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Poll Power

Women's suffrage celebrates 100 years, with caveats

By SETH DANIEL

It was a note from mom that changed the landscape for women to get the right to vote 100 years ago on Aug. 18, and 100 years later it has led to a lot of victories and a lot of sobering realities too.

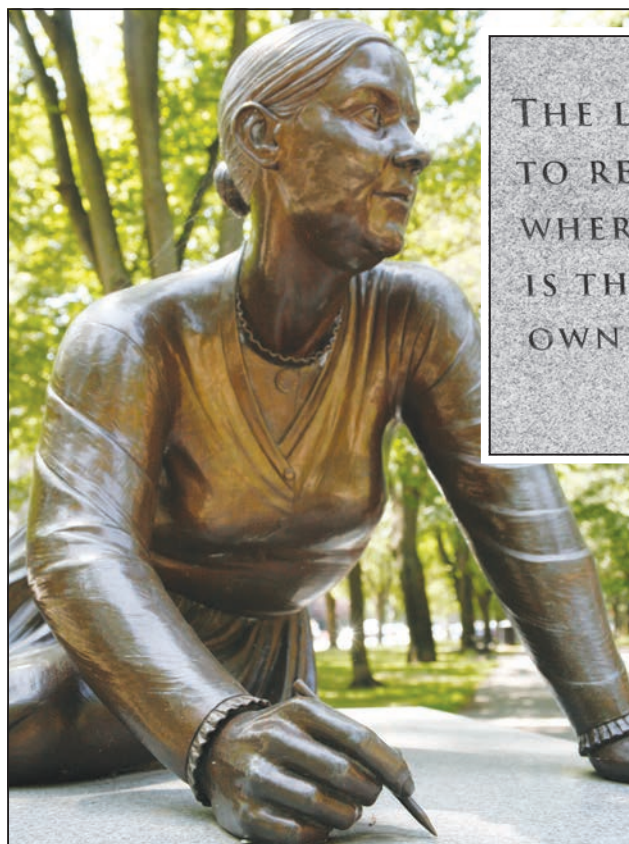
The caveat, of course – and one that must be stated, is that African American women did not win the right to vote 100 years ago, but rather not until the 1960s Voting Rights Act.

That said, the milestone was celebrated in a muted way this

week due to COVID-19 restrictions, but Aug. 18, 1920 was the day that cleared the way for the largest single increase in voting in American history – known as Ratification Day. And it did come down to one vote by Tennessee state legislator whose mother shamed him into doing the right thing.

Harry Burn was a very young state representative at the time in Tennessee from a very small town, and it was his mother's note that changed his mind.

Continued on page 2



THE LEGAL RIGHT FOR WOMAN
TO RECORD HER OPINION
WHEREVER OPINIONS COUNT,
IS THE TOOL FOR WHOSE
OWNERSHIP WE ASK.

WOMAN'S JOURNAL, 1891

At the Boston Women's Memorial on the Comm Ave Mall, there is a constant reminder of those women who fought for equality in all things – including voting. Pictured here is Lucy Stone, a long-time advocate of suffrage for women. While a leading voice in Women's Rights issues in the late 1800s, she died nearly 30 years before some women won the right to vote. The 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment occurred this week on Aug. 18.

Walsh, Cassellius lay out phased plan for school reopening

By JOHN LYNDOS

At his daily press briefing last Thursday Mayor Martin Walsh and Boston Public School Superintendent Brenda Cassellius laid out BPS's phased plan to reopen schools in the fall amid the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

At the briefing, Mayor Walsh called the plan a "flexible model" and schools across the district will have unique circumstances that require somewhat different approaches to each phase.

According to the plan all BPS students will begin with remote

learning on September 21. Then, BPS will gradually introduce optional hybrid learning for all students, starting with the highest need students and the youngest students. BPS will then introduce optional hybrid learning for additional grade levels, starting with the youngest students, and moving up into the higher grades.

Each new phase will be contingent upon the most up-to-date public health metrics.

"This is the best approach to educate our children," said Walsh. "It creates an on-ramp for students to return to the classroom,

in a safe and careful way. This is the best way to tackle opportunity and achievement gaps in our city. We're going to make remote learning as high quality as we possibly can. I have a lot of faith in our teachers to do that, and we're going to support them. But every day outside the classroom is a lost opportunity for many students. Schools mean more than learning. They mean essential services, care and mentoring, and social development. The other benefit is flexibility. We can adapt this plan to the health circumstances. We have more options for moving

forward."

Walsh said this approach will give the city and BPS time to assess health data before each step

with the Boston Public Health Commission. It will allow the City

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Plan de reapertura de escuelas

JOHN LYNDOS

En su conferencia de prensa diaria el jueves pasado, el alcalde Martin Walsh y la superintendente de escuelas públicas de Boston (BPS), Brenda Cassellius, presentaron el plan gradual de

BPS para reabrir escuelas en el otoño.

El plan es un "modelo flexible" y las escuelas tendrán circunstancias únicas que necesitarán cosas diferentes. Los estudiantes

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**In observance of Labor Day,
our office will be closed on
Monday, September 7, 2020**

Power

Continued from page 1

“It didn’t look like Tennessee was going to approve the amendment,” said Karen Price of the League of Women Voters in Massachusetts. “He came in wearing a red rose, which meant he was against it. When on the floor, he did find a note from his mother. It basically told him to do the right thing and he did and ended up voting for it. It ended up being the deciding vote when he changed his mind because it prevailed by one vote.”

Price said the Ratification Day would have been a major celebration for the League, which was also founded in 1920 to educate women on issues of the day. The official approval came on Aug. 26, 1920 by the federal government.

“It was an extremely large and long movement,” Price said. “I think it was probably one of the largest movements ever in U.S. history. It lasted about 80 years and was dramatic at every turn. At every turn, it seemed they were just squeaking through. It’s a very impressive story.”

As it turned out, women were able to vote in the 1920 presi-

dential election, and it is said – though not proven – that they were the driving force in electing Republican Warren Harding and his Vice President Calvin Coolidge, who was from Massachusetts.

Looking back from 100 years, in Boston, the milestone is met with a City Council that is majority female, with women holding eight of the 13 seats and including the Council President post.

City Councilor Kenzie Bok – who represents Back Bay, Bay Village and Beacon Hill – said the milestone is joyous and sobering at the same time.

“I think it’s both energizing and sobering at the same time,” she said. “It’s energizing because you see how hard people worked to get this right and they were effective in doing it and all they went through, yet it’s sobering because you have a majority female Council 100 years later, but it took 90 years to get one or two women.”

She also said it is sobering in that African American women were not included in the milestone.

“Black women weren’t included in that, and you also saw a long history of poll taxes and voter suppression to keep people

from voting, and that’s sobering too,” she said.

Councilor Lydia Edwards, who still wouldn’t have been able to vote at the 1920 milestone being an African American woman, said it was a time to celebrate, and also a time to acknowledge more can be done.

“As we enter one of the most consequential elections of our time, it’s important to remember so many of us are able to have a voice today and vote because of those who fought for a greater democracy,” she said. “This year marks the 100th anniversary of the adoption of the 19th Amendment which gave women the right to vote. Let’s utilize this moment to reflect and acknowledge that many people were not included in the movement for women’s voting rights. We have learned and are still learning that gender and racial justice are inextricably linked and both are necessary.”

Both Price and Bok point out that historically, the Aug. 18 milestone and the 1920 election – which saw the first women voters in the United States – gave birth to larger women’s issues.

Bok – a doctorate in history – said the passage of the 19th Amendment gave rise to one of the largest infusions of federal

money into what were perceived as women’s issues, notably education and maternal health.

“Right after Women’s Suffrage passed, Congress took up the biggest set of pro-family, pro-women bills it ever had,” she said. “That was because all the men were terrified of losing their seat due to women getting the vote...So that moment of Women’s Suffrage also pushed Congress to address education and women’s maternal health.”

Likewise, Price said that in the moments after suffrage, many of those active in the movement began to rally around the Equal Rights Amendment – which is still being fought for.

Suffragist Alice Paul authored the ERA shortly after the 19th Amendment passed, Price said.

“Now that they had the vote, they wanted to get equality in other areas,” said Price. “That’s when the ERA was born – right after the right to vote was won.”

Price said that for many young women and girls, it can be confusing for them to hear that women actually couldn’t vote at one time – and not so long ago in the history of the country. She said they strive to educate them about the fight, the ups and downs, and the good and bad of it.

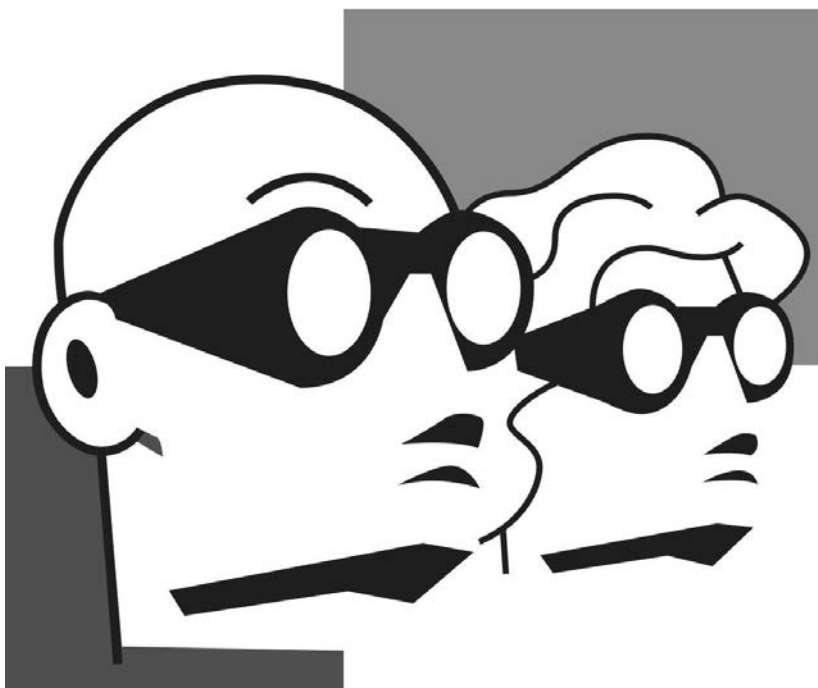
This week, however, marks a milestone and a call for more to be done to advance what was achieved 100 years ago this week.

“It’s a slow road,” she said. “But there is reason to believe we’re making progress. We had the first female presidential candidate in 2016, and now we have the first Asian/African American woman as a candidate for vice president and that’s a milestone. However, African American women in particular did not get to vote in 1920. They had to keep waiting until the Voting Rights Act...I like to say we’ve seen a lot of victories but still have a lot of work to do in regards to inclusion.”

After holding a small celebration on Tuesday afternoon next to the Boston Common, Kerry Costello of the Boston League of Women Voters, said it was important to know just how important one vote – and one’s mother – is.

“It was an important milestone certainly, but it wasn’t complete because it wasn’t for all women,” she said. “It is remarkable how important one vote can be. We saw that in the Boston City Council race last year. One vote does make a difference.”

