

BEST OF MISSION HILL SURVEY P. 7

Mission Hill

GAZETTE

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SEPTEMBER 6, 2019 – OCTOBER 3, 2019

CIRCULATION 7,000

FLASHLIGHT WALK



A group shot of all the officers, residents and community leaders that participated in the Flashlight Walk through Mission Main Apartments on Aug. 27. See more photos on Page 3.

CAMH meets with developers

BY LAURA PLUMMER

On Wednesday, August 21, the Community Alliance of Mission Hill (CAMH) met for its regularly scheduled monthly meeting. On the agenda was a presentation by the developers of the property at 16-19 Delle Avenue.

• Delle Avenue

Developers of 16-19 Delle Avenue are seeking a number of variances, including the following zoning code violations: building height is excessive in both stories and feet, both rear yard and additional lot is insufficient, Floor Area Ratio (FAR) exceeds limits, parking is insufficient, and multi-family units are not allowed. Presenters for the property at Delle Avenue did not appear, but will appear

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Reactivated Human Rights Commission will focus on immigrant population

BY JOHN LYNDS

For years now national political rhetoric has been stoking flames of discrimination against immigrant communities across the country that some argue led to the mass shooting in El Paso, TX last month that killed 24 people that were mostly Latino.

That incident, coupled with an increase in ICE raids, deportations, separations of children from their parents at border

states and the Trump Administration 'zero tolerance' policy for those coming here illegally have divided the country on the immigration issue.

Last week Mayor Martin Walsh decided more needs to be done to project the city's vulnerable communities like Lattino population.

Mayor Martin Walsh reactivated the city's Human Rights Commission with an emphasis on helping immigrant communities

here in Mission Hill and across the city.

With nearly 15 percent of Mission Hill being Latino, Mayor Walsh said he wants to build on Boston's commitment to ensuring all residents of Boston have equal opportunities and equal

rights.

Boston's Human Rights Commission was established by City ordinance in 1984 to guarantee that all residents are given fair and equal treatment under the

Continued on page 4

Voters urged to get out and vote in Sept. 24 preliminary

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

The September 24 Preliminary Municipal Election will include candidates who are running for City Councilor At-Large and City Councilor seats for districts five, seven, eight and nine.

Absentee applications and voting absentee in person are available until September 23, 2019 at 12:00 p.m. in the Elections Department at City Hall. This can be completed on weekdays from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. There are also three weekend sessions available on September

7, 14, and 21 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Absentee ballots are available in Spanish, Chinese and Vietnamese.

Polling locations will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Election Day on September 24, 2019. Language assistance will be available on Election Day by poll workers in Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Haitian Creole, Cape Verdean Creole, Russian and Portuguese. Poll workers are needed for the coming elections. If interested, apply here. Mission

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COYOTE SPOTTED IN AREA



Courtesy photo

Aaron Schwartz recently spotted a coyote off Parker Hill Ave. near McLaughlin Playground

CAMH discute temas locales en su reunión mensual

By Laura Plummer

El miércoles 21 de agosto, la Alianza Comunitaria de Mission Hill (CAMH) tuvo su reunión mensual en la cual se discutía varios temas afectando la comunidad.

Continued on page 2

CAMH Meeting

Continued from page 1

at September's CAMH meeting.

• Gore Street Garden Project

A tax issue has delayed the transfer of ownership of the garden at 6-8 Gore Street from the City to Mission Hill Health Movement (MHHM). The Department of Neighborhood Development will issue a license to MHHM at their upcoming meeting so they can begin construction on the garden as soon as possible.

The cost of the garden would be \$75K, which will be funded in part by a \$62K city grant. Volunteer efforts and donations will be sought to fund the remainder. The high cost was due to the garden having to comply with the accessibility standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Other expenses include plumbing, landscaping, border fencing and shrubbery.



An invasive plant. Black swallow-wort, has been sited around gardens in the area. If spotted in your yard or gardens, it is encouraged to pull it.

• Affordable units

The Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) is considering scrapping a policy that states that projects with nine or fewer units do not have to offer affordable housing. Developers appear to be creating projects

at this size so they don't have to offer affordable units.

• Invasive plant

A concern was raised about an invasive plant (see photo above) that local homeowners might find in their gardens. Black swal-

low-wort, also known as Louise's swallow-wort or black dog-strangling vine, threatens monarch butterflies and residents are encouraged to remove it from their gardens. The plant is a twisting vine with small, star-shaped black or purple flowers.

• Student behavior

When a resident calls 911 to report bothersome behavior on the part of local university students, a police report is generally not filed. Without a report, the schools are not able to take action against the students in question. A representative from Councilor Zakim said that the Problem Properties Task Force can expedite school involvement by using the copies of the local police log that it receives from law enforcement.

• Representation at abutters meetings

Residents called for better communication regarding abutters meetings happening in the

local community. Shanice Pimentel from the Mayor's Office Department of Neighborhood Services has agreed to send CAMH all the dates of scheduled abutters meetings in Mission Hill.

• Upcoming events

The Safety Committee will resume its regularly scheduled meetings on August 29 at 7pm in Mission Church Parish Hall. Ward 10 is hosting a forum for City Council candidates at the Tobin Community Center on September 18. The Mission Hill Road Race will take place on September 28.

Community Alliance of Mission Hill meets on the third Wednesday of the month in auditorium G-3 of the Kresge building at the Chan School of Public Health at 677 Huntington Ave. from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Their next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 18. All members of the Mission Hill community are invited to attend.

Reunion de CAMH

Continued from page 1

-Delle Avenue

Los promotores de 16-19 Delle Avenue están buscando una serie de variaciones, incluidas las siguientes violaciones del código de zonificación: la altura del edificio es excesiva tanto en los pisos

como en los pies, tanto el patio trasero como el lote adicional son insuficientes, la relación de área de piso excede límites, el estacionamiento es insuficiente, y no se permiten unidades multifamiliares. Los presentadores de la propiedad en Delle Avenue no pudieron ir a la reunión, pero aparecerán en la reunión CAMH de septiembre.

