

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON MAIN STREETS P. 5
Mission Hill

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GAZETTE

Serving Mission Hill and the Longwood Medical and Academic Area



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ROUSE HONORED ON TREMONT STREET



Richard Rouse, former, long time Mission Hill Main Streets Executive Director (center), offers a cigar to Mayor Martin Walsh (R) as a joke on the new bench that was dedicated to Rouse on Tremont Street this Tuesday, Oct. 29. Numerous neighborhood and City friends gathered to honor Rouse for his many years of dedication to the business district. Mayor Martin Walsh speaking at "In The Cut Barbershop" in Mission Hill during his visit to new businesses in Mission Hill on Tuesday, Oct. 29. Seen next to the mayor are Pamela Leins and Welinton Garcia, with their family.

Photos by Keiko Hiromi

City Election set for Tuesday, Nov. 5

STAFF REPORT

The City of Boston Election Department announced its preparations ahead of the upcoming Municipal Election for Tuesday, November 5.

The election includes Councilor seats for each district, as

well as citywide At-Large seats and a nonbinding public opinion advisory question.

Polling locations around the City will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Candidates for At-Large include incumbents Michael Flaherty, Althea Garrison, Anniassa

Continued on page 8

District 8 city council hopefuls face off at candidates' forum

BY DAN MURPHY

Two weeks ahead of the Nov. 5 Boston municipal election, two hopefuls vying for the District 8 city council seat squared off during a wide-ranging candi-

dates' forum Tuesday, Oct. 22, at Fisher College.

Kenzie Bok, an affordable housing advocate, community leader and the former chair of

Continued on page 3

CAMH hears proposals for Delle Ave. properties

BY LAURA PLUMMER

On Wednesday, October 16, the Community Alliance of Mission Hill (CAMH) met for its regularly scheduled monthly meeting. The agenda featured presentations by the developers of two Delle Avenue properties.

-45 Delle Avenue

Developers Eben Kunz and Dan Inbar are looking to renovate a single-family property at 45 Delle Avenue by turning into a two-family building. This would involve adding two entry doors and a kitchen in order to fulfill

the two-family vision. They are currently seeking zoning relief for insufficient parking. Inbar said that the layout of the units were flexible. CAMH will vote on the project at its November meeting.

Continued on page 2

CAMH escucha propuestas para construcción en Delle Ave.

BY LAURA PLUMMER

El miércoles 16 de octubre, la Alianza Comunitaria de Mission Hill (CAMH) se reunió para su reunión mensual. La agenda incluyó presentaciones de los desarrolladores de dos propiedades

de Delle Avenue.

-45 Delle Avenue

Promotores Eben Kunz y Dan Inbar están renovando una propiedad unifamiliar en 45 Delle Avenue convirtiéndose en un edificio de dos familias. Quieren

agregar dos puertas de entrada y una cocina para cumplir con los requisitos de dos familias. Actualmente buscan alivio de zonificación por la escasez de estacionamiento. Inbar dijo que el diseño de las unidades

Continued on page 2

CAMH Meeting

Continued from page 1

-16-18 Delle Avenue

Developers Greg and Paul Grant of G&P Properties, LLC are looking to renovate a property at 16-18 Delle Avenue with the help of architect Marcus Springer. The vision is to construct two multi-family homes on the 6,700 square-foot lot, one with nine

units. Each unit would contain two or three bedrooms and an open concept living/dining space, and would comply with accessibility standards.

G&P, which also owns the abutting property at 20 Dell Ave., would own and rent out the units. It stated that it would not rent to undergraduates and that it was willing to make one of the units affordable. Springer is currently in the process of redesigning the

facade to fit the character of the neighborhood.

The team is seeking zoning relief for a number of code violations: the property has only seven of the nine required parking spaces; the floor area ratio is almost twice the allowed density; the stairs leading to the roof deck puts the height over the 35-foot limit; the building complies with the three-story limit, but includes an underground fourth floor. Also, multifamily use is not permitted on the property.

Comments from the community included a preference for two three-family buildings, rather than one building containing nine units. Some members complained about the behavior of tenants at other G&P properties around Mission Hill, which the company said it was unaware of.

CAMH will hold a vote on the project at its meeting next month.

Community Alliance of Mission Hill meets on the third Wednesday of the month in auditorium G-3 of the Kresge building at the Chan School of Public Health at 677 Huntington Ave. from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Their next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 20. All members of the Mission Hill community are invited to attend.

Reunion de CAMH

Continued from page 1

era flexible y puede tener tres habitaciones o dos habitaciones con una oficina. CAMH votará sobre el proyecto en su reunión de noviembre.

-16-18 Delle Avenue

Desarrolladores Greg y Paul Grant de G&P Properties, LLC están buscando renovar una propiedad en 16-18 Delle Avenue con la ayuda del arquitecto Marcus Springer. La visión es construir dos casas multifamiliares en el lote de 6.700 pies cuadrados, una con nueve unidades. Cada unidad contendría dos o tres dormitorios y cumpliría con los estándares de accesibilidad.

G&P, que también posee la propiedad contigua en 20 Delle Ave., sería propietaria y alquilaría las unidades. Declaró que no alquilaría a estudiantes universitarios y que estaba dispuesto a hacer que una de las unidades fuera asequible. Springer se encuentra actualmente en el proceso de rediseño de la fachada para adaptarse al carácter del vecindario.

El equipo está buscando alivio de zonificación por una

serie de violaciones al código: la propiedad sólo tiene siete de los nueve espacios de estacionamiento requeridos; la relación área-suelo es casi el doble de la densidad permitida; las escaleras que conducen a la cubierta del techo ponen la altura por encima del límite de 35 pies; el edificio cumple con el límite de tres pisos, pero incluye un cuarto piso subterráneo. Además, el uso multifamiliar no está permitido en la propiedad.

Los comentarios de la comunidad incluyeron una preferencia por dos edificios de tres familias, en lugar de un edificio que contenga nueve unidades. Algunos miembros se quejaron del comportamiento de los inquilinos en otras propiedades de G&P alrededor de Mission Hill, que la compañía dijo que desconocían. CAMH realizará una votación sobre el proyecto en su reunión del próximo mes.

La Alianza Comunitaria de Mission Hill se reúne el tercer miércoles del mes en el auditorio G-3 del edificio Kresge en la Escuela de Salud Pública Chan en 677 Huntington Ave. de 7 a 8.30 pm. Su próxima reunión será el miércoles 20 de noviembre. Todos los miembros de la comunidad de Mission Hill están invitados a asistir.

CITY OF BOSTON DISPARITY STUDY Business Outreach Meetings

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- Recommendations for equitable inclusion of M/WBEs in the City of Boston's bid/proposal procurement policies and procedures; and
- Ease of identifying City contract or subcontracting opportunities.

Thursday, November 7th, 2019

8:00am - 10:00am

VietAID

42 Charles St. Suite D

Dorchester, MA. 02122

Thursday, November 7th, 2019

6:00pm - 8:00pm

JPNDC

31 Germania St. # A

Jamaica Plain, MA. 02130

Friday, November 8th, 2019

8:00am - 10:00am

Black Market Dudley

2136 Washington St.

Roxbury, MA. 02119

If you are unable to attend these public meetings:

You may submit written

testimony about your experiences to

Bostondisparity@bbcresearch.com

At each disparity study meeting, food will be provided, the environment will be child-friendly, and interpretation will be made available upon request. Businesses will also have the opportunity to learn about upcoming contracts the City's certification process, and becoming a City vendor (on-site registration available). We want to work with you!

The City of Boston has commissioned BBC Research and Consulting, Nunnally & Associates, Kelley Chunn & Associates, and Bevco & Associates to conduct a disparity study to assess whether any barriers exist for minority-owned businesses and woman-owned businesses to compete for City contracts.

Who can I contact for more information?

