

HILL HAPPENINGS, SEE PAGE 10

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MARCH 5, 2021 — APRIL 1, 2021

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON MAIN STREETS



Mike Pires of Kush Groove Shop was on of many local businesses featured on Chronicle , a WCVB Channel 5 show. See Page 8 for story and more photos.

Teacher Vaccines

Baker-Polito Administration announces eligibility for K-12 educators, child care workers and K-12 staff

STAFF REPORT

On March 3, the Baker-Polito Administration announced that K-12 educators, child care workers and K-12 school staff will be eligible to schedule COVID-19 vaccine appointments starting March 11.

This group of workers will join the current eligible groups (including 65+ and individuals with 2+ certain medical conditions).

The Administration also released details on available appointments for the upcoming week.

"Very few states are administering as many doses every day as we're administering here in Massachusetts," Baker said, "and it's paying off, and case rates are dropping."

Baker added, "we are putting every dose we get to work, and doing it quickly."

He said that "right now, even with the approval of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, the numbers of doses coming into Massachusetts will remain relatively consistent over the course of the next

Continued on page 5

CAMH hears presentation on Terrace St. development

By LAURA PLUMMER

Around 15 people attended the monthly meeting of the Community Alliance of Mission Hill (CAMH) on Feb 17. On the agenda was a presentation by the Boston-based developers of a new housing complex on Terrace St.

The group provided a comprehensive overview of its proposal, including a context plan, proposed development, a den-

sity/height comparison, concept massing, parking plans and floor plans. Also included were 3D renderings of the finished project, which they are calling Bellerose Terrace Residences.

At 1-4 Terrace Pl., the group is proposing 48 condos in approximately 50,000 square feet. The site has a Floor Area Ratio (FAR) of 3.4, a height of 62 feet, and parking for 16 vehicles. Terrace Pl. is at the intersection of

Alleghany St. and Terrace St.

At 110-128R Terrace St., developers are seeking a mixed-use project with ground-level retail and 80 rental units in roughly 87,000 square feet. The building is 62 feet tall, has a FAR of 4.87, and 30 parking spaces.

Units will range in size from micro units to three-bedroom duplexes. The ground-level retail

Continued on page 5

Officials looking out for future of main streets

By LAUREN BENNETT

In the midst of a pandemic, looking out for the future of Boston's Main Streets districts has become all the more urgent.

The City launched its Reimagine Main Streets program in November of last year, which, according to the City's website, is a "community engagement process designed to strengthen the future of Boston Main Streets program through a deep and comprehensive analysis of the program's existing systems and resources, uses, and gaps that impact local economic growth." The process is led by consultants Strategy Matters and CJ Strategies, as well as subcontractors Archipelago Strategy Group.

The Gazette spoke with Natalia Urtubey, the City's Director of

Small Business, as well as Ellen Walker, the Executive Director of Mission Hill Main Streets, to learn more about this process and how it can help shape the way the City's main streets districts will move forward.

Urtubey said this process was thought up long before COVID hit Boston, but "the direction has become more intentional with COVID," and she said the focus has now switched to "economic recovery rather than simply just how to enhance and engage in a regular world."

She said the hope is to ensure that there is long-term recovery in the neighborhoods, and to make sure that it's equitable. "We want to help close the racial wealth gap," the City said on its

Continued on page 10

CAMH escucha sobre un nuevo proyecto en Terrace St.

By LAURA PLUMMER

Alrededor de 15 personas asistieron a la reunión mensual de la Alianza Comunitaria de Mission Hill (CAMH) el 17 de febrero. En la agenda había una presentación de los promotores de un nuevo proyecto de vivien-

das en Terrace St.

El grupo brindó una descripción completa de su propuesta. También se incluyeron dibujos en 3D del producto final, al que llaman Bellerose Terrace Residences.

En 1-4 Terrace Pl., el grupo propone 48 condominios en

aproximadamente 50.000 pies cuadrados. El sitio tiene una relación área-suelo (FAR) de 3,4, una altura de 62 pies, y estacionamiento para 16 vehículos. Terrace Pl. está en la intersección de Alleghany St. y Terrace St.

Continued on page 9

He's In! South End State Rep. Jon Santiago launches mayoral campaign

By SETH DANIEL

The video starts on Harrison Avenue and Albany Street and it appears to be late at night, with only the urban-orange streetlights providing the lighting for State Rep. Jon Santiago to walk from his hospital job to his South End home.

"My name is Jon Santiago, and this is my story," says the popular state representative in a voice over on the video.

It was the beginning of his announcement that he would be running for mayor, and the opening scene highlighted something about Santiago that's very real – his walk home. It's a walk he's made hundreds of times before he was in politics and now still makes as a state representative and candidate for mayor – which he announced on Tuesday morning in that video.

"That walk home in the South End is an important part of my life," he said. "I'm a neighborhood guy. I live a block from Mass Ave and for me that walk represents so much of what is good and bad."

Bringing a wealth of experiences to the table from the State House, the Boston Medical Cen-

ter (BMC) emergency room and overseas deployments in the military, South End State Rep. Jon Santiago announced on Tuesday his intentions to run for mayor.

Santiago has been considering run since January, and has said as much in the media, but had not made an official announcement until now. He has been surveying resident groups in the South End and Back Bay on Zoom and in other forums privately for the last month to gauge support from long-time supporters and residents.

He made the announcement in that two-minute video available in English and Spanish, which showed him prominently walking around the Worcester Square and Tremont Street areas.

He comes into the race as the only major male candidate in a field of three women from the Boston City Council, including Councilors Andrea Campbell, Annissa Essaibi George and Michelle Wu. He is also one of the few folks from the South End to have made a serious run for the mayoral seat in many years.

"As a candidate representing the South End, I'm particularly



Jon Santiago, a South End State Rep. and physician at Boston Medical Center, announced on Tuesday that he will be running for mayor of Boston. His announcement came on video Tuesday (as seen here) and makes him the fourth major candidate in the open-seat mayoral race.

proud of that," he said. "Many in the South End feel that because of our size and district being split up at the State House or City Council, we often feel our voice isn't as loud in City Hall. If the mayor of Boston is living a block from Mass Ave and Tremont Street, they will have a seat at the table and especially in important decisions...I'm looking forward to being that voice at City Hall, but this is also about the entire city and making sure everyone is heard, respected and engaged in every aspect."

Santiago said he comes into the race ready to listen and engage. As a doctor in the emergency room at BMC, a physician in the Army Reserves and a state representative, he said his approach has always been to engage and listen to people first. That, he said, will be more important than ever in what he said was an historic, open-seat election for mayor.

"I think this mayor's race will be the most consequential mayor's race in our City's history," he told the paper, noting issues of COVID-19, health care, good schools and a revived economy.

"We are a City of neighborhoods and many are different, but I'm hearing from everyone that they want to come back building a better and stronger Boston," he said. "That message is resonating all over the city. I feel comfortable going to Southie and West Roxbury and having conversations because they are about the same things as in Roxbury and Dorchester. People all want good schools, housing

options, good transit, access to vaccines and they really want to be heard. My goal is to reach out to each and every area of this city...The people of Boston need someone ready to serve... That's the way I've always done medicine and politics. My first state rep race I knocked on 9,000 doors...I think right now people want someone who will bring them together and engage and listen and be respectful."

That approach – which he hinted would be different than many polarizing forces nationally – has been honed at the State House, where after beating long-time former Rep. Byron Rushing a few years back, he has been trusted early with key positions advising on COVID-19 and other subjects. Also, that approach has been learned in the emergency room as he has embraced solutions to the recovery and opioid epidemics he sees at the hospital daily. With the Mass/Cass area in his district, and seeing its effect on people every day at work, Santiago said there is no other candidate that is as equipped to understand the opioid epidemic and to forge real solutions to combat it.

"I live a block from Mass Ave and walk to work every day and I understand what it's like to find needles in your front garden, people passed out on your stoop or someone overdosing and needing help," he said, noting that he has already secured more than \$1 million in state funds to address the epidemic in last year's State Budget. "I'm proud of those victories, but we have a lot more work to do. I'm the best candidate to understand the situation and to live the situation."

That, he said, fed his decision to run for office – having often seen the results of crisis situations turn into medical emergencies. In the ER, he said one can save lives, but cannot change whole communities.

"These things are a reflection on our community," he said, noting the people that show up at the ER who lack housing, who were victims of street violence or couldn't afford their medications. "Often these people that don't have access to education and economic opportunities and it manifests into a medical emergency. I love the excitement of the ER and the camaraderie and the life or death decisions. But you can only save one life at a time. This

is an opportunity to transform whole communities. That's why I got into politics and why I ran for state representative before."

Santiago also credits his military service in the Army Reserves, where he is a captain as forming how he would lead as mayor. In fact, after working on the COVID front lines at the Boston Hope Hospital in the South Boston Convention Center, Santiago was deployed to the Middle East as a physician treating soldiers and allies in Kuwait. He returned from that deployment in December.

"Many Puerto Ricans joined the military as a way to do something with their life and to be a part of something bigger than themselves," he said, noting his uncle and grandfather were also in the military. "I joined seven or eight years ago...It taught me about leadership and bringing folks together...I'm very proud of that. The military will teach you how to get things done."

In his announcement for mayor, Santiago stressed that the next mayor will write a "new chapter" for all of Boston. He said that new chapter would include a more equitable City for everyone.

"We are living through an unprecedented crisis, the impact of which will last far beyond today," said Santiago. "It's a turning point for our city, but in it I also see great possibilities. I see and hear it in the voices of my neighbors, patients, and constituents. I've spent my life in service to others and now I'm running for mayor to lead us through this moment and to a recovery rooted in equity and opportunity. I will bring our city back, stronger than ever."

Santiago added, "Today, we set out to bring neighbors together to write the next chapter of our Boston story."

Santiago is currently serving his second term as the State Representative for the 9th Suffolk District representing the South End, Roxbury, Back Bay, and Fenway neighborhoods of Boston. He is an emergency room physician employed at Boston Medical Center, the city's safety net hospital. He serves as a captain in the U.S. Army Reserve and has deployed overseas. Prior to these experiences, Santiago served as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Dominican Republic. He lives in the South End with his wife, Alexandra.

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KEELY O'SHANNESSEY PHOTO

Walsh provides updates on vaccinations and BPS; announces return of outdoor dining program beginning on April 1

By LAUREN BENNETT

Mayor Marty Walsh held a press conference on March 1, where he provided updates on re-opening in the city, talked about Boston Public Schools students returning to in-person learning, and announced that the city's outdoor dining program will resume on April 1.

Walsh first provided a COVID update, saying that for the week ending Feb. 21, the seven day average positive test rate was 3.5 percent, which he said has increased slightly from the previous several weeks.

He also spoke about Governor Baker's announcement last week that the state would be entering Step Two of Phase Three of the reopening plan beginning on March 1, and Phase Four on March 22.

"I want to be clear," Walsh said, "we're also moving forward here in the City of Boston along with the state," however there will be some exceptions in the city.

