



Happy Holidays

Maxfield & Company wishes you
the joy of love and peace



MAXFIELD
& COMPANY
REAL ESTATE

617 293-8003

Vol. 29 No. 23
24 Pages • Free Delivery
25 Cents at Stores



Printed on
Recycled Paper

Holidays in Jamaica Plain, Pages 18 & 19

Jamaica Plain

GAZETTE

**BOOK YOUR
POST IT**
Call Your
Advertising Rep
(617) 524-7662

617-524-2626

DECEMBER 4, 2020

WWW.JAMAICAPLAINGAZETTE.COM

HEY, BOSTON LATIN! WHERE WERE YA?



PHOTOS BY PATRICK O'CONNOR (EHS '76).

The oldest high school football rivalry in the nation was about to go away this year without a fight – or at least a good-natured joke. With the English High vs. Boston Latin Thanksgiving football game cancelled due to COVID-19, some daring members of the English High Alumni Association, and some current players and coaches, gathered at Harvard Stadium to call out Latin and have a little fun in such difficult times. The game has been played continuously since 1887. This was the first year it was not held. See the story on Page 3.

JPNDC to hold virtual job fair for first dispensary

BY LAUREN BENNETT

Core Empowerment, LLC will soon be opening the first adult-use cannabis store in Jamaica Plain under the name Seed, and is looking to hire people for sev-

eral retail and customer service positions.

The Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation (JPNDC) will be hosting a virtual job fair for Seed on December 11 from 10am-11am. The Gazette

spoke with Enrique Ponce, a career coach for the JPNDC, and Paola Liendo, JPNDC's Economic Prosperity Program Senior Manager, to learn more about the job

Continued on page 2

JPNDC ofrece feria de trabajo para tienda de cannabis

BY LAUREN BENNETT

Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation (JPNDC) presentará una feria de trabajo virtual para Seed, la

primera tienda de cannabis recreativa en Jamaica Plain.

La tienda está contratando para varios puestos minoristas y de servicio al cliente. Además, hay puestos en su museo de his-

toria del cannabis. Todos los trabajos son amigables al CORI.

La feria gratuita comenzará con una orientación el Dec. 11

Continued on page 2

After 10 years on the City Council, Matt O'Malley will not run again

BY LAUREN BENNETT

Incumbent District 6 Councilor Matt O'Malley announced on December 2 that after serving District 6 for ten years and having received the most votes for a district councilor ever, he will not be seeking re-election next year.

In a message on his website, O'Malley provided a short history of what he has accomplished over the past ten years, and talked about the birth of his daughter,



PHOTO COURTESY OF VOTEMATTOMALLEY.COM
District 6 Councilor Matt O'Malley.

Margot Gillian, who was born in September, as "the greatest moment of my life."

Throughout his decade as City Councilor, O'Malley has been a leader on environmental issues and has worked to reduce plastic waste, increase renewable energy, and pushed

for more environmentally friendly buildings, among many other things. Also during his time, as a

Continued on page 2

THANKSGIVING AT PINE STREET INN



COURTESY PHOTO

Mayor Martin Walsh made his annual Thanksgiving trip to the Pine Street Inn in the South End, shown here carving the turkey with Pine Street President Lyndia Downie. Mayor Walsh dropped by to carve the turkey and say hello to residents in the Pine who enjoyed Thanksgiving dinner. The mayor said he is thankful to all the partnerships in the City that are coming together to try to end homelessness in Boston.

MBTA Transit Police to offer face masks to riders

STAFF REPORT

The MBTA announced that Transit Police officers would begin offering face masks to transit riders in need of a face covering. This effort is part of the T's Ride

Safer campaign to educate riders and shift behavior to the new way of riding on the T during the pandemic.

Boston-based New Balance recently provided the MBTA with 100,000 of the athletic

brand's general-use face masks for riders.

"Transit Police are happy to have the resources available to assist passengers in need of a face covering," said MBTA Transit Police Chief Kenneth Green.

"As our region enters a second phase of the pandemic, it is more important now to be properly wearing a face covering when you are outside the confines of your home, and especially while you are traveling on public transit."

"Wearing a face covering is one of the most effective ways to combat the virus, and we appreciate the help of Transit Police in offering face masks to our riders," said MBTA General Manager Steve Poflak. "I'd like to again thank New Balance for their contribution and promoting public health on transit."

Virtual job fair

Continued from page 1

fair and how the JPNDC aims to help residents apply for these jobs.

Liendo explained that the job fair is part of JPNDC's Job Readiness Program, which includes career coaching and helping people apply for "jobs that are going to lead them up a career ladder, not just a minimum wage job."

She also said that the coaching is paired with education such as language access, skills training, and college prep classes.

"We want them to have a career path," Ponce said of program participants, by starting with entry level positions and then moving up.

Liendo said that financial coaching is also offered to these clients to provide them an opportunity to improve both their

credit and their income.

She said that the job fair will be conducted in two phases, beginning with the orientation session on December 11 where people will learn about the available jobs at Seed as well as how JPNDC will be assisting throughout the application process.

"If they don't have resumes, we will coach them through that," she said.

The second phase includes the submission of resumes to JPNDC so the organization can help fine tune them and assist people in actually applying for the open positions, as well as one on one interviews with candidates. Liendo said that it's important to note that these jobs are CORI friendly, and JPNDC can assist with any questions related to that.

Ponce said that one on one sessions with candidates in-

cludes discussion of education, skills, and experience and how to apply those to a resume and an interview with the employer.

Aside from retail and customer service positions, there are also positions related to the museum that will be located inside the dispensary that provides information on the historical impact of cannabis on communities of color, Liendo said.

Ponce said that candidates are asked by the JPNDC how they feel about being interviewed and whether or not they have participated in one before. There are opportunities to practice interviews through role playing scenarios, which can better prepare people for their actual interviews.

He added that JPNDC can also connect them with other employers as well and will continue to work with people to find a job that best fits their desires, skills,

and experience.

Liendo said that JPNDC is hosting this job fair to ensure that people who have been "unfairly affected" and "disadvantaged" are given an opportunity to access "good paying jobs that will offer stability for them."

Ponce added that "it's a big challenge for people when they want to return to society and find an opportunity. We want to open this door."

For more information and to register for the free virtual job fair, visit jpn/dc.org/corejobfair.

Tienda de cannabis

Continued from page 1

sobre las vacantes en Seed y el papel de JPNDC en llenarlas. Los solicitantes sin curriculum recibirán ayuda para construir uno.

La segunda fase trabajará con los solicitantes de empleo uno a uno para ayudarlos a perfeccionar sus currículums, practicar entrevistas y postularse para puestos vacantes. JPNDC puede también conectar a los solicitantes con otros empleadores

si Seed no es una buena opción.

La feria es parte del programa de preparación laboral de JPNDC. Su objetivo es ayudar a las personas a encontrar una carrera, no sólo un trabajo con salario mínimo. El entrenamiento se combina con educación financiera, desarrollo de habilidades y oportunidades de educación superior.

"Queremos que tengan una trayectoria profesional", dijo Enrique Ponce, entrenador de carrera de JPNDC.

Para obtener más información y para registrarse en la feria, visite jpn/dc.org/corejobfair.

O'Malley

Continued from page 1

councilor, renovations have taken place at Jamaica Pond, the JP Branch Library, and the Engine 42 firehouse, among others. O'Malley also worked to invest money in public works projects and listened to constituent concerns on development projects

and public safety issues.

O'Malley has also personally attended many neighborhood association meetings over the years to provide updates on what his office was working on and to learn about what is most important to neighborhoods in the district.

"It is with an appreciative heart, that I share with you today that I will not be seeking reelection next

year," O'Malley wrote. "I am incredibly proud of our achievements over the last decade, and profoundly excited about the opportunities that lay ahead for our district. This wasn't an easy decision to make, but the right one for me and my family. While politics (particularly in Boston) can be rough and tumble, the support and votes of confidence this district has given me time and time again is a lot to walk away from. I am forever grateful. Parenthood offers one helluva perspective. As proud as I am to be called Councilor, being called Dad will be the greatest title I can ever earn."

He said that he will be in touch virtually with many constituents over the next few months to thank them, adding that he will throw a "THANK YOU DISTRICT 6 PARTY" next year once it is safe.

Many constituents and colleagues took to Twitter to thank O'Malley for his work over the past decade and wish him luck in his future endeavors.

O'Malley said he will still remain in the position for the entirety of 2021, as his term is up in January 2022. "I am enormously



PHOTO COURTESY OF VOTEMATTOMALLEY.COM

Councilor Matt O'Malley taking his initial oath of office upon being sworn into office in 2010.

grateful to my colleagues and the mayor for their partnership in this work and even more committed to a bold environmental agenda in the year ahead," he said of his environmental work. O'Malley told the Boston Globe that he does not yet know what will come next, "though he expects to continue working on public policy and serve the rest of his term..." the article states.

"Twenty-five years ago, a geeky, red-haired teen designed

his nascent political logo on the back of a calculus textbook," the end of the message reads. "You helped that kid achieve his dream and serve the people and neighborhoods that we know and love. Words will never be able to convey how much this job, my city, and our neighbors mean to me. I hope I have made you proud and will strive to continue to do so this year and beyond."

To read the whole message, visit votemattomalley.com/thankyou

Receive \$20 discount at 4CYW when you visit BAP

Valid through 12/31/20

4 CORNERS

YOGA + WELLNESS

DORCHESTER

617-506-0519

4CornersYogaWellness.com

617-506-3868

bostonacupunctureproject.org

BOSTON ACUPUNCTURE PROJECT

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

English High alums stage fun “game” on Thanksgiving

By SETH DANIEL

The oldest high school rivalry in the United States was a victim to COVID-19 as the Boston English High and Boston Latin School football game got the kibosh on Thanksgiving Day – the first time since 1887 that it was not played.

However, a lively group of young and “experienced” alums from JP’s English High School turned out at Harvard Stadium – where the annual tilt is played – to keep the wheels turning in some fashion and to jokingly claim victory for the 2020 game due to a forfeit by Latin.

It was all done in jest, of course, said Michael Thomas, director of the English High School Alumni Association. Thomas said a group of alums had been chatting on Facebook about their favorite games and memories from the rivalry. Then, some got the idea to stage a stunt at the Stadium and get together in a socially-distant formation to carry on the rivalry in some fashion.

“For a little fun to mark this

sad occasion, a group of dedicated EHS alumni, coaches, players and friends came together- in a socially distanced formation- to let Latin know that the rivalry lives,” said Thomas.

Seen in the photos are EHS alumni Larry Ayers, ’64; Greg Hayes, ’67; Barry Hickman, ’63; Jerry Sybertz, ’69; John Talbot, ’68; Mike Thomas, ’67; Adam Wasylyshyn, ’65 and Frank Williams, ’67. They were joined by current EHS Head Coach Ryan Conway, Offensive Coach Anthony Whitney, player Mark Osorio, and Bill Stewart II, son of legendary English Coach Bill Stewart.

English High School, founded in 1821, was the first public high school in the U.S. and is planning a big celebration to mark its 200th Anniversary in the Fall of 2021. Connect with The English High School Association through our website - english-highalumni.org - to stay up to date on Anniversary Events and how EHSA is supporting today’s English High students. LIKE our page here on Facebook.



English High alumnus strike a pose, in socially distant fashion, asking Boston Latin where they’re at.

FA LA LA LA LA
LALA
LOCAL

Make JP’s locally owned independent businesses your first choice for gifts, meals, necessities, and jollies.



JPLocalFirst.org

**END 2020
ON A GOOD NOTE!**

enter for a
CHANCE TO WIN
now - December 8th

\$200

**American Express®
Gift Card**

(1 winner
per branch)

or

\$500

**American Express®
Gift Card**

(5 winners
bank-wide)

800.657.3272 EBSB.com
Member FDIC | Member DIF



East Boston Savings Bank™

No purchase necessary to enter. Must be 18 or older to enter and win. Limit one entry per person. One winner will be drawn per branch and will receive a \$200 American Express® gift card. 5 winners will be drawn bank-wide to receive a \$500 American Express® gift card. Our employees and members of their household are not eligible to win the prizes. All winners will be notified by Wednesday, December 16, 2020. Winners do not need to be present. Ask a representative for details.

JP OBSERVER

How Do We Solve a Problem Like the Donald? A Quiz

(with apologies to Oscar Hammerstein)

BY SANDRA STOREY / SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

President Donald Trump has done what no other president in American history has done—refused to acknowledge that he lost re-election when preliminary results showed he lost by a large margin—an electoral college margin Trump frequently called a “landslide” when he got the same number four years ago. Everyone is wondering what will happen to this country between now and Joe Biden’s inauguration day, Jan. 20, 2021—and after that. So much depends on what Trump does and how our government institutions and the public respond.

Nervous? Take the following quiz alone or with others and come up with a scenario. You may choose one or more answers for each of nine questions. You may also add another answer not on the list. For many questions, more than one answer may turn out to be correct. By January 21 or before, if you and every-

one else are lucky, we will know what happened and how many points you scored on questions 1-6. Trump's behavior is so erratic and difficult to predict and his stated plans so changeable, some of these issues might be resolved before you see this. Each correct choice you make is worth a point. No time limit. Take your time. He is.

1. When will he officially say he concedes the election?

• Never. • When pigs fly. • The 12th of never. • When Putin tells him to. • When Dolly Parton gives him a million dollars, like she gave to Vanderbilt University to help develop a covid-19 vaccine. • Not even if he decides to attend Biden's inauguration.

2: When and under what conditions will he leave the White House?

- In December for “the holidays” and just not come back.
- When he figures he can’t raise much more money for his PAC

by sending his supporters 22 solicitations a day that accuse Democrats of fraud and pretend the donations are all going to fight the election results. • January 19, the day before Biden's inauguration. • January 20 during Biden's inauguration ceremony when US Marshalls escort him and his family out, announcing arrangements to move his stuff into 30-day storage, like a typical eviction. [Hint: You may substitute Secret Service, US Army, Navy Seals, DC police, local constables or Proud Boys for US Marshalls and possibly win a point.] • If election results are certified by all the states on or before Dec. 8. • When the electoral college votes for Biden on Dec. 14, as he said he will on Thanksgiving. • When enough legislatures where Biden won refuse to overturn the vote results and give their electors to Trump. • When none of his court cases are successful at getting him the presidency. • When he falls short of the 5+ million more votes or so he would need to beat Biden. • When a court(s) say he has to. • After his loyal militias are unsuccessful at preventing the peaceful transfer of power.

3: Where will he go?

• A property he owns outside the U.S. • Mar-A-Lago • Manhattan • Moscow • Prison [For extra points name federal, New York, or both. Won't know until after January 21.]

4: What will he say about his election loss when and after he leaves?

- He was robbed. He will accuse [Choose up to 9 from this list.] the lamestream media, Antifa, the Left, the courts, the state legislatures, the governors, the dangerous Democrats, the Rinos (Republicans in name only), or Venezuela for “rigging” the election against him. Other?

5. What will he do before he leaves? [Hint: He has already done or tried to do many of these

things since Biden was declared the winner on Nov. 7.]

