

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON MAIN STREETS P. 7

Mission Hill

GAZETTE

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CIRCULATION 7,000

THIRD ANNUAL DREAM CHASERS



Photos by Derek Kouyoumjian
BPD officer Jeffrey Lopes speaks to the 3rd annual Dream Chasers Black History Month event on Feb. 13 in the Tobin Community Center about the experiences that have contributed to the trajectory of his life in service of the community. Meanwhile, members of Dancin' Diamonds perform some moves for the audience at the conclusion of the panel discussion.

Democrats remain united against President Trump following Super Tuesday outcome

BY DAN MURPHY AND SETH DANIEL

While some local Democratic leaders were shocked by the outcome of Super Tuesday, especially with Sen. Elizabeth Warren's third-place finish in her home state, they agree that the top priority now is simply defeating Presidential Donald Trump in November.

According to the City of Boston's unofficial citywide election results, former Vice President Joe Biden narrowly edged out Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, with 30.11 percent (43,210 votes) and 30.07 percent of the ballot (43,154 votes), respectively. Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth trailed with

27.31 percent of the ballot (39,188 votes) while former New York City Mayor finished fourth with 8.28 percent, or 11,878 votes.

In Mission Hill, however, Sanders won in a route – winning seven of the neighborhood's nine precincts. Warren prevailed in one precinct, 10-9, which is shared with parts of Jamaica Plain. Meanwhile, Biden won a single precinct, 10-1, at the Mission Main Community Center – but only by one vote over Sanders.

Overall, Sanders won the neighborhood with 1,894 votes, and Warren came in second with 1,438 votes. Biden finished well behind them in Mission Hill with 998 votes. Bloomberg finished

with 247 votes on the Hill.

It was a much closer race between Biden and Sanders citywide, however. Biden used his strength in traditional blue collar neighborhoods like Charlestown and within the black community to gain votes citywide. He also did very well in the South End, Back Bay and Beacon Hill – where Warren was expected to shine.

Meanwhile, like Mission Hill, the Fenway was firmly Sanders territory.

Many believed that the switch to Biden came at the last minute following his win in South Carolina last weekend, or maybe

Continued on page 3

What's in the Water?

Residents raise major concerns about conditions at Hennigan Community Center

BY SETH DANIEL

When Phyllis Petruzzelli and many of the other female swimmers that utilize the Hennigan Pool and Community Center on Heath Street at the Mission Hill/JP border come to participate in their bi-weekly class, they don't begin the night by warming up or getting dressed.

Typically, the first thing they do is inspect the locker rooms and hallways for cleanliness. The pre-class ritual has been going on so long that it has almost become a joke for the women, were it not so frustrating as well.

Is the large hairball still in the shower?

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Condiciones sucias en Hennigan Center

BY SETH DANIEL

Cuando Claudine Francois, Luisa Harris, Perlina Mills, Debra McLellan, Phyllis Petruzzelli, Nancy Routh y Gina Blanca vienen al Centro Comunitario Hennigan para su clase de natación, se inspeccionan los vestuarios y pasillos. El ritual sería divertido si no fuera tan frustrante.

Luego se ponen trajes de bu-

ceo y zapatillas de tenis para protegerse del agua sucia y las superficies rugosas de la piscina. Las mujeres se han quejado durante años sobre las condiciones de la piscina en Centro, manejado por BCYF y BPS, pero sólo comenzaron a ver resultados después de que Gazette inició una investigación.

Continued on page 11

Community meeting for proposed Terrace St. marijuana establishment set for March 9

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The City is holding a community meeting on the proposed marijuana establishment at 123 Terrace St. in Mission Hill on March 9 at 6:30 at the Tobin Community Center.

As previously reported by the Gazette, Raices on the Hill, LLC, which is 51 percent owned by Alex Oliver-Davila and Jeffrey Sanchez, presented its proposal to the Community Alliance of Mission Hill in November of last year. The 5,000 square foot site is currently occupied by Di-

ablo Glass Studio.

Oliver-Davila and Sanchez said at the meeting in November that they planned on returning 10 percent of their profits to the local community. Residents expressed concerns about increases in vehicular traffic as well, and the public is invited to ask questions and voice concerns at the meeting on March 9, which is required by the state process to apply for a license.

Representatives of Raices on the Hill will be on hand at the meeting to present their proposal and address questions and concerns from the community.

Hill Happenings

By MOSSY MARTIN

Steve Ross, a remarkable man who survived five Nazi concentration camps, passed away last week. Steve was the father of former Mission Hill City Councilor, Mike Ross. I wrote about Steve a few months ago after reading his book "From Broken Glass." Steve's life turned hellish at age 9 when the Nazis arrived at his home in Lodz, Poland. His survival is a testament to courage in the face of brutality and hatred. Steve was rescued by American troops in Dachau, Germany, in

1945, after which he dedicated his life to working with young people. Several Mission Hill kids were steered in the right direction at Steve's guidance. I got to know Steve when we crossed paths working for the Youth Activities Commission in Boston in the '70s, and I am honored to have known him.

This week (March 12, 1846) in local history, Roxbury was incorporated as a city with John J. Clarke becoming its first mayor. In 1868, Roxbury was annexed to Boston, as was Dorchester in 1870. At about the same time, Roslindale, which was originally

part of Roxbury, is supposedly named. Roslindale after the historic town of Roslin, Scotland.

I was sorry to hear of the passing of Mike Mangiacotti last month at age 78. Mike was a wonderful guy and perhaps Mission Hill's best all-around athlete. A 1960 Mission High graduate, Mike was a terrific quarterback, earning League All Catholic honors, and he also excelled in baseball and basketball. Mike, who served in the U.S. Marines, was a retired postal worker. In 2018, Mike was inducted into the Xaverian High School Athletic Hall of Fame, among just

a few Mission High inductees. Although Mission High closed in 1991, the schools and alumni remain affiliated.

Hall of Fame Basketball coach, Jim Calhoun stopped by the Tobin Gym last month. The personable Calhoun, age 78, who coached for many years at Northeastern and U Conn., mingled with the youngsters and he chatted with Mission Hill youth coach, John Jackson.

Congratulations to Beau Bevilacqua, who won the New England Gold Gloves Boxing title in the 132-pound division, last month at Lowell Memorial Au-

ditorium. The skilled boxer, who lives in Roslindale, is the grandson of my awesome childhood friend, the late Phil Thompson. Phil was a proud grandfather and close to his grandchildren, and he would have been delighted by Beau's success. Phil was also proficient with his fists, and many times in the old days, he saved several of his friends, including myself, from bullies and muggers.

With St. Patrick's Day around the corner, here's hoping some of our fine Mission Hill taverns will be serving the traditional corned beef and cabbage while celebrating the patron saint of Ireland. Speaking of Ireland, a tip of the hat to Captain Robert Forbes, a great man from Jamaica Plain, who was an unsung hero during the horrendous Irish potato famine of the 1840s. Captain Forbes persuaded the U.S. government to loan him the USS Jamestown and led the voyage to bring food to the starving Irish people. He and his inexperienced crew of volunteers departed the Charlestown Navy Yard on April 2, 1847, despite being pounded by miserable weather.

"Snow and sleet rendered ropes stiff as crowbars," the Captain wrote in his log. Almost two weeks later Forbes sailed the mighty ship into Cork Harbor, where food and supplies were unloaded, and multitudes of people fed. The great humanitarian, who was born in Jamaica Plain, wrote in the Captain's log: "It's not an everyday matter when you see a nation starving."

It was a nice gesture by District 8 City Councilor, Kenzie Bok in honoring 93-year-old Mission Hill resident Enoch "Woody" Woodhouse last month at a Council meeting. Woody, a retired lieutenant colonel, is a great American who served in the Air Force as a Tuskegee Airman. Woody is a graduate of English High and Yale University. Woody and I are neighbors here at the Charlesbank Apartments, and I love to chat with him. I also enjoy chattering with Councilor Bok, who is doing an excellent job representing Mission Hill.

DEBORAH HADDEN GRAY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FOR \$5,000



High school seniors who reside in the City of Boston, Chelsea, Revere or Winthrop and are interested in applying for the Deborah Hadden Gray Memorial Scholarship must have community service or work experience and must submit a 1,000-word essay. To be considered, all academic and residency criteria must also be met.