He said that as of March 1, businesses such as gyms, museums, and fitness centers will be allowed to operate at 50 percent of the max capacity, and the capacity limit at restaurants will be lifted with other restrictions still in place, such as the 90 minute limit, the six person table limit, and six feet of distance between tables.

Walsh said that Boston is "not moving forward" with things like live music in restaurants, the reopening of indoor performance venues, and "higher contact indoor recreation" like laster tag

and roller skating until "at least March 22," when the public health data will be evaluated again.

Walsh said that the city is "committed to economic recovery," but slowing the spread of the virus remains the "top priority."

Additionally, the St. Patrick's Day parade has been cancelled for the second year in a row.

"We are so close to a finish line here that what we don't need now is a step backwards. We're opening up, the governor's opening up, we're trying to open up more businesses, we're trying to get fans in the stands at Fenway and at the Garden; we're trying to do that," Walsh said. "But events like St. Patrick's Day and weekends like St. Patrick's Day can throw us back. They can become super spreader events and we could be in a situation where we were shutting everything down again."

He said that there will be "no exceptions to the rules on restaurants, bars, and private gatherings" for the St. Patrick's Day weekend, and reminded residents that the gathering limit for private gatherings remains at 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors.

No lines outside restaurants will be permitted, and no alcohol without food service will be permitted either, he added.

OUTDOOR DINING

"Outdoor dining was one of the brightest spots of this experience last summer and fall here in the City of Boston," Walsh said.

The program ended in December of last year for the winter

season, but Walsh announced on Monday that it will return beginning April 1 "or as soon as the weather permits it to happen."

He said that fees will continue to be waived for restaurants interested in applying for an outdoor dining permit, and there is a "centralized application" available online for businesses to use.

Walsh said that there will be restricted parking and certain streets will be closed again to make space for the outdoor dining program, and more details will be available in the "coming weeks" on which streets will be affected.

He also said that the City's Disability Commission has been working to ensure that all residents have access to the restaurants.

"The program was made stronger by community input, so we welcome community conversation," Walsh said.

He added that the online application has been available since December 10, and more than 370 applications have been received, with over 150 already approved.

"Applications moving forward will be reviewed by a rolling basis," Walsh said. The application and more information can be found at boston.gov/2021outdoorining.

BPS

On March 1, all Boston Public School students in grades Pre-K through 3rd grade were eligible to return to in-person learning "if parents opted in," Walsh said. These students "joined high priority students who have been in school since the fall," he added.

"We'll continue to bring students back safely into our schools, as long as the public health data supports it."

Walsh said that students in grades 4-8 will be eligible to return to the classrooms beginning on March 15, and the remainder of students will be able to return on March 29, he said.

VACCINATION UPDATE

Walsh said that the city "continue[s] to work with the state on the vaccine rollout," and continues to create locations where residents can receive their vaccinations once eligible.

Over this past weekend, Walsh said that more than 1600 people received vaccines at the Reggie Lewis Center in Roxbury.

Chief of Health and Human Services Marty Martinez announced on Monday that beginning on March 1, the Boston Public Health Commission will "start to release Boston-specific data regarding who is being vaccinated in the city," which will help the Commission understand things like progress being made as well as where there are gaps.

"As of February 23, over 96,000 Bostonians have gotten their

first COVID shot," Martinez said, which amounts to "about 16.5 percent of the population over age 16 who is eligible."

He added that "of these folks, about 42 percent have gone into the arms of people of color." He said that the city continues to work on "creating equitable access to the vaccine in communities of color."

The data will be published online and will include neighborhood and age based data as well.

He said that this past weekend, the city was able to bring vaccines to residents through its mobile effort.

"This is the beginning of an effort that we want to continue across our approaches," Martinez said.

He said that the goal is to "use our four approaches that we've laid out," which he said include mass vaccination sites, priority group clinics, community based clinics, and the city's mobile vaccine effort.

For more information on vaccines in Boston, visit boston.gov/departments/public-health-commission/covid-19-vaccine-boston.

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# of bedrooms	Minimum Income***	HH Size	Maximum Income (70% AMI)
0 BR	\$33,750	1	\$58,350
		2	\$66,650
1 BR	\$39,540	3	\$75,000
		4	\$83,300
2 BR	\$44,760	5	\$90,000
		6	\$96,650

***Minimums Incomes do not apply to households receiving housing assistance such as Section 8, MRVP, or VASH.

To learn more about eligibility + the BPDA screening requirements, please visit:
<http://www.bostonplans.org/housing/faqs#application-lottery-questions>

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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 April 30, 2021.

Please email any questions to hello@missionhillfenwaynt.org.



Mission Hill Fenway
Neighborhood Trust

Sociedad Latina advocates to get Ethnic Studies into the statewide school curriculum

BY SETH DANIEL

After more than 10 years working incrementally on a broad campaign to ethnically diversify the curriculum in Boston Public Schools (BPS), youth at Sociedad Latina are seeing some major gains this year that build on the work of so many youth before them.

Youth Leaders Arianna Rodriguez and Jason Dias, both of Sociedad Latina, reported that after much testimony and advocacy, BPS is moving towards an Ethnic Studies curriculum and two bills have been filed in the Legislature to begin to institute such a curriculum statewide.

It's a victory that both said was made better as they are young people fighting for their own education, and also for that of younger children coming up behind them.

"I feel like us being so young and making so much change shows our generation is here to make a significant change in society," Dias said. "It inspires me to be better and fight for the world to be better – a world where everyone is included, and everyone is loved and cherished."

Rodriguez, now a senior, said she has gone from knowing nothing about her identity or about political change, to now being in the thick of it and finding herself wanting to fight for younger kids – something that has been a tradition of the Sociedad Latina experience.

"Younger kids will be the future," she said. "If you want to

be the next future, this is what has to be fixed to make that future happen. Over three years at Sociedad Latina I've seen a little movement on this at school, but there are a lot of students that want to speak about the school, but just don't speak up... We're speaking up for them and if we continue we will have our wishes heard."

The program is a long-standing effort at Sociedad Latina where youth began a campaign years ago that became 'Learn Us To Teach Us.' That campaign was centered around language and English Language Learners (ELL). Many of the ELL students were also members of Sociedad and routinely reported getting treated poorly by some teachers and administrators.

Wilmer Quinones-Melo was a freshman in high school in 2009 when he began talking about how some of the teachers at his BPS school were treating he and his friends, who were ELL students. They often didn't feel welcomed, and they were made to feel lesser than others, with teachers often not knowing their names and completely dismissing their culture.

"At that time, we were bringing up a lot of issues for ELL students and students from a diverse background," Quinones-Melo, who has now graduated college and is in the working world, recalled. "A lot said teachers didn't even know our names. Every time I talked to a substitute teacher or a principal, they told me I should go back to

my country or learn English."

That effort led Quinones to work with BPS to start the ELL Task Force. He served on the Task Force and reported to a wide group of BPS officials the experiences of students from around the district. That also morphed into a program whereby 15 students – many from Sociedad Latina – were able to be part of teacher trainings and inform teachers of their culture and the differences between so many of the cultures represented in the classrooms around the district. They even made a training video for new teachers to learn about the diversity of the students they were to be teaching.

Eventually, that gave birth to the 'Learn Us to Teach Us' campaign, which ran alongside Sociedad's internal program about identity, called 'Quien Soy Yo.' That program helped the young people in the program learn about their ancestors and their cultural history. It was something they never got in school, but an experience more rewarding than math or science lessons, Dias and Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez, who is Puerto Rican, joined Sociedad when she was a freshman and heard about it from her friend. She said she was transformed by the identity program.

"I was very surprised because the last time I thought about my identity was in middle school," she said. "In high school, it was only Black History Month or slavery. I was learning about my own identity and I didn't even

know my identity and apparently, I found out, I had a lot of identity. It really made me see we need Ethnic Studies in BPS schools. I don't want freshman to join a school and by the time they graduate, they don't know who they are. They just know math and science and nothing about themselves. I now have more knowledge of our family and who we are and that changes a lot when you know that."

Dias, a student at Madison Park, had a very personal journey to getting to Ethnic Studies advocacy. His father came to the U.S. from Brazil, and Dias was born in Boston, but when he was young his father got deported. Despite having citizenship, Dias had to leave with his family and go back to Brazil. It was there he discovered who he was, learned about the Brazilian history and his own ancestors. He also learned that in Boston, all he had learned about was the history of people who had thrown his family out of the country.

"When I was in Brazil I really got to learn where I am from and who I am and I realized many students who come here from another country – they don't know who they are, their ancestors and their bloodlines," he said. "They're learning about white history while experiencing racism and learning about the history of people who don't seem to want us in the country. They don't get to hear about themselves."

Those experiences, and many more, have driven the campaign

to great successes.

Both Dias and Rodriguez still get encouragement from alums like Quinones-Melo, and both have testified extensively at the Boston School Committee on the topic.

Now also, with the help of State Rep. Nika Elugardo and other legislators, two bills – one in the House and one in the Senate – have been filed to create a Commission for Anti-Racism and Equity in Education. Those bills call for exactly what the young leaders have talked about for years, creating a curriculum statewide – even in mostly white communities – teaching "ethnic studies, racial justice, decolonizing history, and unlearning racism at all grade levels using a critical approach and pedagogy that is age-appropriate" – to quote the bill. It also calls for extensive teacher training through professional development on race and racism in the classroom.

Drawing on the encouragement of former leaders like Quinones-Melo, Dias and Rodriguez said they have begun to take the message outside of Mission Hill and Boston.

"We're trying now to stay connected and we're meeting bi-weekly with others to spread the word about starting Ethnic Studies programs all over the state, and we're particularly doing this in communities that are mostly white and maybe have not heard about this effort," said Dias.

Vacant P3 building site to be cleaned up with Brownfields grant

STAFF REPORT

The Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) announced that MassDevelopment has awarded the agency a \$250,000 Brownfields Redevelopment grant to provide environmental remediation at P3 in Roxbury – just across the street from Boston Police Headquarters on the Mission Hill border.

The environmental remediation completed under the grant will be a key step toward making the redevelopment of the site more feasible so that it can meet the goals identified by the community in PLAN: Nubian Square.

"The development of P3 is long overdue to provide residents of Roxbury and the City of Boston with good jobs, affordable housing, and space for arts and culture," said BPDA Director Brian Golden. "Moving forward with the redevelopment of this site 2021 will allow us to deliver on the community's priorities for the vacant parcel."

P3 is a 7.7 acre vacant piece of land owned by the BPDA located along Tremont Street in Roxbury. Due to its size, proximity to public transit, major roads, and educational facilities, both the Roxbury Strategic Master Plan and PLAN: Nubian Square have

highlighted the potential of the site to contribute to the economic development of Nubian Square, while advancing the community's commitments to affordable housing, arts and culture, and equity. In 2019, the previous developer designation for the parcel expired and the BPDA did not extend it in order to seek a new viable project that better represents the community's vision for the site.

