

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON MAIN STREETS P. 15

*Mission Hill*

# GAZETTE

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JANUARY 3, 2020 – FEBRUARY 6, 2020

CIRCULATION 7,000

## CAMH hears presentation on 17-19 Sunset Street

By LAURA PLUMMER

On Wednesday, December 18, the Community Alliance of Mission Hill (CAMH) met for its regularly scheduled monthly meeting. On the agenda was a presentation about 17-19 Sunset St.

CAMH heard a presentation by Attorney Patrick Mahoney, who represents Janice Ye, the owner of a three-family rental at 17-19 Sunset Street. Ye wants to repave four existing parking spaces and add one new parking space in the rear yard.

There are currently no paved parking spaces behind the building, although residents sometimes park on the unpaved surface. Most frequently, residents park one in front of the other in

the driveway.

Boston Survey, Inc. designed the parking lot and did not make any adjustments to the existing landscaping. Currently there is grass in the front yard, and landscaping between the rear parking area and the neighboring house. The area will be paved with permeable or porous asphalt in order to prevent runoff into neighboring properties.

Ye requires variances for the following violations: the parking is within five feet of the side lot line, there is insufficient maneuverability of parking, the side yard lacks the required width to be used for a driveway, and there is insufficient usable open space. A rear abutter has also requested that

*Continued on page 2*

## FROG POND SKATING SPECTACULAR



PHOTO BY EMILY HARNEY

Sophie Ianelli, of the Skating Club of Boston, stands between two Christmas trees as she gets ready to perform at the Frog Pond Skating Spectacular during the early evening of the Boston First Night 2020 celebration. The spectacular was one of many events that took place to usher in the new year. See more photos on Pages 6 + 7.

## BOSTON RINGS IN NEWYEAR WITH FIRST NIGHT FESTIVITIES



PHOTO BY DEREK KOUYOUNJIAN

Trombonist Hans Bohn performed 'Lassus Trombone' as part of First Night Boston 2020 during the Pipes and Pops concert at Old South Church in the Back Bay on New Year's Eve, Dec. 31. Hundreds flocked to the concert before heading to Copley Square for the countdown to 2020 at midnight.

## CAMH escucha presentación sobre 17 y 19 de Sunset Street

By LAURA PLUMMER

El miércoles 18 de diciembre, la Alianza Comunitaria de Mission Hill (CAMH) se reunió para su reunión mensual. Escucharon una presentación sobre la propiedad en 17 a 19 Sunset Street.

CAMH escuchó una present-

ación del abogado Patrick Mahoney, quien representa a Janice Ye, dueña de una casa de tres familias en 17 a 19 Sunset Street. Quiere añadir nuevo pavimento a cuatro espacios de estacionamiento en el patio trasero y agregar un nuevo espacio.

Actualmente no hay espacios

de estacionamiento pavimentados detrás del edificio. Los residentes se estacionan conjuntamente en la entrada.

Boston Survey, Inc. diseñó el estacionamiento y no realizó ningún cambio al paisaje. Ac-

*Continued on page 3*

## State of the City to be held on Tuesday, Jan. 7

By SETH DANIEL

The annual State of the City address by Mayor Martin Walsh will take place in Symphony Hall on Tuesday, Jan. 7.

The address will follow the swearing in of the new City Council – which includes several

new members joining returning incumbents. That is expected to happen on Jan. 6 in the City Council Chambers, though it hasn't yet been completely finalized. Roxbury/South End Councilor Kim Janey is said to have the votes to become the new Council President, taking the gavel from outgoing president

Andrea Campbell, of Mattapan.

Walsh hasn't given any clues as to what he will talk about, but likely he will address national issues once again with the impending 2020 National Election now at the doorstep. In last year's address, Walsh focused almost exclusively

*Continued on page 12*



# Hill Happenings

BY MOSSY MARTIN

My wonderful friend, Phil McDermott passed away on Dec. 21.

He was a champion of life, despite being encumbered by cerebral palsy. Phil, who came from a family of terrific athletes, loved sports, and as a kid, he would never miss a Mission High School baseball game at Jefferson Park in J.P. to watch his older brothers play. Similarly, Phil would attend the Mission High basketball games at the Tobin Gym, where he was the official scorekeeper. I loved talking sports with Phil

## CAMH meeting

*Continued from page 1*

the owner install a privacy fence to block headlights from vehicles, which the owner agreed to.

CAMH members asked why five parking spaces were needed for a three-unit building and if any of them would be rented. Mahoney said that the additional spaces were for short-term visitors to the residence, such as house cleaning services, and that the owner had no intention of renting them out.

Mahoney reported that no study had been done to ensure maneuverability of vehicles, and CAMH members expressed con-

and he was smart and a great student of the games.

Phil never complained about his condition, and he had a great sense of humor. That sense of humor was often displayed during our Friday night card games at the Mission Hill Post a few decades ago. The cast of characters at those poker games were easy prey for Phil's pungent wit.

In the '90s, when I was the night manager of Mission Hill Liquors, I worked with Phil, and despite his lack of mobility, he was my best and most reliable worker.

cern that pulling out of a space would be difficult if all spaces were occupied. They also noted that there didn't appear to be any room to pile snow cleared from the spaces. Mahoney asserted that there is room.

