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JP OBSERVER, PAGE 4

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OCTOBER 22, 2021

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SCENE AROUND JAMAICA PLAIN



Residents stop for a bite and conversation on the patio outside of City Feed on Sunday, Oct. 17. See more photos on Pages 22 and 23.

City to combat invasive Emerald Ash Borer; invasive beetle first detected at Arnold Arboretum in 2014

By JOHN LYNDIS

The Emerald Ash Borer has been spreading since it was first found in the Arnold Arboretum in Jamaica Plain in 2014. The invasive beetle has been identified in the neighborhoods of Allston-Brighton, Dorchester, Fen-

way-Kenmore, Hyde Park, Jamaica Plain, Roslindale, Roxbury, Mattapan, and West Roxbury, as well as the Arboretum, Franklin Park and the Muddy River area. This Borer lays eggs on the bark of ash trees and upon hatching, the larvae burrow deeper in the tree, killing it. The pest only

feeds on ash trees.

Ash trees in Jamaica Plain and around the City are beginning to show outward signs of infestation, which include D-shaped exit holes in the bark of ash trees, "blonding" from wood-

Continued on page 6

Janey, city officials celebrate completion of new firehouse

By LAUREN BENNETT

The city's first new firehouse in decades is finally up and running, and was celebrated with a ribbon cutting ceremony on

October 14, when city officials, elected officials, firefighters, and community members gathered at the Engine 42, Rescue 2, District 9 Firehouse at 1870 Columbus Ave.

"This is an amazing day in the City of Boston," said Acting Mayor Kim Janey. "I am so proud to be here to celebrate the reopening

Continued on page 5

Janey, funcionarios celebran nueva estación de bomberos

Por LAUREN BENNETT

Funcionarios de la ciudad, funcionarios electos, bomberos y miembros de la comunidad se reunieron el 14 de octubre para celebrar la apertura de la prim-

era nueva estación de bomberos de Boston en décadas. Engine 42 se encuentra en 1870 Columbus Ave.

"Este es un día increíble en la ciudad de Boston", dijo la alcaldesa interina Kim Janey. "Estoy

muy orgulloso de estar aquí para celebrar el importante trabajo que nuestro Departamento de Bomberos de Boston realiza to-

Continued on page 2

District 6 campaign mailer receives negative feedback

By LAUREN BENNETT

Many residents of District 6 are upset and pushing back against a recent mailer from District 6 Council candidate Mary Tamer's campaign. The mailer shows an image of Tamer, who is Arab-American, on the left in color, while Kendra Hicks, the other candidate for the District 6 seat, a Black Dominican woman and the other candidate for District 6, is shown on the right in black and white.

The text on the mailer reads "There are stark differences be-

tween the candidates for District 6 City Council."

Jamaica Plain Progressives, which has endorsed Hicks, released a statement on the matter, saying that "this kind of image manipulation is a known racist tactic used to make Black candidates appear menacing, and it is entirely unacceptable. It is difficult to believe that the Tamer campaign was unaware of this trope in the year 2021."

Hicks also released a statement on Twitter, saying that "In

Continued on page 3

BOSTON REALTY, BUILDING PROSPERITY AT SAM ADAMS



Melony Swasey of JPNDPC, and Kelsie Evans enjoying some time by the fire at Boston Realty, Building Prosperity event at Sam Adams Brewery. See more photos on Page 21.

**Roslindale Special
Section Pages 13-17**

Several JP organizations receive city grant to fill hunger gaps

BY JOHN LYNDS

Last week, Acting Mayor Kim Janey announced that four Jamaica Plain nonprofits were among 39 local, non-profit organizations to receive grant money through the Food Sovereignty and Community Grants programs.

The grants, totaling \$2.2 million to the local organizations,

were funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

The Southwest Senior Services, Family Aid Boston, The Dominican Development Center and the First Baptist Church of Jamaica Plain all received Community Grants in the categories of Equity in Food Access as well as Destigmatization and Outreach.

With the grant, the Jamaica

Plain agencies will create community-led food access solutions, increase awareness about food resources available, and destigmatize the food safety net and emergency programs, such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Healthy Incentive Program (HIP), Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Boston Double

Up Food Bucks, and food pantries.

“The pandemic has highlighted the disparities that exist in our City, including food insecurity,” said Janey. “I am proud to award this funding to local nonprofits already making an impact in our communities, and I know this will help their work to make Boston a more equitable city for all our residents.”

Through the funds, the City of Boston is working to address objectives in the 2021 Mayor’s Food Access Agenda and to ensure Boston-residents have access to necessary food. Additionally, through the grant programs, the City supports local farmers and programs that work to increase food security.

ZBA approves new unit in basement at 87-89 West Walnut Drive

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA) on Tuesday approved the proposal at 87-89 West Walnut Dr. to change the occupancy of the existing building from a two family to a three family. The basement will include living

space and a walk-out unit will be constructed for the basement level.

Applicant James Christopher said that the new unit will be a two bedroom, 900 square foot unit. He said that re-grading will be done on the right side of the building, after which a new

walkway will be constructed. The new unit will have new full size windows at the walkway, and there is a new parking area and retaining wall also proposed for the property.

Christopher also said that the existing seven foot six ceiling height will be kept, and the

window height from floor to sill is two foot six on the walkway.

Tiffani Caballero of the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services said that the applicant presented this proposal before the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council, which voted to approved based on the fact that the pro-

ponent work certain issues out with the abutters, “particularly around groundwater management,” she said. Caballero also said that they Mayor’s Office is in support of the project.

The ZBA voted to approve the proposal as submitted.

nueva estación

Continued from page 1

dos los días”.

También reconoció a los muchos funcionarios de seguridad pública y trabajadores esenciales que arriesgan sus vidas todos los días para mantener la ciudad segura.

La estación anterior en el lugar abrió en 1952 y sirvió a la comunidad durante 71 años.

“Muchos bomberos pasaron por esta casa y dejaron un legado de heroísmo difícil de igualar”, dijo el comisionado del Departamento de Bomberos de Boston, Jack Dempsey. “Muchos se han ido, mientras que otros están aquí hoy”.

Hay cuatro placas en la fachada de la estación que incluyen los nombres de los bomberos de la antigua estación que perdieron la vida en el cumplimiento del deber.

“Los miembros actuales ocuparán esta estación y continuarán la tradición de servicio a la

comunidad”, dijo Dempsey.

La nueva estación de \$23.5 millones incluye muchas comodidades que se centran en la salud y el bienestar de los bomberos.

“Hemos trabajado con varios socios para combatir los efectos de los carcinógenos,” dijo Kerrie Griffin, la Directora de Instalaciones Públicas de la ciudad.

La nueva estación de bomberos cuenta con sistemas de filtración de aire, duchas de vapor, secado rápido de equipos, espacio para entrenamiento y más.

“Esta estación de bomberos toma en consideración a un bombero que regresa de un incendio, así como su entrenamiento continuo”, dijo Griffin.



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

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

Do You need to run a legal notice?

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

After nearly 30 years in office, Representative Liz Malia to retire

STAFF REPORT

Rep. Liz Malia has been representing Wards 11, 12, and 19 for almost 30 years, but has announced that she will retire at the end of this session.

On her website, Malia issued the following statement:

“After doing policy and political work long enough you know that change is inevitable; you plan for what you can, and meet the unexpected with as much grace as possible. The past year+ has been filled with the second kind, and now feels like a good time to share some long-planned

personal changes. I will retire from public office at the end of this session.

My time in public service has been a gift. For nearly 30 years, I’ve worked alongside a steady crew of dedicated activists in Wards 11, 12 and 19. I have also had the privilege of exchanging ideas with many new people who bring diverse perspectives and experience, and an enthusiasm for the democratic process. Together we’ve enacted laws that helped Massachusetts live up to its progressive reputation—marriage equality, near-universal healthcare, increased access to mental health services— and

there’s so much more to do. With nine months left in the legislative session, safety net policies will be my focus. I hope to ensure more resources for accessible and affordable mental health programs, substance use disorder treatment, victims of the sex trade, and any other issues we can push.

On the second Wednesday in January, 2023, new leaders will join the legislature to represent a host of people historically ignored by power. This thoughtfully redesigned political landscape is a generational opportunity to welcome fresh voices. It has been the honor of a lifetime to advo-

cate for the neighborhoods of the 11th Suffolk. Thank you for your partnership and trust. I know the next representative is lucky to be working with wonderful people who are passionate about our neighborhoods and committed to building a more just and compassionate place for us all to live.”

District 6 City Councilor Matt

O’Malley tweeted on October 16 that “There is none better than Rep. Malia. I have absolutely loved serving with my ‘big sister’ Liz and am certain that she has left our city and our commonwealth a far, far better place. Thank you for everything. Congratulations on a truly remarkable career.”

District 6

Continued from page 1

2021, there is no place for such blatantly racist messaging in a campaign hoping to represent as diverse a community as District 6. I entered this race to meet the urgent need of resident across the city, focused on solutions and with a belief that together we can create better policy with more voices at the table,” the statement says.

“Darkening or editing a photo of a Black person to look more menacing is a racist tactic that has long been used by candidates in political campaigns, most notably by Republicans. The decision to print and send this mailer to thousands of residents is not only damaging to me but sends a message to the tens of thousands of Black and Brown residents across the city. We are not a menace. We are mothers, children, seniors, workers, voters, business owners, and taxpayers, and we deserve respect.”

Tamer’s campaign issued a response on Twitter on October 18, saying that “The Tamer Campaign, which abhors all forms of racism, sent out a mailer citing clear policy differences between Mary and her opponent, Kendra Hicks.” It continues, “The photo used was never intended to cause harm or show racial animus, but it is clear, based on the feedback we have received and heard, that it did not set the right tone.

Candidates for public office make errors in the midst of long

campaign days, and everyone on this multiethnic, multilingual campaign team has learned a valuable lesson. What we intended to focus on and will continue to focus on are the significant policy differences between Mary and her opponent. Elections are about choices, and District 6 voters have a clear choice to make on November 2.”

The back of the mailer features a chart with the “differences” between the two candidates, one of which states that Hicks “has not voted in 14 of the last 20 elections including Trump V. Clinton,” while Tamer’s side reads “increase access to voting as President of the Boston League of Women Voters.”

Hicks said in her statement that “implying that my voting record bars me from running for public office is a form of voter disenfranchisement. As someone who has faced barriers to voting—structural and personal—I am committed to expanding voter enfranchisement and removing the barriers that continue to stand in the way of many.”

JP Progressives said that “Mary Tamer, as a previous president of the Boston League of Women Voters, should be more aware than most of the many barriers to voting.”

The group also called upon those who have endorsed Tamer to issue statements against the mailer and even withdraw endorsement, particularly calling out current District 6 City Councilor Matt O’Malley, who has endorsed Tamer.

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JP OBSERVER

To invest in JP, get involved with the Neighborhood Council

BY SANDRA STOREY / SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

You see the name of this Jamaica Plain organization in this newspaper often. It sponsors lots of meaningful events every month. Before buildings are built, food is served to customers or the City of Boston or Commonwealth of Massachusetts wants to make a change in JP, this organization often holds discussions about those proposals and makes recommendations to government. Sometimes it makes proposals on its own.

The Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC), after its recent election of members on Aug. 21, still has openings. This coming Tuesday, Oct. 26, at its monthly meeting, the JPNC will consider filling nine empty seats of its 20 total positions. Several people have already expressed interest.

Its three current standing committees—Housing and Development, Zoning, and Public Service are composed of and chaired by council members, but there are spots in the hard-working groups for other volunteers from the community, too. Two committees in the recent past, Parks + and Education, are dormant at this time.

In addition to the full council, both its Housing and Development and Public Service (which deals with licensing and city services) committees have openings

now.

What an excellent opportunity for more community people to play an important role in the neighborhood! The council has always sought diversity in its membership. All ages, races, ethnic groups and personal histories are welcome, just as residents from all over JP are sought to run for seats. Expertise in a specific area of knowledge is not required. Desire and ability to function collaboratively with a range of different people and issues is necessary for the council to succeed.

Forest Hills resident Samantha (Sam) Montaña is the new chair of the JPNC. It's her second term on the council. A self-identified "queer, Latinx Chicana" originally from Los Angeles, she has a lot of experience doing community organizing professionally.

In an interview earlier this month, the 8-year JP resident talked about what she sees as the underlying tension between what makes one comfortable and "the greater good." She said that when doing community work, she believes, "Community comes before comfort."

Montaña volunteered to take what she calls a "temporary" JPNC chair position when no one else stepped forward, she said.

Being involved with the council is "enlightening and interesting. There's always a lot of business before us," she added.

