

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON MAIN STREETS, PAGE 8

FREE 20 PAGES VOLUME 29 • NUMBER 7



Mission Hill GAZETTE

Serving Mission Hill and the Longwood Medical and Academic Area

BOOK YOUR POST IT Call Your Advertising Rep (617) 524-7662

617-524-2626 • www.MissionHillGazette.com AUGUST 6, 2021 — SEPTEMBER 2, 2021

MISSION HILL HOUSE PARTY



The Hill was alive Tuesday night, Aug. 3, with a political meet and greet for Councilor and mayoral candidate Annissa Essaibi George at the home of Mitch Hilton. Essaibi George chatted with many neighbors, gave a presentation in the backyard and answered questions from neighbors about her candidacy. The house party Meet and Greet was hosted by Mitch Hilton, Pat Flaherty, Adam Sarbaugh, John Jackson, Robert and Zobeida Figueroa, Laura Adams, Dermot Doyne, Mossy Martin, Abdillahi (Mash) Abdirahman, Judy Weldon and Terrance Williams.

Major development projects filed for former Mission Church properties

Smith Street project to feature 17-story tower BY SETH DANIEL

Two developers in July filed Letters of Intent (LOI) with the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) for large projects on former Mission Church property, including the re-emergence of a massive proj-

Continued on page 2

'No current plans' for requiring proof of vaccination in Boston

BY LAUREN BENNETT Following an announcement from New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio that proof of vaccination will be required for many indoor activities such as gyms, theaters, and restaurants, Acting Mayor Kim Janey was asked Tuesday if she would follow suit

Continued on page 7

CAMH hears new Terrace St. condo proposal as area grows in popularity

BY LAURA PLUMMER The Community Alliance of Mission Hill (CAMH) met virtually on July 21, where it viewed a presentation by the developer of 134 Terrace St. Wyatt Komarin is proposing a condo project at the site, located a two-minute walk from the Diablo Glass School. Komarin is a founding partner of Primary, a design and real estate development company that already has three condo properties on Terrace St.: 40, 80, and the abutting 132 Terrace

St. Primary describes itself as "committed to the revitalization of Terrace Street, and to bringing home ownership opportunities to Mission Hill." The proposed building at 134 Terrace St. is six stories, including a ground-level lobby and five market-rate condos with two bedrooms and two bathrooms. The design also features a shared roof deck, elevator and modern architecture. It does not currently include parking. The team received a refusal

Continued on page 3

Nuevo condominio en Terrace St.

BY LAURA PLUMMER Community Alliance of Mission Hill (CAMH) se reunió virtualmente el 21 de julio, donde vio una presentación por el promotor de 134 Terrace St. Wyatt Komarin propuso un proyecto de condominio en el sitio, ubicado a dos minutos a pie de Diablo Glass School. Komarin es socio fundador de Primary, una empresa de diseño y desarrollo inmobiliario que ya cuenta con tres condominios en

Continued on page 3

MISSION HILL ARTS FEST



Photo by Seth Daniel

Mission Hill's Kevin Harris headlined the July 24 Mission Hill Arts Festival's third show in The Yard behind the Tobin Community Center. Harris played an amazing set with film composer and drummer Fabio Rojas—combining jazz and film into a seamless set. The next edition of the Arts Festival is back at The Yard on Saturday, Aug. 7, with Debo Ray and EcoSoundSystem.

Terrace Street project looking to add more homeownership

By SETH DANIEL

Developers of the Ditson building on Terrace Street are ready to move on the third phase of their project, converting a parking lot next to the historic old warehouse into a 66 new condo units for sale – hoping, as the developer says, to “address the disparity of homeownership opportunities in the Mission Hill neighborhood.”

The project change form was filed in early July, and a public meeting with the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) on Aug. 24, and the Community Alliance of Mission

Hill (CAMH) has discussed the project as well.

The project is brought by the Winn Companies, who finished construction on the first phase of their project – the Ditson Building – in 2011. That project, at 166 Terrace St., has 62 units and 43 are affordable housing units.

The new project in Phase 3 would be built on the parking lot for the Ditson Building, and would include a new, seven-story building with 66 homeownership residences (condos) with 24 on-site parking spaces for that project alone.

The project had originally been approved in January 2020

as Phase 2, but due to COVID-19 and changes in the housing market, Winn filed to change the project to its current format.

The project now contains 18, two-bedroom units – which is 13 more than the previous project. The new project is also pulled back about 30 feet from the Ditson Building.

“This generous setback improves the pedestrian experience along Terrace

Street by creating a break in the street wall and adding a pocket park in between the two buildings,” read the filing. “The setback also preserves the views of the Phase I Project. The proposed pocket park screens the transformers from the street which improves the street experience over the NPC II transformer’s previous proposed location along Terrace Street. The redesign also provides a six-foot sidewalk along Terrace Street with a more pronounced recess at the main entry accentuated by a canopy.”

The project contains 42 one-bedroom condos, six one-bedroom plus den condos, and 18 two-bedroom condos. The units are built over a one-story, 24 space podium parking garage with a ground floor lobby included. There are also 62 bike parking spaces, and 46 of those are inside the building.



The Winn Companies has filed a change of their Phase 2 development of the old Ditson Building factory. The change includes more two-bedroom units and other exterior changes over the already-approved January 2020 design. The first phase at the old factory/warehouse was completed in 2011.

Major development

Continued from page 1

ect that contemplates a 17-story tower on Smith Street that hasn’t been discussed since 2005.

The project at 80-100 Smith St. on the former lowers campus of Mission Church is brought by Back Bay-based Weston Associates, owned by Paul and Mark Donahue. The revived plan would build 212,000 sq. ft. of development in two buildings on the campus that would feature rental and ownership opportunities. A new building at 100 Smith St. would be the centerpiece of the project and would go up 17 stories and include 171 rental apartments. There would be 171 below grade parking spaces under the building and at grade in a parking court. The second building at 80 Smith St. would provide 66 units of housing in a six-story building, with 20 ownership condos on the top levels of the building. The below-grade parking garage would accommodate parking for both buildings in a 29,500 sq. ft. area.

“The proponent envisions revitalizing and converting the project site into a residential development that enhances the immediate area, while respecting the history of the property,” read the filing. “In addition to new widened sidewalks, improved pedestrian connections and public realm upgrades, the new development would include a design aesthetic that acknowledges the historical conditions at the structures to be demolished, while introducing new and appropriate architecture for its future utilization...Unlike the City’s prior approvals in 2005, the proposed project would introduce a variety of residential housing types for rental and homeownership options...With approximately 237 units, the proposed project will also address the shortage of market-rate and affordable housing, pursuant to the City’s Inclusionary Development policy.”

Both of the properties, 80 Smith and 100 Smith St., were approved for demolition in 2005 under the old plan, and that remains intact, according to the LOI. A building at 90 Smith St., which bisects the current proposal and formerly was part of the Mission Grammar School, was renovated by Weston Associates in 2010 and is used for institutional office space.

Weston Associates said it had reached out to community orga-

nizations and abutters already, including the Mission Main Task Force, the Tobin Community Center, the Tobin School, Mission Church, Community Alliance of Mission Hill (CAMH), and Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Services.

Weston Associates indicated it did plan to file its full Expanded Project Notification Form very soon and start the Article 80 review process.

The original project in 2005 had approval to build at high-rise at 100 Smith Street, a mid-rise at 80 Smith St., and would have converted the Mission Grammar building into housing as well. That proposal contained 229 rental units.

SAVAGE REAL ESTATE TO FILE FOR 1558 TREMONT

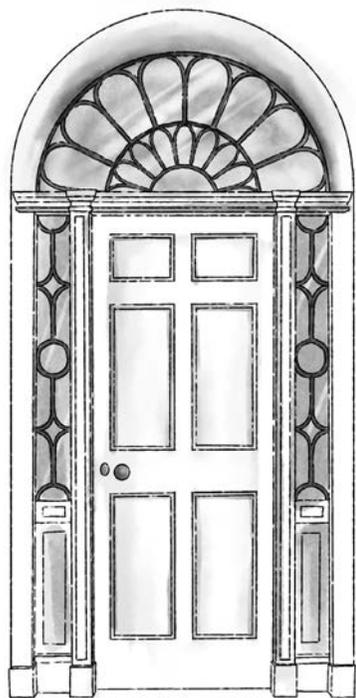
Building on projects already completed in Mission Hill, Savage Real Estate filed a Letter of Intent (LOI) with the Boston Planning and Development Agency in July saying they would propose a seven-story mixed-use building at 1558 Tremont St. – a property now vacant and a bit blighted at the corner of St. Alphonsus Street.

According to property records, Jason and Melanie Savage of Savage Real Estate bought the property from Mission Church in 2016 for \$3.7 million. The three-story building on the property would be demolished, and the proposed project would contemplate building a seven-story building with 139 units of housing, 1,700 sq. ft. of ground-floor retail and 54 parking spaces on two levels. Approximately 44 of those parking space would be dedicated for use by the church under the proposed project.

“The proposed project is ideally located within walking distance to multiple public transportation options and is bound by Tremont Street to the north, St. Alphonsus Street to the west, Pontiac Street to the east and contains approximately 20,687 sq. ft.,” read the filing. “The proposed design has been carefully studied and developed to incorporate design elements that will respond to and enhance the surrounding area.”

The proposal would be vetted through the Article 80 Large Project review process, and a full filing is expected soon.

Savage Real Estate has already successfully developed The Tremont at 1480 Tremont St. and Longwood Terrace at 40 Fisher Avenue – both in Mission Hill.



A home improvement center that doesn't leave you at the door.

Boston Building Resources specializes in kitchen cabinets, windows, doors, and weatherization materials—all hand-selected for quality and affordability.

We also offer:

- > hands-on home improvement workshops
- > kitchen design services
- > environmentally friendly choices

Thank you, Mission Hill Main Streets, for naming us Mission Hill's Business of the Year!

100 Terrace Street, Boston, 02120
(near Roxbury Community College)
Mon–Fri 8:30–4:30 ■ Saturday 9:30–3
617-442-2262

bostonbuildingresources.com

a member-owned co-op



Two new members sworn into the Boston School Committee

By LAUREN BENNETT

Two new members of the Boston School Committee were sworn in at City Hall on July 22, where remarks were also given by Acting

Mayor Kim Janey.

Lorena Lopera and Rafaela Polanco Garcia were appointed to the School Committee following last month's resignation of Alexandra Oliver-Davila and Lorna

Rivera after a text message scandal.

"The sudden departure of these two members created a void in representative leadership with more than 40 percent

of BPS students identifying as Latino and 10 percent residing in public housing," Janey said. "I know how important it is to have our children and their families represented in leadership."

Janey said that the School Committee search panel "attracted 23 well-qualified applicants" that were narrowed down to six finalists.

"Ms. Lopera and Ms. Polanco Garcia offer the depth of knowledge and relevant experience to serve the children and families of the Boston Public Schools (BPS)," Janey said. "There is nothing more important right now than the education of our children."

Janey said that Lopera has done a lot of work on "expanding education access for Latino youth and students of color," working with organizations like Sociedad Latina, City Year, and the Posse Foundation, as well as serving as the Executive Director of Latinos For Education New England. She is also the parent of a Boston Public Schools student.

Janey said that Polanco Garcia

is "an immigrant who lives in public housing in South Boston," and has experience in law and bilingual advocacy. She worked on the "No on 2" campaign in 2016, as well as contributed to passing a resolution for sanctuary schools.

Since 2015, Polanco Garcia has been the Director of Parent Engagement and Organizing at St. Stephen's Youth Programs in the South End. She, too, is the parent of a BPS student, and her primary language is Spanish, Janey said. "This is a first for the Boston School Committee."

She continued, "this means that we will have to work very hard to meet her needs, and in doing so, move our school district and our city forward. It sets the stage for us to improve our ability to serve ESL learners and their parents as they seek to engage our school community."

Lopera said that she moved to the United States from Colombia at the age of four. "I was

Continued on page 5

CAMH

Continued from page 1

from the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) on June 11 due the following violations: multifamily residence in a light industrial zone; insufficient off-street parking, rear yard, and usable open space; and excessive building height and floor area ratio. The project will be seeking variances

for these violations.

Developers have filed refusal plans and have met with direct abutters. They will appear before the ZBA again in August and plan to apply for permits in the fall or winter. Construction would begin in the spring or summer of 2022.