-Gore Street Garden Project

Un problema de impuestos ha retrasado la transferencia de la propiedad del jardín en 6-8 Gore Street de la Ciudad a Mission Hill Health Movement (MHHM). El Departamento de Desarrollo Vecinal dará una licencia a MHHM en su próxima reunión para que puedan comenzar la construcción del jardín lo antes posible.

El costo del jardín sería de \$75 mil, financiado en parte por una subvención de la ciudad de \$62 mil. Se buscan esfuerzos voluntarios y donaciones para recaudar el dinero restante. El alto costo se debe a que el jardín tiene que cumplir con los estándares de accesibilidad de la Ley de Estadounidenses con Discapacidades. Otros gastos incluyen plomería, paisajismo, cercas fronterizas y arbustos.

-Unidades asequibles

La Agencia de Planificación

y Desarrollo de Boston (BPDA) está considerando eliminar una norma que dice que los proyectos con nueve unidades o menos no tienen que ofrecer viviendas asequibles. Los promotores parecen estar creando proyectos de este tamaño para no tener que ofrecer unidades asequibles.

-Planta invasora

Se mencionó una planta invasora que los propietarios locales podrían encontrar en sus jardines. El mosto de la golondrina negra (black swallow-wort en inglés) amenaza a las mariposas monarcas y los residentes deben sacarlo de sus jardines. La planta es una enredadera retorcida con pequeñas flores negras o moradas en forma de estrella.

-Comportamiento estudiantil

Cuando un residente llama al 911 para informar sobre un comportamiento molesto por parte de universitarios locales,

generalmente no se presenta un informe policial. Sin un informe, las escuelas no pueden tomar medidas contra los estudiantes. Un representante del concejal Zakim dijo que el Grupo de Trabajo de las Propiedades Abandonadas puede acelerar la participación de la escuela utilizando las copias del registro policial local que recibe.

-Representación en las reuniones de los vecinos

Los residentes exigieron una mejor comunicación sobre las reuniones de los vecinos en la comunidad local. Shanice Pimentel, del Departamento de Servicios Vecinales de la Oficina de la Alcaldía, enviará a CAMH todas las fechas de las reuniones programadas en Mission Hill.

-Próximos eventos

El Comité de Seguridad continuará sus reuniones normales el 29 de agosto a las 7pm en Mission Church Parish Hall. Ward 10 está organizando un foro para los candidatos del Concejo Municipal en el Centro Comunitario de Tobin el 18 de septiembre. La carrera de Mission Hill tendrá lugar el 28 de septiembre.

CAMH se reúne el tercer miércoles del mes en el edificio Kresge de Chan School of Public Health en 677 Huntington Ave, de 7 a 8.30 p.m. Todos los miembros de la comunidad de Mission Hill están invitados.

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1524 Tremont St. (across from Mission Church)

DISTRICT B-2 OFFICERS HOLD FLASHLIGHT WALK

The officers from District B-2 want to extend a special thanks to everyone who came out for the Flashlight Walk at Mission Main Apartments on Tuesday, Aug. 27. Police said it is always a great moment when the men and women of the Boston Police Department are able to reinforce our strong ties with members of our community.

If you would like to attend a future Flashlight Walk, please call the BPD's Neighborhood Watch Unit at (617) 343-4345.



Officers from District B-2 pose with Mission Hill youth during the Flashlight Walk.



Residents take photos with District B-2 officers during the Flashlight Walk.

Courtesy Photos



Officers, community leaders and residents held a Flashlight Walk through Mission Main Apartments.



The walk included some of the Police Department's top brass.



The Flashlight Walks are sponsored by BPD's Neighborhood Watch Unit. August's walk in Mission Hill was through Mission Main Apartments.

Vote JENNIFER NASSOUR for Boston City Council!

Vote September 24!



THANK YOU to the Mission Hill neighborhood for opening up your homes and businesses and sharing your concerns with me. I would be honored to represent you, and I hope to earn your vote on September 24!

"Jennifer is exactly what Mission Hill needs in City Hall. She has the **lived experience**, the **compassion**, and the **know-how** to get things done for our neighborhood."

-JACK HARRINGTON



JENNIFER
NASSOUR
for BOSTON CITY COUNCIL
DISTRICT 8

@jenn4boston jenn4boston.com

Голосуйте за Дженифер Нассур в городской совет Бостона!

Отдайте свой голос 24 сентября!

¡Vota por Jennifer Nassour para Consejera Municipal de la ciudad de Boston!

¡Vota el 24 de septiembre!

Human Rights

Continued from page 1

law. However, the Commission had laid dormant since 1996. Walsh said he is charging the newly created Commission to pay

special attention to the needs of Boston's immigrant communities like the community that lives and works here in Mission Hill.

Walsh said both state and federal law provide legal protections and mandate that certain basic services be provided to all people,

regardless of their immigration status.

"As attacks on human rights continue from the highest levels of our country, here in Boston, we're committed to preserving and advancing human rights, including in our immigrant communities," said Mayor Walsh. "I'm proud to activate this crucial Commission, and look forward to Evandro's strong leadership and a track record of helping people guide this Commission."

The Human Rights Commission is a seven-member body appointed by the Mayor, which was originally created to receive and investigate complaints regarding discrimination relating to the workplace, housing, credit, education, public accommodations and other areas.

The Commission has the power to conduct hearings and call witnesses, and can issue reports and the results of investigations. The Commission also has the power to adopt rules and regulations and recommend legislation to the City Council and the Mayor.

The Commission will be led by Executive Director Evandro Carvalho, an attorney who served for five years as a State Representative in the Massachusetts Legislature, representing Boston.

"I'm honored to be chosen by Mayor Walsh to lead the Human Rights Commission," said Carvalho. "At this time in our country, I'm proud Boston has doubled down on our commitment to protect and advance the rights of all people. I look forward to continuing to serve the people of our beautiful City in this new capacity. I thank Mayor Walsh for this opportunity."

Born in Cabo Verde, Carvalho emigrated to Dorchester at the age of 15. A graduate of Boston Public Schools, Carvalho graduated at the top of his class at Madison Park High, and went to earn degrees from UMass Amherst and Howard University School of Law.

Carvalho began his legal career doing high level internal investigations of large companies and complex litigations at the law firm WilmerHale.