BPDA kicked off the public engagement for a new Request for Proposals (RFP) for P3 with a virtual workshop on February 22. Community members are invited to review the P-3 Tool-

kit, compiled by the BPDA to provide background information in order to guide P3's future. Like all publicly-owned parcels in the City of Boston, the RFP for P3 will include a Diversity and Inclusion evaluation criterion, requiring proponents to include a Diversity and Inclusion Plan to outline their commitments to including M/WBEs in all aspects of their development which will be weighted at 25 percent of the total evaluation of the parcel. Respondents will also be required to submit plans to mitigate displacement, and include a Good Jobs Strategy Plan, outlining how the proposal supports the

community's expressed priorities to create and sustain good permanent jobs in all phases of the development.

MassDevelopment oversees the Brownfields Redevelopment Fund, which helps to transform vacant, abandoned, or underused industrial or commercial properties by financing the environmental assessment and remediation of brownfield sites in "Economically Distressed Areas" of the Commonwealth. The environmental remediation at P3 is expected to begin in the coming months.

Teachers

Continued from page 1

three or four weeks, which are obviously not enough to vaccinate everybody who would like to be vaccinated today.”

Though the rollout of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine will be slow at first, Baker said that “there’s a lot of excitement about the J&J vaccine...and having a third manufacturer in the process over time will make a really big difference.”

Teacher Vaccines

Beginning March 11th, all K-12 educators, child care workers and K-12 school staff will be eligible to schedule appointments for the COVID-19 vaccine. Educators may book appointments at all 170 sites currently open to eligible residents in Massachusetts by visiting www.mass.gov/covidvaccinemap.

Additionally, the Command Center will work to designate specific days at the seven mass vaccination sites for educators to get their shots. More details will be released soon.

There are approximately 400,000 K-12 educators, child care workers and K-12 school staff in Massachusetts. Due to a severely constrained federal supply and the existing population that is currently eligible for vaccines, it is estimated that it will take a month for all eligible individuals to secure a first appointment. This timeframe is only subject to change if federal supply increases dramatically, including the recently authorized Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

Vaccine Appointments

This week, we anticipate over 250,000 doses will be administered between first and second doses across all providers throughout the Commonwealth.

On Thursday, March 4, 12,000

new first appointments for mass vaccination sites will be made available to eligible groups. Over 45,000 new second dose appointments have also been scheduled at mass vaccination sites.

The number of new appointments (first dose appointments) is less than previous weeks due to the volume of second dose appointments. 7,500 appointments have also been booked by the call center (211) for older adults who were unable to use a computer to book an appointment and required assistance.

As more individuals have received a first vaccine dose across the Commonwealth, there is a greater need to book second appointments, so the mass vaccination sites have fewer first dose appointments available on a weekly basis.

Later next week, a new Regional Collaboration will go live: the Lower Merrimack Valley regional collaboration, to include the City of Amesbury, Georgetown, Groveland, Merrimack, Newbury, Newburyport, Rowley, Salisbury and West Newbury. Details on this collaborative will be on the website at mass.gov/covidvaccinemap next week.

Johnson & Johnson Vaccine The COVID-19 Command Center was notified that Massachusetts is receiving only one shipment of 58,000 doses for the month of March. These doses have been allocated – primarily to hospitals and health systems.

Based on information the Commonwealth has received from the federal government, the Administration does not expect to be able to order more J&J doses until the end of March or early April.

While the Commonwealth is receiving limited doses of the J&J vaccine in March, the Administration is continuing to plan for eventual widespread distribution of the J&J vaccine.

CAMH

Continued from page 1

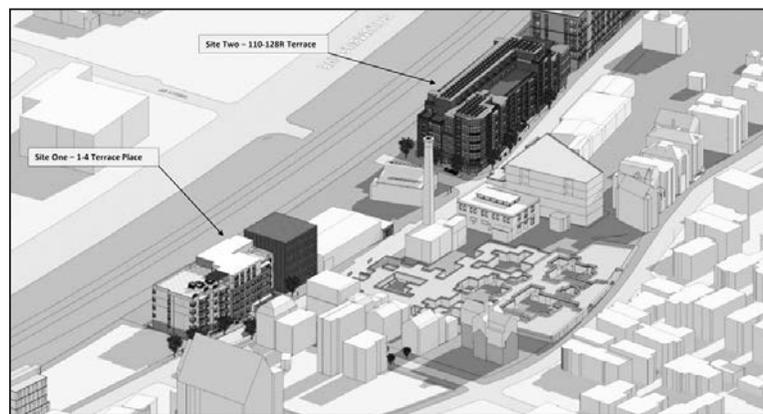
could include a sandwich shop, a bakery or some other service to the local neighborhood.

“We are open to all suggestions from the community and have no specific business in mind,” said Matthew O’Hara of Blair Capital.

Unique features of Bellevue Terrace Residences include roof decks, bicycle storage, community rooms, a pet care area, and charging stations for electric vehicles.

Both sites will be seeking variances and fall within the Article 80 review process. Thomas Maistros of Stull & Lee Architects and Planners reported that neither building had any historical significance.

Some residents expressed concern about increased traffic in the area. O’Hara replied that it’s already on the group’s radar. They’ve been working with BPDA to incorporate traffic-mitigating elements and conduct a local traffic study.



An artist rendering of a new housing complex on Terrace St.

Other residents want to prevent the sale of condos to investors who will turn them into private rentals.

“While we don’t want to hinder the value of the building with restrictions, we would likely limit the units that can be rented to 49 percent,” said O’Hara.

The group plans to manage the properties themselves.

“I can’t say with absolute certainty at this point,” O’Hara said, “but that is still my intention.”

Mike Ross of Prince Lobel Tye LLP said he thought the meeting

went well.

“We are early on in the process and will have ample time to make adjustments as we go,” he told the Gazette. “The team looks forward to their continued engagement with the residents of Mission Hill and the City of Boston.”

CAMH meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 7pm. Due to the coronavirus restrictions, all meetings will be held on Zoom for the foreseeable future.

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LOCAL STUDENTS WHO MADE THE UMASS AMHERST DEAN’S LIST

Below is a list of local students who were named to the dean’s list at the University of Massachusetts Amherst for the fall 2020 semester.

In order to qualify, an undergraduate student must receive a 3.5 grade-point average or better

on a four-point scale.

- BOSTON
- Penghui Lao
- Ariana Idalis Vazquez
- Minting Zeng
- Evan Zhu
- Xingyu Zhu
- ROXBURY CROSSING
- Joel E Colon
- Inis Mija
- Jordan Bo Wu

Virtual Public Meeting

Guidelines for the Downtown Waterfront

Wednesday, March 10
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Zoom Link: bit.ly/2NZgDyH
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 160 829 2496

Project Description:
Please join Boston Planning & Development planning for a virtual meeting to develop Design and Use Guidelines for the Downtown Waterfront. The Guidelines will inform new development and establish uniform requirements for Harborwalk, the public realm, open space resources and public use facilities. We are looking to hear your thoughts on how to better activate the Downtown Waterfront, ensure the area is welcoming and accessible to all residents and visitors, and create an improved sense of place and clarity.

Translation and interpretation services can be made available upon request by reaching out to chris.busch@boston.gov

mail to: **Chris Busch**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
phone: 617.918.4451
email: chris.busch@boston.gov

BostonPlans.org | @BostonPlans

Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

Opera In House; New operatic film breaks barriers, includes three local musicians

BY SETH DANIEL

After the Boston Lyric Opera (BLO) was ushered off the stage suddenly last March – never to return to this point – they took their talents beyond the stage to produce and distribute an innovative operatic film, “The Fall of the House of Usher” by Philip Glass, that is visually interesting, musically refreshing and politically challenging.

Any yet, none of it is live – and all of it was recorded last fall with strict COVID-19 protocols in place that sometimes didn’t even allow all the musicians to be together at the same time in rehearsals or recordings. Added on to that was the fact that it was the first time many of the musicians had played with another musician for a real production since the abrupt March closure of all performance companies.

“It was a bizarre experience to be working in this way, but a lot of instrumentalists have had experience recording before and it took us only a few minutes before we were totally on the same page and like no time had passed,” said Brett Hodgdon, a JP resident who played synthesizer and was an assistant music director for the film. “It’s so strange to be apart from each other for so long and only interacting on screens. But after a few minutes of just getting used to it again, there’s something that’s really easy and invigorating about getting back that connection.”

Said musician Richard Flanagan, “Coming back in October to perform and them putting this together was such a surprise. It wasn’t planned. It came together and had all the pieces come together to make it work. They did a lot to figure out how to keep the



Footage from the operatic film ‘Fall of the House of Usher,’ shows a unique perspective on the Philip Glass opera based on Edgar Allen Poe’s story. The Boston Lyric Opera produced the project last fall in a very creative way in adhering to COVID-19 protocols and also producing something interesting.

opera company going and for us to make money we hadn’t made in months and months. It was a gift. That’s how I explain it.”

In addition to Hodgdon, Jorge-andrés Camargo of Mission Hill sings the part of the Servant, and Flanagan, of JP, plays percussion in the Orchestra.

The film is described as a gripping, ground-breaking new creation that launches Edgar Allan Poe’s Victorian gothic horror tale into modern times. Using hand-drawn and stop-motion animation techniques alongside curated archival footage, this version of USHER tells the mysterious story with Glass’ complete score and Arthur Yorinks’ full libretto, while building a new, cinematic framework around it.

Helmed by film and opera director James Darrah, and boasting a fresh treatment by Spanish screenwriter Raúl Santos that places the opera within the story of a young immigrant girl named Luna who is detained on the U.S. border, The Fall of the House of Usher debuted exclusively on BLO’s operabox.tv last month

and will be available until June.

Watching the film is mesmerizing and intriguing, but the final product doesn’t begin to tell the lengths the company and the musicians had to go to in order to make the project happen. First of all, COVID guidelines prevented a huge orchestra from coming together close, and recording times were limited by time requirements, and singing in COVID times is a major no-no.

For singers like Camargo and musicians like Hodgdon and Flanagan, rehearsals were not the usual fair. In fact, much of it was done one-on-one with BLO Music Director David Angus – who was in the United Kingdom last fall. Musicians would go over parts individually with him, and they would use a pre-recorded “click track” to rehearse the voice parts. That went on for some time and was the way the musicians prepared for the recording sessions.

For Camargo, he actually had his first audition and rehearsal while in the middle of the woods in Minnesota – probably a first in history situation for the opera world.

The Mission Hill resident said he was helping a friend participate in an endurance road race in Minnesota when he got an e-mail from Angus wanting to do a rehearsal immediately.

“I was in the middle of the woods and on Zoom and not in



The storyline with the opera details the animated story of ‘Luna,’ a young immigrant girl who is detained on the U.S. border.

a rehearsal hall like I am used to,” he said. “I was in the car in the woods singing with Brett (Hodgdon) in Boston and David (Angus) on Zoom back in the UK somewhere. We crossed 12 different time zones there and that was amazing. I would never expect a company to have to do that.”