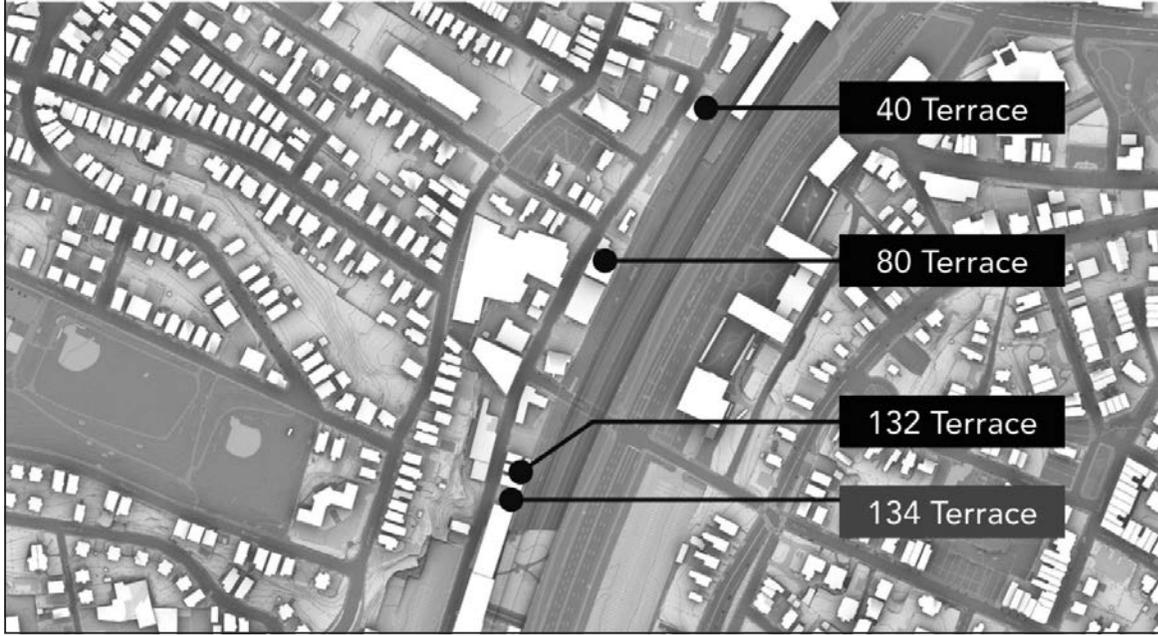
CAMH will hold a vote on the proposal at its next scheduled meeting on Aug. 18.

This project is just one of

several developments going up on Terrace St. We previously reported on a mixed-use project at 110-128R Terrace St., and condos at 154 Terrace St. A cannabis dispensary Raices on the Hill will be going up at 123 Terrace St.

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.

PRIMARY ON TERRACE STREET



"Primary is planning its fourth Terrace St. property."

CAMH

Continued from page 1

Terrace St.: 40, 80, y el contiguo 132 Terrace St. Primary se describe como "comprometidos con la revitalización de Terrace Street y con brindar oportunidades de propiedad de vivienda a Mission Hill".

El edificio propuesto en 134 Terrace St. tiene seis pisos, incluido un vestíbulo en la planta baja y cinco condominios a precio de mercado con dos dormitorios y dos baños. El diseño también cuenta con una terraza compartida en la azotea, un ascensor y una arquitectura moderna. Actualmente no incluye estacionamiento.

El equipo recibió una negativa de la Junta de Apelaciones de Zonificación (ZBA) el 11 de junio

debido a las siguientes violaciones: residencia multifamiliar en una zona de industria ligera; escasez de estacionamiento, patio trasero y espacio abierto; y exceso de altura y de relación de superficie. El proyecto buscará variaciones para estas violaciones.

Los desarrolladores han presentado planes de rechazo y se han reunido con colindantes directos. Aparecerán nuevamente ante la ZBA en agosto y planean solicitar permisos en otoño o invierno. La construcción comenzaría en la primavera o el verano de 2022.

CAMH realizará una votación sobre la propuesta en su próxima reunión programada el 18 de agosto.

Este proyecto es solo uno de varios desarrollos que se están planeando en Terrace St. Anteriormente informamos sobre un

proyecto de uso mixto en 110-128R Terrace St. y condominios en 154 Terrace St. Un dispensario de cannabis Raices on the Hill estará en 123 Terrace St.

CAMH se reunirá 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.



Brendan Behan Pub
378A Centre Street
Jamaica Plain

MOUNT PLEASANT HOME  **Seniors 62+**

- Private bedroom with private bath
- 24-hour personal care assistance
- Medication administration
- 3 home-style meals daily
- Laundry & housekeeping
- No income restriction

 301 S. Huntington Ave, Jamaica Plain ~ 617-522-7600 
www.MountPleasantHome.org

MIKE'S DONUTS **CHOOSE ANY TWO**

- Homemade soup
- salad • Sandwich 

\$5.75

Try our soups and sandwiches along with the best coffee and donuts in town!

Now serving gourmet dark roast coffee 

FREE Honey Dip Donut with \$4.00 purchase

1524 Tremont St. (across from Mission Church)

ADVERTISE IN THE
in the
Mission Hill GAZETTE

Call 617-524-7662 for ad rate

MISSION HILL ARTFEST

PHOTOS BY SETH DANIEL

The Mission Hill Arts Festival took a mixed up visual and audio journey into the latest works and forays by Mission Hill composer and pianist Kevin Harris and

composer/drummer Fabio Rojas on July 24 in The Yard at the Tobin Community Center.

The musical show was preceded by emerging visual artist Rania Kadafour, who attends MassArt. Music, films, poetry,



Barbara and Daryl Owens enjoying the Kevin Harris Project on July 24.



The sun shone as it set over The Yard with an excited audience who asked several questions of the artists.

ENDORSEMENT ALERT

JON SPILLANE

★

BOSTON CITY COUNCIL AT-LARGE



COUNCILOR KENZIE BOK ENDORSES JON

“I need colleagues on the City Council with strong demonstrated commitment to housing affordability. Jon Spillane built affordable housing at Boston’s Department of Neighborhood Development, and then worked on expanding financial support for our local housing programs as my City Council budget director. He would be a great partner in creating a more inclusive Boston. I’m proud to endorse Jon for Boston City Council At-Large!”

-Councilor Kenzie Bok





@JONFORBOSTON

VOTE SEPTEMBER 14

Political Ad Paid for by the Committee to Elect Jon Spillane

drawings, and still images, were all part of this very meaningful, captivating, entertaining, and inspiring event. As such, an attentive and participatory audience was enriched by each unique art form.

Kadafour opened the event showing three of her short films representing moments of her life experience, growing process, defining moments, and future endeavors. The flair, inventiveness, and playfulness typical of the Kevin Harris Project gained the attention of the audience from the very first notes they played.

Premiering a new adventure, the Kevin Harris Project presented exciting multi-media compositions of spoken word, film, still imagery, and original music. A consistently notable aspect of the dynamic duet was their fluid ability to interweave different

mediums. At times, the live music was played as background to poems Harris has composed, and at other times the imagery was background for the artful conversation between drums and keyboard.

The next edition of the Arts Festival will be Saturday, Aug. 7, at The Yard, featuring Grammy-nominated singer Debo Ray. Tickets are available on the Festival’s Facebook page.



Mission Hill’s Kevin Harris (right), of the Kevin Harris Project, with drummer/composer Fabio Rojas after the July 24 show.



Visual Artist Rania Kadafour with Festival organizer Luisa Harris.



Drummer Fabio Rojas communicates a change in the music with Harris.

Lt. Governor Karyn Polito announces state grants for child care centers

BY JOHN LYND

Last month, Lt. Governor Karyn Polito and Early Education and Care Commissioner Samantha Aigner-Treworgy announced \$7.5 million in Early Education and Out of School Time Capital Fund (EEOST) capital improvement grants to 36 organizations to renovate childcare facilities that serve primarily low-income families like the Hattie B. Cooper Community Center, Paige Academy and the Roxbury YMCA.

Polito said the Baker-Polito Administration teamed up with the Children's Investment Fund (CIF) and its affiliate the Community Economic Development Assistance Corporation (CEDAC) for \$721,000 in total grant money towards the three Roxbury agencies. The thirty-six recipients all received grants between \$100,000 to \$250,000 to provide capital funding needed to address health and safety concerns related to COVID-19.

"These awards announced today – which mark the largest total amount awarded since the inception of the EEOST grants – will improve child care programs across the state," said Polito. "Now more than ever, as families return to workplaces, investments in early education and care settings are vital to provide necessary resources to children and their families through high-quality early childhood education and out-of-school time



Lt. Governor Karyn Polito announced \$7.5 million in Early Education and Out of School Time Capital Fund (EEOST) capital improvement grants to 36 organizations to renovate childcare facilities that serve primarily low-income families

programs."

The capital grants will help continue to support major renovation and construction projects at the Hattie B. Cooper Community Center, Paige Academy and the Roxbury YMCA to improve the quality of learning environments for the children they serve.

Both the Hattie B. Cooper Community Center and Paige Academy received \$250,000 while the Roxbury YMCA received a \$221,000 grant.

The Early Education and Out of School Time capital improvement grants are financed through the state's capital budget and provide matching funds that leverage private investment. More than \$200 million in public and private investments

have been leveraged throughout the life of the grant program. The Baker-Polito Administration's FY21 Capital Budget Plan included funding for the Early Education and Out of School Time capital improvement grant program.

"Every child deserves the opportunity to learn in high-quality, safe, healthy, and joyous education environments," said Commissioner Aigner-Treworgy. "Well-designed classrooms and play spaces can greatly enhance early learning and support children to grow and thrive."

In a statement after the announcement Gov. Charlie Baker said his administration is committed to supporting childcare providers like United South

as well as my experience as a parent with a child in BPS who wants to see him and his peers thrive is what will guide my decisions on the Boston School Committee."

Via a translator, Polanco Garcia said that "when I moved to Boston from the Dominican Republic in January 2015, my first contact with BPS was with my sons's school, which was the

Blackstone Elementary School." She said that getting used to the new school "required our family to embrace the myriad of cultures and languages spoken at his school."

Polanco said that "it wasn't easy. I was a single immigrant mom; homeless at first." She said she wanted to get involved in her son's school, so she started going to parent council meetings, volunteering in the classroom, and working at the St. Stephen's after school program.

"I know my story is not unique," she said. "To my fellow parents, I want to say something. I am not here to fight for you, I am here to fight beside you; to make changes we want. I firmly believe that public schools should be a second home for students and families."

End Settlements who have worked tirelessly throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to care for children and support families returning to work.

"Since the start of this grant program, we've invested more

than \$39.2 million in capital funding at childcare programs that impact the learning experiences of more than 9,000 children in communities across Massachusetts," he said.

INSIDE SEATING AVAILABLE

Open Seven Days 11am - 12am

748A HUNTINGTON AVENUE, BOSTON

Order through Grubhub or Uber Eats
Pick up through MonteCristo website at best price

(617)-232-2228 • WWW.MONTECRISTOMISSIONHILL.COM

CRISPY DOUGH PIZZERIA

INSIDE SEATING AVAILABLE

Open 11am to 1am

Gourmet pizzas, salads, calzones, appetizers, and more.
Catering services avail.

Voted Best Pizza in 2020 MH-Readers Survey

617-445-7799 or 617-445-7790
www.crispydoughpizzeria.com

We Deliver

Open 7 days • 1514 Tremont St. Mission Hill

For special discounts, order online

School Committee

Continued from page 3

undocumented and unaware of what my family was risking or sacrificing," she said. She added, "I've spent my entire professional career working to improve access to quality educational opportunities for children and families... my own educational experience,

24/7 Emergency Vet Care
Weekend Appointments | Free On-Site Parking

WORMS? INFECTIONS? DISEASE?

BYE FELICIA!

Angell is Here to Help!

With services ranging from 24/7 emergency & critical care to cardiology; from behavior services to surgery, Angell has everything you need to keep them healthy and happy.

- 24/7 Emergency & Critical Care
- Anesthesiology
- Avian & Exotic Medicine
- Behavior
- Cardiology
- Dentistry
- Dermatology
- Diagnostic Imaging (with on-site CT)
- General Medicine
- Internal Medicine
- Neurology
- Oncology
- Ophthalmology
- Pathology
- Physical Rehabilitation
- Surgery

angell
animal medical center
angell.org
Angell Animal Medical Center | 350 S. Huntington Ave, Boston | 617-522-7282

THINK OF IT AS AN OWNER'S MANUAL FOR YOUR MONEY.

The free *Consumer Action Handbook*. In print and online at ConsumerAction.gov, it's the everyday guide to protecting your hard-earned money. For your free copy, order online at ConsumerAction.gov; send your name and address to Handbook, Pueblo, CO 81009; or call toll-free 1 (888) 8 PUEBLO.

Being a smart shopper just got easier.

A public service message from the U.S. General Services Administration.

11th Annual 'Best of Mission Hill' Reader Survey

Tell us what you love about the Hill and the LMA!

Write clearly.
Vote in at least 5 categories.
Vote for the same thing **ONLY ONCE**.
Vote only once, please.
Photocopies of this survey are acceptable.
Entries or items that violate these rules will not be counted.

**Results in the
Oct. 1 issue of the
Mission Hill Gazette**

SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED SURVEY BY SEPT. 22, IN ONE OF TWO WAYS

1. Mail to: Best of MH, Mission Hill Gazette, 7 Harris Ave., Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
2. Visit our Website: missionhillgazette.com & Fill it out online! Find the link in our navbar!