Committees are where most discussions take place. "The nitty gritty work" happens there," Montaña said. The full council hears recommendations from the committees, discusses and takes the final vote on them.

The work of the council is "mental and emotional," she continued. "There are many points of view. Meetings are long."

Serving on it gives "an opportunity to think about what's going on and figure out how to invest in the community," she said

The MBTA and elected officials pay attention to what the JPNC has to say, she pointed out as examples of the group's clout. The council "has got a lot of potential, but that's not to say we don't still have a lot of work to do."

Committee chairs, vice chairs and some committee members are JPNC members. That's two meetings a month plus work outside the meetings for them. The JPNC has no staff. Committee members from the community usually attend one meeting a month and have related work on their own.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Jamaica Plain

Neighborhood Council, its committees, and its upcoming meetings, etc. can visit its website, jpnc.org. [Note: Some website info hasn't been updated since the election.] To volunteer to run for an open seat on the council or to join a committee, email info.jpnc@gmail.com to find out more. All council and committee meetings are open to the public, and it's a good idea to attend one or more to get an idea.

The JPNC was originated in 1985 by Mayor Raymond Flynn. He appointed 21 people from a pool of applicants and nominees in most neighborhoods. JP, Charlestown, Roxbury and West Roxbury neighborhood councils are still in existence.

The first JPNC—with 24 members because so many JP folks applied—devised bylaws that included the rule that the council would be local residents or business owners elected every two years going forward. Now twenty members represent three districts and at-large—five members each.

That group also created committees and the decision-making system that exists today. No wonder! The first year of existence, dozens of members of the public would crowd the JPNC meeting rooms, because so many issues were pressing on the community at the time. After a while, the issues and their supporters were each referred to an appropriate committee for detailed consideration.

That first council hammered out a Public Property Disposition Process that included early input from neighbors—a process that the City adopted with few changes. Even years later, the Department of Neighborhood Development handed out copies of that process in other Boston neighborhoods still in the format, font, and layout the JPNC presented to them.

Montaña is only the second woman in 36 years to chair the JPNC. I was the first chair, elected in 1985 before I became a journalist.

Parks Dept. completes first street tree inventory as part of city's Urban Forest plan

Releases results of JP's tree inventory

BY JOHN LYNDIS

Earlier this year, the City of Boston launched its first ever Urban Forest Plan with the hope it will help the city prioritize, preserve, and grow the tree canopy throughout Boston for decades to come.

"The Boston Urban Forest Plan is a year-long effort made up of several phases," said the Parks Department in a statement on the program. "The first part of our work was the urban forest street tree inventory — an assessment of the existing conditions of the public street trees throughout Boston."

The data collected during this

tree inventory provides an important snapshot in time of the condition of Boston's street trees.

"Now that the inventory is complete, we'll be diving into the data to see what it tells us about this piece of the urban forest," the statement continued.

According to the report the 10 most-common trees in Jamaica Plain includes: honeylocust at 35.0%, littleleaf linden at 11.4%, pin oak at 10.8%, Callery pear at 8.4%, green ash at 6.9%, Norway maple at 6.6%, red maple at 6.6%, Japanese zelkova at 5.1%, London planetree at 4.2%, and ginkgo at 3.9%.

In October 2020 the Boston Parks and Recreation Department announced the city would partner with local groups in Ja-

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CITY OF BOSTON/County of Suffolk Health and Human Services

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Facilitation services to create a community-led response to mental health crises

EV00009747
Contact Information
Krystal Garcia MSPH, Director of Policy & Research
617-635-3950

The City of Boston ("the City"), acting by the Chief of the Health and Human Services, hereinafter referred to as the Official, invites sealed bids for the performance of the work generally describe, and particularly set forth in the Invitation for Bids: Coordinate and facilitate with the Community-Led Design Group to meet the charge of designing an alternative model to respond to mental health crises to be submitted to the Mayor.

The bid documents will be accessible on line from Monday October 04, 2021 through Friday October 29, 2021 by visiting the City of Boston Public Procurement website and Supplier Portal at the following link (<http://boston.gov/procurement> and accessing the event ID #EV00009747.

All sealed bids shall be filed electronically no later than 4:00 pm on Friday October 29, 2021 by logging onto the City of Boston Procurement website as listed and accessing the above event number.

The attention of all bidders is directed to the provisions of the Invitation for Bids and contract documents, specifically to the requirements for bid deposits, insurance and performance bonds as may be applicable.

Sealed bids shall be opened electronically by the Official on Friday October 29, 2021 at 4:00 PM. The contract awarded pursuant to this invitation to bid will **commence on or about November 15 and will end on June 30, 2022.**

Marty Martinez, Chief of Health and Human Services
(October 4, October 11, October 18, October 25, 2021)

Continued on page 5

Engine 42

Continued from page 1

of Engine 42 and the important work that our Boston Fire Department does every single day.”

She continued, “This is particularly important as I think about the amazing men and women who serve on the Boston Fire Department and all of our public safety officials and the work that they do every single day as essential workers; as folks who are on the front lines who risk their lives every single day to keep all of us safe.”

Boston Fire Department Commissioner Jack Dempsey said that the previous fire station at this location had opened December 19, 1952, and “for 71 years, has served the community with distinction.” He said that the “many firefighters who have passed through this house” have left “a legacy of heroism that is

hard to match. Many are long gone, while others stand here today in celebration of the new firehouse which we know will fall in the same tradition of heroic service to the city.”

There are four plaques on the facade of the firehouse that include names of firefighters from the old firehouse who lost their lives in the line of duty.

“Today, October 14, 2021... the current members of District 9, Engine 42, and Rescue 2, will occupy this firehouse and continue the tradition of service to the community and the City of Boston,” Dempsey said.

The new \$23.5 million firehouse includes many amenities that are focused on the health and well-being of firefighters.

“We worked with various partners at MassGeneral, the IAFF, and the NFPA to develop the best standards to combat the long-term effects of carcinogens that can be detrimental to a firefighter’s health, said Kerrie



On October 14, Acting Mayor Kim Janey was joined by elected officials and Boston Fire officials to cut the ribbon, officially opening the new Engine 42 firehouse at 1870 Columbus Ave.

Griffin, the city’s Director of Public Facilities.

The new firehouse features compartmentalized air systems

with three zones, as well as steam showers, quick gear drying, training space, and more.

“Every square inch of this

firehouse takes into consideration a firefighter returning from a fire event, as well as their ongoing training,” Griffin said.

Tree inventory

Continued from page 4

Jamaica Plain and across the city to help create an equitable vision

for the protection and expansion of the City’s tree canopy.

Street trees naturally absorb pollution and reduce urban noise by 6 to 15 decibels.

Alongside the City, Jamaica Plain partners and other stake-

holders will apply an environmental justice lens throughout the entire process of creating a 20 year “Urban Forest Plan” in Boston.

Understanding where canopy loss is happening is the first

step in addressing these issues through policy, including guidelines for tree canopy protection on public, private, and institutional property.

In addition to the \$500,000 budgeted for the Urban Forest Plan, historic investments in

public spaces this year will also support the hiring of a new arborist and the planting of an additional 1,000 trees, doubling the yearly total to 2,000 trees planted per year.

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This newly remodeled 5 bedroom, 3 bath home is a dream with natural sunlight, beautiful wood features, stainless steel appliances, and hardwood floors. Beautiful foyer and grand staircase with large windows. Check out the gorgeous kitchen with peninsula seating, stunning cabinetry, New granite countertops and stainless steel appliances, built-in wine rack, skylights, & sliding door access to the outdoor deck. Living space/rental opportunity can be found in the finished basement with 1 bed, 1 bath, kitchen, private patio, laundry room, storage, & wood pellet stove. Walk-up attic has huge potential for extra playroom, game room, office space, or whatever you imagine!

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Invasive beetle

Continued from page 1

pecker feeding, dieback in the upper third of the tree canopy, and sprouting at the base of the trunk.

Last week Acting Mayor Kim Janey and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department announced measures being taken to slow the spread and protect Boston's public street trees from the Emerald Ash Borer.

On Oct. 15 Janey and the Parks Department unveiled how the City will manage the infestation by treating healthy trees on public property to prevent infection and removing trees that are dead, dying, or significantly damaged.

Janey said several hundred street trees will be removed this winter while the trees are dormant, and preventative injections will begin next spring when healthy trees are becoming more active. Sites where trees have been removed will be prioritized for new tree plantings in the next planting season. Managing the Emerald Ash Borer infestation in Boston will take place over several years.

"Dead, dying, and damaged trees pose a significant public health and safety threat to Bos-



PHOTO: DEBBIE MILLER, USDA FOREST SERVICE
Adult Emerald Ash Borer beetle.

ton's communities," said Janey. "The City Arborist is currently working to determine which public street trees have been infested with the Emerald Ash Borer. It's crucial that we save as many trees as possible with smart management decisions to protect our City's green spaces for generations to come."

Head of Horticulture at the Arnold Arboretum and member of the Community Advisory Board for the Urban Forest Plan, Andrew Gapinski, said since its introduction into the U.S. Midwest in the 1990's, the emerald ash borer has killed millions of natural and cultivated ash trees.

"Spreading to Massachusetts in 2012, it was first detected

in Boston here at the Arnold Arboretum through a rigorous monitoring program in partnership with the DCR and the City," said Gapinski. "The City's Urban Forest Plan aims to diversify, expand the tree canopy, and prepare for the challenges of tomorrow—a key step toward a more resilient and sustainable urban forest," said "The emerald ash borer is here to stay, and best management practices of surveying the City's ash trees for signs of the beetle, removal and replacement of trees in decline, and treatment of trees in good health is essential to saving as many ash trees as possible. EAB is just one of many introduced pests that have devastating effects on our forests, landscapes, and communities – and it certainly will not be the last."

The City's Urban Forest Plan's initial phase, a comprehensive tree inventory, was completed in September and revealed that Boston is home to approximately 1,817 public street ash trees, which represent about 4.3% of the city's total street tree population. The Plan's recommendations will also include increased funding and staffing for tree care and to more effectively respond to invasive insects like Emerald Ash Borer.

"While tree removals are always challenging to witness,



PHOTO: DAVID CAPPAERT, BUGWOOD.ORG
Ash tree receiving preventative treatment for Emerald Ash Borer

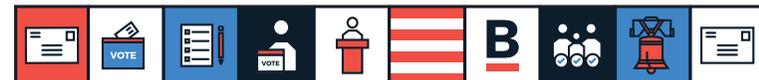
they are necessary to protect healthy trees and to stop the spread of Emerald Ash Borer," said Parks Commissioner Ryan Woods. "Dead trees, with their brittle wood, quickly become a safety hazard."

Chief of Environment, Energy, and Open Space Reverend Mariama White-Hammond said understanding canopy loss is the

first step in addressing issues affecting Boston's trees—like climate change, development, pests, and disease—and how those factors intersect.

"That's why the Parks Department is developing a road map to powerful, equity-centered policy changes that will preserve and expand our tree canopy—the City's first Urban Forest Plan," she said.

The Parks Department cares for public street trees and park trees. The city is encouraging residents that believe they have seen an infested ash tree on a public street or park, contact 311. Private property owners should learn to recognize ash trees, check for signs of infestation, and contact a certified arborist for preventative treatments.



VOTE EARLY BOSTON

Saturday, October 23 – Friday, October 29

Registered Boston voters can vote at any early voting location in the City, including City Hall. Pick a time and place that is best for you.

EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24 | 11 A.M. - 7 P.M.

BCYF Paris Street
112 Paris Street, East Boston, MA 02128

James F Condon Elementary School
200 D Street, South Boston, MA 02127

Richard J. Murphy School
1 Worrell Street, Dorchester, MA 02122

ABCD Thelma D. Burns Building
575 Warren Street, Dorchester, MA 02121

Another Course to College
612 E Metropolitan Avenue,
Hyde Park, MA 02136

BCYF Roche
1716 Centre Street, West Roxbury, MA 02132

BCYF Shelburne
2730 Washington Street, Roxbury, MA 02119

Central Library in Copley Square
700 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116

Jackson Mann School
500 Cambridge Street, Allston, MA 02134

BCFY Quincy
885 Washington Street, Chinatown, MA 02111

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26 | 12 - 8 P.M.

BCYF Tobin
1481 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02120

Harvard/Kent School
50 Bunker Hill Street, Charlestown, MA 02129

Margarita Muniz Academy
20 Child Street, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

BCYF Mildred Ave Community Center
5 Mildred Ave, Mattapan, MA 02126

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28 | 12 - 8 P.M.