Hodgdon said preparation was a challenge for the production, but one they overcame successfully.

“That was a challenge of this process because there were rules about how long we could rehearse with each other,” he said. “So the idea was to make it as streamlined as possible. We recorded a click-track which is basically a metronome synced with the entire score so everyone rehearsing would be at the exact same tempo at the exact right time. That allowed us to make a recording of the piano part that singers could use for the time. They didn’t need to spend hours and hours of prep time. They could do that in their own and then we were all on the same page when we came together.”

In two days last fall, the orchestra came to the massive GBH music studio in Allston and spaced themselves out and recorded the musical score. That was mixed and then the singers had to come in individually or in pairs and record their parts using the pre-recorded score.

“Singing was a very different experience alone with a record-

ing, but it showed a lot of ingenuity on the part of the company,” Camargo said.

“It felt a little sterile, but it was a good sterile feeling,” he added. “Because we were in a pandemic environment, it was happy and sad at the same time. However, everyone was intensely excited to be able to perform.”

With the visual elements added after the musical score was finished, the final version of the film was prepared and released in late January.

It has been a curious endeavor as it has opened up a potential new possibility for the BLO. The project is certainly not just a video of musicians and singers doing opera, but a version of opera that challenges the previous notion of the art form.

Will it have a place after the pandemic, or just be a bit of crisis nostalgia.

Flanagan said he thinks it can be a permanent part of the BLO going forward – a supplement to their in-person performances when COVID-19 allows such performances.

“I have a feeling it could be used to a huge advantage for the BLO going forward,” he said. “It would really expand people’s love of music and keep music around another 100 years...This might be that perfect storm. It has a lot of upside because the production we did with Usher was fulfilling from many perspectives on every level...Every box was checked with a ‘yes.’ It was a home run really.”

“The Fall of the House of Usher” is made available on-demand (\$10 for a seven-day rental) on the BLO’s operabox channel. Operabox.tv is available at the operabox.tv website and through branded apps available on Apple, Google, Amazon and Roku platforms.

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Council holds hearing on implementation of Police Reform Task Force recommendations

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The City Council Committee on Public Safety and Criminal Justice, chaired by Councilor Andrea Campbell, held a hearing on March 2 regarding the implementation of recommendations of the Boston Police Reform Task Force.

Several councilors expressed their dissatisfaction with the fact that no representatives from the Boston Police Department (BPD) or the administration were present at the hearing to provide information or answer questions.

Campbell said that “late in the day” on March 1, the administration told the City Council that no one from the administration would attend the hearing, and provided a letter that included “general updates” regarding the implementation of the police reform bill.

“The letter does not provide any specifics regarding a timeline of implementation,” she said, nor does it provide an “opportunity” for specific questions to be asked or any specific information about whether or not any Boston Police officers participated in the insurrection at the US Capitol in January, which she said the council has received many questions about.

“Residents are counting on us to act with urgency and attention,” Campbell said.

She said that “just a few months ago,” legislation creating the Office of Police Accountability and Transparency (OPAT) was passed and, the Council and others “celebrated the mayor’s commitment to adopt all of the recommendations.”

Campbell said there is a “big difference between commitments and action,” and the purpose of this hearing was to learn about the city’s plans to implement the recommendations of the Boston Police Reform Task Force.

“These last and latest police reforms should be an opportunity for the city to do things differently,” Campbell said, “since we know that the City has not effectively delivered on its commitments to police reform in the past.”

She said that there were “lots of questions” from the Council and residents for the BPD members of the administration.

This hearing was co-sponsored by Councilors Julia Mejia and Ricardo Arroyo, who agreed that not having the administration

present was a severe detriment.

Mejia said that it shows a “lack of regard for the community and the process,” and “shows a lack of care for our constituents.”

Arroyo said that the administration’s “lack of presence does not shield them from accountability,” and assured residents that the Council will get the answers everyone is looking for as well as ensure that the recommendations are implemented.

Boston resident Carrie Mays testified about her experience as a Black woman in Boston.

“One thing I do not love is the abusive domestic relationship I’m in with America as a Black woman,” she said, adding that it is “no surprise that police brutality does exist here in Boston.”

She shared her story about a 2018 encounter with the BPD where she feared for her life.

“I had never seen a gun before, let alone seen one pointed at my face,” she said. It was the day before her 18th birthday, and Mays said she was standing with her mother and her grandmother in their driveway when five officers “pulled a gun out” on the three women.

She said that it was a case of “mistaken identity,” and said that the officers were “completely skipping all the proper police protocol; just guns aimed at our faces.”

Mays said that once the officers “realized they had the wrong people” they lowered their guns and left.

“I thought they were going to kill us,” she said. “I thought I wasn’t going to make it to 18. As a City, we must do better, and include youth like me in the conversation.”

Harrison Clark, a 21-year-old college student, also shared a story about an encounter with police. He said that last year, he was meeting a friend for burgers after work, and when he got to his friend’s car, he saw that he was “visibly shaken up.”

When he asked his friend what had happened, the friend said that he was stopped on the highway in Boston on his way in from Brockton and was “surrounded by at least four or five police cars with weapons drawn and he was forcibly taken out of the car and put into the backseat.” Clark said that the car was a rental, as his friend had an electrical issue with his own car, and the rental car “was involved in some criminal activity that he had no

affiliation with.”

He said that the police were looking for two Black males, and added that he couldn’t help but wonder what would have happened if he had been in the car with his friend, as that would have further “affirmed their assumptions that we were the guilty party.”

Clark said that things like this unfortunately happen “all the time,” and he said he wants to “see more done from the administration. I always see that people acknowledge problems, but I want to see implementation of real policies. This is the real world; these have real consequences for people.”

Larry Calderone, a representative from the Boston Police Patrolmen’s Association (BPPA), said that the association represents “1600 odd patrol officers that answer the 911 calls on the street daily, and without a doubt I believe that we should have been involved at the beginning, and every invitation that you extend, I’ll do my best to have a seat at the table and a voice and try to clear up issues that people are experiencing out in the City of Boston.”

He added that “it’s awful to hear these stories, but I also have to say publicly that I think my membership; the men and women out there daily are doing a great job. It’s not to say people aren’t experiencing what they say they’re experiencing on the street, but I don’t read about Boston Police officers in the paper being accused of things that may happen in other parts of the country.”

Councilor Mejia brought up the relationship between the police department and immigration enforcement, and Ivan Espinoza-Madrigal, the Executive Director of Lawyers for Civil Rights, said that “there is a deep intersection between law enforcement and immigration enforcement. That is an entanglement that is incredibly dangerous. If witnesses and victims of crime think that they will be turned over to immigration if their immigration status is discovered, that chills their ability to come forward to report crime and to help resolve crime.”

He said that “any connection” between the two “must cease,” adding that “It is really critical that we stand by our values as a sanctuary city to make sure that immigrants are never

asked about their immigration status and that information is not shared with ICE so that police officers can continue to serve with trust and confidence in the community and without raising the specter of deportation as they are encountering victims and witnesses of crimes.”

Councilor Mejia also asked for some clarification surrounding what might happen should it be discovered that a BPD officer was participating in the insurrection at the Capitol.

Jeff Feuer, Chair of the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild, said that it a police officer “participated in criminal acts” that move beyond attending a rally or speech, such as what happened at the Capitol, including “trespassing, destroying property, attempting to injure other police officers, attempting to interfere with Congress, and so forth, they can face consequences up to and including termination from their job.”

He said that Massachusetts’ new police reform bill “directly addresses this, laying out that officers are to be held to a higher standard” and that they “should lose certification as police officers.”

Feuer said that “we obviously at this point don’t have answers as to whether or not there were Boston Police officers participating and if there were Boston Police officers or other police officers from Massachusetts participating down there; whether they broke the law, whether they were engaged in the types of criminal activity that we all witnessed.”

He said that police officers in “Massachusetts and elsewhere are held to a standard of conduct that is above and beyond that which private citizens are held to,” as private citizens cannot arrest others or carry guns and clubs.

“If they’re going to have that kind of power and that kind of responsibility,” Feuer said of police, “then they have that obligation to

conduct themselves in a way that is completely within the law, both legally and morally, and ethically as well.”

Campbell said that the testimony provided at this hearing was a good example of why the city “need[s]” to get the OPAT and Civilian Review Board in place “immediately” and “funded appropriately,” she said “so folks have a place to go to truly get some sense of accountability.”

Rahsaan Hall, Director of the Racial Justice Program for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), said that “the task force recommendations, the creation of the OPAT are an important opportunity to really transform the way that policing happens in the City of Boston. I still think that the City needs to really reckon with the growing demand for alternatives to policing.”

He said this could include having more counselors in schools, as well as as a “greater investment in the underlying needs that our young people and the residents of Boston are dealing with, and those demands aren’t going to go anywhere.”

Campbell said that there will be more hearings to come regarding implementation of the recommendations and “to get updates on the status of things,” where she said she hopes the administration will be present.

“I do specifically plan on filing a 17F [order] with respect to the investigations that are happening as to whether an officer or officers participated in the insurrection on the capital, because we continue to get questions about that,” Campbell said. The 17F order is a request for specific information from the Mayor, a week after which the Mayor must answer. “There was a suggestion or a comment at some point that the department was actually doing an investigation, but no one knows anything else.”

The full hearing can be viewed on the Boston City Council YouTube channel.

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What's Happening on Main Streets

BY ELLEN WALKER
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Mission Hill Framers' market is open for business this Winter. Yes, it's true and it's thriving! In addition to picking up your organically grown vegetables and using SNAP, you can also find some delightful, rustic birdhouses to purchase at the market. Conveniently located at the Orange Line Roxbury Crossing MBTA Station it is open from 11:00am-6:00pm depending on the weather.

Despite COVID, February has been a busy month in Mission Hill. Several community meetings took place to discuss a variety of topics. Wentworth Institute of Technology's Johanna Sena presented at the Community Task Force Meeting to discuss the proposed two-year IMP (Institutional Master Plan) renewal, stating there would be



Birdhouses at MH Farmers Winter Market.

no changes to the campus at this time and talked about potential plans. IMPs must be renewed every 10 years by educational and medical institutions and includes development projects, growth projections and community benefits. As you can imagine, it takes a few years to put one

together and if not ready to put one forward, an extension can be requested, as Wentworth did due to delays by both a change in Presidents at WIT and COVID restrictions.

Gary Walling, President of CAMH (Community Association of Mission Hill) led a lively discussion about development projects on Terrace Street at the latest CAMH meeting. It is great to see how active and committed the Mission Hill community is by their participation in these meetings and conversations about the development and trends here. More details can be found in CAMH's monthly article in this issue.