BEST PLACE TO:

- 1) Enjoy live entertainment _____
- 2) See art _____
- 3) Work _____

CONSUMER FAVORITES

- 4) Friendliest Business _____
- 5) Breakfast _____
- 6) Lunch _____
- 7) Dinner _____
- 8) Pub/Bar _____
- 9) Pizza _____
- 10) Cup of coffee _____
- 11) Retail store (not convenience) _____
- 12) Convenience store _____
- 13) Personal service (hair, dry cleaning, etc.) _____
- 14) Real estate service _____
- 15) Bank or financial service _____
- 16) Professional service (lawyer, doctor, insurer, etc.) _____
- 17) Home service (plumber, electrician, carpenter, cleaner, etc.) _____

BEST BUSINESS

- 18) Mission Hill _____
- 19) The LMA _____

THE REST OF THE BEST

- 20) Community event _____
- 21) Children's service or activity _____
- 22) Health service/hospital _____
- 23) Local school _____
- 24) College/university _____
- 25) Neighborhood association or group (no office) _____
- 26) Nonprofit agency (office) _____
- 27) Storefront _____
- 28) Government service _____

Griffin named new neighborhood liaison for Mayor

BY DAN MURPHY

A lifelong Bostonian, Molly Griffin has come on board as the city's neighborhood liaison for Mission Hill, as well as for Back Bay, Beacon Hill, and Fenway-Kenmore.

Griffin, who was born, grew up, and currently lives in Dorchester, earned an undergraduate degree in communications from Boston University in May and began working for the city on July 12.

"I was really only really familiar with Fenway and Back Bay from going to Boston University and during high school [while attending Boston Latin]," she said, "but not Beacon Hill or Mission Hill, so I'm trying to get out into those neighborhoods to meet people and understand more about them."

Griffin, who previously spent her summers working at the Leahy Holloran Community Center in Dorchester and also interned at the Massachusetts State House as a Ward Fellow, now hopes to connect with as many people as she can in the neighborhoods she covers on behalf of the city.

"I think it's really exciting to learn about these neighborhoods...and to be able to meet so many people and help them in way I can, and at the same time, learn about city government and processes," she said.



Molly Griffin, the city's new neighborhood liaison for Mission Hill, as well as for Back Bay, Beacon Hill, and Fenway-Kenmore.

So far, most of the events Griffin has been hand on for have taken place virtually, although on July 21, she visited the Beacon Hill Civic Association's office for an introductory meeting with that group's executive director, Patricia Tully.

Griffin was also in attendance for a virtual meeting of the Community Alliance of Mission Hill on July 21 and had a walk-through of that neighborhood scheduled for the following day. She said she is also hoping to take a walk-through of the Fenway this week.

"I hope to really be a helpful intermediary to make residents lives easier in dealing with different issues with the city, and also to bring information to them about different services they can access [through the city]," said Griffin. "I'm really looking forward to meeting a lot of people, especially people who work within and for their communities and are really passionate about them."

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Request for Proposals for the sale of 13 Alleghany Street in the Mission Hill area of Roxbury The Boston Redevelopment Authority ("BRA"), doing business as the Boston Planning & Development Agency ("BPDA"), is soliciting responses to a Request for Proposals ("RFP") for the sale of 7,103 square feet of vacant land located at 13 Alleghany Street in the Mission Hill neighborhood of Boston (the "Property"). The BPDA seeks to convey the Property to

allow publicly accessible open space or community garden uses. The Property is intended for disposition by a sale pursuant to the RFP. The Property is being offered as is, without warranty of any kind, express or implied. If concerned about the Property condition, legal or physical access and the maintenance thereof, property lines or boundaries or any other matter affecting the Property, prospective developers should investigate and conduct whatever due diligence and inspection deemed necessary. The RFP package will be available on the BPDA Procurement Portal

at www.bostonplans.org/work-with-us/procurement on July 28, 2021. Completed proposal applications must be submitted as instructed and returned directly to the BPDA, 22 Drydock Avenue, 2nd Floor, South Boston, MA, 02210 by 12:00 PM on August 27, 2021. Late proposals will not be accepted. For more information about this Request for Proposals, contact Morgan McDaniel, Real Estate Development Officer at (617) 918-6250 or via email to: Morgan.E.McDaniel@boston.gov.

8/6/21
MH

*Advertise in the Gazette.
Call 617-524-7662*

Hill Happenings

BY MAURICE "MOSSY" MARTIN

Frank, a brilliant, multi-talented man, was born in Charlestown, but fell in love with Mission Hill after his first beer at Ed Burke's Tavern in the '60s.

He was a terrific athlete, playing quarterback for the Killilea Club, and he played for the famous "Owls Nest" in the Mission Hill Softball League.

Frank was a gifted actor and in the early days of the Mission Hill Theater Group, he starred in various plays including "The Odd Couple." More recently, Frank appeared in several award-winning Boston movies including the 2010 crime thriller "The Town," when he portrayed a Boston Police officer outside Fenway Park.

In real life Frank was also a police officer, joining the Chelsea force in 1974, and he later became a lawyer after attending night school. Frank rose through the ranks and he became Chief of Po-

lice in Chelsea in 2001.

Frank, with his wit, could find humor in anything but he also had a heart of gold. About 20 years ago a close friend of mine, a single Mission Hill mother, was worried sick about her 14-year-old daughter, who hadn't been home in four days. The teenager was hanging out in Chelsea with older kids, so I immediately called Police Chief Garvin, and he told us to come by the next day.

I'll never forget Frank's words as the three of us were sitting in his office and my friend sobbing. Frank put his arm around her and said, "Don't worry, honey, we'll find your daughter."

The Chelsea detectives found the troubled youngster in a few days. Twenty years later, daughter and mother are doing well.

Thanks, Frank.

Happy 91st birthday (Aug. 9), to Mr. John Todd, a gem of a man, who I am fortunate to have known since our days at Tobi Court in the

Mission Hill project.

A few months ago I stopped by John's Calumet Street home, when John's son, Kevin Todd, was visiting his father. Kevin chuckled to his dad, "Your son, Mossy, is here."

There is an element of truth there, as Mr. Todd, with his wisdom and street smarts, has been a second father figure to many Mission Hill kids and adults.

John still has a sharp mind, and I enjoy hearing his anecdotes. When I visited John last week, he elaborated on the story in 1966 when John was a Northeastern University policeman and had the privileged assignment of picking up the great Jackie Robinson at the airport.

Robinson, who was to speak at the college, was major league baseball's first black player. Robinson was nostalgic, and he asked John to cruise by Commonwealth Ave. to Brave's Field, where he had played many games.

John said, "Robinson was a gen-

tleman and he couldn't have been any nicer."

John has a lifetime of tales, and as I often walk around the Hill, I'll stop by John's home soon for some new and old stories.

Condolences to the family of Annette (Gleeson) Gear who passed away July 7. Annette was a beautiful woman in so many ways. She was the mother of three terrific children and Annette took special pride in being a big sister to her six younger brothers and a sister.

Annette, who was blessed with an angelic personality, was a member of the Mission Hill Post 327, and upon her social calls to the Post, the place would come alive.

Her husband, Kenny Gear passed away three days before Annette. May they rest in peace.

Sonia Chang Diaz, who represents Mission Hill in the State Senate, is a candidate for Governor. I voted for Charlie Baker in 2014 and 2018 but it's time for him to go. Baker recently signed a bloated

\$48.1 billion budget, and I doubt many of the legislators read the 422-page fiscal document.

"I rely on the leadership (meaning House Speaker, Ron Mariano) to read the budget," said a veteran lawmaker to Boston Herald scribe, Peter Lucas.

One way to curtail the Speaker's power is term limits.

Last month, however, when a motion was proposed to limit the Speaker to serving eight years, it was quietly defeated 125-35. There are still many Mission Hill businesses displaying Help Wanted signs including the Stop & Shop, which could use more cashiers to alleviate long lines.

Workers are needed everywhere and some establishments are getting desperate.

My brother, Dan, recently stopped in the "Dollar Store" near his home in Revere and the sign read: "Help Wanted Get Paid Tomorrow."

Vaccinations

Continued from page 1

no current plans for business sector vaccination mandates..." She also likened the concept to slavery and birtherism in the video.

Janey told reporters on Tuesday that "there's a long history in this country of people needing to show their papers, whether we're talking about this from the standpoint of, you know, as a way to after, during slavery, post slavery, as recently as, you know, what the immigrant population has to go through here."

She continued, "we heard Trump with the birth certificate nonsense. Here, we want to make sure that we are not doing anything that would further create a barrier for residents of Boston or disproportionately impact BI-POC communities."

Janey said that her intention is to work with community organizations to get the vaccine out to all residents.

Despite not having plans to mandate proof of vaccination at the city level, Janey said that "as it relates to people who want to encourage their workforce to get vaccinated, we certainly support that."

Right now, about 66 percent of Bostonians are fully vaccinated, she said. "We're inching closer and closer to 70 percent having at least one shot," Janey added. "That is good progress. We have

much more work to do to make sure that everyone can get the vaccine and we'll continue to focus on that."

Other mayoral candidates have issued statements in response to Janey's comments, including City Councilors Andrea Campbell and Michelle Wu, who did not agree with Janey's remarks.

"When we are combating a deadly virus and vaccine hesitancy, this kind of rhetoric is dangerous," Campbell said. "There is already too much misinformation directed at our residents about this pandemic, particularly Black and brown residents, and it is incumbent upon us as leaders not to give these conspiracies any more oxygen. Showing proof of vaccination is not slavery or birtherism. We are too close to give ground to COVID. It's pretty simple — Vax up and mask up."

Wu said, "as the level of government closest to Bostonians, City Hall must ensure our communities get the protection they need so we can end this pandemic. Vaccination should be mandatory for city workers, and our leaders should build trust in vaccines. I also support requiring proof of vaccination to protect people at restaurants, shops, theaters, and other indoor venues, and will work to strengthen our public health infrastructure so the burden does not fall on our small businesses and workers as we work to close the vaccination gap across every neighborhood." Annissa Essaibi George's

campaign also weighed in on the matter, saying that she feels the most important thing for the city to do is place emphasis on vaccinating everyone quickly.

Her campaign issued the following statement: "Anissa believes the only thing we should be focusing on is getting shots in arms, which is critical to ending this pandemic. We should all be able to agree on that. We need

to stop making this a politically-charged issue."

Mayoral candidate John Barros said he would support mandating vaccines in Boston in a similar fashion as NYC.

"The City of Boston must lead with clear scientific facts: the vaccines are extremely successful at preventing serious illness, hospitalization, and death. Any other misleading rhetoric not

only endangers lives, it exacerbates existing health disparities, and fuels uncertainty for workers and businesses," Barros said. "We need our public leaders to be leading by example by encouraging vaccination with every possible tool. We must instill confidence in our public spaces and businesses, and do everything we can to keep people healthy and the economy open."



Reunión Pública Virtual

110-128R Terrace Street

Lunes 30 de Agosto
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/312jnto
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 160 189 7421

Descripción del Proyecto:

La información de esta reunión es crucial para usted como residente y parte interesada de la ciudad de Boston. Se encuentra disponible el servicio gratuito de interpretación de la información brindada en estas reuniones. Si necesita servicios de traducción, contáctese con: (aobregon@stullandlee.com) (617.426.0406, ext.127) La reunión está programada para el 08/30/21. Por favor, solicite los servicios de interpretación a más tardar 5 días antes de la fecha de la reunión.

correo: **Ebony DaRosa**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
telefono: 617.918.4419
email: ebony.darosa@boston.gov

What's Happening on Main Streets

BY ELLEN WALKER
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

On Friday, July 19th, Mission Hill Main Streets recognized the Brigham and Women's Hospital staff with an Exceptional Community Supporter Award. The MHMS Board of Directors

wanted to acknowledge and recognize the efforts of the staff for "all the lives they saved, took care of and helped during the past year of the COVID-19 pandemic." The President of BWH, Dr. Sunil Eappen, accepted this well-deserved award on behalf of the institution, and met with

several of our board members. It was wonderful to meet someone at the helm of one of the most prestigious medical facilities in our country, who is so grounded and understands the importance of community support and outreach.

As I was walking through the

district and admiring the newly renovated building that houses Sociedad Latina on Tremont Street, I bumped into Juan Maldonado from Sociedad Latina and asked him for a quick tour. He graciously took me around the entire building and showed me the new classrooms, the music room and new space for staff. Looking out the window and seeing Mission Church and with sun shining through the windows, one can feel the arts in the air. The nice layout, design and colors of the room are all conducive to learning and being creative. While the exterior has been renovated to highlight the historic, architectural details, Sociedad Latina interior renovations are state-of-the-art. The young people are fortunate to be able to learn and work in such a great environment. This is made even better by people like Juan who has a passion to help others.

Milkweed Café at 1508 Tremont Street hosted "Coffee with a Cop" on July 9th. For over two hours, folks shared stories, exchanged tales, community information and socialized. There is a sense of kindred spirit because everyone there loves Mission Hill. Community Officer Mike O'Rourke was in attendance in-

roducing everyone and making sure we all received our coffee mug – nice touch Mike! Many familiar faces from the neighborhood were there like Chris Dwyer from New England Baptist Hospital and Superintendent Nora Baston from BPD's Bureau of Community Engagement. In addition, the new Commander of B-2, Captain Dennis Cogavin was spending his first full day in his new role with us here in Mission Hill. MHMS is looking forward to the next Coffee with a Cop event in Mission Hill.

