vision without funding is a hallucination,” he said.

When asked about how he will help with racial disparities if elected to the Senate, Kennedy said “we need to be doing so much more. My efforts are obviously not enough. My commitment to you is to do everything I possibly can.” He talked about filing legislation to address structural inequities, but he said showing up to communities “who have been screaming about this for longer than I’ve been alive” and “where people are unseen and unheard” is vital. “There is value in showing up,” he said.

Kennedy said that “the way

in which we approach the ‘war on drugs’ does not work,” and it “has to change.”

He said those in prison for a long period of time also need access to education and professional development programs to give them skill sets to be able to provide for their families once they are out of prison.

Markey also said he will advocate for change to the mandatory minimum sentencing system, which he said is “leading to over incarceration.” Kennedy agreed that they system needs to change.

Housing was another issue brought up several times in different contexts. Markey said that making sure people do not get evicted from their homes and ensuring they have income coming in each month is important.

Kennedy said that “housing is one of the biggest roadblocks that we face here,” and more money is needed for affordable housing as many people who are vital to running the city can’t even afford to live in it. “100 percent, we have to do an awful lot more,” Kennedy said.

One of the women said that many inmates do not trust elected officials like Kennedy because “you haven’t had our background.” She said that when she gets out, she wants to fight for

women inmates, and suggested that hiring people like her would be a huge help to elected officials. “People that don’t know what it’s like to be arrested” shouldn’t be the ones making decisions on related topics, she said, adding that she believes former inmates acting as consultants could be beneficial.

“I think it’s a great idea,” Kennedy said. “Government is the way we as a collective respond to challenges.”

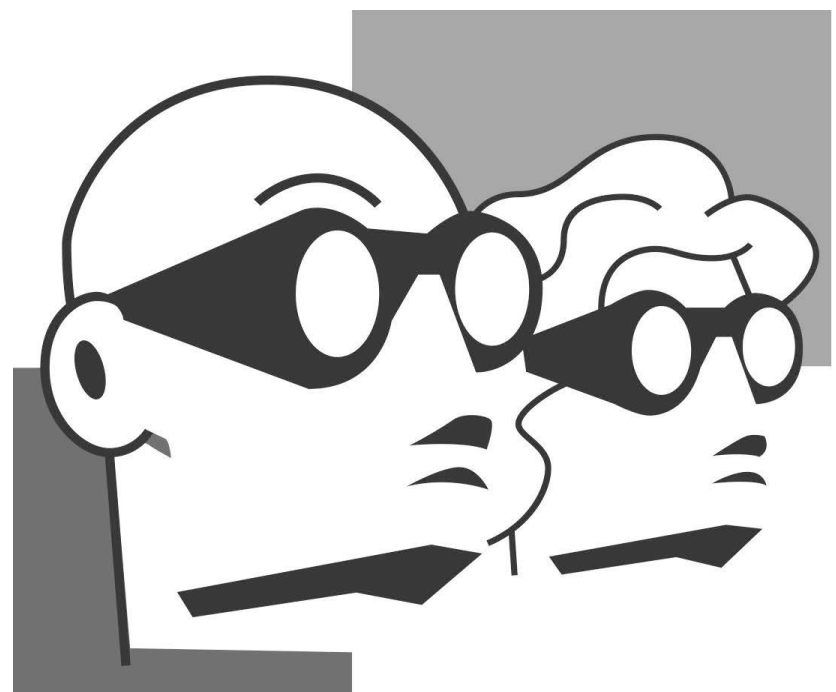
In closing, Markey reiterated his commitment to working on the lack of funding for substance abuse and mental health issues, which are “making it difficult for people to reincorporate into society,” he said.

“I promise you that I will fight with every ounce of strength which I have to overhaul this criminal justice system; this policing system,” he added. There are “too many people behind bars who shouldn’t be there.”

Kennedy said that “our normal...isn’t good enough. We have a chance to actually reset the trajectory of our country.” He called for “policies that meet people where they are and say ‘let’s do something about it.’”

The full Senate forum can be viewed on the Suffolk County Sheriff’s Department Facebook page.

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Councilors Bok, Campbell, Edwards and O'Malley file hearing orders to monitor effective reduction of police overtime and launch community discussion of Boston's police contracts as policy documents

STAFF REPORT

Councilor Kenzie Bok, chair of the Ways & Means Committee, and Councilor Andrea Campbell, chair of the Public Safety & Criminal Justice Committee, filed two hearing orders this week to focus Council oversight on two areas with major impacts on Boston's police budget: making planned cuts in police overtime spending a reality, and negotiating new police contracts consistent with good public policy. Councilor Lydia Edwards co-sponsored the hearing order on the police contracts, and Councilor Matt O'Malley co-sponsored the hearing order on controlling overtime spending.

The discussion of cutting the police overtime budget was one brought up by many residents during the Council's budget hearings prior to the vote to support the revised FY21 budget. The council was divided on the passage of the budget, as five councilors felt it did not do enough to address issues the City faces, especially when it comes to

racial disparities and the police budget. Others, like Councilor Bok, agreed with the passage of the budget but felt that more discussion is needed to get to the goal of actually reallocating police funds to community programs and services. These hearings will be the start to this discussion, which Bok stated at the Council hearing on June 24.

"Police accountability includes budget accountability -- which means the Council's Ways & Means Committee needs to see these overtime cuts be made real. In this first hearing we will demand a plan, and then we will institute quarterly hearings to hold the Administration to that plan," said Councilor Bok. "Yet to win the broader accountability our community is demanding, in terms of both disciplinary procedures and a reduction in the share of city funds dedicated to policing, we know we need change in the police contract. This is a contract that shapes the conditions for the use of deadly force, which makes it a public

policy issue of the highest order. We are calling for this hearing to underscore that neither the Council nor the community can accept an extension of the status quo."

"Transforming our policing system requires many reforms and the budget including our exorbitant overtime costs is one area in need of immediate reform," said Councilor Andrea Campbell. "Many of the reforms residents, activists, and I have been pushing for must be initiated in collective bargaining discussions including disciplinary practices for officers, overtime minimums and regulations, and training requirements for officers within the police department. With thousands of Bostonians calling for change to our police union contracts the discussions cannot be done completely in private with no sense of the administration's positions at the bargaining table. I am proud to sponsor these hearing orders to ensure actual police overtime savings and increase the level of understanding and transparency with respect to our police union contracts."

The "Order for a hearing regarding police overtime" will ask the Walsh Administration and the Boston Police Department to present an active management plan for achieving the \$12 million reduction in police overtime promised in the FY21 budget. The Council will also look at the

history of how police overtime was reduced in past administrations, and will investigate what procedural or programmatic changes could lead to less need for overtime overall -- including reducing or eliminating military exercises, halting the over-policing of black and brown men through disproportionate stops, and taking other steps to respond to public distrust, especially in communities of color.