Scholarship applications must be received by Massport no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 24, 2020. For more information on the Deborah Hadden Gray Memorial Scholarship, including an application checklist, please visit www.massport.com/scholarships.



LOWELL L. RICHARDS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FOR \$5,000



High school seniors who reside in the City of Boston, Chelsea, Revere or Winthrop and are interested in applying for the Lowell L. Richards III Memorial Scholarship must have community service experience and must submit a 1,000-word essay. To be considered, all academic and residency criteria must also be met.

Scholarship applications must be received by Massport no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 24, 2020. For more information on the Lowell L. Richards III Memorial scholarship, including an application checklist, please visit www.massport.com/scholarships.



Super Tuesday

Continued from page 1

even later than that. City Councilor Kenzie Bok, who supported Warren, said she could sense the shift.

“Talking to Boston voters, what I saw was a huge amount of energy aimed at beating Donald Trump, leading to really high turnout,” City Councilor Kenzie Bok wrote. “Many of those voters shifted to supporting Biden in the last 48 hours, which I heard firsthand as I canvassed for Warren. A sense of momentum for Biden through the national-level media had an enormous impact; in a fluid race, his surge came at exactly the right time for him and the wrong time for Warren, swamping even our much stronger ground operation.”

While admittedly disappointed by the election results for Sen. Warren, whom she described as the best candidate to defeat Trump, Councilor Bok added, “But I was encouraged by the collective commitment to defeating Trump, and the enthusiastic support for our grassroots progressive Ward 5 Democratic Committee at the bottom of the ballot.”

Massachusetts Democratic Party Chair Gus Bickford pointed to the voter turnout on Super

Tuesday across all 14 participating states as a clear indication that “Democrats are energized and are eager to turn the page on the dark presidency of Donald Trump.”

Bickford added, “An incredible number of voters cast ballots in this Democratic primary for President because while income inequality is growing, while climate change is destroying our planet, and while racial inequities are persisting, the policies of Donald Trump have only made these and other crises worse. [Super Tuesday] marks the beginning of the reckoning for Donald Trump.”

Across the aisle, however, Brad Parscale, Trump 2020 campaign manager, asserted that the election results suggest a sense of indecisiveness on the part of Democratic voters.

“The results only increase the likelihood that no candidate will have enough delegates for a first ballot victory at their convention, which only means more chaos,” Parscale said in an official statement. “The media is hyperventilating about Joe Biden, but everyone should remember that he is just as terrible a candidate right now as he was a few days ago. At the same time, establishment Democrats have ganged up to try to deny Bernie Sanders the nomination, which is caus-

THE VOTING FOR MISSION HILL WARD 10 PRECINCTS 1-9

Overall Mission Hill winner:
Bernie Sanders - 1,894

•Joe Biden - 998
•Bernie Sanders - 1,894
•Elizabeth Warren - 1,438
•Michael Bloomberg - 247

10-1 (MISSION MAIN COMMUNITY CENTER)

•Joe Biden - 104
•Bernie Sanders - 103
•Elizabeth Warren - 71
•Michael Bloomberg - 32

10-2 (MISSION MAIN COMMUNITY CENTER)

•Joe Biden - 61
•Bernie Sanders - 99
•Elizabeth Warren - 87
•Michael Bloomberg - 20

10-3 (TOBIN MUNICIPAL BUILDING)

•Joe Biden - 66
•Bernie Sanders - 120
•Elizabeth Warren - 70
•Michael Bloomberg - 6

10-4 (PARKS COMMUNITY BUILDING)

•Joe Biden - 103
•Bernie Sanders - 247
•Elizabeth Warren - 128
•Michael Bloomberg - 30

10-5 (TOBIN MUNICIPAL BUILDING)

•Joe Biden - 73
•Bernie Sanders - 208
•Elizabeth Warren - 116
•Michael Bloomberg - 16

10-6 (TOBIN MUNICIPAL BUILDING)

•Joe Biden - 85

•Bernie Sanders - 177
•Elizabeth Warren - 123
•Michael Bloomberg - 17

10-7 (JULIA MARTIN HOUSE)

•Joe Biden - 125
•Bernie Sanders - 249
•Elizabeth Warren - 146
•Michael Bloomberg - 41

10-8 (BACK OF THE HILL APTS.)

•Joe Biden - 185
•Bernie Sanders - 311
•Elizabeth Warren - 296
•Michael Bloomberg - 29

10-9 (CURLEY K-8 IN JP)

•Joe Biden - 196
•Bernie Sanders - 380
•Elizabeth Warren - 401
•Michael Bloomberg - 56

ing even more mayhem. Even if Bernie is not on November’s ballot, his big government socialist ideas will be because they have become mainstream in today’s Democrat Party. President Trump will wipe the floor with

whatever Democrat is unlucky enough to be the nominee.”

On the Republican side, President Donald Trump easily topped the Boston Republican ballot with 6,469 votes (81.8 percent). Former Gov. William Weld gar-

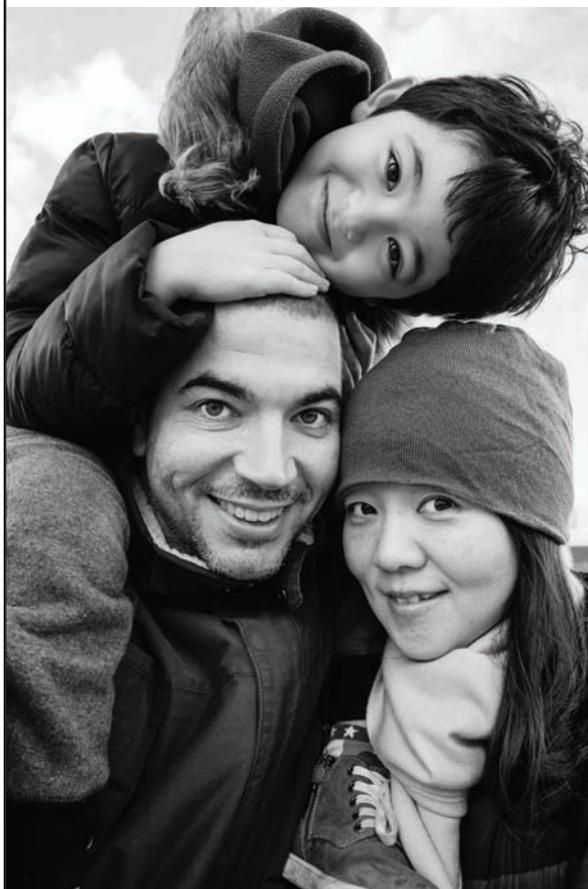
nered 982 votes (12.4 percent).

The Libertarian Party nomination went to Jacob George Hornberger with 34 votes (12.5 percent). The Green Party in Boston chose Dario Hunter with 26 votes (20.63 percent).



On Saturday, Feb. 29, Candidate for U.S. President Bernie Sanders held a rally on the Boston Common, where he as well as various campaign and local officials spoke to a crowd of over 10,000 people. Lines to enter the rally began forming around 10 a.m., and snaked around the outer pathways of the Boston Common. State Rep. Nika Elugardo spoke in support of Sanders at the event. Following the remarks,, attendees with the campaign kicked off a City-wide canvassing effort to encourage people to get out, vote, and vote for Sanders.

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Former ATF Agent writes book about solving infamous Boston arson cases

BY SETH DANIEL

The leads had dwindled and houses and buildings in Mission Hill and around the city were burning down nearly every night in the early 1980s.

ATF agents like Wayne Miller were working the case hard, but getting nowhere. Then they interviewed a Boston Police officer named Robert Groblewsky, who had been on their list of suspicious characters, and that led to a breakthrough.