Saint Nectarios Greek Church
39 Belgrade Avenue, Roslindale, MA 02131

District Hall
75 Northern Avenue, Boston, MA 02210

BCYF Perkins
155 Talbot Avenue, Boston MA 02124

The Salvation Army Kroc Center
650 Dudley Street, Dorchester, MA 02125

BOSTON CITY HALL | OCTOBER 25 - 29

Monday, October 25 | 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Tuesday, October 26 | 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Wednesday, October 27 | 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Thursday, October 28 | 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Friday, October 29 | 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Friday, October 29 | 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

DROP-BOX LOCATIONS

East Boston Branch Library
365 Bremen Street, East Boston, MA 02128

Charlestown Branch Library
179 Main Street, Charlestown, MA 02129

South Boston Branch Library
646 East Broadway, South Boston, MA 02127

Central Library in Copley Square
700 Boylston Street, Back Bay, MA 02116

Roxbury Branch Library
149 Dudley Street, Roxbury, MA 02119

Honan-Allston Branch Library
300 North Harvard Street, Allston, MA 02134

Brighton Branch Library
40 Academy Hill Road, Brighton, MA 02135

Fields Corner Branch Library
1520 Dorchester Avenue, Dorchester, MA 02122

Jamaica Plain Branch Library
30 South Street, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

Mattapan Branch Library
1350 Blue Hill Avenue, Mattapan, MA 02126

West Roxbury Branch Library
1961 Centre Street, West Roxbury, MA 02132

Hyde Park Branch Library
35 Harvard Avenue, Hyde Park, MA 02136

Parker Hill Branch Library
1497 Tremont Street, Roxbury MA 02120

Grove Hall Library
41 Geneva Avenue, Dorchester MA 02121

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500 Columbia Rd, Dorchester, MA 02125

City Hall - 3rd Floor
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City Hall - Congress Street
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Codman Square Branch Library
690 Washington St, Boston, MA 02124

Adams Street Branch Library
690 Adams St, Dorchester, MA 02122

BCYF Roslindale
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Learn more at boston.gov/early-voting

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ABCD says low-income residents face perfect storm this winter

STAFF REPORT

With dramatic increases in home heating costs predicted, ABCD warns that residents of the Boston area and other cold-weather regions will face a perfect storm of painful conditions as winter cold descends.

The rise in home heating costs is sparked by a 30 percent increase in the cost of natural gas.

The National Energy Assistance Directors Association said this week that, based on national data, the average residential natural gas bill will increase from \$572 to \$859 while heating oil costs per household can rise from \$1,272 to \$1,900. Costs are higher in the Boston-New England region.

Bitter winter weather means prices can go even higher because of increased demand with a significant impact on low-income households. Last year, 29 percent of families surveyed by the U.S. Census Bureau said they had to reduce spending on essential items such as groceries and medications in order to heat their homes. Many also postponed making rent payments, putting their families at risk of eviction and homelessness.

With the pandemic still delivering a harsh blow to disadvantaged neighborhoods where unemployment remains high and with housing and food costs continuing to rise, many families and seniors are barely getting by. Major assistance with winter heating bills is vital to keeping them in their homes and avoiding homelessness, hypothermia or hospitalization. Last year ABCD processed 21,501 applications – 2,000 more than the previous year.

ABCD providing \$600 per household maximum benefit

Right now the maximum fuel benefit in Massachusetts is \$600 for families and seniors living at 100 percent of poverty. That poverty level means an annual income of \$26,500 for a family of four or \$12,880 for a person living alone.

ABCD President/CEO John J. Drew said that given the plight of the tens of thousands needing help in Massachusetts, ABCD estimates that a minimum of at least \$1,800 will be needed to get them through the winter.

The imminent winter will

compound problems already facing low-income families and the elderly and disabled,” said Drew. They are contending with housing and food insecurity, medical problems, getting children back to school – and here comes winter with spiking costs for heat, warm clothing, everything.

We expect the state to increase fuel benefit levels as the winter progresses and encourage residents to submit their recertification forms if they received assistance in prior years or to fill out a new application.”

Kathy Tobin, ABCD Director of Energy Services, pointed out that it is important to find out if you qualify for help. She noted the dangers and high cost of residents finding themselves in a no-heat situation: “They may resort to space heaters, which can cause fires if not used safely. They close off rooms and huddle in the kitchen around a stove and pipes in unused rooms burst. They boil water for the heat. Kids wake up cold and go to school sick. Older people are susceptible to hypothermia. It costs everyone more in the end due to illness and fires and poor educational achievement.”

How to apply
ABCD provides home heating

fuel assistance to income-eligible residents in Boston, Brookline, Newton and seven communities north of Boston in the Mystic Valley region, including Malden, Medford, Everett, Melrose, Stoneham, Winchester and Woburn.

Residents of Boston, Brookline and Newton can apply by calling ABCD at 617-357-6012. Residents of the Mystic Valley region can call 781-322-6284. They can also call their neighborhood center and make an appointment to fill out fuel assistance forms in person. Previous fuel recipients received recertification forms in the mail which they should fill out and return. First-time applicants can apply online at toapply.org/MassLIHEAP

Help is also available on a sliding scale for those slightly above poverty level, to prevent them from falling through the cracks. For example, a family of four earning \$78,751 or a single person with an income of \$40,951 may qualify for the current maximum benefit of \$430 in fuel assistance.

Even those who are unsure whether they qualify should apply. It is critical to determine eligibility and get into the system at the beginning of the winter season. Once a family qualifies

for fuel assistance, benefits are paid directly to the household’s fuel vendor.

More information including a list of Boston-area neighborhood site locations and phone numbers may be found at bostonabcd.org/fuel-assistance.

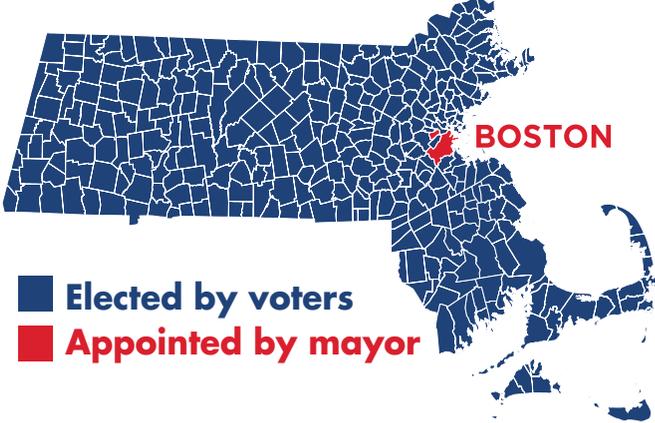
ABCD also offers qualifying families a comprehensive range of energy services to keep families warm, safe and healthy including repair and replacement of inoperable or highly inefficient heating systems, utility discounts, weatherization, programs to improve energy conservation, and much more.

Donations gratefully accepted

ABCD is grateful for any private donations to the ABCD WINTER FUND which will be used to help those in fuel assistance emergencies after using up their allocation. Your generous gift can save a household from hypothermia, stop a family from turning to dangerous heating substitutes, prevent sickness, and dramatically improve the quality of life. If you’d like to donate to the ABCD WINTER FUND, please call 617-348-6559, email give@bostonabcd.org or visit bostonabcd.org/give.

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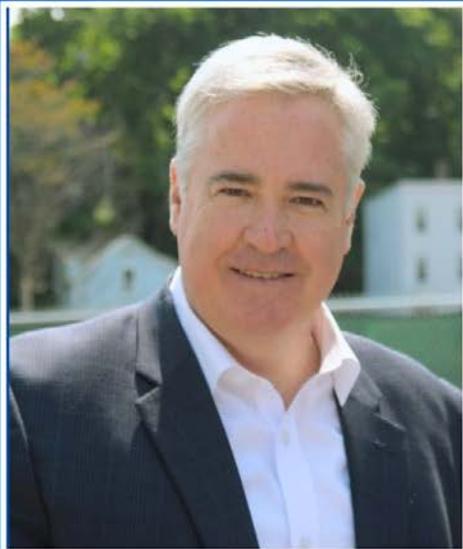


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City of Boston announces increased accessibility of voting ahead of Nov. 2 election

STAFF REPORT

The City of Boston Election Department on October 15 announced steps to increase accessibility of voting ahead of the No-

vember 2 general election. Additionally, City of Boston ballot drop boxes are now available, and early voting will run Saturday, October 23 - Friday, October 29 at various locations throughout Boston.

Accessible Electronic Voting System

The City of Boston has implemented an Accessible Electronic Voting System, which will

provide voters with accessible electronic vote by mail ballots for the upcoming general election on November 2, 2021. Boston voters with print or visual disabilities may now request, receive, and return an accessible electronic ballot. The Accessible Electronic Remote Voting System is compatible with screen readers, allowing voters who are blind or low vision to participate in the vote-by-mail and absentee voting programs privately and independently.

The Accessible Electronic Remote Voting System was established by an agreement between the City of Boston, the Boston Center for Independent Living, Bay State Council of the Blind, and the Disability Law Center. The terms of this agreement require the City of Boston to establish and implement an accessible vote-by-mail ballot system for qualified voters with disabilities for the November 2, 2021 general election and every election through December 31, 2025.

The City's Accessible Electronic Voting System includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Accessible forms that enable Boston voters with visual and print disabilities to apply to participate in the Electronic Remote voting system
- An accessible vote-by-mail ballot request form that allows Boston voters to self-certify that they have a disability which prevents them from completing a paper ballot privately and independently
- An accessible ballot
- An accessible means of ballot certification that is electronically fillable and submittible and permits use of a typed name or other proof of identity or credentials as a substitute for a hand-written signature
- A web based platform or other accessible mechanism that allows qualified voters to electronically cast their vote

"The creation of this electronic vote by mail system shows the City's commitment to accessibility and inclusion of people with disabilities," said Boston's Disability Commissioner Kristen McCosh. "It is compatible with screen readers and other text-to-speech software, allowing voters to easily navigate the application and independently complete the

form fields."

To obtain an accessible ballot, qualified voters must:

1. Apply through our online portal by clicking here or;
2. Complete and email the forms currently available –
3. 2021 Vote-by-Mail Application (<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elepdf/2021-Vote-by-Mail-Application.pdf>)
4. Absentee Ballot Application (<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elepdf/absentee/English-Absentee-Ballot-Application.pdf>); and
5. Send a written request for an accommodation. The voter's request for an accommodation should explain that they need access to the Accessible Remote Voting System in order to vote privately and independently because they are unable to effectively access a standard print ballot due to a disability. This written request can be sent via email.

Once the voter's application for an accessible electronic ballot is approved, the voter will receive a secure login and credentials to access the electronic ballot. Voters will be able to mark their votes independently and privately, and then submit the ballot via a secure delivery system using the secure login credential provided through the Accessible Remote Voting System. To assist with navigating the new system or to troubleshoot any issues voters may have when casting their accessible electronic ballot, voters may contact absenteevoter@boston.gov.

Qualified voters with disabilities may request an accessible ballot using the online request forms. If they requested a mailed ballot but have not returned it, a voter can request a new accessible ballot online.

Voters may request the accessible vote-by-mail ballot through using this link or by emailing absenteevoter@boston.gov. The deadline to request a vote by mail ballot is 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 27, 2021.

Ballot Drop Boxes

Voters who requested vote-by-mail ballots or absentee ballots must have their signed ballot returned to the Boston Elec-

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Continued on page 9

NEWS BRIEFS

LIVING SAFELY IN JACKSON SQUARE COALITION TO HOLD YOUTH FAIR OCT. 23

Living Safely in Jackson Square Coalition comprised of Tree of Life, Hyde Square Task Force Possible Project, Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation, Urban Edge, the Community Builders, MCHailey Tenant Organization

Boston Housing Authority, Boston Public School Boston Police Department received a 3 year grant funding by Boston Children's Hospital Health Equity Grant to support residents and community based organizations /agencies in their efforts to improve the health and well-being of children and their families who reside in the Jackson Square. The three areas being addressed by this grant are a)

Early Learning and Family Stability ;b) Resident Leadership and c) Youth Engagement.

One of the components of the Coalition and the objective of this Youth Fair is to engage and connect the youth from Jackson Square so that they are "more socially connected, safer in their neighborhood and have an increased understanding of the resources, option and pathways available to them now and as

they plan for the future.

FOCUS RE TO HOLD A TOY AND COAT DRIVE

Focus Real Estate in Jamaica Plain will hold a toy and coat donation drive to benefit Toys for Tots and Cradles to Crayons this holiday season.

Focus will collect new, unwrapped toys for children up to age 12 and new or gently used

coats for children and adults. Toys for Tots and Cradles to Crayons provide these items to local families in need.

Donations can be dropped off at the agency's office at 34 South Street until December 15. Bins are available outside the office for after-hours donations. Cash donations can also be made which will then be used to purchase coats and toys.