• Try to suddenly do everything he promised: finish the wall, bring troops home, fix aging pieces of infrastructure using military or maybe health budget, abolish covid-19. [One point for each.] • Pardon some creeps. (Name the creeps for extra points.) • Hold another rally or more. • Campaign for the Republicans running for Senate in Georgia. If they don't win, claim the Democrats committed voter fraud. • Include himself among those he pardons. • Bomb Iran's nuclear facility(ies). • Provide tons of weapons to UAE because he made a deal. • Ask oil and gas firms to officially declare where they want to drill in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. • Try to burn the White House down. • Continue to claim credit for all sorts of good things he didn't do, like improve the economy, including things Biden will do. • Try to totally discredit how voting is conducted in this country. • Destroy lots of federal government documents and notes. Keep a few possibly valuable ones for later. • Encourage others to try to prevent the Biden administration from being able to govern. • Do nothing about the covid-19 pandemic except take credit for vaccines. • Do Nothing to get Congress to pass an economic relief package for people.

6. What will he do after he leaves?

• Play a lot of golf. • Spend more time with his wife and son Barron. • Spend more time with Ivanka. • Spend less time with Don, Jr. and Eric. • Hold rallies. • Bad-mouth the Biden administration constantly. • Continue fundraising for himself. • Immediately and continually say the pandemic is terrible and Biden should do more to stop it. He will say it started spreading badly only after Biden took office. • Immediately start running for

president for president in 2024.

- Continue to tweet falsehoods a lot.
- Express a lot of anger and victimhood.
- Continue to email and text his supporters many times a day saying terrible things about non-supporters.
- Be tempted to trade state secrets for payment or forgiveness of his massive debt and possibly actually do it.

7. What will happen to his famous “supporter base” after he leaves?

- Trick question. Depends somewhat on media. If major media continue to regularly report on his tweets and rallies and press conferences, even if coverage presents his wrongdoings and faux pas, his clout will continue and be a force for 2024.
- If mainstream media pay much less attention to him, his base will shrink proportionally more each year.
- At first, some of his base supporters will form and join some militia groups that actively support him.
- He will lose more potential voters each day he refuses to concede, say when he plans to leave office or say whether he will attend Biden's inauguration.

8. Where will Trump never go again, because he told crowds at campaign events there he wouldn't if he lost the election? [Note: Don't be confused. He said at a rally in Erie, Penna. that he would not be in Erie if he didn't have to be, because he was only looking for their votes, but he didn't say directly he wouldn't go back if he lost. Note: Conservative Erie voted for Biden this time. Voters told pollsters they like Trump's stands on issues but not him.]

- Florida • Iowa • Michigan
- Minnesota • North Carolina •
- Ohio • This country

9. Essay question for no points, just for the calming effect on your blood pressure and heart rate: How will Donald Trump be remembered 20 years from now?

All
of Us

RESEARCH PROGRAM

Receive
\$25*



Why have some communities not been a part of medical research?

You can help researchers develop new and better treatments that benefit all of us.

Many groups of people have been left out of research in the past. That means we know less about their health. When you join the All of Us Research Program, you'll help researchers learn more about what makes people sick or keeps them healthy.

JoinAll of Us.org/NewEngland
(617) 768-8300

All of Us
New England

BHWH

BRIGHAM AND WOMEN'S HOSPITAL

MCH

MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL

BOSTON MEDICAL CENTER

*All participants will receive \$25 after completion of their visit. To complete the visit, participants must create an account, give consent, agree to share their electronic health records, answer health surveys, and have their measurements taken (height, weight, blood pressure, etc.), and give blood and urine samples, if asked.

All of Us and the All of Us logo are service marks of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

City of Boston to offer two hours of free parking on Saturdays

STAFF REPORT

As a way to support Boston's small businesses during the holiday season, Mayor Martin J. Walsh announced that the City of Boston will provide two hours of free parking at the city's 8,000 metered spaces on Saturdays during the holiday season,

beginning this Saturday, November 28 (Small Business Saturday). Parking meters are located throughout Boston's downtown, as well as in several of the city's residential neighborhoods that host commercial districts, including Boston's Main Streets.

The City is also offering a

holiday discount for the Bluebikes bike-sharing program, including a 30 percent discount on annual memberships on Monday, November 30 (Cyber Monday). Additionally, free 90-day passes are still available for employees in retail shops and restaurants in Boston. These efforts build on the City's ongoing commitment to support small businesses that have been hit hardest during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"While shopping during the holiday season will look different this year, we are doing more than ever to help our small businesses get through a very difficult time," said Mayor Walsh. "Our small businesses contribute so much to our local economy, and I encourage everyone to shop safely and shop local this year."

Two hours of free parking at metered spaces will be offered in Boston on the following days:

- Saturday, December 5
- Saturday, December 12
- Saturday, December 19
- Saturday, December 26

While payment at meters will not be required on these five days, the time limit on the meters will be in effect. The purpose of this is to allow as many customers as possible a chance to take advantage of this opportunity.

"We are pleased to provide this incentive for Boston residents to shop locally this holiday season," said Boston Transportation Department Commissioner Greg Rooney. "Parking meters are located throughout several of Boston's neighborhood commercial districts, and I encourage drivers to take advantage of this opportunity."

The City is asking everyone who participates in in-person shopping this weekend and this holiday season to take steps to stay safe from COVID-19, including: wearing a face covering in public, staying 6 feet apart from others whenever possible, avoiding crowds and crowded places, bringing an alcohol-based hand sanitizer and washing your

hands often, and staying home if you are sick. The City is also encouraging shoppers to consider alternative, safer options including shopping online, using contactless services, such as curbside pick-up, and shopping in open air markets.

To date, a total of more than \$9.6 million in debt-free grants have been issued to 3,391 small businesses across Boston. The Office of Economic Development's Small Business Unit continues to engage with Boston's business owners through weekly calls, office hours, and ongoing surveys in order to best understand their needs during the COVID-19 pandemic. Small Business owners are encouraged to complete Survey #10 to share their thoughts and experiences to better shape our programs and policies to serve the small business community. For additional questions, the Small Business Unit can be reached at smallbiz@boston.gov.

Needham Bank named a Boston Globe Top Place to Work

STAFF REPORT

Needham Bank was named a Top Place to Work by the Boston Globe at a virtual reception held on November 19th. The Boston Globe determines the Top Places to Work honorees based on employee research conducted by an independent, third party research firm. Employees are asked to evaluate their companies on 24 factors including leadership, training, communication and the ability to work at their full potential. This is the first year that Needham Bank was named to the list.

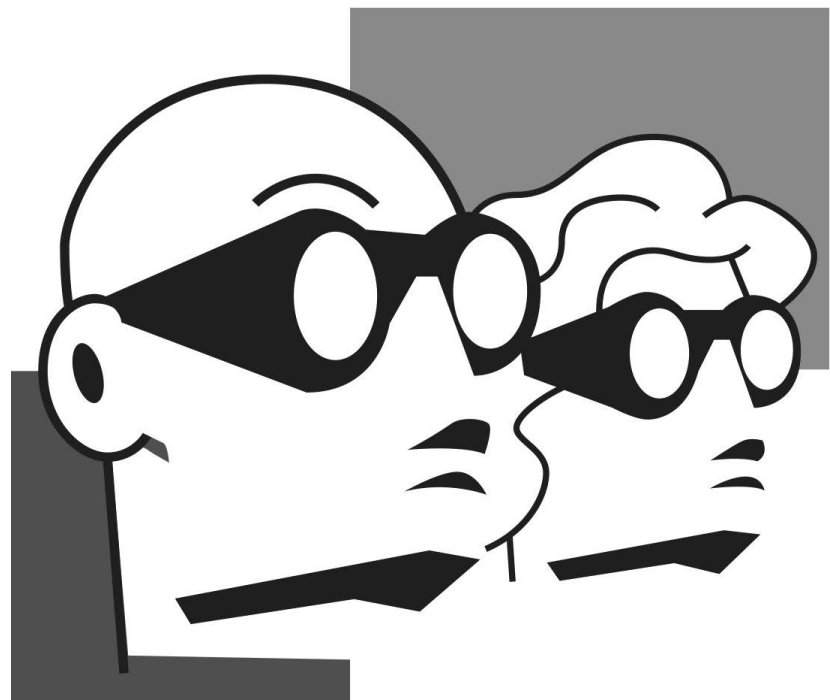
"We've participated in the survey program for several years because I believe that when employees feel valued and rewarded, it translates into better service for our customers and a more positive reputation in our markets. We've really listened to employee feedback through the surveys, significantly increased training and communication, and worked to create a culture that is welcoming and inclusive," commented Joe Campanelli, President and Chief Executive Officer.

"Employees are truly our big-

gest asset and we want to be the employer of choice for bankers that want to build relationships with consumers, businesses and non-profits in our communities. We have an extremely hardworking and dedicated team and I'm continually inspired by the energy, expertise and comradery that exists at Needham Bank. We will continue to find ways to recognize and reward our staff in an effort to build on the progress we've made in the last 3 years," added Campanelli.

Needham Bank offers an array of tech forward products and services that businesses and consumers need to manage their financial needs. We have the financial expertise typically found at much larger institutions, and the local knowledge and commitment you can only find at a community bank. Known as the "Builder's Bank", Needham Bank has been helping individuals, businesses and non-profits build for their futures since 1892. For more information please visit <https://NeedhamBank.com>. Needham Bank is a member of FDIC and DIF.

EYE Q OPTICAL



LOCAL - INDEPENDENT
most insurances accepted
617.983.3937

Winter Special

Oil, Filter & Lube, Rotate Tires, Inspect Brakes,
Suspension, Cooling System & Exhaust

Only \$59.95

Most cars & light trucks. Please present this advertisement at time of check-in. Cannot be combined with other offers.

**Morrison's
Auto-Rite**

475 Centre St
Jamaica Plain
on the 39 bus line and
convenient to the Orange Line

617-522-4444
www.MorrisonAutoRite.com

Call for an
appointment

Outstanding Service since 1969

FIND US ONLINE:

JAMAICAPLAINGAZETTE.COM

Jamaica Plain's positive test rate down

By JOHN LYNDIS

Jamaica Plain's COVID positive test rate decreased 25 percent since Nov. 20 according to the latest stats released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC).

Last week the BPHC reported that of the 24,579 Jamaica Plain residents tested for COVID 5.3 percent were found to be positive—a decrease of 25 percent from the 7.1 percent reported in the final weeks of last month. The citywide average is 5 percent of those tested—a 50 percent decrease from the 10.2 percent reported last Friday.

At his daily press briefing Tuesday, Mayor Martin Walsh said that in the two weeks leading up to Thanksgiving, Boston's

numbers went in the right direction.

"But, we expect to see an increase when the impact of Thanksgiving activity makes it into the testing data," said Walsh.

He said the City will be monitoring that data closely as it comes in.

"In the meantime, we all have to do everything we can to prevent the virus from spreading, by taking our collective and individual precautions as seriously as ever," said Walsh.

According to the BPHC data, Jamaica Plain's infection rate increased 22.7 percent.

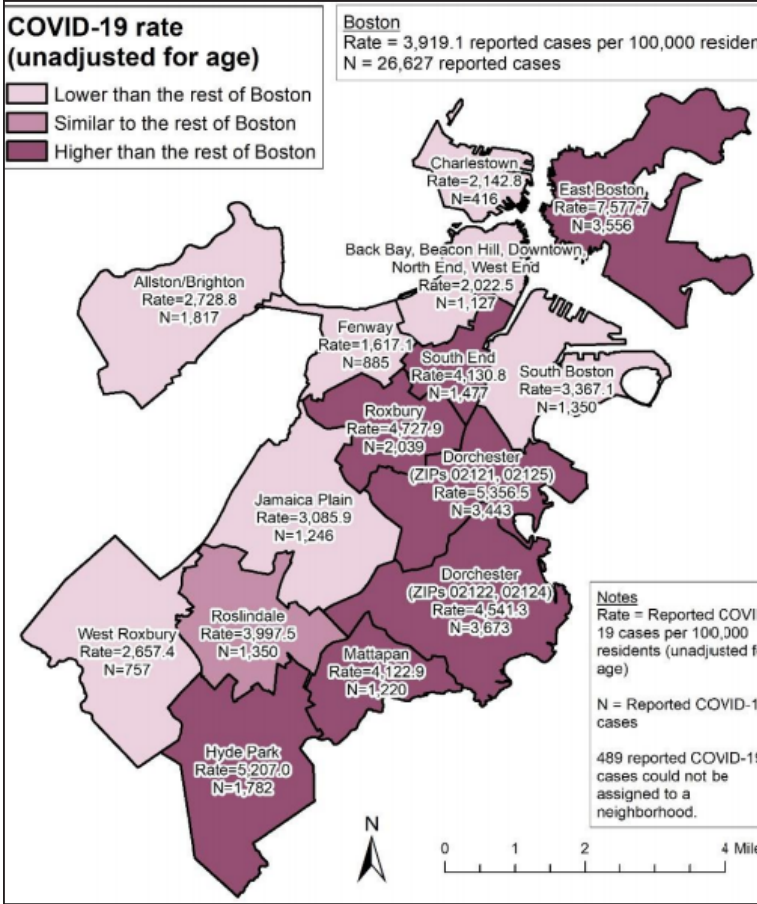
Jamaica Plain went from 285.8 cases per 10,000 residents on Nov. 20 to 308.5 cases per 10,000 residents—or a 22.7 per-

cent increase.

Ninety-two additional Jamaica Plain residents became infected with COVID-19 in the past two weeks and the number of total cases here went from 1,154 cases two weeks ago to 1,246 cases last week.

The statistics released by the BPHC as part of its weekly COVID19 report breaks down the number of cases and infection rates in each neighborhood. It also breaks down the number of cases by age, gender and race.

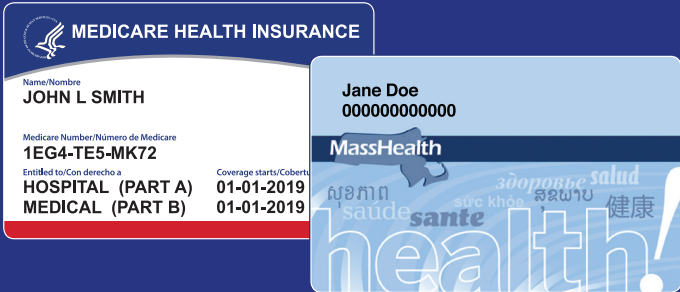
Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased 1.5 percent last week and went from 27,635 to 28,053 confirmed cases. Twenty-six Boston residents died from the virus and there are now 925 total deaths in the city from COVID.



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

INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING?
Give Us a Call!! 617-524-2626

Got these cards?
Get more of the help
you need now



UnitedHealthcare® Senior Care Options (HMO D-SNP) includes extra benefits to help you get care and services you may be missing today. If you have MassHealth Standard only or MassHealth Standard and Medicare, that could be a big help in these uncertain times.

Get extra benefits for a \$0 plan premium

Senior Care Options is a Medicare plan. It works with your MassHealth Standard plan. You'll keep all your MassHealth Standard benefits and add more. You could get extra benefits like:



Health and wellness products card
Up to \$600 loaded onto your card to buy health-related items you may need.



Dental coverage
\$0 copay for routine exams, cleanings, fillings, dentures, implants and more.