In mid-July, several business owners in Brigham Circle and MHMS met with the MBTA / Green Line Transformation Team to talk about the impact of the construction, during the month of August, on the businesses and to work out a plan to help promote business and access during the construction. Even though the E line requires repair and maintenance work, I walked away with the feeling that there is genuine concern to have the least impact on the businesses and community. We also met with Tom Yardley and Laura Oggeri from MASCO (Medical Academic Scientific Communi-

Continued on page 9



虚拟公开会议

110-128R Terrace Street

Monday, August 30
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/3l2jnto
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 160 189 7421

Project Description:

作为波士顿居民和利益相关者, 本会议的信息对您来说是至关重要的。可以提供翻译服务以传达本会议的内容, 您无需承担任何额外费用。如果您需要翻译服务, 请通过以下方式进行联系: (mzhang@stullandlee.com) (617.426.0406, ext. 153) 会议定于 8 月 30 日, 星期一 (2021/08/30), 请在会议前5天内申请口译服务。

mail: **Ebony DaRosa**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
call: 617.918.4419
email: ebony.darosa@boston.gov

BostonPlans.org | @BostonPlans
Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary



Virtual Public Meeting

154 Terrace Street

Tuesday, August 24
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/3eFVYtL
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 160 988 9559

Project Description:

Pickle-Ditson Phase II LP, a Massachusetts Limited Partnership (the "Proponent") is submitting this Third Notice of Project Change ("NPC III Project") for new construction on a vacant and underutilized site located at 154 Terrace Street in Boston's Mission Hill neighborhood, adjacent to the AMTRAK Mainline and MBTA Orange Line tracks (the "Project Site"). The Project Site is currently used as parking for the 166 Terrace Street (the "Phase I Project") renovation which was completed in 2011 by an affiliate of the same Proponent - Pickle-Ditson Limited Partnership. The proposed project ("Phase II Project") will include approximately 74,977 gross square feet of floor area and contain sixty-six (66) total ownership units, of which three (3) will be affordable homeownership units, within a proposed seven (7) story building – six (6) residential stories over a ground floor parking podium for 24 spaces accessed by a single ten-foot wide curb cut (driveway) from Terrace Street.

mail to: **Stephen Harvey**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
phone: 617.918.4418
email: stephen.j.harvey@boston.gov

Close of Public Comment Period:
9/3/2021

BostonPlans.org | @BostonPlans
Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary



Chris Dwyer, New England Baptist Hospital and Superintendent Nora Baston, Boston Police Department enjoying "Coffee with a Cop" at Milkweed Cafe in Mission Hill



Gar Chiang and Shirma Pierre, MHMS Board members, Sunil Eappen, MD, President of BWH, Enoch "Woody" Woodhouse, MHMS Advisory Board member presenting the award, Eric Alden, MHMS Board member and Ellen Walker, MHMS Executive Director.

Main Streets

Continued from page 8

ty Organization) about ways to support the neighborhood, including promoting Mission Hill restaurants, coffee shops and businesses in their newsletter and social media platforms as well as advertising on some of the shuttle buses.

The Mission Hill Arts Festival

performances are spellbinding with a stellar cast of local favorites performing original works. The shows will continue through mid-August, so you have time to see one if you have not yet had the experience! Luisa Harris, of Arts Talks, is an exceptional arts promotor and organizer. Her courage of launching this first annual Mission Hill Arts Festival exemplifies her courage and love for the arts. Of

course the program always features a performer whose music would take us to a different level of enjoyment. Above all, the performances are entertaining and reception by the audience is heartwarming.

Just a few things to think about this Summer:

Next month's issue of the Mission Hill Gazette is The Best of Mission Hill. Don't forget to vote for all your favorites either

online or via U.S. Mail!

The City of Boston has a new ONS (Office of Neighborhood Services) liaison for Mission Hill and her name is Molly Griffin. Molly and I did a walking tour of the entire MHMS district in late July, and I am looking forward to working with her.

Remember, always shop local,

shop small! Mission Hill's small businesses need you. Not sure who is here? Go to: <https://explore.missionhillmainstreet.com> for our most up to date business list!

"Never put an age limit on your dreams." Dara Torres, American swimmer and 12-time Olympic medalist



Caregiver Solutions

with Meg Hogan, CEO of Boston Senior Home Care

Being the primary caregiver for an older adult or person with a disability, even when it's a welcome choice, can be challenging on many levels. The good news is that help is available. Today, supportive and interactive technology in the home can empower caregivers with the tools they need to deliver more effective care.

Caregiver Solutions, the caregiver support program of Boston Senior Home Care, offers several technology programs at no cost to caregivers enrolled in our program. For example, Birdsong and Amazon Echo Show are two easy-to-use devices designed to keep care recipients connected to the world around them with music, games, news, video chat, and email. Both devices are designed to reduce isolation and improve the emotional wellbeing of care recipients while also providing caregivers with a break from constant care. And Video Doorbells are simple to install and can add a sense of security when the caregiver needs to leave home for work or other responsibilities. Although nothing can take the place of in-person contact, these devices can supplement social interactions and even help to promote a safer home environment for caregivers and their care recipients.

Want to learn more? To enroll in our program, please visit bshcinfo.org or call 617-292-6211.

With Caregiver Solutions, you can be confident in your caregiving role. You can depend on us.



The Use of Technology to Support Caregivers

CAREGIVER SOLUTIONS

Being the primary caregiver for an older adult or person with a disability can be challenging on many levels. Today, technology can empower caregivers with easy-to-use devices designed to keep care recipients connected to the world around them with music, games, news, video chat, and email. Caregiver Solutions, the caregiver support program of Boston Senior Home Care, offers several programs at no cost to caregivers enrolled in our program.

Want to learn more? Visit bshcinfo.org or call 617-292-6211.



BOSTON SENIOR HOME CARE

Your home. Your choice. Your care. | [f](#) [t](#) [i](#) [l](#) [g](#)



BOSTON SENIOR HOME CARE

bshcinfo.org | (617) 451-6400

Your home. Your choice. Your care.



DID YOU KNOW?

Recycled newspapers can be made into cereal boxes, egg cartons, pencil barrels, grocery bags, tissue paper and many other products, including new newspapers!

OR RECYCLE THEM YOURSELF!

Use them to clean glass! Save your counter from crafts!

In Place of Packing Peanuts, and much more!

Weekly positive test rate in Mission Hill/Roxbury now over 4 percent

By John Lynds

With the Delta variant of the COVID-19 virus running rampant across the U.S. and recent infections in Boston traced back to an outbreak in Provincetown over July 4th weekend, Mission Hill/Roxbury have seen breakthrough infections among vaccinated people skyrocket.

While targeted vaccination efforts reduced positive cases among residents to almost non-existent levels a few months ago it seems the party is over as

the weekly positive test rate here is now over 4 percent.

According to the weekly Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) weekly COVID reports, no Mission Hill/Roxbury residents tested positive for the virus between June 18 and June 25.

However, the report released last Friday shows 980 residents were tested last week and 4.1 percent tested positive.

Of the 49,708 Mission Hill/Roxbury residents tested for COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic, 11.3 percent were

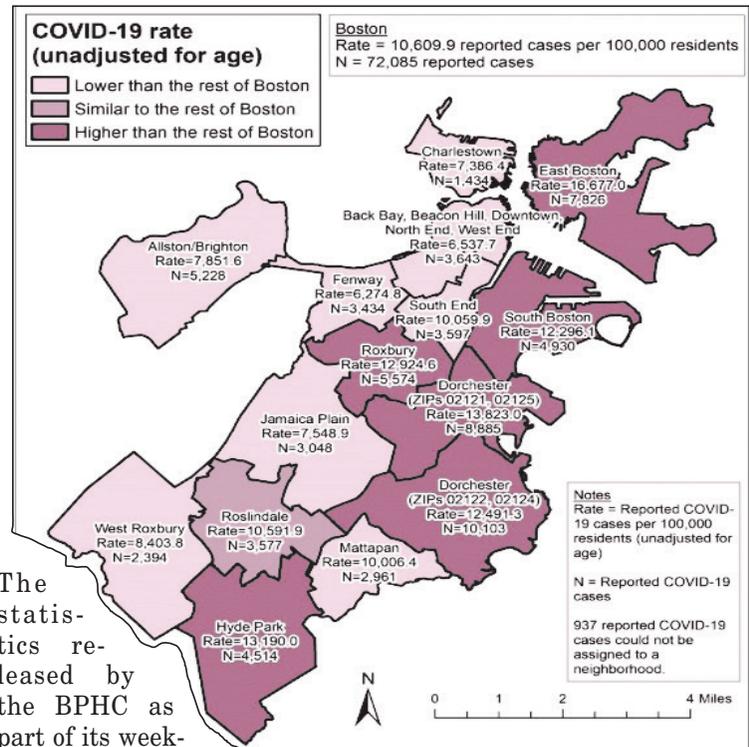
COVID positive. This was a 1.7 percent decrease from the 11.5 percent that were found to be positive overall on June 25.

Citywide, the weekly positive test rate increased over 30 percent. According to the BPHC 15,872 residents were tested and 2.9 percent were COVID positive--this was a 32 percent increase from the 2.2 percent reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

The Mission Hill/Roxbury COVID-19 infection rate increased 1.5 percent throughout the month of July.

According to data released last Friday by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) the COVID-19 infection rate went from 1,273.2 cases per 10,000 residents to an infection rate of 1,292.4 cases per 10,000 residents during the month.

An additional 83 Mission Hill/Roxbury residents became infected with the virus since June 25 and the number of cases increased from 5,491 to 5,574 cases overall since the pandemic began.



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 0.95 percent since July 23 and went from 71,846 cases to 72,529 confirmed cases in a week. Four additional Boston residents died from the

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

virus in the past two weeks and there are now 1,400 total deaths in the city from COVID.

FREE Delivery to Mission Hill, LMA, & Surrounding Major Universities

1528 Tremont St. MH • 617.427.8080 • www.lillysgourmetpasta.com

With me Through diagnosis Through care To wellness

Some people still whisper the word cancer, but we should speak up. Today, you can survive, even thrive, after cancer.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute can help. They offer mammography screening, right in the community. And should you need it, they provide world-class cancer treatment.

They were with me through a diagnosis, through cancer care, and helped me stay well. And they can help you, too. Visit dana-farber.org/community to see how.

Every step of the way.



Violent Part One Crime down 18 percent in B-2, other Part One Crimes down 20 percent

By JOHN LYNDS

Last week the Boston Police released its half-year crime stats that compares January 1, 2021 through July 25, 2021 with the same time period last year and found that both Violent Part One Crime as well as Non-violent Part One Crime is down in District B-2.

Part One Crimes are the more serious crimes that the Boston Police and other law enforcement agencies track and in B-2, which includes Mission Hill, the overall Violent Part One Crime is down 18 percent so far this year when compared to the same six months in 2020.

According to the statistics, there were 8 Homicides reported

in B-2 through July 25, 2021. This was a decrease of 37.5 percent with 5 Homicides in the district reported between January 1 and July 25 of last year.

Rape and Attempted Rape is up 15 percent in the area with 20 being reported during the first half of last year and 23 reported so far in 2021.

Robbery or Attempted Robbery is down 43 percent with 82 incidents reported in the first half of 2020 and 47 reported so far this year.

Domestic Aggravated Assault is up 2 percent with 111 incidents reported in the first half of 2020 and 113 reported so far this year.

Non-domestic Aggravated Assault is down 21 percent with 207 incidents reported during

the first half of 2020 and 163 incidents reported so far this year.

Overall there were a total of 351 Violent Part One Crimes in D-4 between January 1, 2021 and July 25, 2021. This was down from the 428 Violent Part One Crimes reported during the same period last year.

As for Non-Violent Part One Crimes the numbers are down

20 percent in the district. These crimes include Commercial Burglary, Residential Burglary, Larceny From Motor Vehicle, Other Larceny and Auto Theft.

According to the report Commercial Burglary is down 18 percent with 28 incidents reported during the first half of 2020 and only 23 reported so far this year.

Residential Burglary is down

46 percent and went from 104 reported incidents during the first half of 2020 to 56 incidents reported so far in 2021.

Larceny From Motor Vehicles, which was a huge problem last year, has dropped 24 percent with 265 incidents reported during the first half of 2020 and

Continued on page 14

Bob Cappucci announces candidacy for Mayor of Boston

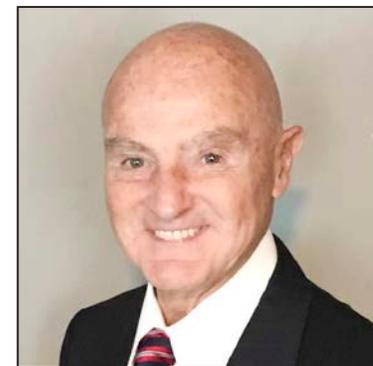
STAFF REPORT

Bob Cappucci, a lifelong resident of East Boston, a retired Boston Police Officer, a veteran of the US Navy Nuclear Submarine Service, is running for mayor as the Law and Order candidate. He has experienced the hopes and struggles of many people in Boston: as a Boston police officer; as an elected member of the Boston School Committee; as a substitute teacher in the Boston Public Schools, and as a director of a community housing program in East Boston.