Additional questions can be sent to Mahoney at [patrick@bostonzoning.com](mailto:patrick@bostonzoning.com).

Community Alliance of Mission Hill meets on the third Wednesday of the month in auditorium G-3 of the Kresge building at Harvard's Chan School of Public Health at 677 Huntington Ave. from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Their next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 15. All members of the Mission Hill community are invited to attend.

There were dark times when Phil was in and out of hospitals. I recall visiting Phil at the Beth Israel Hospital when he was immobilized, but his spirit was unmarred. More recently, when I visited him at the Bourne Manor Extended Care Facility, his attitude was the same.

We reminisced about, among other things, Phil directing heavy traffic as the third base coach for Ed Burke's Tavern in the Mission Hill Softball League. The last time I departed the Bourne Manor, I felt fortunate to have Phil as a friend.

Congratulations to Janet McCarthy from Mission Hill, who recently retired as a Master Sargent from the Air National Guard after 20 years of service. Janet, who is a nurse at the New England Baptist Hospital, was previously the recipient of the National Guard Public Health Technician of the year.

There was a cool photo in the Globe last month of couple Joe and Carol Barry, who were dancing up a storm at the Four Seasons in Milton during a celebration for couples married for

50+ years. Joe and Carol, a spry Mission Hill couple, have been married for 60 years.

Condolence to the family of Richie Cummings who passed away last month. Richie, who was a retired letter carrier, was a gentle and easygoing man. An excellent athlete, he was an outstanding pitcher in the Mission Hill Softball League. Richie and his buddy, the late Robert McGrath, had an egg delivery business in the Mission Hill project in the early '60s, and I fondly recall earning a few bucks on a Saturday mornings when I was a little kid, delivering eggs under Richie's guidance. Richie will be missed.

Dudley Street is gone, as the City changed the name to Nubian Square. That area, at different times, populated by Irish, German, and Jewish people, and now mostly blacks, conjures up fond memories. When I was a young boy, my father would take me to Dudley Street to shop, culminated by a drop in to Joe & Nemo, the famous hot dog stand. There was also the Sulfaro Shoe Store at Dudley Street, which was owned

by the Mission Hill Sulfaros on Hillside Street. I was against the name change to Nubian Square. Nubian refers to an ancient African empire, and as Joe Fitzgerald, the fine Boston Herald writer said: "It has as much to do with the history and legacy of Dudley Street as 'Sesame Street.'"

The Mission Hill Post 327 held their last meeting Dec. 17 at Sophia Italian Steak House in West Roxbury, followed by our Christmas party. I'm proud to be a member of this terrific organization, and on this evening we welcomed five new members: Tommy McCarthy, Tom "Dubba" Walsh, Jimmy Daley, Mike Killion, and George Salah. George, who was Commander of the Mission Hill Post in the early '60s, is an energetic 96-year-old World War II combat veteran. Among the topics discussed was sponsoring a Mission Hill basketball team, coached by John Jackson in the Thomas L. Johnson League, which are played at the Tobin Gym. The next meeting is March 5, but the place has not yet disclosed.

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# Walsh announces application open for fourth round of Boston Air

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Mayor Martin J. Walsh and the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture announced this week that applications are now open for the fourth round of Boston AIR, the City of Boston's artist residency program.

Through this program, a cohort of artists will collaborate with the City of Boston to explore, analyze, and re-imagine City initiatives at the intersection of civil service, social justice, and artistic practice.

"Artists-in-Residence implement projects that imagine and test new approaches to City of Boston policies, processes, and procedures with the help of various City departments," said Mayor Walsh. "This, in turn, helps to create a stronger and more equitable city."

Since the creation of the Boston AIR program in 2017, the City has had a total of 20 artists-in-residence. Previous years focused on examining City policies with a lens of resilience and racial equity, valuing proximity to people by pursuing an understanding of the impact of local government policy in the

lived experience of Bostonians, and supporting collaborative and democratic creation of City policy, processes and practices.

"As a writer, Boston AIR opened many doors for me. The opportunity to collaborate with other talented artists made me feel a sense of connectedness to other artists in Boston," said former Boston artist-in-residence Nakia Hill. "Boston AIR provided the resources for me to publish my first book of poetry *Water Carrier* and an intergenerational anthology, *I Still Did It*." Now, that publication is available in Boston Public Library branches across the city--my city."

Examples of past artists-in-residence include Karen Young, a Japanese taiko drummer who collaborated with the Age Strong Commission and worked with women at the Grove Hall Senior Center to form "Older and Bolder," an elder voice project that advocated for a safer crosswalk outside of the center. Another former artist-in-residence, Rashin Fahandeh, collaborated with the Office of Returning Citizens and individuals ages 5-19 at the Blackstone Community Center in the South End

to develop *A Father's Lullaby*, a multi-platform, co-creative project that highlights the role of men in raising children and their absence due to racial disparities in the criminal justice system in the United States.

The following City of Boston departments are partnering on this round of Boston AIR:

- Mayor's Housing Innovation Lab
- Mayor's Commission for Persons with Disabilities
- Office of Emergency Management
- Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC)
- Mayor's Office of Recovery Services
- Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement
- Mayor's Office of Women's Advancement

"Boston AIR encourages City departments to take risks and think creatively about their programs and policies, as well as integrate creative expression into municipal work," said Kara Elliott-Ortega, Chief of Arts and Culture. "When we integrate artists into civic work we find ways to make Boston a better city for every resident."