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Councilor Wu holds panel discussion on Green New Deal

BY LAUREN BENNETT

City Councilor Michelle Wu held a virtual panel discussion on August 20 to discuss a Green New Deal for Boston at the municipal level, where she invited several community activists to offer their viewpoints on the matter.

Wu recently released a report outlining her proposed Green New Deal for Boston, which can be found on her website. She said the “main structure” of the plan includes “why we so urgently need climate action in this moment” and why the City should act now.

Nina Schlegel, lead author of the report, said that 60 community members attended a breakfast last October to start discussing what a Green New Deal would look like for Boston.

“This report is just one step in a longer process that ultimately will come to fruition in a Green New Deal for Boston,” Schlegel said. She said the process will continue at various community hearings and events like this one. We have enormous powers; zoning powers and others that we can implement to create substantive change,” she added.

“We are living through an emergency that has widened the

inequities in our communities,” Councilor Wu said, and has “compounded existing violences like classism and racism. Whenever there’s injustice in any community, it threatens us all. We’re at a turning point; we need to step up and act.”

She said a “specific city level Green New Deal” is needed to create healthy environment for all Bostonians. She said that climate justice at the city level includes things like accelerating decarbonization, clean energy financing, resilient stormwater infrastructure, and fostering a healthy urban tree canopy, according to a presentation.

“City governments by necessity must be practical, accessible, and accountable to residents,” Wu said. She said food supplies and jobs could be brought to urban neighborhoods through this plan, and it also leaves room for advocating to the state and federal governments as well.

“This is the moment to examine the failures of the status quo, to do what is right, what is moral, to change the arc of history so that the future bends towards justice as quickly as we can possibly put our energy into doing,” she said.

She said the City’s “task” is to transform systems, and systems

changes should be “people centered,” democratic, justice oriented, and address the root causes of issues through a community-led process.

“Together, we can reimagine the kind of city we’ve always wanted to live in and make it happen,” Wu said. “This is all not just possible, but practical. It is what we are aiming for every day.”

Panelists in the discussion included Maya Mudgal of the Sunrise Movement, Mela Miles, transit oriented development director for Alternatives for Community and Environment, Roxana Rivera, head of the 32BJ Service Employees International

Union District 615, political activist representing 350 Mass Bob Tumposky, Gabriela Cartagena of City Life/Vida Urbana, and Nina Schlegel, a Boston-based climate justice researcher and activist and the lead author of the report.

Mudgal said she has “been really excited about the report,” and she said it’s especially important to focus on a Green New Deal at the municipal level because the city “can’t wait for federal or even the state government to get initiatives in place.”

She said, “I think local problems require local solutions and local experts.” She said that while she feels a federal Green

New Deal is still important, “I’m really excited for Boston to lead on a municipal level.”

Miles said that while the idea behind a Green New Deal began at the national level, “locally, we need to address issues of affordable and possibly electric transportation,” she said.

She said that making sure everyone can afford access to reliable transportation and “to really get behind the electric vehicle infrastructure” is important.

“We’ve been working on looking at free public transportation and changing the whole struc-

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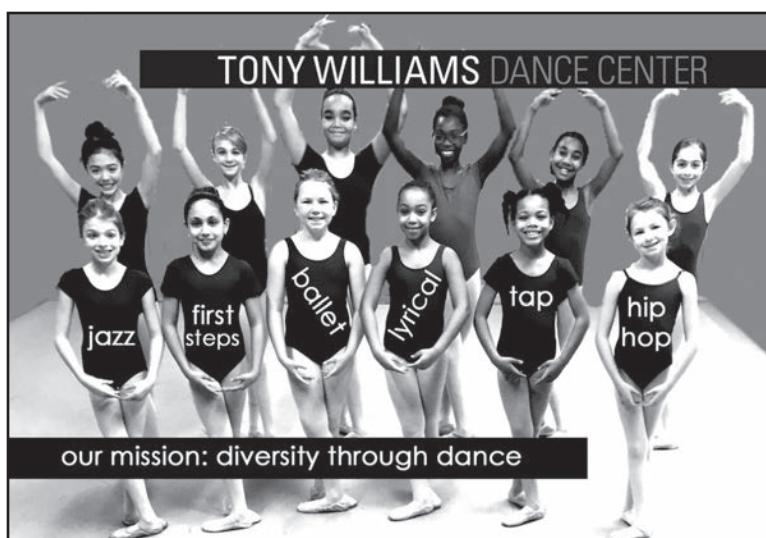
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School

Continued from page 1

of Boston and BPS to address learning needs and opportunity gaps in person and by providing extra help for students learning online. In every step, families have the choice of whether to opt-in to hybrid learning or stay fully remote.

“The bottom line is this: We need to contain the virus and keep our communities safe,” said Walsh. “Kids need to get back to school, in many cases for reasons of equity and safety. And we need to provide quality education, in whatever format is required. That’s what this plan makes possible. Every step along the way will follow science and

Each student’s exact first day in school for BPS’s hybrid learning will depend on which group they are placed in, the A or the B group, for their 2 days per week in school.

- September 21: All students begin remote learning
- Thursday, October 1: Students with the highest needs start in hybrid
- Thursday, October 15 (B) & Monday, October 19 (A): Grades K0, K1, K2 return
- Thursday, October 22 (B) & Monday, October 26 (A): Grades 1 - 3 return
- Thursday, November 5 (B) & Monday, November 9 (A): Grades 4 - 8 (secondary schools start grades 6 - 8) return
- Monday, November 16 (A) & Thursday, November 19 (B): Grades 9 - 12 return

public health data. Every family will have the choice about when to send children into school. And we will continue the work that began long before COVID-19: to close opportunity and achieve-

ment gaps, and give every single child the quality education that they deserve.”

Walsh and Cassellius said school facilities will be in full compliance with state public health guidelines from the first day anyone enters those buildings, staff or students, and that work is happening now. It will be complete and ongoing, as teachers and school leaders help identify additional steps.

Cassellius said teachers will begin professional development on Tuesday, September 8 for teaching both the remote and hybrid models.

“Equity remains at the center of Boston Public Schools’ planning for a safe and successful start to the school year,” said Cassellius. “This plan prioritizes meeting the needs of our most vulnerable learners, respects family choice, and is thorough, thoughtful and responsive to the feedback we have received from families and teachers. We are excited for the new school year and will continue



Mayor Martin Walsh and BPS Superintendent Brenda Cassellius brief the press last Thursday on BPS’s phased reopening plan.

to support the social, emotional, and physical wellness of our students, staff and community as we lift up equity, promote health and safety, and ensure educators, staff, and families are prepared to support our students in their learning.”

On October 1, the BPS plan outlines two options for families: the first is all remote learning continues with five days a week of online instruction and the second is a hybrid learning with two days a week of learning in schools and three days of remote learning.

Students in the hybrid model will be assigned into Group A or Group B. Students in Group A will attend schools on Mondays and Tuesdays and students in Group B will attend school on Thursdays and Fridays (see sidebar).

All will learn online on Wednesdays to allow for cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing of buildings. There are specific plans to work with students with disabilities, students who

are working towards English language proficiency, and others who require additional time and care to support their learning.

“Science and data is at the forefront of every single plan as we work to gradually and safely reopen the City of Boston,” said the city’s Chief of Health and Human Services Marty Martinez. “By phasing grades in every two weeks, teachers and school staff will have the time they need to get comfortable with the safety of their buildings and classrooms before students arrive, and allow us to monitor for any COVID activity between phases. As we have said from the beginning, these dates are dependent on public health data, and we will be closely monitoring the public health situation while creating a safe space for Boston’s students to learn.”

To see the full plan with complete details about this plan, go to bostonpublicschools.org/Reopening.



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Escuelas

Continued from page 1

comenzarán con el aprendizaje a distancia el 21 de septiembre. Luego, BPS introducirá gradualmente el aprendizaje híbrido opcional, en el que las familias pueden elegir participar.

“Este es el mejor enfoque para educar a nuestros hijos”, dijo Walsh. “Crea una vía de acceso para que los estudiantes regresen al aula”.

Las familias tendrán dos opciones: 1) aprendizaje remoto cinco días a la semana y 2) dos

días a la semana en la escuela y tres días a distancia. Los estudiantes del modelo híbrido serán asignados al Grupo A o al Grupo B. Grupo A asistirá a la escuela los lunes y martes y Grupo B los jueves y viernes. La enseñanza será remota los miércoles para permitir la desinfección.

Los maestros comenzarán el desarrollo profesional el 8 de septiembre para enseñar tanto el modelo remoto como el híbrido.

“La equidad permanece en el centro de la planificación de BPS para un comienzo seguro y exitoso del año escolar”, dijo Cassellius.

Cada nueva fase dependerá

de las métricas de salud pública más actualizadas. Las instalaciones escolares cumplirán plenamente con las recomendaciones estatales de salud desde el primer día que alguien ingrese a esos edificios.

“La ciencia y los datos están a la vanguardia de cada plan mientras trabajamos para reabrir la ciudad de Boston de manera gradual y segura”, dijo Marty Martinez, Jefe de Salud y Servicios Humanos de la ciudad.

Para ver el plan completo, visite bostonpublicschools.org/reopening.

PLEASE RECYCLE

JPNC Housing and Development Committee discusses lawsuit, proposal for 3371 Washington St.

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The Housing and Development Committee of the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC) met on August 18, where they discussed the lawsuit filed on the Pine Street Inn/The Community Builders housing project on Washington St., as well as heard an informal presentation on the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation's (JPNDC) plans for 3371 Washington St.

PINE STREET INN/THE COMMUNITY BUILDERS

As previously reported by the Gazette, Monty Gold, the landlord of 3377 Washington St., which is home to Turtle Swamp Brewing, has filed a lawsuit to stop the project to be developed by Pine Street Inn and The Community Builders that will provide housing to low income and formerly homeless individuals.

Many members of the community have spoken out against the lawsuit and in support of the project, saying that housing is needed now more than ever.

The Housing and Development

Committee discussed whether or not they want to issue a comment in response to the lawsuit.

"I think that we have the opportunity to make a statement," JPNC Chair Kevin Rainsford said. "It's a matter of where does that statement go?"

Neighbor Marie Turley said that there will be another Impact Advisory Group (IAG) meeting, which she said will "hopefully be the next step in trying to mitigate this process."

Resident Zack DeClerck, who has spoken in favor of the project and against the lawsuit, suggested that the best solution would be for the lawsuit to be dropped, but agreed that the next best would be if the two parties settled out of court.

A letter to the editor, which is published in this week's Gazette, was submitted by the JPNC outlining the Council's objection to the lawsuit.

3371 WASHINGTON ST.
(EL EMBAJADOR)

The Committee then heard an informal presentation on the plans for 3371 Washington St., home to El Embajador restau-

rant. The building is also across the street from the Pine Street Inn project discussed earlier. This project has not yet been filed with the city, and no votes were taken by the committee.