These experiences give Bob a clear and personal understand-

ing of the issues facing Boston's neighborhoods. The issues of education, crime, addiction, domestic violence and the small businesses that struggle. As Mayor he will make sure all neighborhoods will have much more say and input concerning any real estate development projects. Bob is Pro Life, Pro Police, Pro Veterans, Pro Exam Schools. Bob will represent every person in every neighborhood, he will fully fund the Boston Police Department and he will always support our children our seniors and our special needs community.

Bob loves America and Bob loves Boston. Please vote for Bob



Bob Cappucci.

Cappucci on September 14th. #7 on the Ballot. Thank You. God Bless You and Yours. Robert Meany Cappucci. www.bobcappucciformayor.org.



**RESERVE
YOUR
SEATING
NOW
FOR THE
DINING ROOM**



Thai • Sushi • Pick-up • Delivery

order.laughingmonkcafe.com or call 617.232.8000



THANK YOU!

for voting us as the 2021 Readers' Choice Awards

BEST CREDIT UNION!



CITYOFBOSTONCU.COM

Janey talks public health, public safety in latest press conference

BY LAUREN BENNETT

Acting Mayor Kim Janey held a press conference on July 29, where she talked about public

health following a rise in the city's COVID cases, as well as provided a public safety update as it relates to OPAT's review and response of the procedures

allowing Patrick Rose to stay on the Boston Police force following allegations of child molestation.

"After months of extremely low and declining cases, we have seen a marked increase in COVID activity in Boston over the last several weeks," Janey said.

She said that as of July 27, there were 704 new cases reported in the city during a two week period, bringing the city's total number of cases to 71,914. Over the past two weeks, four more COVID-related deaths were reported, for a total of 1339 Bostonians who have died from the virus.

Janey said that at the beginning of July, the seven-day average of COVID hospitalizations was 26, and as of July 26, the average was 36.

"In early July, Boston hospitals reported a seven-day average occupancy of 83 percent in non-surgical adult ICU," Janey said, which had now risen to 88 percent as of the press conference.

"All of our tracking metrics remain below threshold levels and well below the peak of 2020, but they are increasing," Janey said.

"After a year and a half of battling covid 19 I understand many of us feel ready to move on from the pandemic, but let me be clear: the pandemic is not over," she continued. "We are still living with covid-19 and we must do all we can to keep ourselves our families, and our communities safe."

Janey urged all residents to get the vaccine, as it is the best method of protection against the virus and will help people protect themselves and their community.

She said that as of the conference, more than 400,000 Bostonians have been fully vaccinated, and more than 66 percent of residents have received at least one dose of the vaccine. Additionally, 90 percent of Bostonians ages 65 to 74 are fully vaccinated, Janey said.

"In every neighborhood, with the exception of Mattapan, more than 50 percent of the residents are vaccinated," Janey said. But she stressed that more work needs to be done.

"My goal is to have every City of Boston employee vaccinated," she said. "That has been the focus throughout this year." Clinics for teachers, EMTs, police officers, and firefighters have been set up, as well as clinics at City Hall and paid time off for city employees to get their shots.

"With cases on the rise and the Delta variant now the dominant strain in Boston, I believe this is

the best path forward to get every employee vaccinated," Janey said. "If it takes a mandate to keep the City of Boston employees safe, that is what we'll do with very thoughtful, worker-centered approaches."

She said that masks remain the best way for people under the age of 12 to protect themselves, as the vaccine has not yet been approved for that age group.

She said that she and superintendent Brenda Cassellius "are requiring all [Boston Public School (BPS)] students and staff to wear masks indoors." This policy is already in effect for summer school, and "will remain in place as students return in the fall, and it is supported by our Teachers Union," Janey said.

She also said that the city is working to help BPS students ages 12 and older get access to the vaccine.

"We are also boosting vaccination in communities hardest hit by the pandemic," she said. She said mobile vaccination clinics continue to "meet residents where they are" so they can have equitable access to the vaccine.

"The COVID Delta variant presents a new threat to those who remain unvaccinated," Janey said. "This new virus is more contagious, more easily contracted, and more easily transmitted. The longer we linger with large numbers of unvaccinated residents, the more opportunity there is for the COVID virus to mutate again and prolong this pandemic."

She continued, "for Boston residents who have delayed their vaccine, please do not wait for the Delta variant to catch up with you. Now is your time to get vaccinated."

Janey also said that the city is working with restaurants and bars to get younger people vaccinated, as most people with new positive cases are between the ages of 20 and 39 years old. She said that the city is "providing businesses with social media graphics and printed flyers to post in their establishments. We are also bringing mobile vaccination clinics to events, bars, and restaurants where the younger population is gathering."

PUBLIC SAFETY

Janey also reported last Thursday that the city's Office of Police Accountability and Transparency (OPAT) "has completed a review and response to my request to deliver a plan for review and reform of the police department's internal affairs procedures that allowed accused child molester Patrick Rose to remain a member

of the [Boston Police Department (BPD)] or 2 decades after an internal BPD investigation resulted in a sustained finding against him," and the results were released on the 27th of July.

Janey said that the review "included conversations with BPD officers, including internal affairs and command staff."

Stephanie Everett, Executive Director of the OPAT, "has issued three key findings and recommendations," according to Janey.

The first is that "in 1995, the Internal Affairs Department did not act quickly, independently, or fully upon notice of a complaint," Janey said. There have been "policies and procedures" implemented since then, but Janey said that those policies need to do more.

"It is now recommended that the BPD Bureau of Professional Standards seek to interview witnesses within 48 hours of notification that an officer has been charged with a violation of the law."

Second, Janey said it was found that BPD did not take adequate steps for discipline or termination based on findings of misconduct from the Internal Affairs Division.

"To address this, it is recommended that the discipline from Internal Affairs investigations be made visible, predictable, and just, and use a discipline matrix being developed by the police commissioner for the Civilian Review Board to use in its discipline recommendations," Janey said, adding that if discipline recommended by the board is not put into effect, the reasons for the decision not to do so will need to be put in writing.

Lastly, Janey said that it was found that "there was no independent oversight of the Internal Affairs Division's investigations." In order to help with this, Janey said an amendment will be filed for the OPAT ordinance that will require the BPD to make OPAT aware of any criminal charges against officers to begin an investigation.

"In conclusion, this review found that the 1992 St. Clair Commission recommended a series of reforms that may have prevented Rose from remaining on the force and allegedly assaulting more children two decades after the Internal Affairs Division sustained a finding in this case," Janey said.

"In 2021, we have an obligation to ensure this never happens again," Janey said. "We must implement the 2020 recommendations offered by Wayne Budd and the Police Reform Task Force members and continue to establish OPAT and its public boards with urgency."



NEWTON HIRING EVENT!

Date: August 11-12, 2021

Time: 10:00am-3:00pm

**Address: 1089 Washington St
Newton, MA 02465**

ASCEND Mass is hiring for their new store in Newton. Our workforce will reflect the diversity of the City. We are looking to build a world class team that will shape the future of cannabis by hiring hard-working, passionate people with exceptional customer service skills.

DISPENSARY SUPERVISOR (FT)

Supports Assistant Managers.

Cross-trained in front-of-house and back-of-house operations, staff training, customer service, receiving and compliance.

DISPENSARY ASSOCIATES

(FT) & (PT)

Guide customers through their cannabis purchasing experience, POS transactions, processing payments, cash handling, order fulfillment, inventory receiving, and other aspects of daily operations.

All applicants must be 21+

Competitive wages

Benefits offered for FT positions

**TO APPLY PLEASE VISIT
awholdings.com/careers**

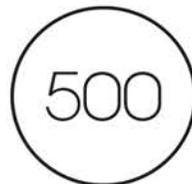


BACK TO THE BEACH!



REVERE BEACH International Sand Sculpting FESTIVAL

AUGUST 6-8



LEARN MORE AT:

WWW.RBISSF.COM

Mission Hill community member joins New England Baptist Hospital's Board of Trustees

New England Baptist Hospital has named John Jackson, a long-time Mission Hill community member, to its Board of Trustees.

Mr. Jackson currently oversees administrative activities and acts as a community liaison for Boston Centers for Youth & Families. Previously, he was a program supervisor at Tobin Community Center where he was responsible for designing,

implementing and evaluating programs. Under his leadership, the Tobin Community Center has received \$1,000,000 in donated equipment and facility upgrades.

As its director and founder, Mr. Jackson's non-profit Boston Athletes United for Change provides employment support for over 200 local college athletes each year, offering them educational resources and mentorship opportunities.

Members of the Board of Trustees act as good-will ambassadors, highlighting the importance of New England Baptist Hospital's mission to their local communities and strengthening the hospital's ability to advance its mission through philanthropy.

New England Baptist Hospital (NEBH) is the premier regional provider for orthopedic surgery and the treatment of musculoskeletal diseases and

disorders. NEBH has been nationally recognized for high patient satisfaction and leadership in quality and clinical outcomes. NEBH is a teaching affiliate of Tufts University School of Medicine and conducts teaching programs in collaboration with Harvard Medical School. NEBH has been the official hospital of the Boston Celtics for over 30 years. New England Baptist Hospital is part of Beth Israel Lahey Health

(www.bilh.org), a health care system that brings together academic medical centers and teaching hospitals, community and specialty hospitals, more than 4,800 physicians and 36,000 employees in a shared mission to expand access to great care and advance the science and practice of medicine through groundbreaking research and education.

Green Line E Branch August closures discussed at public meeting

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The MBTA Green Line Transformation (GLT) team held a public meeting on July 14 to discuss track work that has now begun between Brigham Circle and South Huntington Ave. stations.

Angel Pena, Chief of the GLT, said that a year's worth of work will be completed in 28 days for this project, and said that it will include the replacement of "4,000 feet of embedded track between the South Huntington curve and Brigham Circle."

The project commenced on August 2, and is expected to be completed on August 29.

He said that this work will also include roadway and pavement improvements that will benefit pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists as well.

According to the presentation, a "28-day full-access closure is more efficient than one year of weekend diversions or night work," and will allow for better safety at the site and gets rid of the need to continually set up and break down the construction area.

The team also said that they have "worked closely with the City of Boston and other stakeholders as we prepare to carry out this work."

MBTA Senior Project Manager Desiree Patrice said that the team has spoken to the contractors to create and distribute signage for businesses impacted by the construction. The signs will let patrons know that businesses are still open during the construction.

GLT Senior Director Ben Frison said that there will be about two weeks of prep work

before the construction starts, which will help to "minimize disruptions and impacts on the community."

He said construction will occur in three different parts, beginning with the section from South Huntington Ave. to Frawley St., then Mission Park Dr. To Fenwood Rd., then the Tremont St. intersection. He also said that there will be a return to the second section to finish up.

GLT Project Manager Gwen Dunlevy added that prep work will commence from St. Albans Rd. to the Mission Park Garage.

She also talked about the "typical work zone," which includes a contractor taking over the center lanes of road to replace the track and repave the road. There will be one lane in each direction to allow cars and buses to travel, and no parking at any time will

be allowed along the work zone.

Frison said that there has been "advance coordination" with the local businesses regarding the work, and there have been in-person meetings with business owners in the Brigham Circle area as well.

He said that following conversations with business owners, the work plan had been changed to reflect the desire of reducing the impact of construction on the businesses. The original plan called for 18 days of work that would impact outdoor seating for local restaurants, but that has since been reduced to seven days, after which the outdoor seating will be restored.

Frison also said that members of the GLT team will be available daily on site to respond to concerns from local residents during the construction.

Dunlevy then talked about minimizing noise disruption in the neighborhood. The presentation states that "the loudest work will occur when crews cut rails with a saw and tamp the track to proper elevation."

According to a slide presented, noise mitigation efforts include "using self-adjusting backup alarms, silencers or mufflers on equipment," as well as other efforts to minimize noise such as noise blankets and "sound-deadening" material in bins and hoppers.

Dunlevy also spoke about the traffic management plan, which will include warning signs to detour traffic from construction, a police detail for emergency access, and U-turns will be permitted at the Longwood intersection with a police detail.

Pedestrian access will remain with crosswalks at either end of the work area, and there will be officers on hand to help pedestrians cross the street at every intersection.

Alternative service to the Green Line from Health St. to Brigham Circle will be offered on the 39 bus

free of charge, and service on that line will be more frequent during the construction period.

Patrice said that more than 4,000 subscribers were emailed with information about this project, and details about it are available on the MBTA GLT webpage.

Pena added that the website is updated regularly, and the team can be reached via email at glt@mbta.com. Additionally, there is a 24/7 noise hotline available for residents to call during the construction period. The number for the hotline is 508-676-3517.

One of the owners of Penguin Pizza said that he "found out on the 7th of July that we're going to be losing our outdoor seating," and that there was "no compensation for losing it."

