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Essaibi George's 'Get Boston Back to Business' tour kicks off



Shown above, Polkadog Bakery's Lucas Brooks rings up Councilor Essaibi George's purchases of treats and toys for her new rescue puppy.

BY LAUREN BENNETT

City Councilor At-Large and mayoral candidate Annissa Essaibi George has embarked on a "Get Boston Back to Business" tour, where she visits local businesses across the city to chat with owners about recovery efforts and what kind of support

they're looking for following the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Since the beginning of this tour, I've heard directly from our city's small businesses about the real challenges they've faced before and during this crisis," Essaibi George said in a statement. "Of course we're talking about

recovery, but we're taking it a step further and really getting at the root issue of redesigning our economy to work for everyone. I look forward to continuing these important conversations with small

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At annual meeting, JP Centre/South Main Streets celebrates triumphs throughout a difficult year

BY LAUREN BENNETT

JP Centre/South Main Streets held its annual meeting virtually on March 10, where leaders discussed how the organization helped many small businesses in the district in the midst of a global pandemic, as well as heard from keynote speaker City Councilor Matt O'Malley.

First, board president Mi-

chael Reiskind said that though this past year has been extremely difficult for many, "one thing that's the same is the importance of main streets in the City of Boston. For JP, the businesses went through an enormously difficult year, and I'm so happy that most of them have survived well," he said.

Reskind said that although it was sad to see businesses like

Taylor House Bed and Breakfast, Aviary Gallery, REPS Fitness Studio, and a few others like JP Knit and Stitch become online only, several businesses were actually able to open during the pandemic. These include: Cada Dia, Regenerate Movement, JP Lock and Security, Nekls & Dimes, DVSTY Consignment,

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Hernandez School and Egleston 'Y' combine to solve remote schooling shortfalls

BY SETH DANIEL

After so many struggles for parents and students at the Rafael Hernandez School in Egleston Square during emergency remote learning in the spring of 2020, the leadership of the school and its active Friends group knew something had to be different for the fall.

As the summer progressed, the district's plan was to open schools pretty quickly in a hybrid format – going in-person a few days a week and remote the rest. There was even hope that students would return full-time in fairly short order mid-fall. At the time, Hernandez Principal Caro-

lina Brito wondered what might happen if COVID-19 got worse and schools remained closed.

"The numbers of families that became unemployed had grown and we knew also the demand for social services and food had increased," she said. "When you're unemployed, you can't get child care, and to get child care, you had to be employed and if kids weren't going back, we wondered how that would work. If we re-opened partially for the fall – even for the folks that chose hybrid, you would still be missing three days of work to watch your kids... We

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E-13 Police discuss Feb. crime stats

BY LAURA PLUMMER

On Thursday, March. 4, District E13 of the Boston Police Department (BPD) hosted its monthly virtual police and community relations meeting. The meeting is an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions of local law enforce-

ment.

At every meeting, officers provide year-to-date crime statistics. One chart examines Part One crime data. Part One crimes are more serious in nature, and don't include lesser crimes such as vandalism, drug dealing or illegal

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La policía de E-13 revisa las estadísticas de delitos

BY LAURA PLUMMER

El jueves 4 de marzo, el Distrito E-13 del Departamento de Policía de Boston (BPD) presentó su reunión mensual de relaciones policiales y comunitarias. La reunión es una oportunidad para que el público haga preguntas a la policía local.

En cada reunión, los oficiales proporcionan estadísticas sobre delitos hasta la fecha. Un cuadro examina los datos delictivos de la Parte Uno--los delitos de naturaleza más grave y no incluyen delitos menores como el vandal-

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West Roxbury native launches her campaign for District 6 City Council

By Lauren Bennett

Born and raised in West Roxbury, Mary Tamer knows the neighborhood inside and out. She has announced her campaign for District 6 City Councilor, which is currently held by Matt O'Malley, who will not be seeking re-election.

As a child, Tamer lived in her grandparents' home in West Roxbury, where her family ate together every Sunday. Her family immigrated from Lebanon and Syria, and Tamer said that she comes from a "family that's very passionate about politics and community." She still resides in West Roxbury with her husband and two sons.

Those Sunday dinners included multiple generations of her family and "hours and hours of conversation," she said. "Just having that exposure," she added, and "having such strong role models committed to small business, community, and the

local political scene" have helped shaped who she has become as a person.

Tamer said that what she loves most about District 6 is "our green spaces. I think that we are so incredibly lucky where we live in this district" to have the "largest tree canopy in the entire city."

She said that as a child, she learned to ride her bike in the Arnold Arboretum. "These spaces we have here in District 6 have been here with me since my childhood," she said. She said other favorites include Jamaica Pond and Millennium Park.

Small businesses are also plentiful in the district, and some of her most frequented businesses are Anna's Donuts (she's an avid donut fan) and Recreo Coffee, both in West Roxbury. "I really do just love to walk around the neighborhood and shop locally," she said.

"I really consider myself a child of this city," she said, and

not just of West Roxbury.

As a Boston Public Schools (BPS) student, she attended school in other neighborhoods, and "one of the reasons I wanted to raise my own children here is because of the wonderful and independent experiences I had growing up as a student in this City," she said.

Tamer took her experience with education and ran with it, following her time as president of the League of Women Voters of Boston when her two boys were BPS students.

"The league really wanted me to serve on the Superintendent Search Committee," she said, and after eventually becoming a member of the committee, she heard from parents who shared their concerns with the school system and the difficulties they faced with their children's education. She said that in particular, stories about students with disabilities moved her, and she "became a fierce advocate for that group."

She said that she heard from parents about "not enough opportunities" or non-compliance with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), and this "because a big equity issue for me."

Tamer also said that English Language Learners became important to her, as her mother grew up in Brighton as a daughter of Syrian immigrants and was turned away from kindergarten because she didn't know enough English.

"I want all of our students to succeed without question," Tamer said.

Development and affordable housing are issues in the district that are important to many residents, and Tamer said she agrees that creating more affordable housing is necessary.

"I think about the number of people that are so committed to living in the city," she said. "We have a wonderfully diverse city that has so much to offer, but we need to ensure that people of every income level" can stay in their neighborhoods.

"For our seniors, I think it's critical to do what we can to allow folks to grow old in the communities that they helped to build," she added.

She said she has heard from the community that there is a "greater need for long range planning," as it is "something

that we have been lacking."

She continued, "we know that we have fairly limited open spaces that are available for development," but people "want a seat at the table...I do believe as a city that we are obligated to provide that to them."

Small business relief is also a hot button issue as the pandemic continues nearly a year after it began.

Tamer said she's been participating in some of the Main Streets meetings where ideas are being discussed about how to best assist small businesses. She said that there are "wonderful restaurants, coffee shops, bakeries, and floral shops" not only in District 6 but across the city that continue to face challenges.

She said there are "opportunities or different initiatives where we can highlight businesses of the month," as well as think about community building events.

Tamer shared a story about her past participation in the "Gloucester Pride Stride," which is a five mile walk that raises money for local main streets programming, and local businesses are given a chance to participate by donating food or other items. She said something similar could be done in District 6.

"There are lots of things we can do," she said, and it's important to "think creatively."

She also suggested a sort of mentorship program where experienced business owners would be paired with a first time business owner to get advice and learned the ropes. "I believe modeling and mentorship is one of the most valuable things," Tamer said.

Tamer said one of the "biggest issues facing District 6" is recovering from the pandemic.

"People are facing incredible struggles right now," she said, with "BPS students returning now after a year outside of school. It's difficult for them, and for their parents who are trying to work." She also said that with so many people losing their jobs, there is an even larger number of people who are facing housing and food insecurity. She said as city councilor, she would make it a priority to ensure "that all of our resident make it through this terrible time," and ensure that the "city is providing support."

She said that she wants to make sure that Black and Brown

communities, who have been "disproportionately affected by COVID-19" as far as infection rates, death rates, and job loss, are "getting the highest levels of support" when it comes to testing and vaccinations.

"We need to have mobile vaccination sites," she said. "We are the health and tech capital of the United States. If we brought vaccinations to schools, senior centers, to places of business, I think we would see our rates of vaccinations increase. We need to make this a process without barriers. Let's go to public housing, go to all of these places and make sure that people are being vaccinated."

Tamer said that "campaigning in a pandemic is challenging," but "not impossible." She said that so far, she has made phone calls to residents in the district, as well as hosting virtual gatherings on Zoom to chat with potential constituents about what is important to them.

"Sometimes it's a larger group, and sometimes it's small groups," she said, such as when a group of BPS parents wanted to chat with her.

"Now that vaccinations are underway, it's certainly my hope that once spring and summer are upon us," some outdoor events can be held. She said that she is "very focused on community and public health issues," and would like to "do something healthy outside together."

So far, the "phone calls alone have been incredible for me. I'm learning something new every day. I'm appreciative every time someone takes my call," she said.

Tamer said that she looks forward to working together to "come up with good, practical solutions that are going to work for most people," and she believes it's important to "be willing to listen, learn, and work with all of the wonderful groups that we have that are committed to work."

More information about Mary Tamer and her platform can be found on her website, marytamer.com. She has yet to join Twitter, but she said she will be doing so soon.

"There is so much work that we need to do," she said, "and I just feel that this is the time and I am the right person to help take the lead on some of these crucial issues."

JP CHILDREN'S SOCCER

JP Children's Soccer Welcomes you back for a Spring 2021 Soccer season!

We have modified our spring session to follow State and City guidelines with appropriate adjustments for COVID. As a result we will limit team sizes, and our overall number of players.

Please review our website for details:

<https://teamsideline.com/sites/jpcregister/home>

Please register by April 14th

Coaches ALWAYS needed, and an additional price discount included for families able to participate in coaching.

We look forward to seeing you for soccer on Pinebanks again!

Sincerely, JPCS

JP Fútbol para Niños les da la bienvenida a la temporada de primavera 2021!

Hemos modificado la temporada de primavera para seguir las reglas generales del estado y ciudad apropiadamente para COVID. Como resultado, restringimos el número de jugadores por cada equipo y el número de participantes en total.

Favor de revisar nuestro sitio del web por más detalles:

<https://teamsideline.com/sites/jpcregister/home>

Por favor registre su hijo antes del 14 de abril.

Siempre buscamos entrenadores y le damos un descuento especial para las familias que pueden participar como entrenadores.

¡Esperamos verlos en Pinebank por fútbol de nuevo!

Sinceramente, JPCS

Crime stats

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possession of firearms.

When interpreting Part One crime, it's important to understand the distinction between burglary, robbery and larceny. Burglary involves accessing a residence or business unlawfully with the intent to remove items. Robbery is taking items off one's person by force or intimidation. Larceny doesn't involve force, and includes things like shoplifting, pickpocketing or stealing items from one's lawn.

According to the summary, Part One crime is down 30 percent in the city of Boston compared to this time last year. So far this year, there have been 102 reported crimes, compared to 129 last year, a decrease of 21 percent.

The new year is starting off on a good note. The only Part One crime that has seen an uptick compared to 2020 is auto theft. Officer William Jones add-

ed that 62 percent of auto theft victims had left their keys in the ignition. He cautions residents against leaving keys in a vehicle, even when locked.

Crimes that saw a decrease so far this year include rape and attempted, robbery and attempted, domestic assault, non-domestic assault, all burglary and all larceny. The homicide rate of zero remains the same.

A second chart compared the statistics of fatal and nonfatal shootings from 2019 to 2020. Jamaica Plain had two so far this year, accounting for 12.5 percent of total shootings. This number is on par with Dorchester's District C11 and Hyde Park. Only Roxbury and Mattapan saw higher numbers. Overall, however, shootings are down 20 percent in the city from 2020.

The police and community relations meeting is held on the first Thursday of the month at 6:30pm on Zoom. The next meeting will be on Thursday, April 1. All members of the public interested in public safety are encouraged to attend.

Estadísticas

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ismo, el tráfico de drogas o la posesión ilegal de armas.

Es importante conocer la diferencia entre robo, atraco y hurto. El robo implica acceder ilegalmente a una residencia o negocio con la intención de retirar artículos. El atraco es quitarle artículos a la persona por la fuerza o intimidación. El hurto no implica la fuerza e incluye cosas como hurto en tiendas, carteristas o robar artículos del césped.

Según el resumen, el crimen de la Parte Uno ha bajado un 30 por ciento en la ciudad de Boston en comparación con esta época del año pasado. En lo que va de año, ha habido 102 delitos denunciados, en comparación con 129 el año pasado, una disminución del 21 por ciento.

El nuevo año comienza con una buena nota. El único crimen de la Parte Uno que ha experimentado un aumento en comparación con 2020 es el robo de vehículos. El oficial William Jones agregó que el 62 por ciento

de las víctimas habían dejado sus llaves puestos. Advierte a los residentes que no deben dejar las llaves en un auto, incluso cuando está cerrado.

Los delitos que experimentaron una disminución en lo que va del año incluyen la violación, el robo, el asalto doméstico, el asalto no doméstico, todos los robos y todos los hurtos. La tasa de homicidios de cero sigue siendo la misma.

Otro gráfico comparó las estadísticas de tiroteos fatales y no fatales de 2019 a 2020. Jamaica Plain tuvo dos en lo que va del año, lo que representa el 12,5 por ciento del total de tiroteos. Este número está a la par con el distrito C11 de Dorchester y Hyde Park. Solo Roxbury y Mattapan vieron números más altos. Sin embargo, en general, los tiroteos han bajado un 20 por ciento en la ciudad desde 2020.

La reunión de la policía y la comunidad se lleva a cabo el primer jueves del mes a las 6:30 pm en Zoom. La próxima reunión será el jueves 1 de abril. Se anima a que asistan todos los miembros del público interesados en la seguridad pública.

BHCC launches Varsity Esports program

STAFF REPORT

Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC) has announced the launch of a varsity esports program for enrolled students. Esports are video game tournaments in which student teams compete with other colleges and universities through virtual game rooms. With Athletics on hold due to the health concerns of COVID-19, BHCC's Athletic Department is sponsoring only esports this spring.

"Just like the more traditional varsity sports, esports involves commitment, practice, time, teamwork, strategy devel-

opment, standards, rules, games, wins, and losses," said Director of Athletics Dr. Loreto Jackson.

