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# Jamaica Plain GAZETTE

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## ESAC awarded \$100,000 Cummings grant

STAF REPORT

Ecumenical Social Action Committee is one of 140 local nonprofits to receive grants through Cummings Foundation's \$25 Million Grant program. The Boston-based organization was chosen from a total of 590 applicants during a competitive review process. It will receive \$100,000 over 4 years.

Since 1965, Ecumenical Social Action Committee has addressed the unmet needs of

Continued on page 14



Ecumenical Social Action Committee Executive Director, Dr. Peg Drisko, and Associate Business Manager, Kim Gibson, celebrating the news of their recent award from Cummings Foundation.

## E-13 Officer William "Billy" Jones to retire

BY LAURA PLUMMER

District E-13 of the Boston Police Department (BPD) is bidding farewell at the end of the month to one of its long-time officers, Officer William "Billy" Jones, who has served at the location since its opening nearly three decades ago.

In 1995, following military service, Officer Jones began his tenure with BPD at District E-18

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PHOTO COURTESY OF BPD  
Officer Jones receiving a special commissioner's commendation

## El oficial de E-13 William "Billy" Jones se jubila

BY LAURA PLUMMER

El Distrito E-13 del Departamento de Policía de Boston (BPD) se despidе de uno de sus oficiales de mucho tiempo, el oficial William "Billy" Jones, quien ha servido en el lugar desde su apertura hace casi tres décadas.

En 1995, después del servicio militar, el oficial Jones comenzó

Continued on page 4

## Complaints filed against project on Washington St.

BY LAUREN BENNETT

Monty Gold, the owner of the building at 3377 Washington St., home to Turtle Swamp Brewing, has filed another suit against the Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA) decision to approve the affordable senior housing project at 3371-3375 Washington St. This lawsuit comes a little over a week after settling a suit regarding the affordable housing project at 3368 Washington St.

This time, Turtle Swamp Brewing has also filed its own suit against the decision, and is a direct abutter to the proposed

project.

The brewery was not party to the lawsuit against the project at 3368 Washington St.

The project at 3371 Washington St., proposed by the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation (JPND), along with New Atlantic Development, is to build a five story, 38 unit affordable senior housing development on the site, as well as create a new commercial space for El Embajador restaurant, which currently occupies

Continued on page 7

## BPDA public meeting held for Doyle's Cafe proposal

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) held a public meeting on May 20, where developer Lee Goodman and architect Elaine Scales presented the most recent iteration of the proposal to revive Doyle's Cafe and add housing and a grocery market to the site.

Goodman explained that there are two proposed phases to the project, the first including the restaurant, the market, 1 Gartland St., and 60 Williams St., and the second including 69 Williams St.

The housing proposed above the market (1 Gartland) will be a total of four stories and 16 units, four on each floor, and at 60 Williams St., seven units are proposed. Another six units will

be added during the 69 Williams St. phase.

Including both phases of the project, there are a total of four units proposed under the city's Inclusionary Development Policy (IDP), he said. For the housing above the market, there are four condo units per floor, for a total of 16 units.

For parking, there are 56 total spaces proposed, Goodman said.

The restaurant will be operated by Brassica Kitchen + Cafe, headed by Jay Kean.

He then talked about compliance with PLAN: JP/Rox, saying that there are setbacks proposed for the fifth floor, and "we did not build to the property line."

PLAN:JP/Rox allows for a height of 55 feet, and the pro-

Continued on page 3



"Those who have long enjoyed such privileges as we enjoy forget in time that men have died to win them." — Franklin D. Roosevelt

Celebrate Safely this Memorial Day!

# JP OBSERVER

## Walking the Walk and Talking the Talk: JP Historical Society Does Both—and More

By SANDRA STOREY / SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Riddle: What's a special sign it's spring in Jamaica Plain?

Answer: You start seeing groups of people touring parts of the neighborhood on Saturday mornings. You might even be one of tourists.

The Jamaica Plain Historical Society (JPHS) is in its 26th year of conducting free historical walking tours, usually from mid-May through mid-September on Saturday mornings. This year, almost 30 tours are planned, including walks in these areas: Green Street, Hyde Square, Jamaica Pond, Monu-

ment Square, Stony Brook (area near the T station), Sumner Hill and Woodbourne. Two years ago, Spanish-speaking guides started leading additional tours of Hyde Square and Stony Brook in Spanish.

JPHS even managed to do tours starting in July last summer when covid guidelines were strict, President Gretchen Grozier said in an interview earlier this month. Typical of group's creativity and resourcefulness, they used more guides than usual, divided into smaller groups, and the guides had small, por-

table sound systems so everyone could social distance in their masks.

For a map of JP showing its sub-neighborhoods, see the Jamaica Plain Gazette home page. That will bring up a double riddle: Why are two areas of JP called "Stony Brook" and "Stonybrook," and where are they located? Which one has the tour?

JPHS, voted Best Neighborhood Group by Gazette readers in 2017, is "one of the most active" historical societies around, Grozier confirmed. Founded in 1987, its incredibly helpful website was created by Charlie Rosenburg in 1997 and is still managed by him, with Grozier and others contributing. The noted website, JPHS.org, offers detailed information about JPHS walks and events and how to attend them as well as how to submit historic photos and articles about JP.

The amazing site contains 300 articles, 1,700 historic images carefully gathered and organized as well as some original resources, like maps, for historical information about JP.

One of the most recent articles is about 3474 Washington Street next to Doyle's "built sometime between 1874 and 1886 by Isaac Harris Cary, a

prominent merchant and real estate developer from Jamaica Plain. The double-frame house, located at the corner of Washington and Gartland Streets, is built in the Gothic Revival style..." according to author Jenny Nathans. The property is part of a proposed mixed-use development under Small Project Review at the Boston Planning & Development Agency.

The website is entertaining and educational at the same time. A lot of people know this. JPHS.org had 124,000 impressions [looks at specific items on its pages] last year, Grozier said. History articles are grouped according to three eras, people, locales, transportation and latest items.

In addition to its other activities, JPHS sends out a monthly newsletter and sponsors historic talks and films.

A film screening of "Borderland—The Life & Times of Blanche Ames Ames" will be next on the plentiful docket of programs of JPHS on June 5. The "artist, activist, builder, inventor, birth control maverick and a leader within the woman suffrage movement in Massachusetts" has an "intriguing connection to JP," according to the website, which gives infor-

mation about how to sign up to see it.

JPHS has also collected archives which are now housed at the UMass/Boston. The Jamaica Plain Gazette, one of many parties to contribute, has donated old photos and history articles, many collected and written by the late Walter Marx, to the archives in the early 2000s.

JP is definitely lucky to have such a terrific organization to meticulously keep and share neighborhood memories for us. The group has 350 members at the moment and dozens of volunteers, but it has no desk, no phone, no office.

Grozier, president since 2008, said she is inspired by the "richness of the history, the huge array of people and the historic buildings" in JP. She added she likes that it is "continually changing" and has a "history of activism." Asked if there is anything she would like to know more about in JP, she said "the indigenous people who lived here."

Everyone who is interested in the JP community today and concerned about its future should know about its history. Joining JPHS is an inexpensive good idea. Once again, see the website for more information.



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Equal Housing Opportunity



## Acting Mayor Janey kicks off Joy Agenda

Initiative looking for artist to create mural in Mozart Park

By JOHN LYNDIS

Last week, Acting Mayor Kim Janey, in collaboration with the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture, Boston Parks Department and the Mayor's Office of New Urban Mechanics, announced the "Joy Agenda" initiative.

According to Janey the Joy Agenda is a city-wide invitation and opportunity for local artists to take part in a Transformative Public Art Program that includes creating a mural in Mozart Park in Jamaica Plain.

"After over a year of incredible hardships caused by COVID-19 and acts of violence against communities of color across the country, we're looking at ways we can foster an equitable recovery that

allows all residents of Boston to thrive," said Janey. "We believe that by emphasizing the power of joy in healing and growth, we'll be able to come back together as a stronger, more welcoming city."

A key part of this work includes a focus on City-led initiatives that create job opportunities for creative workers across artistic disciplines throughout communities, organizations, and City departments. The Transformative Public Art Program, led by the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture, is one element of this initiative.

For the Mozart Park mural project, interested artists will have an opportunity to apply for a grant between \$25,000-\$75,000.

The artist that receives the grant will then work with Hyde

Square Task Force and community members to create a mural for Boston's Latin Quarter in Mozart Park.

The deadline to apply for this opportunity is Wednesday, June 16 at 5 p.m. Artists can apply at <https://cityofbostonartsandculture.submittable.com/submit/194885/transformative-public-art-the-joy-agenda>.

"This past year, we saw so many artists bring together communities amid social isolation and provide collective opportunities for processing grief, healing, and joy," said Chief of Arts and Culture for the City of Boston Kara Elliott-Ortega. "This program will bring more arts opportunities to Boston, while also investing in artists and creative workers who need our support now more than ever."



# Doyle's

*Continued from page 1*

posed height of the building is 56 feet on Washington St. and 42 feet on Williams St. for the residential portion of the proposal. There is also a proposed roof deck above the Doyle's restaurant that will feature heaters to extend the amount of time the deck can be used.

"We think it will be a great place for everyone to gather," Goodman said.

Scales said that when designing the building, she was "envisioning a strong commercial base," that is "distinct from the residential units."

She said that the "strong" commercial sign band from the original Doyle's will remain on the new restaurant, and wrap all the way around the building. She also said that there are storefront windows proposed as well.

"We want to make that open and inviting and strong," Scales said. Additionally, there will be a stepback at the second floor level.

"We wanted to use the red brick," Scales continued, as it's a "very iconic building material in Boston."

She talked about the entrance to the housing on Gartland St., saying that it "won't feel like you're getting mixed up with commercial activity."

Additionally, about nine street trees will be added, and the sidewalks will be expanded to comply with the city's Com-

plete Streets program.

Goodman said that one change that has been made from previous proposals of this project is that the community had asked for gender neutral bathrooms, which have been added to the proposal.

The market would be 5,188 square feet, and would have a "shared service area where deliveries would come," Goodman said.

He then talked about the automated stacker parking system that will have three levels of parking. It would be located under the second floor of housing and away from the the public parking.

Many residents spoke out in favor of the project, saying that they were excited to have a revamped version of the beloved Doyle's restaurant, as well as more housing in the neighborhood and a grocery market that is so desperately needed in the area.

Resident Jan Wampler said that there is an "onslaught of housing on Washington Street," but "the scale of this one is much more appropriate than the other ones we have seen."

He also said that he was "concerned about the starkness of glass" on the residential housing portion.

Goodman said that he believes the stepback "was intended to help alleviate that," but "your point is taken and we can look at that."

Resident Sue Cilibulsky, who is also a member of the Stonybrook Neighborhood Association (SNA), said that she thinks this

project has a "beautiful design," and praised Scales' other work in the neighborhood. She also said that Goodman "has a really good reputation" in the community, and also spoke favorably of Brassica.

"A grocery market has been on the list for our neighborhood," she said, adding "I'm strongly in favor of the whole package."

Resident Jenny Nathans wondered why the inside of the existing Doyle's building is not being restored.

Goodman said that not a lot of money had been put into the building over the years to maintain it and bring it up to code. He said the existing building is "not handicap accessible," nor is it "really up to sprinkler code."

He continued, "in order to

make every access point, you have to drop the whole first floor down." These changes will have to be made within the building to make it work for the project.

Goodman did say that "we think we can do a good job trying to put it back together in a way," by restoring the bar and some other memorabilia from the original restaurant.

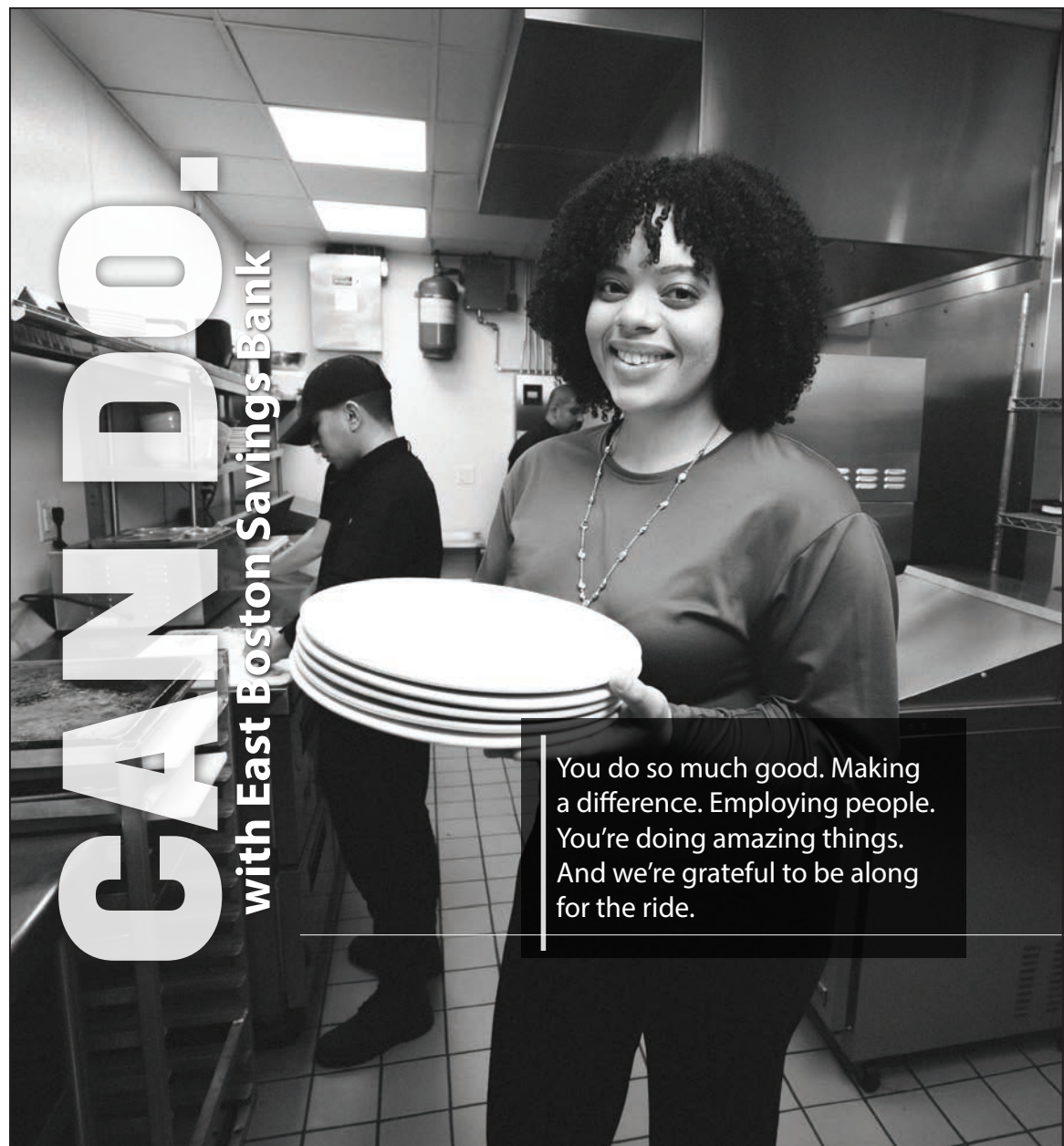
When it comes to zoning violations, Goodman said that it's "a little misleading the amount of variances we have," and though he said he did not have the zoning refusal letter readily available at the meeting, he said that there are "tons of violations" because the area is zoned for local industrial but the proposal includes housing, which is not an allowed use in the area.