Gary is a familiar face in the neighborhood as he has been here since 2009 with his lovely family. He went on to say "I love Mission Hill because it is a tight-knit community that is very welcoming. I know al-



Shayna Seymour, co-anchor of Chronicle making a glass paperweight at Diablo Glass School.

most all my neighbors here in the Historic Triangle and have gotten to know so many people through my involvement in CAMH, Main Streets, and Ward 10 Democratic Committee. I love that we have so many great local places we can go to: Milkweed Café, The Mission, Penguin Piz-

za, Mike's Donuts, Solid Ground Café, Laughing Monk, etc. We have great pubs (well when you could hang out in pubs before COVID): Puddingstone, Squealing Pig, Flann's." Gary's last statement reflects the nature of our neighborhood the best – "Mission Hill feels like a small town in the middle of Boston."

We hope you caught the Chronicle WCVB Channel 5 show February 25, that featured several Mission Hill business owners! If not, you can catch in on YouTube: All Walks of Life Call Mission Hill Home. As part of a series on Happening Hoods this one focused on "Happening Hills" and included businesses on Tremont and Terrace Streets here in the neighborhood. Among those local business owners who were featured is Pedro Aguirre of Vanity Loft Salon, Mike Pires of Kush Groove Shop, Ellen Garvey from Diablo Glass taught Chronicle's co-anchor Shayna Seymour how to make a glass paperweight while Milkweed Café's Ben Johnson made some mouthwatering dishes.

Do join in our Winter promotion "Love your Mission Hill restaurants" for a little fun and to help support ALL restaurants in Mission Hill. There are over 30 restaurants here and MHMS, with social media help from Northeastern University's Community Ambassadors (CA's) and support from Needham Bank, is running a promotion with new tee shirts offered each month designed to encourage more people to dine-in, order takeout or delivery. It's easy to win! Just post 10 Facebook or Instagram photos of your meal from any of the restaurants in the neighborhood to win a FREE tee



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Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll



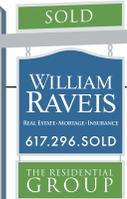
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Main Streets

Continued from page 8

shirt! Last month's theme was "Show your love for Mission Hill restaurants!" while this month is "Celebrate your love for Mission Hill restaurants!" with a big shamrock and the MH skyline. You can also mail in 10 receipts to receive a tee shirt (MHMS, 1542 Tremont St., Boston, MA 02120).

Under Mayor Walsh, the City of Boston last year recognized the importance of local, small businesses, especially those that have been operating for 20 years

or more. Mission Hill boasts over 16 Legacy businesses with Hillside Market (which first opened in 1919) being the oldest, continuous run business for 102 years! One family in Mission Hill is an example of the strength of hard-working small business owners and the success they can achieve. Nick Patel, owner of the Hillside Market at 82 Hillside Street, is one of those who has seen the results of years of effort. His market offers everything one needs – cleaning products, ice creams and a selection of international foods that appeal to his customers. Nick, a Mission Hill

resident for over twelve years, has owned Hillside Market for three years and just recently purchased the Huntington Market at 818 Huntington Avenue across from Roxbury Tenants of Harvard. He says his success is due to hard work and "being good to people." Nick loves his neighbors and says, "they are all good people."

Until next month, please be safe, practice social distancing and wash your hands.

"You can't use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have." Maya Angelou



Pedro Aguirre of Vanity Loft Salon.

CAMH

Continued from page 1

En 110-128R Terrace St., los promotores están planeando un proyecto de 87.000 pies cuadrados, con venta minorista a nivel del suelo y 80 unidades de alquiler. El edificio tiene 62 pies de altura, una relación área-suelo de 4,87, y 30 estacionamientos.

Las unidades variarán en tamaño desde microunidades hasta dúplex de tres habitaciones. El comercio minorista a nivel del suelo podría incluir una tienda de sándwiches, una panadería o algún otro servicio para el vecindario local.

"Estamos abiertos a todas las sugerencias de la comunidad", dijo Matthew O'Hara de Blair Capital.

Las características únicas de Belleview Terrace Residences incluyen terrazas en el techo, espacio para guardar bicicletas, salas comunitarias, un área para el cuidado de mascotas y estaciones de carga para vehículos eléctricos.

Ambos sitios buscarán variaciones y se incluirán en el proceso de revisión del Artículo 80. Thomas Maistros de Stull & Lee Architects and Planners informó que ninguno de los edificios tenía ningún significado histórico.

Algunos residentes expresaron preocupación por el aumento del tráfico en la zona. O'Hara respondió que han estado trabajando con BPDA para incorporar elementos de prevención de tráfico y realizar un estudio de tráfico local.

Otros residentes quieren evitar la venta de condominios a inversionistas que los convertirán en alquileres privados.

"No queremos reducir el valor del edificio con restricciones, pero probablemente limitaremos las unidades que se pueden alquilar

al 49 por ciento", dijo O'Hara.

El grupo planea administrar las propiedades ellos mismos.

"No puedo decir con absoluta certeza en este momento", dijo O'Hara, "pero esa sigue siendo mi intención".

Mike Ross de Prince Lobel Tye LLP dijo que la reunión salió bien.

"Estamos en las primeras etapas del proceso y tendremos

tiempo suficiente para hacer ajustes a medida que avanzamos", dijo. "El equipo espera su compromiso continuo con los residentes de Mission Hill y la ciudad de Boston".

CAMH se reúne el tercer miércoles del mes a las 7 pm. Debido a las restricciones del coronavirus, todas las reuniones se llevarán a cabo en Zoom en el futuro previsible.



Hillside Market and Huntington Market owner, Nick Patel.



Ben Johnson of Milkweed Cafe.

Hill Happenings

BY MOSSY MARTIN

Happy belated birthday on March 3 to Eric Alden, a terrific advocate for our Mission Hill community.

Eric is the vice president of Mission Hill Main Streets, and in 2018, he was the recipient of the Mission Hill Main Streets Volunteer of the Year Award.

Eric, who grew up on the Hill, is a diligent worker, and he is the C.E.O. of Longwood Properties Inc. in Mission Hill. He currently resides in Westwood with his attractive wife, Christine and their pretty twin 16-year-old daughters, Lauren and Kendall. Eric also volunteers his time in Westwood, coaching youth soccer and flag football.

Some years back when Eric worked at the Larz Anderson Museum in Brookline, he would borrow the vintage firetruck and drive it through the course of the annual Mission Hill Little League parade to the delight of the kids.



The Calumet Market, circa 1995.

There wasn't a Mission Hill Little League last year due to the pandemic, and in previous years, the league interest was waning, with barely enough players to field teams. Hopefully the league can be revived.

On our "I Grew up on Mission Hill" Facebook page, Richie Stanton (a great athlete, Mission High '64) posted an interesting story from The Boston Globe archives about Max Siegal, who died in 2017 at age 99. The Globe wrote; "Max and his brother, Ralph opened a market in the '40s that was soon called the Cal-

umet Market, located at Tremont and Calumet [Street]. Max Siegal was also an accomplished singer, who sang in several choral groups. Max was a lawyer and was instrumental in starting the Railroad-Pullmen's union."

A few decades later, he helped start the Mission Church Credit Union. An abundance of Hill residents worked at the Market throughout the decades including Larry Cronin, Mission High '68.

Larry worked at the Calumet Market throughout high school

and into his years at Northeastern University.

Said Larry: "Max Siegal had a major influence on my life and I have great love and admiration for him."

John Keefe, who lived on Wait Street, earned his wages working as a butcher at the Market in the '50s. John is the grandfather of my good friend, Christine Keiley, Mission High Class of 1969.

Eventually Max's son, Dan took over the business and he later sold the Calumet Market to the Kelliher family.

The Calumet Market closed in 2000.

Condolences to the family of Joe Grogan, who passed away last month. Joe, from the Mission Hill project, was a stately citizen, having served in Vietnam as a Marine. After his tour of duty in the Marines, Joe served in the Navy for 20 years.

I got to know Joe a bit during the summer of 1969 when he returned home from Vietnam. I'm a good friend of Joe's young-

er brother, Davey Grogan and during that summer, Davey, several other Mission Hill guys and myself rented a cottage for the summer down the Cape in Fal-mouth.

Joe visited our summer abode for a weekend and it was a pleasure to get to know this quiet classy patriotic gentleman.

R.I.P. Joe.

I occasionally think back to that marvelous 1969 summer on Cape Cod.

Davey, Jack Todd, Steve Casey and John "Harpo" Foley, with whom I shared the cottage, were quite a cast of characters and also great Mission Hill guys.

Where are they now?

Paul "Shaky" Roberts, a former Mission Hill man from the old days is doing well and living in Florida. Shaky was a personable bartender at "The Golden Dome" many years ago.

"The Dome" was a popular tavern across from the State House that thirsty Mission Hill folks would frequent.

Streets

Continued from page 1

website for the project.

"We are the oldest and largest urban Main Streets program in the country," Urtubey said, and "we want to really be able to measure our success."

The process uses an online survey as well as a series of 10 listening sessions to look at existing programs within the Main Streets districts to see what is working and where gaps may lie. "Setting goals and metrics across the Main Streets I think will be a really critical piece," Urtubey said.

"Even prior to COVID, equity has been at the forefront of what we do," she said, adding that the hope is always to create jobs, but also "really creating place in our commercial districts," and "giving people a reason" to spend their money at local businesses.

"For us, it's really important for us to know the gaps in services that maybe we haven't looked into or know about yet, and I think that's one of the key rea-

sons why I think that's so important for local stakeholders to take part in that conversation, residents, anyone who engages with that commercial district should be participating," she said.

Urtubey also said that "critical" feedback from business owners is how the City can better communicate with them about resources that are available to ensure that they are receiving proper support.

The final listening session is scheduled for March 11, after which the City and project consultants will create a report of what was learned from the sessions, including trends heard across districts. Right now, no specific information is available to be shared, Urtubey said.

Walker explained that some of the general feedback includes the desire for IT and language support, as well as financial resources, among other things.

"COVID has exacerbated the need for financial relief and access to capital; we've seen that across the board with large businesses and small businesses, and that will absolutely continue to

be a huge need moving forward," Urtubey said.

"COVID has opened the doors," Walker said, and "enabled" business owners to connect with their Main Streets organizations and the City, even if they never have before.

Walker said that she feels the listening sessions are "very comfortable; very welcoming," and include breakout sessions for business owners as well as other stakeholders and residents to discuss any struggles they are facing and then come back to the whole group to present.

"People who came in were just very open and interested in being there and gave some honest feedback," Walker said. "Communication is really important if you want to hear that consistency there."

Urtubey said that the structure of the listening sessions is "focused on making sure people understand the role of Main Streets," and are given an overview of the project. The project consultants offer questions and prompts geared towards gaining valuable information that will be

used to create recommendations for the districts, and then folks are provided with next steps and how they can continue participating in the process.

She said these sessions are "about building on previous engagement and building new engagement as well."

She continued, "there's a level of visibility we want to bring to Main Streets districts," and "we want local tourism to be a part of this in a way, [and] getting people from inside and outside of Boston to explore the district" is also a key element.