District 6 City Council candidate Winnie Eke endorses Mary Tamer

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Winnie Eke, the third place finisher in the District 6 Boston City Council race, has endorsed former Boston School Committee member Mary Tamer to represent the neighborhoods of West Roxbury and Jamaica Plain, and parts of Roslindale, Mission Hill and Roxbury.

"I'm supporting Mary Tamer because I know she brings the leadership, vision, and experience to best represent these neighborhoods and address the challenges that our city is facing," said Eke, a longtime Boston Public Schools teacher and former board member of the Parkway YMCA.

"Mary shares my commitment to Boston's children and seniors, and she will actively work with community members to ensure that the needs of our neighborhoods are heard and addressed."

A longtime resident of West Roxbury and active community leader and advocate, Winnie is a mother and grandmother. She was a science teacher at Boston Latin Academy and West Roxbury Education Complex and holds a Ph.D. in public policy, master's degrees in health education and educational administration, and a bachelor's degree in biology-chemistry. She is currently teaching at Boston College.

"I'm honored to have Winnie Eke's endorsement and know we have a lot of work ahead to address many of our shared priorities, including a greater focus on housing affordability and the provision of more services and opportunities for the seniors who make District 6 their home," said Tamer, former President of the League of Women Voters of Boston. "Winnie and I both understand the importance of bringing people together and working collaboratively to get things done for our neighborhoods, and I look forward to connecting with her supporters throughout District 6 in the days ahead."

Eke's endorsement follows

other prominent local leaders supporting Tamer's campaign, including City Councilor Matt O'Malley (D-West Roxbury), former Representative Jeffrey Sánchez (D-Jamaica Plain), State Representative Ed Coppinger (D-West Roxbury), and the Honorable Angela Menino.

Boston City Council President Pro Tempore Matt O'Malley, who also endorsed Tamer, has served as the District 6 Boston City Councilor for the last 11 years. O'Malley announced in December 2020 that he would not seek re-election in 2021. Tamer will face Kendra Hicks in the general election on Nov. 2.

With a lifelong passion for

public service, Mary Tamer is running to serve as the next City Councilor for District 6, which includes the neighborhoods of West Roxbury and Jamaica Plain, along with portions of Roslindale, Mission Hill and Roxbury. Mary is a former Boston School Committee member, staunch advocate for children with special needs, and past President of the League of Women Voters of Boston, the oldest League in the nation. She and her husband, Paul, are the parents of two sons they raised in Roslindale and West Roxbury.

Voting

Continued from page 8

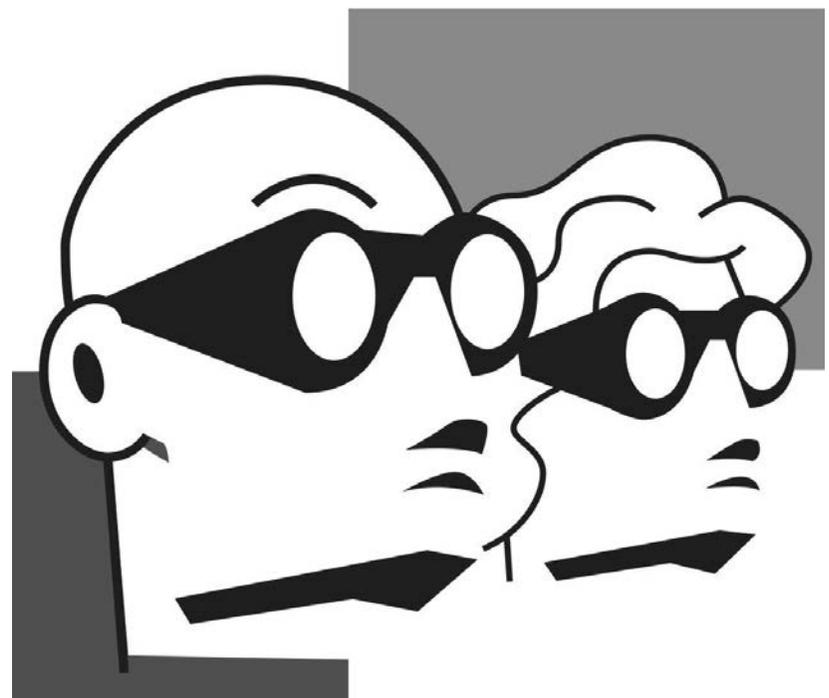
tion Department by 8:00 p.m. on November 2. Voters can track the status of their vote-by-mail ballots here. Vote-by-mail ballots can also be returned to the Election Department by dropping it off at any of the 20 drop boxes located around the City of Bos-

ton. All drop box locations can be found here.

Early Voting

Voters registered in Boston can vote early in person at any of the early voting sites from Saturday, October 23 through Friday, October 29, 2021. Early voting hours and locations can be found here.

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JPNC Housing & Development Committee discusses three proposals

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC) Housing & Development Committee met virtually on October 19 where they heard three presentations for proposals in the neighborhood, including one at 3409 Washington St., one at 127 Amory St., and one at 10 Stonley Rd.

3409 WASHINGTON ST.

Dave Traggorth of Traggorth Companies said that the proposal at 3409 Washington St., which is currently a “tow lot with a chain link fence around it,” is to create a four story residential building with parking.

Last summer, the original proposal of a boutique hotel was changed to this residential proposal after hearing feedback from the community that a hotel use is not the best use of that land.

Kevin Deabler of RODE Architects said that the proposed four story building will “maintain a strong streetwall presence.”

The building will feature 29 residential units—14 studios, eight one bedrooms, and seven two bedroom units. There will also be seven parking spaces and a total of 32 bike parking spaces for residents and visitors. Five of the units will be affordable, and one will be accessible.

Deabler said that two zoning variances are required for the project: Floor Area Ratio and building height. The project will be fully compliant with the city’s Building Energy Reduction and Disclosure Ordinance (BERDO), will be all electric with potential solar PV panels, and will aim for LEED Silver certification, he added.

For community benefits, the ground floor will feature a community space, and the project will improve walkability” and “traffic flow” in the area, according to a slide presented, as well as create jobs and tax revenue. The slide also states that the affordable units are “in excess of [Inclusionary Development Plan] and at 50 percent [Area Median Income] (AMI).”

Committee member Marvin Mathelier said that he has a “tad bit of concern with the development that’s going on in that corridor,” as well as “congestion in that area during development or post development.”

Traggorth said that the project team will be coordinating with the Boston Transportation Department “from a construction management planning perspective,” and that it’s the city’s responsibility to coordinate sidewalk permits and the like.

There was also concern raised about the larger number of smaller apartments proposed, as many families are looking for larger affordable units in the neighborhood.

Traggorth said that in Jamaica Plain, there are “lots of triple deckers with multiple bedrooms, and people do appreciate studios and one bedrooms.” He also said that the unit that will be at 50 percent AMI will be a studio unit.

Committee member Carolyn Royce said that there are definitely concerns about the affordable units and the fact that there

are not enough of them.

The committee decided that they would discuss this further at next month’s meeting, when the project team will return.

27 AMORY ST.

John Harding, a project manager at The Community Builders (TCB), talked about a proposal for 127 Amory St., which he said is currently a Boston Housing Authority site that TCB is partnering with Urban Edge and JPND to develop.

“The entire site went through Article 80 years ago,” he said, but the proposal now is to change the affordability of the previously approved project to make it 100 percent affordable. He said the team has “recently submitted a notice of project change,” and hoped to receive support from the JPNC because it is “helpful in our applications for funding,” Harding said.

Harding explained that the building envelope will remain the same as previously approved, but the originally approved 140 units of mostly studio and one bedrooms is now proposed to be 96 units, more than half of which will be two and three bedroom units. Originally, the building was to have an underground parking garage, but now there will be “14 outdoor and 16 indoor” parking spaces, a decrease from the original 14 outdoor and 56 other spaces that were set to be included in the garage. The building is proposed to be six stories.

The affordability is a “total even mix” of one third of the units at 30 percent AMI, one third at 60 percent AMI, and one third at 80 percent AMI, he said.

There is also green space at the front of the building, and Harding said that the “main goals here are to connect with the outdoors.”

After a few questions and answers, the committee voted to write a letter in support of the

increased affordability and increased number of family units.

10 STONLEY RD

Matt Henzy, a consultant for JPND, presented the proposal for 10 Stonley Rd., which used to have a different developer but has been taken over in a partnership between JPND and Traggorth Companies.

The proposal is for a 45 unit affordable home ownership units, with five artist live/work units. It will be new construction on the existing lot at 10 Stonley Rd.

“This project had a prior iteration under a different development team and different ownership,” Henzy said, and was set to be rental units that were “primarily market rate.”

In 2019, the previous project went through a process with the Stony Brook Neighborhood Association (SNA), which had several concerns with the proposal. Both the BPDA and the ZBA also approved the prior project.

Henzy said that the 45 units of affordable home ownership being proposed now will follow passive house standards. The building will be four stories, and consist of studio units, as well as one, two, and three bedroom units. He did said that it is “heavy on studios and ones,” and the “unit mix is subject to some minor modification.”

He also said that the team met with the SNA on October 6.

The committee ultimately voted to write a “qualified letter in support” that will be based on the now 100 percent affordability. There were also discussions on deed restrictions for the property, but the committee decided the letter would not discuss that for now.

“That very much fits within our goals and priorities and we’re very excited to see 100 percent affordable homes for sale,” said committee member Micah Sachs of the new proposal.



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Essaibi George announces updated plan for Mass and Cass

Amongst frontline workers, labor unions representing city workers, and local leaders, At-Large City Councilor Annissa Essaibi George on October 17 released an updated policy plan outlining immediate actions to tackle the devastation at Massachusetts Avenue and Melnea Cass Boulevard (Mass and Cass) if elected Mayor of Boston. In the plan, Essaibi George calls for a Public Health Emergency Zone for the Mass and Cass area to create a special, singular district for streamlined service delivery and increased capacity for responsiveness.

During the announcement on Southampton Street, Essaibi George received new endorsements from SEIU 888 and SENA 9158, which represent thousands of city workers on the frontlines of Mass and Cass, and District 3 City Councilor Frank Baker, whose district includes parts of the Mass and Cass area. They joined the Massachusetts Nurses Association, Boston EMS Union, and AFSCME 93, all who have previously endorsed Essaibi George's candidacy, to underscore their commitment to address this crisis through a coordinated, multifaceted response alongside an Essaibi George Administration.

"I have the relationships, the knowledge, the experience to tackle Mass & Cass on Day One. You cannot say the same about Michelle Wu. This is not an issue you can tackle from afar. It requires a presence and firsthand understanding. It requires tough decisions and action, not more stalling. It requires collaboration and partnership with those on the ground doing the work day in and day out," said Essaibi George. "Mass and Cass has received a lot of attention during this race, and that's a good thing.

But I have one, honest question: Will the attention still be here on November 3? I'm here to say very loudly and clearly that under an Essaibi George Administration, yes it will. My work in this space reflects that."

"SEIU Local 888 represents many of the Boston city workers who are working on the frontlines of Mass and Cass. We know that to better this city it's not enough to sit in the Mayor's Office and avoid the hard truth. We need a Mayor that shows up and does so without fanfare—that person is Annissa Essaibi George," said Thomas McKeever, President of SEIU Local 888. "This plan demonstrates Annissa's commitment to leading with those doing the work and we're proud to be with her in this race."

"Like so many other areas in the City of Boston, when it comes to addressing the public health crisis at Mass and Cass we simply can't wait for the next Mayor to spend her time familiarizing herself with the issues before she gets to work," said District 3 City Councilor Frank Baker. "Annissa knows this area, the people, and the partners we need to bring in. She is the only candidate who is ready to take immediate action on Day One to end this devastation. I'm so proud to stand with her today and to support her in this race."

"SENA 9158 is proud to endorse Annissa Essaibi George for Mayor. Our members are there at Mass and Cass, and Annissa is the partner we need to fight for safe working conditions and ensure decisions are made in collaboration with those doing the work," said Joseph Smith, President of Salaried Employees of North America (SENA) 9158.

Throughout her time on the Council, Essaibi George has been a leader on the issues of home-

lessness, mental health, and substance use disorder. She founded the Committee on Homelessness, Mental Health and Recovery in 2016 with the goal of spotlighting these three specific issues, and has continued her advocacy in this space.

Essaibi George turned this advocacy into action, sponsoring the first ever Needle Take Back Day in the City of Boston, passing an ordinance to create 100 additional sites for safe needle disposal, securing funding to increase the number of B.E.S.T clinicians that support residents during a mental health crisis, and creating the first Special Commission to End Family Homelessness in the City of Boston through her ordinance which was unanimously passed by the Boston City Council.