BPDA Project Manager Lance Campbell said that diving into the zoning requirements is "ISD's job," and that he is "not at liberty" to do so.

Another question was raised from resident Alcurtis Clark was about the second proposed grocery market as part of the BMS Paper project down the street.

Goodman said that this one would be "more of a corner store," adding that "I hope it doesn't compete with him and they could both coexist quite well."

For more information on the Doyle's project as well as to view the full meeting video with all comments and questions raised, visit the BPDA project site at [bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/doyle-s-cafe-restoration](http://bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/doyle-s-cafe-restoration).



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## William Jones

*Continued from page 1*

in Hyde Park. He then moved to District E-13 in 1996, where his assignments included rapid response, transport wagon and undercover work. He eventually became a peer support officer, and finally a community service officer for the past 11 years.

Officer Jones acted as the district liaison at a number of community meetings including the

Egleston Square Neighborhood Assoc., Hyde Square Task Force, Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council, and the South Street Youth Center. He encouraged robust dialogue regarding law enforcement.

A familiar face in the community, Officer Jones could be seen entertaining kids at police-organized barbecues in the summer, and dressing up as Santa during the holidays. He was a central figure at community events like National Night Out and Wake Up the Earth, and initiatives

such as the Healthy Families Program and the Youth Police Academy.

Officer Jones was also the leader of the district's R.A.D. program, which teaches self defense to civilians. Over the years, he received ongoing praise for his work in the community from elected officials including City Councilor Matt O'Malley and State Rep. Liz Malia.

In 2017, Officer Jones received a special commendation by BPD Police Commissioner William Evans for his handling

of a confrontation with an armed man in emotional distress. He and a fellow officer used deescalation techniques to calm the individual, eventually convincing him to lay down his weapons. Commissioner Evans praised his "tremendous courage, composure, and restraint."

Sgt. John Dougherty worked with Officer Jones since 2016, when he was first assigned to E-13.

"Billy was one of the most reliable, dependable, proactive and helpful officers in the dis-

trict," he told the Gazette. "[He] has served as a bright example of dedication and community focus."

Officer Jones' last day with the department will be May 31. He is currently researching volunteer opportunities with various organizations.

"It's been an honor to work at District E-13," he said in an email.

Officer's Jones' colleagues at E-13 thank him for his service and wish him health and happiness in his retirement.

## William Jones

*Continued from page 1*

su mandato con BPD en el Distrito E-18 en Hyde Park. Luego se mudó al Distrito E-13 en 1996, donde sus asignaciones incluyeron la respuesta rápida, el vagón de transporte y el trabajo encubierto. Con el tiempo llegó a ser oficial de apoyo entre pares y, finalmente, oficial de servicio comunitario durante los últimos 11 años.

El oficial Jones actuó como

enlace a una serie de organizaciones comunitarias, incluidas la Egleston Square Neighborhood Association, Hyde Square Task Force, Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council y South Street Youth Center. Fomentó un diálogo sólido respecto a la aplicación de la ley.

Un rostro familiar en la comunidad, se podía ver al oficial Jones entretener a los niños en las barbacoas organizadas por la policía en el verano, y disfrazarse de Santa durante las vacaciones navideñas. Estuvo en el centro

de eventos comunitarios como National Night Out y Wake Up the Earth, e iniciativas como el Programa de Familias Saludables y la Academia de Policía Juvenil.

El oficial Jones también fue el líder del programa RAD, que enseña defensa personal a civiles. A lo largo de los años, recibió elogios continuos por su trabajo en la comunidad de parte de funcionarios electos, incluidos el concejal Matt O'Malley y la representante estatal Liz Malia.

En 2017, el oficial Jones re-

cibió un elogio especial del comisionado de policía de BPD, William Evans, por su manejo de una confrontación con un hombre armado en angustia emocional. Utilizó técnicas de desescalamiento para calmar al individuo, y finalmente lo convenció de que deponga las armas. El comisionado Evans elogió el "tremendo coraje" del oficial Jones.

El Sargento John Dougherty trabajó con el oficial Jones desde 2016, cuando fue asignado por primera vez al E-13.

"Billy era uno de los oficiales

más confiables, proactivos y serviciales del distrito", le dijo a Gazette. "Ha servido como un brillante ejemplo de la dedicación y el enfoque comunitario".

El último día del oficial Jones con el departamento será el 31 de mayo. Actualmente está investigando oportunidades con varias organizaciones.

Ha sido un honor trabajar en el Distrito E-13", dijo en un correo electrónico.

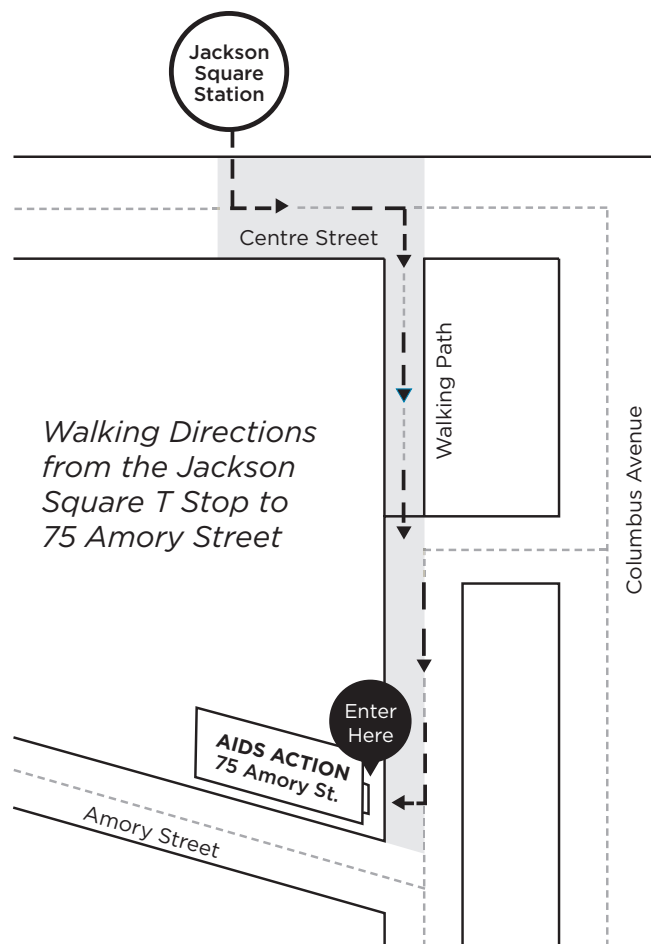
Los colegas del oficial Jones le agradecen su servicio y le desean salud y felicidad en su futuro.

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Building a Healthy Boston



CITY OF BOSTON



# JPNC discusses local developments and its election; hears from D6 candidate Kelly Ransom

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC) met virtually on May 25, where members discussed committee updates as well as heard from District 6 City Council candidate Kelly Ransom.

7). 54 Danforth Street to construct dormer over bathroom and renovate bathroom;

8). 79 Perkins Street to change occupancy from three-family to four-family residence, create a unit in basement, and install partial sprinkler system.

## ZONING COMMITTEE:

Zoning Committee Chair Dave Baron reported that none of the matters heard by the committee were particularly controversial, and said that here was “no dissent on any of them.” All were approved by the Council.

The projects are as follows:

1). 56 Lochstead Avenue to increase the size of an existing deck;

2). 15 Jess Street to create curb cut per plans;

3). 15 Rocky Nook Terrace #3 to add roof dormers to third-floor unit;

4). 5 Wise Street to confirm legal occupancy as two-family residence and expand living space into basement;

5). 22 Sedgwick Street to construct new dormer on right side of house per plans;

6). 41-41A Green Street a/k/a 43 Green Street to install new deck;

## HOUSING &

## DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Marvin Mathelier reported that the housing and development committee discussed sending letters to various organizations for different projects, including support for the the Mildred Hailey 1B building proposal, the MBTA regarding support for funding for a new bus facility at the Arborway Yard, and an Article 80 comment letter regarding the Doyle’s project on Washington St.

Mathelier explained that the committee was in favor of the Doyle’s proposal to bring back a revived version of the beloved Doyle’s Cafe, along with housing and a grocery market. The project is being developed by Watermark Development and designed by architect Elaine Scales. The proposal includes four affordable units as part of the city’s Inclusionary Development Policy (IDP), but he said that the com-

mittee wants to ask the developer to include even more units between 70 and 100 percent of the Area Median Income.

Additionally, the committee would like to see the housing units be electric, not gas.

He said that the committee liked that the development is “very transit-oriented,” and includes bike parking. They also appreciated that the “Doyle’s look and feel” was going to be kept for the new restaurant, and the project supports local businesses.

“The developer has been very engaged with the community,” Mathelier said, adding that he’s heard of several residents getting a quick response from Lee Goodman of Watermark Development when they reach out with questions or concerns.

There was also some discussion amongst council members about the affordability of the restaurant space that is being offered to Brassica Kitchen + Cafe, who will operate the new Doyle’s.

Paige Sparks, a JP resident and a member of the Stonybrook Neighborhood Association’s steering committee said that a remaining question relates to the timeline of the affordability

of the space. “Affordable housing units stay affordable for 30, up to 50 years,” she said. “The developer is saying he needs to give commercial space affordability” as it is “such a tough time for restaurants right now.”

She said the “question is, will the affordable space stay, and for how long?”

The JPNC voted to submit the comment letter as it had been drafted.

## PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE

Committee chair Michael Reiskind reported that there was not much to report, but the discussion of a Good Community Business policy will continue.

## OUTREACH AND ELECTION COMMITTEE

The JPNC election, which had been postponed several times from last year’s original date, will be taking place on July 24. Nomination papers will be made available on May 28.

Committee Chair Max Glikman said that the papers will be made available digitally as a PDF, but paper copies will be available should someone need one.

He said that the committee is “encouraging candidates to collect signatures electronically

via a website called iPetitions.”

The election will be held in-person on July 24, with polling locations at Stop and Shop on Centre St., JP Licks on Centre St., and at Forest Hills “inside what used to be the Harvest [Co-Op],” Glikman said.

He also said that volunteers are needed to count votes as well as help out at the polling stations. Tables and chairs also need to be borrowed for the polling locations.

JPNC member Michael Reiskind said that “the candidates have to decide whether they should run at-large or an area seat,” adding that 25 signatures are required to run for an area seat, and 50 are needed if running at-large.

He said that that type of outreach is an “important showing” of the “flag for the Neighborhood Council.”

Those wishing to run need to collect signatures, then collect votes, and also round up volunteers to help out.

Rainsford added that all candidates should submit a 150 word bio with their nomination packet, as well as a photo of themselves.

*Continued on Page 7*



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# Complaints

*Continued from page 1*

the space but has faced threats of eviction in the past.

In a complaint filed on May 21, Turtle Swamp Brewing (via its attorneys) says that “in short, this development is too big, too close to its neighbors, and does not provide parking or loading areas sufficient to serve the Project. These Code provisions are intended to protect neighboring land uses and the sheer number of variances needed, and granted, amounts to a complete re-zoning of the Project parcel in violation of Massachusetts law.”

In Gold’s separate lawsuit, it states that “...The Plaintiff contends that the Board exceeded its authority and made a decision that was arbitrary and capricious which did not meet the legal standard for a variance.”

Additionally, it states that “...the Project will result in adverse impacts to Plaintiff’s Property during construction resulting in harm to the operation of [Turtle Swamp Brewing’s (TSB)] business. The development will adversely impact Plaintiff and TSB’s utility service and after construction traffic and parking impacts will harm TSB’s operations.”

Overall, the project has received positive feedback from the community, as many JP residents said they would like to see more affordable units be built in the neighborhood, as well as to preserve a small business. Turtle Swamp owners John Lincecum and Nik Walther have both expressed their support for the building of affordable housing in the neighborhood at community meetings, but have also brought up their concerns for their loading zone and the impact of construction adjacent to the Turtle Swamp property.

The Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC) also held an informal discussion regarding the lawsuit at its May 25 meeting.

“I think the lawsuit is frivolous and they should not sue JPND, JPNC member Max Glikman said.

“I think it’s just a shame to have JPND and a local business at odds with each other,” said member Carolyn Royce. “I’m really hopeful something will be worked out...it’s unfortunate.”

City Life/Vida Urbana, which

has also rallied to support affordable housing in general. But the project 3368 Washington St. and this project have been especially supported recently given the opposition from Gold and now also Turtle Swamp.

Alex Ponte-Capellan, a Community Organizer at City Life/Vida Urbana, told the Gazette that “this project has been through the community process for two years and I know that [JPND has] made commitments around construction issues that Turtle Swamp has raised to minimize any issues that they have, but Turtle Swamp and Monty Gold continue to sue this project and that is just creating an existential crisis for the Latino owned business that’s there that’s been a part of the community for 30 years, as well as blocking much-needed housing for low-income seniors.”

Following the first lawsuit against 3368 Washington St., City Life created a petition asking Monty Gold to drop the lawsuit. That suit was settled, but now another petition has been created asking Turtle Swamp and Gold to drop this lawsuit and has already received more than 800 signatures.

“We’re going to continue to support affordable housing in JP, especially when there’s tons of luxury developments going up all down Washington St.,” Ponte-Capellan said.

“They may have their con-

cerns around construction, but to my knowledge, JPND is more than willing to come to the table...and propose real solutions that will mitigate whatever issues they have,” he added.

In a statement, JPND CEO Teronda Ellis said that “with any proposed project, JPND is committed to working with abut-

ters to address their concerns. We know from experience that it is possible to build affordable homes and be good neighbors. We are 100% committed to minimizing the impact of the 3371 Washington project on Turtle Swamp’s operations.

We appreciate the tremendous support we have received

from hundreds of residents regarding this project, and look forward to building it and continuing to advance our mission.”

The JPND’s full statement as well as commitment to mitigation for this project can be found at [jpndc.org/in-planning-3371-washington-street](http://jpndc.org/in-planning-3371-washington-street).

## JPNC

*Continued from page 6*

### KELLY RANSOM, CANDIDATE FOR DISTRICT 6 CITY COUNCIL

Kelly Ransom is a longtime community activist in District 6, and has introduced herself as a candidate for City Council at various different community meetings and events so far.

She came before the JPNC on Tuesday evening to talk a little bit about herself, as well as answer questions from council members.

“I am a natural connector,”

she said at the meeting, adding that she has been “bringing people together since I was 15 years old. I’ve continuously brought people together to create a community vision,” such as organizing the Latin Quarter World’s Fair or working for the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation.