Later, as an Assistant District Attorney prosecuting gun crimes in Boston, he saw firsthand the cycles of poverty and violence that put young men and women in the Criminal Justice System. Carvalho served on the board of Teen Empowerment and volunteered for the Massachusetts Affordable Housing Alliance. Most recently, Carvalho represented the Suffolk 5th District in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. He, his wife Ashley, and their daughter Eliana currently live in Dorchester.

Rep. Aaron Michlewitz endorses Kenzie Bok for Boston City Council

State Rep. Aaron Michlewitz (D – 3rd Suffolk) has endorsed Kenzie Bok for Boston City Council, to represent the District 8 neighborhoods of Beacon Hill, Back Bay, Fenway, Audubon Circle, Mission Hill, and the West End. Rep. Michlewitz represents parts of Beacon Hill, Back Bay and the West End.

"I've seen Kenzie's deep involvement and leadership in our community for many years, in Bay Village and at the Boston Ward 5 Democrats," Michlewitz said. "She cares deeply about affordable housing and did great work organizing our community to pass the Community Preservation Act. I know she understands the challenges and joys of our downtown neighborhoods and that she'll work tirelessly on behalf of the Bostonians she represents—whether by analyzing the city budget or addressing critical constituent service needs every day. I would love to have Kenzie as a strong partner at the city level, and I'm proud to endorse her run for Boston City Council."

In his role as chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, Michlewitz recently won a major increase in the state matching funds made available to cities like Boston for Community Preservation Act projects. This increase in funds for affordable housing, parks, and historic preservation was signed into law just last week.

"Ever since our grassroots coalition passed the Community Preservation Act here in Boston in 2016, Aaron has been our champion up at the State House in fighting for an



Kenzie Bok, candidate for District 8 city councilor, and Rep. Aaron Michlewitz in front of the Vilna Shul, a historic Beacon Hill synagogue currently being restored with a Community Preservation Act grant.

increase to the state match," Bok noted. "He also took up the mantle of tackling short-term rentals, which have decimated the housing stock in our downtown neighborhoods, and managed to pass the strongest state law in the country last year. Both the Community Preservation Act and short-term rentals are examples of issues where the state and city levels of government have to work together on behalf of our shared community. I'm very proud to have earned Aaron's endorsement, and I look forward to having a strong partnership with him as the next City Councilor for District 8."

Rep. Michlewitz's endorsement adds further momentum to Bok's campaign, which has also been endorsed by Rep. Jay Livingstone, At-Large City Councilors Michelle Wu and Annissa Essaibi-George, the Ward 4 and 5 Democratic Committees, the Massachusetts Women's Political Caucus, UNITE HERE Local 26 and the Right to the City Vote coalition.

Preliminary Election

Continued from page 1

Hill residents can vote for At-Large City Council candidates as well as District 8 candidates, which includes the neighborhoods of Back Bay, Beacon Hill, Fenway, Kenmore, Mission Hill, Audubon Circle, and the West End.

Candidates for At-Large:

- Erin J. Murphy
- Michelle Wu
- Priscilla E. Flint-Bamks
- Althea Garrison

- Martin Mary Keogh
- Alejandra Nicole St. Guillen
- Michel Denis
- Annissa Essaibi George
- Jeffrey Michael Ross
- Domingos DaRosa
- Michael F. Flaherty
- Herb Alexander Lozano
- William A. Kking
- Julia Mejia

Candidates for District 8:

- Jennifer Ann Nassour
- Helene Vincent
- Priscilla Kenzie Bok
- Montez David Haywood
- Kristen Mobilia



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Electronic applications will be available starting August 23rd, 2019.

You may pick up applications in person at the Dewitt Center between 11:00am and 2:00pm on the following days:
 Mon 9/9, Tue 9/10, Thu 9/12, Fri 9/13, Sat 9/14,
 Mon 9/16 and Tue 9/17.

Applications will also be distributed at the information sessions held on Sept 11, 2019 and Sept 18, 2019 from 5:00-8:00pm.

TO REQUEST AN ELECTRONIC APPLICATION, for more information, translation assistance, or reasonable accommodation, contact Damary Montanez.

Email: cabotstreet@poahcommunities.com Phone: 781-825-7138 TDD: 7-1-1

Fully completed applications may be submitted online or postmarked no later than 11:59PM on September 23, 2019.

Mail completed applications to:

POAH Communities, PO Box 180477, Boston, MA 02118
 or scan and email to: cabotstreet@poahcommunities.com

Attend an INFORMATION SESSION to learn more.

Wednesday, Sept 11, 2019
 5:00 - 8:00pm

The Dewitt Center (Gym)
 122 Dewitt Drive
 Boston, MA 02120

Wednesday, Sept 18, 2019
 5:00 - 8:00pm

Franklin Square Apartments
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		3	\$64,020	\$117,400
		4	\$71,100	\$130,350
		5	\$76,800	\$140,800
		6	\$82,500	\$151,250
3BR \$56,930	3BR \$94,160			

Minimum incomes do not apply to households receiving housing assistance, for example, Section 8 Voucher, MRVP, VASH. Selection by Lottery preference given to right-to-return lease-compliant Whittier Street Apts tenants relocated due to the redevelopment activities associated with the Whittier Choice Neighborhood Implementation Grant. Preference for households of at least one person per bedroom.

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100 Cabot Street Apartments is an equal housing opportunity managed by POAH Communities, LLC.

Hill Happenings

By MOSSY MARTIN

I was pleased to engage in a nice chat with Father Philip Dabney at Mike's Donuts the day before his departure to Washington D.C. after 12 years of serving at Mission Church. There is a bench in front of the church aptly named for this wonderful priest. Father Dabney was delighted by his sendoff party last month at Cedars of Lebanon Hall in Jamaica Plain. I drew a chuckle from Fr. Dabney, when he promised me, he'll be back within two years for a visit. With background voices from the television talking heads on the news (Mike's always has C.N.N. on) I told Fr. Dabney that when he returns, CNN will still be talking about Russian collusion.

Father Robert Lennon, our Mission Church Healing Minister, celebrated his 89th birthday on August 25. This extraordinary priest was ordained 67 years ago. As a youth, Fr. Lennon was a skilled second baseman on the famous 1944 Mission Hill C.Y.O. baseball team. That group won the Massachusetts State C.Y.O. Championship, living out their dreams, playing games at Braves Field and Fenway Park. Several of the players had older brothers fighting in World War II, and before their games up the Hill at McLaughlin Park, the team would pray for the soldiers, lighting candles in Mission Church.