Get the plan that gives you more
Call today. 1-888-804-9439, TTY 711
UHCCP.com/MADual



UnitedHealthcare SCO is a Coordinated Care plan with a Medicare contract and a contract with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Medicaid program. Enrollment in the plan depends on the plan's contract renewal with Medicare. This plan is a voluntary program that is available to anyone 65 and older who qualifies for MassHealth Standard and Original Medicare. If you have MassHealth Standard, but you do not qualify for Original Medicare, you may still be eligible to enroll in our MassHealth Senior Care Option plan and receive all of your MassHealth benefits through our SCO program.

© 2020 United HealthCare Services, Inc. All rights reserved.
Y0066_200409_104906_M
UHCCO_200409_104906_M

CST29261A_H2226-001

Jamaica Plain students' enrollment declines at Boston Public Schools

By SETH DANIEL

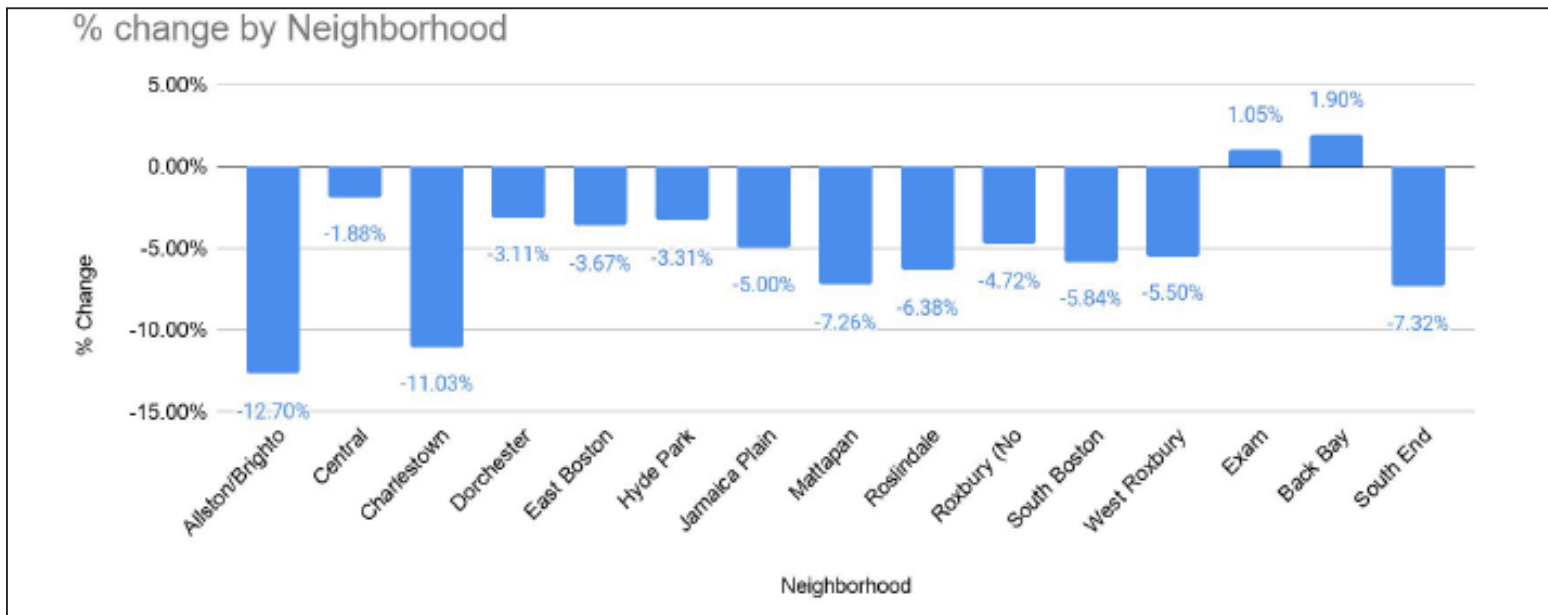
A new study by The Boston Schools Fund shows that enrollment declines have been steep citywide in the Boston Public Schools (BPS) this year – following a statewide trend of COVID-19 withdrawals – and Jamaica Plain has seen a concerning number of students leave as well.

The study looked at enrollment data provided by the annual October 1 Enrollment Report provided to the State Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), which annually serve as the official enrollment statistics for each district in the state.

Overall, the study found that Boston had 2,368 fewer students this year than last school year, which was a 4.7 percent decline in total enrollment. Much of that decline in Boston came at the entry grades of K1 (13% decline), K2 (11.7% decline) and 9th grade (15% decline). For context, the report indicated that BPS did much better than the state decline for K1/K2 decreases, but did far worse than the state for 9th grade.

Enrollment was down across every neighborhood in Boston, and for varying reasons that haven't yet been studied or defined.

By percentage, JP enroll-



ments were down 5 percent this year, which was concerning but by no means as high as the leader, Allston-Brighton, which was down 12.7 percent. Charlestown was down 11.03 percent, and the South End had a 7.3 percent decline, and Mattapan had a 7.26 percent decline.

Oddly enough, across the city exam school enrollment was up by 1.05 percent, and the Back Bay actually increased its enrollment number by 1.9 percent, but that only amounted to nine students in total as the Back Bay has a very small overall enrollment in the public schools.

Enrollment declines by neighborhood were looked at only by

the location of the schools in the neighborhood, and not by the zip code or home of the actual students in the school, so there could be some variation for students coming into JP from other neighborhoods and students going out of JP to other neighborhoods. In JP, the decline amounted to 209 students that were not in the schools as compared to last year.

Allston-Brighton's decline amounted to 353 students, and Roxbury actually had the most student decrease at 380 students – though that was only a 4.7 percent decline in the total numbers there.

Overall, the study showed that BPS enrollment projections citywide were off by more than 9,500 students, or 17.4 percent, due to the pandemic. Those numbers were projected in BuildBPS studies done in 2016. The largest number off the mark came in grades K2-5, where 26,149 students were expected this year, and 20,913 enrolled.

There are any number of reasons for the exodus, though the study did not track where those students have gone. Some have simply not shown up for school, while many also anecdotally report that students are leaving

public schools – which are all remote – to attend in-person private and Catholic schools.

"Data presented in the above slides give us a snapshot of BPS enrollment, but do not provide explanations for enrollment drop among different groups, grades, and neighborhoods," read the report. "There are further questions that must be asked."

Among those questions are those about why certain groups are leaving the district and are there different reasons, and another key question is finding out which students are likely to return to the district post-COVID.

Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll



SCONE

Scone is a gorgeous Lionhead with ruby eyes and a chocolate nose. She is quite feisty and is looking for a home with rabbit experience. She has really started to warm up to her caretakers at the Adoption Center, and she'll make a great companion for someone who puts in the time (and treats) to gain her trust. This two-year-old lady would likely get along with another bunny or rabbit-savvy cat or dog. She would do best in a home without young kids, since she can be a bit nippy if she's not handled to her standards (which are rightfully high!) If you're looking for a pretty, curious bun, call the adoption center to inquire about Scone!

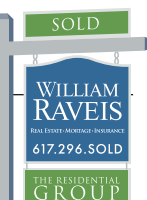
Email adoption@mspca.com for more information on Scone!

(617) 522-5055
www.mspca.org

Sponsored by:

Sarah Carroll, REALTOR®

The Residential Group
at William Raveis Real Estate
16 Clarendon St., Boston MA 02116
781-820-0280 or
sarah@residentialgroup.com



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



Kindness and Care for Animals®
350 South Huntington Avenue

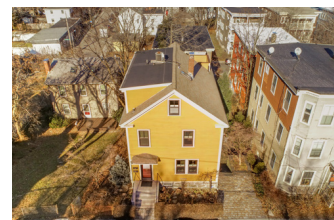
Unlimited

Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

EXTRAORDINARY LISTINGS IN JAMAICA PLAIN



44 Marmion Street - 3 Units
Units starting at \$859,000
Nextdoor Realty Team
617.543.4185



41 Jamaica Street
Offered at \$1,275,000
4 Bed, 3 Bath Multi-Family
Susan Scheele, 857.472.4653



17 Hathaway Street, Unit 2
Offered at \$1,050,000
3 Bed, 2 Bath Condo
Trisha Solio, 617.293.8070



14 Boylston Place
Offered at \$979,000
3 Bed, 2.5 Bath Condo
Jay Balaban, 617.293.8932



251 Heath Street, Unit 225
Offered at \$799,000
1 Bed, 1.5 Bath Condo
Nextdoor Realty Team
617.543.4185



26 Wenham Street, Unit 1 & 3
Unit 1: \$539,000 | 2 Bed | 1 Bath
Unit 3: \$525,000 | 2 Bed | 1 Bath
Scott Goldsmith, 617.529.2434

UNLIMITED SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY | 673 CENTRE STREET, JAMAICA PLAIN

Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated. Equal Housing Opportunity.

jprealestate.com

Baker provides COVID-19 update, addresses clusters related to houses of worship

BY LAUREN BENNETT

Governor Charlie Baker held a press conference on Tuesday, where he provided an update on COVID-19 and addressed rumors of further closures, as well as talked about clusters of the virus stemming from houses of worship.

Baker said that as of Monday, the state had 1166 new cases, and the seven day average positive test rate remains around 3.9 percent. There were 1174 people hospitalized with the virus, and 244 in the ICU, he said.

He also said that hospitalizations have been increasing by about 2.5 percent per day over the last couple of weeks, and urged residents to continue to avoid gathering in groups and to wear face coverings when leaving the home. “Everybody has to keep doing these things because we know that they work,” Baker said.

Baker dispelled some rumors

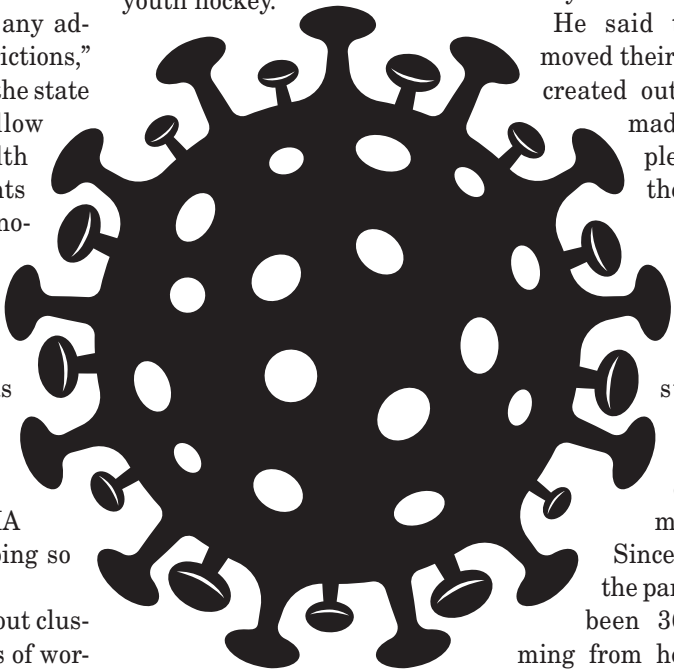
that he said may have been circulating regarding more closures throughout the state.

“At this time, the Commonwealth is not planning any additional closures or restrictions,” Baker said, adding that the state will “continue to follow closely the public health data” and that residents will be given sufficient notice should anything change.

He said that the recent news surrounding COVID-19 vaccines was “encouraging,” but “in the meantime, we still need to do the things that so many people in MA have been doing and doing so well.”

Baker also talked about clusters coming from houses of worship. He said that in October, the state Department of Public Health released weekly cluster reports as part of its data, and analysis found that most cas-

es were coming from household spread and informal gatherings, as well as some clusters from youth hockey.



Baker announced that the team “recently completed analysis clusters from houses of worship.”

He continued, “we know that houses of worship have always served as places of refuge, especially in difficult times like this.”

He said that many have moved their services online or created outdoor service and made changes so people can listen from their own cars.

He said that the “data still found that there were too many clusters that stemmed from houses of worship and spread out into the community at large.”

Since the beginning of the pandemic, there have been 36 clusters stemming from houses of worship, Baker said, which caused 316 confirmed cases and 150 close contacts.

The governor said that if people are going to attend in-person

services, it is “critically important” that face masks are worn and people stay distant.

He said he recognizes that it’s “difficult to ask people to modify these time-honored traditions,” but stressed the importance of doing so for the safety of the community at large.

Baker also touched on the Thanksgiving holiday and said he was “pleased to see that airline travel was down over 60 percent,” bus and train travel was down about 80 percent, and automobile travel was down between five and eight percent.

He said he also heard from turkey sellers, who said that smaller birds sold quickly and many big birds were left over, which is indicative that people were having smaller gatherings this year.

Heading into the rest of the holiday season, Baker has continually urged residents to take proper precautions and to not gather in groups.

Walsh discusses COVID-19, announces that City received AAA bond rating for seventh consecutive year

BY LAUREN BENNETT

Mayor Marty Walsh held a press conference on Tuesday to discuss updates on coronavirus as well as talk about resources that are available to residents.

Walsh said that as of Tuesday, Boston had 407 new cases of COVID-19. No new deaths were reported on Tuesday, but he said that since Friday, 11 Bostonians had died from the virus,

He said that every neighborhood saw a decrease in positivity over the past two weeks, but following the Thanksgiving holiday, he said there might be some increases. He said that getting tested is important to be able to catch cases early to prevent further spread within the community.

“We’re going to be monitoring the data closely,” Walsh said. He said continuing to wash hands, wear a mask, and stay distant from others is imperative. He warned residents to be careful at work, and to self-quarantine

for 14 days if you think you have been exposed to the virus.

He also mentioned that the extension on outdoor dining for public property will soon end in Boston, but exceptions can be made for extending it on private property. He said the City has to prepare for the winter and the sidewalks have to be clear.

Walsh then talked about free food resources throughout the city. He mentioned reports of food pantries “struggling” across the country to be able to provide for the growing number of people who are in need of food, but assured residents that the system is “resilient” in Boston. “They have not stopped at all,” he said, and the City continues to provide support to these organizations through the Boston Resiliency Fund.

He said that there are currently 58 active youth meal sites throughout the City where no ID is required and “children do not need to be present,” he said, adding that there are 26 “Boston

Public Schools super sites” where parents and guardians can pick up three meals at once for children, and Walsh said that the City hopes to provide groceries along with the packaged meals at these sites.

He also said that more money will be added “in the coming month” to the the EBT card for BPS parents that was distributed earlier this year.

Walsh also announced that the City of Boston has received a AAA bond rating for the seventh consecutive year in a row from Moody’s Investor Service and S&P Global Ratings. He said that because of this rating, the city’s “credit is trusted as the best in its class,” which will allow the city to “invest in more of our neighborhoods than ever before,” he said.

Boston has also been named as the “city best prepared to withstand the COVID-19 recession” by the National Tax Journal and the New York Times, Walsh announced. “That’s an outstand-



ing achievement,” he said, and thanked all who played a role.

The City can invest more money into affordable housing, new schools and libraries, open space, climate resiliency projects, bus and bike lanes, and other “infrastructure that supports the quality of life in the City of Boston,” Walsh said. He also said that for the first time ever, there will be a series of green bonds for investments in energy efficiency “and climate adaptation in our

public spaces,” as well as social bonds for things like affordable housing.