She said she feels this is one of her strengths that would help her as a City Councilor and be able to ensure that every constituent’s voice is heard.

JPNC member Carolyn Royce asked Ransom how she believes she can represent residents who may not be as good at expressing their opinion as others.

Ransom said that it’s “part of my platform that every voice gets included,” and she said she is “committed to consistently door knocking” to hear from residents about what is on their minds.

Glikman asked Ransom, “how will you be a candidate for the entire district?” as it includes West Roxbury and Jamaica Plain.

Ransom said that “West Roxbury has no dedicated development corporation,” which is something she said would be beneficial to the neighborhood.

For more information on Kelly Ransom and her platform and campaign, visit [votekellyransom.com](http://votekellyransom.com).

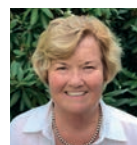


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# Controversy erupts in endorsement by Speaker Mariano

BY SETH DANIEL

A funny thing happened to House Speaker Ron Mariano on the way to endorsing State Rep. and mayoral candidate Jon Santiago – he tripped and fell flat over his words.

In what was to be a banner endorsement day for Santiago on the courtyard of Plaza Betances in the South End, it became an event with a focus on Mariano's off-the-cuff comment about his car being stolen.

Apparently, Mariano said in an apology issued Wednesday, he had been talking to Santiago and other colleagues about attending Northeastern University years ago. At the time, he had his car stolen multiple times, and so when he got to the podium, he tried to keep the narrative going and said he hoped that his car didn't get stolen.

While there was context, it went over like a lead balloon in that heavily Hispanic part of the

South End, and also in a neighborhood that has emerged from being a high-crime area.

"I'm sorry and I regret my comments," Mariano said in a written apology. "It was a poorly delivered attempt at humor referencing my personal experience as a college student in the '60s when my car was stolen, which I had shared with folks at the event prior to the program. My intention was not to portray the neighborhood or the city in a negative light, but to endorse the candidate who I believe should be the next mayor of Boston."

Santiago said he didn't plan to reject the endorsement, but he did say he rejects the comment made about the South End, even if it was a bad attempt at humor.

"Speaker Mariano's comments (Tuesday) morning in the South End were disappointing," said Santiago. "Shortly before our event, I was proudly showing him how much our community

had changed since he was here as a student 50 years ago. He agreed. Friends are honest with each other and I've expressed my concern to him. He's said he's sorry and I accept the apology, but I reject the comment because it's emblematic of the kind of thinking we're trying to move beyond."

When asked if he would reject the endorsement, he said he would not.

"No. The Speaker is my friend and success in expanding opportunity for our city means bringing everyone to the table who wants to be a part of it and having tough conversations," he said. "He's apologized and I accept it and look forward to working with him as mayor to advance the city's needs on Beacon Hill."

The Ward 4 Democratic Committee, which last weekend endorsed Santiago's opponent – Michelle Wu, said the candidate should not accept the endorsement.

*Continued on Page 7*



Erin Murphy, a Dorchester Democrat running for at-large city council, was endorsed Friday by the Boston Firefighters Local 718, becoming the first candidate in the city to receive their endorsement. The firefighters are supporting Erin because of her unwavering commitment to public safety, her fierce devotion to front-line workers and first responders, and her longtime record of standing in support of collective bargaining rights. During a time of deepening economic inequality in our country and our city, Erin has been a public school teacher who raised her family here and has demonstrated her commitment to ensuring that Boston is a safe, affordable, and equitable place to live for every family, in every neighborhood.

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## First Baptist Church to return to in-person outdoor services on June 6

BY LAUREN BENNETT

With the news of all COVID-19 restrictions being lifted by the state on May 29, many businesses and organizations are deciding how they are going to move forward after adapting to changing public health guidelines and operating a certain way for more than a year.

The Gazette spoke with Ashlee Wiest-Laird, a pastor at the First Baptist Church in JP, to learn about the church's plan, as it has been offering virtual mass only since last year.

Wiest-Laird said that the plan right now is to gather on the side lawn of the church, "weather-permitting," for in-person mass beginning on June 6. She said that the church will continue to offer streamed mass alongside the in-person service, as well as when it rains, to be able to accommodate everyone who wants to participate.

She said that the hope is to return to indoor service beginning in September. The reason for not heading indoors sooner is that the Shattuck Child Care Center operates out of the church space during the week, and "they have a very strict protocol," so she said that the church does not want to jump right back into that space and have to worry about properly cleaning it or moving around the items for the preschool.

"We're going to take it slow and we'll still ask people to

mask" during the outdoor service, Wiest-Laird said. She said that while the service will not necessarily prohibit people from shaking hands, it will not be encouraged, either.

"We'll see as the summer goes, too," she said. "Maybe after a month we'll decide it's okay; we don't need the masks." She said that concerns remain for younger children who are not yet able to receive the vaccine. "We're just going to take it in small steps," she said.

She also said that some of the members of the congregation who work in the medical field will be consulted as well to decide what would work best for this particular church group.

Wiest-Laird added that the church's food distribution program is still going strong, and they are even looking at expanding it "because it's still such a huge need."

Some community programs were recently held out on the lawn at First Baptist Church, and she said "you could just feel the excitement" that people experienced to "be back in a space, listening to live music."

Overall, she said she is looking forward to returning to something that feels a little more normal, and is especially excited to sing again during mass.

"There's just a real strong need for that," Wiest-Laird said. "I think everybody's going to be really excited about that."

Mariano should apologize."

Beyond the misstep, the event did feature a cavalcade of state representatives that are backing Santiago. In addition to Mariano, they included Ways & Means Chair Aaron Michlewitz, Majority Leader Claire Cronin, Speaker Pro Tem Kate Hogan, Jim O'Day, Frank Moran, Ed Coppinger, Sean Garbally, Paul Donato, Tommy Vitolo, Meg Kilcoyne, Rich Haggerty, Paul McMurtry, Danielle Gregoire, Bill Driscoll and Jessica Giannino.

## Janey announces launch of 2021 Garden Contest

STAFF REPORT

Mayor Kim Janey and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department today announced that the 25th annual Mayor's Garden Contest is now open, following COVID-19 public health guidelines. The competition provides the opportunity to recognize the gardening skills of Boston residents who contribute to the beauty of the city's landscape. Participants have until 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, July 8 to register. The contest recognizes gardeners who have landscaped, planted flowers, trees, shrubs, and, in the process, helped beautify Boston's neighborhoods. The grand prize of two round trip tickets on JetBlue for non-stop travel from Boston is provided by JetBlue. Additional support will be provided by Mahoney's Garden Centers.

"Boston's gardens and green spaces bring so much joy to our residents," said Mayor Janey. "I

am incredibly grateful to the Mayor's Garden Contest participants for your role in enhancing the natural beauty of our city. This annual event is a perfect example of our recovery, reopening and renewal as the weather gets warmer and as our public health metrics continue to improve."

Gardeners or those nominating their favorite gardeners may find printable and online nomination forms here. Alternatively, gardeners may request an application by emailing their name and address to gardencontest@boston.gov. While online applications are preferred, paper submission forms are available upon request; all paper entries must be postmarked by July 8.

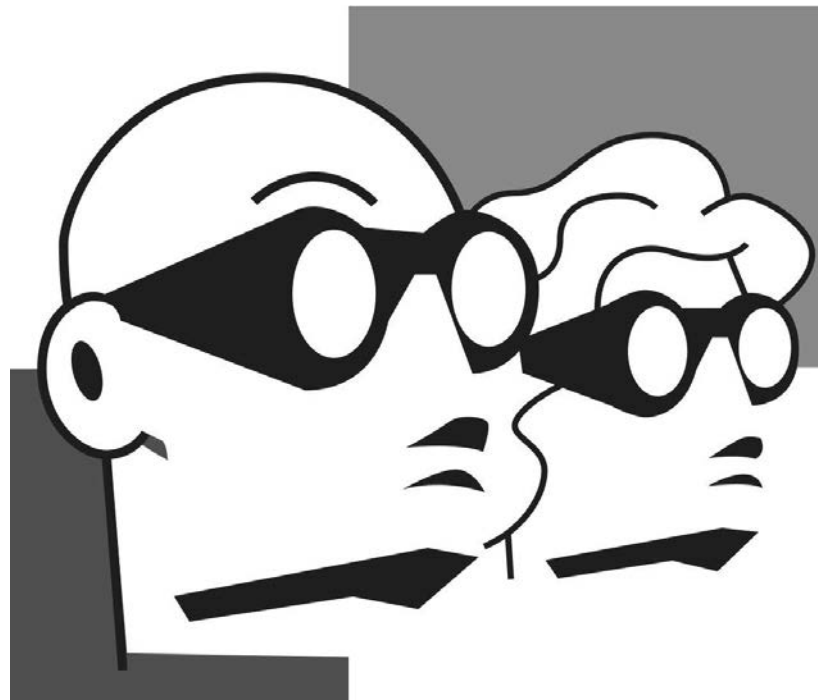
First place winners will receive the "Golden Trowel" award, while second and third place winners will be awarded certificates. The traditional awards ceremony is anticipated to occur in late August, depending on the COVID-19 public health guidelines. To see a list of winners

from last year visit here. Gardeners who have won three or more times in the last ten years will be automatically entered into the Hall of Fame. These distinguished Hall-of-Famers are not eligible to enter as contestants but are invited to return as judges.

The safety of gardeners and contest judges is the top priority of the Boston Parks and Recreation Department. Gardeners should follow all current advisories from the Boston Public Health Commission and the City of Boston. Visit [boston.gov/coronavirus](http://boston.gov/coronavirus) for the latest public health guidance.

Please call (617) 635-4505 or email [gardencontest@boston.gov](mailto:gardencontest@boston.gov) for more information. To stay up to date with news, events, and construction projects in City of Boston Parks, sign up for our email list at [bit.ly/Get-Parks-Emails](http://bit.ly/Get-Parks-Emails) and follow our social channels: @bostonparksdept on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

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## Mariano

*Continued from page 8*

"We cherish the diversity of the South End and believe that our elected officials should be better than making or tolerating racist 'jokes,' as House Speaker Ron Mariano did today during an endorsement event for State Rep. Jon Santiago," said Chair Jonathan Cohn. "Rep. Santiago and his colleagues should disavow such comments, and Speaker



# Community meeting for Egleston Square Library redesign looks at planning options

BY LAUREN BENNETT

A fourth community meeting regarding the redesign of the Egleston Square branch of the Boston Public Library was held on May 18, with the main purpose of looking at planning options and how different programs would work with the library site.

Maureen Anderson of the city's Public Facilities Department said that the study process for this project began in July of last year, and is preparing to wrap up next month.

"The study is only one part of a total project process," she said. There are two ways the project could move forward: as a stand-alone library, or the library plus affordable housing on top.

Architect Philip Chen said that the "feedback that we've received from everybody has been super helpful for this study," and went over some of the things that the team has heard from the public during the information gathering phase.

He said that people desire multi-use programming spaces, a large community meeting room plus some smaller ones, outdoor space is important, programming for children, space for local artists, a pickup/dropoff area, modern technology, and study rooms.

For the possible housing portion, he said that the team heard that "affordability is paramount," and housing for seniors, families, and young adults is important. Sustainability is also important to folks, as is allowing current residents to remain in the neighborhood. There was mixed feedback about offering parking on site, as some said they wanted it and some said they didn't, and there was also discussion of rental versus ownership for the units.

Architect Steve Gerard discussed some of the potential library programming for the adult,

teen, and children's areas, as well as for the community room, classroom, and small meeting rooms.

He said that the community room would be able to seat 100 people and be able to be laid out in various ways, as well as a multimedia sound system for lectures, community meetings, classes, and more.

The classroom could seat up to 20 people and could be used for training sessions and small meetings, and the small meeting rooms could hold four to six people and would feature whiteboards and AV hookups.

The outdoor space would offer a gardening area, as well as a children's reading and learning area, Gerard said, with "connections to the surrounding neighborhood." Bicycle parking would also be available, and all paved areas will be ADA accessible. Seating options are also part of the proposal.

Taylor Cain, Director of the city's Housing Innovation Lab, discussed some details of what the housing program could look like.

According to a slide, "the study has not made any decisions on the types of affordable housing," but "as a placeholder, the study is using a mixture of studio, 1, 2, and 3 bedroom units. The Department of Neighborhood Development will continue the Community Conversation on types of affordable housing before a request for proposals (RFP) is advertised."

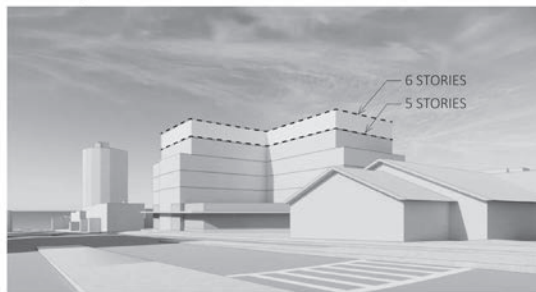
Cain also discussed some "key considerations" when it comes to co-locating the library space with housing, including how the building will relate to the surrounding neighborhood, as well as the coordination between the different uses of the building.

Additionally, she talked about "understanding the challenges and opportunities" of such a mixed-used development, includ-

Current view from Columbus Ave. heading northwest



Propose View from Columbus Ave. heading northwest



Current view from Columbus Ave. heading southeast



Proposed view from Columbus Ave. heading southeast



EGLESTON SQUARE BRANCH LIBRARY STUDY

CITY OF BOSTON | ANN BEHA ARCHITECTS

*A rendering of the second proposal from the meeting.*

ing the project timeline, financing, and traffic concerns.

She also talked about "outlining the potential of co-locating housing and libraries," according to a slide, including "promoting more creativity in use and redevelopment of public buildings; meeting citywide and neighborhood housing needs; and fostering climate, social, and economic resilience."

Cain said that "we really see this as an opportunity to help meet some of our larger citywide and also neighborhood housing needs and goals and think about this as really a potential to bring families closer to public transportation and other essential resources offered by our library branches by really creating an opportunity for creating housing that communities can afford and build savings in."

Architect Ashley Merchant then went over the program test fits, and made it clear that "this is a test of the program on the site and not a final design of the library."

She said that the area where the library is is "zoned for multi-family residential," and also "falls within the JP/Rox master plan area."

The height is limited to 45 feet by zoning, but "the JP/Rox master plan includes a density bonus for affordable housing" that allows for a height of 55 feet and five stories. There are no limits on Floor Area Ratio, she

said. She also discussed setbacks allowed by zoning.

She discussed two different options for the building: one with a single story library plus four stories of housing, for a total of five stories, as well as a single story library plus five stories of housing, for a total of six stories.

She said that the team has "looked for ways to locate the library program on the site" that would "maximize the usefulness of the outdoor space that would be created."