With the expertise of caring, engaging coaches, BHCC athletes gather virtually to participate in practices or games. "We've been at the forefront of esports in our National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) region and we are looking for more students to join us in helping us continue to grow the program," said Head Coach Andrew Rezendes.

According to an article from Community College Daily, community colleges around the country are turning to varsity esports as a way to recruit and engage

students. It is a good fit because it does not require large fields nor athletic facilities. Practices and competitions can take place at times that fit students' schedules.

BHCC played in the NJCAA Region XXI during the fall semester and placed second in the Region after a six-week season, including playoffs. In February of 2020, BHCC competed in the New England College's League of Legends International hosted by Uptime esports in Hanover.

To view a recording of all BHCC esports games and the upcoming schedule go to: www.twitch.tv/bhccbulldogs/.



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 [Facebook.com/EastBostonSavingsBank](https://www.facebook.com/EastBostonSavingsBank)

Third community meeting held regarding Egleston Square library redesign

BY LAUREN BENNETT

A third public meeting regarding the redesign of the Egleston Square branch of the Boston Public Library (BPL) was held on March 9, where the project team discussed the project scope and where they are in the planning process, as well as addressed questions and concerns from the community.

The meeting discussed potential programming for the new library, as well as the potential to add housing on top of the library as part of the project.

Maureen Anderson of the Boston Public Facilities Department first explained information about the project scope, which includes looking at the exiting library and its current condition, as well as its “ability to meet programmatic needs and sustainability goals.” Other goals include identifying demographic trends in the neighborhood, and looking at adding housing to the library, among other things.

So far, two other meetings were held, one in October of last year to gather information about things like existing conditions, demographics, goals of the BPL, and affordable housing.

In January, another public meeting was held to talk about ideas related to potential spaces within the new library and spaces for programming, as well as requirements for square footage and another discussion on affordable housing. This meeting also touched on those things and elicited feedback from residents.

Anderson said that at a future meeting in the spring, the team will present a review of the site and a “program fit test,” as well as further discuss “affordable housing approaches,” according to a slide presented. Then, in June of this year, a final report will be available that pro-

vides options for a library plus housing, as well as cost estimates and more detailed sustainability information.

Anderson then discussed two different schedules, one for just a new library, and one for a new library plus housing, with the latter taking longer.

Philip Chen of Ann Beha Architects said that the team is looking for more information and feedback that will help shape what kinds of programming and services are offered at the new library.

He explained that so far, the team has heard that residents believe that diversity should be at the forefront of the planning process, and input from those who regularly use the library is paramount. He also said that people believe that green space “is very important,” as is a place for the library Friends group to meet, classroom space, a large community room, and expanded Spanish language offerings, among other things.

Chen also talked briefly about sustainability goals for the project, saying that the project “will be required to achieve a LEED Silver rating or higher,” and the team is also aiming to make the building net zero as well.

“These guidelines are being developed,” he said.

Steve Gerard of Ann Beha Architects discussed potential library programming, much of which was presented at the last meeting. He presented ideas for an adult area, a teen area, and a children’s area, which will all include age-appropriate books and seating options. The children’s area will include children’s computers, as well as a “tween area” and a craft area, and a family restroom.

A potential community room would seat 100 people, and offer different layout options for

different types of gatherings. Gerard also said it will include storage and a sink, as well as a sound system for different types of presentations.

The proposed classroom space could seat 20 people for things like smaller meetings, and would also feature cooking equipment and be located close to the library’s entrance.

Proposed study rooms could hold groups of four to six people, and offer space for small group work and would be located near the adult and teen areas. Gerard also said there would be improved spaces for staff and support as well.

Outside, the team has proposed seating for reading outdoors, a gardening space, an outdoor class space, and parking for bikes.

“The library will be increasing its size and will be a major improvement on the current library today,” Gerard said.

Much of the public comment had to do with ensuring that the team is reaching out to the right people and making sure they have a fair say in this process, as what happens on the library site will affect those who live in the immediate area as well as those who regularly depend on the library for various resources.

Hon. Louis Elisa of the Garrison Trotter Neighborhood Association raised some of the same issues, as well as wondered if the team had reached out to area schools, which are big users of the current library.

Resident Alvin Shiggs, who said he is a parishioner at St. Mary of the Angels, which is located right next to the library, said that the church would like to participate in the discussion, especially in any discussion related to housing as part of this project. He and several other neighbors asked the team about connecting

with Spanish speaking communities.

“We’re doing our best to reach out to different communities,” Anderson said, adding that the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services, as well as the Department of Neighborhood Development, are helping with the outreach process.

Taylor Cain, Director of the Mayor’s Housing Innovation Lab, went through a brief presentation about affordable housing, including what the team has heard so far from the community. She said that people again feel that the focus should be on diversity within the community, affordable housing, having larger family sized units, sustainability, and there were a few suggestions that the property should be in a land trust.

In the survey that has been available throughout the process, Cain said that people expressed their desire to “keep current residents in the neighborhood,” according to a slide presented, as well as have a “mix of unit types for families and seniors,” and to limit parking on the site.

Cain also explained what types of housing is supported by the Department of Neighborhood Development, and a slide presented at the meeting reads “Affordable to DND primarily means housing affordable to households making 60% of Area Median Income (AMI) or below. 60% of AMI is about \$71,000 a year for a family of four.”

Several residents made comments about the level of affordability, saying it should be closer to 40% AMI.

Denise Delgado, Executive Director of Egleston Square Main Street, said she believes that any affordable housing for this site should be for families.

Other residents, like Jacob Mathews, said he believes that

“it’s a library first and foremost,” and that the focus should be placed on creating a great library for all, though he does recognize the “potential opportunity to meet the needs of affordable housing as well,” he said.

Cain said that the city is looking at models in other cities across the country that have combined library use with housing, and though most of them were rental units, residents wondered if there was a possibility for home ownership as well.

“I’m hearing a narrative that we’re looking at opportunities; that we’re going to be collaborating,” said resident Lavette Coney, adding that she feels that it “seems like it has to be housing on top of the library,” and no other options are being considered.

George Lee of Keep it 100 for Egleston, which is “fighting for affordable housing in Egleston and preventing displacement,” said that if any housing is built on the site, “it should be 100 percent affordable, but not fake affordable.”

Coney said to the team, “make sure you’re getting all different perspectives. Some conversations are going to be uncomfortable.” She said that “if you’re serious about doing this work,” many different voices will be included in the conversation.

Chen said that next steps include taking the survey if people have not already, which is available on the project page at bpl.org/egleston-square-project/. Another public meeting will be held in the spring, but a date has yet to be announced. For all other information related to the project, visit the project page on the BPL website, and for questions related to affordable housing and the planning stages for this project, reach out to Taylor Cain at taylor.cain@boston.gov.

JP man arrested in connection with last month’s non-fatal shooting

BY JOHN LYNDIS

A Jamaica Plain man has been arrested in connection with last month’s non-fatal shooting on Centre Street.

On Tuesday, March 2 members of the Boston Police Youth

Violence Strike Force, with the help of the Massachusetts State Police, located and arrested Jonathon Lopez, 24, of Jamaica Plain at Boston Logan International Airport.

Lopez was taken into custody on an outstanding warrant

issued out of West Roxbury District Court on charges of Unlawful Possession of a Firearm, Unlawful Possession of Ammunition, Carrying Loaded Firearm and Discharging a Firearm Within 500 Feet of a Building.

Police took out the warrant

for Lopez, which was granted by a West Roxbury District Court judge, following an investigation into a non-fatal shooting last month.

The shooting occurred just before 11 p.m. on Saturday February 6 in the area of 275 Centre

St. in Jamaica Plain. During the incident, responding officers located an adult male victim who was transported to a local area hospital for treatment.

Lopez has been arraigned in West Roxbury District Court.

BPS welcomes back hundreds of students for hybrid learning

BY JOHN LYNDIS

This week marks exactly one year since the COVID-19 pandemic forced the closure of Boston Public Schools including Jamaica Plain's public schools.

Last week schools in Jamaica Plain, like the James Curley K-8, James Hennigan K-8 and Joseph P. Manning Elementa-

ry, welcomed back hundreds of students in Pre-Kindergarten through 3rd Grade for hybrid learning.

Grades 4 through 8 are scheduled to return to classrooms in Jamaica Plain on Monday and grades 9-12 are due to return the week of March 29 if public health data permits. These students will finally join the high-priority

students who have been in school since the fall.

Mayor Martin Walsh this week said BPS has comprehensive health and safety measures in place, with social distancing, air filtration, sanitizing, signage, and more. The Mayor said that he was grateful to everyone who has worked tirelessly to make this happen. He said that this is

a great example of Boston coming together, getting creative, and doing the right thing for our young people.

Last week the Mayor visited several BPS schools that have welcomed students back for in-person learning. He shared some stories about these visits, and closed with this reflection:

"It makes me very proud that

we're able to bring students back in a smart and safe way," said Walsh. "This is yet another sign that we're moving toward recovery, and there are brighter days ahead. We're all grateful for that. For now, the City continues to monitor the data, promote testing and vaccination, and direct resources where they're needed the most."

JP Centre

Continued from page 1

and Said and Done Tattoos, which will open soon, he said.

Throughout the meeting, video testimonials were played from owners and employees of businesses like American Dry Cleaners, George's Shoes, and Tres Gatos, Casa Verde, and Little Dipper, who talked about how JP Centre/South Main Streets has helped them stay afloat.

JP Centre/South Main Streets Executive Director Ginger Brown also provided remarks, and she looked back on the previous year and talked about how the organization was able to come together to help so many businesses.

She said that prior to 2020, "my job was a lot of fun." She said there were "a lot of things such as fundraisers, trolley tours, and scavenger hunts." And although "I really enjoyed that part of the job," Brown said she "never felt particularly useful."

But she said that those "community placemaking events" helped her to "build relationships with businesses," which was very helpful when the pandemic hit and businesses were forced to shut down. "Businesses started reaching out to us to help them," she said. "We were researching grants, loans, every single program that was available," and provided that information to the businesses."

She said there were around 34 volunteers who stepped up to help with various projects as well.

"It occurred to me that the fun events built the sense of community that we needed," Brown said, and encouraged people to come out and help."

There are three different "working groups" in response to the pandemic. The first group is "triage and Immediate Relief,"

which, according to a slide presented at the meeting, provided 11 businesses with Boston Main Streets Foundation Relief Grants. The second group is "Long Term Sustenance and Advocacy," and Councilor Matt O'Malley, Rep. Liz Malia, Rep. Nika Elugardo, and Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz were able to help businesses in the long term with some of their work. The third group is the Recovery Task Force, Brown said.

She also said that 10 \$1000 grants were provided to businesses in the district that set up outdoor seating areas, and JP Centre/South Main Streets ran its "Orange Means Open" campaign, where participating open businesses paid a small fee towards the cost of orange paper lanterns to hang outside their businesses to let people know they were open.

"I think it really made a nice festive look on the street," Brown said. "We ought to repeat it this summer."

Brown also spoke about other events that happened over the past year, such as the JP Together/JP Unidas show, the parklet and programming on Green Street outside of Blue Frog Bakery, a Zoom Cocktail Hour, a virtual wine tasting and art auction, the Jamaica Plain Trivia Battle Royale, JP Movie Night, the Holiday Shopping Stroll, and the Holiday Light show, which was projected onto the steeple at First Baptist Church this past holiday season.

JP Centre/South Main Streets also received a grant from the Boston Main Streets Foundation for JP Holiday Delivery, where deliveries of purchases made from main streets businesses were delivered to people's homes for three weeks in December. Brown said that the organization "learned a lot" from that experience, and is "exploring the possibility" of doing it again this holiday season.

Next up was City Councilor Matt O'Malley, who provided emotional remarks to attendees of the meeting. O'Malley has previously announced that he will not seek re-election after serving ten years as the District 6 City Councilor.

O'Malley said it's "important to support local businesses," and he commented on the number of closed businesses throughout the downtown area and the rest of the city. He said it was "chilling" to see these closures.

Through tears, O'Malley said that "growing up in this city, I got to meet some incredible people and friends. I'm so grateful to each and every one of you. The people on this call work every day to make this neighborhood

better."

He said that it has been "the greatest honor of my professional life to represent" District 6, and although he will not be a City Councilor at next year's JP Centre/South Main Streets Annual Meeting, he will "continue to support the great work you're all doing."

O'Malley said that his campaign would match up to \$1000 any money that was donated to JP Centre/South Main Streets before the end of the meeting, and Josh Muncey of the Muncey Group said the same.

O'Malley's 6-month-old daughter, Margot Gillian, also made an appearance at the meeting.

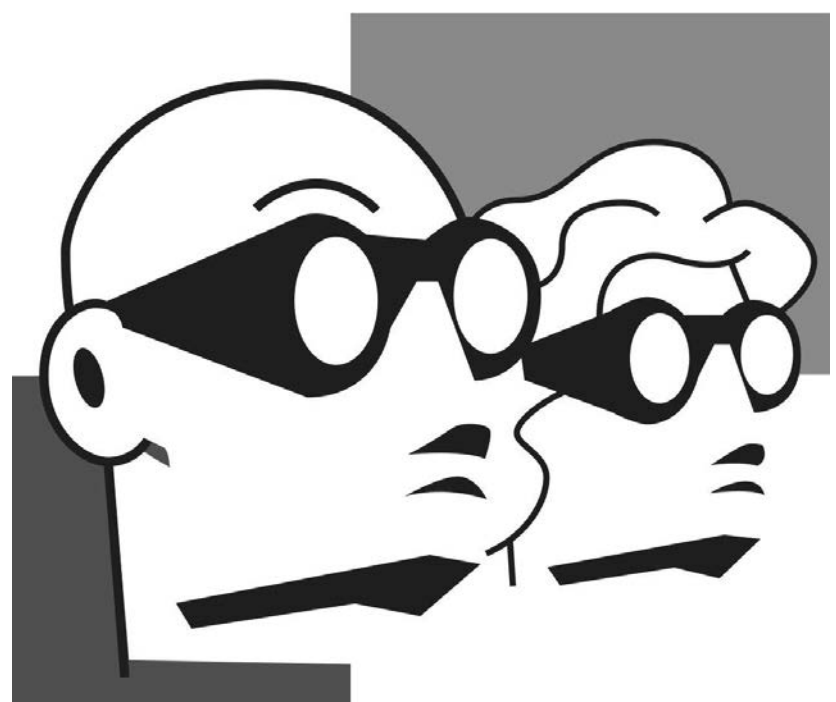
JP resident Sarah Freeman provided remarks about O'Mal-

ley, thanking him for his years of dedication to climate and environmental issues in the city, especially his work on banning plastic bags in the city and on gas leaks.