For more information, visit Boston’s Investor Relations site at buybostonbonds.com. According to the City, “the website is a part of the City’s continued efforts to optimize financial disclosure and is designed to drive investment in Boston’s bonds, which help pay for capital projects and investments the City makes.”

PLEASE WRITE...

The Gazette welcomes letters to the editor. Word limit: 500. Deadline: Friday at 5 p.m. one week before publication. Letters may be emailed to letters@JamaicaPlainGazette.com. Please include address and telephone number for verification purposes. Anonymous letters will not be published.

More information: 617-524-2626

ZBA approves cannabis dispensary at 3995-3997 Washington Street

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA) met virtually on December 1, where they approved a proposal for 3995-3997 Washington St. in Roslindale to convert a former convenience store to an adult use cannabis dispensary. The store will be owned by Boston resident Brian Chavez.

Attorney Mike Ross said the space is 1320 square feet with additional space in the basement for storage, and customers

would enter the building from the rear and exit from the corner of Archdale Road and Washington Street. He said the proposed hours for the dispensary are 9am to 8pm, seven days a week, which has been approved by the Boston Cannabis Board.

ZBA Chair Christine Araujo asked how any potential line ups outside the building would occur.

Ross said that the dispensary operators "would want to limit" any queuing through the use of technology, adding that more and

more people are ordering online for other dispensaries, and not just because of COVID-19.

He said that "as more and more of these appear in Boston," they will be more like neighborhood corner stores or liquor stores, and will not draw in large numbers of people from other neighborhoods because there will be many options throughout the city.

He said that "there are not a lot of outside people in the

neighborhood," and "not a lot of transients" who come to Roslindale, so there is no anticipation of large crowds coming to this shop once it opens. "Here is a much smaller, neighborhood kind of shop," Ross said.

"We have to have a very good relationship with Boston police as well," he added, saying that the dispensary will "start slow" with "lots of supervision" and "lots of engagement with police. Within a very short period of

time we'll have a feel for the volumes and the type of activity we're going to see there," he said.

The Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services was in support of the project, as were two other Boston residents. No one spoke in opposition of the project at the hearing, and the ZBA voted to approve the project for this applicant only and required BPDA design review as part of the approval. One ZBA member voted against the motion.

Officials increased testing for Jamaica Plain residents this week

BY JOHN LYNDIS

With the COVID-19 positive test rate coming down a bit here and across the city, Mayor Martin Walsh said this week he's expecting another surge in cases following the Thanksgiving holiday.

Walsh and public health experts are still urging residents to get tested in order to know their COVID status and properly isolate to decrease the spread of the virus.

There are over 30 testing sites across the city and the city was trying to increase testing for Jamaica Plain residents this past week.

At the free testing site at the Anna Mae Cole Community Center in Jamaica Plain the city spent Tuesday through Thursday testing residents in order to prevent community spread.

"In the City of Boston, we are committed to providing equitable access to COVID-19 testing in our neighborhoods, and I'm pleased to build on that work with this new resource," said Mayor Walsh. "It's especially important now for anyone who spent the Thanksgiving holiday with people outside their house-

hold to get tested and limit the further spread of COVID-19."

The COVID-19 test site initiative was announced by Walsh in May as a way to help fill any gaps in testing availability, prioritizing neighborhoods and populations that need dedicated testing efforts to create equitable access to testing.

In addition to the testing sites in Jamaica Plain that ended Thursday, testing is available at over 30 locations across the city. Individuals can call the Mayor's Health Line with any questions using 617-534-5050.

A full list of testing sites across Boston can be found at <https://www.boston.gov/departments/public-health-commission/covid-19-testing-sites>.

Walsh recently announced the City of Boston launched "Get The Test, Boston," a pledge designed to encourage residents to get a COVID-19 test. Additionally, businesses who sign the pledge will share testing resources and information with their employees.

The City has also been partnering with community health centers to increase access to testing, particularly in neighborhoods experiencing higher rates of COVID-19.

INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING?

Give Us a Call!! 617-524-2626

Now You can be UPFRONT & CENTER

With our **STICKY NOTE** on the Front Page

Perfect for: Community Reminders, Schedules, Coupons, Sales, Announcements, Programs and more!

3-inch-by-3-inch Sticky Note
Req. 3-week advance placement

Four Options to Choose From

7,000 COPIES \$600
2-COLOR

7,000 COPIES \$700
4-COLOR

12,000 COPIES \$800
2-COLOR

12,000 COPIES \$900
4-COLOR

4-COLOR STICKIES CAN BE A COMBINATION OF COLORS.
2-COLOR STICKIES CAN BE MADE WITH ANY 2 COLORS

Call or Email Your Rep Today!

781-485-0588 ext. 103:Maureen 106:Peter 101:Deb 110:Kathy 125:Sioux

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



Example Page
Sticky Note represented
by Black box

Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council discusses committee updates

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC) met virtually on November 24, where members discussed updates from council committees.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE

Michael Reiskind reported that the Public Service Committee discussed two matters, the first being a request for a common victualler license for La Patrona Mexican Grill at 360 Centre St. Elizabeth Cabral will be the manager, and the hours of operation will be 11:00am to 9:00pm. The Council voted to approve this request.

The second matter was a continuation of a discussion from last month regarding a vote on sending a letter of support to the Longfellow Area Neighborhood Association (LANA) and the Roslindale Wetlands Task Force, who are asking the City to purchase 104-108 Walter Street to build up to four affordable homes for ownership as well as add the parcel as part of the wetlands protection.

Reiskind said that the pro-

posal for 104 Walter Street is to demolish the existing building and construct four affordable housing units.

The 108 Walter St. parcel is “immediately adjacent to the Roslindale wetlands area,” Reiskind said, and would be protected from building.

He said that the parcels are “for sale for well over \$1 million,” and the City has received a LEND grant for \$387,005.

“There was a good amount of pushback from community members,” he said, reporting that JPNC member Gert Thorn said that while he believed this proposal was a good one, there is already a lot of green space in the neighborhood and he thought the money should be spent elsewhere.

He also said that JPNC member Samantha Montano thought that it “might not be feasible” to turn 104 Walter St. into affordable housing.

LANA member Deb Asbrand said that 104 and 108 Walter St. “are separate parcels,” but have “historically” been kept together and are being sold together.

She said that should this proj-

ect happen, it will “allow greater access to the wetlands.”

Public Service Committee member Louise Johnson said that the Public Service Committee voted to send the letter. “All we’re doing is saying we support what the neighborhood is doing,” she said, adding that she thinks neighborhoods should support one another.

The JPNC voted to send a letter to the mayor, city council, and environment department supporting this idea.

HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

As previously reported by the Gazette, the Housing and Development Committee heard from the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation (JPND) about an update to the Call Carolina project at 71-85 Call Street, as well as discussed sending an Article 80 comment letter for the proposed project at 632-638 Centre St. for a four-story building with 18 residential units and four commercial units.

Royce reported that “construction halted and then started again,” and “came in the back door as an Article 80.” She said

that a lot of people on the Housing and Development Committee were not aware of a lot of the project’s background.

Royce said that both the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) and the Boston Transportation Department (BTD) have made some changes to the project, which was “one of the things that informed us.”

The JPNC voted 10-4-1 to send the Article 80 comment letter.

ZONING COMMITTEE

Dave Baron reported that there were two matters heard by the Zoning Committee in November: one at 17 Kingsboro Park to add additional living area on the third floor of a second-story condo unit, and one at 3305-3307 Washington St. to combine existing lots into one and create a three to four story building with nine residential units and one commercial space.

At 17 Kingsboro Park, Baron said that the family who lives at the property wants more space and are seeking to expand the attic. He said there was some “pushback from members of the committee on the particular design,” specifically the parapet

roof, but the recommendation of the committee was to approve with the removal of the parapet. Baron said the “owner was indifferent” to the parapet and “happy to accommodate.”

The JPNC voted to approve the project as well.

At 3305-3307 Washington St., which Baron said has come before the committee before, the Zoning Board of Appeal had denied a previous proposal and asked to see something smaller with a different look.

Baron said that the current proposal is for 10 units and nine parking spaces. One of the residential units will be at 70 percent AMI, and the building has a different design from the previous proposal. Baron said that the new proposal went through processes with the Eggleston Square Neighborhood Association and the Brookside Neighborhood Association, where it was approved again.

The JPNC voted to approve the project as well, subject to the Memorandum of Understanding that had been laid out.

School Committee apologizes for inaction on anti-Asian remarks, but calls for more tolerance

BY SETH DANIEL

The Boston School Committee took the first hour of its meeting on Nov. 18 to apologize for remarks made by its former Chair Michael Loconto that were termed offensive to Asians, but that time of reflection also had a strong message to the community to show more tolerance and not to judge Loconto solely on that one remark.

“My discomfort with your resignation is growing,” said Member Hardin Coleman, who read from a letter he sent Loconto after the incident. “I remain discomforted by the resignation of the Boston community to lead with anger and distrust instead of fairness and reasoning...What leads me to discomfort with our community is that demanding your expulsion from your civic role is in direct contradiction to our principle of restorative justice—a concept that is supported by many of those that called for your expulsion.”

The remarks by Loconto came during a marathon meeting on Oct. 21 that lasted into the wee

hours of Oct. 22 and featured a highly-charged debate and vote on changing the admissions criteria for the City’s three exam schools. At around 11:30 p.m. in that online meeting, Loconto was heard mocking the names — apparently — of some Asian parents who wanted to speak against changing the criteria. It was immediately called out, and seemed like he hadn’t realized his microphone was on. He resigned the next day and apologized for his comments. However, the matter was exacerbated by a report in the Boston Globe showing that members privately texted one another about the comments during the meeting, including telling Loconto how he might be able to explain them away.

But the session at the School Committee meeting on Nov. 18 wasn’t just about bashing the former chair’s comments — which most everyone agrees were not characteristic of his typical conduct. In fact, he seemed to have several allies on the Board who were disappointed that the overall community didn’t give him a

second chance before calling for his resignation.

One of the strongest voices in that call was from the Committee’s only Asian American member — that being Member Quoc Tran.

Tran’s comments were quite powerful, and he said he was speaking from the heart and had prayed and meditated on the matter prior to the meeting so he could choose the right words. Many would have expected him — a long-time Civil Rights activist in the Vietnamese community — to condemn and dispatch Loconto to the history books. In fact, though, his words suggested the exact opposite and he said he was “personally resentful” that Loconto was pushed to resign.

Tran said he has been an activist for 30 years and, while he condemns Loconto’s comments on that night, he doesn’t think it should define all of the work he had done for all the BPS communities — including the Asian community.

“Throughout more than 30 years of working in Civil Rights, I’ve learned a few things,” he

said. “I used to be a very ardent fighter against anything discriminatory, but now I’m over 60 and looking at everything I’ve fought for and there’s one thing we haven’t been practicing as we should and that’s tolerance and tolerance has been missing since this incident.”

He said that lacking the tolerance to forgive Loconto of his words on that night, and allowing him to move forward on the Committee, will only perpetuate racism and not ease it. He called on the Asian community to teach the City how to be tolerant in the face of terribly hurtful comments.

“To my Asian community, the one thing we grow up with — the first thing instilled in us from the cultures in China, Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia is tolerance and patience,” he said. “Let’s practice that and teacher American people what tolerance is.”

New Chair Alexandra Oliver-Davila said the comments were unacceptable, and she also apologized for her inaction in not condemning them on the spot. She said his words were not okay,

but that moment should not define him.

“Words matter and names matter and I appreciate that Mr. Loconto was quick to apologize and resign,” she said. “He recognized his words were hurtful to our Asian community members. However, his lapse of judgement in that moment cannot and should not erase all his years of supporting equitable education access for all Boston students and shouldn’t define his tenure with that challenging moment.”

Supt. Brenda Cassellius also apologized for the actions, and praised the work of Councilor Ed Flynn for bringing the BPS leaders and the Asian community in his district together to create more of an understanding. She said they plan to have a workshop on Dec. 9 to train with Dr. Ibram Kindi of the Boston University Center for Antiracist Research. The Committee will also hold a day-long retreat on Dec. 12 to discuss the matter more, and to also talk about logistics for returning students to in-person learning.

English High alumni lend help to student hit by car last summer

BY SETH DANIEL

Once looped into the English High alumni family, help is on the way if needed.

That's the message from the English High School Association (EHSA) – who have become very active publicly this year in advance of their 200th Anniversary in 2021 – as they heard about a graduate who injured with her family by a hit-and-run driver last summer while walking to the laundromat.

Daniela DePina is legally blind since she was very young, a condition caused by glaucoma. Though she faced that obstacle, she attended classes at English High in the Vision classroom program, and graduated with success in 1998. When EHSA members heard of the accident and the bills that were piling up for DePina and her daughter, Mariah, 6, they jumped to action with a \$1,000 donation.

"Daniela is part of the English High family," said Michael Thomas, chair of the EHSA. "We are happy to assist members of our alumni family any way we can. Daniela has developed a success-

ful career, despite her disability. We are proud of her and all our graduates."

DePina said the driver of the car has yet to come forward, and the Boston Police investigation is ongoing. She said her daughter needs to have a pin put in her knee surgically, which is going to cost a good deal of money. Meanwhile, the family has still been struggling to pay the costs of the \$2,000 ambulance bill and the ongoing bills for transportation to medical appointments for DePina and her daughter.

Thomas said he owed a debt of gratitude to former teachers Janey Frank and Barbara Fragopoulos, who were acquainted with DePina when she attended middle school in Roslindale. They have kept in touch, and when they began raising funds on GoFundMe for DePina, they also reached out to EHSA.

After graduation in 1998, DePina attended Massasoit Community College and Roxbury Community College before moving on to Pine Manor College and graduating there. She had a goal of becoming a teacher and done so in a fashion as a Peer Advocate

for those who are also blind and seeking to live independently.

Last year the Carroll Center for the Blind and the Massachu-

setts Commission for the Blind recognized Daniela for her outstanding work as a Peer Advocate for the Independent Living.

She works to ensure people with disabilities are able to receive equal rights, fair housing and opportunities.

BOSTON'S NEIGHBORHOOD BANK™

Now Open in JP

3531 Washington Street

thecooperativebank.com

EQUAL HOUSING MEMBER MEMBER
LENDER DIF FDIC

 **THE COOPERATIVE BANK**



Daniela DePina is shown at her home in Dorchester before receiving a donation check from English High School Association Chair Michael Thomas last month. EHSA donated \$1,000 to help defray the costs of medical procedures brought about when DePina – who is legally blind – and her daughter were injured by a hit-and-run driver in August. The investigation is ongoing into the driver, and DePina is hoping for a successful knee surgery for her 6-year-old daughter – who was injured by the driver.

Construction begins on Holtzer Park project

By John Lynds

Construction has begun on an unutilized Boston Housing Authority (BHA) parcel that will result in 62 new units of affordable housing.

Mayor Martin Walsh made the announcement earlier this week that the Urban Edge Housing Corporation has broken ground at the new Holtzer Park housing development in Jackson Square.

Mayor Walsh said the new project is part of the BHA's 125 Amory Street phased redevelopment project in Jackson Square.