Merchant also discussed two potential ways for siting the building. The first one was to set the building in the back corner of the site, leaving space in the front and side for a garden and outdoor space. There would be plantings, tables, chairs, and benches, as well as gardening space. The entrance to the library would be in the middle of the building, and the housing entrance would be at the corner.

Inside the library space, the left side would be more open, and the "more enclosed programs" would be featured on the right side of the entrance. There would be a lot of windows for the spaces adjacent to the outdoor space.

The second approach was to "notch" the building on the south side for a "deeper reading garden," and also leaves room for the outdoor space on the front of the building.

Inside the library for this option would feature the classroom

between the adult and children's areas, which "helps to divide those two areas from each other," Merchant said. The teen area is by itself next to the community room, and the outdoor space is in front of the building with a roof terrace for the housing.

Currently, there is no parking on site, and only street parking is offered in the area.

According to the presentation, during the site parking study, it was determined that "adding a ramp would significantly reduce available space for the library program," and underground parking is very expensive and would not be feasible with affordable housing, Merchant said.

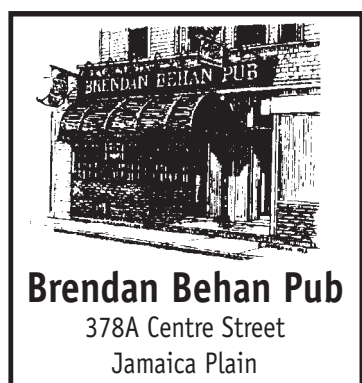
She said that removing two of the street parking spaces to create a driveway and curb cut would "significantly reduce green space," and "create an additional driveway on site and pedestrian conflicts," according to a slide.

Right now on the site, there is a five minute dropoff/pickup area, and Merchant also discussed an option to have five street parking spaces in front of the library that would have various restrictions on them.

The team said that once the study is completed in June, it will be available on the Boston Public Library website and will include community feedback.

According to the presenta-

*Continued on page 11*





# Council At-Large candidates discuss issues of housing, police, and more at candidate forum

BY LAUREN BENNETT

JP Progressives, Mijente, NAACP, Right to the City Vote, and BEJA hosted a forum for the At-Large City Council candidates on May 17, where 12 candidates were split into two groups and answered questions related to housing, education, police, workers and an equitable economy, and democracy as it relates to the City Council charter and potential changes.

There were also “Lightning Round” questions at the beginning of each round, where candidates answered yes or no questions.

The first group consisted of Said Abdikarim, Kelly Bates, incumbent councilor Michael Flaherty, Ruthzee Louijeune, Carla Monteiro, and Nick Vance. The second group included James Colimon, Domingos DaRosa, Alex Gray, incumbent councilor Julia Mejia, and Erin Murphy.

For the education round, candidates were asked about the Boston school committee and whether they support a fully elected committee, a fully appointed committee, or a hybrid

of the two. Right now, Boston has an appointed school committee.

Most candidates said they were in support of a fully elected committee, with Alex Gray, David Halbert, Said Abdikarim, and James Colimon saying they would like to see a hybrid model employed in the city. Carla Monteiro said she would like to see a hybrid model at first, but then transition over to a fully elected committee, as she believes the process for running a campaign is not equitable for all, and work would need to be done to make that happen.

For housing, candidates were asked about their priorities when it comes to affordable housing in Boston.

Alex Gray, who is blind, said he would advocate for accessible housing should he be elected. “I will fight for affordability, but I will fight more for accessibility,” he said. He also said that he is in support of a first generation homebuyer program.

Julia Mejia said she is in support of raising the city’s Inclusionary Development Policy (IDP) by 50 percent. “I think we need to reflect what the city

needs,” she said, adding that she is calling for lowering “the threshold for when IDP kicks in.” Additionally, she said her office is “in the process of creating a citywide steering committee to help inform our planning and development process.”

Other candidates, like Erin Murphy and Domingos DaRosa, talked about looking at city owned lots to build affordable housing, and DaRosa said that more public housing controlled by the city is a solution to the housing crisis.

Policing in the city has been a huge topic of discussion this election cycle, with many candidates looking to make big changes to the police budget and how public safety is approached.

Candidates were asked: “Given the City Council’s Influence over budgets and recognizing the constraints of the council in regards to the police contract, how would you approach reform of our current system of police and public safety, and associated spending?”

Ruthzee Louijeune said that while “there is a lot of power even in that up or down vote” that the

council currently has over the city’s budget, she believes the goal is to have participatory voting on the council. She also said that strengthening and investing in nonprofit organizations can help decrease violence in neighborhoods that is experienced by so many young people in the city.

Carla Monteiro said, “I believe in a collaborative approach,” adding that she thinks both responsibilities and funds should be reallocated, especially when it comes to “responding to mental health, substance abuse, and [the] homelessness crisis.” She also said that having more collaborative programs with the Boston Police Department and “reallocating 911 calls to other responders so that we could use those fundings for a city run cri-

sis team,” are things she would support.

Nick Vance said that “we need more community policing” in the city and also have more police training. He also said that money should be reallocated to “social services programs.”

Said Abdikarim said that he also supports participatory voting on the council for the budget, and said that diversity training is a must for police officers, as is “community engagement between law enforcement and the residents of Boston.”

Kelly Bates called for the elimination of tear gas, rubber bullets, and attack dogs, as well as to “strengthen” the city’s new

*Continued on page 12*

## Egleston Square

*Continued from page 10*

tion, “the study will require city approvals and funding in the capital plan. Once funded, DND will begin the community engagement process to determine the Affordable Housing’s unit types, percentages of affordability, and other community requirements for the RFP.”

There were several comments made about the fact that no proposal was shown for just the one story library with no housing on top, even though some residents expressed that they would like to see a standalone library.

“We believe that the approach one and two can meet a standalone library fit test,” Anderson said. “The BPL prefers a one-story library that has great sight lines and provides excellent services to the community and has a flexible floor plan.”

She said that with the removal of the housing portion, either option would “still be a very acceptable approach to a

standalone library.”

Some residents then said that they would like to see a version with just the library shown.

Another question was raised about having fewer floors for the housing portion, as some residents feel the proposed building would be too tall in the area.

“The thing that’s helpful to reiterate,” Cain said, is that “Egleston Square...has a really diverse range of building typologies,” including single families, triple deckers, two families, and other apartment buildings.

She also said that the team has to discuss funding and “what size project has the greatest potential of receiving funding for the development of affordable housing.”

Chen added, “this is in the range of what we think would be feasible,” in reference to the proposed number of floors.

Resident Priscilla Andrade said that “I understand there are so many interests involved... sometimes there’s this conflict between what the community wants and what is feasible.”

Merchant discussed results

from one of the polls conducted during the meeting, stating that 38 percent of respondents said that they only wanted to see the standalone library with no housing, 33 percent wanted to see the library plus four stories of housing, and 13 percent said they wanted to see the library and five stories of housing. She said that 21 percent said they wanted to see “as much housing as possible.”

Anderson said that nothing is finalized yet, and the team still wants to hear from the public about what they want to see on the site.

“This is a process,” she said, “so we can explore different approaches. Please don’t hesitate to let us know your thoughts and continue the dialogue on this project.”

The community survey for the project is still open, and can be found at [bpl.org/egleston-square-project](http://bpl.org/egleston-square-project), along with more information about the proposal and videos from all community meetings held so far and a feedback form for the project.

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# Councilor At-Large and Candidate for Mayor Michelle Wu releases 2020 Financial Disclosures

STAFF REPORT

City Councilor At-Large and Candidate for Mayor Michelle Wu today released her 2020 City of Boston Statement of Financial Interests and 2020 federal tax return to ensure public transparency and establish a precedent for financial disclosure. Click here to access the information.

“At a moment when building trust in government is critical to our recovery and collective future, we must start with a baseline of transparency throughout our departments and from our officials. The decisions and policies implemented in City Hall have tremendous consequences for our economy, communities, and families. Residents deserve a foundation of good government

and unwavering commitment to transparency and civic engagement across city government, starting from the top,” said Michelle Wu.

Michelle Wu has been serving on the City Council for 8 years, including two as City Council President, and has implemented key reforms to make government work better for people, including passing a landmark language

and communications access ordinance in 2016 to ensure everyone could access city services and a comprehensive lobbyist disclosure ordinance in 2018. She has consistently worked to deliver transparency and accountability, including implementing several major reforms to make city government more accessible in her time as City Council President—making closed captioning

transcripts of public hearings available online, renovating the Council Chamber for universal accessibility, and doubling the Council’s capacity to conduct public meetings and hearings outside City Hall in the neighborhoods. She has repeatedly challenged the administration to do more to build trust through good government and transparency.

## Forum

*Continued from page 11*

Office of Police Accountability and Transparency. “We need to remove things for the police that frankly they shouldn’t be spending their time on,” she said, “where social workers can intervene and help our communities.”

Michael Flaherty said that “there are certain matters” where the city would “need to work with federal law enforcement,” along with ICE, such as issues of child trafficking and exploitation, drug and weapons trafficking, and cybercrimes.

He said that his approach to public safety has “never been driven by ‘we need to arrest and

prosecute our way through problems.’ It’s been more of a holistic approach.” He also said that police “may not be required” for calls about substance abuse or mental health.

“I think our office has been one of the leading voices,” Julia Mejia said, in “dealing with all things police reform.” She said her office has been “fighting for a 15 percent reallocation” of the police budget, when many other advocates have only been asking for 10 percent.

Erin Murphy called for the expansion of the police cadet program, as she believes more police officers are needed in the community.

“I strongly believe that everyone should feel safe wherever

they call home in Boston,” said James Colimon. “Needless to say, we need the police.” He said as a Black man in Boston, he has experienced “my fair share of racial profiling. We need to make sure we have a police department that reflects the community they are serving.”

Domingos DaRosa said that he has heard that police want more training, and said that “a lot of them are suffering from mental illness themselves.” He said that reallocating funds to programs for violence prevention and community policing is something he is in support of.

Alex Gray said that “people by and large very much want greater accountability” when it comes to the police department, and

said that he has heard from some people that they are “afraid” of taking money away from the police department.

David Halbert said that as a city councilor, he would be an advocate for “making very hard decisions as to what we would vote yes or no within the budget relative to public safety and where that money is going—where it shouldn’t be going, quite frankly.” He also supports investing more money into mental health services, substance use counselors, and social workers.

Candidates were also asked how they would use the approximately \$300-400 million in funding allocated for the Boston Public Schools (BPS) through the American Rescue Plan.

Many of them, including Nick Vance, Michael Flaherty, and Ruthzee Louijeune, said that they would use the funds for infrastructure improvements to BPS schools, as many of them are in desperate need of improvements.

Others, like Kelly Bates and Said Abdikarim said they would like to ensure teachers have proper wages and training, and Abdikarim also said that investing in STEM and vocational programs is important for him. Bates said that she would like to see more “worker training for jobs that are going to be relevant post-pandemic.”

Michael Flaherty called for “more school nurses” as well as “more social and emotional opportunities,” especially as the

city recovers from the pandemic and students make adjustments again.

The lightning rounds at the beginning of each topic section allowed candidates to provide a quick answer to some hot button issues. During the housing lightning round, candidates were asked if they support rent control, and everyone except Michael Flaherty, James Colimon, and Erin Murphy said yes.

Candidates were also asked if they supported a requirement for the majority of new affordable units to be built on-site, and all candidates said yes.

For the police lightning round, candidates were asked if they support closing the BPD gang database, and all but Said Abdikarim, Michael Flaherty, and Erin Murphy said yes.

When asked they supported the cessation of information sharing between the Boston Police Department and ICE, all said yes except Michael Flaherty.

When asked if they would “advocate for the reallocation of money from the Boston Police Department budget to reinvestment in communities,” all said yes except Michael Flaherty, Alex Gray, and Erin Murphy.

For the full video with all questions and responses from every candidate, visit the JP Progressives Facebook page, where screenshots are also available from each lightning round question so responses can be viewed at a glance.

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## ESAC

*Continued from page 1*

elders, homeowners, and youth throughout Boston. Through programs in sustainable homeownership, homelessness prevention, education, and public benefits enrollment, Ecumenical Social Action Committee equips hundreds of low-income residents each year with the tools, knowledge, and supports they need to overcome their barriers to stability and growth.

Cummings Foundation's investment will allow Ecumenical Social Action Committee to expand the Senior Tenancy Stabilization program team to better serve older tenants at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness. "This funding will play a critical role in offering our most vulnerable, disabled, and homeless

clients support to obtain and maintain housing," said Ecumenical Social Action Committee executive director Dr. Peg Drisko. "We are incredibly grateful to Cummings Foundation for their generous support of our work."

The Cummings \$25 Million Grant program supports Massachusetts nonprofits based in and primarily serve Middlesex, Essex, and Suffolk counties.

Cummings Foundation aims to give back to the area where it owns commercial buildings through this place-based initiative, all of which are managed, at no cost to the Foundation, by its affiliate, Cummings Properties. This Woburn-based commercial real estate firm leases and manages 10 million square feet of debt-free space, the majority of which exclusively benefits the Foundation.

"We aim to help meet the needs of people in all segments

of our local community," said Cummings Foundation executive director Joel Swets. "It is the incredible organizations we fund, however, that do the actual daily work to empower our neighbors, educate our children, fight for equity, and so much more."

With the help of about 80 volunteers, the Foundation first identified 140 organizations to receive grants of at least \$100,000 each. Among the winners were first-time recipients as well as nonprofits that had previously received Cummings Foundation grants. Forty of this latter group of repeat recipients were then selected to have their grants elevated to 10-year awards ranging from \$200,000 to \$500,000 each.

"We adopted a democratic approach to philanthropy, which empowers an impressive roster of dedicated volunteers to decide more than half of all our grant winners each year," said Swets.

"We benefit from their diverse backgrounds and perspectives; they benefit from a meaningful and fulfilling experience, and the nonprofits often benefit from increased exposure and new advocates."

This year's grant recipients represent a wide variety of causes, including social justice, homelessness prevention, affordable housing, education, violence prevention, and food insecurity. The nonprofits are spread across 43 different cities and towns.

The complete list of 140 grant winners and more than 800 previous recipients is available at [www.cummingsfoundation.org](http://www.cummingsfoundation.org).

Cummings Foundation has now awarded more than \$300 million to Greater Boston nonprofits.

Boston-based Ecumenical Social Action Committee was established in 1965 when a group of community and church leaders

came together to affect positive social change. By focusing their efforts on housing and education, Ecumenical Social Action Committee strives to improve the quality of life of Boston residents and serve as a catalyst for strengthening neighbors and building communities.

Woburn-based Cummings Foundation, Inc. was established in 1986 by Joyce and Bill Cummings and has grown to be one of the three largest private foundations in New England. The Foundation directly operates its own charitable subsidiaries, including New Horizons retirement communities in Marlborough and Woburn, and Veterinary School at Tufts, LLC in North Grafton. Additional information is available at [www.cummingsfoundation.org](http://www.cummingsfoundation.org).