The story of that amazing investigation and the people behind it is the focus of a book by Miller called, 'Burn Boston Burn: The Largest Arson Case

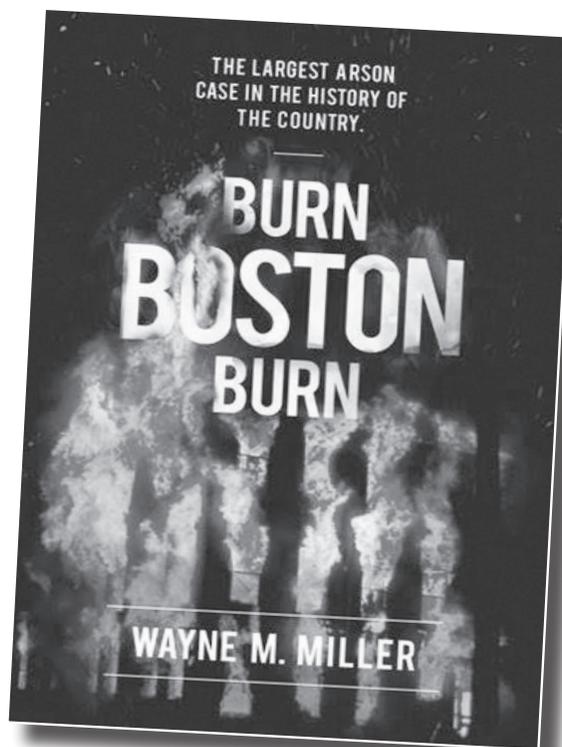
in the History of the Country.' It's a book that Miller has been publicizing at libraries all over Boston and on news programs like 'Chronicle.' It's a sordid history with a conspiracy that, in today's Boston, is hard to believe.

Altogether, between 1982 and 1984, a group of nine men conspired to burn down 264 vacant homes or buildings and caused more than \$25 million in damages – while injuring more than 200 Boston firefighters during the reign of flames. It was, retired ATF Agent Wayne Miller said, the largest arson case in the history of the United States.

Federal Judge Rya Zobel called the crew "urban terrorists"

at their sentencing, and they are believed to have set more than 20 fires in Mission Hill – one of the hardest hit neighborhoods along with Dorchester.

"Simply put, they decided they needed to start setting fires in order to get responses from the residents, press and leaders of the City of Boston – in order to get their firefighter friends back on the job," said Miller. "Mayor Kevin White had laid off around 600 Boston firefighters, losing their jobs in response to the new Proposition 2 ½... There were several fires set in Mission Hill during those two years. This group was so brazen and they operated under the cover of darkness using what looked like official police cruisers. They even had a vanity plate on the car that said 'Arson.' Every Boston Police officer that would see them thought they were part of an Arson Squad. They operated in the residential areas of Roxbury, Dorchester, Southie and Charlestown in the middle of the night. Anyone who saw them thought they were operating in the area as investigators or public officials. They actually set up to seven fires in one night. They set more fires in a night that the Fire Department presently has in seven months' time."



Retired ATF Agent Wayne Miller has written a new book called 'Burn Boston Burn' relating the investigation and arrest of nine men in the largest arson case in the history of the country. He details how he and others investigated and solved the case—one that affected many homes and buildings in Mission Hill.

The motive for the fires was very odd, Miller said. Very few of the perpetrators were affected by the layoffs, but all of them were fire buffs and hung around firehouses and firefighters. In the end, Miller said, it was a twisted kind of assistance they thought they were providing to their firefighter friends.

"None of these guys were laid off themselves," he said. "They were doing it in a twisted Robin Hood type of venture. They thought if they burned enough buildings, then their friends would be re-hired. It was crazy. When I sign my book, I write 'Enjoy this crazy story.' Even

after 35 years, it's hard to fathom how so many guys could join a conspiracy that lasted so long, destroyed so many buildings and hurt so many firefighters."

Miller came to Boston after growing up in Rhode Island to become an agent in the ATF. After working gun cases for a while, he moved over to the Arson Unit. That coincided with a Task Force formed in Boston to address fires. Coincidentally, the fire conspiracy started soon after. When the leads went cold and fires kept coming, Miller said there was tremendous pressure on them. The fires made national news, Congress had discussed it and there was major pressure in Washington, D.C., on the agents in Boston to solve and end the craziness.

Two years into the spree, Miller began to get small tips from Boston Housing Authority Police Officer Gregg Bemis – who was involved in the fire ring. Then, on Nov. 21, 1982, a break came when one of those tips lined up with a video taken at a Hyde Park lumber yard fire by WBZ Cameraman Nat Whittemore. That video caught Boston Police Officer Groblewsky at the scene seemingly cheering for the fire to burn bigger. It was odd, and it matched up with one of the tips implicating Groblewsky in stealing a look-alike police cruiser in Natick.

However, when they went to interview the officer, they found a stolen fire box on his living room floor, and he eventually just confessed – surprising everyone.

"In the very first interview, he rattled of 29 fires," Miller said. "I

DAVID W. DAVIS MEMORIAL INTERNSHIP



College juniors and seniors who reside in the City of Boston, Chelsea, Revere or Winthrop and are interested in applying for the David W. Davis Memorial Internship must have community service experience and must submit a 1,000-word essay. To be considered, all academic and residency criteria must also be met.

The David W. Davis Memorial Internship is a 13-week paid public service opportunity at Massport and is awarded annually to an exceptional junior or senior in college. Internship applications must be received by Massport no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 24, 2020. For more information about the David W. Davis Memorial Internship including an application check-list please visit: www.massport.com/scholarships.



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Hennigan Center

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Is that brown smudge of “something” still on the lockers?

Will there be toilet paper in the stalls that day, or as is usually the case, not?

Swimming, in fact, has become the last thing on their minds as they put on wet suits and tennis shoes to protect themselves from the increasingly dirty water and rough surfaces in the pool. The conditions have been an ongoing issue for the women and others using the Pool and the Center, run by the Boston Center for Youth and Families (BCYF) and the Boston Public Schools (BPS). For years now, they said, they’ve been complaining, but only recently when the Gazette began looking into the matter did they start getting any substantive response.

“There’s no reason that week after week after week there are the same hairballs sitting all over the showers,” she said during an interview on site this month. “They cleaned up a little bit this week, but I went and looked to see if they got the hairballs. They didn’t. Still there.”

Nancy Routh shared a similar story, noting that a giant brown smudge had been on the lockers for more than a year. Often, if it looks like some cleaning has been done, she checks to see if they’ve tackled the smudge. So far, she said, it persists.

Petruzzelli, Routh, Debra McLellan, Gina White, Luisa Harris, Perlina Mills and Claudine Francois are part of the group that regularly comes to the Hennigan Pool for swim classes with a popular teacher that instructs all over the city – including at nearby facilities like the Mason Pool in Roxbury and the Curtis Hall Pool on Centre Street.

“It’s a hidden gem here, but it’s a diamond that’s definitely in the rough,” said Mills. “This is a great time to put some effort into this place. The economy is good and money is coming into the City. Now is the time to get something. We really don’t want everything, or a new Center, just some basic cleanliness.”

Routh and the other swimmers said they are particularly disturbed by the Hennigan because they go to the Mason and Curtis Hall, and both facilities are far better than the Hennigan.

“I’ve been coming here for years and I go to other community centers as well,” Routh said. “There is a big difference here. There is so much litter all the time. There are four showers that don’t work. There’s never paper towels or basic things, many times there’s not even toilet paper... When you are in the pool and at eye level you can see all the filthy dirt on the deck and the pool isn’t much better either. Never mind that the toys are always thrown in the water and in the way.”

Added Petruzzelli, “I can’t un-

derstand why everything is lax here, but not at Curtis Hall or Mason Pool.”

Said McLellan, “I was appalled there was no response to major issues that were here and we brought up. It’s been going on for a long time. We didn’t just start talking about it. It’s really concerning to me that (BCYF)

“I was appalled there was no response to major issues that were here and we brought up. It’s been going on for a long time.”

— Debra McLellan

Commissioner (Will) Morales or whoever is responsible isn’t addressing it.”

At the pool, the women say they’ve been wearing wet suits and tennis shoes while in the pool for protection from the water and the neglected pool floor. The lifeguard chair is unused, as it apparently has been broken for a year. The lifeguards at the pool sit in an old office chair with wheels. None of it seems set up for a high-class user experience.

Security is also an issue.

Lighting on the outside is frequently missing or not operating, creating very dark and isolated corridors for people to exit to

as they leave the Center. Also, the ID scanner hasn’t worked for some time, and many people seem to enter through a back, emergency exit door that is supposed to be locked.