"Across the country and in Boston, we are calling for transparency, accountability, and justice in our public safety and criminal justice system," said Councilor Matt O'Malley. "Addressing the overtime budget is among the many systematic changes we must address, considering that its spending has drastically increased by 84 percent over the past decade. I look forward to taking a deeper review at the hearing including discussing removing any policies that encourage the use of overtime as a normal rather than an unusual practice, addressing the four-hour minimum for court details, and implementing an accountability mechanism for reviewing payroll data."

The "Order for a hearing regarding police contracts as policy documents" will focus on the public policy issues at stake in Boston's police contracts, which are all up for renegotiation this year. To secure police accountability and transparency will require

changes to these contracts, as will efforts to achieve an overall shift in departmental resource allocations. From disciplinary procedures to overtime rates many of the issues discussed in the press in recent weeks are dictated by provisions of these police contracts, so Councilors will bring them under public scrutiny.

"I am so excited to help lead this conversation with Chairwoman Bok," said Councilor Lydia Edwards. "This is really the first time the City Council is approaching the police contract with a policy and best practices approach. When people talk about reforming and reimagining the police, we must start with the contracts."

Councilor Bok agreed that this is an important and appropriate way for the Council to weigh in on the new police contracts. "While the Council cannot sit at the negotiating table, we can inform the negotiation by hosting a public hearing to discuss and hear from advocates about the many critical issues at stake, and by broadcasting the Council's policy expectations about these contracts before they are agreed and sent to the Ways & Means Committee for funding. The demands for police accountability that we are hearing from black and brown activists are urgent but long-standing; we cannot and will not approach these contracts as business-as-usual."

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COVID-19 Updates for Jamaica Plain

By JOHN LYND

After another two weeks Jamaica Plain's COVID-19 infection rate remains steady.

According to Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) data released last Friday, Jamaica Plain's infection rate rose only 1.2 percent in two weeks from 168.9 cases per 10,000 residents to 170.9 cases per 10,000 residents.

The number of people infected with COVID-19 in Jamaica Plain went from 682 cases two weeks ago to 690 cases last week.

Boston's average infection rate is at 198.2 cases per 10,000 residents citywide and last Friday's data showed Jamaica Plain's infection rate is still lower than the city-wide average.

Of the 6,864 Jamaica Plain residents tested last week only .06 percent were found to be COVID positive, down from 1.5 percent. Since treating began in the neighborhood 10.5 percent of Jamaica Plain residents have been found to be COVID positive, down from 14.5 percent.

The statistics released by the BPHC as part of its weekly

COVID-19 report breaks down the number of cases and infection rates in each neighborhood. It also breaks down the number of cases by age, gender and race.

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus rose only 1.5 percent from 13,556 cases to 13,624 cases. So far 9,638 Boston residents have fully recovered from the virus.

Boston experienced a huge drop in deaths from COVID-19 with only one death reported last week. Deaths from the virus stand at 712.

BLO announces two streaming concerts

Boston Landmarks Orchestra (BLO) under the direction of Music Director Christopher Wilkins, and Co-Executive Directors Mary Deissler and Arthur Rishi, announces the first events in a series of virtual programming this summer. Two free virtual concerts will be performed and streamed from Futura Productions in Roslindale on July 15 and 29, with small ensembles who will be socially distanced and wearing masks as their instruments allow. The organiza-

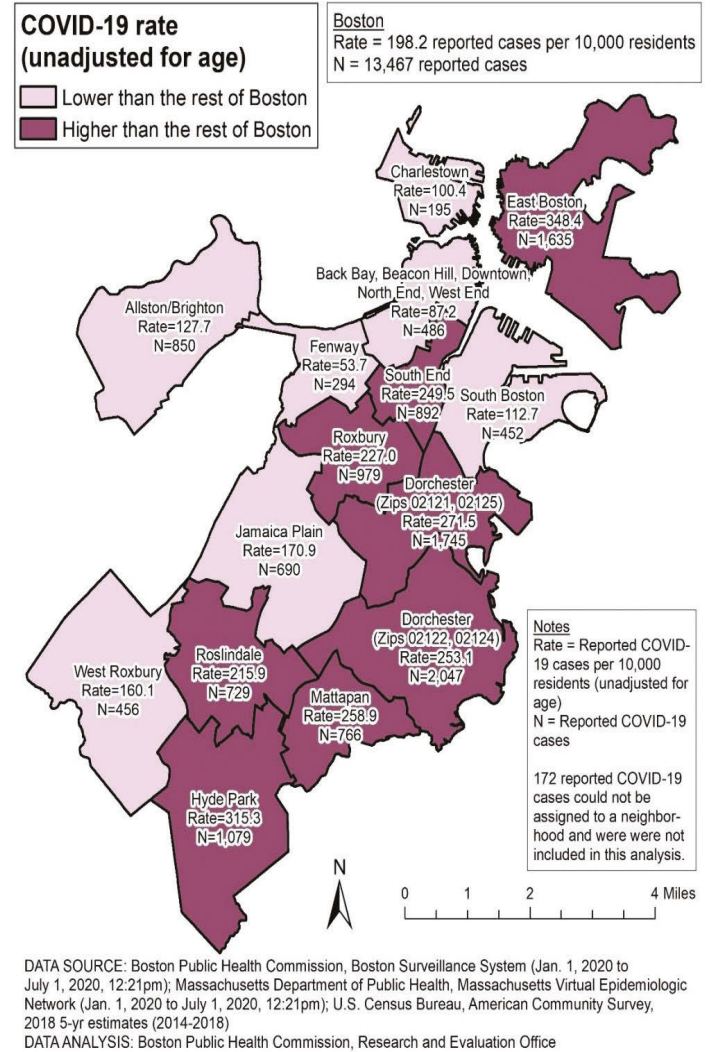
tion will also continue the popular digital Interludes series with conversations and music, and a virtual Maestro Zone where people can learn conducting skills from Assistant Conductor Shuang Fan.

Links for the streaming concerts, Interludes series, and the virtual Maestro Zone may be found on the Landmarks Orchestra website: landmarksorchestra.org.

Programming this summer celebrates the authentic musi-

cal and community partnerships Landmarks Orchestra has built over its 19-year history. The virtual concerts celebrate partnerships with Boston musicians and organizations such as Castle of our Skins.

Further virtual or in-person concerts will be announced later in the summer. As events and performances are added to the summer season, updates will be announced on the Landmarks Orchestra website.