Wayne Selden, from Mission Hill, signed a one year contract last week to play for Shandong in the Chinese Basketball Association. It was a business decision for Wayne, who played for the Chicago Bulls last year. The Chinese Basketball Association is the preeminent pro sports league in Asia and each team may carry only two American players. Wayne, who will turn 25 next month, is a great kid and a terrific ball player. It doesn't seem

that long ago when Wayne was my bat boy for Winnie's Pub in the Mission Hill Softball League.

I was saddened to hear of the death of Paul McCaffrey, who succumbed to cancer at age 78. Paul, who was my neighbor in the Mission Hill project, was my mentor when I was a youngster. Paul was the director of the St. Alphonsus Hall Youth Center, commonly known as "The Hall", from the early to mid 1960's. Paul, with his mixture of street smarts, organization skills and toughness was the perfect guy for the job. Paul had a tender heart but he would also display his jarring personality when dealing with the neighborhood ruffians. Downstairs at the Hall, the juke was constantly playing with tables full of people playing cards or chess. One memorable chess tournament saw Bill Mullin nip "Big Jim" Moynihan in the finals as the fans silently gathered around the participants. Downstairs there was also a ping pong table and upstairs you could shoot some pool. Up one more flight there was a time-worn bowling alley if you didn't mind setting up your own pins. All these fun endeavors wouldn't have been the same without Paul McCaffrey. Rest in Peace, Paul and thanks for enhancing my early teenage years.

If you're around one of our neighborhood taverns on Sept. 19, I'll be with my brother, Dan Martin, who'll be celebrating his 75th birthday. Dan, who is still an avid handball player, won the World Handball Championship (over 50 division) in County Claire, Ireland in 1994. Dan occasionally likes a pint of Guinness to keep up his strength

Good luck to City Council District 8 candidate, Kristen Mobilia in the upcoming election. I've recently gotten to know Kristen, who has a BA in Economics from Northeastern University. Kristen

is a personable woman who has a steady grasp of neighborhood issues. By the long arm of coincidence, Kristen's aunt, Dorothy "Tina" Lynch was my Mission High classmate back in 1967. Hello to Tina, who was the smartest gal in our class.

Last Sunday Mitch Hilton hosted a party at his Iroquois Street home for At-Large Boston City Councilor, Alejandra St. Guillen. A large crowd gathered in the front yard for a Q and A session. It was nice meeting Alejandra, a former Boston Public School teacher who lived on Francis Street for many years.

Thanks and Good luck to Glenn Goda who recently left his position as Mission Church's

organ player. Glenn, a talented musician who lives on the Hill, is moving on to new endeavors after 28 years performing at the church.

Although the Mission Hill Post 327 building has been closed for a few years, Post 327 is back in operation as a "paper post". For more info, contact Col. George Rollins at ga.rollins@Hot-mail.com.

Congrats to the Mission Hill hoop teams who won the 18 and under and 15 under B.N.B.L. Basketball Championships held at University of Massachusetts at Boston last month. John Jackson and Chuck Davis did a great job coaching the teams, but more importantly, they are great men-

tors to the kids.

The seventh annual Mark MacDougall Memorial Golf Tournament was a success, as several former Mission Hill folks attended this great event last month at the Easton Country Club. The event is hosted by MacDougall Plumbing and Mechanical LLC.

The Mission Hill Senior Prom will be held on September 21 at the Harvard School of Public Health. For Prom tickets, which are free, see Carmen Pola at the Tobin Community Center. It will be a fun night and tickets are required. The following Saturday morning, Sept. 28 is the Mission Hill Road Race. See you up the Hill at Fitzgerald Park for the race.

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Hill Agenda

The deadline for Hill Agenda listings is noon, Tues., October 1 for the issue October 4. Email listings to reporter@jamaicaplainingazette.com. Note: 617 should be dialed before numbers below, unless another area code is given.

Meetings

Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Services board of directors, first Monday of every month, 6-7:30pm, Mission Church Parish Center, 1545 Tremont St. Info: 566-6565.

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

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

Health/Fitness

\$2 bag of produce, \$1 loaves of bread offered by Fair Foods, no questions asked; Wednesdays 4:30-5:30pm Tobin Community Center, 1481 Tremont St. Info @ www.fairfoods.org 617 288-6185

Mission Hill Walks! Through October join a MHHM walk group and start getting healthier. Chose a Walk Day: Thursday, 10 am from 1534 Tremont St; Saturday, 9:30 am from 650 Huntington Ave.



Brendan Behan Pub
378A Centre Street
Jamaica Plain

Call 617 427 6919 Join the Mission Hill Walk Challenge at: www.ChallengeRunner.com/login/challenge/96559i-1j1z

Free Tai Chi Classes and Yoga Classes at Kevin Fitzgerald Park Tai Chi -Tuesdays and Thursdays 6-7 p.m.

Yoga -Wednesdays 7 - 8 a.m. Through September 5th 2019 Classes are for all ages and skill levels. Everyone is welcome! *Class will be canceled if it's raining.

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

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

Music /Art/Culture

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

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

Annual Back of Hill Block Party, Saturday Sept. 7, 1-4 pm, 30+ years and still going strong.

Lawn St. near the Hayden Stairs, potluck, games, cider pressing with local apples.

For more info-617-739-1489

Parker Hill Branch Library

The Parker Hill Branch Library has the following upcoming program:

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

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

Youth/Families

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

Workshops/groups/talks

Weekly Bilingual Mandarin-English chat, practice Mandarin language skills with native speakers and others, must request Harvard building access permission 2 days in advance, Tuesday evenings, 6-9pm,

HSPH, 677 Huntington Ave. Info: 615-9672 / Maynard.Clark@gmail.com.

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

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

Office Hours

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

Tobin Comm.Center

1481 Tremont St., yearly membership: seniors 55+ free, family

& adults \$20, teens 13-17 \$10, 12 and under \$5. Info: 635-5216/TobinCommunityCenter.org. After-school, ages 6-12, M-F, Sept.-June, \$60 per month plus membership. Homework help, tutoring, sports, arts, computers. Info: 635-5216.