When the Gazette was there, a lifeguard asked the women to prop the back door open so a food delivery driver could get into the pool area. That driver arrived, came in the door and delivered the food to the lifeguard, who ate a sub poolside.

No one monitored the delivery man’s activities after he made the delivery, and he could have gone virtually anywhere afterward without supervision or detection – including the women’s locker rooms or a large youth basketball game going on next to the pool.

“Security is definitely an issue for us and the kids,” said Harris. “One thing for me is there is no supervision. Someone could come snatch a kid and no one would know for quite some time... We used to have the ID scanner, but it broke and they don’t seem to want to fix it.”

Harris and others said they really believe the massive Center could be a huge resource were it taken care of properly and made into the resource it should be.

“More people would come, but they don’t because it’s filthy,” she said. “I have neighbors who came once, but they won’t come again. It’s a shame because this place could be buzzing with activity.

There is so much potential here.”

None of the women said they blame the local director, Martha Salamanca, noting that she tries very hard but doesn’t seem to have central office support.

Instead, with the help of Councilor Matt O’Malley, they have focused their attention on the higher ups at BCYF and the Boston Public Schools. Numerous e-mails back and forth have produced no results. However, they did report in the days after the Gazette interview that they were able to set up some meetings to address their concerns.

The Gazette contacted the City, who had the Boston Public Schools issue a statement. BPS said they partner with the City’s BCYF to try to offer a great experience at the Hennigan and noted that there has been investment in the facility over the last several years.

“The Boston Public Schools works closely with Boston Centers for Youth & Families and our City partners to address any issues within our shared community centers as they arise,” read the statement. “Over the last several years, BPS replaced pool heating, ventilation and dehumidification systems and performed upgrades to the locker rooms at the BCYF Hennigan Community Center. We will continue working collaboratively to make sure our facilities are clean, sufficiently stocked, well-maintained and secure for all our students, families, and community members.”

Burn, Boston Burn

Continued from page 4

couldn’t believe this Boston cop was implicating other public people. He said the conspiracy was more than 100 fires. He didn’t realize it was actually more than 200 at that point.”

The break led to a break-up of the entire organization. There were two trials, one of Ray Norton who got 4-6 years for knowing of the conspiracy, and the other of Don Stackpole, who got 40 years and served 22.

The other seven pleaded guilty and got anything from probation to more than 20 years in prison.

Miller said it was a crazy time, but he firmly believes it could never happen again.

“The same type of crime could never happen today,” he said. “First of all, there are not that many vacant buildings anymore in Boston because real estate prices are so high. Also, back

then we had no cell phones, no GPS or surveillance cameras all over. Plus, fire investigation has come a long way since then and

is more sophisticated. With all those things in place now, there’s no way this could happen again.”



Request for Proposals (RFP)

PROMISING PARTNERSHIPS PILOT FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Proposals are due by 3 PM on April 17, 2020

The Center for Community Health Education Research and Service, Inc. (CCHERS) will offer pilot funding and training support for community-academic collaborations seeking to develop research proposals for future grant submissions. Priority areas include addressing health disparities/achieving health equity and/or helping patients, families, and communities make better-informed decisions about health and healthcare.

Massachusetts-based 501(c)3 community organizations, patient advocacy and support groups, Patient-Powered Research Network (PPRN) groups, Patient and Family Advisory Councils (PFACs), researchers working with community partners are encouraged to apply. Individuals and for-profit business are not eligible.

A total award of \$25,000 is available for 5 selected applicants. Each awardee will receive up to \$5,000 of funding that can be used for building relationships, developing research plans, or collecting preliminary data.

Visit <https://www.cchers.org/request-for-proposals> for the full RFP and application details

Questions? Contact a.oendari@northeastern.edu

The Mission Hill / Fenway Neighborhood Trust

requests proposals from organizations seeking funding for projects and programs intended to serve residents of the Mission Hill and Fenway neighborhoods.

Visit www.missionhillfenwaynt.org to access the on-line application.

Proposals must be submitted no later than 5PM on March 31, 2020. Please email any questions to hello@missionhillfenwaynt.org.



Mission Hill Fenway Neighborhood Trust

PLEASE WRITE...

The Gazette welcomes letters to the editor. Word limit: 500. Deadline: Friday at 5 p.m. one week before publication. Letters may be emailed to letters@JamaicaPlainGazette.com. Please include address and telephone number for verification purposes. Anonymous letters will not be published. More information: 617-524-2626

Hill Agenda

The deadline for Hill Agenda listings is noon, Tuesday, March 31 for the issue April 3. Email listings to reporter@jamaicaplainingazette.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 loca-

tions: Brookline – Cleveland Circle & Larz Anderson, Cambridge, Medford LoConte, Newton-Brignton, 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.

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.

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/

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.

\$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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What's Happening on Main Streets

BY ELLEN WALKER
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Spring is on the way! You can hear the birds singing and I saw a snowdrop flower peeking through the cold, hard soil the other day. A sure sign that warmer weather will soon be here, and not just for a couple of days.

The February Mission Hill Crime Watch meeting had a guest speaker, Representative Nika Elugardo. She talked about housing, health care and safety concerns as well as the steps that are being taken to improve all those areas for residents and students. Representative Elugardo spent some time addressing the concerns around youth and youth gangs and violence and the critical need to approach this carefully and with a well thought plan to be able to help young people make better decision and give them options. She holds office hours monthly rotating through the four (4) neighborhoods. On February 29th, Nika held hours at the Parker Hill Library and in March, she will hold hours in Jamaica Plain on the 28th, the location is yet to be determined.

Recently, I had the chance to catch up with Nathan Silveira whose family has been part of the Mission Hill neighborhood for over 25 years. Their first Dunkin' Donuts opened at 1631 Tremont Street and over the past few years Nathan and his sister Janel have stepped into the family business as they have continued to expand. Janel oversees operations of the three businesses while Nathan focuses on new development and can be found at their newest establishment, 37 S. Huntington quite often.

Nathan worked at the DD with his mom helping to open the store while in high school. He went on to college to graduate with a degree in sports management and an MBA. He worked in the sports field for a few years with the New England Patriots, Blue Sky and BU Athletics before deciding to join the family business. Between the three locations, Janel and Nathan manage about 30 staff people who live locally, a good example of small business creating jobs in our neighborhood. Stop by any one of the three locations and sign up for the VIP Card Program – the benefits are worth it!

In my travels throughout

the Mission Hill neighborhood, I continue to learn about the people and the efforts made by residents to contribute to what is today a diverse and vibrant community. An example is on my recent visit to the Tobin Community Center, I saw Carmen Pola. This was her first day back on the job - she is feeling better and is happy to be back at the office helping others. We talked about many things including the Legacy Project of Mission Hill. The Legacy Project was started back in the 1970's, which was a turbulent time in Mission Hill's past and the project started with four (4) key individuals whose names are familiar to many – Ida Graves, Theresa Parks, Carmen Pola and Joan Schirer. Four strong women of different ethnic backgrounds coming together to heal a neighborhood and open the dialogue with respect for all. From community meetings, social networking and better and affordable housing actions, their efforts helped to create the foundation that makes Mission Hill work for many today. Ida Graves has passed and is honored with a Mission Hill Main Streets bench at 782 Huntington Avenue. It is remarkable what four strong women can accomplish when they work together! As with any grass roots movement, the work continues, and the younger generation is shouldering that responsibility to keep us moving forward.

Penguin Pizza will be hosting SPARK Boston's upcoming fun social event in our neighborhood - Mission Hill. They'd love to see you, your friends, colleagues, and anyone within the Mission Hill Main Streets community you think can benefit from getting to know Mission Hill better!