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

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Two JP organizations get grants to support 2020 Census outreach

By JOHN LYNDS

Two Jamaica Plain organizations have been awarded Rapid Response Grants to support the 2020 Census by the Massachusetts Census Equity Fund (MCEF).

Jamaica Plain's North American Indian Center of Boston and Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation will both use the grant money for outreach and education.

The grants by the MCEF went to some of the hardest to count communities in Massachusetts as well as communities that were among those hit the hardest by the global COVID-19 pandemic.

"We are living through an unprecedented time. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic at the starting moment of the 2020 census we know now more than ever that a full and accurate census count is facing serious challenges," said Chair of MCEF Alexie Torres. "MCEF has joined with

our national funding partners in seeing a need for additional resources to our hardest to count communities."

In Jamaica Plain the North American Indian Center of Boston (NAICOB) was one of the grant recipients in the latest round of funding. Based on Huntington Avenue in Jamaica Plain, the NAICOB has provided cultural, social, educational, and professional related services to the New England Native American community for over 45 years. As the oldest urban Indian center in Massachusetts, its mission has been to empower the Native American community with the goal of improving the quality of life of Indigenous peoples.

NAICOB is governed by a seven-member, all Indian, Board of Directors who are elected by the membership and membership is free to all American Indians, Alaska Natives, First Nations (Indigenous People of Canada), and

Native Hawaiians living in and around the greater Boston area.

"Over 70% of the American Indian and Alaska Native population in the United States live in urban areas," said Tunica Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana member and President of NAICOB Board of Directors Jean-Luc Pierite earlier this year. "Educational programming towards an accurate count of our community members in the 2020 Census is a priority for the North American Indian Center of Boston. At stake is our community's political representation, as well as resources through federal funding which are vital to the self-determination of our peoples."

Based in Jamaica Plain, Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation (JPND) fights for an equitable and inclusive Boston in which all people have access to secure housing, economic prosperity, safe and vibrant neighborhoods, political

power, and opportunities to fulfill their potential.

Having an accurate 2020 Census count fits right into JPND's mission to transform the lives and amplify the voices of Boston residents who have been excluded from prosperity by an inequitable economic system.

This year the United States will conduct its decennial census. In Boston there's been a huge push to ensure a fair and complete count in the 2020 U.S. Census because it determines everything from representation in Congress, to federal funds for schools, affordable housing, infrastructure and health care programs.

MCEF used real-time census response rate data and knowledge of the impacts of the pandemic to make rapid-response grants between \$500 to \$5,000 for additional outreach activities. Organizations in these regions, who work with hard-to-count

populations including communities of color, are struggling to increase Census response rates while simultaneously responding to communities' needs, which have been increasing in the wake of COVID-19.

Historically, certain populations are "hard-to-count" in the census. Urban and rural areas with large low-income populations, people of color, immigrants, non-English speakers, migrant workers, ex-offenders, young children, the elderly, those who are disabled, renters, the homeless, and those living in mobile homes or multi-unit residences are historically hard-to-count.

To date, MCEF has awarded \$1 million in grants targeting support for grassroots organizations coordinating education and outreach initiatives in "hard-to-count" communities across the Commonwealth. MCEF plans to release another round of grants in July.

Going on a vacation? Pack your bags, set the GPS...and get a COVID test

By SETH DANIEL

Travelling this summer will be awkward at best, but a breath of fresh air on a much-needed getaway for residents who have been under long quarantines will also be necessary – awkward or not.

But it won't come without proof of a negative COVID-19 test in many locations.

As people begin to travel regionally – mostly in cars or trains due to the continued risk of air travel – many states are requiring that Massachusetts residents either quarantine at their destination for 14 days (which likely isn't happening on a vacation from quarantine), or bring proof they have received a negative COVID-19 test result within 72 hours of arriving. That is exactly the case for Maine, which released its new travel guidance on June 26 – opening up with some restrictions the vacation playground once again to those from Boston.

For Maine officials, the guidance about testing is about protecting the residents there as much as it is about protecting those who are coming up to vacation – and being tested before arriving is something tourism officials there are giving a big

thumbs up to.

"We feel really strongly about it and feel it's a great solution," said Heather Johnson, commissioner of the Maine Dept. of Economic and Community Development. "When you think about tourism in Maine, you grow from 1.3 million people to 22 million in the summer months. That's a very large swing in population. This is one of the options to keep residents and tourists safe. We feel strongly about keeping residents and people coming to Maine safe."

In Maine, the choices are to quarantine or to test, and it's about protecting the work that has been done on COVID-19, while still being able to enjoy a getaway.

"States where numbers are under control need to protect that," Johnson said. "The best available options to do that are to quarantine or to test. We decided to let visitors make that decision... For the people who want to go downtown or enjoy areas that are populated, they can go get the test and be confident they are safe and healthy."

That is exactly what David Belton, the outgoing CEO of the nearby South End Community Health Center, plans to do with his family before they travel to

Maine later this month.

Having already had to cancel trips to Italy, Slovenia and Los Angeles in the last three months, he said he's vacation-deprived, and looks forward to some respite in Maine. However, he also wants to follow their rules and have confidence that he isn't bringing COVID-19 north.

"We're planning to go to Maine on July 11 and rent a house there for two weeks," he said. "My plan is for us to be tested at the South End Community Health Center site in advance and then head up that way. We'll get the test on Wednesday, and then leave on Saturday. I'll have my letter or certificate with my result from the health center. I'll carry it with me so they know I'm safe and so I can present it if I get stopped or questioned with my Massachusetts license plates."

He said if that's what has to be done, he can understand the logic.

"Our plan is for everyone going to be tested," he said. "I want to be active and out up there. I don't want to self-quarantine for two weeks up there. We've all had enough of that."

Belton said it's probably a response from Maine to help the vacation destination industry – which is really hurting – and to

also reassure Maine residents that outsiders aren't bringing in the virus.

In Jamaica Plain, testing sites include:

- The Dimock Center, 45 Dimock St.
- Brookside Community Health Center, 3297 Washington St.
- Brigham & Women's Hospital (Main Campus), 75 Francis St.

At the Bayside Inn Bed & Breakfast in Booth Bay Harbor, former Boston residents and Inn proprietors Peter and Kathryn Sullivan said the lodging industry was down 80 percent in April and likely just as much in May. They were only allowed to welcome guests from Massachusetts as of June 26.

Right now, in such uncertain times, they are trying to adjust to COVID-19 restrictions, new sanitary procedures and other ways of doing business. Maine issued its executive order last week allowing Massachusetts residents to come up and visit. With proof of a negative result, visitors can move about freely without any worry – especially since the Booth Bay area only had 23 cases during the entire COVID-19 outbreak, so it's relatively free of the virus. With the certificate, Sullivan said visitors can take boat tours, hit

the hiking trails and get tickets to the world-famous Booth Bay Botanical Gardens. The hope is that Boston residents will take the chance to come up north – even as many have said they will defer summer vacations this year.