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

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

Computer Lab, Open Access, Wed., 10am-1pm. Info: 635-5216. Senior Activities, free for adults 55 and over. Tues. & Thurs., 10-11am. Info: Carmen Pola, 820-1089.

Public Notices

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



PARTICIPACIÓN

El plazo para la sección de Participación es al mediodía, martes 1 Octubre para la edición 4 Octubre. Mande eventos a news@missionhillgazette.com. Los números telefónicos empiezan con el código 617.

Reuniones

Junta de directores de Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing, primer lunes del mes, 6-7:30pm, Mission Church Parish Center, 1545 Tremont St. Información: 566-6565.

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

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

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

Salud y bienestar físico

Clases de Tai Chi y Yoga gratuitas, en Kevin Fitzgerald Park, Tai Chi los martes y jueves 6-7 p.m., el yoga

los miércoles 7-8 a.m. Hasta 5 septiembre. Para todos los niveles y edades.

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

MHHM: Clases: Tai Chi, 6-7pm los martes y jueves en Kevin Fitzgerald Park, Yoga los miércoles 7-8am.

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

Continued on page 7



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Participación

Continued from page 6

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

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

Música, arte, baile

Estudio de grabación, de alta calidad en Sociedad Latina, disponible a la comunidad. Tremont St. Info/Scheduling: Josh Snyder 442.4299

Baile de salón, presentado por RTH, los domingos, 7.30-9pm, 2 New Whitney St., primer piso. 232-0400, hhui@roxburytenants.org.

Museo de Bellas Artes

Horas: sábado a martes, 10 am–5 pm, miércoles a viernes, 10am – 10 pm.

Charlas, discusiones gratuitas inspiradas por los temas en las exhibiciones actuales de MFA.

Yoga para los adultos mayores, los sábados, 10am. Adultos con más de 55 años, todos niveles. Usen ropa cómoda. Tenemos alfombras

Parker Hill Branch Library

Charla de libro, tercer jueves del mes **Yoga** para los mayores de edad, los sábados, 10am
De Interés especial

Horas de oficina

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

Jóvenes/Familias

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

Clases/Discusiones

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

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

9th 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. 4 issue of the
Mission Hill Gazette**

SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED SURVEY IN ANY OF THREE WAYS

1. Mail: Best of JP, Jamaica Plain Gazette, 7 Harris Ave., Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
2. Drop Box: Gazette office, 7 Harris Ave., JP, 24 hours a day
3. 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 _____



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What's Happening on Main Streets

By ELLEN WALKER
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Move in week has been a tradition for many years. I run

into professionals and colleagues who tell me memorable times they had as a student living on Mission Hill. Yes, the traffic is busier and the other side of that



to benefit the Kevin W. Fitzgerald Park
Saturday, Sept. 28

Registration: 8:00 a.m. on Race Day

Note start times: Walkers start at 9 a.m. Runners start at 9:30 a.m.

— **Free T-shirt to first 250 Registered!** —

Register online at: racewire.com
(online registration closes Sept. 16)

Music, Mingling, & Medal Presentation at 11:30 am
Annual Puddingstone Pot awarded to the college, university, or group with the most participation (volunteers, walkers, runners)

For more info contact Pat at pfaherty@missionhillnhs.org or Courtney at courtneyt.wright@gmail.com

Event Organized By:
Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc.

Take the Challenge – It's a Hill of a run!



Participants in the BCYFTobin Community Center's Mission Hill Day Basketball Clinic.

is the students bring vitality to our community as well as being an important source of revenue to local businesses.

The first day of September will be upon us soon. And, as in the past, municipal officials, college representatives, and landlords work together to pre-plan and organize the onslaught as best they can. Police officers re-route the traffic flow at the intersections and discourage those "just a sec" types. Responsible landlords hire cleaning and moving crews to supplement the scores of volunteers from the schools tasked with aiding the movers. Private

rubbish haulers toss discarded furnishings and trash into their hoppers while City inspectors traverse the hill clutching citation books in their grip.

Mission Hill Main Streets works in advance with merchants to reschedule their deliveries to help lessen the traffic woes and storefronts sport all manner of greetings to entice new patrons. The Boston Police greet U-Haul drivers with a friendly welcome and a stern warning that revelry and misbehavior will not be tolerated on Mission Hill. BPD Captain Leighton Facey instructs his officers to deliver this message to every renter personally, instructing parents that there will be swift and severe response to any

foolishness by their precious offspring. Handshakes and smiles abound while reminding these young people that they are joining a long-established neighborhood of families. Attempts to turn this community into an off-campus amusement park will not be tolerated. Despite the logistical pressure of moving so many in a short time, the consensus is that each year seems better than the last one. (My predecessor stated this so concisely and clearly last year, that I took the liberty to recycle his update -almost verbatim – thank you Richie!)

Remember, if you have any questions or feedback regard-

Continued on page 9

WELCOME BACK STUDENTS!

MHMS welcomes students back to Mission Hill. This vibrant, friendly and exciting Boston community invites you to become a part of the neighborhood. Visit our businesses and diverse restaurants, join our community organizations, read Mission Hill Gazette and go to our web page to volunteer for neighborhood activities at www.missionhillmainstreet.com

Become a part of the fabric of this wonderful area.

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BCYF Commissioner William Morales with Tony Lee.

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What's Happening

Continued from page 8

ing this process or the Problem Property Task Force, make sure you attend the monthly Crime Watch meetings to have your voice heard. The meetings are scheduled at 7:00pm on the last Thursday of the month at Mission Church, 1545 Tremont Street.

Breaking News - Mission Hill/Fenway's Pop Warner's Buccaneers had a small glitch in getting their uniforms for this season. However, East Boston Bank's Jillian Jurilla and Daniel Fuller came to the rescue and provided the needed resources to make this happen. Thank you, Jillian and Daniel, for supporting the Mission Hill community!