- When? Thursday, March 19, 2020, 6 - 8 PM
- Where? Penguin Pizza at 735 Huntington Ave (T-accessible via Brigham Circle or Roxbury Crossing)
- What? Light refreshments and appearances from your neighbors and our elected representatives (Kenzie Bok, City Councilor representing Mission Hill, and Matt O'Malley, City Councilor for Back of the Hill and Roxbury) and other members of the civic community in Boston. Sparks' goal is for everyone attending the event to get a better idea of how to become civically engaged in their com-

munity and to meet new friends and neighbors

The month of March will bring us both Evacuation Day and St. Patrick's Day on the 17th! Evacuation Day is a holiday observed in Suffolk County, Massachusetts (which includes the cities of Boston, Chelsea, and Revere, and the town of Winthrop) and also by the public schools in Somerville, Massachusetts. The holiday commemorates the evacuation of British forces from the city of Boston following the Siege of Boston, early in the American Revolutionary War. Schools and government offices (including some Massachusetts state government offices located in Suffolk County) are closed.

Bostonians were the first to celebrate St. Patrick's Day in North America on March 17, 1737. On Sunday, March 15th, the parade begins at the Broadway "T" Station and ends at Andrew Square, South Boston. Your best bet for viewing the parade is to stake out a spot anywhere along Broadway. Marchers continue to Telegraph St to Dorchester St ending at Andrew Square. Parade Route: Broadway Station marks the start of the parade

Another aspect of Mission Hill to be proud of is that we have many long-term businesses in our district. Recently I was asked to gather information on some of our long-term businesses and it was an enjoyable and enlightening task. Did you know that Hillside Market has been in Mission Hill since 1919 or that Mike's Donuts has been around for 44



Guilherme "G" Rios, Nathan Silveira, Rafael Catia and Mikela Cohen.

years? We have several shops that have been around for over 33 years like Huntington Market, Carmen's Beauty Salon, Tremont House of Pizza, Fuentes Market and Butterfly Falafel! There is something to be said for businesses that can survive the times as they make our neighborhood richer by their existence.

Now that Spring is just around the corner, it is time to start planning for those outdoor projects. Boston Building Resources over on Terrace Street is offering an assortment of classes on home repair and they always have a good assortment of donated products, reasonably priced, to help with many home renovations projects.

Until next month, enjoy your neighborhood and neighbors as the warmer, sunnier weather brings us all out on to the streets

for shopping, exploring our parks and eating at our favorite establishments! Remember to hold the date for Mission Hill Main Streets Annual Community Appreciation Night on Wednesday, June 10th from 6:00-8:00pm!

Please visit our website (www.missionhillmainstreet.com), like us on Facebook and find us on the Distrx mobile app (Mission Hill District).

"Behold my friends, the spring is come; the earth has gladly received the embraces of the sun, and we shall soon see the results of their love!"

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THIRD ANNUAL DREAM CHASERS AT TOBIN COMMUNITY CENTER

PHOTOS BY DEREK KOUYOUJIAN

The third annual Dream Chasers event for Black History Month was the One Mic, Many Voices forum at the Tobin Community Center on Feb. 13. Panelists of influential individuals across different career disciplines offer their “Secrets To Success” as young performers presented acts inspired by social justice and civic engagement. It was encouragement to the youth that they can achieve their dreams.



Asiyah Herrera recited 2 poems she wrote: “I AM Born” and “I AM Born Reprised.”



Deandre Avant presents a dance performance.



Mecca Williams sings the song “Rise Up” by Andra Day.

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A panel of neighborhood influencers were on hand to share their experiences with the youth gathered in a forum titled “Secrets To Success”: Evandro Carvalho, who was a state representative and is now director of Human Rights for the City Of Boston, State Rep. Liz Miranda, BPD officer Jeffrey Lopes, and Kharlita Chambers-Walker, one of Mayor Walsh’s Advance Coordinators.

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Kayla Turner recites poems about living as an American who is from another country “Hyphenated Homeland” and “An Introduction For People Who Have a PhD Personality.”

THIRD ANNUAL DREAM CHASERS AT TOBIN COMMUNITY CENTER



▲ Bendu David performs dance.
▶ Evandro Carvalho speaks to the gathering while the other panelists listen.



Panelists, organizers, performers, and Dream Chasers, neighborhood youth in a trajectory to their dreams and aspirations.



Communications Director for the Office Of Emergency Management Ky-Ron Owens and Ruth Georges, manager Of Engagement and Outreach department of youth and engagement and employment for the City Of Boston



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Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll



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Boston Explorers helps kids explore their interests, and their city

By Seth Daniel

When Alphonse Litz was growing up in Syracuse, there wasn't an historic site or a walking trail that his working class family didn't visit and learn about. It was a way for them to experience their surroundings, and occupy their time on a fixed budget.

But, he said, it was so enriching for him growing up, that he was surprised, after many years of being a Boston Public School teacher at the Mission School and at the Tobin K-8 in Mission Hill, that many kids in his classes and under his guidance had never seen Boston's rich historic trails or experienced its lush amenities. It was with that in mind – and some disappointment as an educator existing in the standardized testing era – that he set out to found a program to let kids explore their interests and the historic city they live in. That's when he founded Boston Explorers – a summer and school vacation program that has grown from 11 kids in the basement of a South End Church in 2011 to more than 275 kids in three, two-week camp sessions (plus February and April School Vacation weeks).

"I was going into a third grade classroom carrying a large stack of MCAS tests into the room, and one of the third graders said, 'There's the man that brings the tests,'" said Litz, a long-time resident of the South End and former public school teacher in Mission Hill. "I was devastated. I had been about radical changes in education and focusing on kids learning, and then that came out. I went home and told my partner Bob about it and it had been the most depressing day I'd ever had. That's when I started

to launch Boston Explorers. It wasn't a question of if, but when. I had the luxury of being able to go out and start the camp in 2011. We started with 11 kids in the church basement and we explored the entire city."

In addition to visiting places like the USS Constitution, historic homes like the Nichols House or Otis House, the Public Gardens, rowing on Boston Harbor and figuring out how to travel on the MBTA – the camp also features a time of reflection for kids where they can choose to do things they like, but in a non-electronic environment.

That could mean building something in the wood shop, playing Foosball or bumper pool, jumping rope, building with Legos or quietly reading. The four goals of every day, Litz said, are to explore Boston, have fun, be kind to everyone and make things with their hands.

"We try to do those things every single day," he said. "I want to get kids back to working with their hands, learning like I did from my father, who was a carpenter. I want to share that. Kids don't miss the phones. Some of the feedback I've gotten is that even the older kids don't mind leaving the phone behind because they can really just be a kid again... So much play is scripted by adults like in sports or ballet or music lessons. This is a place kids can go to have full choice over what they want to do. They are guided by adults, but kids have room to choose and learn."

That's where it becomes what Litz and Assistant Director Sakura Tomizawa call a throwback kind of summer camp.

"This is the kind of camp your grandmother would recognize," said Litz. "The kids value the



Boston Explorers is a camp that brings kids front and center with the historic sites in the City that often elude those who live here, and it also allows kids to explore their own interests in a non-electronic environment. The camp has grown from 11 to 275 per year since 2011. It's director, Alphonse Litz, started the camp in 2011 after many years of teaching school in Mission Hill.



freedom...It's a child-centered program really all about play and exploration. We have turned down grants because we don't want to do education. It's about play, exploring and learning through that. Kids love it and we keep on exploring."

Boston Explorers is tailored to kids age 6-14 in a mixed-age camp that features numerous staff members and older teen trainees. Campers are well-supervised on the trips through

Boston, and many of those supervisors are former campers too. Over time, Boston Explorers has moved its base camp from Union United Church in the South End to the Rafael Hernandez School in Jamaica Plain. From there, they start and end their days, but have excursions that include visiting historic homes, or leveraging partners like Emerson College to get a behind the scenes tour of the Majestic Theatre. It's literally like a buffet of activ-

ities – going so far as to include African drumming with the Hyde Square Task Force partner from Jamaica Plain.

Ironically, many of the kids in the camp have never been on the Freedom Trail or contemplated the statues in the Public Garden. For a lot of kids in Boston, those things can seem like parts of the city that are only for tourists – not for children growing up here. At Boston Explorers, Litz said, the City is in their hands.





PARTICIPACIÓN

El plazo para la sección de participación es al mediodía martes 31 marzo para la edición 3 abril. 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

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. 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

-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: 55+ 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.