Samantha Montano, who is a member of the JPNC and also a JPND staff member, said that JPND was able to purchase the building with New Atlantic Development, and Utile has been hired as the design firm. The building was purchased from City Realty, she said.

The intent of the project is to build affordable senior housing, as well as a new restaurant space for El Embajador, should they choose to return to the space when construction is complete.

Montano said that the proposal includes 39 one-bedroom senior units and one live-in manager unit. All units are at or below 60 percent Area Median Income (AMI), and the purpose of these units is to provide affordable housing for seniors who wish to age in place.

"Bostonians over the age of 65 comprise the City's fastest growing demographic group," she said.

Brian Goldson of New Atlantic Development said that this is the "minimum number of units to create enough vibrancy and density in the community" so it can be successful, as supportive programs for the seniors will also be run there.

"We anticipated that we would need six stories," he said, and after meeting with residents on Union Ave. several times, they received a "fair bit of feedback which helped to shape the project."

He said that people wanted to see the building stepped back so it does not seem so tall.

The building falls under the City's compact living standards, and there will be a minimum of 25 percent of the units that will be below 30 percent AMI.

On the sustainability front, Goldson said that the building would be "primarily masonry" with a lot of open glass on the ground floor. The building would be "highly energy efficient," and they are targeting carbon neutral and passive house requirements.

"This is really early on and you're still talking to neighbors," JPNC Housing and Development Committee Chair Carolyn Royce said.

Goldson said that they are trying to get this project in for the next round of funding for affordable housing, which is in late September.

"We anticipate to solicit continued feedback," he said.

Montano said that the project team has been speaking with the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) about the community process, but she said that no projects that have not had three in person meetings prior to the COVID-19 shutdown will be moving forward. The BPDA is, however, taking letters of intent and "we do intend to move forward with the filing and everything," she said.

Though the team is looking for a letter of non-opposition from the JPNC, they will not be voting on the matter this early in the process, and will wait until the project is more established.

MassDOT advisory, lane closures on I-90 Boston

STAFF REPORT

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is announcing that beginning last weekend, the left travel lane of I-90 eastbound and westbound will be closed in the area of the Massachusetts Avenue overpass due to the establishment of a work zone for an air rights project at 1001 Boylston St.

As outlined at recent public meetings, the left travel lanes for a distance of approximately one mile will be closed 24/7 for a period of approximately six months. After six months, the left travel lanes will reopen and the right travel lanes in each direction will be closed.

The air rights project work zone requires one lane in each direction to be closed during peak travel times. Meanwhile, there will be temporary off-peak hour lane restrictions beginning in July 2021 and lasting approximately six months. In addition, in 2021 there will be several weekend diversions on the MBTA Worcester Commuter

Rail Line, anticipated to occur over four weekends during the summer months.

Samuels & Associates is building the Parcel 12 Air Rights project at 1001 Boylston Street and transportation impacts associated with the project are be-

ing managed by Howard Stein Hudson, with consultation from MassDOT.

More information and updates can be found at the developer's project website: www.buildp12.com.

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Flu shot mandatory for all MA students; Baker, Polito discuss testing, campaign

BY LAUREN BENNETT

Governor Charlie Baker held a press conference on August 20, where he, along with Lt. Governor Karyn Polito and Secretary of Health and Human Services Marylou Sudders, spoke about testing in the state and announced that all Massachusetts students will be required to get a flu shot this year.

Baker talked about testing resources for students in grades K through 12, and how the state is preparing for new cases and “allocating the resources to respond to them.”

He said, “until there’s a medical breakthrough like a vaccine, COVID will be a part of our lives that we must find a way to deal with accordingly.”

He said that a rapid response testing program will be available to “quickly deliver testing resources for school testing and personnel” should it be necessary, and as the school year starts, the state wants to be able to continue to provide “robust” testing.

Baker also said that the Stop

the Spread Initiative, which is currently providing free testing in 20 communities across the state that have high rates of COVID-19, will continue through the end of September.

Lt. Governor Karyn Polito said that the administration is “encouraged” that around 70 percent of the state’s school districts are planning on bringing students back using a hybrid or fully in-person model. She announced that to increase public health and safety this school year, “all Massachusetts school students enrolled in childcare, preschool, K-12, and post secondary” school children ages six months and older will be required to receive the flu vaccine.

“Every year, getting vaccinated is hugely important to our public health,” she said. “We are proud that across the nation, we have the highest immunization for our children and youth, but we can do better.”

Students must be vaccinated by December 31, Polito said, adding that children who are homeschooled are exempt, but

children enrolled in schools who will be learning remotely are not, and neither are college students.

“It’s imperative that we get students back to the classrooms,” she said, and this requirement “will provide a necessary layer of protection. Every case of the flu we can prevent helps prevent unnecessary disruptions,” and also frees up time and space for healthcare professionals to focus on COVID-19 patients should there be another spike in cases, she said.

Secretary of Health and Human Services Marylou Sudders said that with testing “widely available” across the state at over 250 testing sites, “we’re one of the top testers in the nation.” She said that the state is working to expand in-state lab capacity to make the testing turnaround even quicker, but right now it is around two days, which she said is much quicker than some states that have patients waiting for a week or more for their results.

TAX FREE WEEKEND AND MY LOCAL MA CAMPAIGN LAUNCH

Governor Baker and Lt. Governor Polito on Tuesday announced the launch of a new campaign, My Local MA, ahead of the state’s annual tax free weekend which starts this Saturday, August 29, and runs through Sunday, August 30.

“Small businesses have usually employed about half of the Massachusetts workforce, and the continue to serve in many respects as the backbone of a lot of our downtowns and main streets,” Baker said at his press conference on August 25.

This coming weekend is Tax Free weekend in the Commonwealth, and sales tax will not have to be paid on items costing less than \$2500.

“A tax break is always good for the tax payers, obviously, but this year in particular, we really want everybody to think about taking advantage of the chance that this provides for you to go shop in your locally owned, locally operated businesses in your community,” Baker said.

He announced the launch of a campaign called My Local MA, which will run through the end of the year. The campaign’s goal is to “encourage people to shop locally, and to make travel plans within MA,” the governor said. It’s “also an effort to remind people that their behavior matters.”

He said that while people are encouraged to go out and shop local businesses, it’s important to do it safely by wearing a face covering and maintaining a safe distance from others.

“Please show your support for the local businesses in your community and get out this weekend,” he said.

Lt. Governor Karyn Polito said that “local businesses, many of which are family owned, are strong contributors to the history and character of our main streets, our downtowns, and our villages.” They also employ locally and “fill a key need in our communities,” she said.

“When we all buy local, we’re doing our part to preserve the Massachusetts we know and love so much,” she said.

The My Local MA campaign ads will be seen on social media, across the web, on billboards, in print publications, on the radio and television, and other places, Polito said. She said the state is working with the “16 regional tourism councils to help implement the overall marketing strategies that encourage residents to purchase products and travel within Massachusetts.”

For more information on the campaign, visit findmylocalma.com.



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City of Boston and MBTA break ground on Columbus Avenue bus lane project

A transformative investment in transit reliability for commuters in Mattapan, Dorchester, Roxbury, and Jamaica Plain

STAFF REPORT

The MBTA and the City of Boston on August 21 announced the groundbreaking of a first-of-its-kind transit facility in Metro Boston that will dramatically improve bus speed and reliability access for riders relying on three routes connecting Mattapan, Dorchester, Roxbury, and Jamaica Plain with the Orange Line. The center-running bus lane project along Columbus Avenue between Walnut Avenue and Centre Street / Ritchie Street is part of a series of projects that the MBTA and the City of Boston are undertaking to dramatically overhaul bus service.

“Creating safe, affordable, and equitable transportation options in Boston is a key goal of the Walsh Administration, and our Go Boston 2030 plans,” said Boston’s Chief of Streets Chris Osgood. “This bus lane will help improve speed and access for those who rely on these bus routes, and I thank all partners

involved for making this possible.”

“Once completed, this will be one of the premier pieces of bus priority infrastructure in our system and a major investment in transit equity,” said MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak. “This is only the first step. Our aim is to work with Boston and our other municipal partners to build a network of high-quality bus priority infrastructure across our service area. These partnerships will transform how commuters travel across the region.”

“The need for better transit and a more walkable Egleston Square was something that came up again and again in neighborhood discussions and throughout the Go Boston 2030 and JP/ROX planning initiatives, so it’s exciting to see this move from idea to reality,” said Carolyn Royce of the Egleston Square Neighborhood Association. “This will help neighbors and shoppers connect across Columbus Ave., and will

be great for everyone trying to get to the local library branch, all the businesses in Egleston Square, and the Dimock Health Center.”

Since the state-wide public health emergency was declared in March, ridership for Bus Routes 22, 29, and 44, which travel through the project corridor, has been above system-wide averages. These routes also serve some of the highest rates of low-income and minority riders within the MBTA’s system. According to a 2017 CTPS survey, 91 percent of Route 22 bus riders are non-white.

Center-running bus lanes allow for faster, more reliable service by decreasing the likelihood that buses will be delayed by traffic, slowed down by turning cars, or stuck behind double-parked vehicles. Elsewhere in Boston, bus lanes have greatly contributed to improved travel times and better service. On Washington Street in Roslindale, transit travel times were reduced

by 20 to 25 percent during the worst hour of congestion after a bus lane was implemented.

A major component of the project is the construction of four pairs of bus boarding platforms with enhanced amenities that include shelters, real-time bus arrival information, and seating. These platforms will be constructed with higher curb heights that will make boarding conditions more accessible for all passengers. They will also aid pedestrian safety for people crossing Columbus Avenue by shortening crossing distances and installing new curb ramps and crosswalks. In 2019, there were twenty-five reported crashes along the project corridor, and four of those crashes involved pedestrians.

Over the last year and a half, the City of Boston and MBTA have partnered closely with the community to engage the surrounding neighborhood and design the facility. A separate planning effort being led by the

Boston Transportation Department will explore options for developing a bike network on surrounding streets.

The project is expected to be completed by spring 2021 at a total cost of about \$10 million with costs shared between the City and MBTA. The City of Boston and MBTA have also been working closely with communities along the Warren Street and Blue Hill Avenue corridors to improve transit and active transportation.

The MBTA Transit Priority Group was created in 2019 with support from the Barr Foundation to further bus priority projects around the region. Since its creation last year, the group has partnered with municipalities to implement nearly four miles of dedicated bus lanes, alongside transit signal priority and other speed and reliability improvements.

For more information, please visit www.mbta.com/buspriority

Wu

Continued from page 3

ture so we don’t have to utilize the fare structure system,” she said. She added that focusing on zero emissions buildings “so that a green, sustainably built building is not a luxury.”

Roxana Rivera said she is “very proud to support the federal Green New Deal,” and said that the union’s late president had “encouraged and organized for our international unit (two million workers)...to come out in support of this.”

Tumposky said he believes “alliances are the key to this. We all need to work together closely on our common concerns, whether it be affordable housing; whether it be projects placed in environmental justice communities.”