She said that this "allows us to think about what are some creative solutions to support businesses?"

Urtubey said that initiatives like the City's outdoor dining program and other ways to "leverage public space" and "improve the quality of life for residents" are things the City is thinking about in terms of supporting small businesses and helping them thrive, while driving residents and visitors alike to the districts.

Right now, the Reimagine Boston Main Streets program is "still

in the community engagement process," Urtubey said, and the next step includes the analysis of the community engagement, "which will lead to more of a community survey."

She said that "my hope is that we'll continue to engage Main Street directors and other stakeholders in the process moving forward," and by this coming fall, a set of recommendations is expected to be ready to be released by the City.

For more information and to participate, people can join the email list by emailing reimaginebostonmainstreet@boston.gov, as well as visiting the Reimagine Boston Main Street Facebook page, taking the online survey at boston.gov/departments/small-business-development/reimagine-boston-main-streets, and/or by attending one of the remaining listening sessions, which can also be found on the website.

"I think it's being positively received," Walker said of the program. "It's always good to look what you've done, where you are, and where you want to be. It's an important time to be doing this."

Two firms announced for Boston's first urban forest plan

Martin J. Walsh and Boston Parks and Recreation Commissioner Ryan Woods last month announced two consultants have been selected to develop Boston's Urban Forest Plan.

Boston landscape architecture firm Stoss Landscape Urbanism and forestry consultant Urban Canopy Works have been selected to co-lead the effort to develop the City of Boston's first Urban Forest Plan. Stoss was awarded the contract with Urban Canopy Works as a subconsultant. The 20-year plan will set citywide goals for canopy protection, be responsive to climate change and development, and enhance the quality of life for all Bostonians. The Urban Forest Plan will be a collaborative effort that includes a community advisory group, interdepartmental working group and community outreach. Recognizing that environmental injustice exists in Boston, the planning process will embed support for communities that have

been disproportionately impacted by environmental stressors. Planning will touch upon a wide variety of topics, such as ecology, design, policy, practices and funding.

"Trees are an important part of making Boston's communities resilient. This plan is the first of its kind in Boston, and it will expand and protect one of our most precious natural resources, while prioritizing the needs of our residents," said Mayor Walsh. "Developing an urban forest plan is important to ensure our tree canopy in Boston is equitable, responsive to climate change and ensures quality of life for all Bostonians. This collaborative project with Stoss Landscape Urbanism and Urban Canopy Works will prioritize community input to ensure that residents in our neighborhoods have a central voice in this process."

Said Woods, "It's no coincidence that many of the communities disproportionately impact-

ed by poor air quality and the urban 'heat island' effect, also have inadequate tree cover. We're excited to collaborate with these partners to find opportunities for growing tree canopy in the places that need it most."

The project team will also work closely with a community advisory group and an interdepartmental working group with input from residents, community organizations, businesses, and institutions. Kicking off in spring of 2021, the planning process will take approximately one year to complete. The community advisory group will be formed in late spring of this year. The public will have an opportunity to weigh in on the plan in early fall, after the assessment and scoping phases.

One of the project tasks, along with scoping the project and assessing the existing state of the canopy, will be to develop a plan for engaging the community. The outreach plan will prioritize pop-

ulations that have been disproportionately exposed to environmental stressors; be sensitive to differences in cultures, economic realities, and built environments across Boston; incorporate City of Boston Language and Communications Access guidelines; consider equity and accessibility in both in-person and online engagement strategies; and retain flexibility to adapt engagement strategies in response to changing public health recommendations.

Joining Stoss Landscape Urbanism and Urban Canopy Works, the plan will be developed with contributions from American Forests, Nitsch Engineering, PlanITGeo, local experts, and the public. Dr. Neenah-Estrella Luna of Northeastern University will support the effort to make environmental justice the foundation of the project.

The final plan document will highlight policy tools to control canopy loss on private property, as well as guidelines for protecting and expanding canopy on public property, like streets and parks. Over the past five years, tree removals on residential, private, and institutional property have been the main contributors

to canopy loss. The finalized plan will provide recommendations for canopy protection and expansion through proposed changes to the development review process, as well as new policies and ordinances, including draft language and methods of enforcement aimed at protecting and expanding the tree canopy.

The Urban Forest Plan is a critical piece of the vision for the City's tree canopy goals laid out in Imagine Boston 2030 and Climate Ready Boston.

In addition to the \$500,000 budgeted for the Urban Forest Plan, historic investments in Boston's tree canopy this year will also support the hiring of a new arborist and the added capacity for up to 1,000 additional tree plants, doubling the total capacity to 2,000 trees planted per year. The Tree Canopy Assessment, released in September, supports efforts to increase access to trees and their benefits in "under-treed" neighborhoods, as a part of the City's commitment to environmental justice. For more information about Boston's Urban Forest Plan, please email parks@boston.gov.

Santiago logs major fundraising for February in mayoral race

BY SETH DANIEL

With just one week of campaigning under his belt, South End State Rep. Jon Santiago stepped out strong in the fundraising realm, announcing the second largest monthly fundraising total of any candidate in the mayoral race so far.

Santiago's campaign announced that he raised more than \$274,000 in the month of February, even with having announced his campaign towards the end of the month. That figure was just \$1,000 behind the record so far, which belongs to Councilor Andrea Campbell, who announced her candidacy last fall and raised a 2021 record of \$275,000 in January.

At the close of the February reporting period, the monthly mayoral fundraising figure brought Santiago to having a cash on hand figure of more than \$400,000. Santiago entered the race for mayor just six days prior to the deadline.

"We are so proud and excited to have earned the support of so many from across Boston and beyond who share in Jon's commitment to unify the city and bring us back from this pandemic, stronger than ever," said Santiago Campaign Manager

Victoria Williams. "Jon's call for neighbors to join him in writing the next chapter of our Boston story is clearly resonating and we can't wait to keep building this movement."

Santiago's campaign plans to use the early fundraising success to organize citywide and bring his message directly to voters.

"These campaign funds are going to be invested directly into community organizing," said Williams. "We know the path to victory lies in building a powerful organization, fueled by volunteers and community leaders from every background who share in our vision. We started that work on day one."

The second largest fundraising figure came from Councilor Annissa Essaibi George, who raised \$192,142 according to filings at the Office of Campaign and Political Finance (OCPF). She now has \$270,294 cash on hand two months since her announcement.

Santiago's filing with OCPF was lower than \$274,000, at \$233,719, but campaign officials said that number did not contain donations received on Feb. 28, as it was a Sunday. Figuring in two large bank deposits from contributions on Sunday, they were able to eclipse the \$274,000

mark.

Campbell continued her brisk fundraising efforts in February, logging \$157,307 for the month of February. That, however, was a follow up to a very impressive January number when she set a record for the race.

Her campaign reported it was the most that any Black candidate had ever raised in a month for Boston mayor, and she included that it came from around 900 donors.

Her cash on hand figure was at \$841,341 after February and that put her in the lead with the most money headed into the spring.

However, not far behind her is Councilor Michelle Wu, who also had a very good month in January, raising just more than \$267,000, according to her campaign. That, however, came from 1,800 donors – which was double the number of donors compared to Campbell. In January, the Wu Campaign said it also recruited 300 new volunteers and had 23 campaign events.

In February, Wu raised the least amount of money as any candidate, coming in at \$136,357. However, she still had the second largest war chest at \$833,367, which was only slightly behind Campbell and far ahead of Santiago and Essaibi George.

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BPS receives over 900 instruments and accessories valued at over \$500K from StubHub

This week, seven Boston public elementary schools are recipients of a generous donation consisting of over 900 instruments and accessories, valued at over \$500,000. The donation from StubHub, made possible by a partnership with The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation, is part of StubHub's three-year commitment to put over \$3 million in music instruments into public school music programs. It also kicks off a community-wide program to enhance the district's music education program.

"Creating joyful learning environments is a priority at Boston Public Schools. Music education has become an increasingly important part of that mission," said Dr. Brenda Cassellius, Superintendent of the Boston Public Schools. "We are so grateful to have so many amazing partners, including StubHub and The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation, who put these valuable instruments into the hands of our creative and eager students. Support from community partners like the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Zumix make our programs more resourceful and comprehensive, while reinforcing to our students our commitment to the arts, through music education and other artistic mediums."

"We are thrilled to see our multi-year partnership with The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation continue to benefit public school music programs that need support," said Akshay Khanna, General Manager of North America for StubHub. "We know that Boston Public Schools has been working to implement stronger

music programs over the last few years and we are pleased to be a part of empowering and amplifying these admirable efforts."

This gift acts as what is known as a "multiplier event," indicating coordination across multiple organizations focused on strengthening the sustainability of music education through a number of unique partnerships for creative youth development, Boston Public School (BPS) music educators, and the Boston arts community. Partnership support includes:

- The Boston Symphony Orchestra is contributing by providing instrument tutorial videos made by Orchestra musicians to help the students understand how to assemble and care for the new instruments they're receiving.

- The Community Music Center of Boston and the New England Conservatory of Music (NEC) are providing teaching artists to offer instrument repair workshops from the local music store, Virtuosity Music. Beginning in February, four NEC Teaching Fellows will be placed at three East Boston elementary schools to assist music teachers weekly as they get their students started on their new instruments.

- Zumix will offer future after school instruction and is also building plans to offer the students a vacation music camp in April.

- EdVestors, a non-profit partner, has continuously helped fund the expansion of music education in the region along with professional development for the music educators.

Plus, as part of BPS arts curriculum expansion and the district's focus on creating culturally and linguistically sustaining practices, students will be utilizing a new band method book, created by the district's arts program, that embraces a multicultural curriculum.

The instruments, which will benefit more than 5,000 students in their lifespan, are being distributed to the schools and students throughout the winter.

"This instrument donation allows the district to broadly increase sequential band instruction in seven elementary schools where it did not previously exist," said Anthony Beatrice, BPS Executive Director for the Arts. "The music educators have been meeting since summer to plan for both the implementation of the new band programs as well as a long-term strategic vision for the East Boston region."

"StubHub and The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation have made an incredible investment in the Boston Public Schools music department! As a nationally recognized creative youth development center, ZUMIX is excited to partner with BPS to ensure all students have access to high quality music education. We look forward to building a music pipeline from elementary school to college, and to making Boston one of the most musical cities in the country! It will take a village to make this vision possible, and ZUMIX is proud to be part of the team!" said Madeleine Steczynski, Co-Founder and Executive Director of Zumix.

"We're thrilled to have our

Boston Symphony Orchestra musicians collaborate with these wonderful music educators and students through the BPS/BSO partnership. There's nothing quite as exciting as picking up an instrument for the first time, so having the opportunity to help bring that experience to life for young people in our community is an honor! We look forward to hearing these young artists in the years to come, both in their classrooms and at Symphony Hall, where they have recently performed with the Boston Pops," said Mark Volpe, Eunice and Julian Cohen President and Chief Executive Officer, Boston Symphony Orchestra.