Condiciones sucias

Continued from page 1

Las mujeres hablan de la falta de papel higiénico, manchas marrones en los armarios y masas de cabello en las duchas, cuatro de las cuales no funcionan. Hay basura y juguetes de piscina por todos lados. La terraza de la piscina está sucia y la piscina también. La silla de salvavidas está rota. Falta la iluminación. La seguridad es laxa.

“Este es un buen momento para invertir en este lugar”, dijo Mills. “No queremos todo, sólo un poco de limpieza básica”.

Las nadadoras también practican en Mason Pool y Curtis Hall dicen que estas instalaciones son mejores que las de Hennigan.

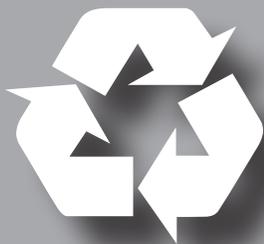
“No puedo entender por qué todo es laxo aquí, pero no en Curtis Hall o Mason Pool”, dijo Petruzzelli.

Las mujeres creen que el Centro podría ser un gran recurso si se mantuviera adecuadamente.

BPS dijo que trabaja con BCYF para ofrecer una gran experiencia en Hennigan y que ha habido inversión en los últimos años.

“BPS trabaja en colaboración con BCYF para abordar los problemas dentro de nuestros centros

comunitarios”, dice un comunicado de prensa. “BPS reemplazó los sistemas de calefacción, ventilación y deshumidificación y mejoró los vestuarios. Continuaremos trabajando para asegurar que nuestras instalaciones estén limpias, almacenadas, mantenidas y seguras”.



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Residents dissatisfied with current ZBA

City Council working on home rule petition

BY LAUREN BENNETT

Following Mayor Walsh's Executive Order calling for more transparency and ethical standards for the Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA), the City Council Committee on Government Operations held a hearing on January 25 to discuss a home rule petition regarding the ZBA.

City Councilor Lydia Edwards spearheaded the hearing as well as the proposed home rule petition, which she said would change the structure of the ZBA. The home rule petition would need to pass both the City Council and at the State House in order to take effect.

The petition as proposed now requires that ZBA members have expertise in areas of affordable housing, civil rights, environmental protection and climate change, urban planning, and design of neighborhoods. Additionally, it would require that both homeowners and renters be on the board and have expertise in zoning and general laws.

"The proposal also includes a provision that prevents members of the ZBA from engaging in the business of real estate construction, development, or purchase or sale within the city while they are members of the Zoning Board," Edwards said. "The proposal also includes a provision that gives the City of Boston discretionary authority to acquire as a condition of appointment that ZBA members will not be engaged in the business of real estate

construction, development, purchase or sale within the City for up to five years after their term of service concludes or set restrictions on activities following a member's term of service."

Additionally, the proposal requires that the ZBA public rules that would discourage "real or apparent" conflicts of interest during or after a ZBA member's term of service, and also requires that the ZBA's standards of review be put into the Boston Zoning Code. Additionally, the proposal requires that more information be available and easily accessible to the public, including contact information for the board members, a subscription list for notice and advertisement of board hearings, and a record of board proceedings, as well as establishes an Office of Community Council "to assure that people are fully informed and know their rights on the day of the hearings," Edwards said.

Lastly, the proposal establishes term limits board members and requires quarterly reports of variances. Edwards said that the City Council has received support from community organizations across the city, as well as letters of concern from architects who would like to see the requirement of an architect on the board remain.

Public testimony ranged from wanting to make sure technical expertise positions remained on the board to fully supporting the home rule petition and recognizing the need for an overhaul of

the ZBA.

Brian Blaesser, a partner at Dinsmore & Shohl, said that in order to have findings of fact, which is a large part of what the ZBA is based on, technical expertise is necessary. He said that the home rule petition seems to replace "those technical expertise positions with positions of policy," and if the board loses the technical expertise and switches to a focus on policy, it will be unable to apply those technical standards.

Fatima Ali-Salaam of the Greater Mattapan Neighborhood Council said she supports the petition offered by the City Council, but agrees that it "should not exclude those with technical expertise," she said. "We agree with Councilor Edwards; it's a good start."

Elliott Laffer of the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay (NABB) said that he has spent a number of hours before the ZBA, and agrees that there should be no conflicts of interest within the board.

However, "the most fundamental problem with the ZBA is not with the board, but how many cases are in front of the board," he said. "We are zoning by exception. If the zoning code was properly written, we wouldn't spend as much time smoothing things out."

He said that most cases that come before the ZBA are ones asking for variances, and "maybe only two get turned down" out of 40 or 50 cases. "We're doing some-

thing wrong in the way we act," he said, adding that he feels the ZBA has a "strong bias" toward approval from the board—many people go in expecting an approval right off the bat.

Raymond Hurteau, a smaller independent developer in the Boston area, said that he does not agree with the zoning code as it is today, and would like to see some of the restrictions lifted.

"We do live in the City of Boston, and it's a city and whether we like it or not, if we aren't thinking towards the future in terms of density and not thinking of the impacts of the added density, we're going to continue to have a supply shortage," he said. He said that if some supply constraints were removed, more units could be developed and prices would fall.

Thomas Schiavoni, a North End resident, expressed frustrations with the ZBA process and hearings themselves. He said that people have taken time off of work, canceled medical appointments, and scrambled to find babysitters so they can come to a ZBA hearing for a project they're concerned about, only to find out at the hearing that the project is deferred. Developers are "more than likely" to be granted requested deferrals, he said, which leads to frustration in the public.

Additionally, he said that people out in the hallway outside the hearing room can often be loud and disruptive during hearings, making it difficult to hear the current case. "When we don't understand the process, it ends as disrespect for the process,"

he said, adding that people lose faith in the ZBA system when the process is confusing or misleading.

Luanne O'Connor, a resident from South Boston, said that the City Point Neighborhood Association is also frustrated and upset with the zoning process. "I do think that we need transparency, accountability," she said. "We don't really have a lot of information insofar as statistics." She said that residents are being displaced and the city needs to look into more responsible development.

"If we're going to trust the ZBA, we need to have a process that we can trust," O'Connor said. She also said that she believes the ZBA is currently "disregarding" elected officials, neighborhood associations, and abutters when some projects still get approved despite the fact that large numbers of people are opposed to them.

"I'm very excited for your home rule petition," she told the City Council.

The City Council then spoke with members of the Walsh Administration to ask questions about the current ZBA process and make suggestions to how things might be able to be adjusted moving forward.

"This is the beginning," Councilor Edwards said. She added that the Council will have working sessions moving forward to finalize the language for the home rule petition, and then it can go before the Council for a vote. If passed, it will then move on to the State House for a vote.

New England Genealogical Society speaks out against new record restrictions

BY SETH DANIEL

Seemingly out of the far reaches of left field, the New England Historical and Genealogical Society (NEHGS) in the Back Bay were ambushed last week with a little-known proposal in Gov. Charlie Baker's budget that would severely limit vital records — a keystone for those doing genealogical and academic research.

Ryan Woods, executive vice president of NEHGS, said this week that the new restrictions came within the 'outside sections' of the governor's Fiscal Year 2021 State Budget request — a section of the budget buried deep and rarely discussed or seen

by the general public. The proposal, which would be approved with the Budget if not removed beforehand, restricts access to birth and marriage records for 90 years, and restricts access to death records for 50 years. There are currently no restrictions on such public records — known as vital statistics.

It was a complete surprise to the organization and Woods.

"Unequivocally it was a surprise to us," he said. "There had not been any public discussion about this until it appeared in the budget. Our understanding is the proposal came from the Department of Public Health, which oversees the Commonwealth's

Vital Records and Statistics... We were surprised to see this because Massachusetts is one of about a dozen states that does not have any significant restrictions on vital records. To effectively cut off access to those for what would be a lifetime was absolutely a significant shift in what the Commonwealth has allowed going back to the 1640s."

Outside Sections in the budget are often reserved for loose ends and legislation that some might want to get through without the normal process. Two years ago, creation of the new 4 a.m. extended liquor licenses for casinos was done in an outside section of the governor's budget

— a measure that passed with the final budget.

Woods said such a change in access to records would impact public health researchers, journalists, family researchers, and academia significantly. He said it's a change that should be debated in traditional fashion.