Essaibi George released a policy plan focused on tackling the citywide opioid epidemic in April. That plan has been updated to reflect her various conversations with those not only doing the work at Mass and Cass, but with lived experiences in this space.

OVERVIEW OF MASS & CASS PLAN

The full plan will be available and uploaded on www.annissaforboston.com.

The city of Boston continues to be the primary destination for support services for individuals in recovery, and because of this, continues to bear the burden of this crisis. The concentration of recovery services at Mass and Cass alone has caused our resources to reach their breaking point. Decisive, urgent action and a regional response is desperately needed to address this public health crisis, repair the continuum of care, and help individuals access recovery.

While Annissa has focused much of her work on the City Council around the issues of mental health, substance use disorder and homelessness, the powers that come with the Mayor's Office allow for more effective and efficient action on day one.

As Mayor, Annissa will immediately direct the Boston Public Health Commission to declare a Public Health Emergency within a one mile radius of the inter-

section of Mass and Cass. This will allow for a streamlined response from first responders and city agencies, as well as better service delivery and improved capacity for responsiveness. The zone will be overseen by a Mass and Cass Czar who will report directly to the Mayor's Office, and work in partnership with city and state agencies on a coordinated response. The Czar will also be tasked with decentralizing services from Mass and Cass to affect long-term, sustainable change, reopening the comfort station that was available to individuals during the pandemic, and convening a Harm Reduction Working Group to evaluate harm

reduction strategies, including everything from availability of naran to safe injection facilities.

Annissa will also direct a portion of the federal funding coming to Boston to implement a Public Health Surge at Mass and Cass. This would include a multi-day, coordinated effort between several city, state, and private agencies to provide direct services to individuals in need. Services could include: medical and wound care, dental care, hygiene services, eye exams/glasses, an opportunity for reunification, referral for additional services, and an immediate opportunity to enter detox with the promise of a recovery bed.

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EV00009882

Contact Information

Varnie Jules, Finance Unit Manager
617-635-4920 x 2149

The City of Boston, Boston Center for Youth & Families (the City), acting by its Commissioner, herein after referred to as the Official, invites sealed bids for the performance of the work generally described above, and particularly set forth in the Invitation for Bids. **The bid documents will be accessible online from Monday, October 18, 2021 through Friday, November 5, 2021** by visiting the City of Boston Public Procurement website at boston.gov/procurement/ and clicking on the supplier portal button to access event ID # **EV00009882**

Sealed bids shall be opened electronically by the Official on Friday, November 5, 2021 at 4:00 PM. The contract awarded pursuant to this invitation to bid will **commence on or about Monday, November 15, 2021 and will end on June 30, 22.**

The building project is being procured as per the Commonwealth of Massachusetts MGL c 30, Section 39M. Evidence of OSHA Training & Prevailing Wage Rates will apply to this procurement, A 50% Payment Bond will be required of the winning bidder if the bid price is over \$25,000.00. The total cost of this project shall not exceed one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00).

Maria E. Rivera

Interim Commissioner

(October 18, October 25, November 1, 2021)



Friends of Blessed Sacrament Church applauds the choice of Pennrose as developer of the “Jewel of Boston’s Latin Quarter”

STAFF REPORT

Friends of Blessed Sacrament Church applauds the choice of Pennrose to restore Blessed Sacrament as the jewel of Boston’s Latin Quarter. Based on our own participation in community meetings and our conversations in the neighborhood, it is clear that Pennrose submitted the most viable proposal that will allow HSTF to meet their financial obligations while meeting long-standing neighborhood priorities established in the Boston Latin Quarter Cultural District Plan.

We want to commend the Hyde Square Task Force (HSTF) for conducting an open community process over the past few months where residents and neighbors were able to hear presentations from the prospective developers and ask questions and give feedback to both the developers and HSTF.

Doña Betsaida Gutiérrez, a former parishioner and long-time community activist, expresses her appreciation for the hundreds of people who participated in the community process. “Thank you very much to the Community for attending Community Meetings via zoom or in person and filling out the surveys about the future of the Blessed Sacrament Church. As a result of your work and your voice, the board members of the Hyde Square Task Force made the right choice in selecting Pennrose as the future developer for the Blessed Sacrament Church.”

Positive features in the Pennrose proposal include:

- Creation of indoor and outdoor community performance spaces with Hyde Square Task Force staying involved as a partner to manage the performing arts and community spaces.
- The proposed housing

mix that includes a significant amount of affordable housing that will allow residents and families of a wide range of incomes to be able to call Blessed Sacrament home. This helps address one of the key values expressed in the Boston Latin Quarter Cultural District Plan of promoting equitable development that benefits current and future residents.

Pennrose has a demonstrated track record of proposing and completing feasible development projects and they have the capacity and experience to carry out the complicated redevelopment of the former Blessed Sacrament Church.

Willingness to partner with HSTF and the neighborhood as the project moves forward, in order to ensure that they continue to address concerns and issues as they arise.

Dorothy V. Malcolm, a former parishioner who was baptized

and married at Blessed Sacrament and who graduated from Blessed Sacrament High School, says, “As a kid my whole world was wrapped around Jamaica Pond and our dearly-loved Blessed Sacrament Church. When the church was “de-consecrated” it was a wrench for many of us who knew only of our lives in, with, and for that church. And yet, it’s a fine blessing that it soon will be—not only preserved and restored—but kept within the realm and needs of the community that truly needs it. I am hopeful that Pennrose will openly listen and consider our requests to make sure that any changes to the exterior of the building will be an accurate reflection of its beautiful Italian Renaissance architecture that’s existed for more than a century. We wish Pennrose the very best of luck in their undertaking of our church.”

Damaris Pimentel, owner of Ultra Beauty Salon and a leader

of the Latin Quarter Business Association, says, “I am happy that the Blessed Sacrament project is moving to its next phase and that Hyde Square Task Force has found a buyer who has the commitment and ability to make this project happen. I also have the hope and expectation that the Task Force and Pennrose will continue to involve residents, merchants and other members of the Latin Quarter as the project goes forward.”

Friends of Blessed Sacrament is committed to staying involved in the project and advocating for Pennrose and HSTF to continue to engage other residents of the Blessed Sacrament campus, neighbors, merchants, and the larger community each step of the way in the development process.

For more information, contact: blessedsacramentfriends@gmail.com, www.friendsofblessedsacrament.org.

Murphy endorsed by former Rep. Sanchez for Council-at-Large

STAFF REPORT

Jeffrey Sanchez, the highest-ranking Latino leader in the history of the Massachusetts

House of Representatives and a former Chairman of the powerful Ways and Means Committee, is throwing his support behind Erin Murphy’s candidacy to be

Boston’s next At-Large City Councillor.

Former Representative Sanchez, who represented Jamaica Plain and Mission Hill during



Candidate for City Council-at-Large Erin Murphy with former State Rep. Jeffrey Sanchez.

his 16 years in the House, cited Erin’s commitment to advocating for every neighborhood, her common-sense approach to policy solutions, and her ability to connect with residents across the city as reasons for his endorsement.

“Erin is a special kind of leader because she has walked in the shoes of the people she is seeking to represent,” said Rep. Sanchez. “That’s a quality that will allow her to bring people together once she is in office. She taught in the Boston Public Schools for 22 years. She raised her family in the city as a single mom. And she’s been on the frontlines of the substance abuse and recovery crisis for a long time. She’s ready to represent the whole city.”

Rep. Sanchez’s endorsement comes weeks before the November 2 election, when Erin will compete for one of four At-Large City Council seats, and as city-wide grassroots support has been building. Her outreach has extended to every neighborhood in the city, the same energy she would bring to the City Council.

“Receiving support from leaders like Chairman Sanchez is incredibly rewarding and says a lot about the campaign that we’ve built, because he was a model public servant,” Erin said. “He led with both his heart and his head, always cared about the people in his neighborhood, and set an incredible example for the type of elected official I aspire to be.”

 **Virtual Public Meeting**

96-100 Rockwood Ave

Tuesday, November 9
6:00 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/3aSgbKF
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 160 220 9543

Project Description:
The BPDA is hosting a public meeting for the 96-100 Rockwood project located in Jamaica Plain. The purpose of the meeting is to take comment on the Project Notification Submission form. The meeting will include a presentation followed by Q&A and comments from the general public. Project Description: Rockwood Partners is proposing a development that will include approximately 36 residential units consisted of 24 duplexes in 12 structures and 12 units in 4 structures along with a new internal roadway, resident clubhouse, and associated infrastructure on an approximate 12.1 acres lot of land. The total Proposed Project is approximately 120,256 gross square feet.

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phone: 617.918.4280
email: caitlin.coppinger@boston.gov

Close of Comment Period:
11/19/2021

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Roslindale Neighbors

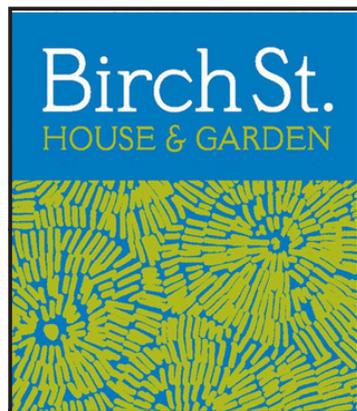
Community supports Roslindale businesses during pandemic

BY LAUREN BENNETT

Roslindale businesses are excited about the support that they received from community during pandemic. The following are

BIRCH ST. HOUSE & GARDEN

Birch St. House & Garden gift store is celebrating 20 years in Roslindale Square this year, and owner Elizabeth Swanson has worked in the store since 2002, taking ownership in 2008.



"Instead of being like a niche store, we take more of a general approach," Swanson said of the items the store sells. "We aim to have something for everyone in everyone's budget."

The store, which is located at 760 South St. in Roslindale, has always offered free gift wrapping for items purchased in the store, and Swanson said that many customers come in looking for gifts for kids' birthday parties, housewarming parties, and other events.

Two weeks ago, a second smaller location of the store was opened inside Hebrew SeniorLife on Centre St. Swanson said this store gives "patients and their families an opportunity to have some retail therapy inside Hebrew SeniorLife," as well as a "place where employees can come pick up quick gifts or cards, saving them time."

That location, called Birch St. House & Garden Hebrew SeniorLife Branch, is currently open four days a week. The gift shop that previously occupied the space had not reopened since COVID hit, and now volunteers form the center are

working at Swanson's store.

"That's been interesting for me," she said. "I didn't have to hire anyone."

Swanson also said she has really enjoyed chatting with the customers and learning more about the items they would like to see at the shop that would necessarily be at the main store, such as toiletry items and comfy and diabetic socks.

"It's been great," she said of the second location.

Before the pandemic hit, Swanson did not have an online store for folks to shop on, but once COVID hit Boston and businesses were required to shut down, she began creating an online store, as well as held live Facebook shopping events

where she showcased different products for sale.

"I got a really good reaction to those live Facebook shopping events," she said, which were held in the evenings. She personally delivered purchased items to people's homes and placed them on porches for a safe, contact free shopping experience.

"When the weather got a little nicer, I decided to do safe curbside pickup," she said. "All of that really helped and customers really rallied behind all the small businesses in the square." She said this was "really heartening," and "made it not so horrible to get through

Continued on page 14

SCENES IN ROSLINDALE



PHOTO BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

A friendly greeting for those arriving in Roslindale.

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Roslindale Neighbors

Roslindale biz.

Continued from page 13

the pandemic.” Last June, when stores were allowed to reopen, Birch St. reopened for in-person shopping, but for those who were not yet comfortable with returning to in-person shopping, Swanson

offered concierge shopping, where customers could call, text, or email, and they would be shown a selection of products to choose from. They could then place an order over the phone and either have it delivered or pick it up curbside at the store.

Now, more and more people have returned to shopping indoors and the store hours have continually increased. Masks

are required for in-person shopping, and two air purifiers are running at all times in the store. Hand sanitizer is available, and cleaning is conducted regularly. The concierge shopping is still available, but Swanson said that not too many folks are utilizing that at this point.

“I have no idea what will happen with the holidays,” she said, adding that she is prepared to implement any additional restrictions that could arise such as limiting the number of customers in-store.

Swanson, who is originally from the Midwest, said she likes Roslindale because “it just feels very Midwest here. People talk to each other; take the time to say hi. People who move to the area are super excited to move to Roslindale.” Swanson

said she makes every attempt “to make sure that they’re welcome.”

Additionally, “it’s walkable here. Everything’s kind of in a concentrated square loop thing. It just helps.”

She said the “communal spaces” in the square that have been coordinated with Roslindale Village Main Street and business owners have been especially helpful during the pandemic and allow people to gather with friends and neighbors in a safer way.

“We’re super blessed that we have so many restaurants that have nice off-street courtyards to eat in,” Swanson said, and there are many families with children as well as empty nesters who live in the neighborhood.