JP Centre/South Main Streets will be holding its spring fundraiser virtually, and it will be another trivia night. This time, it will be guessing whether stories are "Fact or Fiction?," and will be held on Thursday, April 1 from 7:30-8:30pm. More information and tickets can be found at eventbrite.com/e/fact-or-fiction-online-trivia-fundraiser-tickets-145103864565.

For more information on JP Centre/South Main Streets and to donate to the organization, visit jpcentresouth.com.

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Essaibi George

Continued from page 1

businesses and employees in every single neighborhood of Boston.”

Essaibi George visited Jamaica Plain on March 5, where she made stops at Monumental Market, Polkadog Bakery, Cad Dia Nutrition, and Blue Frog Bakery, and spoke with employees and owners about challenges they have faced and how they have overcome them. She also made purchases at each business as a way of showing her support.

Kelsey Munger, co-owner and head baker at Monumental Market, and Javier Amador-Pena, who owns El Colombiano Coffee, which is sold at the shop as well, told Essaibi George about their experience with securing funds to keep their business open, including getting a grant from the city for personal protection equipment for their employees.

“It’s been so nice having the support of the community because they really want to support small businesses,” Munger said. “It was a struggle to get there, but we’re



Cada Dia owner Nicole Gunn prepares a nutritious drink for City Councilor Essaibi George.



City Councilor Annissa Essaibi George chats with Kelsey Munger, co-owner and head baker at Monumental Market.

surviving.”

Nicole Gunn was able to open Cada Dia on Burroughs St. during the pandemic a few months ago, and said she hopes to plan a grand opening celebration within the next few months. Gunn said that Cada Dia means “every day,” and the shop offers a wide variety of different flavors of nutritional teas and shakes. Essaibi George tried

a hot “Simplici-Tea,” as well as a pistachio shake. Essaibi George told Gunn about options that are available for getting more signage on the building so people can better see her business from the street, as that is something Gunn said she is still working on as the owner of a recently opened business.

Brad Brown, owner of the Blue Frog Bakery on Green

Street, said that the “local main streets organizations are really doing a lot” to help out small businesses.

He said that more affordable commercial spaces are needed in the neighborhood and that more support from the city for small business owners and those looking to open a business is necessary.

“It was hard enough for me as a 37-year-old white dude to open a place,” he said. “I can’t imagine how hard it is for a person of color.”

He and Essaibi George also discussed exploring building ownership for small business owners as a way to help them become more independent.

Aside from her duties as City Councilor and running her mayoral campaign, Essaibi George is also a small business owner. Her yarn shop, Stitch House, is located in Dorchester, where she also lives with her husband and four sons. Essaibi George is also a former Fields Corner Main Streets Director.

The councilor has added more locations to her tour, including Downtown, Back Bay, and Fenway on March 18. So far, aside from the South End, she has visited local businesses in Dorchester, Roslindale, West Roxbury, Chinatown, Jamaica Plain, Allston, and Brighton.

Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll

JULIO

Sweet, fluffy Julio is looking for a lap to call his own. This 9-year-old guy has glorious orange fur that will require some brushing and maintenance to keep him looking and feeling his best. He just got a dental cleaning here at the shelter, so he’s ready to show that special someone his new smile! He could likely live with kids, other cats, and very low-energy dogs. If you’re looking for a handsome, laid-back guy, make an appointment to meet Julio!



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Hernandez

Continued from page 1

asked BPS what the backup plan was if they didn't open schools and there was none."

Then, as they soon found out, school was not going to be returning in-person any time soon – and most everyone was going to be remote.

As the shock of that set in, they began to explore what kind of things could be done to accommodate so many of their families. Sara Kilroy, executive director of the long-standing Friends of the Rafael Hernandez School, also stepped in to help. They quizzed their middle-income and more affluent families – most of whom were white – about what they were doing to counter this problem. Most reported they were setting up "pods" with other families – a costly venture that entailed hiring a professional teacher or tutor to conduct school for a small number of kids.

"The answer we got back was pods," said Brito. "But people were paying \$500 a week for them. Even on a collaboration model it's still unaffordable if you've been making \$0."

Yet they needed places for hundreds of students to go to in order for their families to function and for students to get the most out of their COVID-era education.

Kilroy took the lead, with Brito helping, and began to scour every organization in the area that might want to partner with them. Kilroy got very used to the word 'no' as she made dozens and dozens of calls. Brito had even less luck working with the district to identify partners.

In the end, the answer was just down the street and around the corner at the Egleston YMCA – where the school and the Y have combined to create a pod, or what is a satellite "remote learning center" for the Hernandez.

"We had so many kids that needed placements and it was so hard and the Y was a god-send," said Brito. "They had been talking about the same problem at about the same time and they had a voucher system that helped many of our families afford this. It was the best kept secret in Boston."

Both were willing, in the end, but a lot had to be worked out. There were licensing issues, and the Y had to be retrofitted for

schooling. So much had to be done, but where there was a will, there was a pod.

"It was a lot of meetings and a lot of back and forth," said Kilroy. "We made it happen. We opened in December and we had 26 spots and the number of students has increased. Since we have hybrid, we have 38 students that attend the Hernandez two days and then the Y the rest of the days. So, they get the full five-day learning supports."

Kilroy said they are now looking to expand the reach as well, and are in the process of finalizing a similar remote learning center for the Hernandez at the Franklin Park Zoo.

Bruto said the change in student performance once students in the most vulnerable learning situations reported to the Y was night and day. Students who had been struggling to learn from home suddenly were focused, ready and had their work done on time.

"We noticed very quickly, within a week of our kids being in the remote learning center, increased capacity to stay focused was night and day," she said. "Having a controlled environment where an adult isn't stressed out around you makes a huge difference for these kids. Being able to provide the teacher with a point of contact with a person at the Y whose only job was to make sure the kiddoe was working changed a lot of things."

One family, who wished not to be named, said they had struggled during remote learning to watch their kids during school while they went out to work essential jobs – or to look for other jobs.

"We were stressed finding people to watch the kids during class," they said. "The kids need-

ed a new environment to learn, to see friends, have more space, be more active, to feel like school one more time. I feel happy and my kids love it. They look happier."

At the Y, all of the safety protocols are followed, and kids are organized in groups and symptoms are monitored frequently. Trained staff at the Y are in constant contact with Hernandez teachers and Principal Brito. Parents are looped in and everyone communicates well. Aside from that, kids feel less isolated and have a place to burn off energy in down time.

And while some kids have returned to a hybrid in-person model over the past two weeks at the Hernandez, Brito and Kilroy are quick to remind everyone that the need for remote learning centers isn't over.

First, there are still three days in the hybrid model where kids are not in school. Second, there is a massive space issue that is underreported, but that exists at most every school, including the Hernandez. Both of those raw facts make remote learning centers like the Y continue to be a critical need for families at the school – particularly those who have to work outside the home five days a week.

"Just because schools are in hybrid doesn't mean they have space to open to everyone," Brito said. "We can't offer a seat when the demand outsizes the space available in the school. We have waitlists of kids that want to come back. Having the Y is clutch because then it becomes like a satellite school for our kids. The pandemic isn't over. We want to fill seats, but can't. The role of remote learning centers continues to be an essential need. We still have 451 kids enrolled in



A Hernandez student working at the Egleston YMCA recently in the school's collaborative remote learning center.

the Hernandez and we only have room for half of them."

Praise goes to Kilroy and all of the Hernandez community, which has been an active and advocating group of parents since the 1970s. That base of long-standing support, combined with the ability of the Friends to find partners and have resources devoted to getting the centers off the ground, was an incredible help not every school has.

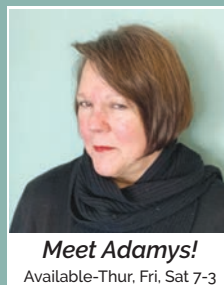
It is also another reason why they've been able to expand the reach, and are very close to hav-

ing the Zoo as a partner in the next few months if some of the inspection hurdles can be cleared.

"It was an astronomical amount of work to get 30 spots open," said Brito. "It makes me wonder what could have been done district-wide."

For those interested in supporting or learning more about the Hernandez's efforts to provide for its community, please consider donating at <https://friendsofthehernandez.networkforgood.com/> or for information contact director@friendsofthehernandez.org.

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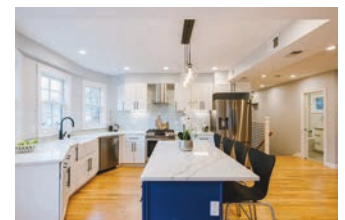
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Five JP projects to benefit from Community Preservation Act funding

By John Lynds

Earlier this month, Mayor Martin Walsh and the City of Boston Community Preservation Committee (CPC) announced their recommendation to fund five projects in Jamaica Plain through the latest round of Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding.

The projects in Jamaica Plain join 62 other projects citywide totaling over \$25.5 million in grants through the current funding round.

Under Historic Preservation

\$90,000 will go to the Loring Greenough House, \$250,000 will go to the Bethel AME Church, \$150,000 will go to the St. John's Episcopal Church and \$100,000 to the 1856 First Baptist Church. Under Open Space \$300,000 will go to the Jackson Square Redevelopment Initiative Greenway.

Walsh's recommendation, the proposed projects have been filed with the Boston City Council for a vote of approval. Projects supported with Community Preservation Act funding must create or preserve affordable housing, historic sites, or open space and recreation.

"Projects supported by funding through the Community Preservation Act are a reflection of the needs and voices of the residents in our neighborhoods. Because proposals are developed and created by Bostonians, each project directly serves each of our communities," said Mayor Walsh. "I want to thank everyone who submitted a project proposal to improve and preserve open spaces, affordable housing or historic spaces throughout the City of Boston."

The \$90,000 to the Loring Greenough House, built in 1760, will help preserve the historic

building as it undergoes critical repairs to the structure, including to the historic fabric of the exterior walls.

The \$250,000 for the Bethel AME Church building, built in 1919, will be used for rehabilitation and restoration of the historic neighborhood church. The money will help making repairs and capital improvements to the masonry facade and entrance.

St. John's Episcopal Church building, built in 1882 will get \$150,000 to preserve the historic church--making selective repairs to the masonry of the tower and

elements of the south and east elevations.

Finally, \$100,000 will be spent to preserve the historic First Baptist Church building, built in 1856, by making repairs to stucco cladding in areas of critical loss of the exterior envelope.

Under Open Space the city plans to spend \$300,000 to fund capital improvements at the Jackson Square Redevelopment Initiative Greenway. The Initiative will create a new outdoor active and passive recreational space that includes the installation of utilities, lighting and paving.

State announces \$2.5 Million in Urban Agenda grants for JP, Greater-Boston area

STAFF REPORT

The state last week announced a total of \$2.5 million in Urban Agenda grants to support 30 projects in 23 communities.

Launched by the Baker-Polito Administration in 2015, the Urban Agenda Grant Program promotes economic vitality in urban neighborhoods by fostering partnerships that capitalize on unique local assets and community-driven responses to specific challenges. Urban Agenda grants are competitive one-year awards that offer these partner-

ships flexible funding to implement programming and projects based on creative, collaborative work models to support economic progress in urban communities.

To address the unique challenges created by the unprecedented and far-reaching impact of the global pandemic, this year's program primarily sought proposals that intended to develop or implement COVID-19 economic recovery strategies.

"Directing these critical resources to support community-led partnerships in neighborhoods disproportionately

impacted by the pandemic helps expand our fight against COVID-19," said Governor Charlie Baker. "We are proud to make these targeted investments in programs that address key needs of urban communities across our Commonwealth, providing vital support to fight the pandemic while also helping to strengthen these communities for the future."

This year's Urban Agenda grants represent the largest round of awards since the program started. Since 2015, the Baker-Polito Administra-

tion has awarded \$8.5 million in grants through the Urban Agenda Grant Program, which is administered by the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development.

The Urban Agenda Grant Program is now exclusively part of the Administration's Community One Stop for Growth, the recently established single-application portal that provides access to a variety of competitive community and economic development grant programs.

The portal will streamline the experience for the applicant and better coordinate the process of engagement, application review, and grant making for programs and staff. It also redefines the Commonwealth's role as an active partner in economic development strategy, priorities, and investment. Learn more about the One Stop.

Local FY2021 Urban Agenda Grant Awards:


•East Boston – Maverick Landing Community Services: \$100,000 for the East Boston Resilience Project, for the creation of two to three new outdoor sustainable markets that will

enable immigrant cooperatives to access recycled materials, gain English language skills, and raise family incomes.

•Jamaica Plain – Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation: \$80,000 for the Constructing Wealth Project, which will provide technical assistance and training to minority- and women-owned business enterprises to build long-term financial stability and create jobs in communities of color.

•Chelsea – La Colaborativa: \$100,000 for the Good Jobs Coalition to support a rapid re-employment program that will provide job assessment, soft skills training, and job navigation counseling to 400 Chelsea Latino and immigrant residents to assist families affected by the pandemic.

•Revere – Neighborhood Developers: \$100,000 for Revere Works Work-force Development Continuum. Through this initiative, 300 participants affected by the Covid pandemic will receive training in ESOL, job training, and computer literacy and connect to other organizations for referrals and job placements.