Sheryce Hearns, Deputy Director

City of Boston, Office of Economic Development

(t) 617-635-3449

(e) sheryce.hearns@boston.gov

Iris McClish, Director

BBC Research & Consulting

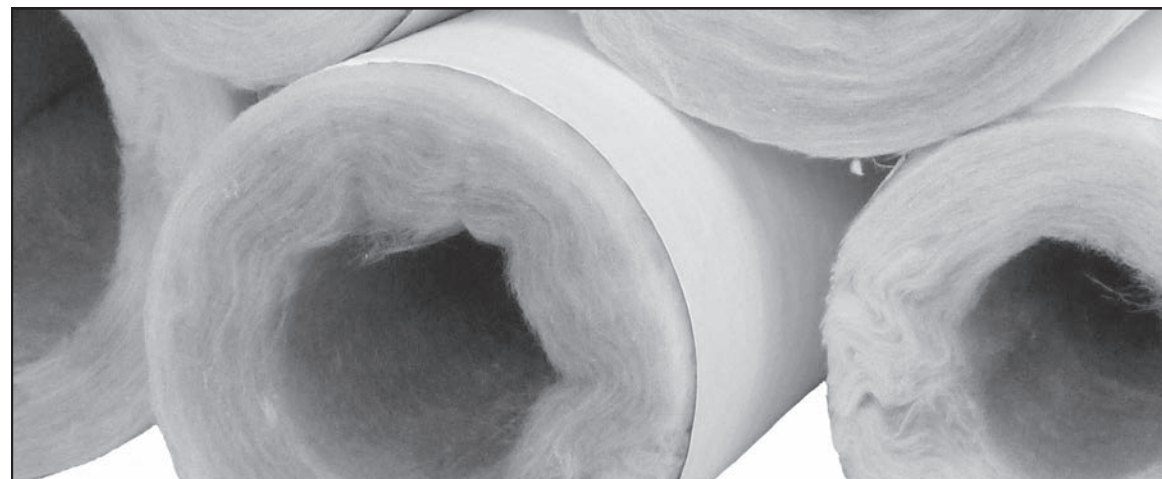
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Candidates' Forum

Continued from page 1

the Boston Ward 5 Democratic Committee, will face Jennifer Nassour, an attorney and former chair of the Massachusetts Republican Party, in the race for the seat to represent Back Bay, Beacon Hill, Fenway-Kenmore, Mission Hill and the West End currently held by Josh Zakim, who is stepping down after three terms. Peter Nessen, who previously served as secretary of the Executive Office for Administration and Finance of Massachusetts and as a senior cabinet member under former-Gov. William Weld, was the moderator for the event, which was jointly sponsored by the Beacon Hill Civic Association, the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay and the West End Civic Association.

Bok said she first became aware of the “power of the council” while working as a budget director for former Councilor Ayanna Pressley, who assumed office in 2010. Since neither Bok nor Pressley, who now serves as a U.S. representative, had ever scrutinized the city’s budget before, Bok said they took a “deep dive” approach that was soon adopted by other members of a council.

Also, Bok pointed to the “collection action” the council can accomplish together, especially in instances where its members are at odds with the mayor under the city’s existing charter system.

In contrast, Nassour said, “Our charter is what it is, but you need a district councilor who is going to fight for you. You’re not going to change who has the power, but what you can do is to work with the person in power to promote the views of your constituents.”

Bok, who said she would serve as an ombudsman for the District 8 neighborhoods as councilor, said she would attempt to resolve citywide issues that often overlap.

For instance, Bok cited climate change as a pressing citywide concern, but said it’s an es-

pecially urgent matter in District 8, which would be more prone to flooding than other parts of the city.

“I would start block by block and scale it up to take on larger challenges,” Bok said. “We need to tackle everyday problems and think about long-term solutions.”

Like Bok, Nassour said as councilor she would employ both micro and macro approaches in tackling problems. “We need to look at holistic solutions on some things, but others are more specific to the neighborhood,” Nassour said.

In regard to City Councilor at-Large Michelle Wu’s call to abolish the Boston Planning and Development Agency, Bok said the focus of a city agency created more than 50 years ago to “supercharge the economy” should be shifted to one tasked with finding the “best use of public land for the public good.”

Nassour agreed that the agency needs to be restructured so the planning and development roles are more clearly defined and separated.

Regarding the city’s need for affordable housing, Nassour suggested working with the Chamber of Commerce to solicit monies from universities and big businesses to create a \$250-million development fund to meet this need.

Bok maintains Boston would be well advised to look at San Francisco, which she said is five to 10 years further along in terms of unaffordable housing.

“The housing stock just becomes capital accumulation,” Bok said. “I don’t want to see neighborhoods become neighborhood capital depositories. I want to see neighborhoods.”

Also, Bok said affordable housing could be built on public land and coops should be encouraged to help the middle class remain in the city.

Both Nassour and Bok expressed reservations on rent control while applauding a new ordinance that would prohibit AirBnB listings that aren’t registered with the city.

In response to how she would balance the interest of different transportation modes in the city,

Bok pointed out that Beacon Hill has the highest percentage of residents from any city neighborhood who walk to work while contending with countless cars coming from outside the city that cut through the neighborhood. “We need to shift the focus back to pedestrians,” she said.

Bok also called for the implementation of bike lanes “practically and systematically” to avoid creating ones that “dump you off at dangerous intersections, which aren’t good for bicyclists or anyone else.”

Likewise, Nassour described the implementation of bike lanes on Beacon Street as dangerous for all modes of transportation while advocating for better enforcement via cameras, a greater police presence and fines to dissuade reckless biking.

As for the citywide School Committee structure, Nassour

and Bok also said they would like to see a body whose members aren’t all appointed by the mayor. “A hybrid school committee would be the way to go, with both elected and appointed members,” Nassour said.

Nassour also underscored the importance of upgrading the city’s existing schools while creating safe and comfortable environments inside.

“We need the best teachers and resources in buildings where [students] are comfortable going to school,” Nassour said. “We have a lot of schools that are underutilized...and we need to do something with them.”

In regard to possible locations for a district elementary school, Kenzi suggested siting it at Winchell School, a Massachusetts General Hospital-owned property at 26 Blossom St., or at an underutilized Fenway school

building.

Meanwhile, the candidates were torn on the opening a cannabis dispensary – recreation or medical – in District 8 neighborhoods.

Bok described the city’s current policy of requiring one-half mile between dispensaries as problematic and a possible legal quandary for the city, since most applicants won’t ultimately receive permitting even after following through with a costly process.

Instead, the city instead should treat permitting of these establishments in the same manner it currently handles liquor stores, Bok said.

Nassour, on the other hand, said Beacon Hill and Back Bay would be unsuitable locations for dispensaries, given the abundance of schools in both neighborhoods.

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and John Coppola of Circle Properties. Mission Hill Main Street thanks you for your time and commitment to help beautify Mission Hill.



State Rep. Nika Elugardo, Gar Chang (President MHMS), Kenzie Bok (Candidate - City Council), Chorlette O'Neill (MHMS Board Member).

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Northeastern Student Volunteers, John Coppola, Chorlette O'Neill (Circle Properties, Inc.).

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Michael Flaherty championed the passage and adoption of the Community Preservation Act(CPA), which has now collectively granted an approximate \$42 million for 91 projects across the city devoted to affordable housing, historic preservation and open space.

Michael Flaherty has consistently called for increased access to treatment, on-demand for those suffering from substance-abuse disorders and mental health issues, along with advocating for expansion of resources for community health centers across Boston.

Michael Flaherty has called for closing the academic achievement gap by supporting the Student Opportunity Act and introducing an option Year 13 to prepare students for college and beyond.

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BOSTON CITY COUNCIL AT-LARGE

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Kenzie Bok and Northeastern Students.



Volunteers pause for a photo with State Rep, Elugardo and Candidate Kenzie Bok.

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What's Happening on Main Streets

BY ELLEN WALKER
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Here we are in the midst of a lovely fall season – the temperatures have been mild, and the sun has been shining more days than not – so far!

Kudos to the runners and walkers who showed up for the annual Mission Hill Road Race and Walk on Saturday, September 28th. The race raises funds to support improvements in the park and what a perfect day it was for the event and the hundreds who participated. Lots of volunteers helping to make this event a success and the community spirit was great! This year, Mission Hill Main Streets was proud to be involved as one of the

sponsors of the race and we had a hospitality table to promote our services. It was a pleasure to meet so many of you that day and we look forward to future events where we can do this again.

There were two holidays celebrated on Monday, October 14th – Columbus Day and Indigenous People's Day. The Museum of Fine Arts offered free admission for the day and for all events in recognition of Indigenous People's Day. The events included a blessing, music and dance. The music was provided by Jennifer Kreisberg (Tuscarora, North Carolina), who comes from four generations of Seven Singing Sisters through her maternal line. Dances were

Continued on page 13

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for BOSTON CITY COUNCIL
D I S T R I C T 8

Council candidate Jennifer Nassour will appear first on the ballot for District 8 voters

Jennifer Nassour is excited to share with voters that she will appear first on the ballot for District 8 City Councilor on Tuesday, Nov. 5.

With just days until the general election for Boston City Council, Jennifer has been hard at work reaching out to voters in each of the unique neighborhoods of the district, including the West End, Beacon Hill, Back Bay, Fenway, Kenmore, Audubon Circle, and Mission Hill.

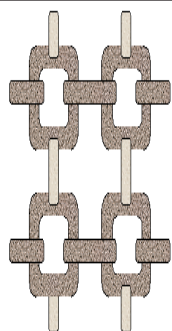
"For me, this race has been so rewarding," says Jennifer Nassour. "I entered this race because I knew we as a city could do better for residents, and I realized that the adversity I faced in my own life is what motivated me to fight for my neighborhoods. I want to thank every person who shared their stories, concerns,

and experiences with me along the way!"