Cartagena said the process really needs to be based in democracy “rather than the entitlement and arrogance that we are seeing,” citing the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) and President Trump as examples. She said that “making sure people who are directly

affected are in control of the decisions” is necessary.

Wu asked the panelists if there was a particular piece of the report that stuck out to them, and also what they think should be done next, as that was a question raised by many community members that signed up to be a part of the discussion.

“I think that the crucial thing is to first understand how big this is,” Trumposky said. “We need to engage the City Council with more than a majority vote.” He said bringing this to the attention to the community and city agencies in as many ways as possible would be effective.

Cartagena said that taking housing in the private market and making developments community owned could be a next step. She said a “huge issue” at the BPDA is “selling off what used to be city property to private developments,” citing the Suffolk Downs development as an example. She said those “luxury units...should have been more community rooted.”

She said that many neighborhood associations are not “prioritizing or at least talking about” this issue, and said that their agenda items focus on develop-

ments rather than “community issues.”

Rivera said that the “pandemic is an example of why we have to live differently going forward,” and suggested that a next step could be “kind of breaking this down and using our networks in folks that we represent.”

Miles said that educating future generations on climate change and environmentally friendly structures so they “become a new north for our youth.”

Mudgal said she appreciates the “scope” of the report “and the fact that we can imagine a better city for ourselves...this proposal really sets out what Boston could be.”

Schlegel said it is difficult to pick just one aspect of the report, but she said that free transit and the urban climate corps stand out to her the most.

“I vote that we come out of tonight ready from our own individual lens and the relationships that we have to expand those networks, to get to know your neighbors, and to get to know the City; but also to keep pushing for us to believe that we can achieve what we’re hoping for,” Wu said.

She said that this “requires a whole lot of organizing,” and her

team will be keeping in touch with the community about ways people can get involved in mov-

ing this forward.

“We’re all moving in the same direction,” she said.



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JPNC to draft letter of interim non-opposition for Apothca dispensary

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC) met virtually on August 25, where Joseph Lekach of Apothca, Inc. returned with his proposal for an adult use dispensary at 54 Hyde Park Ave., and committee chairs provided updates.

CANNABIS STORE PROPOSAL

Joseph Lekach, co-founder and CEO of cannabis company Apothca, Inc. came before the Council last month with his proposal for an adult use dispensary at 54 Hyde Park Ave. This month, he came again seeking a letter of non-opposition from the Council.

In 2017, the JPNC provided a letter of non-opposition for medical use at this site, but the addition of adult use requires another letter.

Many operational details were discussed at the meeting last month, and on Tuesday evening, Lekach provided more details on Apothca's commitment to the community and how common neighbor concerns would be addressed.

A police detail will be at the site "upon opening until such time that a police detail is no longer needed," according to a slide presented, and quarterly community meetings will be held for the first year, and annually after that. He also said that Apothca will hire locally to the extent the law allows.

Additionally, Lekach said that Apothca will work with the Shattuck Hospital on coordination of hours of operation so disruptions are minimized and "avoid overlap with the time period where patients leave the hospital after receiving their drug treatment," read a slide.

He also talked about responding to neighbor concerns that have been heard throughout the process so far, which include advocating for a crosswalk to be added across Hyde Park Ave near the dispensary's location. He also said that a security officer will be on hand to ensure that customers who park illegally will not have access to the dispensary.

Any noise will be mitigated by Apothca, though there is no anticipated noise disruption, he said. Use of public transit will also be incentivized, and medical patients who use public transit will receive a discount. The law

does not allow for a discount for adult use purchases, he said. Additionally, financial incentive will be provided to employees who take public transit to work.

He said they don't expect many car trips, as this is a dispensary focused on the local community and the use of the MBTA.

"Why should the neighborhood council take any position on this now?" asked JPNC member Dave Baron. "There are still a lot of processes that still have to happen."

Lekach said that this is the first step in the process as the City wants to see non-opposition from the community before moving forward to Councilor O'Malley.

Baron said he "would not be opposed to some sort of interim" non-opposition for Councilor O'Malley, as he said he appreciates the councilor wanting support from the community before proceeding.

He also said he wants an opportunity for the council to speak on the Host Community Agreement process, as he does not feel it appropriately addresses the local community.

JPNC member Priscilla Yang said that many neighbors were under the impression that this facility was going to be medical only, and she had concerns that people were unaware of the change. She wanted to ensure that people have ample opportunity to voice concerns about all aspects of the current proposal.

"There's going to be multiple opportunities for community outreach," Lekach responded, citing the Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA) and Boston Cannabis Board hearings as chances for people to comment publicly. He said that adult use was not part of their original business plan, but when the adult use facility on Centre St. was approved, "that changed our calculus."

He said when there is an adult use option, medical patients will prefer to shop there. "It's just the reality," he said.

He added the "no one will be able to see what's going on inside" the facility, and it wouldn't be open while kids are gathering before school.

JPNC member Max Glikman said that this facility "could improve traffic and flow at the Centre St. location," citing Core Cannabis, the other dispensary

in the neighborhood. "This, from a community-wide perspective, might be easier to handle," as it places less strain on a single location, he said.

"There needs to be a traffic study done," said JPNC member Gert Thorn. He mentioned that other dispensaries proposed for the area had provided traffic studies to the council early on in the process. He also shared Yang's concerns about making sure that neighbors are aware of the change to the project proposal.

He said the traffic study needs to be seen by the JPNC before the project goes before the ZBA. After more discussion, Lekach said that he has "no problem" bringing a full traffic study report to next month's JPNC meeting.

The Council voted to present a draft letter of interim non-opposition to the adult use proposal that is "based on incomplete information, an incomplete process, [and] maybe says something about the process coming forward," Baron said. The letter will be presented at next month's JPNC meeting for a vote.

ZONING COMMITTEE

Zoning Committee Chair Dave Baron reported that a proposal for 12 Everett St. was discussed by the committee at its August meeting. The proposal is to construct a three-story multifamily residential building with seven units and basement parking on the lot that is 13,231 square feet.

Baron explained that the original proposal called for nine units, and it was then lowered to seven, but at a recent meeting the applicant said that five would be considered.

He said that violations include forbidden use, as multifamily residential is not a permitted use in that area, and there is a lack of frontage for the proposal. There are no dimensional violations on the height, side, or rear yards.

He said that many abutters and other neighbors were very opposed to this proposal, as they felt it was too big and had too many units for the area.

Baron said that the Sumner Hill Association "changed its position between two meetings," saying that at first, they supported the neighbors, but at a second meeting they were neutral.

Baron said that "we really try to support the neighbors, particularly when they have legitimate

concerns and try to make projects better," so the recommendation of the committee was to deny the proposal. The JPNC voted with the recommendation.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Education Committee Chair Trevor Wissink-Adams talked about Boston Public Schools' new phased-in approach to back to school and how the committee plans to help out. He said they discussed ways to make learning pods more accessible to families, but the committee has not had a chance to get together since the final plan was released by the City, so further discussion is to come.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE

Public Service Committee Chair Michael Reiskind spoke about the committee's continued discussion on how to reform the police, which has been moved to a subcommittee of a few members. He said they will try to get a meeting of this new police reform subcommittee in before next month's Public Service Committee hearing.

He said that the committee will be discussing things like militarization of the police, police in schools, police overtime, facial recognition use, and use of drones and helicopters by the police.



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Jamaica Plain's Linda Sklar wins Mayor's Garden Contest

By JOHN LYNDIS

Mayor Martin Walsh announced this week that Jamaica Plain resident Linda Sklar was a winner in the 24th Annual Mayor's Garden Contest.

Sklar won in the Medium Yard garden contest category with a grand prize provided by JetBlue and prize packages donated by Mahoney's Garden Centers.

This year's competition was held within current social distancing guidelines with the contest providing the perfect opportunity to recognize those who have taken advantage of the "safer at home" guidelines to hone their gardening skills.

Sklar received the coveted "Golden Trowel" award from

Mayor Walsh while second and third place winners were awarded certificates.

Sklar is also eligible for a drawing for a JetBlue Grand Prize consisting of roundtrip flights for two to any nonstop destination from Boston. Gardener's gift bags were provided by Mahoney's Garden Centers to Sklar and the other top winners in each category as well as gift certificates for the 2020 Hall of Fame winners.

For over two decades the Mayor's Garden Contest recognizes gardeners who have landscaped, planted flowers, trees, shrubs, and vegetables, and in the process, helped beautify Boston's neighborhoods. The safety of gardeners and contest judges

was the top priority of the Boston Parks and Recreation Department and gardeners were instructed to follow all current advisories from the Boston Public Health Commission and the City of Boston. Judging was held with social distancing and masks in use, as was the delivery of winner's certificates.

Traditionally, the awards ceremony is an outdoor celebration in the Boston Public Garden where each winner is announced and provided with their award by Mayor Walsh. This year's ceremony was held virtually on August 25 with all winners' gardens showcased. As winners of each category were announced, photos of their gardens were shown on screen.



Jamaica Plain resident Linda Sklar was a winner in the 24th Annual Mayor's Garden Contest.

JP musician releases album centered on environmental crisis

By LAUREN BENNETT

JP-based musician Eleanor Elektra recently released her second full length album, Exquisite Corpse, which she describes as a concept album revolving around the environmental crisis and her personal relationship with it.

Originally from Portland, Oregon, Elektra came to Boston sev-

eral years ago to study at Berklee College of Music, but dropped out as she "wasn't really thriving in the institutional setting," she told the Gazette.

"I was still in a place where I wanted to learn and be a student of sorts," she said of Boston, and as someone who deals with chronic pain, she said it was easier for her to teach herself and "being in my own environment

gave me some more flexibility to manage that."

Since 2015, she has resided in a house in Jamaica Plain with other musicians—as many as five at one time—and she said this community environment allows her to "still be a student in a way." She and her roommates often play music together, but also work on their own separate projects as well, she said.

As a musician, Elektra said she has always been self-motivated, and started teaching herself the guitar at around age 10. She also took piano lessons as a young child, and always participated in music with her family as a group.

Elektra's first album, The Lumberjack, was released in 2018, and she said she has been working on Exquisite Corpse

since about 2016, but she really started focusing on it about two years ago.

"It's really meant to I guess kind of contribute to this pool of artistic and intellectual resources for people to have an actual relationship with the planet that we live on," she said. "Now that the environmental crisis is really looming, I've been hearing more of that come up in new art and music."

She said that while the environment has been a topic of some of her previous music, this album presents a "sense of urgency." Elektra said she's "really trying to draw attention to the fact that we're on the edge of a precipice and we need to walk ourselves back."

As a printmaker, she also created original artwork for the

cover of her album, which she said takes imagery from music on the album, as well as certain metaphors that are consistent throughout.

"Both on the posters and the album art, there's this image of what is a dead deer," she said, but it's "kind of ambiguous whether it's dead or alive." She said the corpse is "used to talk about cycles and nature" and "a period in our cycle as a people it seems where it's really heavy with dying."