"Up until last Friday, we were only allowed to have Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont residents without certification of being virus free," she said. "As of June 26, anyone who travels here has to sign a certificate of compliance...We'd love to have more Boston people come up. It's much quicker to get here than to the Cape now, I believe...There are some great opportunities here to get outside and enjoy nature."

Johnson said the state of Maine also is encouraging Massachusetts residents to come up north this summer, but they do want to make sure everyone is safe in doing so.

"We just don't want the back and forth of opening up and closing down," she said. "We're looking forward to serving them. We are anxious to see them and hope they come and hope they feel safe here. We will do everything we can to protect them."

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LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

BARRICKLO MAKES DEAN’S LIST AT SHENANDOAH

Jenna Barricklo is one of the 738 students who made the Dean’s List for the 2020 spring semester at Shenandoah University. Students must attain a grade point average of at least 3.50 to be recognized for the honor. Barricklo of Jamaica Plain is earning a degree in Musical Theatre. Shenandoah University was established in 1875, and is headquartered in Winchester, Virginia, with additional educational sites in Clarke, Fairfax and Loudoun counties. Shenandoah is a private, nationally recognized university that blends professional career experiences with liberal education. With nearly 4,000 students in more than 200+ areas of study in seven different schools, Shenandoah promotes a close-knit community rich in creative energy and intellectual challenge. Shenandoah students collaborate with accomplished professors who provide focused, individual attention, all the while leading several programs to be highly nationally ranked. Through innovative partnerships and programs at both the local and global level, there are exceptional opportunities for students to learn in and out of the classroom. Shenandoah empowers its students to

improve the human condition and to be principled professionals and leaders wherever they go. For more information, visit su.edu.

CAMILO NAMED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON DEAN’S LIST

Samantha C. Camilo of Jamaica Plain was among more than 2,000 students were named to The University of Scranton’s Dean’s List for the 2020 spring semester. The Dean’s List recognizes students for academic excellence. A student must have a grade point average of 3.5 or better with a minimum number of credit hours during the semester to make the Dean’s List. Camilo is a junior international business major in the University’s Kania School of Management.

RECEIVES DEGREE IN SPORTS AND RECREATION MANAGEMENT FROM AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE

McWagner McWagner, of Jamaica Plain, has been awarded a degree in Sports and Recreation Management from American International College. Jean

Charles is among fellow scholars representing seven foreign countries, twelve states, and Washington, DC. The College sincerely congratulates all of the dedicated, newly-minted graduates for their commitment to completing their education during this unprecedented time.

Founded in 1885, American International College (AIC) is a private, co-educational, doctoral granting institution located in Springfield, Massachusetts, comprising the School of Business, Arts and Sciences, the School of Education, and the School of Health Sciences. AIC supports and advances education, diversity, and opportunity for its students and the community.

MARGO MOORE GRADUATES FROM COMMONWEALTH SCHOOL

Margo Moore of Jamaica Plain graduated from Commonwealth School on June 5, 2020. Commonwealth School, located in Boston’s Back Bay, is an independent co-ed day school enrolling approximately 140 students in grades 9 to 12. Founded by educator and philanthropist Charles Merrill, the school is noted for its intellectual energy, connections to the city, and robust art and music programs, all supported by a close-knit school

community. Its alumni include actor Hamish Linklater, diplomat and author Peter Galbraith, musician Evan Dando, actress and filmmaker Kasi Lemmons, and geneticist David Altshuler.

TONI DELOREY RECEIVES DEGREE

Late this spring, Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) celebrated the Class of 2020 with a socially distanced commencement season in place of its traditional 152nd Commencement exercises. Toni Delorey of Jamaica Plain, Mass., was awarded a doctor of philosophy degree in biology and biotechnology. Since the Class of 2020 was unable to receive diplomas in person this year, they instead received personal commencement packages, mailed to their home, that that included their diplomas, commencement regalia, and other items to celebrate their successes, as well as a congratulatory video message from President Laurie Leshin. In total, WPI awarded 1,043 bachelor’s degrees, 674 master’s degrees, and 54 doctoral degrees. In her video message, Leshin made the traditional Commencement walk to the WPI’s iconic Earle Bridge, which students walk over during New Student Orientation and then again when they graduate. She then stopped, turned, and told graduates, “You should be here.

But make no mistake: Today is still your day. You’ve walked this bridge together once, and you will walk it again. I can’t wait to see you do just that. Until then, it’s my honor to wait for you.” WPI, a global leader in project-based learning, is a distinctive, top-tier technological university founded in 1865 on the principle that students learn most effectively by applying the theory learned in the classroom to the practice of solving real-world problems. Recognized by the National Academy of Engineering with the 2016 Bernard M. Gordon Prize for Innovation in Engineering and Technology Education, WPI’s pioneering project-based curriculum engages undergraduates in solving important scientific, technological, and societal problems throughout their education and at more than 50 project centers around the world. WPI offers more than 50 bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degree programs across 14 academic departments in science, engineering, technology, business, the social sciences, and the humanities and arts. Its faculty and students pursue groundbreaking research to meet ongoing challenges in health and biotechnology; robotics and the internet of things; advanced materials and manufacturing; cyber, data, and security systems; learning science; and more. www.wpi.edu.

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
Suffolk Division
24 New Chardon St.
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Docket No. SU20P0627EA
Estate of: Anita B Feinstein
Date of Death: 01/21/2020
To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by David Aaron of New York, NY requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that:

David Aaron of New York, NY be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in an unsupervised administration. 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 08/06/2020. 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 days (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: June 25, 2020 Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate 7/10/20 JP
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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. SU20P0836EA
Estate of: Georgianna Johnson
Date of Death 04/19/2019
To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy has been filed by Richard Johnson of Antigonish, CAN requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. 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

08/04/2020. 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)
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Date: June 23, 2020
Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate 7/10/20 JP
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Suffolk Division
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(617) 788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Docket No. SU20P1024EA
Estate of: Mary G Gelormini
Date of Death: 05/14/2020
To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Linda A Hemen-

way of Milford 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: Linda A Hemenway of Milford MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in an unsupervised administration. 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 08/11/2020. 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 days (30) days of the return day, action may be

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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: June 30, 2020 Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate 07/10/20 JP
PLEASE RECYCLE

Walsh discusses fireworks, violence, COVID-19 updates as City prepares for Phase 3

BY LAUREN BENNETT

Prior to the Fourth of July holiday, Mayor Walsh, along with Boston Police Commissioner William Gross and Boston Fire Commissioner John Dempsey, spoke at a press conference on July 2 about the dangers of fireworks and reminded residents that they are illegal in Massachusetts.