Experienced artists ages 18 and over who work in all media are encouraged to apply. Each

artist will receive a \$30,000 stipend and up to \$10,000 for project materials.

Building off of Mayor Walsh's record-breaking investment in Boston's arts sector, the City of Boston is investing \$250,000 for the artist residency program, as well as an additional \$200,000 FY20 investment in sustaining key grant making programs for individual artists.

The deadline to apply is Jan. 22, at 5 p.m.

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## Reunion de CAMH

Continued from page 1

tualmente hay césped en el patio delantero y jardines entre el área de estacionamiento trasera y la casa vecina. El área estará pavimentada con asfalto poroso para evitar la escorrentía hacia las propiedades vecinas.

Ye necesita variaciones para las siguientes infracciones: el estacionamiento se encuentra dentro de cinco pies de la línea lateral, no hay suficiente maniobrabilidad de estacionamiento, el patio lateral carece del ancho requerido para ser utilizado de entrada, y no hay suficiente espacio abierto utilizable. Un vecino también ha solicitado que el propietario instale una cerca de privacidad para bloquear los faros de los vehículos, y el propietario se acordó.

Los miembros de CAMH preguntaron por qué se necesitaban cinco espacios para un edificio de tres unidades y si alguno de ellos sería alquilado. Mahoney dijo

que los espacios adicionales eran para visitas de corto plazo, como los servicios de limpieza, y que la propietaria no tenía intención de alquilarlos.

Mahoney informó que no se había realizado ningún estudio para garantizar la maniobrabilidad de los vehículos, y los miembros de CAMH expresaron su preocupación de que salir de un espacio sería difícil cuando el lote está lleno. También notaron que no parecía tener espacio para poner nieve limpiada de los espacios. Mahoney afirmó que sí hay espacio.

Se pueden enviar otras preguntas a Mahoney a [patrick@bostonzoning.com](mailto:patrick@bostonzoning.com).

La Alianza Comunitaria de Mission Hill se reúne el tercer miércoles del mes en el edificio Kresge de la Escuela de Salud Pública Chan en 677 Huntington Ave. de 7 a 8:30 pm. Su próxima reunión será el miércoles 15 de enero. Todos los miembros de la comunidad de Mission Hill están invitados.

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## CITY PAWS

# Become the best guardian

BY PENNY & ED CHERUBINO

Nearly everyone who brings a companion animal into their life intends to take excellent care of that dependent creature. Along the way we all make some mistakes, bad decisions, and false steps. However, each day we also have the opportunity to renew our goal to become the best guardian we can be.

### Beyond Food and Shelter

What would you want someone charged with your care to provide for you? Would regular meals and a safe place to stay be enough to make you happy? We bet you'd like good grooming, regular exercise, mental stimulation, good communication, and excellent healthcare.

You'd want your caregiver to make informed decisions about the professionals who serve your needs, the ways they protect you from harm, the foods they feed you, and the medications and treatments they allow others to give you.

### Daily Care

Having companion animals is a part-time job on top of whatever else fills your life. Most of us have a schedule of daily tasks we do for our pets. We feed, exercise, groom, play with, train, and provide them some at-home healthcare. We choose their walkers, sitters, boarding facilities, friends, veterinarians, and make appointments for all those services.

All of these tasks require that we educate ourselves and keep up with the news on what's happening in the veterinary world. It's important to be alert to any outbreaks of a specific disease in your area or a recall of a food or product you may have in your home.

For example, if you feed a commercial food, you should monitor the Food and Drug Administration's page called "Outbreaks and Advisories." You can also set up a Google Alert that will send you

an email if your pet's food hits the news. This system can also be used to follow the latest research and information on medications, medical conditions, or behavioral issues that relate to your animals.

### Make Informed Decisions

Gathering information for a big decision regarding medications, treatment plans, testing, and surgery is something most of us do. But, we make dozens of smaller decisions every day that can be just as important and perhaps life-threatening for the creature in your care.

If you use or plan to use a new item, you should know the dangers as well as the advertised benefits. If everyone did an internet search on the dangers of, and which governments are outlawing, items like pinch collars, choke collars, and flexible leashes, there would be far fewer of them in use.