"For our industry and the First Amendment rights and Public Health researchers, we think this is a significant change in state law that was buried pretty deep in the Budget," he said. "We certainly understand the desire to have privacy protections, but don't think that debate belongs in a Budget document that only gets an up or down vote."

He added that research indicates access to vital statistics doesn't increase identity theft or privacy invasions, and he also added that most records are already online and available on the private market for a fee.

He said they will continue to advocate with the State Legislature to prevent this measure from becoming law, and hope that it will be removed during the ongoing State Budget debate.

It is estimated that family history and genealogy is the second most popular hobby in America, and 20 million Americans participate in some sort of family research. Most of those searches start with such vital records.

Mayor starts overhaul of ZBA

By JOHN LYNDS

In the wake of the scandal that rocked the Boston Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) last year, District 1 City Councilor Lydia Edwards called for an overhaul of the city's zoning board.

The John Lynch bribing scandal trickled down to the ZBA and led Mayor Martin Walsh to call for an investigation into the board.

Lynch, the city's Director of Real Estate, pleaded guilty in federal court to accepting \$50,000 from a developer to sway members of the ZBA on a vote.

Since his plea, ZBA Board Member Craig Galvin has resigned and former ISD Commissioner Buddy Christopher, who has been serving as an advisor to Mayor Martin Walsh, also jumped ship from City Hall. Reports then surfaced that Galvin's real estate company may have benefited from votes he took approving projects that he and his wife later sold.

As the scandal unfolded Edwards filed legislation to modernize and reform ZBA.

On Monday, Walsh signed an Executive Order to establish new, rigorous ethical standards for the ZBA and institute strong policies and procedures that will bring a significantly increased level of transparency, accountability and integrity to the board of appeals.

These important changes are informed, in part, by the findings of the Sullivan & Worcester report and initiate both immediate and long-term changes needed to ensure that best practices, strong internal protocols and policies are in place at the ZBA.

"The ZBA plays a critical role for our city, but to be effective in this role and maintain public confidence, the board must operate at the highest standards of professionalism, ethics, and accessibility," said Walsh. "The changes we are making today will go further than state ethics laws that currently govern the board and its members, modernize the function of the board to make it more accessible and transparent to the public, and I will file legislation to change the membership of the board to ensure that it is reflective of our neighborhoods and their concerns. I want to assure the residents of Boston that they can have confidence in the ZBA and

that we will continue to protect what we love about our neighborhoods as we grow and evolve as a city."

Through these reforms, Walsh is spearheading the changes necessary to strengthen public confidence in the board, improve their functions and efficiencies, and create a more understandable and transparent process. The changes will include strict standards around conflict of interest, financial and ethical disclosures for both board members and certain applicants seeking project approvals, rules governing business dealings before, during and after projects are considered and approved, enhanced ethical training for board members, as well as technological improvements to bring greater access to the board and its process for the public.

According to the Mayor's Office the Executive Order bolsters the ethics and transparency expectations of its board members by implementing new disclosure requirements, prohibiting members from participating in any project in which they have an interest and prohibiting members from having any subsequent business dealings with any project on which they voted. In addition, the order establishes new standards for board members, requiring each member to submit annual statements of financial interest and undergo comprehensive ethics training.

Because changes to the ZBA require state approval, Walsh said he will continue to work with Edwards to craft a home rule petition to the Massachusetts state legislature to change the composition of the board to bring added perspective and expertise.

"It is critical that residents trust and have full and indiscriminate access to 21st century government. Today's executive order takes critical steps by modernizing the Zoning Board of Appeal, promoting transparency and strengthening ethical standards," said Edwards. "As the council moves forward with legislation regarding the Board of Appeal, I look forward to continued partnership with Mayor Walsh."

The Executive Order by Walsh includes many of the overhauls Edwards called for last year.

would be available electronically and in person at City Hall and 1010 Mass Ave no later than seven days following a hearing. Notices of hearings would be posted and delivered electronically twenty days in advance. Contact information for the board would be posted electronically.

Appeals could be filed electronically, in person at city hall or at 1010 Mass Ave.

As part of the Mayor's commitment to making the ZBA more accessible to residents, the Executive Order calls for the designation of an ombudsperson to notify the public of their rights during and outside of ZBA meetings and guide residents or appellants through basic procedural steps of appeal. In addition, the Board will be required to work with the Mayor's Office of Language and Communications Access to en-



Mayor Martin Walsh signs an Executive Order to begin overhauling the ZBA Monday as City Councilor Lydia Edwards looks on.

sure the provision of translation services is available to residents.

The reforms announced today build on steps that Mayor Walsh took immediately after learning about the allegations of bribery that are currently under investigation, which include ordering

a comprehensive, independent review of the practices and procedures of the Zoning Board of Appeal, and a separate review conducted by Attorney Brian Kelly to focus on allegations regarding a specific project.

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EDITORIAL

March is weather purgatory

With the promise of winter coming to an end and spring just around the corner, we have high hopes for March.

The crocuses start to pop through the ground and the sun is noticeably stronger and warmer. There also is a greater amount of daylight. The first day of spring, the vernal equinox (which will occur this year on March 19), brings us 12 hours each of day and night.

But only hope springs eternal, as the saying goes, because March always is a disappointment, especially for those of us who live along the Massachusetts coastline.

The average high temperature on March 1 in our area is 42, with an average low of 28 for that date. Though the average high temperature increases to 51 (and the low to 37) by the end of the month, even on the warmest of March days, our proximity to the cold ocean -- which still has temperatures in the low 40s throughout March -- cools us by 10 degrees, which can feel even chillier if there is an onshore breeze.

In addition, with the arrival of daylight savings time (which this year is this Sunday, March 8), we may think that the additional hour of sunlight in the evening will bring milder temperatures. But daylight savings time is a trap that tricks our minds into thinking that warmer weather has arrived.

March also has the capacity for big storms. We all recall the high-tide event two years ago in the first week of March, 2018, that flooded the Boston area with the third-highest tide ever recorded in our area.

It is common in March for powerful nor'easters to pound our seashore, bringing heavy winds, high seas, and a wintry mix, including the occasional blizzard, that belie what the calendar says.

St. Patrick's Day falls on March 17, always a special day here in the Boston area. But who can recall a really warm one? Watching a St. Pat's Day parade or engaging in any outdoor activity on that day or evening requires full winter gear of a hat, gloves, and coat.

So yes, while the calendar may say that winter officially is over in March, we also know that March is not really the beginning of spring. It's somewhere in between, a version of weather purgatory -- the month that we must endure before we fully are released from the trials of winter so that we can move on to the heaven of spring and summer.



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME - CLOCKS AHEAD 1 HOUR MARCH 8

OP-ED

Pleaseing people?

BY DR. GLENN MOLLETTE

Bernie Sanders, Joe Biden, Donald Trump and all the presidential candidates want to please enough of the American people to win. When it comes time for Americans to vote, a candidate wants to please the majority of the people, but most especially a majority of the electoral college.

A ballplayer wants to please his coach. The player knows if the coach is displeased then he will see limited playing time. The student wants to please the teacher because the teacher will assign the grade.

All of us have some people in our lives who we care about pleasing. The boss is the one who writes the paycheck. There is the pressure to perform and succeed in order to get ahead in life. Some people do everything that is right such as work performance and extra hours and performing above expectations in order to get ahead. Sadly, some will stoop too far.

We've heard a lot about Hollywood movie mogul Harvey Weinstein. Out of all the many accusations there certainly has to be some truth that Weinstein

was very wrong on multiple occasions. How many occasions though have persons done whatever it took to please Weinstein in order to get a movie part and a big paycheck? How many times a day does this still go on in Hollywood, politics, the corporate world and on and on?

Do you live to please people? I bet you do some of the time. There is somebody in your life you want to be happy with you. If your answer is "yes all the time" then I suspect that most of the time you are a very unhappy person. If you live to please people there will always be someone displeased with you. You can't please everyone all the time and you can't even please one person all the time. If you try to please all people then most of the people will always be displeased with you because everyone has different opinions about life and how you should live your life. An old minister said once, "If you please God it doesn't matter who you please and if you displease God then it doesn't matter who you please." Keep in mind that you can please God and others may still be displeased.