## Former State Rep. Marie St. Fleur endorses Andrea Campbell for Mayor of Boston

STAFF REPORT

Today, Councilor and Boston mayoral candidate Andrea Campbell was endorsed by Marie St. Fleur, a former Dorchester State Representative and community leader.

"Andrea Campbell is exactly the kind of leader Boston needs right now. She is informed by

the painful losses and inequities she experienced growing up in Boston and driven by her understanding and knowledge of the opportunities that Boston holds for all people. These experiences allow her to see, hear, connect to, and fight for all people," said St. Fleur. "Boston is a multi-cultural, multi-racial, multi-ethnic city and we need a mayor who

can harness our strengths and move our city forward."

Marie St. Fleur served as State Representative for the Fifth Suffolk district, representing parts of Dorchester and Roxbury, from 1999-2011. She was the first Haitian-American elected to state office in the United States. Her endorsement comes as Boston, which has the third largest Haitian population of any city in the country, celebrates Haitian American Heritage Month and Haitian Flag Day.

"I am deeply humbled and

proud to have Marie's support in this race," said Councilor Campbell. "Marie's leadership in our city has always been about bringing people together across demographics and industries to advance equity and opportunity for all, and that's exactly what this campaign is about. I'm proud that our campaign continues to build a diverse coalition of support in every neighborhood."

St. Fleur joins other political and community leaders, including former First Lady Diane Patrick, former Suffolk County

Sheriff and Secretary of Public Safety Andrea Cabral, Cambridge Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui, Governor's Councilor Eileen Duff, State Representative Liz Malia, former State Representative Marty Walz, Bill Walczak, Diana Hwang, Dr. Atyia Martin, John Borders IV, and Makeeba McCreary, in endorsing Andrea Campbell for mayor of Boston. Campbell has also been endorsed by Our Black Party, a national organization that exists to advance a political agenda that addresses the needs of Black people.

## Boston firefighters endorse Essaibi-George for mayor

STAFF REPORT

On Monday, International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 718 unanimously endorsed At-Large City Councilor Annissa Essaibi George in her candidacy for Mayor of Boston citing her unwavering support for Boston's first responders.

"Boston's firefighters are proud to endorse Annissa Essaibi George for Mayor of Boston," said John Soares, IAFF Local 718 President. "Since her early days on the Boston City Council, she has demonstrated her unwavering commitment and support for Boston's first responders. From showing up at our firehouses with coffee, to picking up the phone to check in on our brave

men and women, to advocating for investments in our health and safety, she has our backs and we have unanimously voted to have hers in this race."

Said Essaibi George, "Our firefighters are a constant source of inspiration and pride to our city," said Essaibi George. "As a

little girl, my family home caught on fire, but we all made it out safely thanks to Boston's brave firefighters. It's no surprise that I hold a special place in my heart for them. Their sacrifices and bravery keep our city and its residents safe. I'm honored to have their support."

*Best wishes for a meaningful*

*Memorial Day!*

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# JP's weekly test rate drops under 1 percent

By JOHN LYNDS

Jamaica Plain's weekly COVID-19 positive test rate dropped under 1 percent according to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) last Friday.

According to the latest data 1,288 Jamaica Plain residents were tested last week and 0.5 percent were found to be COVID positive-- a 64 percent decrease from the 1.4 percent reported by the BPHC on May 7.

Of the 37,536 Jamaica Plain residents tested for COVID since the pandemic began, 7.9 percent overall were found to be positive--this was the same percentage reported by the BPHC on May 7.

Citywide, the weekly positive test rate continues to decrease. According to the BPHC 17,329 residents were tested and 1.6 percent were COVID positive--this was a 24 percent decrease from the 2.1 percent positive test rate reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

Last week, the Baker-Polito Administration today announced plans to close the Commonwealth's vaccine pre registration system by the end of May. The COVID-19 Vaccine Finder at [vaxfinder.mass.gov](http://vaxfinder.mass.gov) will remain available, with over 900 locations listed across the state.

The Administration also announced the expansion of the state's Homebound Vaccination Program to support in-home vaccinations for all eligible residents who are unable to get to a vaccine site, beginning Monday, May 24.

The pre registration form at [vaccinesignup.mass.gov](http://vaccinesignup.mass.gov) closed to new submissions on Tuesday. According to the administration all remaining people still in the system will be contacted with an opportunity to book appointments before closing out the system on May 31. All remaining people who pre registered will be given an opportunity to book before the system closes.

The state's Homebound Vaccination Program began on Monday, May 24 and the Administra-

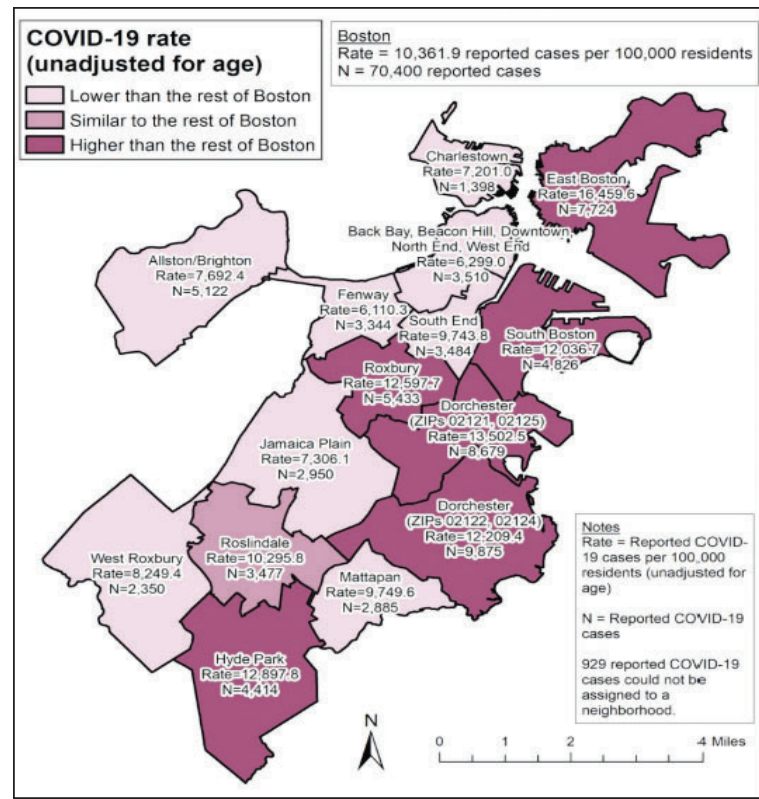
tion plans to expand this program to support in-home vaccinations for all eligible residents who are unable to get to a vaccine site. The Administration launched the Homebound Vaccination on March 29 for individuals who met specific federal criteria, such as requiring significant support to leave the home for a medical appointment. Beginning May 24, any individual who has trouble getting to a vaccine site is eligible for the homebound program.

According to the BPHC data, Jamaica Plain's infection rate increased 1 percent since May 7.

Jamaica Plain went from 723.4 cases per 10,000 residents to 730.6 cases per 10,000 residents.

An additional 29 Jamaica Plain residents became infected with COVID-19 since May 7 and the number of total cases here went from 2,921 cases to 2,950 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.



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

It also breaks down the number of cases by age, gender and race.

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased less than a half percent last week and went from 70,297 cases to 70,546 confirmed cases in a week. To date, 1,383 Boston residents have died from the virus since the pandemic began.



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# Former police commissioner Gross endorses Essaibi-George

STAFF REPORT

Former Boston Police Commissioner William Gross endorsed At-Large City Councilor Annissa Essaibi George in her candidacy for Mayor of Boston at Brother's Deli in Mattapan. In addition to his 37 years of service to the Boston Police Department, Gross served as Boston's first Black Police Commissioner for

two and a half years.

"I'm proud to endorse Annissa Essaibi George for Mayor of Boston. Throughout her time as a City Councilor, she has shown up, at all hours of the day and night, and met people exactly where they are — in the neighborhood, at community events or civic meetings, and even at the station — to have thoughtful, honest conversations," said former

Boston Police Commissioner William Gross. "Annissa doesn't just say that everyone deserves a seat at the table, she turns around and pulls up a chair for each and every person, so all sides can hear and be heard. That quality is incredibly important. Boston needs someone that brings all sides together to move our city forward, and

that's exactly the type of leader Annissa is."

Said Essaibi George, "Over the course of his three decades of service, Commissioner Gross prioritized community engagement, built trust between law enforcement and residents, and promoted diversity and inclusion throughout the Police Department. I'm so grateful to have his

support. I believe Boston can be both safe and just — these things are not mutually exclusive. We can achieve this by bringing everyone together to have tough conversations about public safety realities and the need for critical reforms. This is hard work we can and must do together and I'm proud to have Commissioner Gross' support and invaluable insight."

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# Bike-riding program returns early in JP

BY SETH DANIEL

A bicycle riding group from Arlington will return on June 5 for an early, second-annual Bike for Kids day on the grounds of English High School (EHS) in JP.

Last October, in the aftermath of the pandemic, the Keep It Tight (KIT) bicycle club – based in Arlington and made up of residents from many Metro West communities – put together a quick program with the Boston Police and the HOPEWorldwide organization to teach selected young people how to safely ride a bike and, afterward, present them with a brand new bike to take home.

The success of the program brought tremendous momentum to the effort and an invigorated spirit of giving to the group. With sponsorships from Landry's Cycles on Commonwealth Avenue for the bikes and the law firm of Breakstone, White and Gluck for the helmets, KIT gathered 25 volunteers and decided to come back for the second installment of the program a little earlier.

"This will be the second-annual event and we're very excited about that," said KIT member Richard Hislop. "We decided to do it earlier this year so the children will have more time to ride their new bikes in the summer months. We started our effort

last year during the pandemic because it was a discouraging time for families and communities. With more time this year, we decided coming back in early June would give the kids more time to ride their bikes and practice the new skills we will teach them on the day of the event."

Art Trapotsis, of KIT, last year said the group is a bike club made up of serious riders from Arlington, Lexington and Watertown, and they had been wanting to do some sort of event in the city to share their skills with kids who may not know how to ride a bike – as biking was and is identified during COVID-19 times as a great way for kids to get good, socially-distanced

exercise.

This year, they already have increased their numbers of volunteers, and they will be able to accommodate 25 kids as opposed to 19 last year. The collaboration for the event is between HOPEWorldwide, Boston Church of Christ, Boston Police and KIT. Landry's Cycles has once again stepped up to help the effort in providing new bikes and helmets came from the above-mentioned law firm.

Like last year, the event will be focused on showing young people how to ride a bike, as many do not fully know how to ride. Some have skills to ride a bike, but don't know all the safety precautions. Both of those things will be addressed in learning stations throughout the EHS field and track on June 5.

"The goal for the day is to teach kids how to ride a bike and then also teach them proper road bike safety," said Hislop.

One new feature, he said, is a training/orientation for KIT volunteers – helping them to be prepared to understand the young people they are helping.

"One thing this year that's going to be added is we are changing our orientation for volunteers – putting an emphasis on what it takes for the volunteers to engage and encourage these families and kids that may be facing challenges at the moment," he said. "It's about helping to make sure we're giving out respect and not charity when we engage."

The event does take place on June 5, but participants are by invitation-only from the Boston Police.

# Boston License Board aligns with state to lift all limits on licensees May 29

BY SETH DANIEL

With the support that Acting Mayor Kim Janey announced on May 19, the Boston Licensing Board on Wednesday, May 20, approved a lifting of all restrictions on licensed premises as of May 29.

"As of May 29, all restrictions related to licensed premises will

be lifted," announced the Board. "Private businesses, including restaurants, may require masks and social distancing at their discretion. However, this will not be required by the City of Boston."

In a vote on the morning of May 20, the Board agreed to lift all COVID restrictions on licensed premises in Boston. Such a lifting had been announced by

Gov. Charlie Baker for the state earlier this week, but Janey had been hesitant to follow suit in Boston.

On May 19, she announced that the metrics were headed in a direction where she felt more comfortable in lifting the restrictions on businesses and licensed establishments.

"Because of Boston's prog-

ress, I am making the decision to align with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and lift COVID restrictions on May 29," Janey wrote in a statement. "But, let me be clear, our battle against COVID is not over. Reopening our city will only work if we all continue to do our part to fight the pandemic."

The restrictions that are lift-

ed include:

- No gathering limits.
- No table limits.
- No time limits.
- No mask/social distancing restrictions.
- Alcohol can be served without food.
- Dividers may be taken down.
- All approved entertainment may continue.

# Suffolk County Sheriff Steven Tompkins elected to serve as Vice President of Noble's "Region I"

STAFF REPORT

Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins was elected to the Vice Presidency of Region I for the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE).

Already serving as the President of the Massachusetts Chapter of NOBLE, Sheriff Tompkins will now represent the Region I states of Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York, with planned expansion into New Hampshire and Rhode Island.

"I am so honored to have been elected to represent NOBLE's Region I as Vice President and I am looking forward to my work in this additional capacity," said Sheriff Tompkins. "As I've said to NOBLE's membership body and leadership, I intend to continue the fight for equitable public safety and sustainable, systemic change while examining internal and external law enforcement policies and reform, and I will work collaboratively to move

the organization forward as a committed justice partner that will influence the public safety debate on the local and national stage."

Sheriff Tompkins has served as the President of the Massachusetts chapter since its revival in 2019. He also currently serves as the President of the Massachusetts Sheriff's Association and as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees for Roxbury Community College.


NOBLE is comprised of 59 chapters in six regions throughout the United States, with a membership that also includes Canada, the Caribbean, the United Kingdom, and several countries in Africa. It is NOBLE's mission to ensure equity in the administration of justice, in the provision of public service to all communities, and to serve as the conscience of law enforcement by being committed to justice by action.

NOBLE was founded in September of 1976 during a three-day symposium to address crime

in low-income urban areas and was co-sponsored by the Police Foundation and the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA). The Joint Center for Political Studies (JCPS) coordinated this unprecedented event in which sixty top ranking Black law enforcement executives representing twenty-four states and fifty major cities gathered in Washington, D.C. to participate. During the symposium, attendees exchanged views about the critically high rate of crime in Black urban communities and the socio-economic conditions that lead to crime and violence. Participants raised questions about relevant issues such as fairness in the administration of justice, police community relations, the hiring and promotion of Black police officers, and the unique problems of the Black police executive. NOBLE recognizes that Black law enforcement executives in policing, corrections, probation and parole can have a significantly more effective impact upon the

criminal justice system through a unified voice.

To learn more about NOBLE nationally and locally, visit: [www.noblenational.org](http://www.noblenational.org) and [www.facebook.com/noblemassachusetts1](http://www.facebook.com/noblemassachusetts1) respectively.



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# JP's Apprentice Learning program named Nonprofit Excellence Award finalist

STAFF REPORT

The Massachusetts Nonprofit Network (MNN) announced today, Apprentice Learning (AL) of Jamaica Plain, has been selected as a finalist for the 2021 Nonprofit Excellence Award in Innovation.