As the holidays approach, Swanson said that the store is receiving shipments of new product “on an almost daily basis.” She said there are “lots of fun products,” and it’s “never too early to start holiday shopping. If you see it and you like it, you might want to buy it.”

For more information on Birch St. House & Garden as well as the online store, visit birchsthousandgarden.com.

CENTRE CUTS SALON & SPA

Centre Cuts Salon & Spa is located at 6 Belgrade Ave. in Roslindale, and offers a full array of salon and spa services, including hair cuts, styling, coloring, skin care, waxing, and nail services. The salon also features a boutique called Toupe & Teal, where customers can shop for gifts, accessories, and



clothes for men and women.

Owner Terry Fitzgerald told the Gazette that the salon originally opened at 763 Centre St. in Jamaica Plain in July of 1980, and after in years in that space, they decided they needed more room. Fitzgerald said she went to Roslindale Village Main Streets and was convinced to open her salon in the neighborhood after being unable to find a suitable larger space in Jamaica Plain.

After building out the salon, Fitzgerald said she felt as though there was a need for a spa in the area, so she built out a spa at 8 Belgrade Ave and expanded the offerings to services like nails and waxing.

The boutique was also created in the front section of the spa, but has been recently built up even more. “We had always sold seasonal accessories and seemed to do well with it,” Fitzgerald said, and “we really overhauled it and expanded it when COVID hit,” she said. She said the boutique now has “tons of merchandise in it,” and en-

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Continued on page 15

Roslindale Neighbors

Roslindale biz.

Continued from page 14

courages people to start holiday shopping early.

During the COVID shut-down, Fitzgerald said she came to the salon “every single day” and cleaned every inch of the space. She and her business partner, Edna O’Malley, began to prepare the space according to state, city, federal, and cosmetology board requirements. They put up partitions, purchased PPE, and ensured they were ready to follow all guidelines.

“We were really, really in compliance,” she said. “I remember the nurses that came in as clients; they told us that what we were doing was pretty much what the hospitals were doing.”

She said that word spread about the cleanliness of the salon, which brought in many new clients once it was able to reopen. Fitzgerald said that she had been keeping clients updated throughout the shut-down with emails. “I really let them know what was going on and what to expect when they came in,” she said.

“We were very fortunate,” Fitzgerald added, in that they were able to receive two rounds of funding from the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) as well as some smaller and larger grants. She said she was able to retain all of her staff.

Today the salon is still following all guidelines required of businesses in the City of Boston, including wearing masks at all times by clients and staff. Though the partitions between

chairs have since been taken down, surfaces are still regularly wiped down with disinfectant wipes.

Fitzgerald said that Centre St, Salon & Spa is special because “we truly work as a team; everybody does everything in our salon. If a person’s regular technician is not available, we always offer someone else to take care of them,” she said.

Additionally, the salon prides itself on its cleanliness, both prior to and during the pandemic.

“We have a very diversified clientele and we have diversified technicians who can provide the services for our diversified clientele,” Fitzgerald said.

When it comes to the Roslindale neighborhood, Fitzgerald said “I think the community is just outstanding. I think the merchants watch out for each other, and I think the community is extremely supportive.”

The salon is very busy these days, Fitzgerald said, and “it’s wonderful. I just hope it continues. I have a fantastic bunch of employees; they’re committed. We all worked very, very, very hard to get through this. We need to get through this winter, but I feel we’re in a good place right now.”

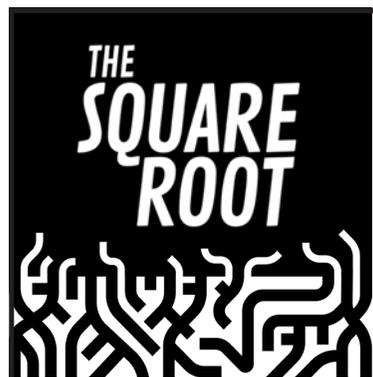
For more information about Centre Cuts Salon & Spa, visit centrecuts.com.

THE SQUARE ROOT

Square Root cafe owner Anthony Giordano never pictured himself owning a cafe.

“Four years ago, if someone told me I’d be running a cafe in Roslindale Square, I wouldn’t believe it,” he told the Gazette. Giordano bought the building

at 2 Corinth St. and tried to rent it out, but after several “unsuccessful attempts” to do so, he decided to open up the coffee shop “with the intentions of having live entertainment



and beer and wine.”

Square Root opened in February of 2019, and is much more than your average coffee shop, offering live music and events along with beer and wine in the evenings, as well as coffee, pastries, and other food during the day.

During the pandemic shut-down, the cafe was able to offer takeout via online ordering and the team “configured the space to allow a little place for people to come in and pick up takeout and so forth.”

He said that the “good thing about Rozzie” is that the “community is very supportive of businesses.”

Giordano said that the cafe was “met with a lot of positive business. People were supportive throughout the whole process.” He also said he was able to keep that majority of his staff, and those who did have to be furloughed were able to be rehired “due to some financial aid from city, state, and federal entities,” Giordano said.

Today, COVID restrictions are still followed, including the requiring of masks when not actively eating or drinking. “That goes for the daytime, early morning, to nighttime shows to people hanging out, listening to music,” Giordano said.

Live music returned to the space in late July of this year, when it was permitted by the city ad state. The cafe has offered private events, karaoke, an open mic night, a singalong, and other similar events. “We’re multimode,” Giordano said.

Aside from a variety of coffees, teas, and other soft drinks, Square Root serves a variety of

beers and wines in the evening. Food items include things like pizza, quesadillas, and sandwiches.

Giordano said that he highly recommends the BLT. “I think we have the best bacon,” he said, adding that it’s a local bacon and “it really makes an amazing sandwich.”

He said that when creating the menu, he took a look around at other restaurants and coffee shops in the area and tried to

offer “things that weren’t already being offered.” Giordano said that as Square Root was opening up, Diane’s Baker was closing, so he tried to have some of the items they offered, and the menu also consists of “generally stuff that I like to eat as well,” he said.

Giordano said he appreciates the Roslindale neighborhood, where he grew up. While

Continued on page 17

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Roslindale Neighbors

SCENES IN ROSLINDALE



A Little Library on Belgrade Ave by the train station.

PHOTOS BY DEREK KOUYOUJIAN
Shown above, the corner of Belgrade Ave and Birch Street, which has been closed off to accommodate a Beer Garden for Distraction Brewing Company.



Shown to the right, residents enjoying some lunch on a pleasant day in late October on the back patio of Village Sushi And Grill.



Residents enjoying some time out in the sun in front of Sebastian's Barber Shop.

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A War Memorial stands stoically in Irving West Adams Park in the heart of Roslindale Square.



Adorning it's space across from Alexander The Great Park, a mobile sculpture "Traffic" created by George Mossman Greenamyre spins as Commuter Rail train arrives at Roslindale Village Station.

Roslindale Neighbors

SCENES IN ROSLINDALE



Joanne Rossman, purveyor of the irresistible, in her store on Birch Street.



Michelle and Silvana enjoy a late breakfast and a beautiful day in Irving West Adams Park.



An impromptu tribute to Idris Elba or simply a random piece of street art where someone left their Esquire magazine?

Roslindale biz.

Continued from page 15

he now lives in West Roxbury how, he said of Roslindale, “its’ diverse, it’s loyal, it’s got its heart in the right place.”

He said he appreciates feedback from customers and tries to offer things they want and need, but right now, the food supply chain is very limited. He said prices have also increased, and suppliers are having a difficult time keeping up with the demands of many restaurants that have more recently opened their doors back up.

“I appreciate the flexibility of our customers, but we need more of that,” he said.

For more information about Square Root Rozzie and a calendar of upcoming events, visit squaresrootrozzie.com.

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North End Rep. Aaron Michlewitz endorses Erin Murphy for At-Large Council

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

House Ways and Means Chairman Aaron Michlewitz, the North End Democrat who represents a block of neighborhoods at Boston's core, endorsed Erin Murphy's At-Large City Council campaign on Monday, saying her election would be a victory for working families across the city.

Representative Michlewitz – who also represents the Waterfront, Chinatown, South End, Downtown, Leather District, Bay Village, and portions of the West End, Beacon Hill and the Back Bay – said he had been impressed with Erin's work ethic and her eagerness to collaborate.

"I spend a lot of time with people across this great district, and I've seen Erin everywhere," said Representative Michlewitz. "She shows up, she does the work,

and she's exactly the type of city councilor we'll see even more of once she's in office. I'm looking forward to working alongside her as we advocate for the interests of every Bostonian."

Rep. Michlewitz's endorsement comes weeks before the November 2 election, when Erin will compete for one of four At-Large City Council seats, and as citywide grassroots support has been building. Her outreach has extended to every neighborhood in the city, the same energy she would bring to the City Council.

"We've all been lucky to have Chairman Michlewitz helping steer our state through some of the most trying times any of us can remember," Erin said. "And he still prioritizes constituent services, connecting with the people in the neighborhoods, and championing the needs of our city. I'm honored by his en-

dorsement and very much looking forward to collaborating on a whole host of issues about which we're both passionate."

Rep. Michlewitz has represented the Third Suffolk District since 2009, and has lived and worked in the neighborhoods he represents his entire life. In addition to the House Ways and Means Committee, the powerful budget-writing panel, Rep. Michlewitz has also served as Chair of the Committees on Financial Services, Public Service, and Election Laws, and as Chair of the Boston Legislative Delegation.

An active member of the community, Rep. Michlewitz was integral in successfully advocating for state funding for some of the largest employment services programs in Downtown Boston, including facilities at the Pine Street Inn and St. Francis House.



Candidate for City Council at Large with State Rep. Aaron Michlewitz.

Painters and Allied Trades, Steelworkers Unions endorse Murphy for Council at-Large seat

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Two large unions whose members build and maintain our city, the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades District Council 35 and the United Steelworkers Local 12003, have endorsed Erin Murphy to be Boston's next At-Large City Councilor, adding to the strength Erin has demonstrated among working families as the November 2 election draws closer.

The two unions chose Erin's commitment to growing the middle class, fair wages and labor practices, and making Boston an affordable, inclusive city for all families in all neighborhoods.

"We can't imagine a better choice to represent our members' interests than Erin," said Roger Brunelle, Political Director of the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades District Council 35 (IUPAT DC 35). "She taught in the Boston Public Schools for 22 years, where she worked with many of our members, and she embodies our values. Erin's a hard worker with a natural empathy for working folks, and we know she'll bring that same ethic to City Hall."

"Erin raised her family in Boston as a single mother and

she knows what matters to our members, because they're the same things that matter to her," said Danny O'Connell, President of the United Steelworkers (USW) Local 12003. "She's been a community advocate and a teacher, two skill sets we could use a little more of in our elected officials these days. Her efforts to reach out to every constituency in every neighborhood bode very well for the type of At-Large City Councilor she will be."

Erin finished fourth in a crowded field of 17 in the September 14 preliminary election, and has continued to amass support in the weeks since, with a recent surge reflecting her city-wide appeal. Her outreach has extended to every neighborhood in the city, the same energy she would bring to the City Council.

"I'm so proud to receive the endorsements from IUPAT DC 35 and USW Local 12003, because I know how hard these folks work making Boston what it is," Erin said. "When I was a teacher in the Boston Public Schools, I was lucky enough to work alongside IUPAT members who were school custodians. Everyone knows you've got to be friends with the custodians! They're the people who keep our

schools running, and it's very satisfying to have their support."

With less than a month before the November 2 municipal election, the chorus of union support represents the latest sign of Erin's rising support across the city. But the campaign has been gathering steam all year, with a string of high-profile endorsements and a surge in grassroots support and volunteerism across the city. Erin has also been endorsed by, among others, US Representative Stephen F. Lynch, activist and mentor and former At-Large candidate Said Abdikarim, State Senator Nick Collins, State Representatives Dan Hunt, Michael J. Moran, Ed Coppinger, Dan Ryan, and David Biele, City Councilors Frank Baker and Ed Flynn, and former City Councilor Sal LaMattina, Register of Deeds Stephen J. Murphy, Teamsters Union Local 25, AFSCME Council 93 (which represents Boston municipal employees), the Massachusetts Nurses Association, Boston Firefighters Local 718, Laborers Local 223, the Massachusetts Women's Political Caucus, and Boston EMS.

A lifelong Dorchester resident, Erin has centered her campaign around being Boston's go-

to call at City Hall.