The development is a joint venture between The Community Builders (TCB), Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation (JPND), and Urban Edge to renovate and preserve 199 public housing units as affordable housing. The project will also repurpose BHA administrative offices into 12 new affordable units, and build approximately 133 units of affordable housing and 214 market-rate apartments in three new buildings on adjacent BHA-owned property.

"It's great to see the start of construction at the Holtzer Park housing development, which will



An artist rendering of the BHA's Holtzer Park housing development project in Jackson Square.

create many new and affordable homes here in Jackson Square," said Walsh. "Projects like these are part of our overall strategy to increase the availability of affordable housing in the city, and I want to thank Urban Edge and our partners for their work to make these new homes possible."

According to BHA Administrator Kate Bennett, Holtzer Park will create 41 affordable units for households whose income is less than \$76,740 for a family of 4 and are supported with Low Income Housing Tax Credits. An additional 21 of these units will have project-based vouchers to provide even deeper affordability for households whose income is less than \$38,350 for a family of 4.

"It's exciting to see underutilized BHA land transformed into such an important use for dozens of low-income families," said BHA Administrator t. "We are forging exciting opportunities in Jackson Square and I am grateful to all of our partners and staff that have made this happen."

Holtzer Park is named for the Holtzer-Cabot Electric Company, where a variety of electrical devices were manufactured. In 1970, BHA converted the building into senior housing.

"It is exciting to begin construction at Holtzer Park, which will bring much-needed, high-quality affordable housing to Jackson Square," said Emilio Dorcelly, CEO of Urban Edge. "Jackson Square has undergone a transformation over the last several years, but because of the hard work of our partners at the City of Boston, Boston Housing Authority, Jamaica Plain

Neighborhood Development Corporation, and The Community Builders, current residents are benefitting from those changes. We look forward to being able to celebrate the opening of Holtzer Park – and 62 new affordable homes - in person, when it is safe to do so."

Last year, the Boston Planning and Development Agency voted to extend Jackson Square Partners, LLC status as tentative designated developer for the Jackson Square Master Plan project--a mixed use development in Jackson Square of largely vacant public and privately owned land where the Jamaica Plain and Roxbury communities meet.

Since the BPDA's plan to revitalize this area of Jackson Square began over a decade ago several milestones have been completed by Jackson Square Partners, LLC.

Already the development team has completed Jackson Commons. This project cost more than \$21 million and consists of a 37 unit, mixed-use and mixed income housing development near the Jackson Square MBTA stop. The development is more than 10,000 square feet of ground floor retail, as well as 2,000 square feet of retail and commercial space. The redevelopment consisted of the adaptive re-use and renovation of the 100 year old, three story, 23,600 square foot Webb Building. The residential unit mix includes 25 two-bedrooms, 7 one bedrooms and 5 three-bedrooms. Eight units are reserved for homeless/formerly homeless residents while the remaining 29 units are affordable


units.

The city and developer recently celebrated the groundbreaking of 75 Amory Ave. This development kicked off the third phase of a \$16 million development that will create 39 units of affordable housing for families. The project also secured \$200,000 from the EPA in the form of brownfields grant for the remediation of the former industrial sites next to Jackson Commons at 1542 Columbus Avenue in Roxbury. This land will be transformed into a recreation center for the neighborhood.

Walsh and the BHA said in accordance with the City of Boston's Green Affordable Housing Program, Holtzer Park will utilize a high-efficiency heating system and building envelope, as well as Energy Star-rated appliances. The development will employ environmentally friendly design features throughout and will meet the U.S. Green Building Council LEED Homes Gold certifiable standard. The housing development will also meet the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star standards. The development team is made up of Urban Edge, ICON Architecture, and NEI General Contracting.

Walsh said Holtzer Park has been made possible in part by more than \$2.71 million in funding from the City of Boston, \$750,000 in Neighborhood Housing Trust, as well as more than \$15.8 million in State and Federal Low Income Housing Tax Credits from the

RCC's NEW Nursing Program is Accepting Applications




Benefits of RCC's Nursing Program Include:

- ✓ Affordability
- ✓ A State-of-the-Art Simulation Lab & Mock Hospital
- ✓ Quality Instruction
- ✓ Access to Industry Leaders

Call 857-701-1200
Visit www.rcc.mass.edu/nursing

Get Started Now!



Local women artists sell artwork on Instagram to help PPC

Giving a gift of art supports social justice

STAFF REPORT

Holiday shoppers can select affordable artwork for their loved ones AND donate to the Poor People's Campaign (PPC) to support social justice, thanks to an ingenious plan developed by 11 artists from Roslindale, Hyde Park, and Jamaica Plain. ARTGIRLZBOSTON is an Instagram site that exhibits and sells paintings, drawings, and monotypes at discounted prices of \$15 - \$100.

ARTGIRLZBOSTON has raised over \$2000 in donations to the PPC. The artists donate their artwork and buyers make direct donations to the PPC for the price of the artwork. The PPC organizes across the US to address

poverty, inequality, voter participation, systemic racism, ecological devastation, and war and militarism.

"We all feel very strongly about the massive inequalities in our country, and are always searching for ways to merge our political and art lives," said Ginny Zanger. Some of the artists have been donors to The ART Connection, which placed original artwork in social service agencies in Greater Boston, until it closed earlier this year. Other members of ARTGIRLZBOSTON, organized successful art sales last year to benefit the Boston Immigration Justice and Advocacy Network.

One of the ARTGIRLZ has developed art-making programs for families who have lost loved ones to addiction. Several others worked with students learning English to

create a huge quilt of images made by recent immigrant students to represent their family lives, culture and countries. "If sales from my work can support the organization that carries on the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. into the 21st century, then I will donate what I can," says ARTGIRLZBOSTON member Mary Harman. The artists also absorb the costs of shipping.

ARTGIRLZBOSTON is a collective of 11 woman artists who have collaborated on various projects, critique each others' work, and exhibit together. Some make explicitly political work, while others do not. The scale, styles, and media used in their work range widely, and they find that that diversity stimulates their individual work. The 11 ARTGIRLZ are: Myrna Balk, Mardi Reid, Gail Bos, Nancy



"Pears" by Mary Harman.

Marks, and Ginny Zanger of Jamaica Plain; Anne Turley, Mary McCusker, Mary Harman, Terry Boutelle, and Phyllis Bluhm, of Roslindale, and Sasja Lucas of Hyde Park.

Holtzer Park

Continued from page 12

Commonwealth's Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). Financing team members also include the Community Economic Development Assistance Corporation, MassDevelopment, MassHousing, Massachusetts Housing Investment Corporation, Citizens Bank, Massachusetts Housing Partnership, the Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston, Boston Private, The Life Initiative, and the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

"This project is a fantastic example of how our strong non-profit partners like Urban Edge are able to layer multiple state, federal, and local funding sources to create opportunities for our families," said Housing and Community Development Undersecretary Jennifer Madrox. "We are excited to see the Baker-Polito Administration's investments in the neighborhood, through MassWorks Infrastructure funding, MassDevelopment's Brownfields program and our own affordable housing awards help advance this great work."

MOUNT PLEASANT HOME

Since 1901

Quality, Affordable Residential Care for Seniors 62+

**NO entrance fee
income or asset
restrictions!**

- Private bedrooms with full bath
- 24-hour personal care assistance
- Medication administration
- 3 Home-style meals daily
- Laundry and housekeeping services
- Leisure and wellness activities
- Lovely common areas
- 100% accessible

301 South Huntington Avenue, Jamaica Plain
www.MountPleasantHome.org
617-522-7600

MASS. HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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

FIND US ONLINE: WWW.JAMAICAPLAINGAZETTE.COM

HOME SERVICE GUIDE

PAINTING & CARPENTRY



617-852-7409 JP resident

LANDSCAPE DESIGN & INSTALLATION



earthen stoneworks
Design and Construction

Rich Gargiulo
617-821-4701
earthenstoneworks@gmail.com
www.earthenstone.works

Creating Unique Landscape Solutions

LANDSCAPING/LANDSCAPE CONSTRUCTION



Call for Estimates

- Landscape maintenance
- Hydroseeding
- Seed • Sod
- Tree service
- Commercial & Residential
- Free estimates

- Fence installation
- Paving



617-590-2510
FULLY INSURED & BONDED

ASBESTOS AND MOLD

Asbestos & Mold issues?

Call  & 

For removal of Asbestos and Mold
Office: 781.817.6146
erieenviro@gmail.com

For a Licensed Inspector
Neal's #: 617.970.2572

 Partners with over 25 years of experience!

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR

MSS ELECTRICAL

LICENSED, INSURED
IN COMM OF MASS



Serving Jamaica Plain and Surrounding Communities

DARK SKY INITIATIVE AND
CPTED PRACTITIONER WITH A GREENER
APPROACH TO THE ENVIRONMENT

 **781-727-3694**

GENERAL CONTRACTOR

SULA VALLEY

Additions kitchens bathrooms
New construction - General remodeling

617-981-9456

60 Amory St, Boston, MA 02119 info@sulavalley.com
Res. Comm. Insured Licenses: HIC 185545 CS-113672

ROOF REPAIR

ROOF REPAIRS
Gutters ▲ Roofing ▲ Skylights

Alexander Doyle
617-522-6116
All Work Guaranteed
Fully Insured
Free Estimates
CSL 99361 - HIC 127365
alexanderdoyleconstruction.com

ROOF REPAIR

**ROOF LEAKING?**

- Emergency Leak Repair 24/7 • Ice & Snow Removal
- Asphalt Shingles • Rubber Roof Systems
- Flat Roof of all kinds
- Gutters - Downspouts • Chimney - Dormers - Skylights

Senior & Vets
20% Discount

(617) 888-8058
Licenced Free Estimates Insured

Family owned & operated.
28 years in business

Finely Detailed Interior & Exterior Painting

Kares Painting

Female owned & operated. 20+ years experience. Honest & affordable. No job too big. Free estimates. NO RIP-OFFS!

Ask about our
LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEE.

Cynthia "Kare" Shephard
617-930-0582(cell) • karespainting@aol.com

HANDYMAN

ACE HANDYMAN

 Gutter cleaning, fences, sheetrock, roof leaks, brick pointing, carpet inst. & removal, masonry, carpentry, painting, & odd jobs.
Doors and Windows. Fast & reasonable.

Call Phil at 617-868-1578 • 857-312-0543 (cell)

PLUMBING

Karem Plumbing
Plumbing, heating & gas work

No job too small
(617) 361-6532
Member Better Business Bureau

Free estimates
Licensed & Insured
Mass lic # 9290

HOME IMPROVEMENT

**Thomas Murray Home Improvement**
Carpentry • Painting • General Home Repairs
Remodeling
(Interior & Exterior)

Licensed Contractor (lic #CS 088319) **(617) 549-6029** Free estimates

Advertise in the Guide 617-524-7662

PLEASE WRITE...

The Gazette welcomes letters to the editor. Word limit: 500. Deadline: Friday at 5 p.m. one week before publication. Letters may be emailed to letters@JamaicaPlainGazette.com. Please include address and telephone number for verification purposes. Anonymous letters will not be published. More information: 617-524-2626

LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

CARON STARTED COLLEGE EARLY

It's not every day that students start college early, but this Jamaica Plain, MA resident is no ordinary student. This year, Lucas Caron joined the fall 2020 class at Bard College at Simon's Rock in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, the nation's first early college. Simon's Rock successfully created a safe, socially distanced learning environment this semester, with primarily in-person classes as well as hybrid and remote offerings.

Caron's academic and person-

al achievements stood out, securing Lucas a spot at Simon's Rock this fall. The college is home to about 400 students who engage in a rigorous liberal arts and sciences curriculum and graduate from college one or two years ahead of their peers.

Bard College at Simon's Rock, founded in 1966 and nestled in the bucolic Berkshires, is the only college in the country specifically designed for highly motivated students ready to enter college early, usually after the 10th or 11th grade. Simon's Rock offers a challenging program in the liberal arts and sciences,

taught in small seminars by supportive, highly-trained faculty. The Princeton Review's Best 382 Colleges rates academics at Simon's Rock higher than Harvard and Princeton. For more information, visit simons-rock.edu.

STUDENTS INDUCTED INTO HONOR SOCIETY

The following people recently were initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines.

- Krista Wenzel Beniga of

Jamaica Plain at MCPHS University

- Rachel Kim of Jamaica Plain at MCPHS University

They are among approximately 30,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty,

professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of undergraduate student Marcus L. Urann who had a desire to create a different kind of honor society, one that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines. Today, the Society has chapters on more than 325 campuses in the United States and the Philippines. Its mission is "To recognize and promote academic excellence in all fields of higher education and to engage the community of scholars in service to others."

State receives funding to hire prosecutor to combat unemployment insurance fraud

STAFF REPORT

United States Attorney Andrew E. Lelling announced last week that the District of Massachusetts has been allocated funding to hire an Assistant U.S. Attorney (AUSA) to focus on prosecuting cases involving fraudulent schemes to unlawfully obtain unemployment insurance (UI) benefits and related offenses through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020.

The CARES Act allocated \$270 billion for supplemental

federal UI benefits. Additionally, President Donald J. Trump directed that \$44 billion in federal Disaster Relief Funds be used to provide supplemental UI benefits to eligible claimants. The substantial increase in funding for UI benefits spurred a dramatic spike in UI fraud across the country, resulting in the theft of federal funds intended to help those struggling with unemployment during the current pandemic and economic crisis.

As part of its ongoing effort to investigate and prosecute fraud stemming from the Coronavirus

pandemic, the District of Massachusetts will hire an AUSA for a one-year term, with the possibility of a one-year extension.

"Unfortunately, there are those who take advantage of national crises to enrich themselves at the expense of American taxpayers," said U.S. Attorney Lelling. "From the onset of the pandemic, my office has aggressively investigated and prosecuted scams and fraud related to this national crisis, including efforts to steal funds intended for the millions of Americans who suddenly find themselves out of

work and without an income. I look forward to doubling down on our prosecutions of unemployment insurance fraud with the welcomed addition of a prosecutor focused solely on these cases." The U.S. Department of Justice, in close coordination with the U.S. Department of Labor and other federal agencies, created the U.S. Department of Justice National Unemployment Insurance Fraud Task Force. This task force is charged with investigating numerous CARES Act fraud schemes targeting the unemployment insurance programs

of state workforce agencies and will work closely with United States Attorneys' Offices to prosecute those individuals who have fraudulently diverted these funds from those struggling with unemployment.

The Department encourages the public to report suspected fraud schemes related to COVID-19 to the National Center for Disaster Fraud (NCDNF) hotline by phone at (1-866-720-5721) or via an online reporting form available at www.justice.gov/disaster-fraud/webform/ncdf-disaster-complaint-form.

Outdoor seating on private property extended, Public Space program ends

BY JOHN LYNDS

Mayor Martin Walsh reminded owners that outdoor dining on private property was extended indefinitely without the need for further permits.

However, the city's "Public Space" program expired Tuesday. Restaurant owners in Jamaica Plain trying to increase business by providing an outdoor dining option will now have to start packing up their outdoor tables, chairs, heating lamps and barriers and rely solely on limited indoor dining throughout the winter months if they don't have private space for outdoor dining.