"New England Conservatory's Community Performances and Partnerships Program is thrilled to broaden its long-standing partnership with Boston Public Schools as we contribute to the launch of this program," said Tanya Maggi, Dean of Community Engagement and Professional Studies for NEC. "We look forward to supporting this project and its enhancement of critical access to music education for young learners in the Boston Public Schools," added Grace Allendorf, Associate Director of Community Performances and Partnerships for NEC.

"EdVestors is honored to serve as the lead partner of the collective effort to expand equitable access to quality, sequential arts for all BPS students, known as BPS Arts Expansion. We are pleased to have so many of our arts partners involved in this instrumental music effort building on more than a decade of work, and are

grateful to StubHub and Mr. Holland's Opus for their generous investment in our young people," said Marinell Rousmaniere, EdVestors President and CEO.

Music education is a core part of StubHub's social impact mission. In 2018, StubHub made a three-year commitment to put \$3 million in music instruments into public school music programs from the StubHub Foundation, in partnership with The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation. Adding to a 2015 program that initially put \$2M in musical instruments into over 50 public schools across the United States, this commitment brings StubHub's total giving to a total of \$5M in instruments over the last five years.

Selected school districts are chosen collaboratively between MHOF and StubHub, with awarded schools chosen by MHOF through its established selection criteria. Interested schools are invited to inquire directly through MHOF. To learn more, visit www.stubhub.com/giving-back. Music education is seeing dwindling public and private support, with low-income school students receiving the least amount of local government funding, according to the National Center for Education. Research from The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation shows that schools with music programs have an estimated 90 percent graduation rate and 93 percent attendance rate compared to schools without music education, which average 72 percent for graduation and 85 percent in attendance.



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MFA receives gift of 48 Henryk Ross photographs depicting life inside a WWII Jewish Ghetto

The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA), has received a gift of 48 photographs by Henryk Ross (1910–1991), which offer an extraordinarily rare glimpse of life inside Poland's Lodz Ghetto during the Holocaust. Donated to the MFA by collector Howard Greenberg, the group of gelatin silver prints was originally given directly by Ross to Lova Szmuskowicz, later Leon Sutton (1909–2007), a fellow survivor of the Lodz Ghetto who brought them to the U.S. when he immigrated to New York City in 1947. The prints represent a significant range of both official images, which Ross took as a photographer for the ghetto's Department of Statistics, and the unofficial photographs that he took secretly at great personal risk, which documented the grim realities of life inside.

"This extraordinary collection of images reminds us of photography's power to preserve and amplify the full emotional range of lived experience. Together, these 48 photographs serve as both memory and documentary evidence of the extremes of war. They are powerful and memorable," said Matthew Te-

itelbaum, Ann and Graham Gund Director. "Imagine the journey: passed from the photographer to a fellow prisoner in the Lodz Ghetto, hidden and brought to New York City in a small envelope, passed from one generation to another after a lifetime of care, and now preserved permanently in one of America's great collections of photography. That, too, is powerful and memorable."

The Lodz Ghetto was the largest-existing and second-largest, after Warsaw, of at least 1,000 ghettos established by the Nazis to isolate Jews within the Eastern European cities that the regime occupied between 1939 and 1945. Previously a photojournalist for the Polish press, Ross was confined to the ghetto in 1940 with his wife, Stefania. Put to work by the Nazi regime, Ross was assigned to illustrate the productivity and efficiency of the ghetto and make identification cards for registered workers. At the same time, the photographs that Ross took in secret documented the ghetto's deplorable and steadily deteriorating living conditions as well as the deportations of residents to

extermination camps at Chelmno and Auschwitz.

When the Nazis ordered the final liquidation of the Lodz Ghetto in 1944, Ross was among a group of about 900 residents held back to clean up and gather property from empty buildings, while Sutton was among those deported to Auschwitz. It was then that Ross buried a box of his negatives in the ground. Three months after the ghetto was liberated by the Russian Red Army in January 1945, he excavated the box. The prints in the group acquired by the MFA—the first photographs by Ross to enter the Museum's collection and among the rare few owned by a U.S. museum—were made before 1945 and given by Ross directly to Sutton, who returned to Lodz after Auschwitz's liberation and subsequently brought them to New York City.

Sutton's son, Paul Sutton, inherited the photographs from his father and understood their importance after seeing *Memory Unearthed: The Lodz Ghetto Photographs of Henryk Ross*, an exhibition that the MFA hosted in 2017. Sutton then contacted

Greenberg, a prominent collector of photography and gallery dealer, who purchased the group and subsequently donated it to the Museum.

Born in Lodz, Poland, Leon Sutton was the son of a textile factory owner and lived in the Lodz Ghetto during World War II. After receiving the photographs from Ross and bringing them to the U.S., Sutton kept them in an envelope, where they have been preciously held for most of the last 75 years. The prints' exceptional provenance allows the MFA to preserve and tell multiple stories, including that of emigration from Europe after World War II.

"The journey of these photographs is fascinating, one that touches many different people along the way—starting with their beginning with the courageous Henryk Ross, passed to his friend Leon Sutton, then to his son Paul and acquired by me two years ago. We're all delighted that these works will find a final home at the MFA and be shared with generations to come," said Greenberg. "It is especially meaningful for me to be able to donate them in

honor of Jacques Preis, trustee of the Leonian Trust, who believes in the power of photography. The story of Leon Sutton—and all the brave people who endured the Lodz Ghetto and those who perished—should never be forgotten."

A significant addition to the MFA's documentary holdings, the photographs by Ross bolster the Museum's mission to represent the many different histories of the medium. They complement the MFA's growing collection of photographs from World War II and join those of other Jewish photojournalists, including Robert Capa, Eva Besnyo, Roman Vishniac and Clemens Kalisher.

"These photographs provide an intimate visual record of a harrowing time in history," said Kristen Gresh, Estrellita and Yousuf Karsh Senior Curator of Photographs. "One of the images in particular is incredible to see because we have only ever seen a reproduction of a damaged negative likely from the same roll of film that had looked as though it had been burned. Seeing the print of this otherwise lost moment in time is a truly moving experience."

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EDITORIAL

We must be wary of the virus

With the arrival of the vaccines and the spring season, it is clear that there is a light at the end of the tunnel from our year-long battle with COVID-19.

However, the good news that has been seen in the past month across the country, in terms of dramatic reductions in cases, deaths, and hospitalizations, by no means should make any of us think that we can let our guard down against this shape-shifting, deadly virus.

The variants of COVID-19 that are working their way through our population are more contagious and thought to be deadlier than the original, and may even present a challenge to the efficacy of the vaccines.

In addition, very few of us actually have been vaccinated. Although the Johnson & Johnson one-shot vaccine was approved for use this past weekend, the company will not be able to begin distributing its vaccine in large numbers until the end of March.

While it may be true that we are winning the war against COVID, every American must realize that COVID-19 is a hunter and we are its prey. Until each of us can get vaccinated over the next two months, we must remain vigilant and practice all of the things we have been doing to stay safe for the past year -- wearing a mask, avoiding large groups, washing our hands frequently, and staying six feet apart from others.

The finish line is in sight -- let's go strong to the end.



OPENING SCHOOLS... FOLLOW THE RULES

A future with masks?

There has been one positive piece of news during the otherwise tragic COVID-19 pandemic, and that is this: The number of deaths and severe illness caused by the ordinary flu is down dramatically from a typical flu season.

Epidemiologists credit this downturn to a number of factors: International travel is virtually non-existent, people are not gathering in large groups, people are working from home (and therefore not going into their offices while sick), more people got their flu shots than ever, and most of us are wearing masks.

Although the reduction in the number of deaths from the regular flu by no means offsets the increase in the deaths from COVID-19 -- COVID is estimated to be 5-10 times deadlier than the seasonal flu -- the substantial reduction in deaths from the ordinary flu gives us some hope that the lessons we have learned during this year of COVID-19 may enlighten us as to how to combat less-deadly viruses in the future.

In addition, there is no doubt that the incredible effort by the scientific community to develop an effective vaccine against COVID-19 in such a short time will pay fruits in terms of our understanding of other illnesses and our ability to fight them.

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

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LETTERS

Mission Hill: A Community Assessment

Imagine what our real neighborhoods would be like if each of us offered, as a matter of course, just one kind word to another person. – Mr. Rogers

To the Editor,

Mr. Rogers eloquently explains how a geographic area becomes a community. The simple interactions in Mission Hill transform it from the Zip Code Tabulation Area (ZCTA) 02120 demarcation to a place over 15,000 residents call home. Through more robust programming and increased awareness, it is my hope that students residing in Mission Hill can become more active participants in the community -- especially during the COVID-19 pandemic to combat social isolation.

There are two groups residing in the Mission Hill neighborhood: 1) the university students, transient residents of the neighborhood, who frequent local businesses and 2) the longer term residents, composed of children and older adults, who have a unique set of needs, especially now given the COVID-19 pandemic. Table 1B (Appendix B) contains demographic information obtained from the American Community Survey, 2019 (5 year estimates) that seeks to highlight this distinction. As demonstrated in Appendix B, the vast majority of residents are between

the ages of 15 and 25. 40.25% of the population has a Bachelor's degree or higher. With only 7.21% of the population owning a home, student renters make up the vast majority of the neighborhood. However, of the 1,347 children who are under 15, around 74% are living in a single parent home. With virtual school, they run the risk of feeling lonely. In terms of the 1,000 residents who are 65 years or older, the vast majority of whom reside in assisted living communities, they also face increased social isolation as they quarantine to protect themselves from the virus. Hispanics, who comprise 25% of the population, face unique challenges with language barriers that contribute to social isolation. To form a more cohesive community, Mission Hill should seek to amplify crisscrossing relations between students and long-term residents through the use of policy implementation to protect the elderly and social programming to link student energy and resources to the pre-existing community.

The many organizations that exist in Mission Hill serve to reduce social isolation. The Tobin Community Center and Parker Hill Library provide space for community members to connect, stay active, and learn together. Mission Hill Main Streets keeps the community clean and

keeps businesses operating efficiently. The Mission Hill Health Movement promotes wellbeing through participation in various public health initiatives. Sociedad Latina seeks to include Spanish speakers in on neighborhood happenings. Each of these groups contributes to a collective sense of togetherness in Mission Hill. While university students have helped with Mission Hill Main Streets' quarterly clean ups in the past, many students are still unaware that the organization exists. By promoting these organizations at the nearby universities, we can foster a sense of community in Mission Hill. The Contact List included in Appendix C serves as a resource for students to learn to connect with these various community organizations.

Whether it's a Northeastern student holding a door for a retiree at Mike's Donuts or a Harvard medical student playing basketball with the children at Tobin K-8, these simple interactions make all the difference. These sort of interactions are more likely to take place if students are aware of the opportunities for community engagement. It is my hope that some student who reads this reaches out to help support their neighborhood.