The winners of the Nonprofit Excellence Awards will be announced at a virtual awards ceremony, MNN's 2021 Nonprofit Excellence Awards: Celebrating Idealism and Achievement presented by Citizens, on Wednesday, June 23 at 10:00 am.

"We are excited to recognize Apprentice Learning for their invaluable contributions to the Commonwealth," said Jim Klocke, CEO of MNN. "We look forward to recognizing them and the other Excellence Award finalists and announcing the six winners on June 23."

The Excellence Award in Innovation recognizes a nonprofit organization that has utilized

new models or strategies to solve long standing problems or to adapt to a changing environment.

AL is a work-based learning center for Boston Public Schools' (BPS) middle school students. was established in 2012 by Helen Russell in response to the high school dropout rate in Boston and the contributing systemic issues. From one program serving fifteen students, AL now offers three programs in five BPS schools serving over 300 seventh, eighth, rising ninth, and ninth grade students. Programs include one-day career explorations, a workplace apprenticeship, a paid five-week summer internship program for girls, and alumni career services.

AL's 2020 enrollment reflected the demographics (44% Black, 48% Latinx, and 8% multiracial) of BPS. Seventy percent were considered low-income and 50% spoke a language other than English.

AL is unique in several fundamental ways. Unlike most career education programs that are voluntary and take place after school or during summer, AL is deliberately integrated into the academic school day and is a required course for all middle school students at participating schools. Intentionally embedding the program into the school day cements the link between success in a chosen career and success in school and reinforces the practical need for basic literacy in math and other subjects that can often seem abstract or irrelevant in the context of school. AL has over 130 businesses partners including retail stores, shops, biotech and tech firms and arts organizations. Notably, 90% have participated more than once.

The Nonprofit Excellence Awards will highlight the work of the nonprofit sector and raise awareness of important causes throughout Massachusetts. The



Students learning the skills needed to work in a kitchen.

Awards will be presented to one finalist in each of the following six categories: Advocacy, Innovation, Leadership, Small Nonprofit, Young Professional, and new this year, Resilience.

This year, an independent panel of judges reviewed over 180 nominations for the Nonprofit Excellence Awards. The 29 finalists range from large innovative social enterprises to a small rural family support group and represent different regions of Massachusetts.

In the weeks leading up to the 2021 Nonprofit Excellence Awards, nonprofits across the state are engaging in a social media campaign with the

hashtag #MAkingadifference to raise public awareness of nonprofits' important contributions to Massachusetts.

The Massachusetts Nonprofit Network (MNN) brings together nonprofits, funders, business leaders, and elected officials to strengthen nonprofits and raise the sector's voice on critical issues. MNN's mission is to strengthen the Massachusetts nonprofit sector through advocacy, public awareness, and capacity building. The network has more than 750 nonprofit member organizations and more than 150 business affiliate partners. [Massnonprofitnet.org](http://Massnonprofitnet.org)

## News Briefs

### POSTAL EMPLOYEES WILL CELEBRATE MEMORIAL DAY

Post Offices across the commonwealth will be closed on Monday, May 31, as our employees pause to celebrate Memorial Day. Street delivery on Monday will be limited to guaranteed overnight parcels and there will be no collection of mail.

Full retail and delivery operations will resume on Tuesday, June 1.

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

### BLM JUNE VIGIL

The June Vigil in Support of Black Lives Matter will be held Thursday, June 3, from 5:30-6:30pm on the lawn of the First Baptist Church of Jamaica Plain, 633 Centre St. We welcome as our speaker Stacey Borden, Founder and Executive Director of New Beginnings Reentry

Services. Everyone is invited to participate in this monthly gathering for racial justice and human rights. For further information, contact Mary Lenihan at [maryfranlenny@gmail.com](mailto:maryfranlenny@gmail.com) or Penny Wells at [pwells222@gmail.com](mailto:pwells222@gmail.com).

### KELLY BATES ON THE BALLOT FOR CITY COUNCIL AT-LARGE

First-time candidate Kelly Bates is on the ballot to be the next city Councilor At-Large. Kelly has over 25 years of experience advocating for women and girls, building collations, and fighting for electoral justice. She collected over 2,600 signatures for nomination with the help of a grassroots volunteer network.

"Boston is in crisis: COVID-19 and addiction are ravaging our public health, families can no longer afford to remain in the city they love, and we desperately need a swift economic recovery that works for all," said Bates. "I hope to work to earn your vote as Boston's next City Councilor At-Large."

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# Safety guidelines issued to parishes of the Boston Archdiocese

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Given the new State of Massachusetts protocols that go into place on May 29, the following guidance is issued for the parishes of the Archdiocese of Boston

## General guidelines

As of May 29, vaccinated people are no longer required to wear masks or socially distance in our parishes.

This statement applies to worship and other parish activities, but not to schools and not to the office space. Further guidelines will be issued for those two areas.

Parishes and pastors will not be policing the population. Every parishioner and every family will be expected to make a sound, reasonable decision about when they are ready to take off their masks and be near other people. No pastor and no parish will be expected to ask people whether or not they have been vaccinated.

The pastor has a high degree of discretion in the implementation of all of these changes. Some pastors may make changes quickly, and others may make them slowly. Pastors are encouraged to engage parish leadership in a conversation about how best to make the changes in their respective parishes.

There is no longer a distinct set of protocols for parishes in red zones.

## Regarding communication

All parishes must publish something like the following statement: "As of May 29, masks are no longer required for vaccinated people in the State of Massachusetts. The State does advise that non-vaccinated people continue to wear masks." The statement should be published in bulletins and on web sites, and announced at Mass.

All parishes should strongly consider communicating the following points clearly to their parishioners:

The dispensation from the obligation for coming to Sunday Mass has not yet been lifted, and even when it is, if a parishioner is feeling ill they should remain at home.

It is understood that different people will be ready to take off

their masks and sit near one another at different times.

Parishes should communicate that they are prepared to accommodate those who are ready to take off their masks and sit near others, and those who are not.

Some people who are comfortable dropping social distancing may not yet be comfortable taking off their masks. It should be communicated to people that they are free to continue to wear masks as long as they like, and that they will be respected if they choose to do so.

When a parish becomes aware that a COVID positive person has attended Mass, there should be some kind of general announcement at least on the parish's website. Parishioners should be advised to keep an eye on the website, as that will be where such an announcement will be made.

## Regarding the setup of churches

Parishes should continue to make provisions for people who are not vaccinated and/or who are not yet ready come to sit near other people.

Perhaps this can be done by offering or continuing to offer outdoor Masses.

Perhaps this can be done by offering Masses at particular times for those who want to maintain social distancing.

Perhaps this can be done by cordoning off portions of the church, in a respectful way, for socially distanced seating. If this is the option chosen, every pew can be used in the non-distanced section of the church, and markings adjusted accordingly.

Respectful signs in the church should make clear how different sections of the church are being used.

It is no longer necessary to regularly disinfect surfaces. Some pastors may decide to continue to do so for a time, but it is not required.

Missalettes and hymnals may be used, and kept in the pews. Parishes may want to engage in significant conversation about whether and how they want to do this. The Office of Worship will make some recommendations and resources available on their website.

## Regarding the celebration of the Mass

Pastors should strongly consider continuing to stream their Masses.

Registration for Masses is no longer required, although pastors may desire it to continue for a period while they adjust the seating in their churches.

Congregational singing is allowed, as are choirs. Pastors may use their discretion with regard to masks for their choirs.

Deacons can play their full liturgical roles: reading the gospel, preaching when appropriate, preparing the altar, the elevation of the chalice, and assisting in the distribution of Holy Communion.

Altar servers may be used.

In scheduling children as altar servers, a pastor may want to schedule members of the same family for a given Mass.

It should be clearly communicated to parents that children may wear masks while altar serving.

It is likely that a retraining of altar servers, both children and adults, will be necessary.

Liturgical ministers, such as Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist can be used.

A retraining of these volunteers may be necessary.

Parishes may wish to use this as an opportunity to reach out to new volunteers to fill these roles.

A collection may be taken up by using a basket, preferably with a pole, since some people may still feel uncomfortable touching a basket that many other people have just touched, and may feel that they have no option if the basket is handed to them. This reluctance may end up hurting the parish offertory.

Pastors are encouraged to slow play a return to a shaking of hands at the Sign of Peace. It may well be that not everyone is ready for that, even if they are unmasked and sitting near one another. Other forms for the Sign of Peace could be used.

The deacon should be allowed to receive the Precious Blood, but the pastor may exercise his discretion in the matter of the deacon using a separate chalice, or intinction, or sharing the cel-

ebrant's chalice. Consideration should be given to the health and vaccination status of both priest and deacon in that decision.

Priests, deacons, and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist should still disinfect their hands before distributing Holy Communion.

Priests, deacons, and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist are strongly encouraged to continue to wear masks during the distribution of Holy Communion.

The bottle of hand sanitizer should be kept close at hand in case someone receives communion on the tongue. Pastors may exercise their discretion in this matter.

Communion under both spe-

cies is still not allowed at this time. A clear communication will go out to parishes when this practice may resume.

## Final Points

There are many heroes among our volunteers that have kept our parishes going during these difficult times. They should be acknowledged and thanked, collectively and personally. This document is not intended to be comprehensive. There will be many questions that arise, that will be addressed in the coming weeks.

There will be a webinar for parishes and staff on Wednesday, May 26 to discuss these questions.

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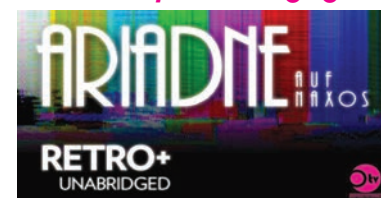
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After internal reflection, BLO has changed its previously announced plans to mount a new production of Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*. The Company reaffirms its commitment to creating inclusive environments and intentional storytelling for our audience and our artists.

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**COVID-19 UPDATE:** Boston Lyric Opera will continue to be guided by federal, state, and public health advice and comply with all local government regulations when implementing health and safety protocols for our return to the theater. We will communicate details about health and safety protocols as we get closer to each production. BLO is committed to flexibility for any ticket holders who need to change or return their tickets for COVID-related reasons.



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## Special Issues 2021

### JAMAICA PLAIN SPECIAL ISSUES

January 22 .....	JP History; Martin Luther King Day (Jan. 18)
March 12 .....	Senior Life; St. Patrick's Day (March 17)
March 26 .....	Real Estate Today
April 23 .....	JP Kids;
May 14 .....	Roslindale Neighbors;
June 11 .....	Juneteenth
June 25 .....	JP Pets; Congratulations to Graduates
July 23 .....	JP History
August 13 .....	Best of JP Ballot
September 10 .....	Guide to JP; JP Open Studios
September 24 .....	Real Estate Today
October 8 .....	JP Kids; Columbus Day (Oct. 11)
October 22 .....	Roslindale Neighbors; Halloween (Oct. 31)
November 19 .....	Thanksgiving (Nov. 25)
December 3 .....	Holidays in JP

\*The two issues containing "Roslindale Neighbors" have a circulation of 16,420 in Jamaica Plain with an additional 3,000 distributed in Roslindale

### MISSION HILL SPECIAL ISSUES

February 5 .....	MH History
April 2 .....	Senior Life
September 3 .....	Student Welcome Guide; Best of MH Ballot
October 1 .....	Best of MH Winners

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# It is time! Tuesday Walking group returns

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

The walking group would gather every Tuesday morning at 9 AM at the entrance to the Arboretum. Named the "Tuesday Walking Group", we walked those paths for the last half dozen years marking the changing seasons. The group would walk regardless of weather. Sometimes we were four, and other times a dozen. That is, until March 2020 when the pandemic stopped us in our tracks.

We were connected by the fragile thread of a google group, but had no formal organization. Tuesday mornings, one early riser, would check the weather and people would confirm attendance. At 9:05, the group began the walk and then concluded an hour later back at the front gate. We walked in many formations; sometimes three or four, sometimes two by two, but always as a group. The Tuesday morning walk provided connection, and an anchor to our week. Many of us are retired from full time work, but actively engaged in other work and volunteer activities. Our walks included weekly personal updates, political discussions, movie and book suggestions and a walking billboard of upcoming events. Every May, we joined together and marched in the Louis D. Brown Mother's Day March for Peace. This year we commemorated the walk in the Arboretum.

COVID -19 came and our group went into hibernation. We all recognized our own privilege and security in the face of a world pandemic. We hoped it might be a short hiatus. The pandemic did not deter the love of walking, so many of us walked alone. As the weather improved last spring, we ventured out in masked socially distanced pairs, similar to the animals on Noah's Ark. Our walks coincided with the bursting of spring. Suddenly there were hundreds of people walking through the parks, the pond and local cemeteries. Our walking group mixed it up quite a bit. Even though it was often in two's, different people walked with different people during the spring and summer. Two or three was the limit. We were part of a national movement of people taking to the streets to walk during the pandemic. The Guardian newspaper named 2020, the year of the walker. Some of us were fugitives from the gym, and walking became exercise. For those who missed yoga, walking became moving meditation. Some of us were fleeing our apartments and homes seeking a change of pace and location and others created walking meetings.

We walked different parts of the emerald necklace from the mouth of the muddy river to the cliffs of Franklin Park. In the 1870s, Frederick Law Olmstead,

the former general secretary of the United States Sanitary Commission, was hired to design a series of parks to respond to public health needs. Olmstead believed access to fresh air was critical and that parks would be meeting grounds for people of different backgrounds and economic means. Upon completion of his design of Central Park, he commented that the park "were the lungs of the city". One hundred and fifty years later the emerald necklace provided fresh lungs for the city and created a place for racially diverse crowd of young and old, to walk and breathe the air of the city.

With the coming of fall, we grew anxious with the coming darkness, cold and the winter solstice. Many of us upped our wardrobe choices and learned there is no "bad weather, just bad gear." We learned that as long as you keep moving, even the cold is bearable. Emails were exchanged on best walking routes in icy weather. Others exchanged information on new walking areas. Walking provided solace and adventure when the world stole both.

One year later, with many of us vaccinated or close to full vaccination status, we asked, "Is it time to come together as a group?" The google group is alive and humming. We started again. The Tuesday walkers are



The Tuesday Walking Group.

back. We first stepped a group with our masks on and ready to walk. And then as the CDC lifted its mask mandates for outdoors, the masks came down. We were all happy to see each other's

faces and smiles. If you are in the Arboretum you might see us there.

Enid Eckstein, has lived in Jamaica Plain for the last thirty years.

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# Mayor Kim Janey names Stephanie Garrett-Stearns Chief Communications Officer

STAFF REPORT

Mayor Kim Janey announced today that she is appointing Senior Advisor Stephanie Garrett-Stearns as Chief Communications Officer. She will serve as lead communications strategist and advisor for the Janey administration, guiding a dynamic team of press, digital media, speechwriting and photography professionals. Garrett-Stearns' new role includes responsibilities held by Nick Martin, who announced plans to pursue new opportunities in April and will be leaving his role on May 21.