In July, we also celebrated the BCYF Tobin Community Center's Annual Mission Hill Day Basketball Clinic and VIP Breakfast which was a great success! Special guests on Saturday, July 27th included three former NBA stars who all got their start here with the Tobin Community Center. Their love and dedication were impressive and radiated throughout the audience. They are all believers and practice "never forget where you came from." BCYF Commissioner William Morales of spoke and then presented, along with John Jackson and BCYF Deputy Commissioner Chris Byner, certificates to each of the special guests from Mayor Walsh. A spe-



The staff at the newly opened Boba Me serve up delicious boba tea at their new Tremont Street location.

cial thank you to Wayne Turner, Will Blalock, Randell Jackson and Robert Morris Basketball Hall of Famer and Mission Hill Main Streets 2019 Inspiration to Youth Award recipient, Tony Lee. Food donations were provided by New England Baptist Hospital and Mike's Donuts.

On July 22nd, the Mayor's Annual Trolley Tour of the districts honored, Mission Hill Main Streets 2019 award recipients Milkweed Café, Business of the Year, while Mossy Martin was acknowledged as the Volunteer of the Year. The event took place in front of the Brendan Behan Pub in Jamaica Plain as Mission Hill and Hyde/Jackson Square shared the stage this year. It was a great turn-out for our recipients and the Mayor. Food and beverages were donated by Milkweed Café and Mike's Donuts.

A big thank you goes to the small business owners who participated in this year's Welcome Students campaign with dis-

counts for the month of September. There were over a dozen businesses who decided to be a part of this promotion to welcome and familiarize the students with the Mission Hill neighborhood. Over 3,000 flyers were printed and distributed to the students by several of our wonderful educational institutions: Northeastern University, Wentworth Institute of Technology, Tufts/SMFA and Mass College of Art and Design. Thank you to each of these outstanding educational institutions that Mission Hill is fortunate to have in the neighborhood!

We have a new neighbor in Mission Hill. Take a stroll down Tremont Street to Boba Me at 1520 Tremont Street and welcome new owner Thomas Pham and say hi to his brother Phillip, Deborah and Kevin! They deliver bright milk teas in red, purples and yellow with flavors like strawberry, taro, match and more. Check them out the next time you stroll along Tremont Street.

If you haven't walked by Sparr's Drugstore at 635 Huntington Avenue recently, there is a new exhibit to enjoy! The paintings are very colorful and have a sense of delight in them. As you probably know, the art space is a collaborative effort between Harvard School of Public Health (who owns the building) Mass Art and Mission Hill Main Streets. Alison Pultinas, who is well-known in both the Mission Hill and Fenway area for her extraordinary efforts, and Elena White of Mass Art, continue to run "Sparring Partners" throughout the year.

Please remind your neighbors that a free Wentworth Institute of Technology education is available to Mission Hill residents under the Jimmie Beverly Scholarship. This scholarship is named after long term resident and Wentworth Task Force member, Jimmie Beverly, who advocated for local youth to have access to education. This coming January marks a decade since her untimely passing. For more information, please contact Johanna Sena at

617-989-4526 or SenaJ@wit.edu.

Citizens Bank, Blaise DaCosta recently spoke about community business loans that Citizens Bank in Brigham Circle offers to local, small businesses. If you want more information, stop by and say hi to Blaise and ask to speak with Matthew Rodriguez about the Vantage Link and find out if it is right for you. You may also catch Blaise at the Farmers Market where he has been seen purchasing fresh vegetables and supporting the Brigham Circle Farmers Market on Thursday's.

A few dates to hold for special events this fall include:

- Saturday, Sept. 14 - The Redeptorists 150-year gala! Tickets can still be purchased at www.bostonsbasilica.com/150 or by phone at 617.445.2600
- Saturday, Sept. 21 - the Roxbury Tenants of Harvard Senior Prom which is always a super

time for all who attend

• Saturday, Sept. 28 - the annual Mission Hill Road 5K Race and Walk! There is still time to register for the race if you are interested - just go to Racewire.com or you can email them at info@RaceWire.com.

• In October, Sociedad Latina's 50th anniversary gala is on Wednesday, October 9th and tickets can still be purchased at the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/50thGalaCelebration>

Please friend us on Facebook, "like" our page and watch for more changes. Our current website is www.missionhillstreet.com and you will see more updates soon.

Mission Hill Main Streets welcomes new and returning students and wishes everyone continued enjoyment of our beautiful, summer days!

"You are not the work you do; you are the person you are."

-Toni Morrison, author

Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll



TONYA

Tonya Hamster takes after her namesake - she's a spicy lady with a big personality who's going for gold! (She has not, to date, been involved in anyone's knee-whacking.) She was brought to us by a Good Samaritan who found her as a stray. She was very nervous when she first arrived (we also thought she was a Tony at first!), but she has warmed up tremendously and you will often find her curling up in her hamster-shaped bed! Want to add her to your family? Come by to meet her! Email adoption@mspca.com today for more information on Tonya!



For more information about Tonya and other animals in need of adoption, please contact:



"Gazette Pet of the Week" is a biweekly submission sponsored by Sarah Carroll, Sales Associate of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage 713 Centre St. • Jamaica Plain • 617-522-4600 (617) 522-5055 www.mspca.org



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- Right to the City Vote
- Boston Ward 5 Democrats
- Boston Ward 4 Democrats
- UNITE HERE Local 26 (hotel workers)
- SEIU 1199 (healthcare workers)
- SEIU 32BJ (janitors and property-service workers)
- MA Nurses Association

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District 8 city council hopeful Haywood calls for reopening of the Long Island shelter

BY DAN MURPHY

As an assistant district attorney in the Suffolk County District Attorney's office for the past 13 years, District 8 city council candidate Montez Haywood has seen firsthand the ravages of substance abuse in the city and believes the immediate reopening of the Long Island shelter is the necessary first step to help curtail this glaring epidemic.

"We shouldn't wait on building the bridge because that plan is flawed...and it will take 10 years to build the bridge if we start tomorrow," Haywood said. "We have an immediate need today, and there are clearly alternative ways to get service providers and supplies to the people who need help on the island... which is a facility that's already built."

Haywood, age 39, was born in Flint, Mich., and raised in in Antioch, Tenn. He relocated to Massachusetts in 2001 to attend Southern New England School of Law (now University of Massachusetts School of Law in Dartmouth), and upon earning his law degree in 2004, he worked as an

attorney with the Law Office of Deborah G. Kohn, a small civil firm in Fall River, before joining the Suffolk County District Attorney's office in 2006 as a prosecutor in domestic violence cases.