He said he feels that the process has not been fair and that restaurant owners have not had enough time to "object."

He said that the team did meet with business owners, but some asked if the project could be done at a different time, and not when students are coming back to the neighborhood.

"Presently, 70 percent of our business is outdoor seating," he said, adding that he believes the project should happen in "October or November when there is more stability in our economy."

He said that while he recognizes the importance of the work, he does not approve of the process and the way it is being done.

"We understand that this is a very difficult decision," said Nancy Farrell of the GLT team.

Dunlevy said that this project is being done in the summer and not the fall because "this is the time period where we have lowest ridership," and it is also when there is the lowest recorded vehicle traffic in the area.

"We're glad that we were able

Crime Stats

Continued from page 11

201 incidents reported so far this year.

Auto Theft is down 8 percent with 123 incidents being reported

during the first half of 2020 and 113 incidents reported so far this year.

Other Larcenies are down 13 percent during the first half of the year. There were 300 incidents reported during the first half of 2020 and that number de-

creased to 260 reported incidents so far this year.

Overall there were 1,004 Non-Violent Part One Crimes, down 13 percent from the 1,248 reported during the first six months of 2020.

Jamaica Plain/Mission Hill Gazette • 2021 Publishing Calendar

Tel. 617-524-2626 • FAX 781-485-1403 • 7 Harris Ave., Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 • JamaicaPlainGazette.com

JULY							AUGUST							SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30		
OCTOBER							NOVEMBER							DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2						5	6				1	2	3	4
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31	
31																				

DEADLINES FOR PUBLICATION IS THE PREVIOUS MONDAY BY 4PM

Mayoral candidates tackle issue of homelessness in recent forum

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The Boston Coalition for Homeless Individuals, which consists of Boston Health Care for the Homeless, Pine Street Inn, Project Place, and St. Francis House, hosted a virtual mayoral forum on July 28.

Called “Pathways Out of Homelessness,” the forum was moderated by Boston Globe columnist Marcela Garcia and attended by candidates John Barros, Andrea Campbell, Annissa Essaibi George, Kim Janey, and Michelle Wu.

The forum focused on questions relating to issues surrounding homelessness in Boston, such as creating housing and services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

Candidates were first asked how they would increase “deeply affordable housing” in the city and “what goal” they could commit to for building new units.

Essaibi George said that the process for searching for housing needs to be made “less burdensome,” and people need better access to the system.

“As we work to build and streamline the process...we have to make sure there are entry points along the continuum of housing search for our city’s residents who are experiencing housing instability and homelessness,” she said. She added that she has worked on this as a city councilor, and would continue if elected mayor.

Acting Mayor Janey said that “we have done a lot already in my tenure over the last four months under my administration,” including investing \$50 million in the Rental Relief Fund. “We need to get into the thousands of units. We have to recognize that it’s not just individuals, that it’s families that need supportive housing,” she said.

Wu said that “we have fallen far short in terms of growing our city in a way that matches the accessibility at the income levels of what’s needed as well as the type of occupancy that’s needed.” She said that city resources should be used, and added that she has “committed to...analyzing every

single city owned building” for opportunities to create supportive housing within her first 100 days as mayor, should she be elected.

“I’ve always led from an intersectional lens,” Campbell said. Campbell began the Vacant Lot Initiative, which she said she would remain committed to if elected. She said she would activate 100 city owned lots within her first 100 days as mayor. “Workforce development also has to be a part of this conversation,” she added.

Barros said he is the “only candidate in this race that has actually built housing; built deeply affordable housing; built transitional supportive housing for homeless” in partnership with organizations.

“I’m proud to have been part of the Walsh administration that has housed over 15,000 unhoused people since 2014, including 1000 chronically homeless people and 1300 homeless veterans,” he said. “As mayor, I would promise to double that within the first four years.” Barros also said that services for mental health, safety, and food are also important.

Some questions were aimed at particular candidates, such as one for Janey and Campbell asking how they would “invest in workforce development training and incentivize employers to see individuals experiencing homelessness and returning to the community from incarceration as a solution to the workforce needs that employers are currently facing.”

Janey said that she would introduce a Chief of Labor and Workforce Development, which would be a cabinet-level position. She said that working to employ those with CORI, as well as working with labor unions and the Suffolk County Sheriff are things she would tackle.

“If we want people to be successful, we’ve got to set them up for success,” she said. She added that partnering with and expanding nonprofits who already do this type of work is a goal of hers, to help people with interview and resume skills.

“Workforce development in

general is near and dear to me,” Campbell said. She said that employees at City Hall need to be diversified, and providing jobs to those with CORI and disabilities at the city level. She also said that the “digital divide” needs to be closed.

In a question directed at Wu, Barros, and Essaibi George, candidates were asked if they would support supervised consumption facilities in the city.

“We need to take every possible step to save lives,” Wu said. “The data is clear.” She said that medical experts have said that these sites are life saving for many. “This is a moment where we have to follow the recommendations of our providers and experts in this area,” she said, and “work hand-in-hand with community partners and stakeholders...not just at Mass and Cass, but across all neighborhoods and regionally.”

Barros said he supports supervised consumption sites “that are planned and part of a continuum of care” and “created in tandem with additional wrap-around services.” He said that to implement these sites in Boston, a “thorough community process” would have to be held, and the sites would have to be able to be accessed equitably.

Essaibi George said she has visited safe consumption sites in Toronto and Vancouver. She said that it is “important to note” that these sites are “illegal by federal standards and federal law” in the United States, so “...licensed healthcare providers will not be able to participate in their operation.”

She said that for these sites to “work effectively and appropriately,” there would have to be many sites “located in close proximity to one another,” as people will not travel very far to go to one. “That investment will cost millions of dollars,” she said, adding that she would rather spend the money on “long-term recovery services.”

There was also a “lightning round” question, where candidates were asked whether or not they support the development of permanent supportive housing in the Shattuck Campus site, an

issue that has caused a divide in the communities surrounding Franklin Park where the hospital site is located. While many residents support the state’s plan to build supportive housing and services on the site, others feel that the land should be returned to Franklin Park and these services should be sited elsewhere, such as at the Arborway Yard in Jamaica Plain.

Barros said yes, he supports the construction of supportive housing on the site. Wu said “we need to have a full conversation with the state in terms of all the parcels.” She said that she does “support and will commit to urgently increasing the number of supportive housing units on city owned land and public land,” but there needs to be “one conversation about all the parcels at play here.”

Janey said “I support more supportive housing, indeed,” adding that she also calls for “a much more comprehensive approach in terms of how we get at that number.”

Essaibi George said she does support supportive housing on that site, but she said that at the same time, the city, stakeholders, and residents “can continue to have those conversations around other parcels of land.”

Campbell said she also supports the housing on that site. “I have received a lot of correspondence on this issue,” she said, adding that many residents have expressed support for the housing and services as a way to tackle the opioid crisis in the city. She added that there are also “ways in which to have a conversation about the other concerns related to that parcel.”

All candidates were asked how they would “respond to NIMBYism and community pushback, and actually get permanent supportive housing built.”

Essaibi George said that it’s imperative to ensure that when supportive housing is built, that it truly is permanent supportive housing. “We need to work in direct partnership with our non-profit organizations,” she said, and the City has to be a leader. “We have the power to create a streamlined process and making sure we’re pushing that

through,” Wi said. She called for zoning code updates, as “...we are in a broken system where every single new development has to go through unknown, unspecified numbers of meetings and conversations and negotiations because there is no clear sense of what the rules are.” She also said she would “transform and empower the Boston Housing Authority.” Campbell said that “closing the gaps in terms of economic opportunities, safe neighborhoods, schools, health disparities,” as well as “dealing with and addressing the public safety crisis” at Mass and Cass” are priorities of hers. She said that everyone has a responsibility, including city employees, the business community, health professionals, and those who work in supportive housing, to be a leader on this front.

“...segregating affordable housing or concentrating poverty into a few areas in the city” is not fair, Barros said. He said conversations need to be had about “equity and access” and “equity in resources.” He said he has been having these conversations in the community about where supportive housing should be built, and this process should be done in a way that promotes equity citywide.

Janey said that aside from the \$50 million invested in the Rental Relief Fund, her administration is also working to prevent the displacement of people from their homes. She said that this “doesn’t even include the hundreds of millions of dollars in federal support. That money is going to a number of things, including how we’re dealing with public housing in our city.” She said many existing units are “in desperate need of upgrades,” and there is a need for additional units of supportive housing as well.

Candidates were also asked about “innovative ideas” they have for tackling homelessness in the city, as well as increasing access to water, bathrooms, and places to do laundry for those experiencing homelessness.

The full recording of the forum can be found on Pine Street Inn’s YouTube channel or on its website.

Green Line

Continued from page 14

to reduce the impacts of that local area from 18 to 7 days,” Frison

said. He said that the team recognizes that this work “is tough on local businesses, especially coming out of COVID.”

Farrell added that a letter

is being written to express “the commitment for only seven days of impact on outdoor seating.”

Others also had concerns about the effect of the construction on

local businesses, accessibility during construction, and other issues. The full video and slideshow from the meeting can be found at mbta.com/events/2021-07-14/

public-meeting-green-line-transformation-glt-e-branch-track-and-intersection.

Any questions or concerns can be directed to GLT@mbta.com.

EBT/SNAP benefits expanded to online purchases

By JOHN LYNDS

During the height of the pandemic, most Mission Hill residents were doing their food shopping from the comfort of their homes.

While the online grocery delivery service industry exploded because many were not comfortable venturing into crowded grocery stores, it exposed a significant inequity for those who receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

Many who received benefits found that many online food shopping services lacked the ability to checkout online and pay using their SNAP/EBT cards, especially on grocery delivery platforms like Instacart.

Last month, the Baker-Polito Administration closed that loophole and announced that residents who receive SNAP/EBT benefits can use their cards to buy fresh food and pantry staples

online from a variety of participating stores for same-day delivery and pickup via Instacart, including Price Chopper, ALDI and newly added Stop & Shop and Hannaford. Walmart and Amazon are also federally approved SNAP online retailers in the state.

Massachusetts first launched the SNAP online purchasing program on May 29, 2020. To date, Massachusetts residents have spent over \$75 million in SNAP benefits in online grocery purchases across retailers. Similar to using SNAP/EBT benefits to purchase food in a store, benefits can be used to buy SNAP-eligible foods online, including fresh produce, frozen foods, dairy and eggs.

“SNAP online purchasing is one of several tools the Administration has employed, alongside the state’s national leadership in Pandemic EBT and continuation of SNAP Emergency Allotments, to combat food insecurity

for Massachusetts individuals and families,” said Secretary of Health and Human Services Marylou Sudders. “SNAP remains an important tool as we start to recover from the public health crisis by putting money to buy healthy food directly into the hands of hundreds of thousands of households and supporting our local communities.”

The Department of Transitional Assistance Commissioner Amy Kershawa said as a result of the economic fallout of COVID-19, the state has seen a historic increase in SNAP participation, with 100,000 more households now utilizing the program for a total of approximately 550,000 households.

“Massachusetts has heavily invested in IT changes and maximized federal flexibilities to make it easier than ever to apply for SNAP and conduct convenient business with the agency 24/7 online and over the

phone,” she said. “In addition to these changes, SNAP online purchasing is another tool bringing greater equity to how residents can utilize SNAP.”

Residents can shop for groceries from Stop & Shop, Hannaford, Price Chopper and ALDI via the Instacart online site and mobile app. Once an Instacart customer profile is created, customers can enter their EBT/SNAP card information as a form of payment. Customers can enter their zip code to determine if they are near a participating retailer, and begin shopping for retailers’ EBT-eligible products. Once items are added to their cart, customers will be able to select how much of their benefits they would like to allocate to the order. Orders for delivery and pickup can be placed by customers for receipt in as fast as an hour or scheduled several days in advance.

To help subsidize costs for SNAP/EBT participants, Insta-

cart will waive delivery or pickup fees through September 16, 2021, on up to the first three orders for each customer with a valid EBT card associated with their Instacart account. For more information on EBT/SNAP on Instacart visit: <https://www.instacart.com/ebt-snap>.

“Providing people access to the food they love is at the core of Instacart’s mission. We’re proud to partner with Price Chopper, ALDI and now Hannaford and Stop & Shop to provide more families in Massachusetts with a convenient and accessible way to get their fresh food and pantry staples,” said David Healy, Retail Partnerships at Instacart. “Expanding EBT/SNAP to reach same-day online grocery delivery and pickup is important to help people access the food they need, and we look forward to expanding this payment integration to even more retailers across Massachusetts.”

MissionSAFE receives 10-year \$500,000 Cummings Foundation Grant

STAFF REPORT

MissionSAFE works with young people primarily in Mission Hill, Roxbury and Dorchester fwho face multiple obstacles to success, to foster their innate

talents and dreams and work with them gain the skills, joy and confidence to thrive, not just survive, and to help make their world a better place.

MissionSAFE offers a safe, nurturing yet challenging envi-

ronment, a trauma-responsive approach, and growth fostering adult/youth relationships to help youth move away from intergenerational poverty, violence and hopelessness.