Virtual Public Meeting

Amend Accessory Parking Zoning

Wednesday, March 31
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/3kUXdqQ
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 161 611 0558

Project Proponent:
Boston Planning and Development Agency

Project Description:
This is a public meeting to present proposed zoning changes that would make Accessory Parking a Conditional Use in neighborhood business subdistricts. Currently it is an Allowed Use in basements and first floors where there is an Allowed Use on the upper floors, such as residential. This condition creates a blank street wall with no active first floor use and runs counter to planning goals for neighborhood subdistricts. By making Accessory Parking Conditional, requiring a Conditional use permit, it provides and opportunity for community input and design review. See 3/31/21 on the BPDA Calendar for more info.

mail to: **Bryan Glascock**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
phone: 617.722.4300
email: bryan.glascock@boston.gov

Close of Comment Period:
4.9.2021

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JP's cumulative positive test rate remains the same

Weekly test rate increases slightly

By JOHN LYNDIS

Last week the cumulative COVID-19 positive test rate in Jamaica Plain remained the same but the weekly positive test rate increased slightly according to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) last Friday.

According to the data 33,743 Jamaica Plain residents have been tested for COVID since the

pandemic began and 7.6 percent overall were found to be positive—this was the same positive test rate as reported by the BPHC on February 19.

Last week 2,269 Jamaica Plain residents were tested and 1.3 percent were found to be COVID positive—a 8 percent increase from the 1.2 percent reported by the BPHC on February 19.

Citywide, 28,793 residents were tested and 3.6 percent were COVID positive—a 2.85 percent increase from the 3.5 percent testing positive two weeks ago

but still below the five percent threshold of concern.

With St. Patrick's Day on the horizon Mayor Martin Walsh told Boston residents to remain vigilant during one of the city's most celebrated holidays.

The Mayor said that everyone has a role to play in keeping themselves and others safe by wearing a mask, washing your hands frequently, and continuing to practice social distancing and avoid gatherings.

He said that all of these things are especially important with St. Patrick's Day coming

up. Mayor said the parade is canceled, and there should be no large gatherings of any kind. The limits on private gatherings remain at 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors. Restrictions remain in place at restaurants, including those that are typically busy on St. Patrick's Day. There will be 90-minute limits on seating, and the City won't allow lines outside restaurants. The City will be enforcing safety protocols.

The Mayor also made an appeal to the people of Boston to do the right thing and not host or attend gatherings for St. Patrick's Day. He said:

"We've made so much progress in bringing our numbers down. More people are getting vaccinated and the warm weather is coming," said Walsh. "There is a light at the end of the tunnel. So please, don't put our progress at risk because you want to have a St. Patrick's Day party. We'll have plenty of opportunities to celebrate when the pandemic is all over. But right now, we need to focus on keeping one another safe and getting through this

final stage. Please do your part to protect our city."

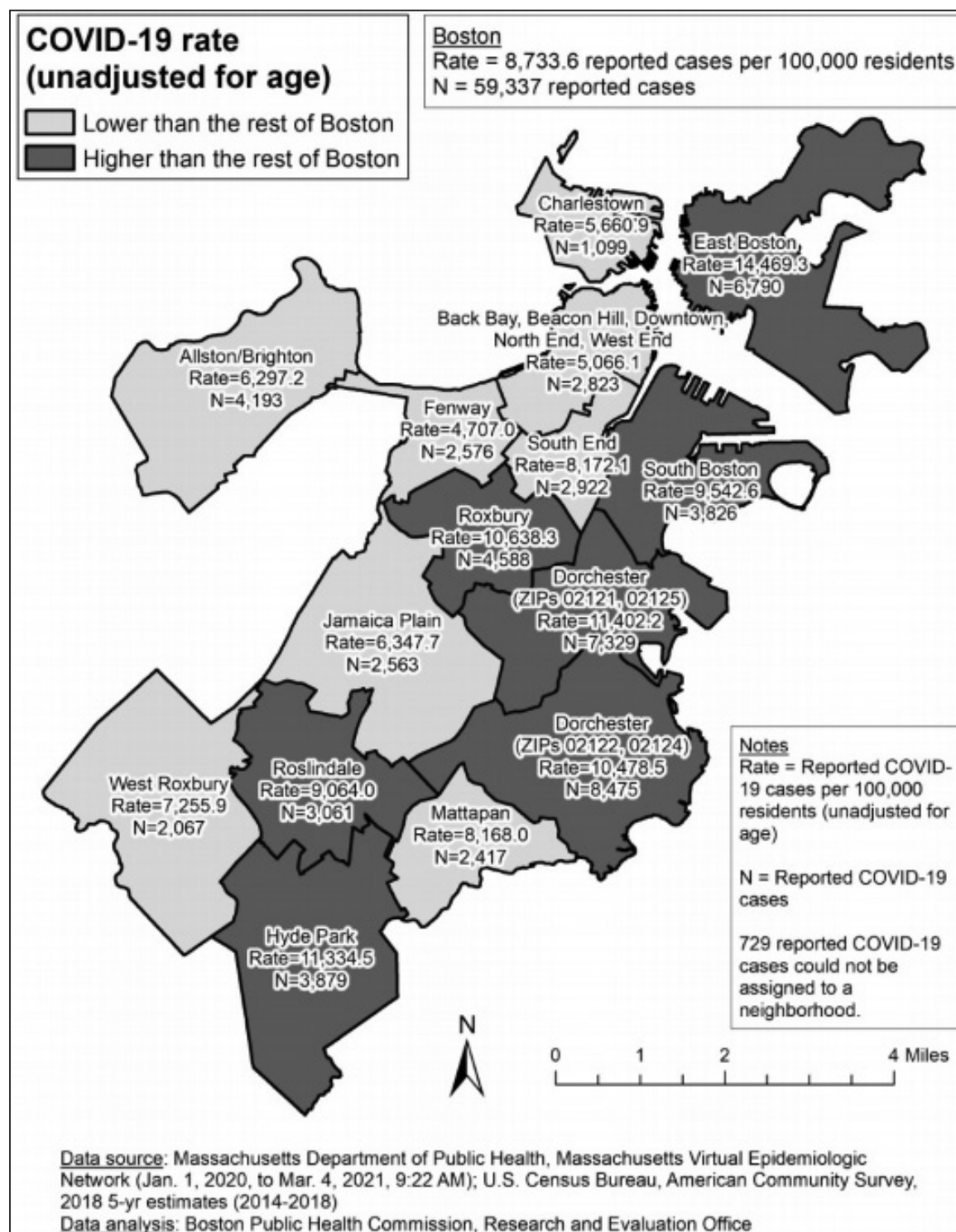
According to the BPHC data, Jamaica Plain's infection rate increased 2.6 percent since February 19.

Jamaica Plain went from 618.6 cases per 10,000 residents to 634.7 cases per 10,000 residents.

An additional 65 Jamaica Plain residents became infected with COVID-19 since February 19 and the number of total cases here went from 2,498 cases to 2,563 cases in the neighborhood.

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 2.2 percent percent last week and went from 58,901 cases to 60,221 confirmed cases in a week. Twenty-two additional Boston residents died from the virus last week and there are now 1,295 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.

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JPA approves change of occupancy on Castleton St.; discusses parking signage on S. Huntington Ave.

By Lauren Bennett

The Jamaica Pond Association (JPA) met virtually on March 1, where members voted on a zoning matter on Castleton St., as well as discussed new parking signage on South Huntington Ave.

22 CASTLETON ST.

Anita Lauricella, the owner of the second floor unit at 22 Castleton St., had previously come before the JPA with a proposal to split her unit into two separate units, creating a third unit for the building. She would live in the smaller third floor unit, as it is just her and her dog, she said at the last JPA meeting.

At the previous meeting, the JPA wanted to see a different design for the proposed dormers and windows. Architect Bob Lauricella said at this meeting that “we tried to line the windows up with the second and first floor,” though they are not exactly lined up in certain places. He also explained that the way the dormer appears from the front of the building has been “reconfigured” to address concerns raised, as well as other minor changes to the proposed windows and dormers.

JPA member David Moir said he believes “it’s great if you gave the windows on the inside that will work for you.” He added that “I think you’ve done a good job,”

and said he supports the project. Anita Lauricella said that there is “support from neighbors on both sides and in back of me as well.”

Several residents came to the JPA meeting to express their support for this project, including Gerald Autler, a neighbor on Zamora St. who said he is supportive of “people using existing space in their homes” to create a new unit that allows them to stay.

Resident Skye Gibson said that she is “grateful” that Anita Lauricella is her neighbor. “It would be very sad if she would have to leave her home because of the design concerns.”

She said that the neighbor-

hood is not only about “aesthetics,” and that she had no concerns with the original proposal.

The JPA voted not to oppose the new design.

SIGNAGE ON S. HUNTINGTON AVE.

Resident Barbara Hakim spoke about parking signs that have been put up along South Huntington Ave. that are labeled as resident parking for Mission Hill, but the “mail, zip code, taxes, [and] everyone agrees that South Huntington is Jamaica Plain,” she said.

She called the installation of these signs a “huge and gross mistake,” and “instead of expanding our parking ability, it has

restricted it tenfold.”

Justin McClarey, a representative from City Councilor Matt O’Malley’s office, said that “no one was aware that these signs were going up. I agree that they should have been flyer’d.”

He said that the City typically considers the right side of South Huntington Ave. ‘Back of the Hill,’ and he said he’s reached out to the parking clerk’s office.

“I’m confident that we can get these blocks fixed to be Jamaica Plain,” McClarey said, though he added that he cannot “guarantee” they will absolutely be fixed, but based on past similar issues, he believes it can be changed “at least up until Heath St.”

Being a ‘Karen’ pays off as the State Treasurer’s Office announces latest release of unclaimed property

Staff Report

Over the last year, people with the name “Karen” might be feeling unlucky, but today it just may be their luck has changed. Massachusetts State

Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg has announced the latest group of names added to the state’s list of unclaimed property owners. Over 52,000 new names and properties worth millions of dollars are owed to individuals

and businesses throughout the state, and this time it includes 150 “Karens.”

“I know it has been unpopular to be a Karen lately, but if you knew how much unclaimed property you have, you might re-

think that,” said State Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg, “One in 10 Massachusetts residents are owed money. So, whether you are a Karen, Mark or Deb - call our office today to begin the claims process right away. Last year, Treasury processed over 98,000 claims and returned over \$100 million in property to its rightful owners.”

Treasury currently holds over \$3.4 billion in unclaimed property including forgotten savings and checking accounts, un-cashed checks, insurance policy proceeds, stocks, dividends, and the contents of unattended safe deposit boxes. Most accounts are considered abandoned and are turned over to the state after three years of inactivity. This newly released list includes only individuals and businesses with unclaimed

property over \$100. However, Treasurer Goldberg urges all citizens to check the comprehensive list, which includes all amounts at www.findmassmoney.com or call our live call center at 888-344-MASS (6277). The full list of the new individuals and businesses added to the unclaimed property list will run publicly from March 7 through April 17. It can be found in The Boston Globe on March 7 and the Boston Herald on March 14. In addition, the list of names will be published in over 25 regional and local papers. The Treasury releases an updated list of unclaimed property assets every six months as the new accounts are turned over to the Commonwealth. There is no time limit for a person to claim their property, and in many cases, claimants will receive interest.

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KEELY O'SHANNESSEY PHOTO

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LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

EMMANUEL COLLEGE ANNOUNCES FALL 2020 DEAN'S LIST

In honor of their outstanding academic achievement, Emmanuel College in Boston has named more than 900 students to the Dean's List for the Fall 2020 semester. To earn a spot on the Dean's List, Emmanuel students must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or higher for a 16-credit semester. Local students receiving the honor include:

- Mariella Hansen of Jamaica Plain
- Andrew Ho of Jamaica Plain

Emmanuel College is a co-educational, residential institution with a 17-acre campus in the heart of Boston's educational, scientific, cultural and medical communities. Enrolling more than 2,000 undergraduate and graduate students, the College provides boundless opportunities for students to expand their worldview through rigorous coursework, significant internship and career opportunities throughout the Boston area and beyond, collaborations with distinguished and dedicated faculty, and participation in a dynamic campus community. Emmanuel's more than 70 programs in the sciences, liberal arts, business,

nursing, and education foster spirited discourse and substantive learning experiences that honor the College's Catholic educational mission to educate the whole person and provide an ethical and relevant 21st-century education.

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE ANNOUNCES FALL 2020 DEAN'S LIST

The University of Maine recognized 4,133 students for achieving Dean's List honors in the fall 2020 semester including Laura Connolly, Matthew Flaherty and Max Rich of Jamaica

Plain. Of the students who made the Dean's List, 2,670 are from Maine, 1,366 are from 38 other states and 97 are from 35 countries other than the U.S.

Due to the unusual and challenging circumstances faced this semester amid the global pandemic, the university has modified its Dean's List policy for the fall 2020 term. The requirement that students earn 12 calculable credits to be eligible for Dean's List has been waived. Instead, students will be eligible 1) if they earned Dean's List recognition in spring 2020 and have placed all of their fall 2020 courses on pass/fail; or 2) if they have earned a minimum GPA of a 3.5, regard-

less of the number of credits taken, in fall 2020.

KRIEGER ON DEAN'S LIST AT BATES COLLEGE

Megan Krieger of Jamaica Plain, Mass., was named to the dean's list at Bates College for the fall semester ending in December 2020. This is a distinction earned by students whose grade point average is 3.88 or higher.

Krieger, the daughter of Joel Krieger and Carol L. Dougherty, is a 2018 graduate of Boston Latin School. She is majoring in politics and minoring in education and German at Bates.

Located in Lewiston, Maine,

Bates is internationally recognized as a leading liberal arts college, attracting 2,000 students from across the U.S. and around the world. Since 1855, Bates has been dedicated to educating the whole person through creative and rigorous scholarship in a collaborative residential community. Committed to opportunity and excellence, Bates has always admitted students without regard to gender, race, religion, or national origin. Cultivating intellectual discovery and informed civic action, Bates prepares leaders sustained by a love of learning and zeal for responsible stewardship of the wider world.

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INVITATION FOR BIDS

Repair, Maintenance, and Painting work at the BCYF Mirabella Pool and Bathhouse in the North End

EV00008927

Contact Information

Varnie Jules, Finance Unit Manager

Email: Varnie.Jules@Boston.Gov

The City of Boston (the City), acting by the Commissioner of the Boston Centers for Youth & Families, hereinafter referred to as the Official, invites sealed bids for the performance of the work generally described above, and particularly set forth in the Invitation for Bids.