In Haywood's professional opinion, large police crackdowns in known hot spots - like the "Operation Clean Sweep," which was launched earlier this month following the attacks on two corrections officers on Aug. 1. in the area of Massachusetts Avenue and Melnea Cass Boulevard (i.e. "Methadone Mile") - only serves to transpose the problem to other parts of the city, including Mission Hill and the Fenway in District 8.

"When police did sweep at Mass/Cass, it effectively moved the problem, and what I'm calling for is just not moving the problem around the district and into other neighborhoods," Haywood said. "We need to actually address the problem, identify the people who need help and give them the services they need because the War on Drugs has failed."

Said Haywood: "We should actually find ways to address the problem and remove human beings in the grips of addiction



Melissa Brooks photo

Montez Haywood, District 8 city council candidate.

from people's front yards, stoops and living space, and allow them to be more easily identified by the city's social workers and safety net. We need to get them the programming they need, whether it be mental health or violence [counseling] or what the underlying issue is that drove that human being to [use drugs] in the first place."

If the Long Island shelter, which Mayor Martin J. Walsh abruptly closed nearly five years ago, were to reopen, Haywood believes every individual should have a personalized treatment program conceived for them upon admittance.

"Some will need mental health

or substance abuse treatment or some combination thereof," he said. "We need to start spending money to treat the problem on the front end...[and determine] what caused them to fall into the substance abuse and homelessness in the first place."

Haywood said the city needs to address the problem of homelessness "by providing people who are housing insecure with housing stability while they get off the street and attempt to straighten out their lives."

Moreover, Haywood said the city needs to look to models in place around the country and the world, including "safe injection sites."

"What that does is twofold - it puts trained healthcare professional in these spaces to keep people from overdosing, and it stops people from injecting near people's houses, parks and church properties...which requires civilians to pick up needles or requires the city to put up boxes [for the disposal of used syringes] near schools," he said.

Haywood proposes opening one safe injection site at Long Island and another away from Methadone Mile, instead situated behind the Suffolk County Jail near where a food shelter is

located.

"These would be the only two locations I'd advocate for in the city...because they could provide access to immediate services and space," he said. "By doing that, it takes the issue of injection away from the neighborhoods and where people are living and brings it indoors under the watchful eyes of healthcare professionals."

Haywood said his support for this approach to the substance abuse problem comes from what he has gleaned from his "field responsibilities" as an assistant district attorney.

"When there is a death in the City of Boston, the prosecutor goes to the scene...and during my time as a prosecutor, I've responded to numerous individuals who died alone in a stairwell, in a parking garage, behind a house, in one of our parks or in their homes," he said. "And all of them could have been potentially avoided if the substance had been consumed under the watchful eye of a healthcare professional."

For more information on Montez Haywood and his campaign for District 8 city councilor, visit montezhaywood.com or follow [MontezHaywoodForCityCouncil](https://www.instagram.com/MontezHaywoodForCityCouncil) on Instagram.

City Council holds hearing to discuss "unreasonable and excessive" noise levels

BY LAUREN BENNETT

Excessive noise continues to be a top issue for many neighborhoods across the city as Boston continues to grow and expand. The Boston City Council Committee on Environment, Sustainability, and Parks held a hearing on August 29 regarding unreasonable and excessive noise. Sponsored by City Councilor at-large Althea Garrison, the hearing focused on two panelists who provided information about what the noise levels in the city look like, as well as what the city is doing to manage noise.

Committee Chair Matt O'Malley said they received letters from several residents, including one from a Jamaica Plain resident regarding noise from special events, one each from Dolores Boogdanian and Kathy Greenough of Audubon Circle regarding noise from projects there, and one from Martyn Roetter of the Neighborhood Association off the Back Bay regarding noise issues from vehicles, construction, digging, and the new trash pickup schedule.

Carl Spector, Commissioner

of the Environment Department, was the first panelist at the hearing and talked about what the city already does to regulate noise. "The city can be a noisy place," he said. "The City and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts have enacted laws and regulations to restrict noise."

He said that currently, several city agencies have responsibility for enforcing certain restrictions. The Boston Police Department deals with excessive noise from motor vehicles, loud parties, and other behavior that is considered "disturbing the peace," Spector said. The Inspectional Services Department is responsible for provisions regarding construction hours, and the Air Pollution Control Commission is responsible for regulations regarding excessive noise from permanent heating, cooling, and ventilation equipment.

"Every year, the Environment Department receives about 400 complaints of excessive noise from all neighborhoods directed at a wide variety of sources," Spector said. He said that the first goal of the department is to work with both the complainant and the generator of the problem

to identify the issue and assist them in finding solutions.

A large source of complaints is from airplane noise, which Spector said the City has no jurisdiction over. The Federal Aviation Administration and MassPort have control over that, he said. However, there is a MassPort Advisory Committee that "makes sure that those authorities are aware of and are responding to complaints, but cannot take any direct action itself," he added.

Though he is not positive about the date, he said that around 30 years ago is when the Air Pollution Control Commission passed existing regulations for the control of noise in Boston, but they are mainly focused on permanent equipment such as HVAC units, Spector said.

"We have one staff person in the Environment Department whose primary responsibility is to respond to complaints," he said. He said the first approach to responding to these complaints is to make sure people are aware of regulations. "In most cases, we are able to resolve the problem amicably," Spector said. "Sometimes it takes a bit of time, but that's what we do."

He said that a database and record is maintained for all com-

plaints that come to the Environment Department.

Another source of complaints in the city is construction noise and times. Spector said that start time for construction is 7:00am to 6:00pm on weekdays. "If people think there are violations of that, they should call 311 and complaints are directed to the Inspectional Services Department," he said. "There are times when construction can take place outside of those hours but the construction firm should be getting permission from ISD to do that."

City Councilor Matt O'Malley said that he encourages his constituents to try talking to their neighbors first about noise, "but should they feel uncomfortable about doing that, nor not get the positive response...they should of course call 311 and there are always ISD inspectors on site."