“We are beyond thrilled to receive this grant,” said Nikki Flionis, Executive Director. “It is a mark of the Cummings Foundation’s faith in the work we do and the future of the youth with whom we work.”

“This grant,” said Jumaane Kendrick, Director of Program & Partnerships, “come at an important time for us as we are meeting increased need for the work we do and as we are planning for our growth to meet that need.”

According to both Flionis and Kendrick, the grant arrives at a perfect time as MissionSAFE merges the programming and former staff of Dorchester Youth Collaborative, which ceased operations in March 2021, into the MissionSAFE family.

MissionSAFE’s combination of trauma-informed violence prevention, personal growth, and job readiness support has received funding from the Boston Police Department, Boston Department of Public Health, the Suffolk County District Attorney’s office as well as numerous foundations,

and Flionis and Kendrick hopes the Cummings Grant will further elevate MissionSAFE’s profile and funding support.

The Cummings \$25 Million Grant Program supports Massachusetts nonprofits that are

based primarily and serve Middlesex, Essex and Suffolk counties.

“We aim to meet the needs of people in all segments of our lo-

Continued on page 17

Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll



PELUA + GORDO

Pelua is looking for a home with her best friend, Gordo! When their original owner in Puerto Rico passed away our rescue partner brought them to us. They found a loving home where they were pampered as much as their family could, but the hustle and bustle of the neighborhood was too stressful for these pups. They are looking for a home in a quiet neighborhood. When their family leaves they will “sing” so a single-family home and a family home most of the day would be

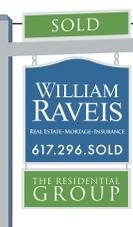


best. They would love a home where they can lounge in a quiet, fenced-in yard. Both these pups love walks in quiet areas and enjoy carrying their soft toys around. They can be a little shy around strangers but warm up quickly to those who go slow and are very affectionate dogs.

For more information about Pelua + Gordo and/or other animals in need of adoption, please contact:



Sponsored by:
Sarah Carroll, REALTOR®
 The Residential Group
 at William Raveis Real Estate
 16 Clarendon St., Boston MA 02116
 781-820-0280 or
sarah@residentialgroup.com





MISSION HILL MAIN STREETS

From all of us at MHMS

Enjoy Your Summer!

Mission Hill Main Streets
 1542 Tremont Street
 Boston, MA 02115
mainstreetsellenwalker@gmail.com
 (617) 232-0182





Circle Members : Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, City of Boston Credit Union, Dana Farber Cancer Center, MH Post 327, Needham Bank, New England Baptist Hospital, Northeastern University and Wentworth Institute of Technology.



MBTA puts out invitation for bids on Domino's retail storefront

By SETH DANIEL

The MBTA has put out an Invitation to Bid (ITB) on a key

Cummings grant

Continued from page 16

cal community.” said Cummings Foundation Executive Director, Joel Swets. “It is the incredible organizations we fund, however, that do the actual daily work to empower our neighbors, educate our children, fight for equity, and so much more.”

With the help of roughly 80 volunteers, the Foundation first identified 140 organizations to receive grants of at least \$100,000 each. Among the winners were first-time recipients as well as nonprofits that had previously received Cummings Foundation grants. Forty of this latter group of repeat recipients were then selected to have their grants el-

storefront in the Roxbury Crossing Station – with the lease expiring for the current lease-holder Domino's Pizza in the coming

evated to 10 year awards ranging from \$200,000 to \$500,000 each.

“We have adopted a democratic approach to philanthropy which empowers an impressive roster of dedicated volunteers to decide more than half of all our grant winners each year,” said Swets. “We benefit from their diverse backgrounds and perspectives; they benefit from a meaningful and fulfilling experience; and the nonprofits often benefit from increased exposure and new advocates.

This year's grant recipients represent a wide variety of causes, including social justice, homelessness prevention, affordable housing, education, violence prevention, and food insecurity. The non-profits are spread across 43 different cities and towns.

months.

Domino's has existed in the busy storefront location that is situated within the MBTA station for many years, but according to the MBTA's Joe Pesaturo, that lease is expiring and the T would like to see what interest is out there.

Domino's continues to operate in the space as of now.

“Domino's existing lease term is concluding, therefore, the MBTA is actively undertaking an Invitation to Bid (ITB) process with bids due August 13 at 1 p.m.,” he said.

Councilor Kenzie Bok has promoted the ITB within the community and is encouraging the community to become involved or local businesses to bid.

The storefront is 2,090 sq. ft. and the station boasts a daily ridership of 4,727 people.

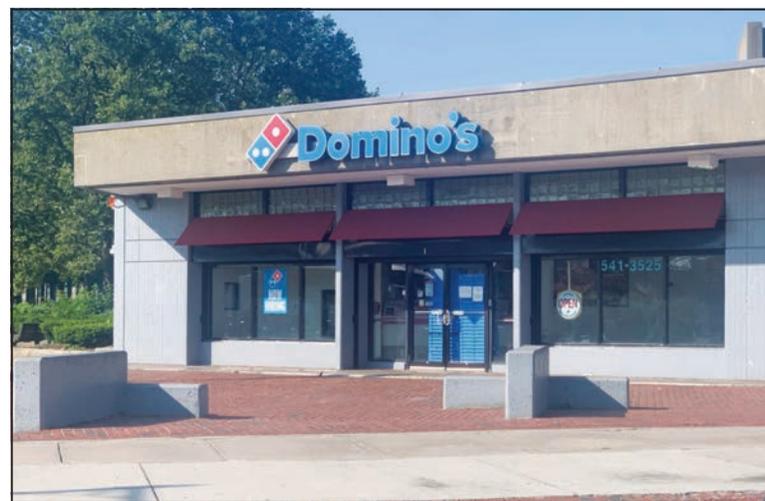


Photo by Camryn Daniel

The MBTA has begun an Invitation to Bid (ITB) process on the storefront at the Roxbury Crossing Station, which is currently occupied by Domino's Pizza. The lease on Domino's is about to expire, and the T is gauging interest from others for the lease. Bids on the storefront are due Aug. 13.

The process is being run by Greystone & Co., Inc./Massachusetts Realty Group. Interested parties can call (617) 316-1654 or go to www.mbtarealty.com.

The Cannabis Control Commission's Social Equity Program

Which track is right for you?



Seeking entry into the legal, Massachusetts cannabis industry but have two years of experience or less? Our free training program can help you make the transition.



Visit our website to learn more and apply!



MassCannabisControl.com/EquityPrograms



Mission Hill

BUSINESSES ARE OPEN

DURING GREEN LINE CONSTRUCTION AUGUST 2-29, 2021

T GLT | Green Line Transformation

Learn more at mbta.com/GLT

RETIRED BOSTON POLICE OFFICER, VETERAN, US NAVY - NUCLEAR SUBMARINE SERVICE

PRO-LIFE
PRO-POLICE
PRO-VETERANS
PRO EXAM SCHOOLS

ROBERT MEANY CAPPUCCI

CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR OF BOSTON

Please vote for me!
#7 on the ballot



Paid Political Ad Paid for by Cappucci Committee

EDITORIAL

NOT ALL PARENTS KNOW WHAT'S BEST FOR THEIR KIDS

The executive order signed last week by Gov. Ron DeSantis of Florida banning local school boards from requiring students to wear masks in schools in that state rates as one of the most reprehensible actions of any public official since the pandemic began.

Thanks to DeSantis's lack of leadership and nutty pronouncements throughout the course of the pandemic, Florida now rates as one of the biggest hotspots for the coronavirus in the world, accounting alone for almost 20% of the daily infections in the U.S. and recently breaking its own one-day record for infections.

Predictably, the state's healthcare system is being swamped by COVID-19 patients, who are dying at a rate that is 10 times greater than New York City's.

DeSantis's order fails to recognize two basic facts:

First, although the rate of serious illness among children who catch COVID remains low, more than 19,000 children have been hospitalized with coronavirus in 24 states and New York City as of July 22, according to a database from the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Children's Hospital Association.

That is a large number and it surely will spike when children return to school indoors.

Second, DeSantis's order fails to acknowledge that while masks afford some protection to the mask-wearer, the primary benefit accrues to everyone else who is around the mask-wearer, whose aerosols are contained within the mask, rather than being spread around a room unimpeded where they linger to be inhaled by another person.

Maskless students needlessly risk infecting their teachers, classmates, and staff members, as well as the family members and everyone else who comes into contact with anyone who is at those schools. In short, the reopening of schools without adherence to the COVID-19 precautions that we're all familiar with will become a superspreader event in every community in Florida, even among the vaccinated, thanks to the highly-contagious Delta variant.

However, it is the basic false premise of DeSantis's executive order -- that parents know what is best for their children's health -- that is the most harmful aspect of his reasoning.

Typical parents are not the best caregivers for their children's health for the simple reason that they are not medical experts, especially when it comes to COVID-19.

While we will concede that most parents love their children, it also is undeniable that parents who are not following the guidelines set forth by the CDC and the American Society of Pediatricians (which are recommending mask-wearing in schools) are sacrificing their children's health on the altar of their political views.

ENJOY THE REVERE BEACH SAND SCULPTING FESTIVAL

This weekend marks the return of the 16th annual Revere Beach International Sand Sculpting Festival, featuring master sand sculptors who have come from all over the globe to compete in one of the largest sand sculpting festivals in the world.

The festival will be held on Friday from 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m.-10 p.m., and Sunday from 10 a.m.- 8 p.m. A grand fireworks display will be held Saturday evening at 9:00 p.m.

In 2019, the event drew an estimated one million attendees, drawn not only by the wonderful sculptures, but also by food trucks, food vendors, exhibitors, and much more, so it is advisable that attendees from out of town plan on taking the T to Revere Beach station.

This year's festival also will be a celebration of the 125th anniversary of Revere Beach, America's first public beach.

All in all, the 2021 Sand Sculpting Festival promises to be a memorable event for all members of the family.

OP-ED

Medical care, American Dream or Nightmare - Redux

BY CATHERINE DELOREY,
WOMEN'S HEALTH INSTITUTE
DIRECTOR

In the last issue of the Mission Hill Gazette, Dr. Glenn Mollette discussed some issues with the United States health care system, focusing on the costs of services and insurance.

He concludes by stating we must have access to good and affordable medical care and we must make medical insurance a priority. But, he neglects to discuss how we can accomplish this. Medical insurance, as now organized in the United States, is a major element that supports our for-profit health care system, the most expensive health care system in the world.

But, there is one beacon on the horizon that can address this. Single Payer health care, also known as Medicare for All, is the way to make health care affordable and equitable for everyone. Even though more than 70% of US residents support a single

payer system, the fact that we do not yet have it suggests this is a political issue more than a scientific issue. The United States is the only developed country in the world that does not offer its residents universal health care.

In a single payer system, the dysfunctional factors, of lack of access, and high costs of the current system will be eliminated. With a single payer health care system many of these current dysfunctions would be resolved. "Everybody In, Nobody Out," a popular chant, highlights a primary characteristic of a single

payer system, that everyone has access to health care services. Health care is not based on income, or what the insurance company presumes appropriate. It is a medical decision between the care providers and the patient. In addition to everyone being eligible, single payer health care is portable, that is, it is not dependant on place of employment, marriage, or residence.

In a reformed system there

are uniform benefits for everyone. Which health services are offered does not depend on how much money a person has or how expensive an insurance plan they have. Benefits are determined by need. The interferences of the health insurance company determining services would be eliminated. Prevention and health education would be an integral function of an individual health care plan. Health insurers do not pay for prevention because, although it may save money in the long run, it does not always save money in the short term. Since people often change insurance companies, an individual health insurer would not reap the benefits of preventive care.

Another advantage of a single payer system, is that each person selects their own physician. One does not need to be concerned if the provider or specialist is in the plan or not, there are no

hidden costs from seeing a

Continued on page 19

OP-ED

City employees deserve our gratitude and respect

BY JOHN BARROS,

Public service is a calling, a passion for serving your neighbors, and a drive to create a better community now and for future generations. Almost all of the 18,000 women and men who work for the City of Boston share these values. Teachers, public works hokies, park designers, public safety officials, planners, tellers, parking enforcement attendants, schedulers, building inspectors, and more -- they love their city and take pride in their work. While some distrust government and think the worst of public employees, I know how hard they work, what they are up against, and that many of them are underpaid, overworked, and unappreciated.

When I left City Hall in March, I worried that I was leaving my colleagues just as they would be starting to struggle through a transition with an interim mayor, against the backdrop of an election. All after a 15-month period in which City employees continued working and serving residents during a pandemic in which we lost 1,400 lives, thou-

sands of jobs, and hundreds of small businesses. Employees worked through emotional and mental stress while juggling childcare, at-home learning, and family responsibilities. These same people worked around the clock to permit outdoor dining, distribute food and relief grants, and help keep residents as safe as possible. In those 15 months, I saw the true character of our city's workforce.