The bid documents will be accessible online from Monday, March 08, 2021, through Friday, March 26, 2021 by visiting the City of Boston Public Procurement website at the following link <http://www.cityofboston.gov/procurement/> and accessing the event ID # **EV00008927**.

The BCYF Mirabella Pool is located at 475R Commercial Street, Boston, MA 02113 (North End).

The attention of all bidders is directed to the provisions of the Invitation for Bids and contract documents, specifically to the requirements for bid deposits, insurance, and performance bonds as may be applicable. All bids for this project are subject to **M.G.L. c.30, s. 39M** and in accordance with the terms and provisions of the contract documents.

Sealed bids shall be filed electronically no later than **4:00 pm on Friday, March 26, 2021** by login onto the City of Boston Procurement website as listed and accessing the above listed event number. The contract awarded pursuant to this invitation for bid will commence **on or about Monday, April 12, 2021.**

William Morales, Commissioner
(March 08, March 15, March 22)

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CITY OF BOSTON/COUNTY OF SUFFOLK BOSTON CENTERS FOR YOUTH & FAMILIES (BCYF)

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Repair, Maintenance, and Painting work at the BCYF Clougherty Pool and Bathhouse in Charlestown

EV00008928

Contact Information

Varnie Jules, Finance Unit Manager

Email: Varnie.Jules@Boston.Gov

The City of Boston (the City), acting by the Commissioner of the Boston Centers for Youth & Families, hereinafter referred to as the Official, invites sealed bids for the performance of the work generally described above, and particularly set forth in the Invitation for Bids. **The bid documents will be accessible online from Monday, March 08, 2021, through Friday, March 26, 2021**, by visiting the City of Boston Public Procurement website at the following link <http://www.cityofboston.gov/procurement/> and accessing the event ID # **EV00008928**.

The BCYF Clougherty Pool is located at 345 Bunker Hill Street, Boston, MA 02129 (Charlestown)

The attention of all bidders is directed to the provisions of the Invitation for Bids and contract documents, specifically to the requirements for bid deposits, insurance, and performance bonds as may be applicable. All bids for this project are subject to **M.G.L. c.30, s. 39M** and in accordance with the terms and provisions of the contract documents.

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William Morales, Commissioner
(March 08-March 15-March 22)

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

Ethos helps navigate seniors through troubling pandemic times

BY LAUREN BENNETT

JP-based nonprofit Ethos has been helping seniors stay independent since 1974 with various programs and services. The Gazette spoke with Raymond Santos, Ethos' Development Chief & Community Relations Officer, to learn more about how Ethos assists seniors in the community, especially during the public health crisis.

"We are what's called an aging services access point," Santos said, which is a "state designation for agencies that provide home and community-based programming and services for older adults and the younger disabled."

Ethos provides home care and nutrition services, as well as Meals on Wheels straight to the homes of seniors, along with Medicare counseling and other services and programs.

"The goal is to keep seniors healthy, active, and living independently in the community," Santos said.

When it comes to COVID-19, Santos said that "obviously, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected older adults disproportionately," as well as "exacerbated a number of different issues" for them. "Social isolation was also a major crisis for older adults before the pandemic."

He said that to help out with these issues, Ethos has "more than doubled our Meals on Wheels program," delivering about 12,000 meals to seniors each day.

Additionally, all of Ethos' programming that would have otherwise been provided in person has been moved online so seniors can still participate virtually. He said things like fall prevention classes, exercise classes, and others are "all available to seniors free of charge online."

Ethos also offers "telephone reassurance programs," Santos said, that allow a connection "with those most isolated and at risk."

Santos said that "most importantly and most recently," Ethos

has been "assisting with vaccine rollout" through partnering with places and organizations like Boston Medical Center, the Boston Public Health Commission, and the City's Age Strong Commission to "help provide access to vaccination opportunities for seniors."

He said that to help overcome the "challenges" faced by seniors across the city and state in accessing the online appointment finder, "Ethos is acting as a bridge between the seniors and technology tools" by "providing them with assistance in helping them schedule those appointments for them and their trusted companions."

Santos said they work with these partners "to create exclusive opportunities to get our clients and our seniors scheduled for their vaccine. That's really important," he said, as is bringing available appointments "as close to seniors as possible."

Ethos also offers several health and wellness programs throughout the year; that help

with things like balance, preventing falls, managing chronic conditions, providing caregiver support, improving memory fitness, and more.

"We've taken those classes and re-tooled them so they can be taken through Zoom," Santos said. This way, seniors can still socialize with each other and their neighbors while still remaining "active in their homes," he said.

"Ethos continually works to identify seniors who are at greatest risk for social isolation, and when possible, we're able to help bridge that digital divide" by "assisting them with a device or modest stipend to assist them with purchasing internet access" for the lowest income seniors, Santos said, as many seniors face challenges when it comes to technology.

"The environment we're operating under is extremely expensive," Santos said, between "out-fitting staff and Meals on Wheels drivers" with personal protection equipment and hand sanitizer, as well as "maintain extremely high levels of cleanliness."

He thanked the "generous donors" who have helped to make this possible, adding that Ethos "continually needs support in order to continue to deliver these programs." To make a donation, residents can visit <https://www.ethocare.org> or call (617) 522-6700.

"We continue to encourage folks to maintain their social distance," Santos said, as well as "encourage folks to get vaccinated when those opportunities come up, and stay healthy and safe."

AARP Massachusetts monthly fraud watch update for march

STAFF REPORT

Did you know that someone's identity gets stolen every two seconds? The AARP Fraud Watch Network can provide the tips and resources to help spot and avoid identity theft and fraud so you can protect the family. This watchdog alerts will keep one up to date on con artists' latest tricks. It's free of charge for everyone: AARP members, non-members, and people of all ages. Be a fraud fighter! If you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam. Report scams to local law enforcement. Contact the AARP Fraud Watch Network at www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork for more information on fraud prevention.

The AARP Fraud Watch Network is:

- An Educator: Get real-time alerts about the latest scams, tips on how to spot them, and the inside scoop on how con artists think so you can outsmart them before they strike.
- A Watchdog: Our nationwide scam-tracking map gives you

access to a network of people who've spotted scams and the opportunity to pass along your own experiences, so together we can beat con artists at their own game.

- A Resource: Get connected to a real live person trained in how to avoid fraud and advise you if you or a loved one has been scammed by calling our fraud hotline or attending a forum in your community.
- Free for Everyone: Anyone, of any age, can access our resources at no cost.

SCAM ALERT #1: NATIONAL CONSUMER PROTECTION WEEK

It's National Consumer Protection Week—and while AARP is focused on protecting consumers year-round – this is a good time to highlight key tips to keep you safe.

Never give out personal or financial information over the phone or internet – especially if you don't know the person on

Continued on page 13

Do you know an older adult who needs support at home?

Ethos is a nonprofit organization that supports healthy, independent living at home, where people want to be, by providing services to older adults, regardless of income.

- Cleaning
- Laundry
- Grocery Shopping
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- Companion
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Learn more about how Ethos can help older adults manage the challenges of maintaining independent living at home. Visit www.ethocare.org or call 617-522-6700.

ETHOS | 555 AMORY STREET | JAMAICA PLAIN, MA 02130 | 617.522.6700 | WWW.ETHOCARE.ORG

AARP

Continued from page 12

the other end. Be careful of what links you click on or what numbers you call back. If something seems to be good to be true it is. Lastly, be your own detective by using trusted resources to determine if something is a scam before responding.

One great resource is the

Federal Trade Commission and its website, www.consumer.ftc.gov. It has resources to help protect yourself from scams and fraud and ID theft as well as tips on how to maximize your security online.

SCAM ALERT #2: SORTING FACT FROM FICTION WITH VACCINES

At the start of the pandemic, scammers hawked fake cures, treatments and vaccines. Now

that vaccines are available, scammers are making bogus offers to move you to the front of the line for getting your vaccine – for a fee. Some are even setting up fake vaccine distribution sites. Unfortunately, this means that consumers looking for a vaccine appointment have to sort through fake and legitimate information in search for a shot – a process that can be confusing and dangerous.

With thousands of localities taking their own approach to vaccine distribution, it's important to follow guidance provided by local public health officials and trusted healthcare providers. When signing up for your vaccine, find out how you will be contacted for any follow-up information or guidance.

SCAM ALERT #3: DEBT RELIEF SCAMS

COVID-19 and the economic downturn have put millions of Americans in financial peril. For most people, one of the first steps to getting back on their feet is getting rid of debt. Enter the con

artist.

Shady companies will claim they can remove bankruptcies, liens and bad loans from your record, or even erase a bad credit history completely, helping you start over with a new credit identity. All you have to do is pay an up-front fee.

To avoid falling victim to these scams it's important to remember that no one can remove bad information from your credit report if it is correct and timely. Things like bankruptcy or significant debt can stay on your credit record for up to 10 years. When looking for legitimate help with managing debt, avoid anyone who promises they can erase your debt history, increase your credit score or asks for an advance payment.

SCAM ALERT #4: CONSUMER SENTINEL REPORT

The numbers are in. The Federal Trade Commission released its report of fraud complaints from last year, and it was historically high, due in large part to

COVID and the economic downturn. Criminals thrive in times of confusion and 2020 was the perfect storm. Staying on top of COVID related scams was a never-ending game of whack-a-mole for consumers, and the problem hasn't gone away.

Reported losses topped \$3.3 billion – an increase of around \$1.5 billion over the previous year. The top scams were identity theft, impostor scams and online shopping scams. Most of these same scams are still active in 2021, which is why it's important to avoid answering calls from unknown phone numbers or clicking on links from texts or emails from suspicious or unknown senders. And as long as COVID remains a challenge, beware of offers for miracle cure or a shortcut to a vaccine.

Be a fraud fighter! If one can spot a scam, one can stop a scam.

Report scams to local law enforcement. For help from AARP, call 1-877-908-3360 or visit the AARP Fraud Watch Network at www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork.

Rogerson House sets a standard in memory-care assisted living

Graciously situated across from Jamaica Pond on three acres of lawn, trees, and gardens and just minutes from Boston's world-class hospitals, Rogerson House offers an assisted-living residence, a day program, and respite care in a warm, home environment.

Rogerson House sets the standard in dementia care with a special building design incorporating lighting, color-coding, and environmental cues that help people with memory loss thrive in a secure setting. A diverse

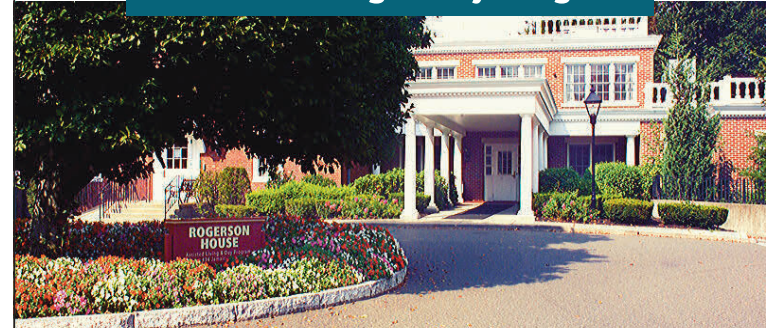
array of programming, including expressive therapies and fitness programs, ensures a stimulating and caring environment for residents.

"Rogerson House is a welcoming community that promotes an inclusive culture celebrating the individuality of our residents, team members, family, friends, neighbors, and partners," said Michele Stephenson, Director of Outreach and Resident Services at Rogerson House.

Rogerson House is located at 434 Jamaica Way.

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How the pandemic is impacting children and families

More than 2.7 million American children are growing up in grandfamilies -- families in which grandparents, other adult family members, or close family friends are raising children. A new report highlights how the pandemic has amplified their unique challenges, and offers solutions to better serve them.

The report, "Facing a Pandemic: Families Living Together During COVID-19 and Thriving Beyond" authored by the non-profit Generations United and funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Casey Family Programs, points out that

at a time when older adults are being cautioned to keep their distance from children because of the heightened risk of infection and death from COVID-19, for grandfamilies, that distance is impossible. Advocates point out that these caregivers are the first line of defense for children during the pandemic, having stepped in when parents cannot raise them for many reasons, including cases where children's parents have died from COVID-19. At the same time, 30 percent of kin caregivers lack an alternative caregiving plan if they should die or become dis-



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abled, a troubling statistic in the face of the pandemic, which disproportionately affects older adults.

While grandfamilies are diverse in geography, income and race, the report finds that caregivers in grandfamilies are disproportionately Black or Native American; nearly half of grandparent caregivers are over age 60; and one in four grandparent caregivers has a disability. These are the same populations that

are more likely to be impacted by the pandemic and die as a result.

"While we're all impacted by COVID-19, grandfamilies, especially, have had tough realities, with limited support systems," says Donna Butts, executive director of Generations United, a non-profit with the mission of improving the lives of children, youth and older people. "State and local child welfare and other agencies must better support them during COVID-19 recovery and beyond."

Federal, state and local governments recognize foster families and provide them with access to resources, but there is little available for grandfamilies raising children outside of foster care. While Congress included support for grandfamilies in the December 2020 COVID-19 relief package, including better access to kinship navigator programs, which help connect families to

information and community support as well as provide some direct help to families to meet emergency needs, advocates say this is just a start.

"With so many families continuing to struggle with impacts from COVID-19, it's critical that state and local child welfare agencies distribute the funds in this package," says Butts. "Congress also needs to ensure families have ongoing financial support so that caregivers can meet the basic needs of children as they live with the long-term impacts of COVID -19."

The report also finds that about 19 percent of grandparents responsible for grandchildren live in poverty and 38 percent of grandfamilies are unable to pay or are worried about paying mortgage or rent. Among the solutions to these figures, Generations United is calling for grandfamilies to be specifically named in the next COVID-relief package as an eligible population for financial relief such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

To access the report, visit www.gu.org. To hear grandfamilies discuss the pandemic's impacts, visit everyfamilyforward.org.

While the pandemic has heightened the inequities different types of families face, advocates say that sufficient support can help grandfamilies recover and thrive. (StatePoint)

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4 easy tips to help older adults stay active at home

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, many older adults are following the advice of public health experts and remaining at home to limit risk of exposure. Bad weather conditions can also keep people inside for days at a time. But a strong body and mind are as important as ever, and the good news is being indoors doesn't mean having to give up on exercising.