Erin's vision for Boston and her campaign are built on her core beliefs:

Thriving, best-in-class public schools for every student in every neighborhood

A friendlier city for seniors, with a more compassionate policy focus

Stronger outreach to veterans, out of respect for their ser-

vice and supporting their needs

Safer streets and policing across the City, prioritizing community policing

A firm plan to relieve the crisis at Mass & Cass that respects all stakeholder

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JPNDC completes new homes for eight first-time homebuyers

Long-Vacant JP land transformed into affordable homes

STAFF REPORT

More than five decades after countless Jamaica Plain families lost their homes to make way for an eight-lane highway, some of those parcels are at last back in the hands of low- and moderate-income homeowners.

In August 2021, Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Cor-

poration (JPNDC) completed construction on its Call Carolina project, eight condominiums affordable to buyers earning below 80 or 100 percent of Area Median Income. The units are selling for between \$288,700 and \$366,900[1] in a neighborhood where recent condominium sales prices have exceeded \$1 million.

“We are thrilled to welcome eight families to our community who would not otherwise be able to put down roots here,” said JPNDC CEO Teronda Ellis. “Af-

fordable homeownership allows people to put their former rent money into equity. It helps keep Jamaica Plain a place where all people have the opportunity to prosper.”

A ceremony to celebrate the project’s completion will be held on Saturday, October 23. Mayor Kim Janey will join, JPNDC, officials from the Mass. Department of Transportation (MassDOT), the City of Boston, and other public agencies, neighbors, and housing activists at 73A Call

Street, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 at 11 AM.

The homes at 139 Carolina Avenue and 71-79 Call Street would never have been built without strong neighborhood support. After MassDOT announced the parcels’ availability for development in 2017, it received at least 40 letters from project abutters and other neighbors urging it to designate the majority for affordable housing.

Watermark Development, a private developer, also played

a pivotal role. Watermark purchased three parcels and sold two to JPNDC for \$1. The third parcel, on Everett Street, was developed as market-rate housing.

The City of Boston also donated a parcel to the project that lay between two of the MassDOT lots.

Funders include Boston Department of Neighborhood Development, Boston Community Preservation Act, Mass Housing, Mass Development, Watermark Development, Charlesbank Homes, and Century Bank.

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PLEASE RECYCLE

JPNDC HOSTS BOSTON REALTY, BUILDING PROSPERITY EVENT AT SAM ADAMS BREWERY

PHOTOS BY LAUREN BENNETT

The Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation (JPNDC) held an event called Boston Realty, Building Prosperity on October 14 at the Sam Adams Brewery where real estate professionals gathered with members of the JPNDC to enjoy some food from Chilacates and some beer.

According to information sent out by JPNDC ahead of the event, the purpose of the gathering was to “bring together our community to network and learn more about JPNDC and their campaign to help families and small businesses build long-term economic prosperity.”

The JPNDC is in the midst of raising nearly \$2.7 million to construct a Center for Equity

and Prosperity as an expansion to the JPNDC’s current space on Germania St.

Sally Swenson, Fundraising & Communications Director for JPNDC, said at the event that the capital campaign for this project began in 2020, and just a few weeks ago, “passed the \$2 million mark. We can kind of almost see the finish line,” she said.

“It will be a wonderful place,” Swenson said, that “will address all the problems that we have now with our space.” Right now, the JPNDC space is “not fully accessible, not child friendly, not enough space,” and does not include “modern” amenities like trading rooms, she said.

Swenson also thanked all those who donated for this event, which she said raised \$18,000.



Members of the Boston real estate community gathered at the Sam Adams Brewery on October 20 as part of the Boston Realty, Building Prosperity event hosted by the JPNDC.



Caitlin Unger, Ken Sazama, Charlie Hills, Sally Swenson, and Randi Sayers spoke to real estate professionals at the event on Wednesday evening.



Murray Hershkowitz and Maya Baca enjoy some food from Chilacates along with some beer.



Janis Lippman, Stella Murray, and Ellen Grubert.

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 PLEASE RECYCLE 

SCENES AROUND JAMAICA PLAIN

PHOTOS BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN residents taking advantage of the fall weather this past week-end. Jamaica Plain was bustling with



It wasn't a bad day for a lineup at MVP Barbershop.



Same Old Place on Centre Street was serving up hot pies all day.



Shown above and below, City Feed and Supply was a popular destination over the weekend.



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Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll



'LILY ANN'

Lily Ann is a sweet and mature lady from Texas. She



loves everyone she meets and loves life as a spoiled indoor pet! While she makes fast friends with other pups, she can't live with cats. She learned her indoor manners very quickly and knows to potty outside and walk nicely on a leash. Even at 8 years old, she is a fun loving and adventurous lady!



Patrons of the Purple Cactus on Centre Street.



Sandwich board signs on Centre Street are looking artsy.



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SCENES AROUND JAMAICA PLAIN



Residents enjoying some time in the sun outside of JP Seafood Cafe.



If you're looking for a little something to get into the Halloween spirit, the Goodwill Store has just what you need.



The crisp fall air was not enough to keep residents from getting J.P. Licks fix.



The Window display at Boomerangs showcasing mid-century modern furniture to be auctioned off Nov. 18.



One of many families that were out and about make their way down Centre Street.

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Plan to bring Doyle's back receives BPDA approval

BY JOHN LYNDS

It was a favorite among politicians like James Michael Curley, the first place Sam Adams Beer was ever sold and the set of many Hollywood movies set in Boston. The former Doyle's Cafe, which opened in 1882 on Washington Street in Jamaica Plain but sadly closed on October 26, 2019, was the landmark Irish Pub of legend that was once dubbed the annex of City Hall.

Now, almost exactly two years to the day that Doyle's closed its doors at midnight on the fateful October night, will return to Jamaica Plain.

Last week at its October board meeting the Boston Planning and Redevelopment (BPDA) board voted to approve a development project that will give the legendary bar a second life, and bring new homes for families

The BPDA now approved

Doyle's Cafe project will bring 29 new family-sized homes including 6 family-sized affordable units and two commercial spaces.

One of those spaces will be the restoration of Doyle's Cafe and includes restoring the historic "Kennedy Room" community room. The late Sen. Ted Kennedy and Doyle's owners dedicated the room to Kennedy's maternal grandfather, former Boston Mayor John F. "Honey Fitz" Fitzgerald, on St. Patrick's Day in 1988.

"The Doyle's Cafe in Jamaica Plain will be renovated, revived, and returned with a new roof deck as part of a multi-parcel project that will house 29 families, including six affordable units," wrote the BPDA in its decision. "An expanded storefront will also make space for an urban grocery market on the corner of Washington and Gartland Streets. This project aligns with the vision of the BPDA's



An artist rendering of the Doyle's Cafe project.

approved planning initiative, PLAN: JP/Rox."

Also at the meeting the BPDA approved the plan to give Youth Enrichment Services a new headquarters along the Southwest Corridor as part of the 9-unit condo project at 265-267 Amory St. in Jamaica Plain.

The new headquarters will help Youth Enrichment Services

serve 1,600 local youth annually at the location.

"Located within walking distance of the Stony Brook MBTA Station, a two-building project at 265-267 Amory Street will include the new headquarters for Youth Enrichment Services (YES), add nine units of housing, a ground floor ski-shop, and conference rooms," wrote the BPDA

in its decision. "The project conforms to PLAN: JP/Rox, an approved BPDA planning initiative in the corridor. Other community benefits include a new pathway through the Southwest Corridor park, a new crosswalk connection towards the Samuel Adams brewery across Amory Street as well as accessibility improvements to public walkways."

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Jamaica Plain's weekly COVID test rate increases slightly

BY JOHN LYNDS

After experiencing a 20 percent spike in the weekly COVID test rate in early September the percentage of those testing positive decreased 67 percent between September 27 and October 4.

However, according to the weekly report released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) the weekly positive test rate here increased slightly last week.

Last week 1,923 Jamaica Plain residents were tested last week and 1.1 percent were found to be positive. This was a 10 percent increase from the 1 percent that tested positive between September 27 and October 4.

Citywide the weekly positive test rate also increased last week. According to the BPHC 23,759 residents were tested and 2.6 percent were COVID positive--this was a 4 percent increase from the 2.5 percent reported by the BPHC on October 11.

Twenty-one additional Jamaica Plain residents became infected with COVID-19 since October 11 and the number of total cases here went from 3,437

cases to 3,437 cases in the neighborhood.

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

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased 1.4 percent since October 11 and went from 81,378 cases to 82,483 confirmed cases in a week. There were 10 additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total COVID deaths is now at 1,445.

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SNA hears from Franklin Park Zoo; discusses subcommittee updates

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The Stonybrook Neighborhood Association (SNA) met virtually on October 18 to hear from the Franklin Park Zoo about its new Co-Designing With (Not For) Communities effort, as well as discuss updates on development projects in the area.

John Anderson, Director of Education and Volunteer Programs at Franklin Park Zoo explained that Co-Designing With (Not For) Communities is a “strategic three-year process to engage residents and local organizations of Dorchester, Roxbury, Mattapan, and Jamaica Plain in the co-design of programming” at the zoo, according to a slide presented.

There are several upcoming focus group opportunities on October 27, November 3, and November 10, all Wednesdays, from 6:30-8:30 on Zoom. To register, go to bit.ly/DiscussFPZ. Those who participate in a focus group will receive a \$25 gift card, and those who take the zoo’s survey will be entered to win a \$250 gift card.

The focus groups will focus on questions related to what people want to see in the community and “how might you imagine the zoo could address aspirations or needs,” Anderson said.

There is also a focus group for those aged 18-26, and teens 13-18 are also able to participate.

Anderson also said that the zoo is really hoping to hear from folks who are not typically involved in community discussions.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES 3529 WASHINGTON ST.— VITA, EXTRASPACE STORAGE

Jennifer Uhrhane said that there is no real update proposed for the murals in this area, as the artists have been selected and the developer has requested estimates from mural painting companies. Uhrhane said that the “mural committee’s a little frustrated” as no company has been chosen yet and they are “missing out on all this great weather” to paint the murals.

For the community room, Bill Rayelt reported that he received an email on October 8 from Volunteers of America (VOA) Massachusetts, who have been selected to take over the community room space at Extra Space Storage, saying that they were not able to attend this meeting but they are basically prepared to start holding community meetings in the space. The website to reserve the room is not yet up and running, but interested groups can call VOA Mass for more information on booking the room.

For the Southwest Corridor expansion proposal, a subcommittee consisting of SNA Steering Committee member Paige Sparks and Fred Vetterlein has been formed, and Sparks said she has set up a Google Group for this issue. The proposal is to use the space between the Orange Line tracks and the Extra Space building for some more green space, particularly a dog park. She is hoping to get the MBTA to an SNA meeting to discuss the proposal further.

3390 WASHINGTON ST. BMS PAPER

Uhrhane said that she received an email from BMS Paper owner Bob Harrington during the meeting that she said stated that he was “busy with supply chain issues and trying to open a deli in the market.” Uhrhane also said that Harrington said he is waiting to hear updates from his architect, whom he has asked to scale back some of the massing of the proposed housing portion of the project, as the SNA subcommittee remains concerned about the massing of the building.

3478-3484 WASHINGTON ST.—FORMERLY DOYLE’S

Paige Sparks reported that a Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) public meeting for the new Doyle’s project was held late last month where several changes to the proposal were presented, and “despite multiple requests for an extended comment deadline, the BPDA project manager chose to end the comment period on October 1,” she said. “I was disappointed in that. I felt like there wasn’t enough time to digest those changes and create any sort of meaningful response feedback in that time.”

The project was then approved by the BPDA Board on October 14. She said that “folks were caught off guard” by “how quickly it was turned around—less than a month from the last meeting.”

Uhrhane said, “I don’t think this is a fair thing for the BPDA to do.”

Sparks said that concerns around affordability remain from

some neighbors and the “way it was calculated by the BPDA.” She said that the “developer owes the community more units” of affordable housing, and there are also equity concerns with the size of the affordable units versus the market rate units proposed.

Additionally, there are concerns around car and bike parking.

Sparks said that the “subcommittee is still working out how they will proceed.” There is an Article 85 demolition delay hearing coming up for the existing two family home at 3474 Washington St., which is expected to be razed as part of this project.

The proposal has not yet come before the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC) Zoning Committee or the Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA), Sparks said.

Resident Allan Ihrer said that he does not “agree with the vote and the way it has been done. The BPDA should be supporting us in trying to work things out with the developer...many of the impacts could be mitigated and greatly reduced.”

SNA Steering Committee member Roberta Hantgan said that she also has concerns about “getting community points across,” as Doyle’s is so “nostalgic” for many in the neighborhood.

McCurdy said that the SNA will continue work on this project as it moves forward.

35 BROOKLEY/10 STONLEY

Royce Abel reported that the SNA had believed this project was approved and set to go, but it has been born again. The pre-

vious developers handed this off to the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation (JPNDP)."