"Stephanie Garrett-Stearns is a communications veteran with insight into Boston's diverse communities," said Mayor Kim Janey. "She is a master of authentic, transparent communication strategies that deepen

understanding and foster trust. I am thrilled to have Stephanie as part of my cabinet and look forward to her continued leadership and counsel as we advance a city wide agenda for Boston's recovery, reopening, and renewal. As we prepare for this transition, I am tremendously grateful to Nick Martin. His dedication, leadership and skill have been invaluable. I wish Nick the very best in his next chapter."

Before joining the Janey administration, Garrett-Stearns served as Vice President of Communications and Fund Development for The Community Builders, Inc, where she led communications and fundraising strategy and program execution. Garrett-Stearns was previously Head of Public Relations and Chief Corporate Spokesperson for the Siemens division, Osram Sylvania.



New Communications Officer Stephanie Garrett-Stearns.

"I am honored to serve the people of Boston as part of the historic Kim Janey administration," said Garrett-Stearns. "At a time when public trust is

paramount, our communications team will be a key link between City Hall and the residents of Boston as we work to create a stronger, more equitable city."

An alumna of The Partnership, Inc. Next Generation Executive program for professionals of color, Garrett-Stearns also completed the Business Management Institute at Cornell University. She holds a Master of Business Administration degree from Washington University in St. Louis and a bachelor's degree in human resources management from Michigan State University.

Garrett-Stearns is a volunteer and board member for several nonprofit organizations, including the Massachusetts Institute for a New Commonwealth (MassINC), the Boston Chapter of The Links, Incorporated and

Psi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. An active member of Union United Methodist Church in the South End, she lives in West Roxbury with her husband and daughter.

Janey's appointment of Garrett-Stearns is her latest move to build one of the most diverse cabinets in the City's history. Since her swearing-in on March 24, Janey has named Dion Irish, Chief of Operations; Justin Sterritt, Chief Financial Officer; Celina Barrios-Milner, Chief of Equity; and Rev. Mariama White-Hammond, Chief of Environment, Energy, and Open Space.

"I am committed to building a cabinet that is as talented as the city we serve," said Janey. "I am proud to welcome these experienced and inclusive leaders to Boston City Hall."

# Forward Fund grants \$250,000 to nonprofits and activists fighting for racial equity

STAFF REPORT

Responding to a collective re-traumatization that communities of color have faced in the wake of the trial of Derek Chauvin and the ensuing recent incidents of racialized violence,

50 nonprofit organizations and individual organizers in Massachusetts have each received \$5,000 to support their ongoing racial equity work.

The Forward Fund, managed by King Boston, has been funded by contributions to date totaling \$100,000 from more than a doz-

en philanthropic partners and community advisors, as well as \$150,000 from the Barr Foundation.

"For this round of giving, we were intentional about giving to organizations and organizers all across the Commonwealth," said

Imari Paris Jeffries, Executive Director of King Boston. "This is a moment in time that we can't gloss over. We need to help these organizations take a stand and make an impact, and that's what these funds will do."

King Boston is a private-

ly funded initiative currently housed at The Boston Foundation, working to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King while addressing economic and racial inequities. The 50 organizations selected by the Forward Fund Advisory Committee to receive grants have missions that align with the Kings' work and legacy, including social justice groups and organizations, BIPOC-led initiatives, and trauma response and healing projects.

This round of grants follows the November 2020 grants when the Forward Fund donated to five grassroots organizations that responded to postelection needs.

All grants distributed at this time will support organizations across Massachusetts that work to address racialized trauma and healing, particularly through non-clinical settings; organize communities of color to advocate for reforms in policing; make meaning of this moment through cultural organizing; and/or organize responses to violence in the community.

The following are among the grantees:

- Sean Ellis
- Neenah Estrella-Luna
- Muslim Justice League
- Asian American Resource

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## McConathy wins award at Chapel Hill-Chauncy Hall

On May 10, Jake McConathy of Jamaica Plain, and the Chapel Hill-Chauncy Hall School community gathered, in-person and virtually, for the Baccalaureate Ceremony to celebrate the Class of 2021 accomplishments and completion of high school.

Beyond the recognition of the graduating class, the Baccalaureate also presented the opportunity to hear from faculty and student speakers, as selected by the

Chapel Hill-Chauncy Hall Class of 2021. Moreover, Junior Awards, Certificates of Distinction, Senior Departmental Prizes, Senior Awards, and Faculty Prizes were presented. The ceremony concluded with the highly anticipated yearbook dedication, presented by the Publications class.

During the ceremony, Jake McConathy was awarded the Jose Rafael Arboleda Sportsmanship Award and a Faculty

Prize. The Jose Rafael Arboleda Sportsmanship Awards, established by family and friends in memory of Jose Rafael Arboleda, Class of 1978, recognizes students who have shown the highest degree of citizenship in athletic endeavors. Faculty Prizes are awarded to members of the senior class who have been outstanding citizens, contributing significantly to the general well-being or spirit of the school.



Jake McConathy.

## Jamaica Plain's Samantha Camilo graduates from Scranton University

Samantha C. Camilo of Jamaica Plain was among more than 800 bachelor's degrees at its in-person undergraduate celebration ceremonies on May 23. Degrees were conferred to graduates who had completed their

academic degree requirements in August and December of 2020, as well as January and May of 2021. Due to capacity restrictions in place because of the pandemic, separate ceremonies were held for the University's Panuska Col-

lege of Professional Studies, the Kania School of Management and the College of Arts and Sciences at the Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza, Wilkes-Barre.

Camilo earned a Bachelor of Science degree in international

business from the University of Scranton.

Members of the University's undergraduate class of 2021 represent 12 states including Connecticut, Florida, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Jersey, New

York, Pennsylvania and Virginia. Undergraduate majors with the most graduates are accounting, nursing, biology, occupational therapy, exercise science, finance and marketing.

## Forward Front

Continued from page 22

### Workshop

- Families for Justice and Healing
- Twelfth Baptist Church
- North American Indian Cen-

ter of Boston

- UTEC
- City Life/Vida Urbana
- Maverick Landing Community Services
- Right to the City
- Amplify LatinX
- Louis D. Brown Peace Institute

• North Shore Juneteenth Association

The Forward Fund was established by an Advisory Committee in the Fall of 2020 to support

BIPOC-led grassroots organizations providing direct service and working on base building efforts, with a focus on historically marginalized communities tar-

geted by the federal voting process and aftermath. It has since been repositioned as a fund to respond generally to heightened moments of racialized injustice.

## Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll



### JASON

Meet Jason! This gorgeous 3 year old Siamese mix is a big, handsome 'fella. He knows he's handsome and likes to own a room! No dogs for this kitty, it's people he loves! This

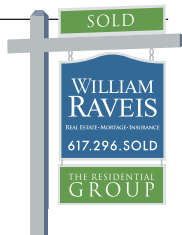


confident, friendly, affectionate boy is FIV+ so he will need to stay indoors only and have annual vet checks (just like all kitties) to help ensure he stays in good health.

For more information about Jason and other animals in need of adoption, please contact:

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# A long hunt for justice rewarded with guilty verdicts in child rape case

Defendant Jose “Brujo” Ortega returned to US in 2019 after deportation to DR

Seven years after immigration authorities deported JOSE “BRUJO” ORTEGA, 49, preventing him from facing child rape charges in Suffolk Superior Court in 2014, and almost two years after he was returned from the Dominican Republic, a Suffolk Superior Court jury yesterday found him guilty of two counts of rape of a child, one count of indecent assault and battery on a child under 14, one count of open and gross lewdness and one count of dissemination of matter harmful to minors, District Attorney Rachael Rollins announced.

“This case would not have been possible without the dedication of the prosecutors, the police, our federal partners, and most importantly, the courage and perseverance of the survivor,” said District Attorney Rachael Rollins. “We want to hold serious offenders accountable regardless of their immigration status. We were forced to be patient, but this man, who groomed this victim robbing him of his childhood and love of baseball, was held accountable in Suffolk County. Ortega will serve his

sentence in the Commonwealth and once that sentence is completed he can then be deported back to the Dominican Republic.”

At the time of his alleged offenses in Boston, Ortega was the manager of the Boston Broncos youth baseball league. Beginning in 2000, when the victim was as young as nine years old, the defendant groomed and abused him chronically over a period of approximately six years. According to prosecutors, one of the many ways in which the defendant secured the victim’s silence and compliance was by not playing him in games if he did not give in to the defendant’s sexual advances.

Ortega was previously convicted of child enticement in 2012 for his actions toward another member of the youth league. In 2014, he was indicted in this pending case and arraigned in Suffolk Superior Court. He remained held on high bail until May 29, 2014, when that bail was reduced to personal recognizance with the agreement that the defendant would appear in court for all scheduled court dates. By his next hearing date on June 6, 2014, however, the defendant had been taken into custody by Immigration and Customs Enforcement and deported.

ADA Laura Montgomery represented the Commonwealth and Attorney Joe Griffin represented the defendant. Kate Laga-

na, Deputy Chief of the Suffolk District Attorney’s Office Victim Witness Assistance Program, is the assigned victim witness advocate. The case was tried before Judge Robert Ullman.

DA Rollins added, “Sexual assaults and rapes can happen to anyone, of any age, and gender or gender identity. The survivor in this case, like so many of our survivors, showed incredible bravery by first disclosing the abuse, and then continuing on with the often difficult criminal justice process. He found the strength to confront his rapist in court, not only having to describe the details of abuse to a jury and others, but by enduring cross examination. In cases involving children, offenders often target vulnerable youth and exploit the many situations which make a child dependent on and loyal to a person in a position of trust. This victim was a 9 year old child, looking for guidance and support, both related to his love of baseball and in other areas of his life. We must remove the shame and stigma of reporting rape and sexual assaults. Unfortunately, that shame and stigma, in certain cultures, is particularly strong when the victim and perpetrator are both male. By not only disclosing the abuse, but by confronting his abuser during this trial, this survivor – now a grown man with a loving wife, family and children of his own –

has taken control back over this incredibly traumatizing part of his life. Although I am grateful for the Jury’s verdict, I told the survivor Thursday after closing arguments that by him speaking up and testifying, ‘We have already won.’ What matters most is the truth and speaking about what happened. This survivor stood up not only for himself, but for the countless other young people affected by child abuse and sexual assault.”

While the victims and witnesses of any crime should call 911 in an emergency, there are additional resources available to report suspected crimes against children. In Suffolk County, survivors of child abuse and exploitation and their non-offending caretakers can receive

comprehensive services at the Children’s Advocacy Center of Suffolk County. The CAC can be reached at 617-779-2146 or cac@state.ma.us. Survivors may also contact the Child Protection Unit at the Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office at 617-619-4300. Anyone who believes that a child in Massachusetts may be the victim of abuse can call the Department of Children and Families’ Child at Risk Hotline at 1-800-792-5200. Those concerned that a child is being exploited online may report a Cybertip to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children at 1-800-THE-LOST or www.cybertipline.com.

A sentencing date has not been set.

## Gov. Baker files legislation to extend certain COVID-19 emergency measures

STAFF REPORT

On May 25, Governor Charlie Baker filed legislation to extend certain emergency measures currently in place via executive orders that are set to expire on June 15 when the State of Emergency will be rescinded. Most restrictions, including limitations placed on businesses, will be rescinded effective May 29 as Massachusetts nears the goal of vaccinating four million residents.

This legislation proposes to extend measures providing for a temporary suspension of certain open meeting law requirements, special permits for expanded outside dining at restaurants, and billing protections for COVID-19 patients. When the State of Emergency ends, these orders will expire, and temporarily extending these measures will allow for time to transition. Extending these measures, which were instituted by executive order, requires legislation.

To allow public bodies to safely meet during the pandemic and ensure public access to meetings, Governor Baker issued an Executive Order in March 2020 allowing these bodies to meet quorum requirements even if meetings were held remotely through electronic means as long as measures were taken to ensure the public with electronic access to

the proceedings. The bill filed by Governor Baker today will extend these provisions related to the Commonwealth’s Open Meeting Law until September 1, 2021, which will allow additional time to consider possible permanent changes to the open meeting law to provide for greater flexibility in conducting open meetings through reliance on electronic streaming and similar measures.

The bill will also grant municipalities authority to extend special permits for restaurants offering outdoor dining issued under the State of Emergency through November 29, 2021. Under an Executive Order issued

*Continued on page 25*

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# Janey announces new funding for recovery investments in the city

BY LAUREN BENNETT

May 25 marked the one year anniversary of George Floyd's death after former Minnesota police officer Derek Chauvin knelt on his neck for more than nine minutes. Acting Mayor Kim Janey on Tuesday said that "on this anniversary of the murder of George Floyd, we honor his life and legacy throughout our collective action for racial justice and healing in the City of Boston."

She continued, "we recognize that the conditions that led to George Floyd's death are still present. That is the urgent work that is before us. We honor his life and his legacy with an urgent agenda for racial equity and justice. As we mark this anniversary, now is our moment to learn in and live up to our values of equity and justice."

She said that on May 29, an

event will be hosted "to remember those we've lost and reclaim space to do the important racial equity and justice work."

Janey then spoke about the COVID-19 pandemic, and announced additional funding that has become available to the city through the federal American Rescue Plan.

"I am proud to report that we continue to see Boston's COVID metrics trending in the right direction, including in our hardest-hit neighborhoods and in communities of color," Janey said.

She added that COVID infections have decreased by 51 percent in the past two weeks, and the citywide positivity rate is 1.6 percent, "a historic low," she said.

Additionally, Janey said that 60 percent of Bostonians have gotten at least one dose of the

vaccine, and nearly half of residents are fully vaccinated.

"While the pandemic is not over, our progress is real, and our public health recovery is the foundation of a stronger, more equitable Boston," Janey said.

She announced \$50 million in funds from the American Rescue Plan to invest in the city's recovery.

"This is the first allocation of funding that will total \$500 million over 5 years," she said.

Janey said that she is putting together an "equitable recovery coordinating committee consisting of members of my cabinet, along with external stakeholders that will help ensure the equitable distribution of this funding."

She said that this committee will work in conjunction with the City Council on addressing inequalities that existed before the pandemic hit.

The money will be put towards a "robust package of investments that protect the lives and livelihoods of Boston residents," including investments in small businesses, the public health response, and treating behavioral health and substance use disorder.

"\$10 million will support the hardest hit communities affected by COVID-19," Janey said, with investments in affordable housing, childcare, language access, and other services.

She said that \$14.5 million will be dedicated to food access, tourism and culture, and housing, "in addition to the \$50 million I've already invested in the Rental Relief Fund," Janey said, and \$15.5 million will be allocated for small businesses that have been affected the most by COVID-19;

Additionally, Janey an-

nounced that City Hall will remain operating for in-person service four days a week May 29 through July 9 by appointment only, but as the city approaches full reopening, "you can enjoy the convenience of walk-in services at City Hall five days a week" beginning on July 12, she said.

"I want to thank all of our amazing, dedicated city employees who have been working hard over the last 14 months of this pandemic, and as we reopen City Hall for full services, we are welcoming back our employees in a phased in approach over the next six weeks, because we understand that people need to work out their childcare options and summer camp options for their children and other responsibilities," Janey said. "We will continue to support our city employees as they return back into the building."