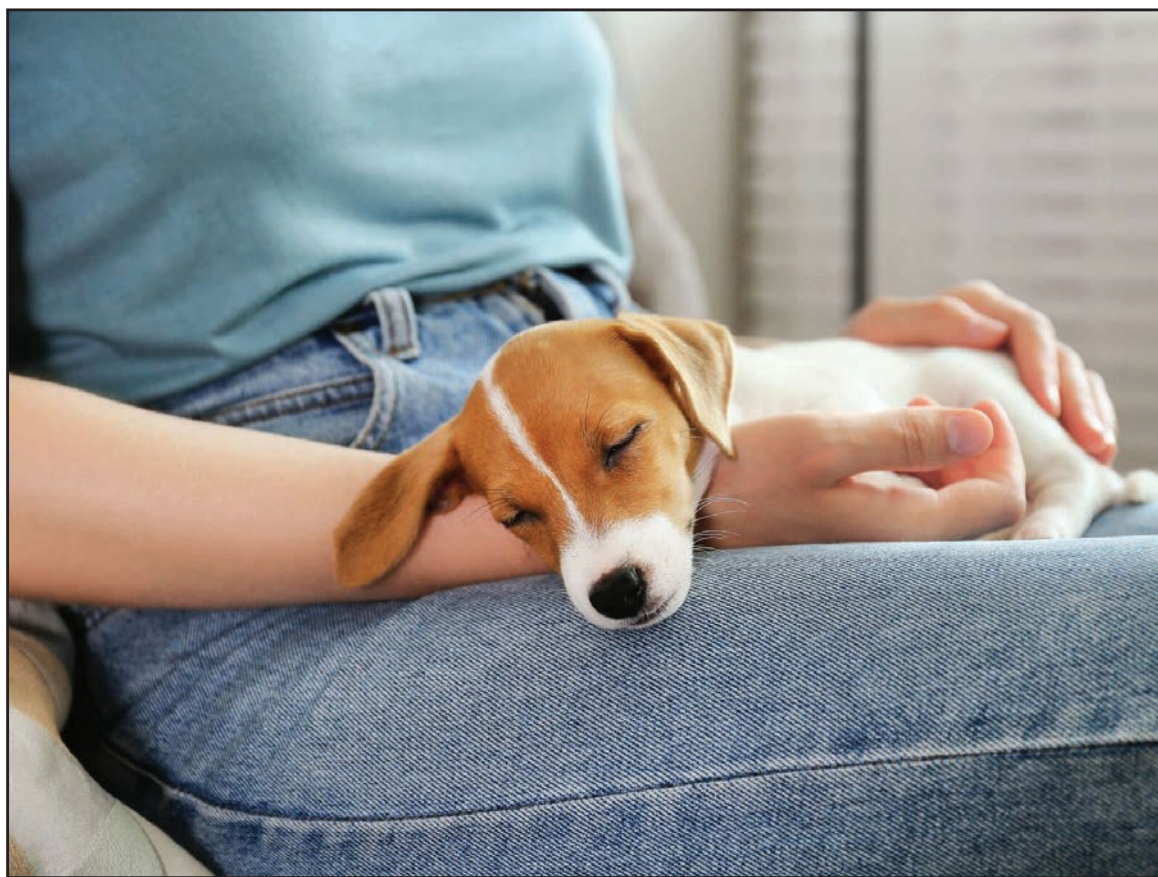
### Advocacy for Other Animals

Many of us also feel a responsibility to advocate for and help protect the companion animals we come across in our daily lives. This can take the form of helping someone whose health or temporary circumstances mean less time for their dog or cat.

It can also be reporting animal abuse whether that takes the form of physical or mental abuse or neglect. Report a dog left in a hot car or outside in the cold. Report a person who lets their dog off leash or their cat roam free in an unprotected and illegal place. We've seen enough close calls to know that can lead to injury or death.

While you may see a new year as a new start, your dog or cat might prefer that you take a moment every day to resolve to do your best for them in return for the love and companionship they give to you.

*Do you have a question or topic for City Paws. Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your request.*



*Whatever mistakes we make caring for our companion animals, each day we can renew our goal to become the best guardians we can be.*

## Jamaica Plain/Mission Hill Gazette • 2020 Publishing Calendar

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JANUARY 2020							FEBRUARY 2020							MARCH 2020						
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# FIRST NIGHT BOSTON SKATING SPECTACULAR AT THE FROG POND

PHOTOS BY EMILY HARNEY

The Skating Club of Boston held its annual Frog Pond Skating Spectacular for the First Night 2020 celebration in the evening of Dec. 31, New Year's Eve. The spectacular gives a chance for students to perform for large crowds on the Frog Pond and for special skating guests to join them.

Shown to the right: Julianna Bardon shows off her skills at turning.



Shown above: Brendan Mann was quite the showman during the spectacular.  
Shown left: Danielle Gagnon enjoyed performing for the large crowds.



Megan Wessenberg kicks up some ice as she performs a jump.



Jack Liu and Effie Chen skated a doubles program.



Grace Cai.



Sophie Ianelli reaches for the stars.

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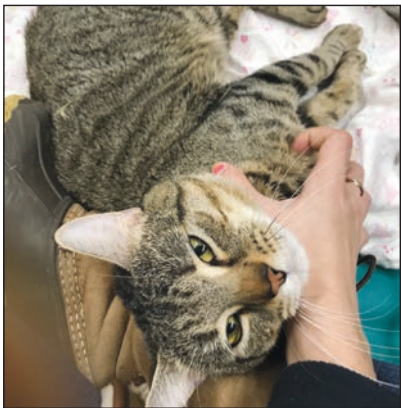
## Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll



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



"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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## CITY RINGS IN THE NEW YEAR WITH FIRST NIGHT BOSTON FESTIVITIES



Shown above: Ice sculptures in Copley Square illustrated time being frozen.  
Shown right: Mary-Lynne Bohn performs for Trumpeter's Lullaby.

The Old South Church was packed with New Year's revelers that were treated to profound performances in an awe-inspiring venue. The audience was invited to perform with the orchestra in an animated rendering of the Irving Berlin classic, 'God Bless America.'



Old South Church organist Michael Crawford performs Toccata From Symphony V by Charles-Marie Widor. The Church opened its doors on New Year's Eve for a Pipes and Pops concert sponsored by First Night Boston 2020.