He said that the subcommittee for this project met with the JPNDP “a couple weeks ago,” and “had open and honest productive conversations with the various representatives there.”

Royce also said that since this project has already been approved by the BPDA and the ZBA, “not much will change in terms of zoning and overall massing of the building.”

The biggest change is that JPNDP is seeking 100 percent affordability for the building I a range from 80 to 120 percent of the Area Median Income with a range of bedrooms. There will be five artist/live work studios, and the building is proposed to comply with passive house standards and include a mural project.

97-99 WILLIAMS ST. AND 75 STEDMAN ST.

It was reported that 97-99 Williams St. is set to go before the ZB at 11am on November 9, and the new proposal includes more green space and the backyard “will not be bisected by a driveway” as originally proposed.

At 75 Stedman St., Steering Committee member Jonathan McCurdy reported that the originally proposed storage facility for the property was not popular with the SNA or neighbors, and they had been asked to go back and “reevaluate” that use for the lot. McCurdy said he is not aware of the developer getting back to the subcommittee,” so there is no update on that proposal.

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EDITORIAL

General Colin Powell

The death this past week of General Colin Powell at the age of 84 removes from our country one of the most outstanding persons ever to serve the United States.

Colin Powell was both a soldier and a statesman. What Dwight Eisenhower was to America in the middle of the 20th century, Colin Powell was to our country in the latter part of the century.

The son of Jamaican immigrants, Powell was a decorated war hero through two tours of duty in Vietnam and became a trusted advisor to three American presidents in various capacities while serving on the National Security Council, as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and as Secretary of State.

General Powell was a trailblazer, becoming the first Black person to serve our country in those capacities.

His straightforwardness and honesty set him apart from his peers. Powell had no agenda, other than doing what he thought was best for the country and the world.

Whenever General Powell appeared as a guest on a TV news show, it was must-see TV, because unlike politicians and others, he always could be counted upon to tell the truth.

There was one glaring exception of course, and that was his support for the War in Iraq, which rates among the most disastrous, and certainly the most consequential, military endeavor in our nation's history.

Powell later conceded that his support for that war was a "blot" on his record. But that admission to making a mistake precisely is what set him apart from his peers.

In an interview with the New York Times, General Powell was asked to describe himself. Here is what he said:

"Powell is a problem-solver. He was taught as a soldier to solve problems. So he has views, but he's not an ideologue. He has passion, but he's not a fanatic. He's first and foremost a problem-solver."

Our nation and the world are the poorer for the loss of Colin Powell. May he rest in peace.

Get your booster STAT

With the FDA and the CDC recommending that already-vaccinated Americans over a certain age and with certain medical conditions receive booster shots, we urge all of our readers who qualify to receive a booster to do so as soon as possible (in medical lingo, STAT). COVID-19 is not going away anytime soon, if ever, thanks to a combination of high-transmissibility of its variants and the refusal of a large number of Americans to become vaccinated.

We now know that the efficacy of the vaccines wanes over time, but that a third dose (for Moderna and Pfizer) and a second dose (for Johnson and Johnson) provides amped-up immunity.

COVID-19 is a terrible way to die and even for those who survive it, so-called long-haul COVID can have devastating health effects for up to 30% of those who contract the disease.

A vaccine -- and a booster -- are the best way to protect ourselves.

LETTERS

Editorial was on target

Dear Editor:

The editors' comments about the Baker administration's school masking policies are completely on target. As a pediatric infectious disease specialist who has cared for children hospitalized with COVID-19 pneumonia, Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome of Children, brain inflammation due to coronavirus, and children whose COVID-19 delayed lifesaving chemotherapy, I'm disturbed that our state is not following CDC guidelines for school masking.

The Baker administration's "unpaid medical advisers" were apparently chosen for the convenience of their advice to Gov. Baker's political priorities, not for its soundness or its basis in scientific evidence. Tying unmasking in schools to an 80% vaccination rate is a "rule" pulled out of thin air, without an evidence base of any kind. Plenty of evidence substantiates the effectiveness of masks (1, 2).

Gov. Baker again is apparently deciding pandemic policies with respect to how they affect his standing with the various parts of his base. This is why for

the majority of the pandemic, we in Massachusetts had the third highest death rate in the country; only since the confluence of the delta variant surge this summer and the anti-vaccine and anti-mask policies of Southern Republican governors have states like Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama and Arizona risen to the top of this ignominious distinction list, so that we are now the seventh highest (3). In this case, Gov. Baker may have decided that appeasing the vociferous minority of parents who oppose school mask mandates would shore up his support among Republican primary voters. These voters might also be highly represented among the anti-mask demonstrators at the state house (5), as well as at the home of state Senator Becca Rausch because she supported mask mandates (6).

In addition to protecting the child who is masked in school, the mask mandate protects other students and adults in a school and its community, vaccinated or not, who may be at risk for severe COVID-19. As the CDC states, "Masks are primarily in-

tended to reduce the emission of virus-laden droplets," which is "especially relevant for asymptomatic or presymptomatic infected wearers who feel well and may be unaware of their infectiousness to others, and who are estimated to account for more than 50% of transmissions." (7) A new study from Massachusetts General Hospital shows that asymptomatic infected children of every age carry at least as much infectious virus as adults (8).

Children can bring the coronavirus home to their families. Over 120,000 children in the United States have been orphaned by COVID-19 as of June 2021 (9,10). Among them, two- to threefold more are Native American, Black or Latino than White children (10). In our state, age-adjusted death rates of Latino and Black residents have been threefold higher than those of White residents (11) – even more shocking because worse than the terrible national average. Universal masking in schools is another way in which protecting all, protects those at highest risk.

JULIA KOEHLER, MD

Supporting Mary Tamer for District 6

Dear Editor:

As a longtime educator in the Boston Public Schools - at both Boston Latin Academy and the West Roxbury Education Complex - I understand how much our families depend on a high quality education. But I also understand the persistent challenges that remain within BPS: deep inequities in access to high quality schools, persistent opportunity and achievement gaps, inconsistent engagement with families, and crumbling

buildings following decades of underinvestment.

I endorse Mary Tamer in the District 6 City Council race because she understands this, too, and will do everything she can as a member of the City Council to press for urgent action on behalf of families in Jamaica Plain, West Roxbury, and the surrounding neighborhoods.

As a former School Committee member herself, and someone who has dedicated most of her professional life to advocating

for strong public schools, Mary brings the leadership, vision, and experience to represent our neighborhoods and address the challenges our city is facing - especially in our public schools.

Having just run in the District 6 preliminary election, I know that Mary and I share the same commitment to Boston's children, and to actively working with families and organizations in our community to improve our schools.

WINNIE EKE

OP-ED

"Yes on 1 for a Better Budget: The time is now

BY ANDRES DEL CASTILLO
CO-DIRECTOR, RIGHT TO THE CITY
BOSTON

This year, there will be a question on the November ballot that would change how the City budget is created. It would allow the city council to change budget items by a majority vote, and

create an Office of Participatory Budgeting to allow people to vote on certain budget items. More of us would get a say in how we spend our City's money.

Currently, city councilors can only vote yes or no on the entire budget; they have no power to shift funds within the budget. Also, there is currently no

process for voters in Boston to have direct input on the budget through participatory budgeting processes, a democratic process in which community members directly decide how to spend a portion of a public budget. This project exists in many other ma-

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The Cooperative Bank to launch new service to protect financials of seniors

‘Carefull’ detects scams and fraud; provides sense of security to older adults and family caregivers

STAFF REPORT

The Cooperative Bank, TCB, is excited to announce the launch of its partnership with ‘Carefull,’ a new innovative tool that protects and coordinates the daily finances of older adults. Carefull provides intelligent, technology-driven oversight to let older adults and their caregivers better safeguard their financial transactions. The platform analyzes checking, savings, and credit card accounts for late or missed payments, behavior change and mistakes, unusual banking activity, plus over 30 other issues that can impact older adults’ finances, from cash transfers to charitable contributions that unknowingly recur. Older adults, families and caregivers

receive a notification if any fraud or issues are detected.

“Senior-targeted financial scams are a multi-billion dollar ‘industry,’” said Todd Rovak, Carefull Co-Founder. “We designed our platform to provide transparency, analysis and information for both older adults and their caregivers while recognizing the two main sources of financial abuse – fraud and misuse, both external (scammers) and internal, from family members. It connects to financial accounts using bank-level security and can never see or store any passwords. It’s truly a privilege for us to partner with TCB on the launch of Carefull to the elder community,” continued Rovak. “It’s clear that TCB truly wants to do something about this issue, not just for older adults but for their families who have been struggling with financial oversight and coordination of a loved one.”

“We’re glad that The Cooperative Bank is taking steps to com-

bat elder abuse and fraud,” said Emily K. Shea, Commissioner of Boston’s Age Strong Commission. “Providing more and easier access to services like banking is right in line with our Age Friendly work-making life in Boston more inclusive to older adults. The more Age Friendly Boston becomes, the more older adults can live safely, independently and with dignity.”

“This issue really resonated with me,” said John Battaglia, President and CEO of TCB. “Many of us have had personal experiences with our parents or in-laws, where we took over the household account after finding that bills were not being paid, or they were double paying due to some memory issues. When I heard about this product, I could relate to it very well and I know exactly what people are going through,” continued Battaglia.

“Senior financial fraud is a serious issue for us all,” said Pete Lee, SVP and CIO of TCB. There’s a whole life cycle in terms of

financial caregiving, and that’s what we appreciate about this service and that it targets so many stages of that life cycle. We were first introduced to Carefull through our membership with Alloy Labs, a nationwide consortium of community banks. We were shown a concept of the platform and were very impressed by how it could aid the underserved eldercare community and target the devastating effect of financial abuse. Vulnerable adults should be protected at all costs from this kind of exploitation. With this partnership TCB will be the first bank to offer this service in the Nation,” continued Lee.

“The exciting thing is that not only does Carefull help the community but no other bank is doing this now,” continued Battaglia. “Knowing our customer base and personally experiencing the need, that’s what excites me about the product. If we are going to be a leading bank in the City of Boston we need to innovate and come up

with new ideas for our depositors and customers,” said Battaglia.

Founded in 1898, The Cooperative Bank (TCB) is a full-service community bank committed to meeting the financial needs of individuals, families, and small businesses. Offering up-to-date products, competitive interest rates and the highest quality personalized service. TCB has assets totaling \$480 million and provides banking services to over 8,400 customers.

With cutting-edge personal and business banking services, TCB aims to serve and be Boston’s Neighborhood Bank. Specializing in residential & commercial real estate and business lending throughout Massachusetts, TCB has branches in Roslindale, West Roxbury, Charlestown and Jamaica Plain.

For more information on the Carefull service please stop by at one of our branches, visit www.thecooperativebank.com, or call 857-203-9598.

Op-Ed

Continued from page 26

major cities like our neighbors next door in Cambridge, as well as New York, Seattle, Oakland, and Chicago.

By voting yes on Question 1 this November, voters have a chance to amend the City of Boston’s Charter to allow far more voices to influence the budget process, including communities who have historically been excluded from influencing the budget. This effort “Yes on 1 for a Better Budget” is led by a coalition of community organizations, teachers, nurses, faith leaders, environmental groups, small businesses, elected officials, and voters across Boston.

The changes were approved by every member of the city council, including the two mayoral candidates, so all the people most involved in the budget process agree these are good changes for Boston. Allowing legislative budget changes is very common, and government bodies from the federal and state governments down to cities and towns work this way, and it works very well.

Having more leaders who are closer to the needs of the communities in the city will ensure that community needs are better met in the budget than allowing only the mayor to set the priorities.

Why vote Yes on 1? Boston needs more affordability, stronger schools, thriving local businesses, and good youth jobs. Yes on 1 would allow us to better

achieve these goals by giving local city councilors more input so that every Boston neighborhood is fully included.

Vote on November 2nd, YES ON QUESTION 1!

Visit www.YesOn1Boston.com and follow @Yeson1Boston"

Right to the City Boston is a multi-issued alliance, made up of grassroots based-building organizations representing low-income, POC/immigrant communities, who work collectively for social, economic and racial justice. Alternatives for Community and Environment, Chinese Progressive Association, City Life/Vida Urbana, and New England United 4 Justice, have all come together under a platform of values and principles.

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

Jamaica Plain GAZETTE

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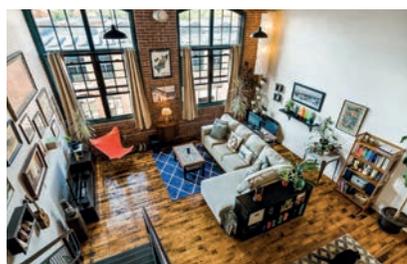
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