## Baker

Continued from page 24

in 2020, municipalities were permitted to use an expedited process to approve temporary permits for new or expanded outdoor dining and alcohol service. Without a legislative extension, special permits granted under the Governor's Order will expire 60 days after the end of the State

of Emergency.

The legislation will also extend a protection adopted in an executive order that prohibits medical providers from billing patients who have received COVID-related emergency and inpatient services for charges in excess of costs paid by their insurers. As filed, the protection would extend until January 1, 2022, at which time recently passed federal legislation that included protections for both

emergency and non-emergency cases will become effective. Earlier this year, Governor Baker signed legislation establishing surprise billing protections for patients for non-emergency services.

"Massachusetts is leading the nation in the vaccination effort and that progress is enabling the Commonwealth to return to normal," said Governor Charlie Baker. "These temporary measures will help businesses and

residents in this transition period, and I look forward to working on these and other issues in the week ahead with our partners in the Legislature."

Last week, Governor Baker announced that on May 29, all industries will be permitted to open.

With the exception of remaining face-covering requirements for masks in public and private transportation systems, hospitals and other facilities housing

vulnerable populations, all industry restrictions will be lifted at that time, and capacity will increase to 100% for all industries. The gathering limit will be rescinded.

Before June 15, the administration plans to take additional steps that will permit the continuation of targeted public health measures beyond the end of the State of Emergency, including the mask requirements announced last week.

## LEGAL NOTICES

### LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate And Family Court 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 (617)788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU21P0618EA Estate of: Janet R. Richards Date of Death: 12/13/2020 To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Stacey A. Richards of Jamaica Plain, 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: Stacey A. Richards of Jamaica Plain, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve 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 06/08/2021. 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: April 27, 2021 Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate 5/28/21 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 REMOVAL OF A GUARDIAN OF AN INCAPACITATED PERSON Docket No. SU12P1757GD In the Interests Of: Natalie Starling Of: Boston, MA To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Department of Mental Health of Boston,

MA in the above captioned matter requesting that the court: Remove the Guardian. The petition asks the court to make a determination that the Guardian and/or Conservator should be allowed to resign; or should be removed for good cause; or that the Guardianship and/or Conservatorship is no longer necessary and therefore should be terminated. The original petition is on file with the court. You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 06/10/2021. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter

without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date. IMPORTANT NOTICE The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: May 04, 2021 Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate

5/28/21 JP

### LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR RESIGNATION OF A GUARDIAN OF AN INCAPACITATED PERSON Docket No. SU01P2370GI In the interests Of: Clinton Forbes Of: Boston, MA To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Department of Mental Health of Boston, MA in the above captioned matter requesting that the court: Remove the

Guardian. The petition asks the court to make a determination that the Guardian and/or Conservator should be allowed to resign; or should be removed for good cause; or that the Guardianship and/or Conservatorship is no longer necessary and therefore should be terminated. The original petition is on file with the court. You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 04/29/2021. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance,

you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date. IMPORTANT NOTICE The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: May 04, 2021 Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate 5/28/21 JP



## EDITORIAL

### A MEMORIAL DAY TO LOOK BACK AND AHEAD

If Memorial Day of 2020 was unlike any other, Memorial Day of 2021 will represent almost a 180 degree turnabout from the dark days of a year ago. Thanks to the miraculous production of vaccines and plummeting infection and hospitalizations rates, it would appear that the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic is behind us.

However, as joyful as our leap from the oppression of COVID-19 may be, we are saddened and humbled when we realize that almost 600,000 Americans, a total almost equal to the number of our soldiers killed in all of our foreign wars combined, have succumbed to the virus over the past 15 months.

But as Americans prepare to embark on the great reopening this Memorial Day weekend, marking our freedom from the virus, it is appropriate that we honor the brave men and women who gave their lives in our nation's wars so that we might enjoy the freedoms that define the American way of life.

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

When Memorial Day was moved to the last Monday of May starting in 1971, the three-day weekend also came to mark the official start of the summer season when we gather for cookouts and other outdoor activities with friends and family.

Amidst the usual festivities of Memorial Day weekend however, we must remember not to take for granted the freedoms that allow us to partake of the American way of life.

Although the worst of the pandemic hopefully is behind us, we still are facing a grave threat to our democracy.

The enemy is not a foreign power or a viral infection.

Rather, it is from within.

It is fair to say that Americans are as disunited as we ever have been since the end of the Civil War itself 156 years ago. The triad of seismic events of the past year -- the pandemic, the ensuing economic dislocation, and the endemic racism in our society -- exposed the deep fissures in our country that have been lurking beneath the surface for decades and exploded volcano-like over the past 12 months.

Rather than serving to unite us in a common effort to overcome these challenges, they tore us apart even further, culminating with the shameful effort on the part of some to bring to an end the great American experiment of democracy with the events of January 6.

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

We hope our readers take a moment to absorb Lincoln's words and reflect upon the meaning of Memorial Day, both in terms of our past and our future:

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

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

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



## OP-ED

### As our city reopens and the weather gets warmer, I encourage everyone who can to support our small businesses

BY ACTING MAYOR KIM JANEY

Warmer weather has brought good news in Boston's fight against the pandemic. Across our city, COVID-19 cases have dropped to their lowest levels in more than a year. And, from Roxbury to Roslindale, East Boston to West Roxbury, Boston residents are getting vaccinated at rates that outpace the rest of the country.

As a result of this progress, I recently announced that the City of Boston will align with the Commonwealth and COVID-19 restrictions starting May 29. Our battle against COVID-19 is not over. Reopening our city will only work if we all continue to do our part to fight the pandemic.

We know what works in Boston. We have created a culture of wearing our masks, washing our hands, and keeping our distance that keeps us safe. Let's keep it up, as we enjoy the recovery, reopening, and renewal of our city.

The pandemic has disproportionately impacted small businesses and businesses of color across the city. As Boston reopens, I encourage all of us to support these businesses and help our city make an equitable recovery.

Small businesses are what

make Boston the city we know and love, and my administration is working tirelessly to make sure they are front and center in our economic recovery. This includes the All Inclusive Boston Campaign to showcase stores, restaurants, and cultural assets all across the city. We've also launched the B-Local app that gives shoppers reward points at neighborhood businesses.

Small businesses assistance from our Office of Economic Development also includes weekly Small Business Calls, small business COVID surveys, and more than \$16.6 million in grants to over 4,500 businesses through five COVID-19 relief funds for small businesses. We have also expanded public space for business extensions through this year's Outdoor Dining Program, Food Truck Lottery, Outdoor Fitness Classes, and more.

As mayor, I take regular neighborhood business walks throughout our city, including in Roxbury, Jamaica Plain, Chinatown, Upham's Corner, and more. Talking with business owners generates new ideas and deepens my appreciation of the pivotal role businesses can play in Boston's equitable recovery. From restaurants, to bookstores, to clothing stores, our city is a

powerhouse in its diversity of services, cultures, and ideas.

This summer, I urge you to do your part in supporting our city and helping neighborhood businesses recover from unprecedented challenges. Here is how you can help:

- Download the B-Local app and earn rewards automatically when you shop at hundreds of participating local businesses across the City when you make a purchase with a credit or debit card. Then, redeem those rewards like cash at local businesses!

- Visit the All Inclusive Boston website and discover new and diverse businesses to explore.

- Post your visits to local businesses on social media using #AllInclusiveBos and spread the word to your family and friends about where you go!

Boston's recovery, reopening, and renewal takes all of us. Thank you for doing your part by getting vaccinated and safely enjoying all that Boston has to offer. Let's make this a happy, healthy summer.

*For more information on Mayor Janey's efforts to support small businesses, visit: <https://www.boston.gov/departments/small-business-development>.*



## LETTERS

# Community deserves a transparent process for sale of Blessed Sacrament Church

**Dear Editor**

We want to thank the hundreds of people who have joined our campaign in support of development at Blessed Sacrament Church that prioritizes the community's vision and goals for Hyde/Jackson Square: Boston's Latin Quarter. More than 1,500 residents have signed our petition (online and in-person) calling for development at Blessed Sacrament that promotes the Boston Latin Quarter and aligns with the vision and priorities of residents, youth, business owners, and artists.

We were pleased to hear from the Hyde Square Task Force (HSTF) that they have received several formal offers to purchase the Blessed Sacrament Church

building, and that there is interest in the property beyond market rate condo developers.

We are also encouraged by recent public statements that HSTF will prioritize a buyer that appreciates the significance of the church building to the Boston Latin Quarter and that HSTF will consider community benefit as well as financial benefit and make sure any future buyer listens to the voices and concerns of the Latin Quarter community.

As HSTF considers proposals to develop the church, Friends of Blessed Sacrament requests that they create a process where the community gets a chance to meet potential developers and give input and feedback before HSTF makes a final decision. Specif-

ically, we request that before taking a vote, the HSTF hold one or more public meetings where the community can hear from potential developers and give their feedback and comments.

We understand that as the owner of Blessed Sacrament, HSTF will make a final decision based on a variety of factors. Given HSTF's long history of holding developers accountable to the community and the importance of the church building to the future of the Latin Quarter, it is essential that they create a process where residents have the opportunity to have their voices heard before a final decision is made.

There are nearby examples of community organizations that

own real estate who have involved the community in the development process so that residents can understand how the proposals align with neighborhood priorities. For example, the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative (DSNI) recently hosted a meeting to introduce two possible developers for the former Citizens Bank building in Upham's Corner, currently owned by DSNI's community land trust. The DSNI Board of Directors will make the final decision on developer selection, but they have committed to take into account community feedback received at the developers' meetings and from members of the community steering committee they established to advise them on the project. Given the significance of the church building, a similar process for Blessed Sacrament Church would serve HSTF well

as they go through their decision-making process.

An open and transparent community process will result in the most favorable outcome for everyone concerned and ensure that the future owners continue to engage with the community going forward.

We look forward to hearing how HSTF plans to involve the community as they consider the proposals to redevelop the church.

**Betsaida Gutierrez**  
**Damaris Pimentel**  
**Dorothy Malcom**  
**Harry Smith**  
**Cisnell Baez**  
**Vanessa Snow**  
**Mark Hanser**  
**Christine Harris**  
**Pat Feeley**  
**Alok Shrivastava**  
**Paloma Valenzuela**

## 3368 Washington St. is welcome news

**Dear Editor :**

Lauren Bennett's May 14, 2021 story of the settlement that will allow the affordable housing project at 3368 Washington St. to proceed brought welcome news. Developers and landlords have long determined peoples' access to housing regardless of the federal government's Constitutional responsibility to "provide for the general welfare".

The story brought back memories of me as a nine-year-old

standing on the sidewalk crying as we were being forced from our house. I grew up in a white, working class family in a small southern town. My father worked long hours at jobs with unpredictable income and no health insurance and he faced enormous medical bills due to my mother's illnesses. The available medical care was inadequate.

With scholarships and student loans I was able to go to college and within 10 years pay

off the loans and go to graduate school. I have been very fortunate in my life. I'm now retired with a pension and I own my house. As a white woman, I'm not the target of the systemic racism that permeates our society. Still, I sometimes wake up with the fear of loosing my house and ending up on the street.

Righteous organizations like City Life/Vida Urbana do tremendous work. But the housing problem goes far beyond our city. The Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival has successfully pressured leaders in Congress to introduce a Resolution demanding a Third Reconstruction to end poverty in this country by lifting from the bottom up. We will be holding a press conference at the office of U.S Rep. Stephen Lynch, One Harbor Street, Boston, at 12:00 noon on June 7 to demand that he – and all our representatives – co-sponsor this essential resolution.

**Pat Aron**

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 Sat. & Sun., June 5-6, 9am to 2pm; Sedgwick Street (JP Library)

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## PLEASE WRITE...

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

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

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# We Are Community

CDA continues to support our amazing neighborhood organizations. Please join us for the following local events!

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Walking Tour of Sumner Hill  
May 29, Saturday, 11-12pm

**GARDEN SERIES SPONSORS**



Plant a Patio Pot | June 5, Saturday, 1-3pm



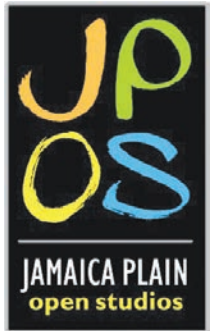
Loring Greenough House Garden Series 2021

**BOARD MEMBER**



Ongoing Events  
Check their website

**BOARD MEMBER**



JP Open Studios  
September 25 + 26

## With peak real estate season well under way, analysts are predicting indicators worth noting:

**Increasing Mortgage Rates:** Mortgage rates could continue to increase. As vaccinated Americans move toward herd immunity, it's expected the economic recovery will continue and contribute to an upward movement in mortgage rates. If you're thinking of buying this summer, it may be in your best interest to lock in a rate as soon as possible.

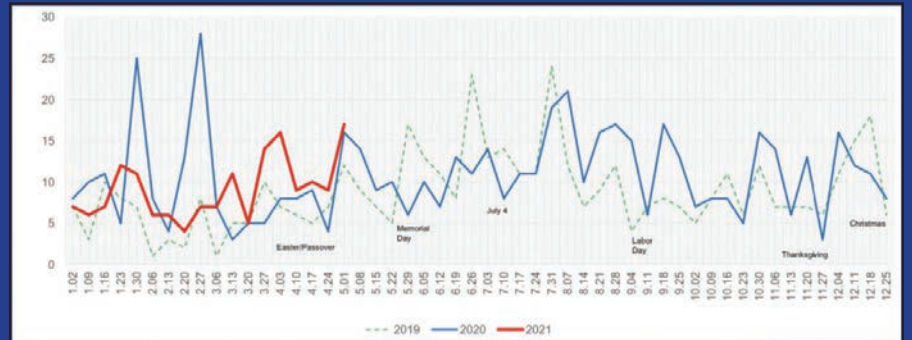
**Inventory:** Home shoppers have found the lack of inventory to be a source of frustration. It has been difficult, if not impossible, to find available properties. As homes enter the market, they are scooped up in days or even hours, with multiple competing offers.

**Hope on the Horizon:** Some analysts believe we will see an increase in inventory this year. As a general sense of stability returns, home sellers who were deterred from making a move in 2020 will be more likely to list their properties.

**Activity and Prices Rise:** Last month, the Greater Boston Association of Realtors' reported that single families homes sales rose 12.2% compared to April 2020 while condo sales rose more sharply with a 60.3% annual increase in the same period. Over the past year, single family median prices increased 15.9% from \$660,000 to \$765,000 while condo prices had a 2.8% increase, \$604,915 to \$622,100.

Here's a peek at JP Single Family, Multifamily and Condo Sales Activity over the last 2 years and the trend so far this year.

If you are looking to buy or sell call us, your area local experts in JP, Cervone Deegan + Associates at Coldwell Banker Realty. Showing you ...the way home.



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