Conductor Lawrence Isaacson led the orchestration on New Year's Eve. Here, he introduces the next piece to be performed, Trumpeter's Lullaby.

PHOTOS BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

The City Of Boston held its annual First Night celebration to welcome the New Year. Rev-

elers came from all across the city, state, and country to be entertained by parades, fireworks, concerts, ice sculptures, and that anticipated guest of the night, the year 2020.



Fireworks lit up the sky as the People's Procession made its way down Boylston Street to the Boston Common.

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## CITY RINGS IN THE NEW YEAR WITH FIRST NIGHT BOSTON FESTIVITIES



Luis Campero performs on his accordion, providing holiday ambience to the night.



Ivy, Sarah, and Leo Trent were transfixed by the performance of Tuba Tune by C.S. Lang.



Connor Vigeant and Jamie Chelel were dressed to the nines for New Year's Eve.



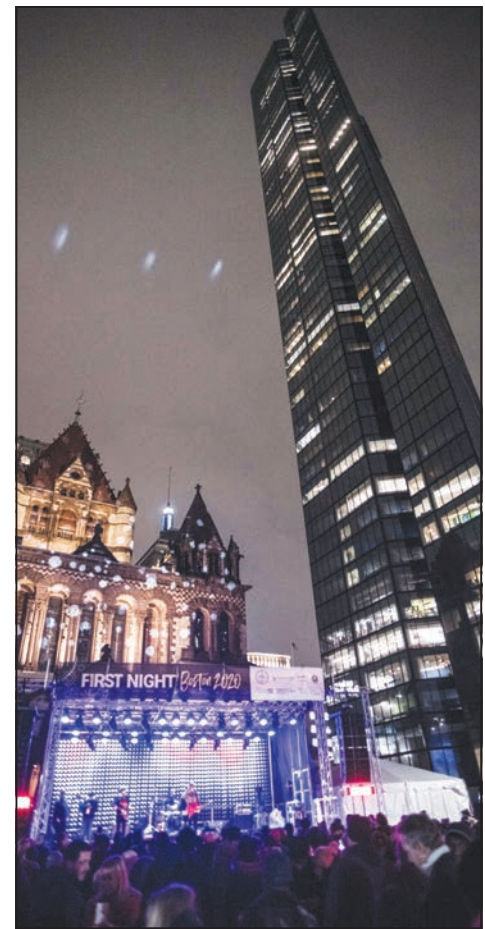
The Prudential Building showed its anticipation for the coming of the New Year with '20' illuminated on its upper floors.



Charline Barker had a wild ride on the Copley Square Hare.



Old South Church Senior Minister, Rev. Mary S. Taylor, gave welcoming remarks to the gathering.



Scottish pop band Single By Sunday performed a set at 11:30 p.m., just before the beginning of 2020.

We are everywhere.

# MISSION HILL MAIN STREETS

As we say goodbye to 2019 and hello to 2020, MHMS wants to thank each and everyone of you for your support over the past year. Wishing everyone a very healthy, happy holiday and a fabulous New 2020!

*From your Mission Hill Business Community – Shop Local!*

MHMS also wants to thank our sponsors who have allowed us to “ring” in this holiday season with a feast for the eyes! From the MHMS Holiday banners, to our Small Business Saturday Promotion combined with the Mayor’s Tree Lighting ceremony and our lighted snowflakes, installed by Maverick Engineering and Construction, that brighten Tremont Street.

Beth Israel Lahey Health  
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## What's Happening on Main Streets

BY ELLEN WALKER  
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

It is that time of year when Mission Hill Main Streets looks back on what we have accomplished this year even as we look forward to the New Year and new opportunities. First and foremost, on behalf of the Board of Directors, thanks go out to readers, friends and neighbors in our vibrant community.

Remarkable changes and advances have been made in 2019. We have seen the space travel privatized, political change nationally and state-wide, as a younger generation steps forward, a healthy job market and stock market, to name just a few. With all the great things that have been accomplished, there is still more work to do. Mission Hill is an evolving neighborhood

full of kindred spirit and vitality as it continues to morph and provide avenues from betterment of our environment and new business opportunities.

2019 was filled with celebration! This past spring, many came by to congratulate MHMS' former executive director Richard Rouse on the great job he did for Mission Hill Main Streets. During his tenure, Richard could be found serenading the seniors at Roxbury Tenants of Harvard on Thursday evenings, meeting local business owners as they built their businesses from the ground up and bringing smiles to residents with the many programs that he established to beautify our surroundings.

In June, Mission Grammar's Road to College Gala showcased the talents of the children and the commitment that is so strong

among staff, the school, former students and the community. The following month, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church celebrated 150 years (when Ulysses Grant was President), in Mission Hill for the Redemptorists Fathers with a memorable Mass filled with guest speakers and completed with a reception and dinner in the beautifully decorated church hall.

In 2019, Mission Hill's annual programs and celebrations throughout the neighborhood included: recognizing 66 years for the Mission Hill Little League, Volunteer Clean Up Days with Northeastern University students, MHMS Annual Awards to the Business of the Year and the Volunteer of the Year, the Fall Flashlight Walk with Boston Police Officers and community leaders, the Mission Hill Road

Race at Fitzgerald Park, Back of the Hill Block Party, the Tobin's Hal-loween on the Hill and Mayor Walsh visiting two new businesses and dedicating the Rouse Bench - all on Tremont Street. There are so many fabulous events and happenings that happen throughout the neighborhood, we cannot list them all but know they contribute to the specialness of Mission Hill.