The Public Space program allowed restaurants throughout Jamaica Plain to use city sidewalks, streets, parking lots and

to set up tables, chairs and other amenities for outdoor dining.

"For restaurants, we have plans to continue our outdoor dining option," said Walsh last week during a press conference. "The public space ended on December 1. But, outdoor dining may continue on private property indefinitely. In addition, we are working on an outdoor dining program for the spring."

Jamaica Plain and Boston's restaurant industry has been hit particularly hard by the ongoing pandemic. Tough regulations for indoor dining and other restrictions imposed by the state during the latest COVID spike made the Public Space program a godsend for some.

To offer some relief the Walsh Administration launched the Public Space program last spring and allowed Back Bay restau-

rants to use sidewalk space and the street on main thoroughfares like Centre Street to set up outdoor patios. The program was designed to help restaurants that dot the neighborhood increase their customer base because the number of patrons allowed inside were strictly limited due to COVID restrictions.

However, even with a rapid expansion of outdoor dining options in Jamaica Plain, some restaurants still fell victim to the pandemic and could not increase margins enough to justify staying open.

In August the Frogmore on Centre Street closed after five years. Led by Chef Jason Albus, a South Carolina native, Frogmore served up southern 'Lowcountry' cuisine like fried chicken, catfish and Hoppin-Johns. For five years the restaurant came to depend

on a busy bar scene and weekend brunches.

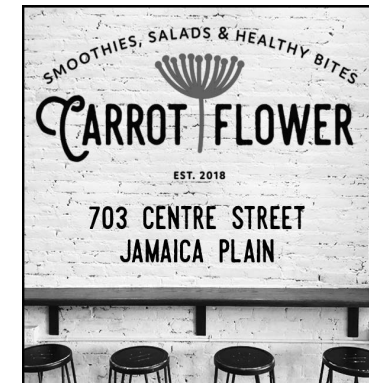
"Don't be sad," the restaurant team said in a social media post announcing its closure. "We had five great years."

On September 15, the Boston Licensing Board issued an advisory regarding the extension of the City's Temporary Outdoor Dining Program and the use of approved heaters.



The board ruled restaurants utilizing public sidewalks and parking lanes for outdoor dining may continue the approved use of those spaces until December 1, 2020.

However, the board said outdoor dining on private property will be extended for the duration of the COVID-19 related public health emergency.



JPNC Zoning Committee meeting takes no action on Williams proposal

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC) Zoning Committee met virtually on December 2, where the main topic of discussion was the proposed project at 97-99 Williams Street to build a six unit residential building on the vacant lot at 99 Williams while retaining the existing there family building at 97 Williams.

More than 40 people tuned into the Zoom call and many neighbors had concerns with the project. Members of the Stonybrook Neighborhood Association (SNA) were present to express their dissatisfaction with the community process for this project, as they believe it was not carried out properly and they still have concerns about the proposal. Others had concerns about the nine zoning variances the project requires.

Architect Elaine Scales presented the proposal, saying that the original plan was for eight units, but after discussion with the community, it was brought down to six. Scales mentioned several times that the project overlooks the Minton Stable Community Garden, and has a “wonderful view of that.”

Parking was a large concern with the original proposal, as many neighbors were not happy about the idea of an eight car me-

chanical stacking system in the neighborhood. The new proposal eliminates the stacking system and replaces it with garage and surface parking for five cars. Scales said that cars will enter a driveway for the building off of Stedman St.

Scales also talked about the street context, and how she wants to position this building similarly to the existing buildings at 108 and 97—on an angle towards Williams St.

For the building itself, “the idea is that we would build two forms that are similar in size and scale to the other three families on the block,” Scales said, and connect the two by a common stair and entry in the middle. The building is “just under 35 feet tall,” Scales said, and would consist of six condos for sale.

“We have a chosen a form that is 27 feet wide and it presents itself as a tall, slender form and we can fit three cars here into the garage on the right hand building,” she said.

The proposal includes five three bedroom units and one two bedroom unit, and there will be roof decks and air conditioning condenser units on the roof as well. There will also be an area in the basement for bicycle storage, she said.

On the front facade of the building there will be balconies

and porches with a glass entrance in the middle and a skylight to “illuminate the stair hall,” Scales said. The facade will appear to have clapboard siding with stone at the bays, and a flat roof.

Additionally, she said that “as many of the existing trees as possible” will be preserved, and replacement trees will be planted where preservation is not possible.

Members of the Zoning Committee as well as many members of the community asked questions or provided comments about this project. Members of the committee were mixed on whether to support or oppose the proposal given the circumstances.

“This proposal has not appeared before the SNA for a full vote of the membership,” said Jonathan McCurdy of the SNA. “It’s still in subcommittee.” He said that more than one email had been sent to the project’s developer, Joe Federico, inviting him to present before the SNA at its December 14 meeting but said that no response was received. The original presentation of this project to the SNA was in February of this year and the subcommittee and the proponents had been in contact over the summer regarding changes.

“My worry is that this has skipped steps and as a local civic association, I feel that the neighborhood association should be able to work with the developers to work out ongoing issues,” he said.

Scott Glidden, co-chair of the SNA subcommittee for this project, said that “we feel that if the process had continued a bit further and there was more sincere effort to come to a compromise, the project could have been wrapped up in relatively short order.” He added that “the SNA takes its responsibility very seriously,” and that the SNA would vote to oppose the project “as it stands” because there are outstanding concerns related to the zoning variances and they believe the building is too large for the lot.

Glidden said that reducing the west side elevation by reducing the building on the right slightly to make it equal with the building on the left would “allow for shifting on the site” and “cer-

tainly would alleviate some of the violations in the project that it has currently,” he said. “We feel that an adjustment in the side of the building would allow for better placement on the lot.”

Joe Federico responded with a chronology of what he said happened after the original presentation in February, which included responding “within a month” to questions and concerns from the SNA, and making changes that included reducing the number of units and the Floor Area Ratio, as well as pulling back the western portion of the building “so it was compliant with the 20 feet” that is required,” he said.

He also said that the originally proposed gabled roof was changed to a flat one as a compromise requested by the SNA.

Federico said that he “continuously asked to be added to the agenda for a vote” at the SNA, but “every time they continuously declined.”

Baron said that the Zoning Committee does traditionally “wait for a neighborhood organization to say they’re done” before a project comes before the committee, but this time, the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services “intervened” and asked the Zoning Board to schedule this project because there were concerns about how long it was “stuck” with the SNA.

Zoning Committee member Max Glikman said he “commends” the SNA subcommittee for the work they have done so far on the project and making it better fit the neighborhood than when it was first proposed.

“There are six new families moving into the neighborhood,” he said. “I think six new families is always better than an empty lot.” He also said that the SNA is “putting in the same amount of effort” as they would for a “40 unit project,” which he said could lead to a loss of credibility with the Mayor’s Office and others. “They need to see some give and take,” he said.

Jennifer Uhrhane of the SNA said that the “subcommittee is not arguing against a six unit building,” but they do believe that what is currently on the table is too large for the lot.

“The new design was not shown to the folks in the SNA,”

said Zoning Committee member Kevin Moloney. “I think we need to support the locals. There’s still time to have a final negotiation here.” Zoning Committee member Marie Turley agreed with him, and member Jake Hart also said he was against the proposal until the issues with the SNA can be “ironed out.”

Zoning Committee member Andrea Howley said that she believes a 10 month process for a six unit building is a “long time,” and it’s “important that these processes get pushed along. We’re in a tough time and people need to move forward. I do support this project.”

Zoning Committee member Jerry O’Connor agreed with Moloney as well, saying he would vote against this proposal, but added that he was “disappointed with the SNA.” He also said that the SNA could “lose credibility” if this continues.

“It’s a small project until it’s being build next to you,” McCurdy said, encouraging the group to listen to those who came to speak about the proposal.

Zoning Committee member Michael Reiskind said that he would vote against the proposal, but was “surprised the SNA has not bent enough in not realizing their intransigence is not in their favor. You have to learn to bend in these projects and I have not heard that here.”

Baron said that while he was in support of the proposal and “I think that we’re all in favor of the local process,” he continued, “there’s something wrong with your process, SNA. We do support local neighborhood organizations.”

A motion was made to approve the proposal, but it failed with four in favor and five opposed and Lee Goodman abstaining because he is the developer for the the Doyle’s project with Scales on the same street.

After more discussion, Federico told the Committee that he is willing to come back before them at a future meeting, so the project was deferred and no further action was taken by the Zoning Committee on Wednesday evening. There has not been a Zoning Board of Appeal date set for this project, but one is forthcoming, said Lindsey Santana of the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services.



FOR YOUR
HEALTH
MIND & BODY

FITNESS TRAINING

PRIVATE 25 & 40-MINUTE FITNESS SESSIONS
FLEXIBLE SCHEDULES NO CONTRACTS

WIKIDFIT PERSONAL TRAINING

2 Porter St, JP Info@WikidFit.com 617-620-8155

MASSAGE



Imani ~ a relaxation place
Christine Rose, LMT
Trained in Lymphatic Drainage, Deep Tissue/Sports and Swedish Massage
3464 Washington Street JP.
www.imanimassage.com • 617.821.2875!

Walsh announces launch of Reimagine Boston Main Streets program

BY LAUREN BENNETT

Mayor Martin J. Walsh on November 23 announced the launch of Reimagine Boston Main Streets, a community engagement process designed to strengthen the future of Boston Main Streets program through a deep and comprehensive analysis of the program's existing systems and resources, uses, and gaps that impact local economic growth. The goal of the program is to embed equity into our Main Streets Program, particularly as our local economy feels the impact of COVID-19, and help close the racial wealth gap by supporting new and existing businesses to enhance the local economic development in our neighborhoods and create more jobs.

On Monday, November 23 at 6:00 PM, Mayor Walsh joined the Office of Economic Development for the Reimagine Boston Main Streets virtual community kickoff event, launching discussions with members of the community

together with Main Streets Directors, the Main Streets Foundation Board Members, and the Reimagine Boston Main Streets Advisory Group. Registration is required for this virtual event and participants may register here.

"We are facing a pivotal moment in the history of Boston - a moment of opportunity to reshape our urban neighborhoods and their businesses," said Mayor Walsh. "Our small businesses add to the vibrancy and character of each of our neighborhood commercial districts, and I look forward to working alongside our communities to reimagine their future."

Boston was the first city in the United States to create a neighborhood Main Streets program, established in Roslindale in 1983. Today, Boston's 20 neighborhood Main Street Organizations work with business and community members to create, build, and sustain healthy

commercial districts. Over the last 24 years, each Main Streets district has had varied success, with some demonstrating difficulties in establishing thriving economic commercial efforts. Through the Reimagine Boston Main Streets process, the City of Boston hopes to expand the Main Streets Program into a more equitable tool for community development and transformation across all of Boston's neighborhood commercial districts. The public engagement from this process will shape the vision for the Boston Main Streets program.

Following a public Request for Proposals (RFP) process, in May, the Office of Economic Development chose Boston-based Strategy Matters and CJ Strategies as the consultants to lead the Reimagine Boston Main Streets effort, which includes Archipelago Strategy Group (ASG) as subcontractors.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Boston

has been steadfast in its commitment to supporting the small business community. Nearly \$6.7 million in debt-free grants have been distributed to over 1,850 small businesses in every neighborhood across the City of Boston through the Office of Economic Development's Small Business Relief Fund. Earlier this month, the City launched three new funds totaling \$6.3 million that will support small businesses in Boston that have been affected by COVID-19, focusing on commercial rent relief, supporting certified women, minority, and veteran owned small businesses, and restaurant relief. And to further assist the City's small businesses, the City of Boston has created a list of suppliers to help businesses source the personal protective equipment (PPE) and cleaning supplies required to ensure the safety of employees and customers as industries reopen.

It was also recently announced that the City, as a part of

a thorough Request for Proposals (RFP) review process, selected a partnership between Colette Phillips Communications, the Greater Boston Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Proverb to create a Visit Boston campaign that will promote a safe and equitable economic recovery. The goal of Visit Boston is to assemble a local tourism campaign to draw local and regional tourists to take advantage of all that Boston has to offer, as the City safely responds to the impact of COVID-19 and supports its hardest hit industries, including small businesses.

Highlights from the Reimagine Boston Main Streets event were recorded and posted to www.facebook.com/econdev-boston/videos. Sign up for the weekly small business newsletter to stay up-to-date on future Reimagine Boston Main Streets engagement activities and more by emailing: smallbiz@boston.gov.

THE INDEPENDENT
NEWSPAPERS

ONLINE ADVERTISING AVAILABLE

Size: 160x600 IAB
\$300⁰⁰ per month/per site

3 SPOTS AVAILABLE ON EACH SITE JUST A CLICK AWAY

Combo Rates available!
Buy any 3 sites, get 4th FREE

12 COMMUNITIES TO CHOOSE FROM
reverejournal.com • winthroptranscript.com
lynnjournal.com • everettindependent.com • eastietimes.com
chelsearecord.com • charlestownbridge.com • beaconhilltimes.com
northendregionalreview.com • thebostonsun.com
jamaicaplaingazette.com • missionhillgazette.com

Traffic reports available upon request
Call your Rep. at 781-485-0588



Don't wait — insulate!

Fiberglass pipe insulation will prevent heat from being lost in your basement and keep it in the pipes until it gets up to your living space. We will show you how to measure your pipes and explain the easy installation process. This investment will pay for itself in heating dollars saved—so don't cool your heels!

For homes with hot water or steam heating systems


Boston Building Resources

100 Terrace Street, Boston, 02120
(near Roxbury Community College)
Mon-Fri 8:30-4:30 ■ Saturday 9:30-3 ■ 617-442-2262
bostonbuildingresources.com
A member-owned co-op



ST. JOHN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ST. JOHN'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

AT LORING-GREENOUGH HOUSE
SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS, 10-6
THROUGH DECEMBER WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

SALE STARTS NOVEMBER 28



Birch St. House & Garden

760 South St
Boston MA 02131
617 323 3269

Holiday Hours

M - Sa 10AM - 7PM
Sunday 10AM - 5PM

SHOP IN-STORE
OR ON-LINE

WWW.BIRCHSTHOUSEANDGARDEN.COM/SHOP



Beauty Parlor

Mounted Butterflies & Insects

Planters

TIN TOYS

objets d'art

CARDS

PyroPet Candles

SCIENTIFIC MEGA MUGS

PLANTS

Bulbs for forcing

EPHEMERA

Vases and Vessels

Ferns

SHOP LOCAL

JOURNALS

mini-succulents

Upcycled and Vintage Jewelry

little bags to hold little stuff

MISS LAURA'S
46 South St. J.P. MA 02130

interesting gifts for interesting folks



The officers packed their vehicles with Thanksgiving meals provided by Roche Brothers supermarket and delivered them to community members in need.

E-13 PARTNERS WITH LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS TO DELIVER THANKSGIVING MEALS PROVIDED BY ROCHE BROTHERS TO FAMILIES IN NEED THROUGHOUT JP

On Thursday, November 27, 2020, officers assigned to District E-13 (Jamaica Plain) gave out over two hundred Thanksgiving meals to local families in the Jamaica Plain area. The event was made possible by the Mayor's Office, the Police Athletic League, Tree of Life, Mass Housing, Mary Mulvey Jacobson Families in Need, Children's Hospital and Tufts Medical Center. The officers packed their vehicles with Thanksgiving meals provided by Roche Brothers supermarket and delivered them to community members in need to make their Thanksgiving possible.