The first song on the album is titled Exquisite Corpse, and "we ended up kind of using that as a metaphor in the lyrics we're writing as well," she said, so the name also stuck for the album title. "This is a good way to personify the planetary body as it exists right now," she said. "When the planet undergoes a transition like this, it is violent."

The album features several other musicians that Elektra met through the Boston music scene, including Milena Casado on trumpet, Jacob Hiser on piano and the Hammond B organ, Ivanna Cuesta Gonzales on drums, Zosha Warpeha on fiddle and Hardanger fiddle, and Tyrone Allen on bass.

She said that "Miami" is one of her favorite songs on the album, "both as a composition and the way it came together in the studio." She said the song is one

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Early voting for Massachusetts Primary kicks off in Boston

By JOHN LYNDIS

The City of Boston Election Department kicked off 'Early Voting' in Boston for the Massachusetts Primary over the weekend at several polling locations.

In Jamaica Plain, voters will head to the polls on Sept. 1 during the state primary and cast ballots for Senator in Congress, Representative in Congress, Governor's Councillors, Senator in General Court, Representative in General Court, and Register of Probate.

However, voters were able to cast early ballots at several sites across the city on Saturday and Sunday and hundreds of registered voters did so over the weekend.

Jamaica Plain voters can continue to vote early through Friday, Aug. 28 at Boston City Hall between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. on Thursday.

In Jamaica Plain, voters will make their choice for Massachusetts U.S. Senate between incumbent U.S. Senator Ed Markey or Congressman Joseph Kennedy III. Republican Shiva Ayyadurai is running against Kevin O'Connor on the Republican side and the primary winner will face either Markey or Kennedy in the General Election.

Incumbent U.S. Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley is running unopposed for the 7th Congressional District as is State Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz in the Massachusetts 2nd Suffolk District and State Rep. Elizabeth

Malia in the Massachusetts 11th Suffolk District

Incumbent Suffolk County Register of Probate Felix Arroyo will square off against Kerby Roberson in the state primary.

Incumbent Christopher Iannella will run unopposed for the Massachusetts Governor's Council seat in District 4.

Due to COVID-19, health and safety protocols during the early voting period and on Election Day will be implemented at polling locations. All poll workers will receive face shields, face masks, gloves, disinfectant wipes, disinfectant spray and hand sanitizer. Cleaning will take place at each site every two to three hours. Voters waiting in line will be instructed to stand 6 feet away from others and wear a face covering.

Ballots will be available in English, Spanish, Chinese and Vietnamese. Language assistance will be available on Election Day by translators at polling locations or by contacting the Election Department's translation phone bank.

For more information on how to participate in this year's elections, please visit boston.gov/election.



In preparation for the September 1 State Primary, the Boston Election Department announced the availability of dropboxes for registered voters to vote by mail. The election includes the following races: Senator in Congress, Representative in Congress, Governor's Councillors, Senator in General Court, Representative in General Court, and Register of Probate. A dropbox is available to any voter on the third floor of Boston City Hall Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Additionally, dropboxes will be available at each early voting location during the scheduled voting hours.

Voters dropping off their application to vote by mail or their completed ballot at City Hall should enter from City Hall Plaza, and will be screened for symptoms of COVID-19 before entering the building. Voters can drop off their application to vote by mail by August 26, 2020 or their completed ballot by September 1.

Angell is Open! Providing Essential Veterinary Services



EMERGENCY SERVICES & URGENT CARE Boston & Waltham are open 24/7. Our primary care & specialty services are available for patients with non-life threatening but urgent issues. **617-522-7282**

ON-SITE SPECIALTY CONSULTS & TELEMEDICINE Most of Angell's specialists are available to consult on your pet's case while your pet is at Angell or to facilitate phone or video appointments. Visit angell.org.

PHARMACY Prescriptions for Angell patients are available by curbside pick-up or mail (shipping fees apply). Submit prescription requests at angell.org/pharmacy or call **617-524-5700**.

REFERRAL SERVICES We are now welcoming a limited number of referral cases in Boston & Waltham.

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

angell
animal medical center

angell.org

Angell Animal Medical Center | 350 S. Huntington Ave, Boston | 617-522-7282
MSPCA-Angell West | 293 Second Ave, Waltham | 781-902-8400

Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll



'JEAN'

Jean, pictured here, is one of 21 cats that the MSPCA (with the help of our friends at Animal Control) took in from a house in Brighton. They were all in great shape but have varying degrees of comfort with humans. We've spent the last few weeks figuring out their needs, and while some have gotten adopted, we still have 8 available for adoption! Some need to go home to another social cat (either within the group or one you already have at home), and some are good to go solo! So if you're looking to add a feline friend to your home, give us a call! Email adoption@mspcas.org today for more information on Jean or the other Brighton cats!



For more information about 'Jean' and/or other animals in need of adoption, please contact:

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NEWS BRIEFS

LEARNING FOR THE LOVE OF IT

With all of the uncertainty that currently surrounds us, it's time for good news. The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at the University of Massachusetts, Boston announces that its full fall course schedule will continue not on campus but using zoom online video conference technology.

No fighting traffic, no more parking fees, and no more worrying about what clothes to wear; just taking courses and interacting with your peers in the comfort of your own home. Some 50 classes on a variety of subjects will be offered Monday thru Saturday. These courses offer a chance to connect with the facilitator and fellow students on Zoom to learn new knowl-

edge and exchange comments and ideas. Classes will be offered during the mornings and afternoons and begin on September 14th.

Class subjects will include Introduction to Opera; History; Beginning Yoga; Tai Chi; Creative Writing; Poetry; and Current Events to name a few. Somerville resident and OLLI member Anne Kelly sums it up: “OLLI offers such a wide variety of interesting courses and activities for its members. There’s something for everyone! The best part of being a member of OLLI is the friends I’ve made who share common interests with me. As I always say, there are no strangers here, only friends you haven’t met.”

Approximately 50 classes across a variety of subjects will be hosted Monday through Fri-

day at 10am and 1:30pm with Brown Bag presentations scheduled at noon.

For more information about the OLLI program and its course listings, please visit our website: <https://www.umb.edu/olli>.

HISTORIC WALKS

Free Guided Walking Tour of Green Street will take place on Saturday, August 29 starting at 11:00 am from in front of Southern Jamaica Plain Health Center, 640 Centre Street.

Pre-registration for
tours: [https://forms.gle/
ZR7ofkvEwuLJnv988](https://forms.gle/ZR7ofkvEwuLJnv988).

Please note: tours will be given based on the COVID 19 directives from the City of Boston and the Commonwealth. Please wear a mask and follow all required actions. Conducted by the Jamaica Plain Historical Society.

Free Guided Walking Tour of Woodbourne neighborhood will take place on Saturday, September 5 starting at 11:00am from in front of Bethel AME Church at the corner of Walk Hill Street and Wachusett Street.

Pre-registration for
tours: [https://forms.gle/
ZR7ofkvEwuLJnv988](https://forms.gle/ZR7ofkvEwuLJnv988) Please
note: tours will be given based
on the COVID 19 directives from
the City of Boston and the Com-
monwealth. Please wear a mask
and follow all required actions.
Conducted by the Jamaica Plain
Historical Society.

Meetings announced

Police Community Relations Meeting will take place on Thursday, September 3 at 6:30pm via Google Meet. To obtain the link to the meeting, please call the Boston Police E-13 station at (617) 343-5623. Commanders from Boston Police Area E, MBTA Police and State Police will deal with all issues of public safety raised by the community. All interested residents are invited to attend via Google Meet.

The Public Service Committee of the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 8 at 7:00pm and will utilize Zoom. On the agenda will be a request by On The Edge Nutrition - OTEN Surprise for a common victualler (restaurant) license at

7 Burroughs Street. Also on the agenda will be continued discussion on how to reform the police.

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

All interested residents are invited to attend via Zoom.

VIGIL IN SUPPORT OF BLACK LIVES

The September Vigil in Support of Black Lives will be held Thursday, September 3, 5:30-6:30 p.m. on the lawn of the First Baptist Church of Jamaica Plain, 633 Centre St. Our guest speakers will be Toiell Washington and Hodan Hashi, two of the co-founders of Black Boston. Everyone is invited to participate in this monthly stand out for racial justice and human rights. For further information, contact Mary Lenihan at maryfranlenney@gmail.com, or Penny Wells at pwells22@gmail.com.

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Sticky Note represented
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Reading on a Screen?? Click on Your Rep's name to start sending them an email!

Musician

Continued from page 10

that “personifies the signals that we’re getting from the natural world that are indicating big changes are happening, like the foundation of life on Earth.”

She continued, "I suppose it also expresses the apocalypse in progress aspect of now and so it's kind of like, if you listen to it, it may not be totally clear if you're looking at a post apocalyptic world or the world right now."

Elektra said she feels so connected to the environment be-

cause it's "always been my point of spiritual contact. For a number of reasons, it's been one of the most important relationships in my life."

Coping with a chronic illness, she said, “I’ve always been sensitive to the sensory experience of being in nature,” such as noticing how the sun feels on her skin or other tactile experiences she could have that didn’t make her feel pain.

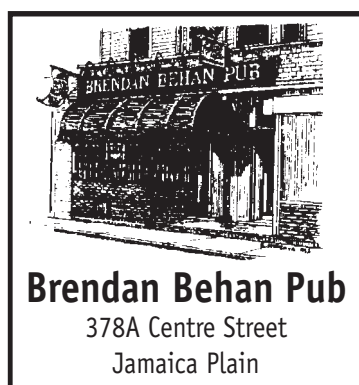
She said a lot of it has to do with where she grew up in the Pacific Northwest. "It's hard not to notice how impactful and important and beautiful the environment is here," she said of

Portland, where she was calling from. "There's a culture here of education around environmental issues." She said her father is a hydrogeologist who works on environmental cleanup sites, and she's been exposed to a lot of natural history through him.

"In Boston, writing about nature is more of a niche subject," she said. She said that Jamaica Plain feels a lot like Portland to her, with its many community gardens. Portland has less dense housing, so people have large gardens in their yards. "In Boston, you see community gardens which is awesome," she said.

Exquisite Corpse is currently available for streaming on Bandcamp, but will be available on other platforms soon, Elektra said. To order or download the album, visit <https://eleanorelektra.bandcamp.com/music>, and to order shirts and posters, visit <https://eleanorelektra.bandcamp.com/merch>.

Elektra can be found on Instagram @eleanorelektramusic, as well as on Facebook and YouTube.



COVID-19 Updates for Jamaica Plain

By JOHN LYNDIS

Earlier this month Jamaica Plain's COVID-19 infection rate nearly doubled in two weeks but things have seemed to settle down in the neighborhood.

According to Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) data released last Friday, Jamaica Plain's infection rate rose only 2 percent in two weeks from 182.3 cases per 10,000 residents to 186 cases per 10,000 residents. Two weeks ago Jamaica Plain reported an infection rate increase of over 4 percent.

Fifteen more Jamaica Plain residents became infected with COVID-19 in the past two weeks and the number of total cases here went from 736 cases two weeks ago to 751 cases last week. Previous data two weeks ago showed over 30 new infections over a two week period.