I had conversations with many anxious employees before leaving. I told them to continue working hard and delay any decisions until the long-term trajectory of the City, under the leadership of a duly elected mayor, became clearer. Four months later, hundreds of people have left and are leaving City Hall -- a drain of talent and institutional knowledge that will have a grim impact on city services. Some were nervous about what was coming, and sought security in an environment where they wouldn't be subject to political whim. Some subscribe to the old wisdom that it's easier to find a job when you have a job. Some moved to the private sector, mak-

ing more money working fewer hours and with less stress. Many spoke of an environment inside City Hall where they felt they were not part of the team anymore

So, I want to address City employees who are still there. I see you. I know and appreciate you. I know how much you sacrificed throughout the pandemic, and I am proud of the work we did together. I ask you to stay in place if you can, for the good of the city. If I am able to earn the honor of being your next Mayor, I pledge to listen and explore options for increased flexibility and childcare resources. I pledge to invest in the technology and tools you need to do your jobs successfully. And I promise to invest in your well-being, professional development, and your family's future. Lastly, I pledge to work with you to unify the workforce, the city, and move us all forward to Boston's full potential.

John Barros is a candidate for Mayor of Boston and former Chief of Economic Development for the City of Boston.

Main Streets districts host mayoral forum focused on improving Boston's neighborhoods

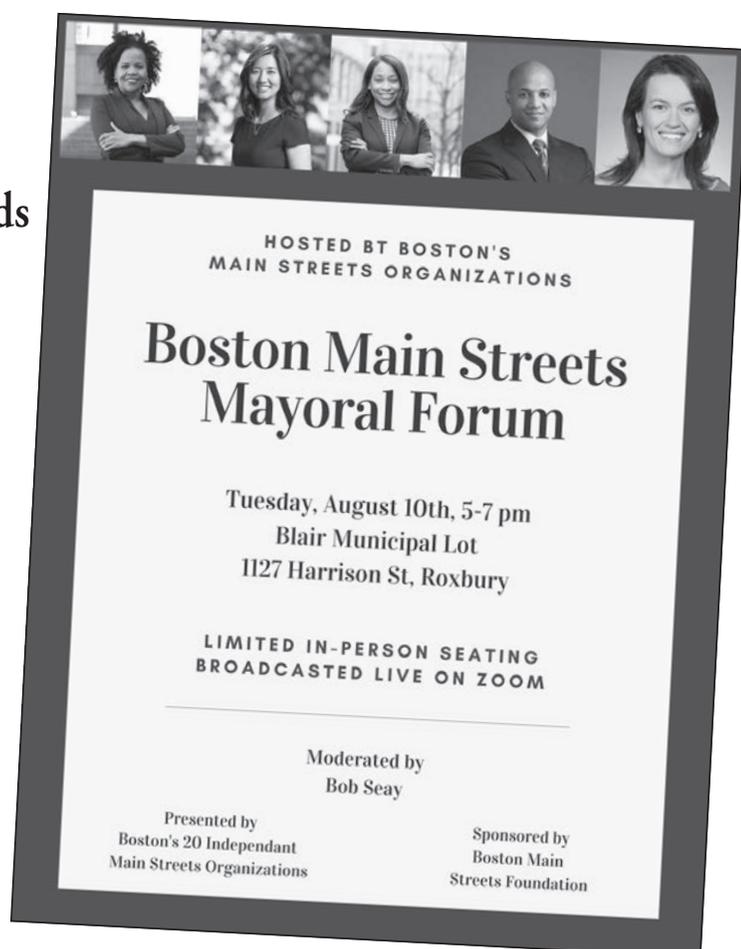
On August 10, the coalition of 20 independent nonprofits that make up Boston's Main Streets districts will convene a Mayoral Candidate Forum to ask tough questions and hear how each candidate plans to support, sustain and advance healthy commercial districts throughout Boston's neighborhoods via the Main Street's program.

"As a collective, we want the businesses, residents and community organizations that make up each Main Street district to know where the candidates for Mayor stand on issues impacting the revitalization and quality of life in their neighborhoods," says Aidan McDonough, Brighton Main Streets Executive Director and Board Member to the Boston Main Streets Foundation.

How do each of the candidates plan to further the work Main Streets together?

The Boston Main Streets Mayoral Forum is set to take place on Tuesday August 10, 2021 (with a rain date of Wednesday August 25, 2021). This two hour event will run from 5:00-7:00PM.

Limited in-person seating is available in a covid safe environment at the Blair Lot of Nubian Square, 1127 Harrison Ave, Boston, MA 02119. The Forum will



also be live broadcast on Facebook Live. Bob Seay of WGBH will be the moderator for this event.

Boston Main Streets started in 1983, when then City Councilor Thomas M. Menino brought Main Street to Roslindale. Ten neighborhood commercial districts were designated as Boston Main Street programs in 1995 following a citywide competition. Ten more districts were designated over the next 10 years. The final district was designated in 2016. The network of 20 independent

non-profit Main Streets organizations exists across Boston. Main Streets use a comprehensive revitalization approach to create, build, and sustain healthy commercial districts.

For further information on the Mayoral Forum contact your local Main Street Director or Jeanne Dasaro at exec@greaterashmont.org

A Special thank you to the Boston Main Street Foundation for sponsoring this event.

Op-Ed

Continued from page 18

physician who is "out of plan", since there is no "out of plan". The United States has the most expensive health care system in the world. We pay more than twice the cost of health care of other developed countries, costing more than \$11,000 for every person in the country. By not needing to pay premiums, copays or deductibles, single payer will save money for individuals and the entire health care system. More than 95% of individuals would save money.

Although a single payer system is necessary, it is not sufficient. Once we have health care access for everyone, we can begin to address the structural problems with the system. Knowing that 70% of the population supports single payer, shows us how much single payer is political.

As a political issue, constituents have a responsibility to inform their elected representatives that a single payer system is an idea whose time has come and we should join the rest of the developed world in having a system that is universal, affordable and equitable. Mission Hill is becoming an epicenter for health care reform, being home to two major health activist organizations. Health Care Now (www.health-care-now.org) is fighting to win a national single-payer healthcare system because access to healthcare is basic to human dignity, and Mass-Care (www.masscare.org) is the pre-eminent Massachusetts organization working to establish a single payer health care system in Massachusetts.

The following is federal and state legislation supporting single payer / Medicare for All:

- Medicare for All Act of 2021 HR 1976 (<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/117/hr1976#>)

filed by Representative Pramila Jayapal; 117 co-sponsors.

- An Act establishing Medicare for all in Massachusetts. H 1267 (<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H1267>) filed by Denise C. Garlick and Lindsay N. Sabadosa; supported by more than 60 legislators,

- An Act establishing Medicare for all in Massachusetts. S 766 (<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/S766>) filed by Sen. James Eldridge supported by 25 state senators.

If we are not satisfied with the current dysfunctional health care system it is up to us to support the organizations and legislation that will change it.

Catherine DeLorey is a long time Mission Hill resident. She is president of Women's Health Institute, a women's health education organization located in Mission Hill.

Delayed by the pandemic, grand opening finally held for Hattie Kelton Apartments

BY LAUREN BENNETT

More than two dozen of activist Hattie Kelton's extended family members, some of whom came from across the country, gathered at the Hattie Kelton Apartments at 61 Heath St. on July 17 to celebrate the grand opening of the 47 unit affordable housing building.

State Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz, State Rep. Nika Elugardo, and City Councilor

Matt O'Malley were also in attendance.

"Today we are very happy to be finally celebrating the completion of the Hattie Kelton Apartments," said JPND Board Co-Chair John Fitzgerald.

"It started more than 20 years ago with a community planning process about how do we claim by and for the community dozens of vacant lots in this neighborhood, after a history of unwelcome in-

Continued on page 20

CLASSIFIEDS

classifieds@JamaicaPlainGazette.com

617-524-2626

SERVICES

David at kNurd on Kall : com can help with PC computers, networks, audio/video/multimedia, phone solutions. \$Reasonable\$. House calls. 617-676-5676 or 617-522-6090

CLASSIFIED INFO

Rate: \$14 buys 10 words, including a bold heading: 25 cents for each additional word. **Deadline:** 3 PM on the Monday before publication date. Fax your ad to 617-524-3921 or mail it to Gazette Publications, Inc., PO. Box 301119, JP, MA 02130. Or e-mail it to classifieds@JamaicaPlainGazette.com. For more info. call 617-524-2626. Press 5, then press 3. The Gazette accepts all major credit cards.

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

Mission Hill GAZETTE

Circulation 7,000

Published 12 times a year in Jamaica Plain by Independent Newspaper Group

Patricia DeOliveira
Advertising Manager

Sandra Storey
Founder/Publisher Emerita 1993-2011

Seth Daniel, Reporter
seth@reverjournal.com

Lauren Bennett, Reporter
lauren@thebostonsun.com

©INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER GROUP

Stephen Quigley, *President* stephen.quigley@reverjournal.com
Debra DiGregorio, *Director of Marketing* ads@jamaicaplaingazette.com

The Mission Hill Gazette is delivered free businesses and organizations in the neighborhood 12 times a year on Friday and Saturday. It is free in stores.

Independent Newspaper Group will not assume financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertisements. Questions or complaints regarding advertising must be sent in writing to the billing department within seven days of publication in order for adjustments to be made to the account. We reserve the right to use our discretion in accepting or rejecting advertising copy.

Telephone: (617) 524-2626 • Fax: (617) 524-3921
7 Harris Avenue, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
JamaicaPlainGazette.com

PLEASE WRITE...

The Gazette welcomes letters to the editor. Word limit: 500. Deadline: Friday at 5 p.m. one week before publication. Letters may be emailed to letters@JamaicaPlainGazette.com.

Please include address and telephone number for verification purposes. Anonymous letters will not be published. More information: 617-524-2626

Hattie Kelton

Continued from page 19

stitutional expansion, arson, and dumping.”

Hattie Kelton, who passed away in 1998, lived at the Mildred C. Hailey apartments (then called Bromley-Heath) when she moved to Boston from Virginia in 1954, then moved to Lawn St. after her husband passed away in 1967, according to the JPND. She co-founded the Martha Eliot Health Center, as well as a founding member of the Back of the Hill Community Development Corporation.

“Hattie spent countless hours doing everything from meeting with neighbors and elected officials to marching and picketing in Boston and as far away as the White House,” according to the JPND.

The event was delayed a year because of the pandemic, but 47 families were officially welcomed into their units as part of the celebration. Construction was completed in December of 2019, and residents were selected via a lottery organized by the City. Residents began moving into

their units in the spring of last year.

The Hattie Kelton Apartments were developed by the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation (JPND) in partnership with the Back of the Hill Community Development Corporation.

The units are between 0 and 70% of the Area Median Income, and the 47 units are comprised of 14 three-bedroom units, 22 two bedroom units, and 11 one bedroom units. The apartments are located a quarter mile away from the Jackson Square T station, and the units were constructed according to LEED and Energy Star standards, according to a press release from JPND.

There are two units for clients of the Mass. Dept. of Developmental Services, and five units for formerly homeless individuals along with resident services.

The building also features a community room and 20 parking spaces.

“Displacement and gentrification had to go through Miss Hattie...and it is such a wonderful legacy to see her here recognized today for her work,” Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz said



Hattie Kelton's extended family, along with the JPND, Back of the Hill CDC, Rep. Nika Elugardo, Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz, and Councilor Matt O'Malley, helped to cut the ribbon signifying the official opening of the Hattie Kelton Apartments at 61 Heath St. on July 17.

at the celebration, “and I want to see more and more women of color lifted up and celebrated in this way over the years in the community.”

State Rep Nika Elugardo said that “Miss Hattie is a legend in this neighborhood that I have the joy of representing...celebrating Miss Hattie is celebrating the heritage and soul of Mission Hill, which is embodied in you all, embodied in the family, embodied in

the elected officials.”

The event culminated in a ribbon cutting with Hattie Kelton’s family members, elected officials, and project partners, as well as a presentation of the plaque that will hang in the apartment building lobby. Other speakers included Dan Rivera, President and CEO of MassDevelopment, Richard Giordano of the Back of the Hill CDC, resident leader Willie Mitchell, and Andrew Earl

Kelton, Jr.

“Every time we hand someone the keys to a beautiful new home, it’s one small victory,” JPND CEO Teronda Ellis said in a statement. “It’s tremendously gratifying to know that 47 families who are priced out of Boston’s housing market are making their home here in Jamaica Plain because of the Hattie Kelton Apartments.”



Do you believe that young people deserve encouragement & support to reach their full potential? Are you looking to serve a community invested in social justice & education equity?

APPLY NOW to serve with the Mass Promise Fellowship

Start Date: August 16, 2021

End Date: June 24, 2022

Applications accepted on a rolling basis through July

Minimum Qualifications:

- Have at least a high school degree or GED equivalent
- Be at least 17 years old
- Be a US Citizen, National, or Permanent Resident
- Be willing to comply with a criminal background check

Our Benefits Include:

- A living stipend of up to \$18,000
- FREE Classes at Northeastern's College of Professional Studies
- Monthly Professional and Personal Development
- \$6,345 Education Award upon completion
- Health insurance, federal loan forbearance, member assistance program