ANTHONY WILLIAMS'

Urban Nutcracker



Live Streaming Past Urban Nutcracker Shows!
November 28 - December 24, 2020
See www.URBANNUTCRACKER.com for more details.

Happy
Holidays
to every
one in
Jamaica
Plain

**E-13 PARTNERS WITH LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS
TO DELIVER THANKSGIVING MEALS PROVIDED BY ROCHE
BROTHERS TO FAMILIES IN NEED THROUGHOUT JP**



District E-13 Jamaica Plain Police Officers gave out over two hundred Thanksgiving meals to local families in the Jamaica Plain last Thursday.

**"Thank you JP for voting us
the Best Restaurant in the
Best of Boston for both
2015 and 2020. Have a nice
Holiday Season!"**

Open from Monday-Friday 4:00 pm-10:00 pm
and Saturday-Sunday 12:00 pm-10:00 pm

389 Centre St., JP
617-522-6453 • bluenileincjp.com

PICK UP Available

**the
Blue Nile**

The event was made possible by the Mayor's Office, the Police Athletic League, Tree of Life, Mass Housing, Mary Mulvey Jacobson Families in Need, Children's Hospital and Tufts Medical Center.

**Happy
Holidays
to every
one in
Jamaica
Plain**

**Delivery
& Pick Up**

JP SEAFOOD CAFE

"Best of JP"

2001-2007, 2012 & 2014-2017, 2018 - 2020
Jamaica Plain Gazette

Open

Tues. - Sun.

12 noon to 8:30pm

730 Center Street, JP 02130

617-983-5177 • www.jpseafoodcafe.com

Open for Pick Up & Delivery

evergreen
eatery + cafe

Friendly Neighborhood Diner



154 Green St JP 02130



617-477-9573



evergreeneateryjp.com

OPEN
8:30am to
8:30pm
Tuesday -
Sunday

154 Green St. JP 02130 • 617-477-9573

Happy Holidays!!

Visit us and let us create
an amazing experience
in authentic Indian cuisine



Bring this ad for a
free appetizer

with dinner purchase
Exp. 12-31-20

DELIVERY OR PICK UP

617-522-6543 or www.tikki-masala.com

Open Mon-Fri 4:00 pm till 10:00 pm

Sat & Sun 12:00 pm till 10:00 pm

389 Centre St. JP, 02130

Jamaica Plain/Mission Hill Gazette • 2021 Publishing Calendar

Tel. 617-524-2626 • FAX 781-485-1403 • 7 Harris Ave., Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 • JamaicaPlainGazette.com

JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

FEBRUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

MARCH

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

APRIL

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

MAY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

JUNE




S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

DEADLINES FOR PUBLICATION IS THE PREVIOUS MONDAY BY 4PM

Jamaica Plain Gazette

Mission Hill Gazette

Advertising Manager: Patricia DeOliviera 617-524-7662 localads@jamaicaplainingazette.com
Marketing Director: Deb DiGregorio 781-485-0588 x101 deb@reverejournal.com



The Revere Journal • The East Boston Times Free Press • The Winthrop Sun Transcript • The Chelsea Record • The Everett Independent • The Lynn Journal • Charlestown Patriot Bridge • The Boston Sun • The Beacon Hill Times • North End Regional Review • Jamaica Plain Gazette • Mission Hill Gazette
385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151 | (781) 485-0588

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 NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME Docket No. SU20C0367CA
In the matter of: Cherrelle Leah Jones
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Cherrelle Leah Jones of Jamaica Plain, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: Cherrelle Renee Gipson
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Suffolk Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/24/2020. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 23, 2020
Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate
12/4/20 JP

LEGAL NOTICE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304 Docket No. SU20P2189GD
In the matter of: Lee Lewellyn RESPONDENT Alleged Incapacitated Person
Of: Jamaica Plain, MA
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Department of Correction of Jamaica Plain, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Lee Lewellyn is in need of a Guardian and requesting that (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve on the bond. The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority. You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written 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: November 23, 2020
Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate
12/4/20 JP

LEGAL NOTICE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Division INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE Docket No. SU20P0787EA
Estate of: Marion K. Westberg
Also Known As: Marion Ruel
Date of Death: February 19, 2020
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate by Petition of Petitioner Valerie K. Westberg of Raynham, MA. A Will has been admitted to informal probate. Valerie K. Westberg of Raynham, 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.
12/4/20 JP

LEGAL NOTICE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate And Family Court 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 (617)788-8300 NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME Docket No. SU20C0333CA
In the matter of: Rainier Elizabeth Styles
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Rainier Elizabeth Styles of Jamaica Plain, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: Rainier Elizabeth Pearl-Styles
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Suffolk Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/24/2020. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 09, 2020
Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate
12/4/20 JP

Armenian Women's Welfare Association names Scott Ariel new CEO

STAFF REPORT

The Armenian Women's Welfare Association (AWWA) is excited to announce that as of December 7, 2020 Scott Ariel will join us as CEO of our non-profit, which oversees both the five-star Armenian Nursing and Rehabilitation Center (ANRC) in Jamaica Plain as well as the Hanganak Elder Clinic in the Republic of Nagorno-Karabagh (also known as Artsakh).

"Scott brings with him a wealth of experience and innovative strategies not only in overall management of elder care communities, but also in enhancing the living experience. Our elder

years are precious and must be full of joy and comfort, and we believe Scott's passion will help us better the services and experiences we offer those we are fortunate to care for," said Martha Mensoian, President of the AWWA Board of Directors. "We have incredible teams in place at our facilities. They are our greatest asset, and we believe Scott will help lead them toward a great new chapter in AWWA's more than 100-year history."

"There is a very powerful historical mission at the AWWA, ANRC and Hanganak that is evident. We can all be proud of that. There is a clear and

intentional spotlight on our residents and beneficiaries," said Ariel. "The focus is always on improving the experience of our residents and beneficiaries with integrity, kindness and rectitude. The Board is looking forward to creative innovation and design of our programs at our existing campus and clinic. I consider myself very fortunate to be joining the team right now, supporting its heroic work in this challenging time and expanding our local and international presence."

For the past six years, Ariel has been the Executive Director of Hebrew SeniorLife (HSL) at NewBridge on the Charles in Dedham and Administrator

at the Roslindale and Dedham campuses as well, receiving five deficiency-free state surveys. He is responsible for overall operations and management, ensuring the high quality of care for which HSL is renowned.

Ariel has more than 30 years of healthcare experience in post-acute and long-term care, which includes not only his time at HSL but also as Chief Operating Officer at Northeast Specialty Hospital in Braintree, Massachusetts. Prior to these posts, he was also the Administrator of Miami Jewish Health System in Florida. He is a member and Vice Chair of the Diversity, Equity and Inclu-

sion Committee of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) and a Trustee of LeadingAge of Massachusetts.

The Armenian Nursing and Rehabilitation Center (ANRC) is an 83-bed, non-profit skilled nursing facility located in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts. Sponsored by the Armenian Women's Welfare Association Inc. (AWWA), the Center serves elderly Armenians and non-Armenians alike by providing the highest quality long-term care as well as outstanding short-term care for residents requiring rehabilitation before returning to their homes.

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY

REAL ESTATE



**Karen McCormack
& Paula Callaghan**



#617-306-7804
#857-205-6945

loveliveboston@gmail.com

Realtors with Experience

Love Where You Live

Advertise your
professional services here
and watch your client base grow!

Call the Gazette at

617.524.7662

or email

ads@jamaicaplainingazette.com

REAL ESTATE

Working for **YOUR BEST RESULT**



Joe Fallon

New digs for me, and even better service for my clients and YOU!
Contact me, and be sure to ask for Joe!

617-594-0761

jpfallon@gmail.com



REAL ESTATE

Your community experts.
We live here. We work here.

FOCUS
REAL ESTATE

34 South St., Jamaica Plain
617.453.3620
focusre.com

REAL ESTATE RENTALS & SALES

FAYE SIMON
REAL ESTATE
Rentals & Sales

Tel: 617-524-0243
Cell: 617-438-1472
FayeSimonRealEstate.com
frmcsimon@hotmail.com

Your Personal Real Estate Professional



Faye R. Simon
Real Estate Broker

REAL ESTATE



Colleen Scanlan



Professional Real Estate Guidance.
Specializing in residential sales.
Estate Sales. Downsizing.

"Call Colleen"
617-529-5012
jamaicaplain@gmail.com

McCormack & Scanlan Real Estate
68 South Street JP

PLEASE RECYCLE

REAL ESTATE

Jamaica Hill Realty

726 Centre Street
Jamaica Plain

Maureen McElroy
Broker Owner

cell: 617.407.3638
fax: 617.524.0390
email: mcelroy55@rcn.com

jamaicahillrealty.com



To advertise, Call the Gazette at
617.524.7662 or email
ads@jamaicaplainingazette.com

REAL ESTATE

COMPASS



Building
community
together.

ELLEN+JANIS
REAL ESTATE TEAM

617.971.8940
ellenandjanisteam@compass.com
ellenandjanisteam.com

ELLEN + JANIS REAL ESTATE TEAM IS A REAL ESTATE BROKER
AFFILIATED WITH COMPASS, A LICENSED REAL ESTATE BROKER AND
ABIDES BY EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY LAWS.

REAL ESTATE

CLIENT CENTERED. RESULTS DRIVEN.



A better way
to do real estate

NEATHERY BRENZEL
617-462-4628
YourBostonAgent@gmail.com



McCormack and Scanlan Real Estate
Realtors with Experience
Local and Independent
68 South Street, JP

EDITORIAL

'Tis the season for giving -- and never has the need been more urgent

"It was the best of times; it was the worst of times." -- Charles Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities*.

With Christmas fast approaching, most of us will be rushing about -- either to the stores and malls or on-line --- to do our holiday shopping in hopes of finding that "perfect" gift for our family members and loved ones.

Despite the pandemic that has ravaged our nation in so many ways, most Americans actually are doing okay, if not extremely well. Sure, the pandemic has made life inconvenient and not as enjoyable as usual for everybody, but most of us are getting along just fine.

Those who are able to work from home have not suffered a loss of income. And for those among us who have any sort of investments, from real estate to the stock market to certain types of small businesses, the pandemic has been a boon.

However, the good economic news for the majority of Americans has not been shared by all. For a sizable minority of our fellow citizens, the effects of the pandemic represent an existential disaster.

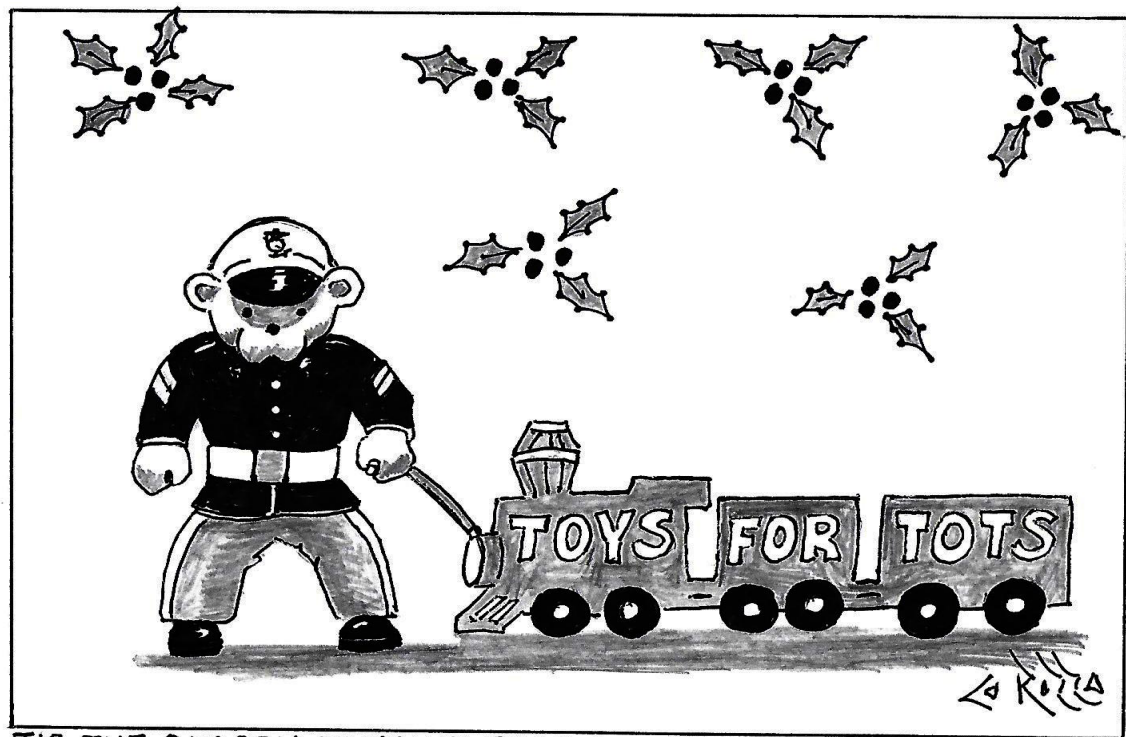
Millions of Americans of all ages, in a percentage greater than at any time since the Great Depression, are struggling financially.

To put it in stark terms, more Americans, including families in our own communities, are going hungry than at any time in our history. The lines of cars that stretch for miles and miles in cities all across the country are the equivalent of the iconic photos of the bread lines and soup kitchens of the 1930s..

Far too many of our fellow citizens, including children, live either in shelters or in similar temporary housing arrangements -- or on the streets -- because the reality of our economy has left them out in the cold -- literally -- thanks to the pandemic.

The homeless always have been among us, but the scope and depth of the problem is far beyond anything that has been experienced in our lifetime. The vast discrepancy between the enormous wealth enjoyed by some Americans and the abject poverty being endured by others is similar to what has existed in major urban centers in South America and India -- but it now is happening right here in the U.S.A. For these millions of Americans, the holiday season brings no joy. Psychologists tell us that the Biblical directive, that we should give to those who are less fortunate, actually is the best gift that we can give to ourselves. Helping others activates regions of the brain associated with pleasure, social connection, and trust, creating the so-called "warm glow" effect.

Never in the lifetime of anybody reading this editorial has the need for donations to local food banks been more urgent. There will be ample opportunity to do so in the coming weeks to make the holidays brighter for those who are less fortunate -- and there is no excuse for failing to do so.



'TIS THE SEASON, IF YOU PLEASE, CHOOSE YOUR FAVORITE CHARITIES

Op-Ed

Together, we must fight the MBTA service cuts

BY SENATOR SAL DiDOMENICO

The MBTA Fiscal Management and Control Board recently released their "Forging Ahead Initiative," a series of ill-conceived cuts to MBTA services that will have devastating (and likely long-lasting) impacts on those who rely on public transit to get to and from work. Our district in particular will be uniquely impacted by these cuts, as we are one of the most transit-dependent in the state. Not to mention, we have been some of the hardest hit by COVID, while also having one of the highest percentages of essential workers.