There are many great health benefits to staying active, such as improving mobility and balance, developing muscle and bone strength, increasing energy and managing weight. Exercise can also reduce blood pressure and lower the risk of heart disease, stroke and diabetes.

According to Dr. Gina Conflitti, chief medical officer for Medicare at Cigna, the advantages aren't just physical: "Keeping active has a positive impact on mental health, too," she said. "With regular exercise, many older adults enjoy better sleep, clearer thinking, lower stress and improved mood."

According to Cigna, which serves many older adults through its Medicare Advantage plans, here are four simple tips for exercising in the comfort of home:

1. Make a plan. What is your long-term goal? Having something to work toward is great motivation to keep up daily activity and set yourself up for success.

Before you begin any physical activity, talk to your doctor about your health goals. Your doctor can provide guidance on exercises that are safe and attainable as you begin a new chapter of your wellness journey.

2. Take it slow. You don't have to run a marathon or even lift weights to keep fit – the most important thing is to just move. Start by walking around your house a few times a day or doing some gentle stretching. Just adding five minutes of activity to your day can make a difference in your overall health and mood. As your body gets used to daily movement, you can enhance your physical activities as recommended by your health care provider.

3. Use what you have. You don't need a gym to get a healthy workout. In fact, there are plenty of exercises you can do using items found around the house. For example, "chair dips" are an effective arm and shoulder workout – just place both feet on the ground, face away from a chair and support your body by putting your hands on the seat behind you with straight arms. Next, raise and lower yourself by bending and unbending your arms.

You can even exercise while

seated. Hold your leg out in front of you and trace each letter of the alphabet. Work your feet and leg muscles by laying a kitchen towel on the floor, then use your toes to grab, release and push the fabric.

4. Check your health care plan benefits. If you have a Medicare Advantage plan, you might be eligible for extra benefits such as at-home fitness programs, including free on-demand workouts accessible from your computer, smart device or phone, as well as gear, such as resistance bands.

Find more healthy aging and exercise tips at cigna.com/medicare/healthy-aging/physical-activity.

"As you start, remember to be flexible and stay positive," Dr. Conflitti suggests. "Changing habits can take time, but every step is progress. If you haven't reached a goal, don't be hard on yourself – it's most important to continue at your own pace." (StatePoint)



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Reimagine Boston Main Streets program looks at ways to support local business districts and ensure equitable economic recovery

BY LAUREN BENNETT

In the midst of a pandemic, looking out for the future of Boston's Main Streets districts has become all the more urgent. City officials launched the Reimagine Main Streets program in November of last year, which, according to the City's website, is 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 process is led by consultants Strategy Matters and CJ Strategies, as well as subcontractors Archipelago Strategy Group. The Gazette spoke with Natalia Urtubey, the City's Director of Small Business, as well as Ellen Walker, the Executive Director of Mission Hill Main Streets, to learn more about this process and how it can help shape the way the City's main streets districts will move forward. Urtubey said this process was

thought up long before COVID hit Boston, but "the direction has become more intentional with COVID," and she said the focus has now switched to "economic recovery rather than simply just how to enhance and engage in a regular world." She said the hope is to ensure that there is long-term recovery in the neighborhoods, and to make sure that it's equitable. "We want to help close the racial wealth gap," the City said on its website for the project. "We are the oldest and largest

urban Main Streets program in the country," Urtubey said, and "we want to really be able to measure our success." The process uses an online survey as well as a series of 10 listening sessions to look at existing programs within the Main Streets districts to see what is working and where gaps may lie. "Setting goals and metrics across the Main Streets I think will be a really critical piece," Urtubey said. "Even prior to COVID, equity has been at the forefront of what

we do," she said, adding that the hope is always to create jobs, but also "really creating place in our commercial districts," and "giving people a reason" to spend their money at local businesses. "For us, it's really important for us to know the gaps in services that maybe we haven't looked into or know about yet, and I think that's one of the key reasons why I think that's so important for local stakeholders

Continued on page 17

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MBTA Spring 2021 subway and bus schedules effective March 14

STAFF REPORT

The MBTA reminds customers that upcoming spring 2021 subway and bus schedules will take effect on Sunday, March 14. These changes are part of Forging Ahead, the MBTA's plan to preserve transit access and quality of service available to transit-critical customers and were approved by the Fiscal and Management Control Board (FMCB) in December 2020 along with other service adjustments to other MBTA travel modes. These short-term service changes for Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) help match service levels with current and near-term low ridership demand.

For full and complete listing of all upcoming service changes, including all changes to bus routes, Commuter Rail lines, subway, and ferries, please visit mbta.com/ForgingAhead.

Subway Service Changes Effective March 14:

There will be no changes in the hours of operation or any elimination or consolidation of any subway routes.

Service frequency will be reduced by 20 percent on the Red, Orange, and Green Lines. Frequency on the Blue Line will be reduced by up to 5 percent.

Bus Service Changes Effective March 14:

In order to better reflect ridership levels and preserve access and quality of service for transit-critical communities, a number of bus schedule changes will go into effect on March 14.

Bus routes with high ridership serving high transit-critical communities have been prioritized in the Forging Ahead plan and will not change. Other routes will operate with less frequency, with both increased and decreased frequency depending on the time of day, or with their hours of service changed. A number of bus routes will be suspended, consolidated, or have routing or trip changes with service alternatives and details available online.

•Paratransit Service (The RIDE) Changes:

As a result of changes to subway, bus, and Commuter Rail service, The RIDE will implement the following changes in the coming weeks:

*Some RIDE ADA trips may become premium fare trips, complementing the changes to fixed route changes. RIDE service boundaries will not change.

*Trips will be scheduled 40 minutes from request time instead of 30 minutes.

*Premium service hours will be adjusted to complement Commuter Rail hours of operation.

RIDE customers impacted by these changes will be notified in the coming weeks.

As part of its Forging Ahead initiative, the MBTA organized a months-long process to solicit the

public's input, including more than 7,000 comments from riders and stakeholders. This process and the feedback received were used to shape the final plan approved by the FMCB.

The MBTA and FMCB continue to discuss how the MBTA will add back and increase service. Ridership will be monitored with MBTA staff returning to the FMCB every month to show where ridership stands compared to service planning scenarios. Other data sources will also be monitored, including passenger surveys, employer surveys, roadway data, general travel data, and economic recovery planning. FY22 service levels will be planned as part of the FY22 budget process.

Reimagine

Continued from page 16

tot take part in that conversation, residents, anyone who engages with that commercial district should be participating," she said.

Urtubey also said that "critical" feedback from business owners is how the City can better communicate with them about resources that are available to ensure that they are receiving proper support.

The final listening session is scheduled for March 11, after which the City and project consultants will create a report of what was learned from the sessions, including trends heard across districts. Right now, no specific information is available to be shared, Urtubey said.

Walker explained that some of the general feedback includes the desire for IT and language support, as well as financial resources, among other things.

"COVID has exacerbated the need for financial relief and access to capital; we've seen that across the board with large businesses and small businesses, and that will absolutely continue to be a huge need moving forward," Urtubey said.

"COVID has opened the doors," Walker said, and "enabled" business owners to connect with their Main Streets organizations and the City, even if they never have before.

Walker said that she feels the listening sessions are "very

comfortable; very welcoming," and include breakout sessions for business owners as well as other stakeholders and residents to discuss any struggles they are facing and then come back to the whole group to present.

"People who came in were just very open and interested in being there and gave some honest feedback," Walker said. "Communication is really important if you want to hear that consistency there."

Urtubey said that the structure of the listening sessions is "focused on making sure people understand the role of Main Streets," and are given an overview of the project. The project consultants offer questions and prompts geared towards gaining valuable information that will be used to create recommendations for the districts, and then folks are provided with next steps and how they can continue participating in the process.

She said these sessions are "about building on previous engagement and building new engagement as well."

She continued, "There's a level of visibility we want to bring to Main Streets districts," and "we want local tourism to be a part of this in a way, [and] getting people from inside and outside of Boston to explore the district" is also a key element.

She said that this "allows us to think about what are some creative solutions to support businesses?"

Urtubey said that initiatives like the City's outdoor dining program and other ways

to "leverage public space" and "improve the quality of life for residents" are things the City is thinking about in terms of supporting small businesses and helping them thrive, while driving residents and visitors alike to the districts.

Right now, the Reimagine Boston Main Streets program is "still in the community engagement process," Urtubey said, and the next step includes the analysis of the community engagement, "which will lead to

more of a community survey."

She said that "my hope is that we'll continue to engage Main Street directors and other stakeholders in the process moving forward," and by this coming fall, a set of recommendations is expected to be ready to be released by the City.

For more information and to participate, people can join the email list by emailing reimagine-bostonmainstreet@boston.gov, as well as visiting the Reimagine Boston Main Street Facebook

page, taking the online survey at boston.gov/departments/small-business-development/reimagine-boston-main-streets, and/or by attending the remaining listening session, which has a focus on Ashmont and Washington Gateway, scheduled for March 11 at 5:30 p.m.

"I think it's being positively received," Walker said of the program. "It's always good to look what you've done, where you are, and where you want to be. It's an important time to be doing this."



Virtual Public Meeting

Faulkner Hospital

Thursday, March 25
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/3c0FRVJ
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 160 554 1699

Project Proponent:
Faulkner Hospital IMP

Project Description:

This is a Virtual Public Meeting to discuss the proposed Inpatient Addition and West Parking Garage on the Faulkner Hospital campus. The Hospital will be presenting its plans for the campus along with mitigation measures for the proposed garage. The public is encouraged to attend.

mail to: **Edward Carmody**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
phone: 617.918.4422
email: edward.carmody@boston.gov

John Barros announces campaign for Mayor

BY SETH DANIEL

As the only person in the Boston mayoral race who has previously run for the office, former Walsh Administration Economic Development Chief John Barros announced on March 4 that he intended to make a run for mayor this year.

Barros is described as a community development leader, small business owner, and Boston's first Chief of Economic Development under Mayor Martin Walsh – a post he recently left to run for mayor full-time. A former community organizer and executive director of the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative (DSNI), Barros made the announcement at Restaurante Cesaria, the neighborhood restaurant in Dorchester he has owned and operated for the past two decades. Barros ran for mayor in 2013, but lost out in the Preliminary Election, and then supported Walsh – later joining the administration as the Chief of Economic Development. He has been there the last seven years, but said he

is ready to take what he learned “I learned a lot in 2013,” he said. “It was a great race and a fun race. Not all candidates enjoyed it, but I enjoyed it. I enjoyed talking to people and being in living rooms and kitchens. As you know now we’re going to have to start this race with less kitchens and less living rooms. The conversations on Zoom are already vibrant. The conversations on phones and we have been able to meet with people in rooms where we can socially-distance and be safe. I have a good understanding of where I have some traction in the city. I have a good understanding of how to have good conversations with Bostonians, and I have had the pleasure to serve after 2013 as a City official...in City government. I’m ready to start this campaign, and more importantly I’m ready to lead the City of Boston.”

Barros appeared with his family that included four children – John Jr., Jeremiah, Casey and Olivia – and his wife, Tchiintcia. He was flanked by many



Former City Economic Development Chief John Barros announced on March 4 that he is running for mayor of Boston – the only current candidate that has previously run for the seat. He made the announcement with his wife, Tchiintcia, and his four children.

supporters from the community and his family members, including his mother who is known as ‘Thaca.’

“As a father of four young children, the future of Boston means everything to me,” Barros said. “I’ve lived my entire life deeply rooted in our community as an activist, as a small business owner, and as a government official. As Boston’s Chief of Economic Development, I changed the way that City Hall plans for growth and development. We’ve made a lot of progress, and now is the time to take our work further.” Focusing on his experience with development at DSNI and his role as Economic Development Chief of Boston, Barros seemed to begin to differentiate himself as the candidate who would best know how to bring the City back to life economically, equitably and socially. “The next four years will be critical,” he said. “I have a plan to

bring our city back to life in a safe way – in a more equitable way. We will confront racial injustice with honesty, courage, and compassion. We will make bold investments in community health, environmental justice, affordable housing and our children’s education and well-being. I’m ready to meet this moment, and I know Boston is ready to meet this moment too.”

He did address a question from the media about policing, and said he had already had discussions with long-time police officers – particularly officers of color – who understood there needed to be change. However, he also added that his campaign will not be antagonistic to police.

“It’s been clear in my conversations that the police understand there needs to be transformation,” he said. “In fact, we can and will work with police to continue to move. I’m excited to have worked with Mayor Walsh



Community advocate Conan Harris spoke in support of Barros during the kick-off.

on the new changes instituted in government now...I’m excited about the recommendations that recently came out of the Task Force and look forward to implementing them as mayor. I am in fact ready to talk to police about how we shift duties and roles that will move the budget around...I look forward to that conversation with police and not because I’m going to create a campaign to fight police. It’s because I’m going to work with the police officers and leadership that get it and is ready to have hard conversations about the transformations we’re ready to do.”

As yet another person of color in the race, and the only Black man so far in the race, Barros said he believed the City was ready for that kind of change – that being electing the first



Marianne Hughes, former executive director of the Interaction Institute for Social Change and a Boston resident, announced Barros at the kick-off.

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JP organizations receiving funding through Boston Resiliency Fund

By JOHN LYNDS

Two Jamaica Plain organizations were included in the latest round Boston Resiliency Fund grant money.

Earlier this month, Mayor Martin announced that Omega Men in Action and Chica Project will share in this latest funding round totaling \$3.85 million to 62 nonprofits in Boston.

Walsh said the organizations in this round of funding work to ensure access to food and other basic needs for Boston residents and to promote public health in the city through community-based outreach and engagement.

"The Boston Resiliency Fund has been an invaluable resource in our efforts to support the critical services that Boston's nonprofits have continued to

provide throughout the pandemic," said Walsh. "This latest round of grants is our biggest yet, and serves as our way to support these organizations for all the work that they do and for providing essential resources to our community year-round. I also want to thank the Steering Committee for their steadfast commitment to and oversight of the Fund."