Those testing positive for the

virus in Jamaica Plains also decreased last week.

Of the 12,352 Jamaica Plain residents tested 0.6 percent were found to be COVID positive, down from 2 percent two weeks ago. Since testing began in the neighborhood 6.4 percent of Jamaica Plain residents have been found to be COVID positive.

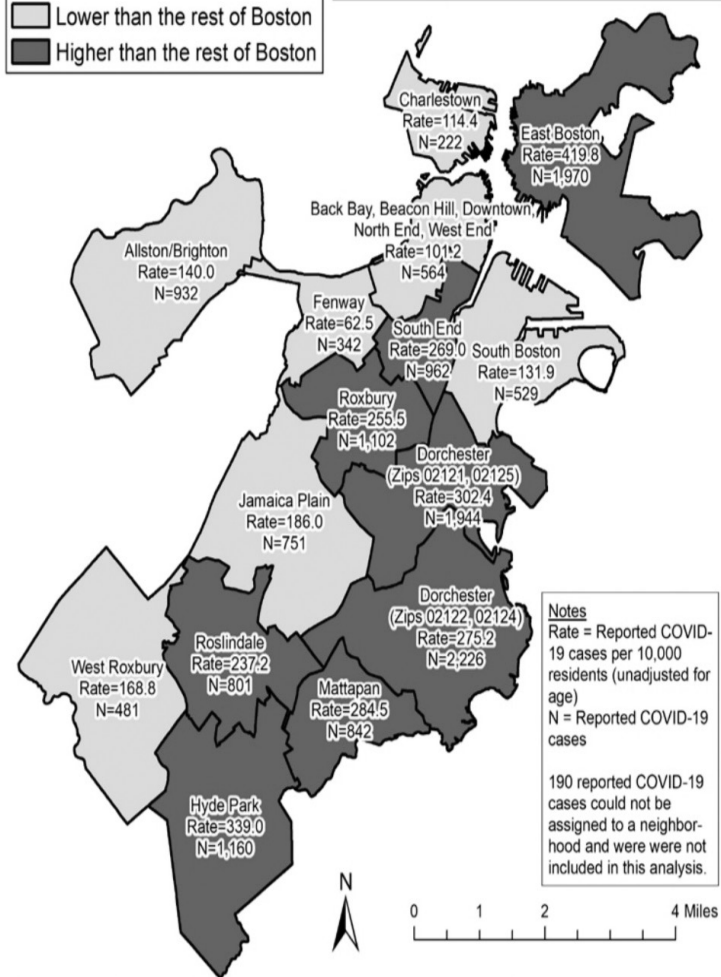
The statistics released by the BPHC as part of its weekly COVID-19 report breaks down the number of cases and infection rates in each neighborhood. It also breaks down the number of cases by age, gender and race.

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus rose 2.3 percent last week from 14,916 cases to 15,263 cases. So far 11,480 Boston residents have fully recovered from the virus and six additional residents died last week bringing the total of fatalities in the city to 752.

COVID-19 rate (unadjusted for age)

Lower than the rest of Boston
Higher than the rest of Boston

Boston
Rate = 221.0 reported cases per 10,000 residents
N = 15,018 reported cases



DATA SOURCE: Boston Public Health Commission, Boston Surveillance System (Jan. 1, 2020, to Aug. 20, 2020, 12:05 PM); Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network (Jan. 1, 2020, to Aug. 20, 2020, 12:05 PM); U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018 5-yr estimates (2014-2018)
DATA ANALYSIS: Boston Public Health Commission, Research and Evaluation Office

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

19th Annual

'Best of JP' Reader Survey

Tell us what you love about JP!

Write clearly.

Vote in at least 5 categories.

Vote for the same thing **ONLY ONCE**.

Vote only once, please.

Photocopies of this survey are acceptable.

Entries or items that violate these rules will not be counted.

Results in the
"Guide to Jamaica Plain"

Sept. 11, 2020

Deadline: 5 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 2

SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED SURVEY IN ANY OF THREE WAYS

1. Visit jamaicaplaingazette.com/the-best-of-jp to submit your votes online!

2. Mail: Best of JP, Jamaica Plain Gazette, 7 Harris Ave., Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

3. Drop Box: Gazette office, 7 Harris Ave., JP, 24 hours a day

BEST PLACE TO:

- 1) Enjoy the outdoors
- 2) Work
- 3) Enjoy live entertainment
- 4) See art

CONSUMER FAVORITIES

- 5) Friendliest Business
- 6) Breakfast
- 7) Lunch
- 8) Dinner
- 9) Latin American Food
- 10) Asian Food
- 11) Bakery
- 12) Pub/Bar
- 13) Pizza
- 14) Cup of coffee
- 15) Retail store (not convenience)
- 16) Convenience store
- 17) Personal service (hair, dry cleaning, etc.)
- 18) Real estate service
- 19) Bank or financial service
- 20) Professional service (lawyer, doctor, insurer, etc.)
- 21) Home service (plumber, electrician, carpenter, cleaner, etc.)
- 22) Auto shop

BEST BUSINESS IN AN AREA (ANY TYPE)

- 23) South Street
- 24) Egleston Square
- 25) Hyde/Jackson Square
- 26) Centre Street (Monument to Canary Square)
- 27) Forest Hills
- 28) Washington Street (between Egleston and Forest Hills)

THE REST OF THE BEST

- 29) Community event
- 30) Playground/tot lot
- 31) Mural
- 32) Children's service or activity
- 33) Health service
- 34) Local school
- 35) Neighborhood association or group (no office)
- 36) Nonprofit service agency (office)
- 37) Gay/lesbian hang-out/meeting place
- 38) Storefront
- 39) Government service
- 40) JP environmental group or effort

USPS Board of Governors announces bipartisan election mail committee

STAFF REPORT

The United States Postal Service Board of Governors last week announced the establishment of a bipartisan Election Mail Committee that will actively oversee the United States Postal Service's support of the mail-in voting process. The committee will be chaired by Governor Lee Moak, who will be joined on the committee by Gov. Ron Bloom and Gov. John Barger. The Postal Service has a long history of effectively helping

Americans participate in elections via mail-in ballots, which are expected to account for less than two percent of all mail volume from mid-September until Election Day. However, because of the ongoing pandemic, many states are anticipating the expanded use of the mail for voting during the upcoming national election, and in some instances are allowing mail-in voting and no-excuse absentee voting for the first time under statute, and each state has unique requirements and deadlines for ballots under state laws.

The Election Mail Committee will use its oversight role to reinforce the strong commitment of the Postal Service to the mail as an important part of the nation's democratic process, and will regularly monitor execution of USPS's work on election mail to ensure that our part of this election process is implemented in the most effective way possible. In a joint statement, the Governors announced: "The United States Postal Service will play an indispensable role in ensuring that those Amer-

icans who wish to vote by mail will be able to do so and have their votes counted. The Governors take our responsibility with the utmost gravity, and we will work to ensure that the Postal Service continues to perform for the American people this election season. "Postmaster General Louis DeJoy has the full support of the Governors. He was selected to help bring needed changes to the Postal Service, which has experienced over a decade of financial losses and faces the need for fundamental reform. The essential public

service functions of the Postal Service must be maintained, and the Postmaster General's reform initiatives will help ensure that they can be for many years to come." The Governors of the U.S. Postal Service:
• Robert M. Duncan, Chairman of the Board
• John M. Barger
• Ron A. Bloom
• Roman Martinez IV
• Donald L. Moak
• William D. Zollars

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LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

STUDENTS NAMED TO DEAN'S LIST AT BATES COLLEGE

The following students have been named to the dean's list at Bates College for the fall semester ending in [December 2019]. This is a distinction earned by students whose cumulative grade point average is 3.8 or higher. Though we have been delayed in sharing this news due to our response to the COVID-19 pandemic, please know that our pride in our students who reached this high level of academic achievement is as strong as ever. Congratulations to the 572 students on our Dean's List!

Megan Krieger of Jamaica Plain, a 2018 graduate of Boston Latin School. Krieger, the child of Joel Krieger and Carol L. Dougherty of Jamaica Plain, Mass., is a sophomore majoring in politics and minoring in education and German at Bates.

Amanda Brea of Jamaica Plain, a 2016 graduate of John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science. Brea, the child of Santa M. Lara of Jamaica Plain, Mass., is a senior majoring in politics and minoring in women and gender studies at Bates.

Located in Lewiston, Maine, Bates is internationally recognized as a leading liberal arts college, attracting 2,000 students from across the U.S. and around the world. Since 1855, Bates

has been dedicated to educating the whole person through creative and rigorous scholarship in a collaborative residential community. Committed to opportunity and excellence, Bates has always admitted students without regard to gender, race, religion, or national origin. Cultivating intellectual discovery and informed civic action, Bates prepares leaders sustained by a love of learning and zeal for responsible stewardship of the wider world.

LOCAL STUDENTS RECEIVE BACHELOR'S DEGREES FROM UMASS AMHERST

AMHERST, Mass. – Approximately 6,600 students received bachelor's degrees in over 100 majors at the University of Massachusetts Amherst as the university held a virtual commencement celebration for the Class of 2020 on May 8.

Below is a list of students from your area who earned a degree.

HYDE PARK

Dezyre Lashelle Akins
Ariana Crystal Carr
Aaija Janae Coleman Hall
Gabrielle Nicole Hairston
Ashlyn Paige Melvin
Stephen Michael Rezendes
Sayed Khalid Shah
JAMAICA PLAIN
Wylie David Burrell
Jana Annetta Douglass

Nathan William Jewett-Wolf
Vikram Mayadas Norton
Charlotte Sedgwick
ROSLINDALE
Jeremiah Castillo
Alexander Rafael De La Rosa
Nicolas David Fernandez
Greta Elizabeth Gaffin
Fedor Nikolayevich Panikov
Kevin Salazar
Cameron Eleanor Wilkie
Alexandra Elizabeth Zeigler

PERTILE NAMED TO DEANS' LIST AT BRYANT UNIVERSITY

Bryant University is dedicated to the pursuit, recognition, and celebration of academic excellence. Grant Pertile, class of 2021, from Jamaica Plain has been named to the Deans' List for the spring 2020 semester.

"These outstanding achievements are particularly commendable as students have overcome significant challenges to demonstrate an unwavering commitment to excellence," says Provost and Chief Academic Officer Glenn Sulmasy, JD, LL.M. "I am impressed and proud of their resilience, dedication, and innovative spirit."

Congratulations to Grant on this outstanding achievement!

About Bryant University

For 157 years, Bryant University has been at the forefront of delivering an exceptional education that anticipates the

future and prepares students to be innovative leaders of character in a changing world. Bryant delivers an innovative and uniquely integrated business and liberal arts education that inspires students to excel. With approximately 3,800 graduate and undergraduate students from 38 states and 49 countries, Bryant is recognized as a leader in international education and regularly receives top rankings from U.S. News and World Report, Bloomberg Businessweek, Forbes, and Barron's. Visit www.Bryant.edu.