The year was rounded out MHMS' Small Business Promotion followed by the Mayor's Tree Lighting Ceremony in Brigham Circle. I was told by City representatives that the event scored three "most" - most in number of participants, most in time spent by the Mayor in a neighborhood, and most donuts and cookies consumed! Hats off to our volunteers and Mike's Donut for their contribution.

As the new year approaches, so does opportunity. A time to clean out the old habits and to make positive change in your life for yourself, your family and friends. Mission Hill Main Streets will have a new look in our banners on the lampposts up and down Tremont Street and Huntington Avenue this Spring as we continue our work in to make our neighborhood more colorful and welcoming.

To all our neighbors a healthy, safe and happy new year wish from MHMS! And to all the brave men and women who serve to make our country and our way of life safe, thank you.

*"Cheers to a New Year and another chance for us to get it right."*

— Oprah Winfrey

## Police make arrest in Dec. 23 shots fired on Smith Street

At about 7 p.m. on Monday December 23, officers assigned to the Youth Violence Strike Force made an onsite firearm arrest after responding to a call for shots fired in the area of 29 Smith St. in Mission Hill.

On approach, the officers were advised that a male suspect had been observed fleeing the scene on foot. As the officers began to search the area, they observed a male matching the given description, later identified as

Angel Oyola, 41, of Boston, on McGreevey Way towards Turquoise Way. The officers stopped the suspect and performed a pat frisk which led to the recovery of a loaded .45 caliber Taurus PT24 handgun from the left side of the suspect's waistband. The suspect was then placed in custody on scene after a brief struggle.

At this time, the initial call for shots fired, which did not result in any injuries, remains under investigation.

The suspect appeared in Roxbury District Court on charges of Unlawful Possession of a Firearm, Unlawful Possession of Ammunition and Possession of a Large Capacity Feeding Device.

Additionally, it was determined that the suspect was wanted on an outstanding warrant sought out of Chelsea District Court on charges of Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle.

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# Hill Agenda

The deadline for Hill Agenda listings is noon, Monday, Dec. 30 for the issue January 3. 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 Cir-

cle & Larz Anderson, Cambridge, Medford LoConte, Newton-Brighton, Quincy, Somerville, Waltham, West Roxbury and Weymouth.

Use either hockey, recreational or figure skates. Beginner, intermediate 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](http://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.

**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](https://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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/

[TobinCommunityCenter.org](http://TobinCommunityCenter.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](mailto: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.



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## EDITORIAL

# A new year, a new decade

The arrival of a new year -- especially when it is the start of a new decade -- marks a time of reflection for all of us.

We pause to think back to the decade that has come and gone, and wonder too, what our lives will be like 10 years from now.

Each of us ponders the questions, "Where have I been? And where am I going?"

The latter asks us to foresee the future, which by definition is an impossible task. Though we may make our best guess to predict what may lie ahead -- and to plan accordingly -- none of us has a crystal ball. The vicissitudes of life more often than not throw us curve balls that lay waste to even the best-laid of our plans for the year -- let alone the decade -- to come.

However, coming up with an answer to the former question can be equally difficult. It requires both introspection and understanding, two qualities that are in short supply in our hurried lives. We barely have enough time to do all the things we need to do every day, let alone to try to figure out how we got to where we are, wherever it is we may be.

Life does not take a time-out. The years -- and decades -- will continue to march on. While we, individually and collectively, may have some control over our future, all of us inexorably will be swept along by the currents of time and fortune that will bring us to a destination that none of us can foresee.

In the spirit of a new year -- and a new decade -- we offer our readers the enduring words of the poet Alfred Lord Tennyson:

Ring out the old, ring in the new,

Ring, happy bells, across the snow:

The year is going, let him go;

Ring out the false, ring in the true.

## Have a happy -- and safe -- New Year

Celebrating the New Year requires all of us to make sure not only that we ourselves do so safely, but also that we are vigilant regarding the safety of others.

Although most of us these days take precautions to ensure that we do not operate a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol (or anything else) on New Year's Eve -- whether by means of having a designated driver, or using Uber, or staying overnight in a hotel -- there still are too many among us who will get behind the wheel of a car after having had too much to drink.

The most important thing we can do at an individual level is to prevent our friends and loved ones from becoming another tragic story in the morning news by taking their keys or offering them a ride home if they appear incapable of driving soberly and safely.

New Year's Eve can be a time of joy -- it is up to all of us to make sure it does not turn into a tragedy.

We wish all of our readers a happy, healthy -- and safe -- New Year.



## Op-Ed

# The New Year's Noise Diet: Why you should cut the empty 'brain calories'

BY JOE MCCORMACK

If you're like most of us, you overindulged a bit too much in 2019. No, not on calories (well, maybe those too!), but on "noise." That's the name for the dizzying onslaught of information from work emails, app notifications, the 24/7 news cycle, social media updates, and other forms of screen time that leaves us unable to focus, listen, or do deep work.

A smidgen of noise now and again is okay. (We all have our guilty pleasures!) But consuming it mindlessly, all day long, is as bad as keeping a bag of chips, a monster-size soda, and a can of frosting at our desk and reaching for them every few minutes.