Nassour's platform has centered on tackling quality of life issues across District 8, including:

- Make our streets and sidewalks safe for all of us
- Tackle the opioid crisis
- Fix every school for every student
- Clean up trash, littering, and the rats they bring to our neighborhoods

Jennifer Nassour is an attorney and former CEO of the nonpartisan women's coalition, ReflectUS. She lives in Back Bay with her three daughters and two dogs. Nassour is running to represent District 8 on the Boston City Council. The election is November 5, 2019. For more information on Jenn's candidacy, visit jenn4boston.com.



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Happy Birthday to Mission Hill's George Salah! If you see George around the city, be sure to thank him for his service.

Hill Happenings

By MOSSY MARTIN

Veterans Day is next week and a tip of the hat to our veterans who served in our great country.

I often think of my close friend and my former Mission Hill baseball captain, John Killion at this time of year. John, who grew up on Fenwood Road, survived the Vietnam War, but succumbed to cancer in 2004.

John loved to celebrate Veterans Day and every Nov. 11, he would frequent different taverns and buy a round of drinks for strangers. I can picture John at J.J. Foley's in the South End, drinking his beer and telling the bartender, "Give everyone a drink."

On Veterans Day I'll hoist a beer and dedicate it to John. The day of Nov. 11 was declared a national holiday by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1938. Then called Armistice Day because an armistice was declared (on the 11th month of the 11th day on the 11th hour) between the allied nations and the central powers (Germany, Austria and Hungary), which ended World War I.

In 1954 the holiday was renamed Veterans Day.

Happy 96th birthday to George Salah, a distinguished

World War II combat veteran and Class of 1940 English High graduate who grew up on Whitney Street in Mission Hill. George is blessed with good health, and I enjoy chatting and going to lunch with George, whose mind is still sharp. He was the Commander of the Mission Hill Post 327 in the '60s and George, who was a skilled designer, and his construction company built the Mission Hill Post in 1960. Because the Mission Hill Post building has been sold, the new phase of the Mission Hill Post 327 held its first meeting at the Corrib Restaurant in West Roxbury on Oct. 17 chaired by Post Commander, Col. George Rollins. Although I'm not a veteran, I'm proud to be part of this fine organization as the Community Affairs Liaison.

The Mission Hill Post will continue its mission to support veterans and the Mission Hill community. There were several good ideas discussed at the meeting, including the best ways to reach out to needy veterans and also an offer to sponsor a Mission Hill Little League team. The next meeting will be held Nov. 14 at a location yet-to-be-determined. For more Mission Hill Post information, contact Adjutant Mike Gormley at 617-894-8413.

vote Tuesday, Nov. 5. There are two City Councilor candidates, Kenzie Bok and Jennifer Nassour are vying to represent Mission Hill. Nassour is a Republican, so it's nice to have a balanced ticket for a change.

Turning the clock back in local politics, in 1860, thousands attended a political rally in Ward 7 in Roxbury supporting Democrat presidential candidate, Stephen Douglas. The majority of the Roxbury voters chose Douglas, but he lost the election to his Republican rival, our great 16th president, Abraham Lincoln.

Two years previously Douglas defeated Lincoln in the Illinois Senatorial election following the famous Lincoln-Douglas debates.

Condolences to the family of Tony Nunez, a longtime Mission Hill resident who had been in a nursing home for several years. Tony loved the Hill and especially the kids.

Said Davey Curran, Tony's Pontiac Street neighbor: "He would hand out dollar bills to the small kids." A classy touch by the Currans, who sent a nice sympathy card to the Nunez family, along with three \$1 bills.

RIP Tony.

Mission Hill will have a new

Don't forget to get out and

Continued on page 7

Hill Agenda

The deadline for Hill Agenda listings is noon, Tues., December 3 for the issue December 6. Email listings to reporter@jamaicaplaingazette.com. Note: 617 should be dialed before numbers below, unless another area code is given.

Meetings

Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Service holds its monthly meetings on the first Monday of each month at 6 PM at the NHS office at 1 Brigham Circle in Mission Hill on the mezzanine level.

Mission Main Tenant Task Force, the task force board requests residents' help and input, third Monday of each month, 6-8pm, Mission Main Community Room, 43 Smith St. Info: 708-8515.

Mission Hill Neighborhood Crime Committee, meets on the last Thursday of each month at 7pm, Mission Church Music Room, 1545 Tremont Street.

Health/Fitness

New Learn-To-Skate classes for figure and hockey skating skills for children ages 4 and 18 are starting at 11 Greater Boston rink locations: Brookline – Cleveland Circle & Larz Anderson, Cambridge, Medford LoConte, Newton-Brighton, Quincy, Somerville, Waltham, West Roxbury and Weymouth. Use either hockey, recreational or figure skates. Beginner, intermedi-

ate and advanced classes taught by professional instructors. Over 50 Year's Experience. For information and to register, call Bay State Skating School at 781-890-8480 or visit online at www.BayStateSkatingSchool.org.

Mission Hill Line Dance Class second Saturday of the Month 12:30-2:30 p.m. Exercise and Socialize with your neighbors. Sponsored by the Mission Hill Health Movement at Tobin Community Center call 617 427 6919 for more information.

Mission Hill Walks! Through October join a MHHM walk group and start getting healthier. Chose a Walk Day: Thursday, 10 am from 1534 Tremont St; Saturday, 9:30 am from 650 Huntington Ave. Call 617 427 6919 Join the Mission Hill Walk Challenge at: www.ChallengeRunner.com/login/challenge/96559i-1j1z

Walking for Our Health Group, Thursdays 10 AM. Departs from 1534 Tremont St. Join the Mission Hill Health Movement's Walking Group for a weekly walk; for both beginner and advanced walkers. Call 427-6919.

Boston Brakers power soccer, practices 1st, 2nd, 3rd Saturdays of the month, noon-2pm, Tobin Community Center, 1481 Tremont St. Info: facebook.com/bostonbrakers.

Music /Art/Culture

Recording Studio, Sociedad Latina's Music Clubhouse has a high-quality recording studio and beatmaking lab available for the community. Tremont St. Info/Scheduling: Josh Snyder 617.442.4299

Ballroom dancing, offered by RTH, Sundays, 7:30-9pm, 2 New Whitney St., 1st floor. Info: 232-0400/hhui@roxburytenants.org.

Museum of Fine Arts, Regular hours are Saturday through Tuesday, 10 am–5 pm, and Wednesday through Friday, 10 am–10 pm.

Parker Hill Branch Library, The Parker Hill Branch Library has the following upcoming program:

Book Discussion Group The Parker Hill Branch Book Discussion Group meets on the third Thursday of every month.

Yoga for Older Adults, The Parker Hill Branch Library presents Saturday yoga classes for adults ages 55 and older. Wear clothes that you can move in comfortably. Yoga mats and props will be provided. All experience levels are welcome. This program is made possible by the Mission Hill/Fenway Neighborhood Trust and the New England Baptist Hospital. Saturdays, 10:00 am

Youth/Families

Sociedad Latina's Academy for Latinos Achieving Success (ALAS), a program which provides students with transition coaching through their first two years of college. 1530 Tremont St. Contact: Laura Londoño, number is 617.398.7447 email: llondono@sociedadlatina.org

Workshops/groups/talks

Weekly Bilingual Mandarin-English chat, practice Mandarin language skills with native speakers and others, must request Harvard building access permission 2 days

in advance, Tuesday evenings, 6-9pm, HSPH, 677 Huntington Ave. Info: 615-9672 / Maynard. Clark@gmail.com.

Weekly Bilingual Cantonese-English chat, practice Cantonese language skills with native speakers and others, must request Harvard building access permission 2 days in advance, Friday evenings, 6-9pm, HSPH, 677 Huntington Ave. Info: 615-9672 / Maynard. Clark@gmail.com.

ESOL and citizenship classes, offered by RTH. Beginning ESOL, Mon. & Fri., 7:30-9pm. English for workplace, Tues. & Thurs., 7:30-9pm. Advanced ESOL, Fri 6-7:30pm, Sat. 7:30-9pm. Flynn conference room, 805 Huntington Ave. Citizenship class, Tues. & Thurs., 2:30-4pm, 2 New Whitney Street, 2nd floor. Info: 232-0400/hhui@roxburytenants.org.

Office Hours

Neighborhood Coordinator from The Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services, Shaina Aubourg, second and fourth Monday of the month, 3:30-5:30pm, Tobin Community Center, 1481 Tremont St. Info: 635-2679.

Tobin Community Center, 1481 Tremont St., yearly membership: seniors 55+ free, family & adults \$20, teens 13-17 \$10, 12 and under \$5. Info: 635-5216/Tobin-CommunityCenter.org.

After-school, ages 6-12, M-F, Sept.-June, \$60 per month plus membership. Homework help,

tutoring, sports, arts, computers. Info: 635-5216.

MissionSAFE, leadership program for teens. Info: 319-0679.

Sports Camp, licensed sports for kids 6-13, M-F, 8am-4pm, \$65/week. Register: 635-5217.

Adult/Family Fitness, Family kung-fu: ages 6+. Info: 635-5216. Adult tai chi: Mon., 6:30-7:30pm. Info: 635-5216.