According to the MBTA's Forging Ahead website, some of the main "proposals" impacting our community include:

- Subway: 20% Frequency Reductions Across All Lines; Service Stops after Midnight.
- Bus: 5% Frequency Reduction on Essential Routes & 20% Reduction on Non-Essential Routes; Service Stops after Midnight.
- Commuter Rail: Service Stops after 9 PM; Weekend Service Ends (as early as Jan. 2021); Decreased Peak and Midday Service.
- Ferry: All Ferry Service Will End; Charlestown Ferry Diverted to the Rt.93 Bus.
- The Ride: Some trips may become premium and be able to be booked 40 minutes in advance, instead of the current 30 minutes.

Without question, components of the MBTA's plan, such as stopping bus service at midnight, will disproportionately impact essential employees who don't work regular hours and need to travel late at night. It especially hurts my Chelsea and Everett constituents who already don't even have access to subway or commuter rail, and solely rely on the bus to connect them with their jobs and their community. Every part of my district will be impacted by these cuts, and we should all be concerned that these "temporary" changes could become permanent, impacting our transportation system for years or even decades to

come.

Our region cannot recover from this pandemic and get moving again until, and unless, we redouble our efforts to build a transportation system that facilitates the movement of people, not just cars. Reducing public transit will severely limit access to these services for communities and residents that need it most, further exacerbating inequities that the pandemic has already brought to light. If we want to heal from this, we must invest more in our transit system, not take services away. We

Continued on page 23

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

Jamaica Plain GAZETTE

Circulation 16,400

Published 26 times a year in Jamaica Plain by Independent Newspaper Group

Patricia DeOliveira
Advertising Manager

Seth Daniel, Reporter
seth@reverejournal.com

Sandra Storey
Founder/Publisher Emerita 1990-2011

Lauren Bennett, Reporter
lauren@thebostonjournal.com

©INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER GROUP

Stephen Quigley, President stephen.quigley@reverejournal.com
Debra DiGregorio, Director of Marketing ads@jamaicaplaingazette.com

The Jamaica Plain Gazette is delivered free to households and businesses in the neighborhood 26 times a year on Friday and Saturday. It is for sale in stores for 25¢. Subscriptions: \$75 for First Class Mail. Independent Newspaper Group will not assume financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertisements. Questions or complaints regarding advertising must be sent in writing to the billing department within seven days of publication in order for adjustments to be made to the account. We reserve the right to use our discretion in accepting or rejecting advertising copy.

Telephone: (617) 524-2626 • Fax: (617) 524-3921
7 Harris Avenue, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
JamaicaPlainGazette.com

Walsh appoints Aisha Miller as Chief Of Civic Engagement

STAFF REPORT

Mayor Martin J. Walsh announced the appointment of Aisha Miller as the Chief of Civic Engagement for the City of Boston, effective Monday, December 7, 2020. The Civic Engagement Cabinet is composed of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services, the Mayor's Office of Public Service and Community Outreach, Boston 311, and SPARK Boston and is dedicated to the efficient and effective

delivery of City services, as well as creating opportunities for Boston residents to participate with local government. Miller is currently the Assistant Commissioner of Constituent Services for the Boston Inspectional Service Department (ISD).

"Aisha brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in civic engagement to this new role, and I am proud and excited to appoint her as my Chief of Civic Engagement," said Mayor Walsh.

"Managing the Constituent Services Division at ISD required building relationships with the community, outside stakeholders and various city agencies to ensure each Boston resident is afforded the best quality of life. I am confident that she will also excel in this new role and all City departments will benefit from having her as a Cabinet Chief."

"I am excited and esteemed by this opportunity to lead one of the essential departments in

the City of Boston that connects to all Boston residents. I look forward to continuing the initiatives spearheaded by Chief Jerome Smith and creating new initiatives under the leadership of Mayor Martin J. Walsh," said Aisha Miller. "I was born and raised in Mattapan, enriched with families and hard-working parents like my mother that instilled values in their children. Moments like these prove to young people of color that op-

portunities are at their fingertips through hard work and dedication. For me, it's simple; a girl from Mattapan has the chance to give back to the people who have prepared her for this moment."

Aisha will take the role of Jerome Smith, who served as director of the Office of Neighborhood Services and Chief of Civic Engagement for over six years. Current Chief of Staff for

Continued on page 24

Op-Eds

Cheer, brightness and hope

BY DR. GLENN MOLLETTE

When I was a child, I thought Christmas would never come. The weeks dragged by while I wore out the toy sections of the Sears and Penny's catalogs hoping Santa might stop by. I always looked for Santa Claus and tried to stay awake on Christmas Eve just to catch a glimpse of the jolly big guy. Typically, I would see him at the five and dime store or G.C. Murphy's. I always had a list longer than Santa could carry. However, Santa typically managed to show up with something on Christmas thanks to hard working parents who loved Christmas and giving as much as they could.

The anticipation of Christmas

was an adrenaline boost as a child. The hopes and dreams of what might come or be always was exciting. The downtime came when late on Christmas day I had to reconcile that Christmas wouldn't happen again for another year. I dreaded seeing the Christmas tree and the outside lights come down. Christmas was always a good winter mood boost. My dad didn't put a lot of Christmas lights up outside but the ones he did put on the house always seemed beautiful and filled the outside air with cheer, brightness and hope.

America is ready for some cheer, brightness and hope and it's coming. Santa Claus won't be dropping this down the chimney but it's coming soon via your local

medical care provider. This one is on its way via pharmaceutical company Pfizer and biotechnology company Moderna. Millions of doses of a vaccine for Covid-19 are ready to be released. This vaccine is not coming too early for a country that has been paralyzed by sickness and death.

While the release of these vaccines is coming in record time it's still too late for many. Millions of Americans have been blindsided by this ugly disease that took their lives. People are sick today and desperately need this medicine. For all of us it cannot come soon enough. Business owners, restaurants, schools, churches, families, factories, the travel industry and old fashion family gatherings are more than

ready for these miracle drugs that will hopefully save us from Covid-19.

Americans are living in anticipation of a lot this December. Millions are hoping for a job, an unemployment check and a roof over their heads. They are hoping Congress will get their act together and approve one more stimulus package. Many Americans this year dread Christmas because they don't have any money and life is filled with worry and uncertainty. For them, life is dragging by and better times can't come quick enough.

We will get through this in America and our vaccines will not only turn America around

but will help millions of others in other nations as well. While this Christmas is still going to be tough there are some lights burning. The lights are going to get brighter for 2021. Some real cheer, brightness and hope are coming. Let's get through this safely and plan one big Christmas celebration for next year.

Glenn Mollette is the publisher of Newburgh Press, Liberty Torch and various other publishing imprints; a national columnist - American Issues and Common Sense opinions, analysis, stories and features appear each week in over 500 newspapers, websites and blogs across the United States.

Op-Ed

Continued from page 22

all recognize these are difficult fiscal times, particularly for the underfunded MBTA, but these unprecedented times underscore the need for further investment in our economic drivers, not less. As for next steps and what we can do about this, please know I am already in talks with my Senate colleagues and leadership in the Legislature regarding action we can take in response to these cuts. I have also addressed my concerns and opposition to the "Forging Ahead Initiative" directly with the MBTA's leadership team. Additionally, the

MBTA has hosted several regional meetings regarding these proposals, where I have testified against these cuts.

While the public meetings for our district have already passed, you can still submit your feedback to the MBTA by emailing them at publicengagement@mbta.com. I encourage everyone to do so; stopping these cuts will be a collective effort, one that requires advocacy from legislators like myself, but also grassroots opposition. The deadline for feedback is coming up soon on December 4th, so please do not delay in contacting the MBTA if you wish to register your concerns.

I have already heard from so many of my constituents on this,

and many have indicated they will be contacting the MBTA as well. I am truly grateful for everyone's advocacy on this issue. It is my sincere hope that, working together, we can stop these cuts from taking place and protect public transportation for generations to come.

Sal N. DiDomenico is an Massachusetts State Senator legislator who has served in the Massachusetts Senate since May 2010 and as Assistant Majority Leader since 2018. He is a Democrat representing the Middlesex and Suffolk district, which includes his hometown of Everett as well as Chelsea, Allston, Brighton, Charlestown, and parts of Cambridge and Boston.

CLASSIFIEDS

GARAGE RENTAL WANTED

Looking for a garage for my car this winter. I live in the Monument-Upper South Street area but am not limited to it. Ideally, I'd like to take it from December 1 through March. Would also consider a garage for a lesser period, if need be. If available, please call Sam at 617 524 4488.

SERVICES

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

GUITAR LESSONS

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

LICENSED PLUMBERS WANTED

Boston residents preferred
Start immediately.
Call 617-212-2268
for more information.

SHARED OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE

Shared Office Space Available. A small practitioner office in Washington St. in JP. Suitable for an energy healer or any manual therapist to sublease hourly. Contact 617.821.2875 for more details or photos.

CLASSIFIED INFO:

Fax your ad to 617-524-3921 or mail it to Gazette Publications, Inc., PO. Box 301119, JP, MA 02130. Or email it to classifieds@JamaicaPlainGazette.com. For more info. call 617-524-2626, ext. 225.

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

Friday at 5 p.m. one week before publication. Letters may be emailed to letters@JamaicaPlainGazette.com

Please include address and telephone number for verification purposes. Anonymous letters will not be published. More information: 617-524-2626

JP's Hicks' City Council campaign for District 6 starts full swing effort

BY LAUREN BENNETT

Kendra Hicks may have been born in the Bronx, but her heart is in Jamaica Plain, the only neighborhood she remembers. After moving to JP as an infant and years of supporting and participating in many community organizations, Hicks has positioned herself as a candidate for next year's District 6 City Council race.

District 6 covers West Roxbury and Jamaica Plain, as well as portions of Roslindale, Roxbury, and the Back of the Hill.

"We are just so many different types of people," Hicks says of the district, where she has already done several meet-and-greets with voters in the neighborhood. She said she appreciates that the neighborhoods offer "just enough city, but just enough green space" as well. "The mix of cultures and the mix of people in the district make it so that there's really something for everyone," she said.

As a first generation Black Dominican woman, Hicks was raised by her immigrant mother and has been a community activist for many years in Jamaica Plain.

"I didn't think I would run for political office," she said. "I didn't go to fancy schools," she added, saying that she once believed that was a requirement to be an elected official. She said she turned to elected officials like Felix Arroyo Sr. and Chuck Turner as role models.

"For me, the political conditions have shifted so dramatical-

ly and many leaders in the city have paved the way for others to continue the work," she said. "Throughout the years I've been able to experience the beauty of this district. The story of this district is really about powerful interest coming into the community and resisting that."

As a teenager, Hicks was active with organizations like Spontaneous Celebrations and Hyde Square Task Force, and she has participated in the Wake Up the Earth Festival for many years.

For the past five years, she has also been the Director of Radical Philanthropy at Resist, a "national foundation that funds grassroots groups across the country who do not have access to traditional streams of funding because of the radical nature of their work," Hicks explained.

She said her work in fundraising has taught her about philanthropy, and she said that they way it's working now "is not equitable for those in need." She said the goal is to be able to give "more voice and more power to the people who are most impacted."

Hicks said that this is a huge part of her campaign for City Council, along with strengthening democracy to make it more "participatory."

She said that "to me, I feel like I have not only the professional experience, but a really unique vantage point in my personal experience that will allow me to create policy that works for the most people."

As a Boston Public Schools

graduate and a mom of an autistic son who attends BPS, along with her other work in the neighborhood, "I think that I'm so intimately connected with the organizing work and intimately connected to the cultural work that's happening in the neighborhood," she said. "My life has unfolded in a way that's made a lot of things visible to me." She added, "these are all things that inform who I am."

Hicks said that as a City Councilor, she would advocate for equitable, safe, and affordable homes and education, and she believes every aspect of City government should be viewed through a "racial justice lens."

She said that the plethora of development happening right now in Jamaica Plain does not meet the needs of the neighborhood, and that as someone who has "lived through a displacement wave in the neighborhood," her family is one of the few who have been able to stay in Jamaica Plain.

"Racial equity work, for me, needs to be embedded in everything that we do," she said, including housing, protection for workers, and education. "All of those things are racial equity issues—that's how I see them and that's how they're going to show up on my policy platform," she said.

Supporting small businesses is also important to Hicks. "We haven't previously had enough resources for small business owners and workers," she said, which has only been made worse by the pandemic.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KENDRA HICKS

JP's Kendra Hicks has announced she will be running for District 6 City Council in next year's race. Incumbent Councilor Matt O'Malley, who has held the District 6 seat for the past 10 years, has announced that he will not seek re-election.

A lot of focus has been given to small businesses recently as many continue to struggle due to the pandemic. Hicks said that "the need for these businesses to stay open and survive is because we haven't done a good job of canceling people's rent."

She said creativity is needed and businesses need financial resources to be able to keep their businesses open and support their employees as well as their families.

"I continue to just be moved by the huge amount of support we're getting both in JP and in West Roxbury," Hicks said of her campaign so far.

She said she's been "doing a lot of fundraising," as well as working on her policy platform. She's also been hosting "Neighborhood November" events with community members to learn about what's important to them.

She said that there have been more than a dozen so far, and there are more to come. She said that seven events have already been planned for December.

"We're going to have to get creative about how we run a campaign in a pandemic," she said.

She said she realized there is a lot of work to be done with neighbors moving forward, including "organizing peer to peer conversations" and "culture shifting work that needs to happen in the district. How do we move people? How to mobilize the district? As an organizer, that's my wheelhouse," she said.

She added that District 6 "can't afford to have representation without action."

For more information about Kendra Hicks and her campaign and upcoming events, visit hicksfordistrictsix.com.

Aisha Miller

Continued from page 23

the Civic Engagement Cabinet, Edward M. McGuire III, will assume the role of Director of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services effective Monday, December 7, 2020. Faisa Shariff was recently appointed as the Deputy Director of ONS.

Jerome Smith's last day working at the City of Boston will be Friday, December 4, 2020. As Chief of Civic Engagement and



Incoming Chief of Civic Engagement Aisha Miller.

Director of the Office of Neighborhood Services, he advised the

Mayor on efforts to preserve and enhance the quality of services delivered to residents, including overseeing Mayor Walsh's Civic Academies and NEW (Neighborhood Engagement Walks) Boston, developing neighborhood partnerships, resolving problems related to code enforcement, re-branding and managing Boston 311, and spearheading Mayor Walsh's Problem Properties Task Force, Fireworks Task Force, and Police Reform Task Force.

"Jerome has been an integral part of my team for many years,

and greatly contributed to the continual improvement of delivering City services," said Mayor Walsh. "It has truly been a pleasure to work with him and we wish him the best in his future endeavors."

"It was a privilege to serve the City of Boston under the Walsh administration doing such meaningful work as the Chief of Civic Engagement and Director of Neighborhood Services," said Jerome Smith. "I was dedicated to bridging the gaps between our communities and local government as I firmly believed that

it is only by strengthening our neighborhoods that we can succeed as a city. With the support of the Mayor, my excellent staff and I were able to improve the delivery of services to constituents and to find innovative and meaningful ways in which to engage the residents of Boston. I am confident that the Cabinet will continue to do incredible work."

For more information, please visit www.boston.gov/departments/neighborhood-services.