Fireworks have been a big issue over the past couple of months, with residents across the city reporting increased instances that sometimes continue into the early morning.

Walsh said that fireworks “continue to be a major safety and quality of life concern,” and they are triggering and cause trauma to veterans, survivors of violence, seniors, and families with young children and/or pets.

He thanked “those in our communities that are mobilizing for solutions” and “creating inclusive responses.”

Walsh also recently created a task force consisting of community leaders, the Mayor’s Chief of Civic Engagement, the four At-Large City Councilors, the Boston Arson Squad, and the police department’s Bureau of Community Engagement.

“Fireworks are dangerous in our community,” Walsh said. “I want to be clear: fireworks are illegal in Massachusetts without a special permit.” He reminded residents that if they cross the border to buy fireworks in New Hampshire (where they are legal) and bring them back to Massachusetts, that is not legal.

He also called companies who are selling fireworks to Massachusetts residents “completely irresponsible” and said that they are “taking advantage of people.”

The Boston Police Department has confiscated “large amounts of fireworks” in the city, and po-

lice departments across the state have done the same,

“Think about who you are impacting,” Walsh said. “Think about the consequences of your actions.”

Commissioner John Dempsey told several stories illustrating the dangers of fireworks, including a recent porch fire at a three family home, a four alarm fire where two three family homes were destroyed. He said that “20 people lost their homes that night. So you can see, we’ve got a problem here.”

He said that people have lost their eyesight, their fingers, and have gotten seriously burned.

“Last week, a person was struck by a firework and they’re still in the hospital today,” he said last Thursday. He warned residents that they will be prosecuted and fireworks will be confiscated.

On July 7, Walsh said at a press conference that despite the warnings, there were “a lot of fireworks in Boston this weekend.” He also said that several fires occurred over the weekend but had not officially been confirmed to be a result of fireworks.

Violence has also been a bigger issue in the city over the past week, and according to Walsh, there has also been a “national uptick” in violence in major cities

in the US.

“There were several acts of violence,” said Boston Police Commissioner William Gross. He said there have been “seven acts of homicide within seven days,” including five shootings and two stabbings.

“The community really did help us,” he added. “I can’t thank the community enough for stepping forward.” Aside from the homicides, there were several other shootings as well.

One of the homicides was a 15 year old boy who was shot in Roxbury on July 2.

“The life of a 15 year old boy should not be taken at such an early age,” Gross said.

He focused on the efforts of the community working together with the police and the Boston Neighborhood Trauma Team, saying that “this is the type of teamwork we need going forward.”

Walsh said that “violence will never be accepted as normal in Boston,” adding that “we’re going to continue working at the root cause, keeping youth and adults engaged as much as possible.” He cited summer jobs and learning opportunities for youth as well as second chance programs and limited summer camps as some of the efforts the City is making

to engage people. He said applications are still open for summer jobs.

COVID-19 AND OTHER UPDATES

Walsh said last Thursday that meals for Boston’s youth will be offered at 97 sites this summer, and all residents ages 18 or younger are eligible for the meals.

“The Boston Resiliency Fund is a big part of the work,” he said. So far, \$32.3 million has been raised for the fund, and \$20.1 million has been distributed to 347 non-profits and more than 225,000 families in Boston, according to the City of Boston website.

Walsh also announced on Thursday a second round of applications for the Childcare Entrepreneur Fund, which, according to a press release, will “provide cash grants and business skills workshops to 25 family childcare entrepreneurs in Boston this summer and 25 more in the fall.

The pilot program ended this past May, when the first round of 22 childcare professionals graduated.

On July 7, Walsh said that Boston will be waiting until July 13 to begin Phase Three of the state’s reopening plan because the City has “unique needs” with regards to density, workforce, and

cultural sectors, and wanted extra time to develop additional guidance and support.

Walsh also said the extra tie is being used to “continue addressing the racial and ethnic inequalities that we’re seeing here.”

Walsh said that the City is facing three crises right now: the health crisis with COVID-19, the economic impacts of the virus, as well as the “ongoing impacts of systemic racism.”

He said the City’s relief and resiliency funds “have been a part of a broader strategy, including supporting COVID testing at community health centers across the city, helping families pay rent, helping small businesses recover and reopen, providing food and care to seniors, and more.

“These funds are emergency responses to a life-threatening situation and they have absolutely saved lives,” Walsh said.

Walsh also announced new support for restaurants, which includes portable mobility ramps that restaurants can request to help make outdoor dining more accessible for everyone. The City has given more than 300 restaurants a license to provide on-street dining so far, and is also working to make sure paths on sidewalks are not obstructed to anyone.

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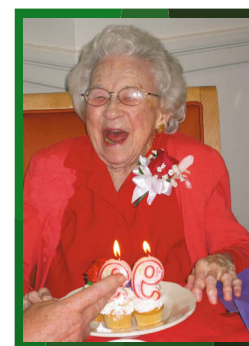
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Unemployment claims rise for public administration, education

STAFF REPORT

From June 21 to June 27, Massachusetts had 29,072 individuals file an initial claim for regular Unemployment Insurance (UI), a small decrease of 469 over the previous week, the third consecutive week of decline, but there were big movements for municipal workers and those in education as budget cuts played out statewide.

However, as the school systems closed for the summer, over-the-week increases in filings were seen in public administration and education. With layoffs and budget cuts in most school districts and in most municipal governments, claims increased

tremendously in both sectors.

Public Administration claims were up 47 percent statewide, while Education was up almost seven percent statewide.

Increases in initial claims filed were, also, posted in other sectors with the highest in manufacturing, at 22 percent.

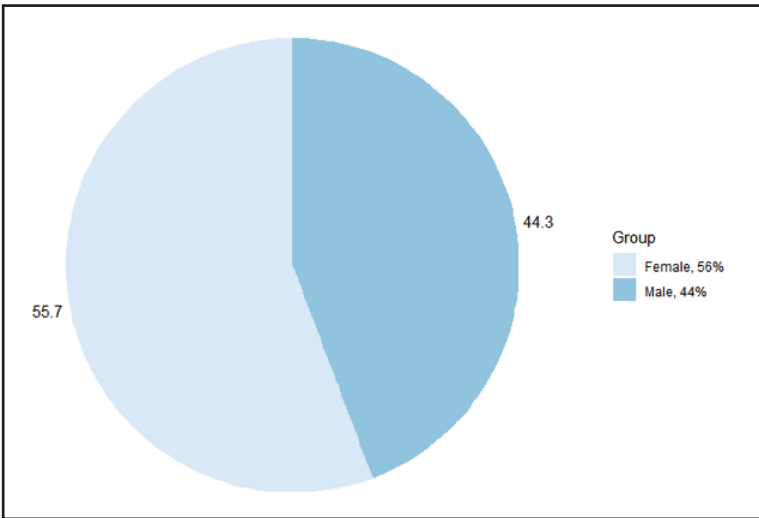
From March 15 to June 27, a total of 1,057,496 have filed for regular UI. For the second week in a row, continued UI claims at 548,441 were down 9,828 or 1.8 percent over the previous week.

The Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) initial claims filed for the week ending June 27, at 14,154, were just slightly more than the previous week. Since April 20, some 638,245

claimants have filed an initial claim for the PUA.

The Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), which provided up to 13 weeks of extended benefits was implemented on May 21. For the week ending June 20, some 4,503 PEUC initial claims were filed bringing the total of PEUC filings to 59,144 since implementation.

Since March, the customer service staff at the Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) has grown from around 50 employees to nearly 2,000. The remote customer service operation is now making over 35,000 individual contacts per day and DUA continues to host



The chart is relative to standard UI only.

unemployment town halls – which have been held in English, Spanish, and Portuguese - and have been attended by more than 350,000 constituents.

Mission Hill site will host city drive-in movie series this month

BY SETH DANIEL

If all one can do in public this summer is stay in their car, why not make a movie night out of it?

That's exactly what the City has proposed, announcing a July series of Drive-in Movie events, with nearby Wentworth in Mission Hill being one of the two site locations for the event.

Mayor Martin J. Walsh announced this week the City of Boston July Drive-In Movie Series, organized by the Boston Parks and Recreation Department and the Mayor's Office of Tourism, Sports, and Entertainment. This series is made possible by support from the Highland Street Foundation, in partner-



ship with the Age Strong Commission, and host sites, South Boston Convention Center and Mission Hill's Wentworth Institute of Technology.

This Drive-in Movie Series will include double-feature showings on select Wednesday

nights in July, as well as a special matinee viewing with the Age Strong Commission. This series is free, family-friendly, and open to residents of Boston. All event attendees must pre-register by car through an RSVP on Eventbrite which can be ac-

cessed through boston.gov/drive-in-movies.

"We are proud to offer free, family-friendly entertainment for the people of Boston through the July Drive-in Movie Series," said Mayor Walsh. "We are thankful for the Highland Street Foundation's support to make this happen, and to the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center and Wentworth Institute of Technology for hosting. Our hope is that these movie nights can provide a safe, fun summer respite for Boston residents of all ages."


Typically, the Highland Street Foundation sponsors scores of in-person events throughout the

summer all across Greater Boston. This summer, they moved their event into the car.

"Highland Street Foundation is pleased to partner with the City of Boston to provide the community with an opportunity to enjoy a relaxing, safe evening with loved ones," said Executive Director Blake Jordan.

The City will be using an LED screen that is visible from afar during the day and at night for viewing pleasure.

For additional information about the drive-in movie series and our COVID-19 safety guidelines please visit boston.gov/drive-in-movies.



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Gov. Baker and DESE releases school reopening guidelines for the fall

By JOHN LYNDIS

Last week Governor Charlie Baker's office and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) released their initial guidance about reopening schools this fall.

According to Baker's office and DESE current medical research supports a safe in-person return to school - with preventive measures in place - as infection and transmission rates are lower for children than adults.

The new guidelines include preventive measures like masks/face coverings, physical distancing, handwashing, and cleaning frequently touched surfaces

Masks/face coverings will be required for all students in Grade 2 and above and for all adults. They are also recommended for students in Grade 1 and below but not required

Based upon current medical research, and in conjunction with other preventive measures, a minimum physical distance of

three feet has been established for all schools.

In a statement from the Massachusetts Parents United founding president Keri Rodrigues was proud to have five of its parent members participating in the state's Return to School Working Group to help bring the important perspective of parents in several Gateway Cities like Boston to the table.

"While the recommendations issued by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) did not address all of the needs and concerns of parents and families, we do feel that some progress has been made," said Rodrigues. "We are grateful that the perspective of families of color, families who are English Language Learners, and families of color with children with special needs were included in these conversations where we could demand these guidelines be based in equity for all children."

accomplice with Black People, to fight racial violence and the rise of white nationalism."

"You should not only hold signs for Black Lives Matter, but also know you are responsible for the very gentrification of Black and Brown neighborhoods," he said. "You must be not only be allies, but also accomplices to Black Lives."

Organizers invite all to join them the first Thursday of every month at 5:30-6:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church to be inspired and moved to action to fight racial violence and the rise of white nationalism.

New research finds that renters with Section 8 vouchers face higher levels of discrimination

STAFF REPORT

People with Section 8 rental vouchers in Greater Boston face higher levels of discrimination than people without vouchers according to a new study released by the Housing Discrimination Testing Program (HDTP) at Suffolk University Law School, Analysis Group, and the Boston Foundation.

The study also revealed that many landlords and real estate brokers discriminate against Black renters, whether they have a voucher or not.

Barbara Chandler, Senior Advisor on Civil Rights and Fair Housing at Metro Housing | Boston, served as a consultant to the research teams and assisted in the design of the testing used for the study. Metro Housing is the state's largest regional administrator of housing vouchers.

The Housing Choice Voucher Program, commonly known as Section 8, is the federal government's major program for assisting very low-income families, elders, and people with disabilities to afford housing in the private market. With a Section 8 voucher, the tenant pays up to 30 percent of his or her income toward rent and utilities and the voucher covers the rest of the housing costs up to a set maximum rent.

Metro Housing | Boston provides rental assistance to 10,000 families, and we know that people with vouchers face many barriers when trying to rent safe,

decent housing that they can afford.

"My experience has shown that discrimination against voucher holders is both widespread and difficult to identify," says Julio Marccone, Fair Housing Client Advocate at Metro Housing. "Participants often cite that property owners are unwilling to perform voucher program-mandated repairs of their units, or refuse to fill out the required paperwork. Such non-compliance is not as obvious as an ad that spells out 'No Section 8,' but presents a barrier that is just as high."

M.L. is a housing voucher holder living in Boston who is Black. He wanted to move to Revere and found an apartment he liked. He was pre-approved; however, once the property owners learned of his voucher, M.L. began getting the run-around.

"First I was approved. Then they said I needed more income to help pay for utilities," said M.L. "I got a part-time job in Revere. After that, they started to make up reasons why I wouldn't be able to move in. They didn't make any sense. It was clear that they did not want to rent to me because I had a voucher."