Computer Lab, Open Access Wed., 10am-1pm. Info: 635-5216.

Senior Activities, free for adults 55 and over. Tues. & Thurs., 10-11am. Info: Carmen Pola, 820-1089.

Public Notices

Sociedad Latina has opened its doors as a BPSCares Pop-Up Welcome Center every Thursday and Friday from 10:00am-4:00pm. Newly-arrived families from Puerto Rico and the Caribbean affected by Hurricane Maria will receive assistance on registering for school, registering for FEMA disaster relief, Mass Health, SNAP benefits, and obtain access to other resources to get settled in Boston. For more information, contact info@sociedadlatina.org.

\$5 Million Reward, for information leading directly to the return of 13 works of art stolen two decades ago from the Gardner Museum. Anonymous tips can be mailed to 280 The Fenway. Info: Anthony Amore, Director of Security: 278-5114.



Brendan Behan Pub

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Hill Happenings

Continued from page 6

drinking establishment when the Tavern of Tales celebrates its grand opening Nov. 14. Jake, the general manager, tells me the tavern, which is located across the street from the Tobin Building at 1480 Tremont St., will

serve a light food menu.

My choice of Hill taverns is Flann O'Brien's. The bartenders are always pleasant and before I'm in my seat, my Coors light draft is in front of me. My only complaint is the music that is played at Flann's, which is sometimes loud and unpleasant to my ears. Then I walk across the street to the Puddingstone Tav-

ern and talk some sports with Scott, a bartender who is well versed on all topics.

Getting back to politics, in Keene, N.H., there is a "nobody" running for mayor – a candidate who is a "cannabis freedom activist" who legally changed his name to Nobody.

Perhaps nobody will vote for Nobody.

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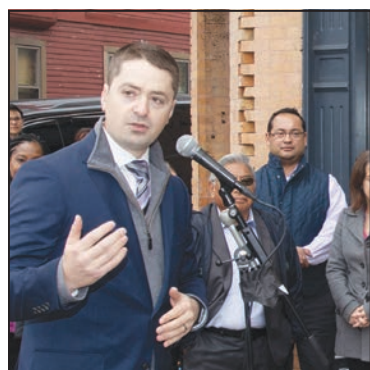
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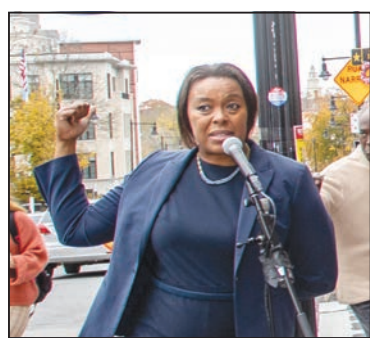
or email:

ads@JamaicaPlainGazette.com

MHMS, WALSH CELEBRATE NEW BUSINESS, HONOR ROUSE



Councilor Josh Zakim speaking at the bench dedication.



State Rep. Nika Elugardo speaking at the bench dedication.

Boston Mayor Martin Walsh joined Mission Hill Main Streets and its neighbors celebrating two new businesses, “In the Cut” and “Boba Me,” and a dedication of a bench on Tremont Street in honor of Richard Rouse by Brigham and Women’s Hospital on Oct. 29. Organized by the Mission Hill

Main Streets (MHMS) the ribbon cuttings, welcoming new businesses and dedication for Rouse were celebrated with many friends, supporters and neighbors of Mission Hill, including elected officials like State Rep. Nika Elugardo, Mayor Walsh, and Councilors Michael Flaherty and Josh Zakim.



Mayor Martin Walsh receiving a Mission Hill Main Street cap from Mission Hill Main Streets Executive Director Ellen Walker at “In The Cut Barbershop.”



Mayor Martin Walsh shakes hands with Richard Rouse, former, long time Mission Hill Main Streets Executive Director.



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Mayor Walsh speaking at the dedication of a bench to honor Richard Rouse. The new bench is affixed on Tremont Street.

Election

Continued from page 1

Essaibi-George, and Michelle Wu, along with candidates Alejandra St. Guillen, David Halbert, Julia Mejia, and Erin Murphy. Residents can vote for four At-Large Candidates.

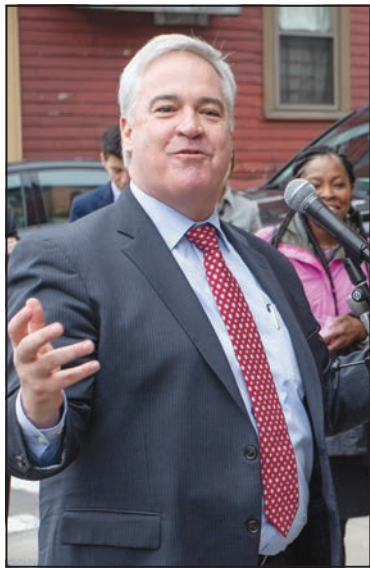
In District 2, incumbent City Councilor Ed Flynn will be unopposed, but in District 8, candidates Kenzie Bok and Jennifer Nassour are competing for incumbent Josh Zakim's seat. In addition to Council seats, the citywide ballot will include the non-binding public opinion advisory question: “Do you support the renaming/changing of the name of Dudley Square to Nubian Square?” To get on the ballot, nonbinding public opinion advisory questions are initiated by a citizen petition and approved by the City Council and the Mayor. Dudley Square

is located in Roxbury, and plays host to the School Department in the Bolling Building. The push comes from the fact that the Dudley family participated in the slave trade during Colonial times. Many wish to ditch his name due to that fact. The deadline to submit an application for an absentee ballot is November 4 at noon and can be done by mail or in person at the Election Department in City Hall. In person absentee voting is available in the Election Department during regular business hours as well as on Saturday, Oct. 26, and Saturday, Nov. 2 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. If voting absentee by mail, the completed ballot must be received by 8 p.m. on Election Day to be counted. On Election Day, the languages available at the polls and/or using a translator phone bank are: Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Russian, Cape Verdean and Haitian Creole.

MHMS, WALSH CELEBRATE NEW BUSINESS, HONOR ROUSE



Mayor Walsh with Natalia Urtubey, City of Boston, Director of Small Business, Economic Development, at Boba Me.



PHOTOS BY KEIKO HIROMI
Councilor Michael Flaherty spoke highly of his friend, Richard Rouse.



Mayor Martin Walsh at the ribbon cutting for "In The Cut Barbershop" with owner Pamela Leins (Left of Mayor) and Welinton Garcia (2nd left of Mayor) in Mission Hill.



Wanda McClain, of Brigham and Women's Hospital, State Rep. Nika Elugardo, Richard Rouse, former, long time Mission Hill Main Streets Executive Director, Mayor Martin Walsh, Councilor Josh Zakim, Councilor Michael Flaherty, and Main Streets Director Ellen Walker.



Mayor Walsh at the ribbon cut for Boba Me.



Councilor Josh Zakim with District 8 Councilor candidate Kenzie Bok (R) at "In The Cut Barbershop."



Mayor Martin Walsh trying out Boba Tea with Thomas Pham of Boba Me, during his visit to new businesses in Mission Hill

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Bye, Bye BRA? Councilor Wu presents plan to abolish BPDA

BY SETH DANIEL

In a meeting that packed the South End's Union United Church on Monday, Oct. 7 with residents from all over the city, Councilor Michelle Wu presented a bold, 75-page plan to abolish the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) – formerly the Boston Redevelopment Agency (BRA).

The meeting came together quickly, within about three days, and the report was released earlier on Monday. However, the movement she is tapping into goes back decades and generations as Bostonians old and new have expressed frustrations with the agency – particularly in the last few years as the Urban Renewal process is supposedly winding down. For Wu, the plan

came out of that Urban Renewal process whereby the Council granted the six additional years, and she has been chairing meetings with the BPDA on how that extension process is winding down – or not.

A recent report by the BPDA and submitted to the state, followed up by a meeting with Wu and the Council, seemed to suggest that many Urban Renewal Areas would not conclude by end of the six-year extension.

It seemed to be the last straw for Wu.

“Those extraordinary powers granted to them came with an expiration date of 40 years,” she told the crowd. “They expected 40 years would be a significant amount of time to exercise their program...What happened is when an entity is created, it's hard to make it go away. We got



Councilor Michelle Wu shocked the local political arena by calling for the abolition of the BPDA Monday night in a meeting in the South End that drew residents from all over the City – including Charlestown. The reactions go from very much against, to very much in favor.

to 2015 and they wanted another 10-year extension...In their most recent report, they've indicated the largest areas will not expire.

The largest ones will likely seek an extension. The South End is the largest and Charlestown is the second largest.”

The meeting was met with applause at many steps for Wu's presentation, which was done outside of her official City Council platform and paid for with campaign funds. Those in the audience came from Charlestown, the South End, South Boston, Dorchester, Hyde Park, Downtown and East Boston. Some Councilors, like Michael Flaherty, were there in support – with him being a long-time advocate of abolishing the BPDA in favor of a stand-alone public planning department.