People have opinions about

how you should vote and how much of your money you should turn over to the government in taxes. People have opinions about how much of your money you should be allowed to keep.

You'll never make everybody happy, nor will Trump or Bernie Sanders.

Sometimes people let you know how disappointed they are in you. It's common for us to be disappointed in people especially if we are counting on them to make us happy. If your happiness today hinges on others you are already bound to face a disappointing day. If your goal is to make everybody happy today then you are already having a frustrating day.

Just do and be the best you can. That's all you can do.

Glenn Mollette is the publisher of Newburgh Press, Liberty Torch and various other publishing imprints; a national columnist - American Issues and Common Sense opinions, analysis, stories and features appear each week in over 500 newspapers, websites and blogs across the United States.

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

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OP-ED

The Early College Movement – making a difference – time to scale up

BY PAM EDDINGER, PRESIDENT OF BUNKER HILL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Bunker Hill Community College serves thousands of disadvantaged students each year. While many are successful in starting a career or advancing their education, an unacceptable number leave without accomplishing their goals. No silver bullet can nullify all the obstacles that push them off course. However, I believe the Early Colleges blossoming across the state are as close to a game-changing solution as we will find.

Early Colleges are partnerships between traditional high schools and local institutions of higher education. Over the past five years, Bunker Hill formed Early College partnerships with Chelsea High, Charlestown High, and Madison Park. Other area high schools are eagerly awaiting sufficient funding to sustainably enter into similar arrangements with us.

Bunker Hill professors work closely with high school faculty to align English and math curriculum so that students are prepared for the demands of college-level work by the time they reach their junior year. As juniors, they take college classes with Bunker Hill professors at their high schools. The partners work together to provide tutoring and success coaching to help them acclimate to the pace and rigor of college work. Senior year the students come to Bunker Hill for courses, selecting from the college's extensive catalog.

Intensive advising and career exploration are critical ingredients. Early College students learn about different professions and the paths they take to rise within them. Through internships and job shadowing, they develop contacts and mentoring relationships.

Early College students finish high school with a substantial number of transferable credits and deeper understanding of the wider world that awaits them. One of the hallmarks of an impactful Early College is a clear commitment to access for all students. These programs do not skim top performers; they raise everyone to the top by creating well-designed and supported pathways. So while the vast ma-

majority of Early College students will be the first in their families to attend college, they head to the schools of their choice as well prepared as those with two college-educated parents.

My staunch belief in this comprehensive approach comes from observing the success of hundreds of Early College students at Bunker Hill, as well as the positive results from the Early College movement across the United States. Experimental HYPERLINK "https://massinc.org/research/investing-in-early-college/" \t "_blank" studies with randomized controls find Early College doubles post-secondary completion rates for low-income students. Among the many interventions to boost college graduation rates that have been subjected to rigorous evaluation, none provide a larger return on investment.

Data presented recently by the Globe show low-income students in Massachusetts are three times less likely to complete college than their more affluent peers. If we are serious about addressing this unconscionable disparity, we should be laser focused on efforts to build and sustain high-quality Early College

partnerships.

The Student Opportunity Act passed by the Massachusetts legislature late last year provides school districts with an infusion of funds to implement evidence-based practices to close achievement gaps. Drawing on his prior experience overseeing the development of the state's largest Early College in Lawrence, Jeff Riley, the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, recently issued guidance encouraging districts to use a portion of these new dollars to fund Early College. Working with the Department of Higher Education, Commissioner Riley has also established a robust

designation process to ensure that Early Colleges in Massachusetts adhere to quality assurance standards.

The only missing component is adequate funding to cover the expenses public colleges like Bunker Hill face as more high schools seek Early College partnerships. States like North Carolina and Texas, which offer Early College to tens of thousands of students each year, recognize these costs and provide funding to both high schools and their college partners.

Community colleges are notoriously underfunded in Massachusetts. While we are competitive around the nation in academ-

ic innovations, the lack of funding to scale solutions that work keeps us behind. The consequences of neglecting public institutions that serve the largest numbers of disadvantaged students are readily apparent. Growth in income inequality has outpaced most other states. Massachusetts' high-paying tech sector lacks diversity, and employers increasingly struggle to fill open positions.

Over my career, I have watched community College educators try with all their might to help more of their students succeed. We have finally hit upon a formula that works. With an extremely modest investment, Massachusetts can reap the rewards.

Jamaica Plain/Mission Hill Gazette • 2020 Publishing Calendar

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JANUARY 2020							FEBRUARY 2020							MARCH 2020						
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Rep. Elugardo provides legislative update, discusses priorities in neighborhood meetings

BY LAUREN BENNETT

State Rep. Nika Elugardo was a guest speaker at the February meetings of the Jamaica Pond Association and the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council, where she gave a legislative update and answered questions from constituents. Elugardo talked about bills she's filed this past year as well as what she looks forward to this coming year.

Elugardo said she has filed 15 bills, including five housing bills, which she said have gotten some movement. The end of the legislative session is July 31 of this year, so she said there is still time to get the others passed. Some priorities for last calendar year were housing, healthcare, and education. She said that progress was made in education and they're working on housing, but she's not sure about progressive changes coming to healthcare very soon, though they are mak-

ing strides at the State House towards bigger changes. Additionally, Elugardo said she is working on developing an expertise in affordable and elderly housing.

Elugardo said that there aren't any champions at the State House with a "well-thought out strategy for the housing crisis," but rather there are individuals who are doing piecemeal work to make strides in that area. She also said that she and others are trying to convince the House to have a debate on housing.

She also spoke about her priorities for the district, which are based on the calendar year, not the fiscal year like the legislative priorities. Last year, Elugardo's district priorities were housing, public safety, and jobs, especially for youth and elders. "Public safety is doing much better," Elugardo said. "We're embracing our neighbors and decreasing criminal behavior." She said that housing is going pretty slowly,



State Rep. Nika Elugardo.

and it will remain a district and policy priority "for the foreseeable future," Elugardo said.

Additionally, Elugardo has been working with teens at the Mildred Hailey Youth Center to assist some of the kids who have been involved with recent crime around the Jackson Square area, and has garnered community support for this cause as well.

"Based on conversations I'm having with you throughout the

year, priorities can change," Elugardo said. This year, she said she has decided to change the district priorities by replacing public safety with small and mid-size businesses and entrepreneurs. She said that public safety issues are now able to be handed off to people who can help out without much intervention from her office.

"When it comes to these [smaller] businesses, it's important to not treat them like bigger corporations," Elugardo said. "We need to make sure that small and mid-size businesses are thriving." She said she has walked round with business owners in Mission Hill to familiarize herself with what the businesses have to offer the neighborhoods.

"In September of this year, provided I get elected, I want to begin drafting legislation in response to what I've heard from small business owners and allies," she said.

On the transportation front,

Elugardo said that legislators want to figure out how to make a gas tax less regressive so as to not worsen the problem of less wealthy people paying more than wealthy people. She said she also hopes to become more well-versed in the transportation sector. "We'd really like to get some interconnectivity going between our pedestrians, cyclists, and transit," she said. "I want our district to be a model for how that could look at the city and state level."

She said one of the places she would like to start with that concept is the E line, as it "has a real problem with safety, but it's also not a good place for that line to end."

Though the Shattuck Campus is not in her district (it's in Rep. Liz Malia's), she said she does stay informed on the matter and listen to everyone's opinion about what should happen on the site.

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MARCH 16-21, 2020

Calling all Boston writing enthusiasts: activists, residents, professionals, entrepreneurs, scholars, youth, non-profits, networks, groups, etc!

Join us for a week-long celebration to connect Boston's writing community, to celebrate the power of words, and to recognize writers' ability to right the wrongs of the world with a stroke of a pen or the tap of a key. These interactive events will feature a social mixer and panel discussion, poetry seminar, master class, and an all-day write-in event from a social justice lens.

Free and open to the public
All events at Northeastern Crossing
1175 Tremont Street, Roxbury
tinyurl.com/writersweek2020
617-373-2555

N Northeastern
 University

This event is sponsored by: City and Community Engagement, Northeastern Department of English, & Northeastern Writing Center