Too many empty brain calories won't make you fat but they will make you mentally anemic. Noise keeps you in a constant state of distraction. And like actual junk food, a high-noise digital diet is addictive, yet it never satisfies or nourishes you.

The real problem with giving into noise temptation isn't what you're doing; it's what you're not doing. You're tuning out what really matters. You're skimming the surface. When you're scrolling Facebook, for instance, you aren't learning a new language,

refining that career-changing presentation, or engaging with your kids in a meaningful way.

The new year is the perfect time to put yourself on a noise diet. To help with your calorie count, let's take a look at what noise junk food looks like:

The irritating--yet addictive--parade of social media stock characters in your newsfeed. This band of noisemakers assaults your brain with their cries for attention. For instance:

- The humble bragger. Your college rival who subtly slips into her post that she just got another promotion at her swanky company. #blessed #gag

- The cryptic drama-stirrer. That self-righteous friend who calls out people anonymously for perceived slights or makes vague "poor me" pity posts. (Cue the wave of very concerned commenters.)

- The over-sharer. We don't need a play-by-play of your colonoscopy. Thanks.

- The drop-of-a-hat ranter. Whose day would be complete without a furious recounting of how the barista screwed up your nonfat, dairy-free, double-shot, decaf, extra-hot mochaccino with extra foam? The nerve!

- The overly zealous kid pro-

moter. Yes, yes, we know Junior is the smartest, cutest, cleverest tot around--your other 15 posts this week made that perfectly clear.

- The amateur political pundit. Do not engage...just don't.

Dumb\$\$\$ shows on TV. You don't need to waste your precious attention span watching Jerry Springer, B-list celebrity lip-synch contests, or those morning talk shows. Substance-free television combined with the lure of a cozy couch can quickly turn into a lost day or evening.

The 24/7 news carousel-of-darkness. Sadly, most news is bad news, and during a controversial election year it can also be fodder for controversy, vitriol, and the loss of civility with friends, family, and neighbors. (Hint: You don't need to totally disengage, but it's good to be discerning about what you let in--and about how often you engage in debates with the people in your life.)

Your work email. Your boss just had to email you at 9:30 p.m....again. The moment you jump out of the bath to write back is the moment work email becomes yet another source of noise.

Are you feeling that noise hangover settle in? Don't worry,



# BPDA approved 4,974 residential units in 2019

The Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) Board in 2019 approved more than 10.2 million square feet of new development worth \$5.6 billion and 4,974 residential units, including 1,216 income-restricted units, representing over 24 percent of total units.

This year's Board approved projects will generate more than \$2 million in new Inclusionary Development Policy (IDP) funds and \$21.7 million in Linkage fees to support affordable housing and job training. The development projects approved this year will also create 8,462 construction jobs and 7,799 permanent jobs. "Under Mayor Walsh, our economy is continuing to thrive and create new opportunities throughout Boston's neighborhoods. The development projects approved this year have created affordable housing oppor-

tunities and new open space, benefited our economy and job market and contributed to workforce development programs," said Boston Planning & Development Agency Director Brian Golden. "We have an unprecedented number of neighborhood planning studies underway that allow us to listen to residents and shape the future of Boston together with the community." The residential units approved this year make progress towards Mayor Walsh's goal to create 69,000 new units of housing by the year 2030, as called for in the Administration's housing plan *Housing a Changing City: Boston 2030*. This fall, Mayor Walsh announced that Boston had surpassed 30,000 units permitted, including 6,000 income-restricted units, under the plan. The BPDA held approximate-

ly 458 Agency-sponsored meetings across every single Boston neighborhood, open to the public and advertised on the BPDA website in 2019. These meetings included a series of community meetings on urban renewal that gave the public an opportunity to learn more about the urban renewal process and provide input on next steps. Other highlights from the year include: •GrubStreet, the largest creative writing center in the country, kicked-off construction of new cultural space at 50 Liberty Drive at Fan Pier in the South Boston Waterfront. The narrative arts center will serve as a literary destination with year-round programming for students of all ages and backgrounds. GrubStreet will receive a \$25 per square foot construction allowance -- totaling approximately \$329,150 to-

ward improvements to the space -- and will pay \$1 per year in rent. In 2018, Mayor Walsh, the BPDA, the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture and The Fallon Company announced that GrubStreet had been unanimously selected to operate the space.

•Mayor Walsh signed a Home Rule Petition that enables the City of Boston to have more flexibility to fund affordable housing and workforce training through Boston's Linkage Program and would codify IDP into Boston's Zoning Code to protect the City's ability to create and fund income-restricted housing. The legislation is now at the Massachusetts State House where Mayor Walsh testified in support in December.

•Mayor Walsh's Tuition Free Community College Program (TFCC), funded by the Neighborhood Jobs Trust, expanded

to Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology and Massasoit Community College. TFCC was launched by Mayor Walsh in 2016 and pays for up to three years of college for Boston's income-eligible students who have earned their high school credential.

•The BPDA worked with the City of Boston's Disabilities Commission to update the development checklist that prioritizes accessibility and inclusion. The Article 80 Accessibility Checklist provides best practices in accessibility for developers undergoing the development review process.