The meeting was, Wu said, the beginning of a dialog to abolish the BPDA and have the public begin to talk about what should replace it.

“This is nowhere near the stage of having a piece of legis-

Continued on page 11



PARTICIPACIÓN

El plazo para la sección de Participación es al mediodía, martes 29 Noviembre para la edición 1 Diciembre. Mande eventos a news@missionhillgazette.com. Los números telefónicos empiezan con el código 617.

Reuniones

Junta de directores de Mission Hill

Neighborhood Housing, primer lunes del mes, 6 PM a la oficina de NHS, 1 Brigham Circle en Mission Hill en el nivel de entresuelo. Información: 566-6565. 6

Grupo de trabajo de los residentes de Mission Main, la junta directiva del grupo de trabajo solicita

la ayuda y los comentarios de los residentes, tercer lunes del mes, 6-8pm, salón comunitario de Mission Main, 43 Smith St. Información: 708-8515.

Comité de delincuencia de Mission Hill, los últimos jueves de cada mes, 7pm, salón de música de Mission Church, 1545 Tremont St.

Salud y Bienestar Físico

Mission Hill Camina, hasta octubre, grupo de camino. Los jueves, 10 am de 1534 Tremont St; los sábados, 9.30 am de 650 Huntington Ave. Llame al 427-6919.

Caminando para la salud, los jueves, 10AM. Sale de 1534 Tremont St. paseo semanal del grupo de camino de Mission Hill Health Movement; principiantes bienvenidos. Llame al 427-6919.

Una bolsa de vegetales/frutas \$2 bag, \$1 barras de pan fresco, ofrecido por Mission Hill Health Movement, sin preguntas; todas las bolsas que quiera llevar, los miércoles, 4-6pm, Tobin Community Center, 1481 Tremont St. 427-6919.

Fútbol de Boston Brakers, entrenamiento el primer, segundo y tercer sábado del mes, 12-2pm, Tobin Community Center, 1481 Tremont St. [facebook.com/bostonbrakers](https://www.facebook.com/bostonbrakers).

Música, Arte, Baile

Estudio de grabación, de alta calidad en Sociedad Latina, disponible a la comunidad. Tremont St. Info/Scheduling: Josh Snyder 442.4299 Baile de salón, presentado por RTH, los domingos, 7.30-9pm, 2 New Whitney St., primer piso. 232-0400, hhui@roxburytenants.org.

Museo de Bellas Artes

Parker Hill Branch Library

Charla de libro, tercer jueves del mes

Yoga para los mayores de edad, los sábados, 10am

-De Interés especial

-Horas de Oficina

Coordinadora de Servicios de Vecindario de Boston, Shaina Aubourg, 2º y 4º Lunes del mes, 3.30-5.30pm, Tobin Community Center, 1481 Tremont St. Información: 635-2679.

Jóvenes/Familias

Sociedad Latina, su programa ALAS ofrece consejos de transición para los estudiantes universitarios durante sus primeros dos años. 1530 Tremont St. Llame a: Laura Londoño, 398-7447, llondono@sociedadlatina.org.

Clases/Discusiones

Charla semanal bilingüe: mandarín-inglés, con hablantes nativos y otros, se requiere permiso de acceso al edificio Harvard con dos días de anticipación, los martes por la tarde, 6pm-9pm, HSPH, 677 Huntington Ave. 615-9672 / maynard.clark@gmail.com.

Charla seminal bilingüe: cantonés-inglés, con hablantes nativos y otros, se requiere permiso de acceso al edificio Harvard con dos días de anticipación, los viernes por la tarde, 6pm-9pm, HSPH, 677 Huntington Ave. 615-9672 / maynard.clark@gmail.com. Clases de inglés y de ciudadanía, con RTH. inglés para principiantes, lunes y viernes, 7.30-9 pm. Inglés para la oficina, martes y jueves,

7.30-9 pm. Clase de inglés avanzada, viernes 6 a 7.30 pm. 805 Huntington Ave. Clase de ciudadanía, martes y jueves, 2.30 – 4 pm, 2 New Whitney Street, Segundo piso. 232-0400/hhui@roxburytenants.org.

Noticias Públicas

Sociedad Latina, centro de bienvenido cada jueves y viernes, 10 am – 4 pm. Familias de Puerto Rico afectadas por el huracán pueden recibir asistencia para establecerse en Boston. Info@sociedadlatina.org.

Recompensa de \$5 millón, para información sobre la ubicación de 13 obras de arte robadas hace dos décadas del museo Gardner. Mande denuncias anónimas a 280 The Fenway. Info: Anthony Amore, director de seguridad Security: 278-5114.

Centro Comunitario Tobin

1481 Tremont St., membresía anual: \$5+ gratis; familias y adultos \$20; jóvenes 13-17 \$10, niños con menos de 12, \$5. Info: 635-5216 / TobinCommunityCenter.org.

MissionSAFE, programa de liderazgo para jóvenes. Info: 319-0679. Campamento de deportes, para niños 6-13, lunes a viernes, 8 am – 4 pm, \$65/semana. 635-5217.

Bienestar físico para adultos/familias, kung-fu: 6+. Info: 635-5216. Tai chi para adultos: lunes, 6.30 – 7.30 pm. Info: 635-5216.

Laboratorio de computadoras, miércoles, 10 am – 1 pm. 635-5216.

Actividades para mayores de edad, gratuitas para 55+. Martes y jueves, 10-11am. Info: Carmen Pola, 820-1089.

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Michael F. Flaherty highlights his housing record, addressing concerns

Michael F. Flaherty, incumbent and candidate for Boston City Council At-Large, highlights his advocacy and legislative efforts to address housing issues as he seeks re-election. Flaherty, who continues to reach out to voters over these next two weeks until polls close on Election Day on Tuesday, Nov. 5, has heard from residents that housing remains one of their top concerns. "In this ongoing era of rapid growth and development, I continue to be at the forefront of addressing the housing crisis in our city," stated Flaherty. "There is no doubt that I share the significant concerns around access to housing and affordability that residents across Boston have - and will continue to work to address housing inequities."

Flaherty fully acknowledges that too many of our residents are burdened with the fear that they will soon be priced out of their neighborhood - a reality for many already. Those who are priced out struggle to find housing within their financial means.

Development is flourishing, he notes, but residents who are looking to remain in the city should be able to do so regardless of the status of development in Boston. This is why over the course of his time as a Boston City Councilor At-Large, Flaherty has worked with communities across Boston on efforts - both legislative and budgetary - to expand access to affordable housing, address the issue of displacement, extend tenant protections, and advocate for resources to stabilize the City of Boston's residents and their neighborhoods.

These efforts include:

- As the Chair of the City Council's Committee on Government Operations, Flaherty worked with the City of Boston's Department of Neighborhood Development, City Council colleagues, and a broad coalition of community and industry stakeholders to pass the Jim Brooks Stabilization Act - a key piece of state legislation that addresses the root of eviction.

- Flaherty also passed legislation via the Government Operations Committee that outlines the framework of regulations for short-term rentals in Boston. A central aspect of these regulations is to help bring back stabilization to the housing market; now that the regulations are in effect, Flaherty requests that residents be on the look-out for short-term rentals that may not be compliant.

- As the lead advocate for updating the City of Boston's Linkage law, Flaherty continued working with a range of stakeholders to pass legislation that modernizes the City of Boston's approach to allocate revenue for job training programs and affordable housing, along with our approach to reviewing the Inclusionary Development Policy which mandates affordable units be included in certain new development projects.

- Flaherty is the lead advocate for the Community Pres-

ervation Act which passed at the ballot box on election day in November 2016. Since then, 91 community preservation projects have been awarded funding totalling \$42 million -- approximately \$20 million of which has been granted for affordable housing.

• Flaherty is also a strong proponent of public-private partnerships, especially given that federal investments in affordable housing have decreased. As Chair of the Committee on Government Operations, Flaherty has worked with the Boston Housing Authority to revitalize many of the City's public housing developments so that all residents can live in dignity.

"No matter the zip code, Boston is in a housing crisis. We are living in a time in which the cost of living continues to increase as residents try to maintain their quality of life," stated Flaherty. "If re-elected as your Boston City Councilor At-Large, I will continue to work on addressing this



Michael F. Flaherty.

issue with all of the resources we have."

As a husband, father, neighbor and proud lifelong Bostonian, Michael Flaherty is committed to ensuring that Boston is an accessible, equitable, and inclusive city for its residents. For more information on his campaign and his work on the Boston City Council, visit www.MichaelFlaherty.com. Boston City Councilor At-Large Michael Flaherty respectfully requests your vote on Tuesday, Nov. 5, where his name will be the first one on the ballot.

Bye Bye BRA?

Continued from page 10

lation or a document to put up for a vote or approval or even a hearing," she said. "This is about reporting back what I've learned in an attempt to start a process that will hopefully model what should replace the BPDA. It would be an iterative, inclusive, community-driven process. It really is left up to you all to shape what that is and what the processes would be to make sure everyone has a say in building this new organization."