SOPHIA JELSMAN

Former State Senator Ben Downing announces candidacy for Governor

By JOHN LYNDIS

Last month, Western Mass native who served 10 years as a State Senator from Pittsfield, Ben Downing, released a video announcing he is formally entering the 2022 race for Governor of Massachusetts.

“Growing up in Pittsfield, I lived what it meant to be an afterthought in the state’s political power circles,” said Downing, who now lives in East Boston and stepped down in 2017 to work full-time in renewable energy. “Now, as an East Boston resident, I’m part of a new community just as familiar with being written off. From one side of Massachusetts to the other, I have spent my life in communities that have had to fight harder than they should to get fair representation, equitable access to resources, and attention from Beacon Hill. So I know what a difference state leadership makes. And I know we need better than what we are getting right now.”

Downing was one of the youngest state senators ever elected in Massachusetts history in 2006 at the age of 24. During his tenure at the State House Downing emerged as a leading climate advocate.

Downing moved to East Boston five years ago with his wife, Micaelah Morrill, and are raising their two young sons Malcolm, age 3, and Eamon, age 9 months, here.

While living in East Boston Downing has seen first hand the inequities that have existed for quite some time but have only been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“I think the major issues right are going to be the COVID response and the lessons we’ve learned from COVID,” said Downing. “What did it expose? What did it show? I think what it showed was something a lot



Massachusetts Gubernatorial candidate Ben Downing.

of us already knew existed. We have these widening economic and racial gaps in Massachusetts around income and wages, around wealth and gaps between communities in parts of the state that have grown and have benefited from economic growth in recent decades. So the focus will be how do we close those gaps, how do we address economic and racial justice and, while doing that, take the urgent steps that we need to take to address climate change. We know that the most scarce resource when it comes to climate change is time. We only have really a decade here to take the steps we need to build a sustainable society and I don’t think our actions at the state level have reflected that.”

Downing argues that most of the urgency over climate change has percolated up from members of the legislature, there needs to be more sense of urgency from the executive branch of government.

“We need more of a sense of urgency,” said Downing. “We know communities like East Boston, and even Pittsfield were targeted for the development of fossil fuel infrastructure and have the asthma rates and other public health indicators to reflect that.

We know a transition to a clean energy economy and the spillovers from that are positive. We have more jobs to create by putting solar on roofs, building energy storage, doing energy retrofits of homes, building offshore wind--there’s a lot of jobs there.”

Since 2017 Downing has served in a leadership role at Nexamp, a leading renewable energy company. In that role, Downing led efforts to improve accessibility within the green economy, expand to new markets outside of the northeast, and deploy cutting-edge energy storage solutions here at home. He serves on the board of the Environmental League of Massachusetts and is a leading advocate for climate action in the Commonwealth.

“I’ve come away from Nexamp more optimistic,” said Downing. “The naysayers will say, “Oh it’s big pie in the sky stuff” and it’s not going to really do anything with the economy. I think the most exciting thing for me is to see the solutions that we have to climate change that are at our fingertips--whether that’s solar energy efficiency, battery storage, offshore wind--they’re there to be tapped. What’s been missing is leadership that’s ready to tap into that potential and set a higher standard for all of us. All too often you see Governor Baker echo talking points from the real estate lobby and others who say these will cost too much and slow down development. We’ve heard those concerns every step along the way when it comes to the climate change debate in Massachusetts. But every step along the way those talking points have been proven wrong. Yes, there are costs but the benefits far outweigh the costs. We’ve seen that time and time again and the great thing about these jobs is they will be done in Massachusetts, the work has to be done here, and they’re good blue collar

jobs that can be done in every corner of the state.”

Another focus said Downing will be to invest in transportation that can help cut down on carbon emissions.

“A big part of addressing climate change issues is making transit more reliable and you look at governor Baker’s record; it’s a record of cutting the budget at the MBTA,” said Downing. “We need to increase ridership and make it more reliable but we need to do the same with the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) because the BRT just isn’t relevant but we need it to be. We need people to see that as a viable option that gets them out of their cars. It is a significant undertaking but it’s that much tougher to do without leadership from the corner office.”

As a state Senator, Downing represented the largest district in the state, comprising 52 cities and towns. Over a decade in office he led legislative efforts to accelerate our clean energy development and respond to climate change, rebuild our urban and rural economies, reduce poverty and hunger, strengthen our state ethics laws, and expand protections for transgender individuals.

“I’m running for Governor to build a fairer, stronger Massachusetts,” said Downing. “I believe there is no limit to what we can accomplish here. But the leadership needed to unlock this potential is sorely lacking. As we recover and reimagine our future in the months and years to come, we need a Governor who sees, feels and understands the gravity of this moment and how we got here; who is not content with accumulating power but who is ready to use that power to respond boldly to the dire impacts of the pandemic, rising

racial inequality, and the urgency of climate change.”

Downing hit a major fundraising milestone last month and raised his first \$100,000 in one week according to campaign filings.

“These are good numbers,” said Downing. “The exciting thing was there were no lobbyists donations, no super pac donations so it’s all real...real voters donating.”

Downing said so far the donations have poured in from friends, family and political supporters. “It’s just exciting to see people who you know write a \$10 check or \$100 check,” said Downing. “But whether it’s a \$10, \$100 or \$1,000 check it’s people saying they think it’s time for a fair and stronger Massachusetts, I was really excited to see the reaction to my candidacy.”

While easily raising the first \$100,000 feels good, Downing admits there’s a lot of hard work ahead no matter who throws their hat into the ring for next year’s election.

“It takes time and I’m not blind to how much of an uphill uphill climb it is,” said Downing. “Gov. Baker still has sky high approval ratings but based on the calls, whether it’s fundraising calls, political calls, outreach calls or just talking with people about what they’re seeing day to day--people are hungry for something different. People are hungry for us to take on big challenges and be able to execute day to day.”

In the end Downing said he’s been able to start garnering support in every corner of the state.

“We’ve got supporters from Cape Cod to the Berkshires so I’m excited about continuing to build off of that base,” said Downing.

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Mission Hill/Roxbury COVID-19 update listed

By JOHN LYNDIS

Last week the overall COVID-19 positive test rate in Mission Hill/Roxbury increased slightly throughout February while the neighborhood's weekly test rate decreased dramatically.

According to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) of the 40,280 Mission Hill/Roxbury residents tested for COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic, 11.2 percent are COVID positive. This was a 4.7 percent decrease from the 10.7 percent that were found to be positive overall at the end of January.

Last week 1,508 residents were tested and 4.6 percent were positive - a 32 percent decrease from the 6.8 percent that had tested positive during the last week of January.

Citywide, 26,561 residents were tested and 3.5 percent were COVID positive--a 6.25 percent decrease from the 3.8 percent testing positive two weeks ago.

At a press briefing Monday Mayor Martin Walsh said an average of nearly 3,800 Boston residents were tested for COVID each day last week.

"The seven-day average for daily positive tests was 161 and the average daily positive rate was 3.5 percent," said Walsh. "The City's case metrics have levelled off and even ticked upward in the last few days of data. This is not a cause for concern, but it's a good reminder not to take this positive trend for granted."

The Mayor urged everyone to remain vigilant and take all necessary precautions to protect themselves and our communities against the virus.

The Mayor also encouraged seniors and everyone who is eligible to receive the vaccine to get it as soon as they can. Boston residents 65 and older can call 3-1-1 and get connected to the City's Age Strong Commission for help in multiple languages. Veterans 55 or older, enrolled in VA Healthcare, can get vaccinated at any VA health facility in Boston.

"The full schedule for vaccine eligibility is at [Mass.gov/CovidVaccine](https://www.mass.gov/covidvaccine)," said Walsh. "And the State has a Vaccine Scheduling Resource available by calling 2-1-1."

The Mission Hill/Roxbury COVID-19 infection rate increased only 10.5 percent throughout the month of February after posting

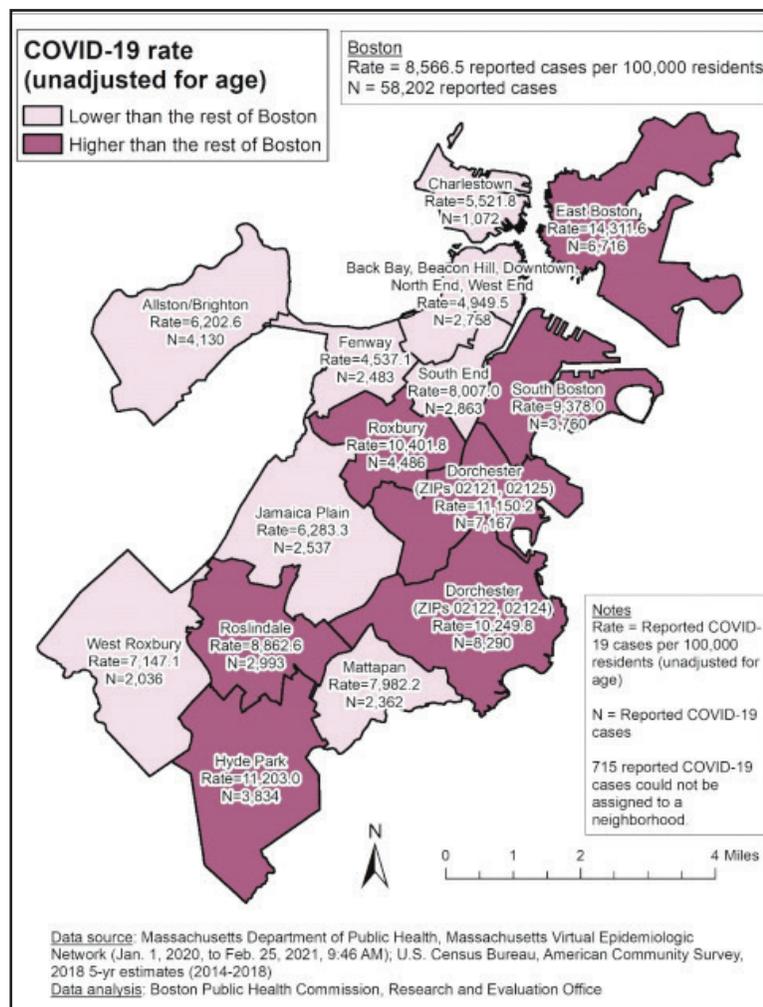
a 45 percent increase throughout January.

According to data released last Friday by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) the COVID-19 infection rate went from 941.1 cases per 10,000 residents to an infection rate of 1,040 cases per 10,000 residents during the month.

An additional 427 Mission Hill/Roxbury residents became infected with the virus throughout February and the number of cases increased from 4,059 to 4,486. Throughout January there were 1,261 new cases so the numbers have seemed to come down quite a bit.

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

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased 2.5 percent last week and went from 57,675 cases to 59,148 confirmed cases in a week. Twenty-nine additional Boston residents died from the virus last week and there are now 1,277 total deaths in the city from COVID.



Stats released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) as part of its weekly COVID-19 report breaks down the number of cases and infection rates in each neighborhood.

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