•In September the BPDA Board adopted the Coastal Flood Resilience Design Guidelines, building on Climate Ready Boston, Mayor Walsh's ongoing initiative to help Boston plan for the impacts of climate change and build a more resilient future.

## Op-Ed

*Continued from page 11*

calories" of digital distraction and gives you what you're really craving: a more intentional life. Join my "Just Say No to Noise" Movement and tip the scales in the other direction. A few suggestions:

Try going a week without social media. (We promise, you'll survive.) A short detox from social media is a pretty painless way to unplug and reclaim a lot of lost time. When the week is over, you can see if you even want to go back to occasional scrolling.

Reduce temptation by "hiding" distracting devices from yourself. Okay, you probably can't hide your computer but you can shut the office door. As for cell phones and tablets, treat them like what they are: gateways to digital distraction (and it is a very slippery slope). Find an out-of-the-way place to charge and store your devices so you're not constantly reaching for them.

Break the idiot-box "background noise" habit. It's easy to mindlessly turn on the TV when you get home. Problem is, it's broadcasting nonstop noise into your work-free hours. Instead, plan a time to watch your favorite shows. Daily exposure to the depressing litany of pain and conflict we call "news" isn't making your life better. Neither is watching the "Fatty McButterpants" episode of *King of Queens* for the 50th time. (Okay, we admit that one is pretty funny.) Set some work/life boundaries

with the 7-to-7 rule. The company won't crash if you stop answering emails around the clock. After 7 p.m., put away your devices for the night. Don't pick them up again until 7 a.m. the next day.

Insist on phone-free family dinners... Yes, the kids might whine at first, but soon enough they'll get used to conversing with the out-of-touch "Boomers" and "Karens" at the table.

...and screen-free family fun days. For instance, make video games and TV completely off-limits every Wednesday and Friday. Yes, even if the kids swear they have no homework. Instead, do something fun or productive as a family. Play a board game. Go bowling or skating. Cook a great meal together. Volunteer at the local animal shelter. Heck...maybe even read.

Learn to save your "appetite" for the stuff that really mat-

ters... Your "appetite" is really your attention span, and it's your most precious resource. Filling up on headlines, emails, and social media means there's little left over for doing the deep and meaningful work that helps you reach big goals at work and in your personal life. Before you cozy into an hour of lurking on your ex's Facebook page, close the laptop and find something productive to do.

...and choose some meaningful goals to pursue. When you are able to sharpen and aim your focus, you can do some pretty impressive &%\$#. Want to start a website? Get a better job? Learn to code? These "North Star" goals are the best incentive to rethink your relationship with noise and see how your life changes.

We don't realize that very often our addiction to information is the thing holding us back from

getting a huge promotion, becoming valedictorian, or training for a marathon, but that's exactly what happens as time passes. Once you think of it this way, it's so much easier to put yourself on a noise diet. Make this the year you take back your time and use it to do something that matters.

*Joseph McCormack is the author of NOISE: Living and Leading When Nobody Can Focus. He is passionate about helping people gain clarity when there is so much competing for our attention. He is a successful marketer, entrepreneur, and author. His first book, BRIEF: Make*

*a Bigger Impact by Saying Less (Wiley, 2014), sets the standard for concise communication.*

*Joe is the founder and managing director of The BRIEF Lab, an organization dedicated to teaching professionals, military leaders, and entrepreneurs how to think and communicate clearly. His clients include Boeing, Harley-Davidson, Microsoft, Mastercard, DuPont, and select military units and government agencies. He publishes a weekly podcast called "Just Saying" that helps people master the elusive skills of focus and brevity.*

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

## Mission Hill GAZETTE

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# PARTICIPACIÓN

El plazo para la sección de Participación es al mediodía, martes 30 Diciembre para la edición 3 Enero. Mande eventos a [news@missionhillgazette.com](mailto: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: 708-6565. 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

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

talked extensively about national policies and how they did or did not relate to Boston.

Very little last year was shared about progress in the neighborhoods, and nothing was

232-0400, [hhui@roxburytenants.org](mailto: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

## -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](mailto:llondono@sociedadlatina.org).

## Clases/Discusiones

**Charla semanal bilingüe**: mandarin-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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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: 55+ gratis**; familias y adultos \$20; jóvenes 13-17 \$10, niños con menos de 12, \$5. Info: 635-5216 / [TobinCommunityCenter.org](http://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.

## State of the City

Continued from page 1

on how Boston has done better than the federal government, and

unveiled for the downtown neighborhoods in regards to new policies or initiatives.

This year likely won't be much different, as the mayor is expected to prop up the Dem-

ocratic party once again in his speech. However, with so much happening in Boston in 2019 and forward to 2020, there will likely be a little more local policy unveiled on Jan. 6 than there was

in last year's speech.

One must tune in to find out though.

The speech will take place at 6 p.m. on Jan. 6 in Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave.

# Dr Marc Lamont Hill

## Gateway Speaker 2020

February 7, 2020 • 11:30am (Doors open at 11)

Blackman Auditorium • Northeastern University

Free and open to the public

Dr. Marc Lamont Hill is an award winning author, and a political commentator. He hosts Huffpost Live, BET News, and VH1 Live, and was a political contributor to CNN.



For more info:

617-373-2555

[northeastern.edu/crossing](http://northeastern.edu/crossing)

[communityaffairs@northeastern.edu](mailto:communityaffairs@northeastern.edu)

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