EMERSON COLLEGE ANNOUNCES GRADUATES

On Sunday, May 10, Emerson College awarded 959 undergraduate degrees for the Class of 2020. The College is committed to holding a graduation ceremony for the Class of 2020 in person when it is safe to do so, at a to be determined date.

Isha Marathe of Boston received a BS degree in Journalism.

Abigail Akiba of Jamaica Plain received a BA degree in Media Arts Production.

Timothy Jordan of Jamaica Plain graduated in December 2019 and received a BA degree in Writing, Lit and Publishing.

The College launched an Emerson 2020 Celebration website

to honor graduates' achievements with more than 800 submissions from students, families, alumni, faculty, and staff, which includes photos, videos, audio submissions, and text. The website strives to reflect the many facets of the Class of 2020 and the wider Emerson community - its creativity, daring, thoughtfulness, irreverence, and humor.

Video submissions include well wishes from well-known alumni and celebrities in the entertainment industry, including actors Jennifer Coolidge, Henry Winkler, comedians Jay Leno, Bill Burr, and Steven Wright, screenwriter Adele Lim, actress Chrystee Pharris, and producer Kevin Bright, among others.

Based in Boston, Massachusetts, opposite the historic Boston Common and in the heart of the city's Theatre District, Emerson College educates individuals who will solve problems and change the world through engaged leadership in communication and the arts, a mission informed by liberal learning. The College has approximately 3,780 undergraduates and 670 graduate students from across the United States and 50 countries. Supported by state-of-the-art facilities and a renowned faculty, students participate in more than 90 student organizations and performance groups. For more information, visit emerson.edu.

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Probate And Family Court
24 New Chardon St.
Boston, MA 02114
(617)788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Docket No. SU20P0888EA
Estate of: Maria Kehian
Date of Death: 04/19/2020
To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Louise C. Maciejewski of Walpole, MA and Annette J. Searfoss of Norwood, 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: Louise C. Maciejewski of Walpole and Annette J. Searfoss of Norwood, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in an unsupervised administration. IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/10/2020. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty

(30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you. UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: August 06, 2020 Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate

8/28/20 JP

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Probate And Family Court
24 New Chardon St.
Boston, MA 02114
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATOR OR OTHER PROTECTIVE ORDER PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, § 5-304 & § 5-405
Docket No. SU20P1206PM
In the matter of: Mary A. Kingsbury Of: To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Susan Kingsbury of Quincy, MA in the

above captioned matter alleging that is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve Without Surety on the bond. The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court. You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 09/21/2020. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without

further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date. IMPORTANT NOTICE The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: August 10, 2020 Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate

8/28/20 JP

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Division INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE
Docket No. SU20P0681EA
Estate of: Elaine Doll
Date of Death: March 28, 2020
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate by Petition of Petitioner George Kontopidis of Sherborn, MA A Will has been admitted to informal probate. George Kontopidis of Sherborn, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond. The estate is being administered

under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

8/28/20 JP

Election Commissioner confident in main-in voting, election process

By SETH DANIEL

So much skepticism and doubt nationally has veiled the mail-in voting and early voting initiatives brought about by COVID-19 restrictions, but ahead of the Sept. 1 State Primary, Boston Elections Commissioner Eneida Tavares said she is confident and the process has been running very smoothly to date.

Last Friday, during a tour of the mail-in operations and in-person, early voting protocols, Tavares said she was not worried about the mail-in votes arriving or not. In fact, she said they had received many thousands for the Primary already.

“We have check ins and we check in regularly with the Post Office and make sure there are no holds on our mail,” she said. “We have a good number of returns already. We’ve received approximately 11,000 ballots.”

When asked if there had been any problems with the postal service in Boston regarding the election, she said, “No.”

Tavares said they had re-

ceived, by last Friday, 79,000 requests for mail-in ballots and absentee ballots. Out of that number, there were 5,925 that were for absentee ballots. The rest were requests for mail-in ballots.

“We’re seeing a lot of interest in this upcoming election,” she said. “This is the first time vote by mail is an option for voters in Massachusetts. Absentees have always been allowed and the numbers of traditional absentee ballots requested are comparable to other State Primaries.”

As of last Friday, JP has provided a number of those mail-in and absentee ballots, accounting for 10,197 requests through the three Wards that constitute the Jamaica Plain electorate.

The breakdown for those requests are as follows:

- Ward 10 Precincts 6-9: 1,911
- Ward 11 Precincts 4-10: 3,179
- Ward 19 Precincts 1-9 and 12: 5,107

Of course, just because one requests a ballot and gets it in the mail does not mean they have to send it in to vote. Tavares

said some people have requested a ballot so they can have it in case things don’t go well at the polls or COVID-19 cases are on the rise. In that case they can mail it in or put it in a City Hall drop-box by Sept. 1. However, if they do feel comfortable to go to early, in-person voting or to vote in-person on Election Day, they can forego the mailed ballot and vote in person instead.

It is all very complicated, but between keeping all that straight and making sure voting precincts are socially-distanced and following protocols, Tavares said she was confident.

Meanwhile, for those who do vote by mail, she said there are strict guidelines to follow. When the ballot comes, it must be mailed back in the postage-paid Affidavit Envelope and that envelope must be signed. It is a white envelope.

“It’s extremely important they sign that Affidavit Envelope,” she said.

The mail-in ballots going out and being received are currently being processed by staff that



Boston Elections Commissioner Eneida Tavares at the Election Department in City Hall last Friday. She said there have been no complications with the mail and they have already received more than 11,000 mail-in ballots back from voters as of last Friday.

have repurposed all kinds of spaces at City Hall to work.

Ballots that are received on time by mail have to be sent to the proper Ward and Precinct to be opened and fed into the right

machine to be counted, she said, so there will be quite an operation to undertake on Sept. 1 for them to arrange and deliver the ballots.

Massachusetts Unemployment and Job Estimates for July

STAFF REPORT

The state’s July total unemployment rate is down 1.6 percentage points at 16.1 percent following a revision to the June rate of 17.7 percent, the

Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development announced Friday.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics’ preliminary job estimates indicate Massachusetts added 72,100 jobs in July. This follows

last month’s revised gain of 94,600 jobs. Over the month, the private sector added 67,300 jobs as gains occurred in Leisure and Hospitality; Trade, Transportation, and Utilities; Education and Health Services; Other Services; Manufacturing; Construction; and Information. Losses occurred in Financial Activities and Professional, Scientific, and Business Services. Government added jobs over the month.

From July 2019 to July 2020, BLS estimates Massachusetts lost 452,600 jobs.

Losses occurred in each of the private sectors, with the largest percentage losses in Leisure and Hospitality; Other Services; Trade, Transportation, and Utilities; and Construction.

The July unemployment rate was 5.9 percentage points above the national rate of 10.2 percent reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The labor force decreased by 12,600 from 3,684,300 in June, as 50,300 more residents were employed and 62,900 fewer residents were unemployed over

the month.

Over the year, the state’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased by 13.2 percentage points.

The state’s labor force participation rate – the total number of residents 16 or older who worked or were unemployed and actively sought work in the last four weeks – dropped to 64.9 percent. Compared to July 2019, the labor force participation rate is down by 2.8 percentage points.

July 2020 Employment Overview

•Leisure and Hospitality gained 35,300 (+18.9%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Leisure and Hospitality lost 156,100 (-41.3%) jobs.

•Trade, Transportation and Utilities added 15,000 (+3.1%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Trade, Transportation and Utilities lost 73,900 (-12.8%) jobs.

•Education and Health Services gained 7,300 (+1.0%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Education and Health Services lost 77,700 (-9.6%) jobs.

•Other Services gained 6,300 (+6.5%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Other Services are down 36,300 (-26.0%) jobs.

•Manufacturing added 2,300 (+1.0%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Manufacturing lost 12,900 (-5.3%) jobs.

•Construction gained 1,900 (+1.4%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Construction has lost 19,500 (-12.0%) jobs.

•Information added 600 (+0.7%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Information lost 4,800 (-5.1%) jobs.

•Financial Activities lost 600 (-0.3%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Financial Activities lost 5,900 (-2.6%) jobs.

•Professional, Scientific and Business Services lost 800 (-0.1%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Professional, Scientific and Business Services lost 37,000 (-6.1%) jobs.

•Government added 4,800 (+1.1%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Government lost 28,300 (-6.2%) jobs.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

PROMISING PARTNERSHIPS PILOT FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Proposals are due by 3 PM on September 18, 2020



The Center for Community Health Education Research and Service, Inc. (CHERS) will offer seed funding and training support for community-academic collaborations seeking to develop research proposals for future grant submissions. Priority areas include addressing health disparities/achieving health equity and/or helping patients, families, and communities make better-informed decisions about health and healthcare.

Massachusetts-based 501(c)3 community organizations, community health centers, patient advocacy and support groups, Patient-Powered Research Network (PPRN) groups, Patient and Family Advisory Councils (PFACs) are eligible to apply. Individuals and for-profit business are not eligible.

The awardee will receive up to \$5,000 of funding that can be used for building relationships, developing research plans, or collecting preliminary data.

Visit <https://www.cchers.org/request-for-proposals> for the full RFP and application details.

Questions? Contact a.oendari@northeastern.edu

Girls on the Run opens registration including live, virtual options

STAFF REPORT

Girls on the Run Greater Boston (GOTRGB) announced the launch of its Fall 2020 season, ensuring that Boston area girls can stay active and healthy during the pandemic. Twice weekly, small teams of girls in grades 3-8 are led by trained coaches through the research-based curriculum that uses running and other physical activities to build girls' confidence, connection, and resilience.

Girls who want to enroll but who do not have a site in their community can still do so virtually. GOTRGB has created virtual teams so that all girls anywhere in the Boston area can register to participate, regardless of school district or financial circumstances.

For the 2020-2021 school year, GOTRGB is offering a flexible programming model with virtual options to accommodate the changing and unpredictable school year due to the pandemic. Registration for the season is open at girlsontherunboston.org/register-now

If schools and sites are able to meet in person, GOTR after-school programming will take place in person with strict adherence to safety measures set forth by public health authorities, including physical distancing modifications. For schools and sites operating virtually, GOTR will be run by trained coaches in a safe virtual space, with lessons that mirror in-person Girls on the Run sessions. Virtual programs will include physical activity and social-emotional learning, pro-

viding girls with an opportunity to build meaningful connections with their peers and caring adult role models.

"Our staff and coaches are ready to bring critical social-emotional programming to greater Boston girls at a time when they need it the most," said Kate Yenrick, Community Engagement Manager. "We have adapted based on the recommendations of local health officials and decisions of local governments and school districts. Our virtual program options will make it possible for all girls to stay active despite the pandemic."

Girls on the Run Greater Boston is an independent nonprofit organization affiliated with Girls on the Run International, which has 200 chapters across the Unit-



Girls on the Run is open for enrollment whether virtual or controlled, in-person meet-ups this fall.

ed States and has served over 2 million girls in its 24-year history. Through more than 120 sites

across the Greater Boston area, GOTRGB has served more than 6,000 girls since it was founded in 2010.