"Although a voucher is a great resource to those experiencing a housing crisis, it tends to be the primary reason behind participants being denied housing opportunity," said Deyanira Gonzalez, Fair Housing Client Advocate at Metro Housing. "Even

when provided with the appropriate fair housing information, certain property owners will still choose to discriminate against voucher holders."

The study confirmed what Metro Housing's clients know first-hand. Voucher holders are shown fewer apartments and given fewer options than tenants paying market rate even when rental assistance will pay the rent being requested by the owner.

When race is added to the equation, Black people get treated worse than those who are White.

The authors of the study encourage, and Metro Housing | Boston supports asking policy makers to consider the data to develop policies to address the discrimination occurring throughout the Boston area.

Their recommendations include:

- Increase penalties and mandatory training for real estate professionals and prohibit them from charging broker's fees.
- Strengthen anti-discrimination laws and fair housing enforcement and education and increase resources for testing.
- Improve and streamline the system for using vouchers.

Both federal and state law prohibits housing discrimination based on race, and it is illegal in Massachusetts to discriminate against a person because they have a housing voucher, known as source of income.

Vigil

Continued from page 1

and white nationalism last December. On July 2, in front of the First Baptist, the group swelled to nearly 250 participants as they displayed signs and listened to Rev. Hamilton speak.

"We were very honored to have one of the First Baptist pastors speak to us," said organizer Mary Lenihan. "The Rev. Darrell R. Hamilton, II, called us to move out of our white people's comfort zone and be an



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EDITORIAL

The stock market does not represent the U.S. economy

We don't pretend to be experts either in the stock market or the economy in general.

However, as Bob Dylan put it, "You don't need a weatherman to know which way the wind blows," and similarly, the average American doesn't need a Ph.D. in economics to understand that the recent record height of the stock market indices -- the S&P 500, the Dow Jones 30 Industrials, and the Nasdaq -- does not reflect the health of the U.S. economy.

Increasing economic inequality -- what has become known as the disconnect between Wall St. and Main St. -- has been the broad trend of American life for the past 40 years.

Ever since Ronald Reagan (aided and abetted by the Democrats, by the way) deregulated the banking and other industries, gutted the labor unions, reduced tax rates for the rich, and abrogated the antitrust laws, America's immense wealth has become concentrated in the hands of the very few to an extent never before seen in the modern world.

Consider that the top 1% of American households now control more than half of the equity in U.S. public and private companies, according to data from the Federal Reserve. In relative terms, the top 1% now has more wealth than the entire middle class and as much wealth as 90% of all Americans.

The ratio of the salary of a CEO vs. the salary of the typical worker of a publicly-traded company in 1965 was about 20-1. That ratio today is about 350-1.

This is only part of the story, however. The real reason for the increase in the disparity between the top 1% and everyone else is that middle-class jobs in America have disappeared at an alarming rate to the benefit of the top 1%.

According to a Brookings Institution report, the two most highly-valued companies in the country in 1962 -- AT&T and General Motors -- employed nearly 1.2 million people combined.

Last year, the two largest companies in the S&P 500 -- Microsoft and Apple -- employed just 280,000 persons. Apple puts together almost all of its products in China, using third-party manufacturing companies that operate the modern-day equivalent of sweatshops.

Further, consider that the wealthiest top 10 percent of Americans own about 84 percent of U.S. stocks, with the top 1 percent owning 40 percent.

So put those two trends together -- fewer middle class jobs and stock ownership of American companies concentrated in the hands of a few -- and the result simply is this: Income that formerly went to the American middle-class has shifted to countries with low-wage workers, with the wealthy netting the difference.

There also is another factor at play. The health of the U.S. stock market not only does not represent the U.S. economy, it also does not even represent the stock market itself.

The five largest listed companies -- Microsoft, Apple, Amazon, Alphabet (Google), and Facebook -- have continued to climb this year. Through the end of April, these companies were up roughly 10 percent, while the 495 other companies in the S&P were down 13 percent. These highly valued firms -- Microsoft, Amazon and Apple are each worth more than \$1 trillion -- now account for about one-fifth of the market value of the entire index, the highest level in 30 years.

The coronavirus pandemic is exacerbating the trend of the past 40 years: The rich are getting richer, while everybody else is getting poorer and deeper into debt.

Without government policies -- higher tax rates on the wealthy, vigorous antitrust enforcement, and support of labor unions -- that will bring back into alignment the economic forces that created the great American middle-class of the 1950s and 60s, America is destined to become an oligarchy, otherwise known as a banana republic, with grave consequences for our democracy.

A phrase attributed to Louis Brandeis succinctly put it this way, "We must make our choice. We may have democracy, or we may have wealth concentrated in the hands of a few, but we can't have both."

OP-ED

District 8 needs a doctor in the house

By JP PROGRESSIVES STEERING COMMITTEE

Voters in the 8th district who have long decried Representative Steven Lynch's votes against the Affordable Care Act and marriage equality now have an opportunity to elect a true progressive -- Dr. Robbie Goldstein. A primary care physician and infectious disease specialist, Robbie commits to fight for Medicare For All, the Green New Deal, LGBTQ+ rights, immigration rights, and gun violence prevention. JP Progressives is proud to announce our unanimous support for Robbie's candidacy.

The son of a small-town dentist in upstate New York, Robbie learned the value of serving the community at a young age by joining his family after school to run the practice. Like many, Robbie came to Boston for his college degree, studying at Tufts and ultimately earning an MD and a PhD in cancer genetics, and marrying his husband Ryan in 2008.

In addition to working as an infectious disease specialist, Robbie is the founder and medical director of the Mass General Transgender Health Program. After hearing his patients express the need for expanded access to care, Robbie put together an advisory board that included transgender people, and convinced the hospital administration to support and launch the initiative. His work has provided much-needed support to some of the most marginalized in our community, but it also gave him important insights into the broader structural problems and inequities in our health-

care system. Realizing that he could advocate even more effectively for his patients and his community in the political sphere, he decided to run for public office.

In a Covid-19 forum sponsored by JP Progressives on May 20, Dr. Robbie shared his conviction that it is time to fundamentally redefine healthcare. "It is not just the insurance card in your pocket. It is about access, equity, and the opportunity to live a healthy life. I believe housing is healthcare; transportation is healthcare; climate justice is healthcare; and financial security is healthcare." Dr. Robbie continues to care for patients at MGH even while he campaigns, and has witnessed first-hand the devastation of Covid-19. "I have seen multiple ill family members admitted to the same unit. I have seen young Latinx patients struggling to communicate while frontline health workers put in long hours and hide their fears behind a mask. Covid-19 magnifies the injustice of our society," he said, explaining that the crisis makes clear our need to re-build a more just society.