But not everyone - particularly the mayor and the BPDA - prefer her idea.

The BPDA and Mayor Walsh responded to the meeting by touting the changes and accomplishments at the Agency since they took over.

Director Brian Golden said since 2014, the BPDA has created more than 100,000 jobs and more than 6,000 income-restricted units. They also created the 2017 Imagine Boston plan, which engaged 15,000 people.

"While there is still more work to do, I am proud of the prog-

ress that has been made to not only improve the development and planning process within the agency, but modernize outdated operational functions internally and externally," he said. "Proposing to abolish the BPDA ignores the reality of the present day community-based planning agency, and discredits the hard working staff who are in our neighborhoods every single day engaging residents on how we prepare for Boston's future."

Mayor Walsh said he had serious concerns about the BPDA when becoming mayor, but believes that a community-driven process has been instituted.

"When I first ran for Mayor, I had serious concerns about how decisions were made at the then-Boston Redevelopment Authority," he said. "I immediately ordered an outside review of the BRA and put in place significant reforms to bring transparency, integrity and accountability to our development and planning processes across the city... Today, we have an agency that, for the first time, uses community engagement to guide growth that is inclusive and respects the history of each of our unique neighbor-

hoods."

But people at the meeting, and many in the public square, seem to be fed up with the Agency.

"I've lived in the South End for 54 years," said Herb Hershfang. "I've seen firsthand what the BRA has done and none of it deserves commendation. They need to be abolished."

Said Councilor Flaherty, "People are meeting-ed out. You could be out two or three nights a week on development. They take the bait that their input will shape a project and then they find out they just aren't heard. They have given up. People have given up on this."

Ellen Kitizis from the Charlestown Preservation Society said the recent Master Plan process with the BPDA has been frustrating, and another reason some other sort of planning agency should be considered.

"We're in the early process of it, but the BPDA says they have no inkling of how to do a Master Plan," she said. "They've said they don't do Master Plans. They do strategic plans. It has been a frustrating situation. The process didn't start well, and we're in it now."

That frustration wasn't lost on Wu.

"It has so long been identified as something that is not serving Boston to the best that residents can be served," she said. "In 1970, in 1983 and in 2013, the mayoral campaigns really included and focused on this as a point to want to change the structure, but what I hope my report highlights is explaining why it hasn't happened."

Wu said the first reason she found was because the City is so dependent on property tax - particularly commercial taxes. With 71 percent of last year's revenues coming from the property tax, she said there is pressure to keep feeding the development pipeline for new revenues as the demand for City services increases.

Another key step, she said, is to begin to unwind the Agency by transferring its assets - the property it owns and the leases it holds - back to the City. That income stream could fund a group of planners who could then go out and really create Master Plans for the city.

"The BPDA holds assets and property, whether buildings with leases or garages or the Marine Industrial Park, the BPDA holds

property in the city and off the City books," she said. "It's what funds their operations. Step one would be to transfer that property back to the City books and with Council oversight on the budget side. That would also create the revenues that would grow and transfer the planning staff to build out an infrastructure that leads to a Master Plan of all these issues."

Finally, a key step for Wu, is to end Urban Renewal - the one thing that likely triggered her desire to present the report so publicly and with such a splash.

"If you look at a map, most of these URAs don't line up with the places we are finding difficulty in jump-starting development or seeing revitalization," she said. "And, many of the places where there is a lot of development aren't covered by these areas. So, it's really a mismatch of Boston's needs today and the conditions that were put in place when this agency was created decades ago."

Wu indicated there would be follow ups to the report, and on Wednesday she officially filed it with the City Council for review.

MH OBSERVER

Finding out where presidential hopefuls stand made easier and better

By SANDRA STOREY / SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

For voters working on deciding who to support in the primary on March 3 there's some good news. The crowded Demo-

cratic field has gone from 24 good prospects in mid-May to 19 good prospects now. I hope none of the eight who already dropped out from the top number of 27 will be badly missed.

Also good: Everybody who's still running would make a better president than the incumbent, and polls looking at the top Democrats show they could all pretty easily beat incumbent President Donald Trump if the election were held now. Three Republicans have announced they are challenging Trump at this time.

Our election season is too long. Events the past month illustrate one reason why. Major changes can affect early decisions months before the primary and more than a year before the final vote.

Just since Sept. 29, an official impeachment inquiry has been opened in the House of Representatives into President Donald Trump. One of the lead Democratic candidates' and his son's names, Joe and Hunter

Biden, were brought up as part of alleged international impeachable activities carried out by the president and various underlings. And another one of the top Democratic candidates, Bernie Sanders, had a heart attack and briefly suspended his campaign.

Many more things could transpire to affect the primary and final elections, including Trump's impeachment or, less likely, removal from office. All the more reason, with the primary about four months away, voters should start settling on a small group of candidates they favor.

But voters shouldn't choose a one-and-only. Things change, and loyalties need to be broad in case the person they vote for in March is not on the ballot next November.

Policy positions candidates take are important to know. But finding out what candidates think on a range of subjects is not as easy as it could be. The four Democratic debates so far were lengthy. Candidates have been good at showing a united

front against Trump. But the debates haven't been as thorough as some might have liked.

Other good news this fall is that by now all 12 of the Democratic candidates who qualified for the October debate have their policy positions on their websites: Joe Biden, Cory Booker, Pete Buttigieg, Julián Castro, Tulsi Gabbard, Kamala Harris, Amy Klobuchar, Beto O'Rourke, Bernie Sanders, Tom Steyer, Elizabeth Warren and Andrew Yang. As of Oct. 20, only eight contenders had qualified for the Nov. 20 debate

Unfortunately, their policy positions can be hard to find on the sites. The word "Donate" dominates all of them. Policy positions hiding in the shadows may be found by scrolling down, clicking on the header on the page, or even going to a different website. Have faith; they're there somewhere and in the candidates' own words.

On a few easier candidate

Continued on page 16

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What's Happening on Main Streets

Continued from page 5

provided by two-time World Hoop Dance Champion Lisa Odjig telling the story of creation using music, dance, and multiple flexible hoops. Narrated by renowned musician and MC Chris Newell (Passamaquoddy).

Late October was quite busy for Mission Hill Main Streets with new businesses opening, help from Northeastern University student volunteers and Mission Hill residents cleaning the sidewalks in our neighborhood and a planned visit from Mayor Walsh.

Saturday, October 19th was a community volunteer day here in Mission Hill. We had over 15 student volunteers and several residents pitch in to help clean the district sidewalks. They were joined by Mission Hill Main

Streets Board member Chorlette O'Neill of Circle Properties who took charge of leading this great team in helping to make Mission Hill shine a little bit more! Mission Hill Main Streets' success is due to our dedicated board members who always step up when we need them. The efforts of everyone are appreciated by all of us who strive to create a cleaner more welcoming appearance throughout the Mission Hill neighborhood. Thank you to the Northeastern University volunteer students and to all the Mission Hill residents who helped us out on the 19th!!

We are all looking forward to Tuesday, October 29th, when Mayor Walsh will show his on-going support for the Mission Hill neighborhood with three events

in one day! Mark the date on your calendar as we stop in at three separate events beginning at 12:30pm we will stop at 1437 Tremont Street, move to 1520 Tremont Street and wind down at 1514 Tremont Street – two ribbon-cuttings and the dedication of a bench to honor Richard Rouse. Hope to see you there!

In searching for a way to end Mission Hill Main Streets article this month that respects different perspectives, I came across the whatdoino-steve.blogspot and found this statement that I think works well: "I like the idea of a holiday in which we stop and give thanks for what we have. And as we notice what all we do have, we might also notice that others are doing without, and that we can share with

them!" On that note, this is a time to be thankful for all life has to offer – Happy Thanksgiving from Mission Hill Main Streets.

Please friend us on Facebook and "like" our page. Check out our website and see and send us your comments! The link is www.missionhillstreet.com.

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— Abraham Lincoln

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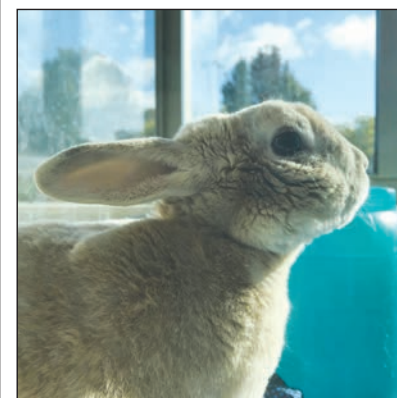
Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll



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"Gazette Pet of the Week" is a biweekly submission sponsored by Sarah Carroll, Sales Associate of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage 1375 Beacon St., Brookline, MA 02446 • 617-731-2447

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EDITORIAL

Be sure to vote Tuesday

This Tuesday, Nov. 5, is election day in cities and some towns across the state for local offices, including mayoral and council contests.