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EDITORIAL

Be sure to vote in the primary

This Tuesday, September 1, is primary election day in Massachusetts for both national and state legislative offices.

Primary elections in Massachusetts typically are of little or no consequence because of the overwhelming Democratic voting enrollment and because most Democrats run unopposed.

However, this year's primary election is different because of the hotly-contested U.S. Senate race between incumbent Ed Markey and Congressman Joseph Kennedy that will draw a larger-than-usual turnout for a primary.

In addition, there are two truly unique and important aspects to Tuesday's election.

This will be the first election in which we will be voting either early, by mail, or in person amidst the Covid-19 pandemic. Tuesday's primary will be a good test of the ability of Massachusetts' election officials to conduct an election under these difficult circumstances and thus will serve as excellent preparation, both for voters and officials alike, for the upcoming November Presidential election.

It is important that all of us participate in the democratic process on or before Tuesday so that both we and our election officials can be as knowledgeable as possible about the procedures that we will need to follow in November to ensure a successful final election.

In addition, thanks to the chaos that reigns throughout the country (for many reasons), it is not an understatement to say that the elections to be held this year -- both the primaries and the final -- have taken on more significance than any in our nation's history.

The Presidential elections of 1860 (prior to the start of the Civil War) and 1932 (when we were in the midst of the Great Depression) arguably were the most consequential elections since our founding, but the 2020 election cycle will be even more significant than both of those.

The pundits talk about the existential threat being posed to our democracy and institutions because of the situation in the White House. However, regardless of what one thinks of the current policies emanating from Washington, what undeniably is true is that our democracy certainly will come to an end if we fail to exercise the most important right we have as Americans -- the right to vote.

There is no greater threat to America's survival than our own apathy. A strong voter turnout in every election, including the primaries, will send the clearest possible message to our political leaders that we care about the future direction of our country.

We urge all of our readers to be sure to vote in the primary election -- it is more important than ever.

Op-Ed

Unmasking toxic white privilege

By DOROTHY A. CLARK

There is a long history in America of white progressives bravely standing up for Black causes like civil rights, voting rights, social and economic justice, judicial reform, and, more recently, Black Lives Matter.

But there is a parallel history of white progressives who practice a toxic form of white privilege.

One manifestation is using the Black community for personal and political gain -- putting up a progressive façade to mask a reactionary record or pushing a white privilege agenda while pretending to serve the interests of African Americans.

Another is white progressives running the show with prominent people of color fronting the message, only to be cast off when white privilege conflicts with Black demands for having more say in shaping the message or running the operation.

Massachusetts history is littered with examples of both, including, most recently, U.S. Sen. Ed Markey's efforts to cloak himself in the garments of a racial justice warrior.

In my own lifetime, "Urban Renewal," launched in the name of social progress in Boston in the 1960s, turned into "Negro Removal" on the ground, with residents of Roxbury and the South End uprooted with little or no say in the bulldozing of their neighborhoods by supposedly well-intentioned guardians of the public welfare focused on saving the village by destroying it.

Before the Civil War, Frederick Douglass, handsome and eloquent, was a perfect spokesman for the abolitionist movement, until his own ideas got in the way of his chief sponsor, the controlling William Lloyd Garrison. Douglass left Boston to start his own movement in Rochester, N.Y.

White progressives can be great allies. But those imbued with white privilege have little tolerance for actually increasing access to power or resources. Witness the fights over affordable housing in what are otherwise reliably liberal bastions. Or battles over integrated schools -- which Markey opposed -- or economic equity in the form of hiring

and contract goals to make up for centuries of discrimination and bias.

Just recently, we have seen peaceful Black Lives Matter protests hijacked by white antifa activists, setting up barricades, tossing Molotov cocktails and burning police stations in the name of justice for George Floyd. Who asked masked marauders of white privilege to commit mayhem in our name?

What is too rare is finding white progressives who listen rather than lecture and cooperate rather than dictate from their seat of privilege.

Months before the arrival of 2020, women eagerly anticipated marking the centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which, after nearly a century of agitation, extended voting rights to women. White women, that is.

I sat through suffrage centennial planning sessions in which I had to inform white women that for women of color, particularly Black women, the passage of the 19th Amendment didn't give them the vote, notably in the South. Many white suffragists, angered that the 15th Amendment extended the right to vote to black men, had no interest in working with African American women to fight for universal suffrage.

White women's racism bifurcated the suffrage movement, requiring African American women to forge their own brand of intersectional activism. Still, African American women are expected to celebrate the centennial with a colorblind perspective.

Recently, a self-proclaimed anti-racism "ally" attempted to scold me on a social media platform after I told her that her efforts to associate with people whom she said "don't look like me" was a hollow and insincere way to make friends.

Individuals typically form friendships because they relate on some level, not because they're curating acquaintances as part of a virtue-signaling project. I have no interest in being added to a white person's people-of-color menagerie, I told her. She then accused me of not wanting to engage in an educational, transformative discussion on racism. I disengaged after that; nurturing

white privilege is exhausting.

Toxic white privilege is all around us, even in politics. We are now in the final weeks of a political campaign pitting U.S. Rep. Joe Kennedy III against long-time incumbent U.S. Sen. Ed Markey in the September 1 Democratic primary for U.S. senator.

Markey has donned the mantle of a white progressive in spite of the fact that he opposed the integration of Boston schools during the fight over court-ordered busing in the 1970s. While Markey argues that he eventually changed his position, there are more recent measures of how woke he really is. When the parents of D.J. Henry approached the senator in 2014 to help push an investigation of the police killing of their unarmed son in New York, Markey ignored their pleas for assistance and used the word "colored" to refer to Black people.

The 2010 death of Henry, a Black college student from Easton, Mass., took place long before Black Lives Matter protests swept across America in the wake of George Floyd dying beneath a cop's knee in Minneapolis. And long before Markey discovered the convenience of arguing about intersectionality between racial justice and climate change in order to garner the support of progressive young activists. The fact is that anyone's commitment to a cause is best measured when the cameras aren't on. By this measure, Markey fails miserably. His inaction falls into the category of toxic white privilege, using Black and brown people as campaign props when his record shows he is no ally of African Americans.

In contrast, Joe Kennedy III has advocated tirelessly for the Henry family. He has fought for more compassionate mental health care and expanded addiction services -- social needs he's learned about by listening to people in the community and on the front lines of the battles that matter, by going to those closest to the pain to forge the policies of the future.

We need white progressives in office who have shed the mantle of white privilege, not wear it

Continued on page 19

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

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LETTERS

We need to keep our promise to the youth

To the Editor,

I'm calling on Hyde Square Task Force (HSTF), elected officials, and our community to come together to find a solution to the future of Blessed Sacrament Church. Selling the Church with no restrictions will hurt the future of our neighborhood and the legacy of a great organization that has done so much for our youth.

I was born in the Dominican Republic and have lived in Jamaica Plain since 1975, raising two kids as a single mother. I have owned a business here since 1980 and volunteered for 40 years for business and community organizations. My children

attended Blessed Sacrament School and were baptized in the Church.

My proudest volunteer work is with HSTF, whose board I served on for 22 years, because of the difference they make in the lives of youth. When I first heard the phrase, "Fall through the cracks," I didn't understand it, but I came to understand that kids don't "fall through the cracks," we let them down without the support, health and education they need. It's our responsibility to create a healthier society and make sure they have equal opportunity. The difference I see in kids when they first come into HSTF and when they finish the program is

amazing. I love looking at youth ten years later and seeing how they are productive members of society and community leaders.

While I'm happy to be part of this great program, we have not yet kept all our promises to the youth. In 2014 HSTF promised to create a cultural center in Blessed Sacrament Church. It's very disappointing to hear their plans to sell the church at market rate with no restrictions. I served on the HSTF Church Committee, and understand the challenges to developing the building, but I believe we can find a solution by working together. While HSTF is not a development corporation, they should not sell to a private

developer, but work with us to find a partner who will make the extra effort to build the cultural center in Boston's Latin Quarter.

It's time to put our money where our mouth is and build the dream that was promised to our youth. While these are difficult times, I believe there's money to develop the church to be the Latin Quarter's cultural icon. Elected officials and youth have already found possible funds for the district. It's time for us to come together and unlock the money to make the dream a reality.

Our neighborhood is unique. I see it in my personal and professional life, especially in my

salon where people speak multiple languages and respect each other's cultures. It's important to maintain our diversity and live up to the principles of our Boston Latin Quarter.

I very humbly call for an urgent meeting with HSTF, community leaders, and elected officials to keep the promise we made to our youth to build the cultural center at Blessed Sacrament, and make sure we're not responsible for more youth "falling through the cracks."

Boston's Latin Quarter

Damaris Pimentel is the owner of Ultra Beauty Salon and a leader in the Latin Quarter Business Association.

Desperately needed housing

To the Editor,

The Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council would like to publicly state its objection to the lawsuit filed by Monty Gold against Pine Street Inn and The Community Builders for their proposed development at 3368 Washington Street.

In the midst of a pandemic, an economic depression, and an impending eviction crisis, this project will bring critically needed resources to JP and this lawsuit only delays the access to those services.

The JPNC would like to high-

light:

- This project will be 100% affordable and will serve populations in particular need: low- and moderate-income families and formerly homeless individuals. The development will include 62 affordable family size units and 140 supportive housing units that provide on-site health, counseling, and other services. Supportive housing is a proven approach to helping our unhoused neighbors get back on their feet.

- The project is a model of transit-oriented development. The building is located two

blocks from the Green Street MBTA station and provides covered bicycle parking. The majority of the building residents will not own cars.

- The project will provide jobs to local residents. The development will adhere to Boston Resident Jobs Policy, or exceed its requirements.

Equally important, The Community Builders and Pine Street Inn held an extensive, two-year community process and were quite responsive to feedback, including reducing the building height by one full story due to

community concerns.

We hope that Mr. Gold will withdraw the lawsuit so that this desperately needed housing can be built as soon as possible. In a pandemic and an economic crisis that has devastated communities of color and working-class

communities in particular, this project can offer hope and home for our neighbors.

Sincerely,

*Kevin Rainsford, Chair
Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council*

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Op-Ed

Continued from page 18

like a cape.

The issue of white privilege is bigger than any single election.

But an election does serve as a test of alliances and authenticity.

Those who reject white privilege understand the hard truth that by giving up power and control, the broader society benefits.

What's unacceptable is seeing

naked self-interest cloaked in self-righteousness and hypocrisy. That's the white privilege that must be unmasked and rejected.

Dorothy A. Clark is a writer and historian who lives in Jamaica Plain.



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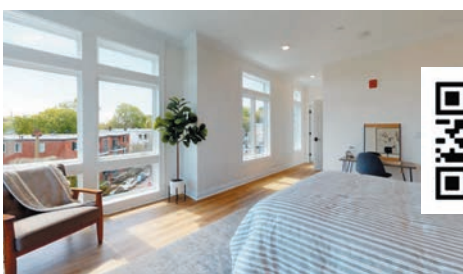
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