According to the city, Omega Men in Action will use the Boston Resiliency Fund grant to expand the capacity of its Emergency Food Pantry. The grant will allow Omega Men in Action to immediately provide access to healthy dietary and hygiene options for the increased number of families who now find themselves in need due to the pandemic.

"Omega Men In Action is a

non-profit organization established to uplift and enhance opportunities for youth and families within the greater Boston communities. A key program is our emergency food pantry, which provides bi-monthly food distribution to families across Jamaica Plain, Dorchester, Mattapan, Roxbury, and Hyde Park," said Board Member Michael Munn. "The enormously appreciated assistance and funding that we received from the Boston Resiliency Fund is a Godsend. In addition to enabling the expansion of our food pantry, it will allow us to upgrade our refrigeration capacity, augment our delivery service to seniors, and distribute additional facemasks, hand sanitizer and other PPE."

The grant money distribution will also help Chica Project

continue to provide stipends to Peer Leaders as well as training to mentors. This will help Chica Project continue to offer a targeted micro-public health campaign/community forum that improves public education for Latinx girls and other young women of color about how to prevent COVID-19.

In November the Boston Resiliency Fund paused the rapid response grantmaking it had been doing since late March of last year to evaluate how the Fund could best serve Boston residents with limited remaining funds. The Fund received feedback from its non-profit partners that there was still an overwhelming demand for

food and other basic needs, like diapers, formula and hygiene products, and that there was a need for further education regarding public health guidance and the safety and importance of the COVID-19 vaccine. Prioritizing these two focus areas, the fund's Steering Committee re-opened its grant application to any interested non-profit serving Boston residents. There were 137 applications seeking over \$19 million in aid for this funding round.

Since its launch in March of 2020, \$34.5 million has been donated to the Boston Resiliency Fund and 377 Boston-based organizations have received over \$34.1 million in funding.

Barros

Continued from page 18

person of color to be mayor.

"Boston is ready for diversity and Boston is ready for a candidate of color," he said. "Boston is ready for a Black man like me to be mayor. You can feel it talking to people. People have called me and asked me questions about how to unite the city, how we raise our diversity... When I went around the City (the last seven years), people didn't say to me that I wasn't welcome here. People embraced me and they didn't embrace me in an anonymous way. They embraced my diversity. We talked about race, my background, about me being an immigrant, and they wanted to talk about that. We have been talking race in Boston awhile."

A lifelong resident of Boston, Barros' parents emigrated from Cabo Verde to Boston, where he attended both public and Catholic schools. At age 14, he became a community organizer with the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative (DSNI), the Roxbury and Dorchester-based community land trust. In 1991, he was the first youth elected to the DSNI Board of Directors. John later served as executive director of DSNI/DNI, the largest urban community land trust in the country. He held that post for 13 years, during which time

the organization made tremendous strides toward neighborhood revitalization and community wealth creation. Working with community partners, DSNI developed new community centers and created open spaces and parks. It opened schools, commercial property, and built permanently affordable housing. In 2014, he was appointed as Boston's first Chief of Economic

Development, where he oversaw programs to help businesses grow while fostering economic inclusion and equity. Prior to that, John had served on the Boston School Committee for three years. John earned a Master of Public Policy from Tufts University and a B.A. in African/African-American Studies from Dartmouth College. He lives with his wife and their four children in Dorchester.

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*These units are available to those who earn more than 80% but less than 100% of AMI

Maximum Income Limits (set by the BPDA + based on household size + AMI)

Household size	80% AMI	100% AMI
1	\$66,650	\$83,300
2	\$76,200	\$95,200
3	\$85,700	\$107,100
4	\$95,200	\$119,000
5	\$102,850	\$128,550
6	\$110,450	\$138,050

Maximum Asset Limits

80% AMI	100% AMI
\$75,000	\$100,000

Does not include retirement. Does include Real Estate

For more on income + asset eligibility, please visit:
<http://www.bostonplans.org/housing/income-asset-and-price-limits>

Applications are available during the application period from:
Monday, March 15, 2021 – Wednesday, March 31, 2021

To request and complete the application online, please visit: www.TiliaAffordables.com
To have a hard copy of the application sent to your mailing address, please call: 781-992-5308

After careful consideration and an abundance of caution, the City of Boston has decided to cancel the in-person application distribution period. If you cannot complete the application online, please call us at 781-992-5308, to request that we mail you one and to ask us for any guidance you might need to complete the application.

Fully completed + signed applications must be submitted online or postmarked no later than **Wednesday, March 31, 2021**

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Equal Housing Opportunity



Deadline for Boston dog licensing is March 31

STAFF REPORT
With a current increase in dog adoptions during the COVID-19 quarantine, the Boston Parks and Recreation Department's Animal Care and Control Division is reminding city dog owners that the annual deadline for licensing their pets is March 31. All dogs in Boston require a new

license each year.
"A license is your dog's fastest ticket home if they become lost, and it's the law," notes Animal Care and Control Director Alexis Trzcinski. "A dog license is like an ID for your pet. If they ever get lost, the chances of you being reunited are much higher with a license."

In preparation for the 2021 licensing deadline, the Animal Care & Control Division analyzed licensing data from last year to reveal the most popular dog names of 2020. The top five dog names registered in Boston were Luna, Bella, Charlie, Lucy, and Lola. Rounding out the bottom of the top 25 were Buddy,

Riley, Finn, Coco, and Winston.
All dog owners must license their dogs by Wednesday, March 31, 2021. Dogs must be licensed if they are older than six months. Owners must provide a copy of their dog's current rabies certificate and proof of spaying or neutering. For an in-depth guide on dog licensing, including a link

to license your dog online, visit Animal Care & Control's [how-to article](#).
The fees for licensing your dog are \$15 for a neutered male or spayed female or \$30 for an intact male or female. Dog owners who pay online with a credit card

Continued on page 21

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SNA hears from Council candidate Kendra Hicks; discusses updates on projects

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The Stonybrook Neighborhood Association (SNA) met virtually on March 8, where District 6 City Council Candidate Kendra Hicks talked about her platform and addressed resident questions, and SNA members discussed updates from subcommittees.

KENDRA HICKS

District 6 City Council Candidate Kendra Hicks briefly spoke about her campaign and then opened it up to questions from SNA members and residents.

She was asked how she would “operate differently” from incumbent Councilor Matt O’Malley should she be elected.

“I think that the political conditions, not only in the neighborhood but in the entire country have shifted where we need people in leadership who have a different vantage point to the issues that are really plaguing our city and I. Think that my professional experience, but also my personal experience gives me that unique vantage point to be able to create policies that work for many people and not just a few people.”

She said that she believes O’Malley has done a lot for the district, but she wants to “build” upon O’Malley’s environmental work and get down to the more systemic problems behind some

of the issues.

She said focusing on systemic change rather than “individual actions” is important.

“I think that individual changes to behavior are only going to do so much to limit and reverse the damage that we’ve already done,” Hicks said, adding that the city should be “thinking strategically about how and where we decide to build, decreasing our reliance on fossil fuels, and prioritizing and investing in accessible transit for the entire city.”

She continued, “I believe that we can be way more proactive in our goal, right now we have a goal to be a carbon neutral city by 2050, and I think that we can speed that up. I think that we need leaders that are ready to act with the urgency that the impending climate crisis really calls for.”

Hicks said she is “supportive” of a municipal Green New Deal, especially when it comes to green jobs, which are “really going to expand employment opportunities for young people and residents who face barriers to employment.”

Hicks said that her policy platform, “The Six for D6,” has recently been released, and “really gets to the heart of the systemic part of the issues,” where she said she believes she varies from O’Malley’s leadership.

More information about Hicks

and her platform can be found on her website, hicksfordistrictsix.com.

BMS PAPER

Jennifer Uhrhane said that the subcommittee still has issues with the design of the residential building proposed for the BMS Paper site at 3390 Washington St.

She said it is “not great visually,” and digging into the hillside on the back has the potential to damage surrounding apartment buildings on Forest Hills St. She said that the subcommittee has “had good conversations with Bob [Harrington],” who is the owner of BMS Paper, and “he wants to do something to benefit the community.” She added that she believes “he’s not getting what he wants out of his development team and his architect,” and the subcommittee has provided some suggestions about potential changes to the design.

One of those suggestions is to include more larger units with two and three bedrooms for families, instead of so many studio units.

35 BROOKLEY/ 10 STONLEY RD.

Jennifer Uhrhane reported that the proposal at 35 Brookley/10 Stonley Rd. went before the ZBA on February 23 and received approval, which the Gazette reported on.

Uhrhane said that there is frustration, not with the approval, but rather with the process at the ZBA hearing. She said that the “process completely broke down in how they’re doing the review and the community involvement in the review.”

Neither she nor any of the other neighbors were given a chance to make a comment, and she said that instead, the ZBA “asked the developer’s lawyer and the BPDA project manager to speculate on our behalf what our comments were.”

DOYLE’S

Paige Sparks reported that the new Doyle’s restaurant and housing/market proposal for 3474-3484 Washington St. has had two public meetings thus far.

The project is going through Article 80 Small Project review with the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) and the comment period ends on March 26.

Sparks said that the “subcommittee is putting together some of the thoughts about the project and we’ll send that out to the larger SNA when those have been put together.”

The affordability aspect of the project includes both residential units as well as affordable commercial space. The proposal includes three affordable residential units and the “equivalent of eight affordable units that’s

being put towards commercial space,” she said.

The Floor Area Ratio is “double what’s allowed there,” Sparks said, and both buildings have “excessive height violations.” The subcommittee also has questions about the restaurant operation relating to the proposed roof deck and noise, capacity, accessibility, and trash details.

3529 WASHINGTON ST.— VITA, EXTRA SPACE STORAGE, COMMUNITY ROOM AND GARDEN

Leanne Manchineella reported on the garden, saying that “the physical construction of the garden and park space is complete, minus the soil for the garden beds.” She said that the “goal is still this year to open up the waitlist and “get those garden plots assigned.”

She said that they are working with the developer to coordinate the delivery of the soil, and the group has also filed to be a 501c3 nonprofit organization, as this space will require funding for maintenance in the future and a 501c3 status will allow them to apply to raise funds and receive them as a group.

Uhrhane reported that the call for entries for the mural will be opened on March 20, after overcoming many obstacles. She said that winners should be announced by the “end of July or early August.”

Dog License

Continued from page 20

will be subject to a 2.7 percent service fee (the minimum service fee is \$1.00). License applications may also be picked up in person or requested by mail; walk-in and mailed payments are accepted via check or money order.

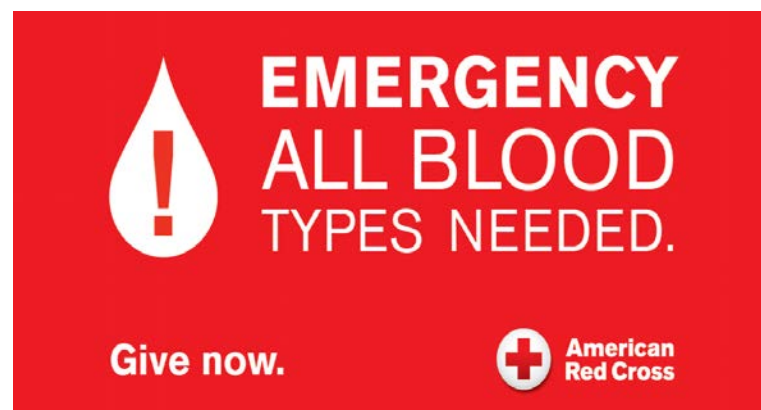
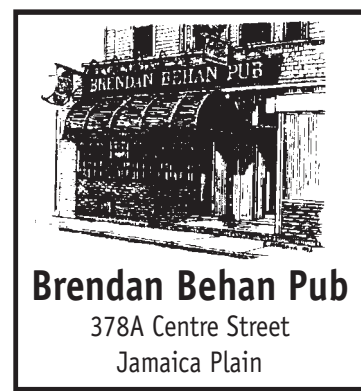
Due to the ongoing COVID-19 health emergency, Animal Care and Control office hours are limited; please contact the office ahead of your visit. Whether you provide your information and payment online, by mail, or in person, your dog’s license will be mailed to you.

If you are renewing a dog license, you will need to provide your dog’s license number. The dog licensing fee is waived for service animals and residents age 70 and older. Owners must

TOP 25 DOG NAMES OF 2020		
<i>Based on City of Boston 2020 Licensing Data</i>		
1. LUNA	10. PENNY	19. ROCKY
2. BELLA	11. OLIVER	20. MILO
3. CHARLIE	12. TEDDY	21. BUDDY
4. LUCY	13. MAGGIE	22. RILEY
5. LOLA	14. STELLA	23. FINN
6. DAISY	15. OLLIE	24. COCO
7. BAILEY	16. MOLLY	25. WINSTON
8. COOPER	17. LILY	
9. MAX	18. SCOUT	

also pay any outstanding Animal Care and Control fines. The fine for an unlicensed dog is \$50. Please call (617) 635-534 or email animalcontrol@boston.gov with any questions about the licensing process or to update your information in the database.

For current social distancing guidelines in City of Boston parks, please visit www.boston.gov/coronavirus.



EDITORIAL

What are they thinking?

Patrick Henry, the fiery American patriot and orator during the American Revolution, famously said, “Give me liberty, or give me death!”

However, Republican governors in some of our Southern and Mid-western states have, under the guise of “freedom,” given that phrase during the current pandemic a 21st century twist:

“Give us liberty AND give us death!”

Ever since COVID-19 first was discovered, there have been a lot of unknowns about the disease and how it is transmitted. Scientists and medical professionals still are discovering new things about this bug and no doubt will continue to do so for years to come.

However, there is ONE thing about which there is now universal acceptance: Masking is THE most effective means we have for stopping the spread of this terrible disease.

Some Republican governors have refused to order public mask mandates for reasons that clearly are about politics and have nothing to do with the health and safety of their citizens.

They make the argument that they want to reopen their states because the economic benefits outweigh the potential negative health consequences. That, at least, is a debatable point.

However, the need to wear masks during a pandemic that fea-tures a virus that is spread by airborne particles from our noses and mouths is not debatable. More to the point, requiring citizens to wear masks is not inconsistent with “reopening” states’ economies. A state can still allow all of its businesses to operate fully AND also require that everyone wear masks at all times.