Not too long ago, local elections in Massachusetts routinely drew voter turnouts of 80-90 percent, almost equivalent to, if not exceeding, presidential elections. However, in recent decades, voter turnout typically has been no more than 30 percent for municipal elections.

We find it ironic that local elections attract the attention of only a fraction of the voters who turn out for the state and national elections. Local government, and those whom we elect to serve in those posts, have much more of an impact on our daily lives than do our state and federal governments.

Local government is in charge of our public safety departments, our schools, our trash collection, the condition of our streets, and almost everything else in between.

The quality of life in our hometown communities affects our families and ourselves -- and our property values -- far more directly than what transpires at the state and national levels.

So we urge all of our readers to get out and vote on Tuesday. The aphorism about the weather -- that we all complain about it, but can't do anything about it -- does not apply to our local government.

We do indeed have the ability to affect what happens at our local government level -- but only if we take the time to vote.

Baker's plan will improve health care for all

Ever since 2006, when then-Governor Mitt Romney worked together with the state legislature to craft a landmark health care bill that served as a model for Obamacare a few years later, Massachusetts -- which boasts the highest rate of insured citizens of any state in the country -- has been a leader in providing comprehensive health care to all of our citizens.

But as with everything in life, nothing stays the same. Change always is needed not only to improve upon what was done initially, but also to keep up with new circumstances.

The announcement last week by the administration of Gov. Charlie Baker and Lieut. Gov. Karyn Polito of comprehensive health care legislation that will bring about significant reforms to our health care system represents a necessary response to the always-evolving world of health care that affects every citizen in our state.

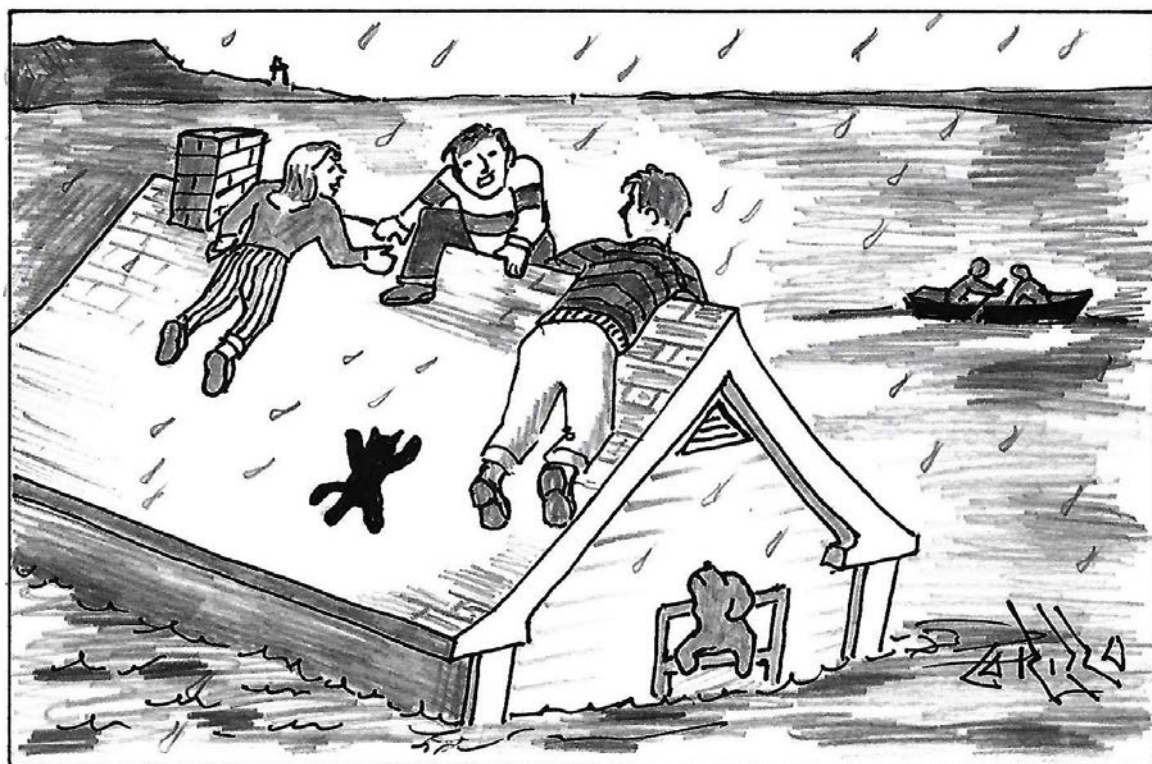
The Baker-Polito plan aims to improve outcomes for patients by increasing access to behavioral health and primary care services, while also bringing down costs both for individuals and for the state.

The reforms will cut down on the hidden costs that currently blind-side consumers and impact the overall system. The legislation also holds drug companies accountable for excessive prices and unjustified price increases, and supports distressed community hospitals and community health centers.

The Baker-Polito bill has wide-ranging support from many stakeholders in our health care system, with the lone exception being -- surprise! -- the drug companies, whose exorbitant prices adversely impact the quality of health care at all levels of the system.

We applaud the plan of Gov. Baker -- who, it should be noted, was the head of Harvard-Pilgrim before becoming governor and thus brings more expertise to the subject of health insurance than almost anyone else in the state -- and Lieut. Gov. Polito for their efforts to strengthen our best-in-the-nation system of health care.

We know that the legislature also is working on a similar track and will join together with Gov. Baker on this issue, leaving us with no doubt that Massachusetts will continue to be the national leader in health care and health insurance as we enter the third decade of the 21st century.



HOW MANY 100 YEAR STORMS CAN WE HAVE IN A YEAR?

OP-ED

Boston's next steps to address the opioid crisis

By Mayor Martin J. Walsh

In big cities and small towns across the United States, the opioid epidemic is tearing families apart. It is inflicting incredible pain, and it will have implications for years to come. In Boston, we've made this issue a top priority. And now, we're ready to take the next step with a new strategic plan called Melnea Cass/Mass Ave. 2.0.

This new plan focuses on a neighborhood in Boston that has been hardest-hit by the addiction crisis: the intersection of Melnea Cass Boulevard and Mass. Ave. in the South End, often referred to as Mass/Cass. For decades, this has been a hub of vital services for people struggling with substance use disorder, mental health issues, and homelessness. It's one of the places where the city and its wide array of partners, including nonprofits, medical centers, and service providers, have dedicated the most resources to outreach and treatment programs. People from throughout the state and region have been drawn to the area due to the availability of treatment, health care, and shelter. We recognize the impact this is having on the surrounding communities which have borne a disproportionate share of the issue. In addition to those struggling with addiction, we also need to make sure that the neighbors, families, schools, and businesses in the area get the support they need.

That's why this neighborhood is ground zero for our response. Focusing on this area, we will be able to reach the most people in need

of life-saving care, and address pressing safety and quality-of-life concerns for the surrounding community as well. At the same time, we're expanding services citywide, and calling for improved access to resources outside Boston and throughout the region.

The 2.0 plan is informed by public health and public safety professionals, community members, and people recovering from substance use disorder themselves. This plan has three focus areas: public health, quality of life, and public safety. We're hiring new staff members designated to work in the area, and funding for new programs and initiatives to get more people the help they need. Our plan lays out

specific, achievable, and measurable goals for the months ahead. We will improve coordination between city services and make sure that city agencies and our partners are working together as efficiently and effectively as possible. It will allow us to get more people off the streets and into treatment, and make the neighborhood safer for everyone.

This new plan builds on the work we've done over the past 5 years. Since I took office in 2014, we have invested \$64 million across several City departments to address the addiction crisis. We created the first municipal Office of Recovery Services in the

Continued on page 15

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

Mission Hill GAZETTE

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Debra DiGregorio, Director of Marketing
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LETTERS

Why I support Kenzie Bok for District 8 Councilor

Dear Editor,

I am reaching out to you today regarding the District 8 City Council election, which is fast approaching. As you know, I was a candidate during this election season and had the opportunity to engage with the other candidates in meaningful dialogue about the most critical issues facing our community. Over the past few weeks, I have also had the opportunity to speak at length with Kenzie Bok regarding the day-to-day quality-of-life issues

that we are all faced with as city residents, and, of course, we discussed the much larger district-specific and city-wide issues.

While Kenzie and I have different life experiences and different approaches to serving District 8, we both recognize the great value of community advocacy and how the dedication of District 8 residents has shaped our historic neighborhoods and community green spaces. Kenzie and I also share a sense of ur-

gency with regard to affordable housing, the opioid crisis, public schools, and transportation. It is important for a city councilor to improve the day-to-day issues on the local level while working in parallel on larger strategic initiatives.

I am endorsing Kenzie for City Councilor because she has committed to showing up and advocating for neighbors at community meetings, especially where development is concerned. I am backing her as she agrees that

there needs to be a fundamental change with regard to the BRA - not just a name change to BPDA. She understands that the role of Boston City Councilor is to invite people to the table, actively engage residents in substantial dialogue, connect people to resources, and enact change that has measurable and positive impact.