Robbie has experience bringing structural change to large institutions and is committed to ensuring that critical funding is returned to public health institutions and that the federal response includes resources for communities of color in this country that have been historically marginalized and are disproportionately suffering from the pandemic. JP Progressives is persuaded that his understanding of healthcare and his dedication

in standing up for the rights of those he is serving will make him a powerful spokesperson and leader.

Robbie would be a strong, visionary partner with Senators Warren and Markey and Congresswoman Pressley. Congressman Stephen Lynch, who was first elected to Congress in 2001, is one of the most conservative members of the Mass delegation. He has failed to take the lead on any of the pressing issues facing our district, particularly those of us in Jamaica Plain, and has been notably absent from community activities. As we rebuild from this global pandemic, we are confident that Dr. Goldstein will fight for a recovery that doesn't just get us back to the status-quo, but seizes the opportunity to pass bold legislation including healthcare for all, environmental justice, and an economic system that prioritizes working families, not just the wealthy and well-connected. It is time for the people of the MA 8th Congressional District to elect a progressive to represent us. It's time for Massachusetts to send a doctor to the House.

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

OP-ED

A salute to nursing home staff

By PATRICK J. STAPLETON

As a leader of a not-for-profit skilled nursing and rehabilitation center that provides health care annually to hundreds of frail elders in Boston, I have witnessed first-hand the pervasiveness of the coronavirus pandemic within the 65-plus population, the most vulnerable age group in the ongoing outbreak.

Despite proactive precautions on top of existing infection control measures, and a growing understanding of how the virus spreads, the impact has been devastating and the toll staggering. Nearly every corner of the senior health care system has been touched, tragically, by COVID-19. Nursing homes in particular have been hit hard, accounting for about 40 percent of fatalities nationally and 62 percent in Massachusetts.

At Sherrill House, we saw this up close. Yet, though positioned on the front lines of this pandemic, we haven't found the popular support that one might find in a just war. We've had limited support while the enemy, COVID-19, is staring us down. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) early

on was been hard to come by and federal guidance has changed from one day to the next.

But none of the challenges we faced deterred our army of dedicated staff. They deserve all the credit, even though they seek none of it.

Their dedication shone through during the darkest days of the pandemic. We always say that we are mission-driven organizations – well, these employees are the mission. They embody the hard work out of a sense of duty, a calling to care for our residents, even at significant personal risk. COVID-19 placed an incredible demand on our front-line staff, and they responded by returning to work day after day.

As people, they had cared for, in some cases over several years, fell victim to the virus, it was a devastating loss. Administrative nurses who hadn't delivered care for years gowned up and cared for patients as other staff went out on medical leave due to the virus. The heroic work of caregivers is more important than ever, and it deserves full recognition and the strongest support.

Elder health care has often

been forgotten in our nation. Unlike in other parts of the world, where elders are revered and respected, too often we put priorities for our seniors behind other pressing concerns. In the case of COVID-19, this lack of planning and attention was nearly catastrophic for our system of care and further burdened nursing home heroes already stretched thin. It is imperative that we not only thank the women and men who work day and night at nursing homes, but that we soon look to permanent policy measures that will help them care for the residents they know and love for years to come.

We are not out of the woods. The holy grail of a vaccine remains months away, at least, and there are forecasts for a "second wave" of infections. Now is not the time for complacency or a wavering of support for the caregivers on the front lines who have barely had the chance to catch their breath.

Patrick J. Stapleton is the CEO of Sherrill House, a not-for-profit skilled nursing and rehabilitation center in Jamaica Plain.

Officials announce updated travel guidelines

STAFF REPORT

The Baker-Polito Administration last week announced new COVID-19 public health guidelines on travel and transportation.

Effective Wednesday, July 1, all travelers arriving to Massachusetts, including residents returning home, are to self-quarantine for 14-days. This guidance does not apply to travelers from Rhode Island, Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, New York or New Jersey. Additionally, workers designated by the federal government as essential critical infrastructure

workers are also exempt from this directive.

Travelers who are displaying symptoms of COVID-19 are instructed to not travel to Massachusetts.

All visitors and residents of Massachusetts are also reminded that the use of masks or face coverings in public places where individuals cannot socially distance from others remains required.

These new guidelines replace previously announced Massachusetts travel guidance. For national travel information, please visit www.travel.state.gov.

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MA income tax filing deadline is July 15

The Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR) this week reminded Massachusetts taxpayers that the deadline to file both federal and state income tax returns is Wednesday, July 15, 2020. Due to the impact of COVID-19, the tax filing deadlines were extended 90 days from the original April 15, 2020 deadline.

Taxpayers should keep in mind that a range of free electronic options are available for eligible taxpayers, including free fillable forms.

"The Department encourages all Massachusetts taxpayers to utilize the DOR website and review options for filing their state income taxes," said DOR Commissioner Geoffrey E. Snyder. "To date, more than 90 percent of Massachusetts taxpayers who have filed their 2019 income taxes have done so electronically. Given social distancing require-

ments and remote working conditions, electronic filing remains a safe and secure option for refund processing."

•Assistance for Massachusetts Taxpayers

Volunteers certified by the Internal Revenue Service will provide free tax help for lower-income taxpayers, as well as senior citizens, with both federal and state tax returns. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program is for taxpayers with an annual income of \$56,000 or less, those with disabilities, as well as taxpayers with limited or no English language proficiency. The Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) program provides free tax help to taxpayers who are 60 and older. TCE sites are often operated in partnership with AARP Tax-Aide. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, only some in-person services are available. Taxpayers who qualify

for tax-free preparation program should check directly with local-VITA and TCE sites.

•Earned Income Tax Credit Increased this Year

The Massachusetts Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) has increased from 23% to 30% of the federal credit. The credit is available to certain taxpayers who meet the requirements of the federal EITC. In order to claim the Massachusetts EITC, you must be a resident of the Commonwealth for at least part of the taxable year and file a tax return.

Massachusetts taxpayers can find more information, including forms, instructions, and helpful tips on DOR's website. To avoid penalties, returns for Massachusetts taxpayers must be filed electronically or postmarked by midnight July 15.

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

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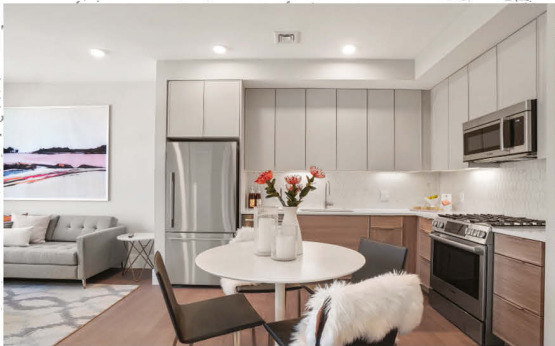
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