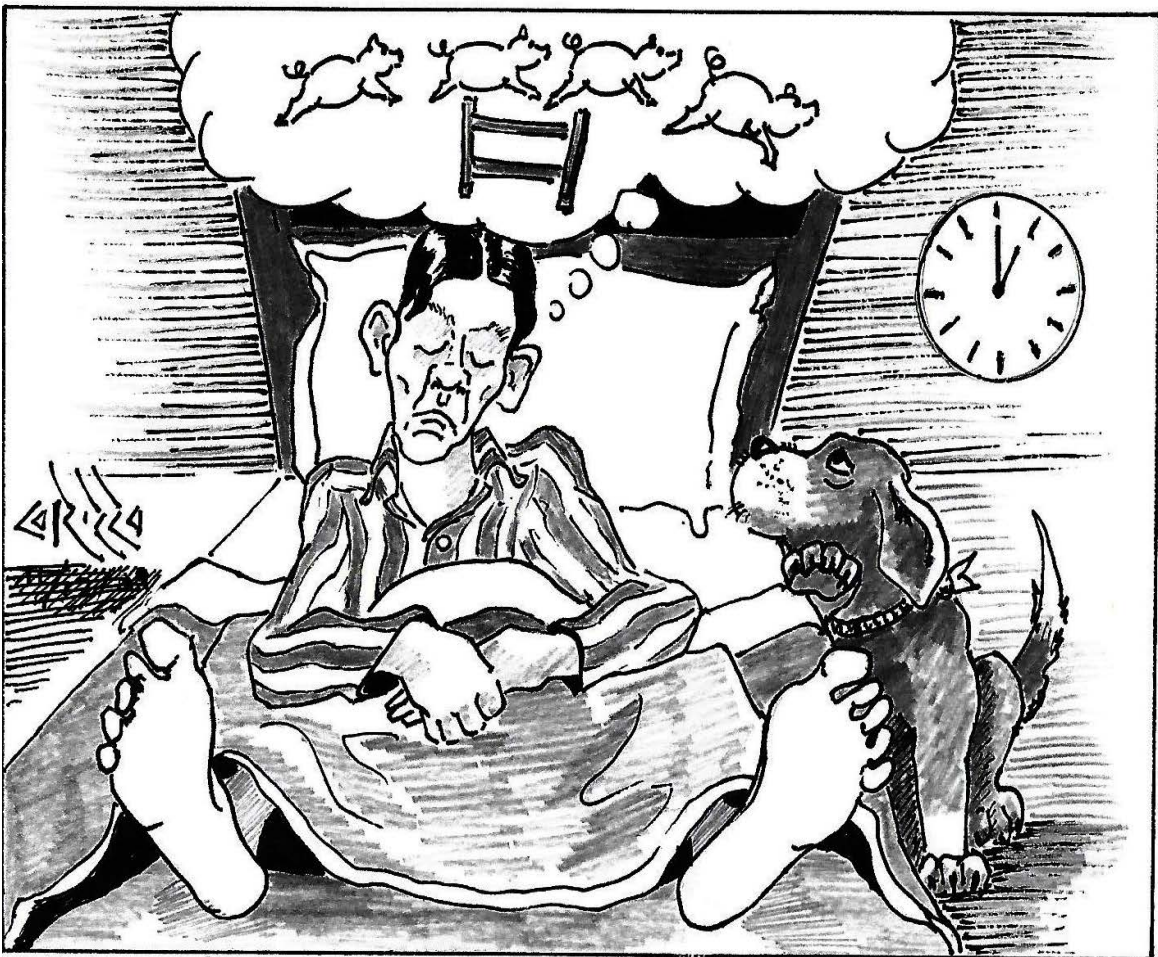
President Joe Biden remarked that these governors, mostly notably Bill Abbott of Texas and Kristi Noem of South Dakota, are “neanderthal” in their thinking. Although the pundits quickly joked that Biden gave the Neanderthals (who became extinct, by the way) a bad name, it is no laughing matter that their dangerous policies will lead to entirely preventable deaths in their states, exposing front-line workers, first-responders, and healthcare providers to unnecessary risk of harm.

Ms. Noem’s state of South Dakota for example, has the fifth-high-est COVID death rate and second-highest infection rate among the 50 states.

Every state has speed limits, stop signs, and red lights on its highways. Every state requires every citizen to wear pants in public at all times. The suggestion that a mask mandate during a public health crisis represents an impingement on personal freedom is absurd on its face (no pun intended).

We are fortunate that in Massachusetts and surrounding states, masking at all times has been widely-accepted since the beginning of the pandemic. We have a governor and a public health infrastructure that have left no doubt about the need for everyone to wear masks while among others.

There may be a lot of unknowns about COVID-19, but the efficacy of wearing masks is not one of them.



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS MARCH 14
SET CLOCKS AHEAD 1 HOUR.

Op-Ed

Rollins in support of H.R. 1280 –
George Floyd Justice in Policing Act

By DA RACHAEL ROLLINS

America as a whole is just be-ginning to recognize what Black and brown people have known for generations – that law en-forcement and the criminal legal system do not treat all people equally. As leaders and elected prosecutors work to create more just and equitable systems at the local level, the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2021 is working at the national level to do the same.

This legislation is an import-ant step toward addressing sys-temic racism and abuses as a country while striving to build greater trust in our criminal le-gal system and helping acknowl-edge our nation’s painful origins

and history of targeted harm and oppression. This bill improves the ability of individuals and communities to seek account-ability for abuses of power and civil rights violations committed by members of law enforcement. It reinforces the core belief that those who serve in positions of authority should be held to a higher standard.

The majority of the police of-ficers and law enforcement part-ners that my staff and I work with everyday meet this high expectation. They represent their agencies and their badge with honor, exhibiting cultural competence and restraint in all of their encounters with com-munity. This federal legislation takes steps to address the actions of the outliers, those officers who

display malice, hate, violence, and escalation in their encoun-ters with poor, Black and brown communities. By acknowledg-ing the systemic racism built into the very fabric of our crim-inal legal system and the law enforcement agencies that are entrusted to serve and protect every community, but often have tensions within diverse commu-nities across the country, we have begun walking the long path to reconciliation and healing.

I want to thank the Massa-chusetts congressional delega-tion for unanimously supporting this bill, and I urge the Senate to take swift action and send it to President Biden’s desk.

Rachel Rollins is the District At-torney for Suffolk County.

PLEASE WRITE...

The Gazette welcomes letters to the editor.

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Please include address and telephone number for verification purposes.

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OP-ED

World Water Day 2021: Cleaner Rivers for Massachusetts

BY JULIA BLATT

As Massachusetts observes World Water Day this year, our state's communities have particular reason to celebrate. The Massachusetts legislature recently enacted (and Governor Baker signed into law) a state sewage notification bill. This important new law has been a long time coming.

World Water Day falls on March 22nd of each year. Since it first became a United Nations Observance Day in 1993, World Water Day has served as a time to think about, and take action to address, the water crisis. In 2021, World Water Day focuses on the environmental, social and cultural value people place on water. The day provides Massachusetts residents an opportunity to consider the importance of clean water. Clean water is not something to take for granted.

On this year's World Water Day, Massachusetts Rivers Alliance, the Voice of Massachusetts Rivers, is celebrating a major step the state has taken toward ensuring safer rivers. For years, Mass Rivers led advocacy efforts with many partners to pass a state law requiring sewer operators to establish a notification system. The goal was to let the public know when there is a sewage discharge into a public waterbody, so residents could avoid contaminated waters.

Fecal bacteria poses many public health threats, including ear and eye infections, skin rashes, hepatitis, and inflammation of the intestines. Emerging research also suggests that fecal bacteria can spread COVID-19.

Many cities in the Northeast combine sewage and stormwater collection systems, a relic of long-ago urban engineering. These systems are designed to bypass wastewater treatment facilities if the volume of water is too much for the facilities to handle. For these aging systems, heavy rain sends a mixture of untreated sewage and stormwater into local waterways. Until now, there was no way for the public to know when these discharges occurred, leaving people downstream at risk of contact with contaminat-

ed waters.

In 2018, an especially large volume of sewage pollution was discharged into the Merrimack River. As a downstream community, Newburyport bore the brunt of all this sewage winding up in their waters.

The problems experienced in Newburyport, however, are not unique. Sewage discharges regularly harm water quality in our state. In Massachusetts, there are 181 combined sewer overflow (CSO) outfalls, and 24 CSO permittees. In a typical year, Massachusetts' waterways receive almost 3 billion gallons of untreated and partially treated sewage mixed with stormwater from CSOs. These outfalls are concentrated in urban areas, like Fall River, Lawrence, and Lowell, making CSO pollution an environmental justice issue, as the closest waterways to residents of urban neighborhoods may be contaminated without their knowing.

The Massachusetts sewage notification bill was filed during five consecutive legislative sessions. Finally, in the summer of 2020, the bill passed the Massachusetts House of Representatives unanimously, and was sent to the Senate, where it sat until the final hours of the legislative session in January 2021. In quick succession that night, the Senate

voted to pass it, and the House agreed to Senate modifications, sending the bill to the Governor's desk. Governor Baker signed the bill on January 12, 2021.

Raw and partially treated sewage should never be discharged into our waters. Public notification of sewage discharges is an important first step, and Mass Rivers hopes the new law will lead to a greater public willingness to invest in much needed water infrastructure, including separating these combined sewer systems. These are expensive projects, but these investments are critical to protecting our environment, public health and safety, and ensuring environmental justice and climate resiliency. On World Water Day 2021, Mass Rivers encourages all Massachusetts residents to pledge themselves to the goal of clean, safe water for all.

Massachusetts Rivers Alliance is an alliance of 80 organizational members across the Commonwealth. Founded in 2007, Mass Rivers works to strengthen statewide river policies in four areas: water quality, streamflow, wildlife habitat, and investment in green infrastructure.

Julia Blatt is the Executive Director, Massachusetts Rivers Alliance.

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

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LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Probate And Family Court
24 New Chardon St.
Boston, MA 02114
(617)788-8300

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Docket No. SU21P0352EA

Estate of: Audrey Joyce
Date of Death: 12/27/2020

To all interested persons:

A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Charles McCormack of Bolton, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: Charles McCormack of Bolton, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/07/2021.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you. UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly

from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: February 25, 2021

Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate
3/12/21 JP

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Probate And Family Court
24 New Chardon St.
Boston, MA 02114
(617)788-8300

CITATION ON PETITION FOR SALE OF REAL ESTATE BY A PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE
Docket No. SU20P1309EA

Estate of: Gary Gelormini
Date of Death: 09/27/2017
To all interested persons:
A Petition for Sale of Real Estate has been

filed by: Anthony Gelormini of Saugus, MA requesting that the Court authorize the Personal Representative to sell the decedent's real estate at a private sale.

IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 10:00 a.m. on 04/01/2021.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: March 01, 2021
Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate
3/12/21 JP

Do You need to run a legal?

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

Walsh provides update on COVID-19, vaccinations, announces program to drive customers to local businesses

By Lauren Bennett

Mayor Martin Walsh held a press conference on March 9, where he provided an update on

COVID-19, vaccinations, small business assistance, and Boston Public Schools (BPS).

Walsh said that for the week

ending with February 28, the seven day average positive test rate was 3.6 percent, which he said was “much better” than

numbers in January. However, he said that the city has seen “a little bit of an uptick” in positive cases over the past 10 days, and is trying to “figure out what the reasoning is for that.”

Walsh also advised residents to “be careful during St. Patrick’s Day,” and reminded people that the parade has been cancelled again this year.

“Don’t out our progress as risk because people want to have a party at St. Patrick’s Day,” Walsh said, adding that there will be “plenty of opportunity to celebrate when the pandemic is over.”

VACCINES

Walsh said that as of March 3, more than 113,000 Boston residents age 16 and older have received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, and more than 56,000 of Boston residents 16 and older have received both doses.

“We’re starting to see those doses moving quickly,” he said.

“We’re working to increase equity in this process for any resident or community that may face barriers,” Walsh said, adding that access is being focused on in the Black, Latino, Asian, and immigrant communities, and that work includes spreading information about the vaccine and building trust.

“We are focusing on access for the elderly right now and those with disabilities,” Walsh added. Right now, Boston has nearly 20 vaccination sites: eight community-based sites, nine pharmacy sites, and two mass vaccination sites at Fenway Park (soon to be relocated to the Hynes Convention Center on March 18) and the Reggie Lewis Center in Roxbury.

Walsh said that the Reggie Lewis Center will “continue to hold 50 percent of appointments for local residents of color.”

Additionally, the city launched a mobile vaccination pilot clinic at the Martin Luther King Towers in Roxbury, and this week, the mobile clinic will visit Hyde Park, and mobile clinics will also come to more Boston Housing Authority communities in the future.

“Over 100 senior buildings

in Boston are providing on-site vaccinations for their residents,” Walsh said, which includes both public and private buildings.

LOCAL BUSINESSES

Walsh had previously announced that the city’s outdoor dining program will return on April 1, but he said he is trying to see if that can be moved to an earlier date.

He also announced a new app and program called B-Local, which will “help residents find local, Black owned, women owned, and Main Street businesses,” he said. “These are businesses in the heart of our city.”

As part of the program, “customers can collect ‘Boston Points’ and use them like cash at participating businesses,” Walsh said. The city will then “reimburse small businesses for Boston Points redeemed at their establishments.”

Walsh said that the city is looking for businesses to participate in this app, as it will help promote their businesses and bring customers to local businesses across the city.

As it’s been a tough year for small businesses, Walsh said this program was designed as part of an effort to “get them threw these next few months.”

For more information on the program, visit boston.gov/blocal. BPS

As it nears a year since BPS has been open full time for all students, Walsh said “it’s amazing t see how far that our schools have come.”

Last week, all Pre-K through third grade students returned to in-person learning if their families chose that option. Starting next week, grades 4-8 will be joining them, and grades 9-12 beginning the week of March 29, “permitting public health data saying it’s safe,” Walsh said. “Right now, the numbers look great.”

He said that all schools have safety measures in place, with students, staff, and teachers wearing masks, staying separated, hand sanitizer stations, and air purification systems in place.

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