Kenzie has called Boston home for decades, as have I, and we know that this is the time for strong and active leadership to

manage growth while preserving the fabric of our neighborhoods. I look forward to working with Kenzie to improve civic engagement and equity across District 8. Please make a plan to get to the polls on Tuesday, November 5th, to exercise your right to vote - and take a neighbor with you!

Kristen Mobilia
Former District 8 City Council Candidate
20-year Fenway resident
and community advocate

Vote Erin Murphy for City Council at-Large

Dear Editor,

We are writing to encourage everyone in Boston to vote for Erin Murphy for City Council At-Large on Nov. 5. Erin left her position as a BPS teacher after 22 years in the classroom to run for office for the first time. We know Erin Murphy as a friend, the teacher of our kids, the neighborhood leader who always shows up to help out however she can, and as a person of integrity who is running for office for all the right reasons: To represent the voices of every-day residents in every neighborhood; To improve City services for our seniors, children, and our most vulnerable neighbors; And to bring her formidable work ethic to the full time job of

being a Boston City Councilor.

Tuesday's election is an important one. There may be as many as five new City Councilors elected this year, and we hope every resident will make it to the polls on November 5th. All the neighborhoods of Boston deserve a City Councilor who will be a truly independent voice. Erin is a first-time candidate for office, but her roots in our city run deep, as does her commitment to supporting causes that matter to all of us. As a Boston Public School classroom teacher for 22 years, Erin advocated for her special needs students and their families who were in danger of falling through cracks in the system and not receiving the services they needed. Mayor

Walsh named her to his Education Transition team because of her long years of experience in service to public education and Boston families. Erin was also recognized by Gov. Baker and the Gavin Foundation for raising awareness and much-needed funds for addiction and mental health recovery services for those suffering and their families. Erin is a tireless advocate for reducing the stigma of addiction and mental health issues.

Please consider Erin Murphy for one of your four At-Large City Council votes on Tuesday, Nov. 5. Erin has earned her reputation as the "hardest working candidate in the race" by knocking on thousands of doors across the City and meeting residents where

they live and work to listen and learn so that she can be a leader who is truly responsive to the needs of our neighborhoods. For a sensible, honest, hard-working At-Large Councilor in City Hall, vote for Erin Murphy!

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I support Jennifer Nassour

Dear Editor:

As a lifelong Democrat, I was prepared to oppose Jennifer Nassour's positions when I have encountered her on public TV and radio in the past few years. I was, however, quickly intrigued by the measured, reasonable, and articulate manner with which she expressed her views. As the current President's administration unfolded she conveyed her criticism of him professionally

while supporting her stance in representing the minority party in our very Blue State. Upon quickly becoming a fan, I have bumped into Jenn on multiple occasions, and found her to be approachable, friendly, and straightforward.

Many of the issues facing our city - housing, neighborhood services, education, public health and safety - are nuanced and require a City Councilor with

first-hand understanding coupled with applicable exposure working in various types of organizations. Jenn brings several years of just such exposure - in government, as an attorney, Party Chair, political commentator, and supporter of women as CEO of Reflect U.S. Her practical, indisputable experience as a hard working negotiator, administrator, and communicator is unmatched in this race.

In the current political climate it is critically important that we put aside long-held party affiliations and put forward candidates based on integrity, commitment, and proven capabilities.

I am pleased to support Jennifer Nassour for Boston City Council and would encourage other District 8 Democrats to do the same.

Liz D'Angeli

Op-Ed

Continued from page 14

country. We created a 24-hour hotline to connect people to quality, affordable addiction treatment. We're investing in shelters, street outreach workers, and training for first responders. We're suing the pharmaceutical industry that played a role in creating this crisis, and making sure that they help fund the relief efforts.

And we have a plan to build the comprehensive recovery campus on Long Island that our entire region needs.

To me, this work is very personal. I am a recovering alcoholic. I understand how addiction can take hold and derail a person's life. I believe that we need to address this issue with empathy and compassion. We also need to focus on the root causes. Often times, when people turn to addictive substances, it's out of

loneliness or desperation. It's an outcome of trauma, fear, and poverty. Stigmatizing the disease of addiction only discourages people from getting help for themselves and their families. People don't need more judgement, they need more help. Building a strong, loving community that lifts people up is one of the most important things we can do. This work will save lives and change our city for the better. This is an opportunity to set an example for the nation,

and help other communities rise up from under this crisis, too.

I encourage everyone to read the Melnea Cass/Mass Ave. 2.0 plan at Boston.gov/Recovery. This is also where you can learn more about the work we're doing citywide, and how you or a loved one can get access to help. This is one of the biggest challenges we'll face as a city, and we're rising to the occasion, together.

Martin J. Walsh is the Mayor of Boston.

MH Observer

Continued from page 12

sites, there are traditional tabs at the top. The issues tabs may be labelled: “issues” or “story,” “about,” “meet,” “priorities,” and, in one case, “Our America.” Just to add to the confusion, most of the candidates also post their biography, which might also be labelled “meet” or “story” for some candidates. Figuring it out is worth it.

Voters will be able to tell two important things right away from those sections of the websites: what subjects the candidate cares about and what their opinions, and sometimes their voting histories, are with those issues.

Relying on paid political pundits and commentators in media for information and opinion on the candidates is not the best idea. Good pundits can be great for flavor but not for a full presentation of facts. Although rules of journalism say these opinionated writers and speakers are supposed to use accurate facts, they don’t have to balance their

writing, make sure to include things that don’t support their views, or give other “sides” necessarily.

Right now, reflecting this country’s incredible focus on the executive branch of government, it seems as if there are thousands of commentators on presidential politics. They may be staff, freelancers or paid outside “experts” or self-described volunteer pundits on TV, in print, on the internet, or in social media. Voters need to take their opinions, even if they seem to basically agree with them, with giant grains of salt.

To do that often necessitates looking up commentators’ biographies and looking up the publications and websites themselves that provide them platforms. Sometimes voters have to check facts or look for more up-to-date information. It’s good to be aware that presidential punditry is a competitive field itself, and practitioners—always looking for a marketable idea—may come up with some obscure, sensational or nitpicking angles on candidates and elections.

Several commercial media

websites offer information about each and all of the candidates—Democrats and Republicans—in one place. It’s always good to check when they were last updated. The top of the page usually has the “as of” date. The cutesy ones might be fun, but they’re not very useful.

The New York Times “politics” section, called “Who’s Running for President in 2020?” has brief blurbs on each candidate, and for frontrunners there are also “candidate profile pages” to click on.

The Boston Globe has the same graphics and header as the Times (?), puts a little about the candidates, and can sort them by groups: New Englanders, women, etc.

OntheIssues.org details all the candidates and dozens of stands, documenting how people voted or expressed their policies. There is even a quiz where voters can see which candidate best matches their opinions.

The Atlantic has a presidential race section that is very light, saying of Warren, for example, “She’s got a good doggo,” and linking to a photo.

Politico has a fantastic presi-

dential election information section on its website (“2020-election”) devoted to giving the latest, most thorough information on presidential candidates and issues, polls, endorsements, and money.

Issues on Politico can be searched by candidate, issue or category. And the site makes comparing candidates’ opinions easy, too. (To see candidates’ fundraising policies, which can differ, see their individual websites.) I recommend this site.

The Republican primary will also be on March 3 here. One thing people would never know from following most election coverage: The majority of Massachusetts and national voters are “unenrolled” in either party. (Then come Democrats. Fewest are Republicans.) Unenrolled voters here can choose which party primary to vote in, vote, then switch back to unenrolled. Many people often do this, and unenrolled voters have a lot of say in primary outcomes in states like ours that have so-called “open” primaries.

Right now four Republicans are running for president, much

as the incumbent and the Republican National Committee might not like it. Before the current brouhahas about Trump’s asking foreign leaders for help with his campaign and then suddenly pulling protective troops from northern Syria, the RNC voted to provide undivided support for the incumbent.

Republican parties in five states have already cancelled their primaries. Massachusetts has not. As of now, former Massachusetts Gov. William Weld is running in that primary, as are Mark Sanford of South Carolina and Joe Walsh of Illinois.

Though some candidates try to dazzle voters with their celebrity or dramatic life stories, nothing beats policy proposals underlined by demonstrated good character for figuring out who to choose.

Credible, unbiased websites and other objective sources are the best way to learn about candidates. Local voters who do research into candidates’ views do themselves and their fellow voters as they prepare to color in the ovals in 2020.

Host a Massachusetts Promise Fellow

For more information:
Lauren Currie, MPF Director
l.currie@northeastern.edu
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The Massachusetts Promise Fellowship (MPF), in partnership with Northeastern University, will be releasing the 2020-2021 RFP to host an AmeriCorps Massachusetts Promise Fellow on November 25th, 2019. Fellows lead out-of-school time programs focused on academic enrichment and college and career exploration for youth in grades 6-12.

40 Fellow positions will be awarded to non-profit organizations, city agencies, and schools across Massachusetts.