Spector added that they try and involve neighborhood liaisons from the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services with issues like these, as they tend to be very familiar with the people in the neighborhoods and those who may be doing construction as well.

The second panelist was Erica Walker, who works at the Community Noise Lab at Boston

University. Walker has a doctoral degree in Environmental Health from the Harvard Chan School of Public Health, where she also established nonprofit organization Noise in the City, which measured sound levels in the City of Boston.

Walker said that for Noise in the City, she measured sound levels at 400 sites in the City of Boston. "I developed and deployed the Greater Boston Neighborhood Noise Survey and we saw 1200 responses to that survey," she said, and subsequently released an online report that includes analysis of data from the 400 sites as well as the survey data and analyzed noise complaint data from the Boston Police Department.

Walker said she also developed and released an app called Noise Score, which allows people to document their noise complaints by measuring sound levels and also recording how the noise makes them feel.

Right now, she works at Boston University, where she founded the Community Noise Lab. "The lab is a little bit different than Noise in the City, now we're working with specific commu-

Continued on page 11

Walsh reacts to Chapter 70 state funding increase for schools

By JOHN LYNDS

For the better part of the past year Mayor Martin Walsh has been on the front lines advocating for ending the generations-long under-funding of local public schools.

The outdated formula used to fund public schools in Boston and other school districts in low-income neighborhoods has led to budget shortfalls year after year here.

Because the state has not updated its education funding formula since 1993 to reflect districts' real health insurance and special education costs, the amount of aid being provided to

cover those costs is too small. To compensate, many districts like Boston end up using money that would otherwise have supported core education programs—including Regular Education, Teachers, Materials & Technology, and Professional Development. This also results in dramatic cuts in other areas of education.

Two weeks ago Gov. Charlie Baker signed the state's Fiscal Year 2020 budget. In it there was \$5.2 billion for Chapter 70 aid to ensure sufficient resources to fund the FY20 costs of an anticipated multi-year overhaul of the school finance formula, while enabling full implementation of the recommendations of

the Foundation Budget Review Commission.

Last year State Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz (D-Jamaica Plain) filed the Education PROMISE Act. The key price of legislation that was supported by Walsh and others in the state would recalculate the cost to educate each student in public school districts known as the 'foundation budget'. This recalculation could pour millions of dollars into schools over the next several years.

The legislation also reforms state education funding by fully implementing the Foundation Budget Review Commission (FBRC) recommendations and

addressing the underlying inequities within the Commonwealth's education funding formulas, like Chapter 70. As a result of the bill, foundation budgets statewide will better reflect the true cost of educating students, and there will be a renewed partnership between the state and all districts in funding those foundation budgets.

"When we filed our budget and school finance reform proposals in January we pledged to update the formula that funds our public schools, recognizing the challenge that some school districts face in keeping up with the cost of funding a quality public school education for every child in Massachusetts," said Baker. "The Fiscal Year 2020 budget will allow the Commonwealth to take another step toward providing the necessary resources to continue implementing the recommendations of the Foundation Budget Review Commission, and we look forward to working with the Legislature on a bill that modernizes the Chapter 70 school finance formula and provides new tools and resources to ensure that this significant investment leads to better outcomes for all Massachusetts children, especially those in our highest-need communities."

Following a series of forums on the issue last winter in cities and towns across the state hosted by the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Mayor Walsh joined the growing chorus of elected officials asking state legislators to revamp the school funding formula.

Walsh said every student in

Massachusetts deserves a 21st century education and should have the opportunity to succeed, no matter their talent or challenges, family income or background.

Walsh called Baker's signing of the FY20 budget a step in the right direction.

"We are encouraged by the Legislature and Governor's attention to education finance reform in the FY20 budget, particularly the critical issue of charter reimbursement, and we thank both branches for taking the time to address this and other education funding issues," said Walsh last week. "We also look forward to a full education finance reform bill and we will continue to advocate for an equitable long-term education finance solution for all communities including Boston."

According to Walsh, Boston invests over \$1.3 billion a year to educate over 65,000 district and charter public school students, a number that has grown by over \$250 million since 2014. During this school year, the Boston School FY19 budget was the largest in the school department's history. While progress has been made, more work and investment is needed to close achievement and opportunity gaps for all students. Walsh said as Boston's investments in its students, facilities and teacher has grown, state funding has lagged behind. Inequities in the Commonwealth's education funding formulas have failed urban school districts, like Boston, that educate the majority of economically disadvantaged, English Language Learners and special education students in the state. The current education funding formulas result in less net state funding every year for BPS students.

Noise Levels

Continued from page 10

nities to address very specific noise issues," she said. Right now within the City of Boston, she is working with Mission Hill, which is concerned about sound levels coming from the Longwood Medical Area as well as construction noise and noise from loud parties. In East Boston, she is working with issues surrounding sound levels from the airport, and in Fenway, she's working on issues with construction noise and the summer concerts at Fenway Park. She is also working with a number of communities in the Greater Boston area on other particular issues.

The first step is to take real-time sound measurements, she said. "One of my hypotheses in measuring sound levels in the City is that we do a very superficial job," Walker said. "We measure how loud it is but sound level is much more complex. Not only is it how loud it is, it's also what we call the frequency or the character."

Walker said she is interesting in measuring not only how loud sounds are but also the frequency composition as well as people's perception of sound. "Sound is one thing; it's a physical characteristic of our environment, but noise is the part that's unwanted so I'm definitely interested in understanding how residents perceive sound because I feel like it's very important to understand perception when we're dealing with health impacts in particular," she said.

In the Fenway right now, Walker is measuring sound by Fenway Park and set up several sound monitors before last weekend's Zac Brown Band concerts. She is also doing a laboratory-based experiment where "we're taking sounds from the City of Boston and we're expos-

ing participants to these sound levels and we're monitoring their cardiovascular stress and mental responses with hopes of seeing how sounds in a typical urban environment impact our health acutely," she said, as well as community engagement events ranging from hearing screenings to sound walks to lectures. She said a report will be released soon for Fenway's results.

Walker also said that elected officials "need to be open to listening to people when they complain and not looking at it as something that a lot of people with privilege are complaining about. It's a real environmental health issue that's backed up by millions of epidemiological studies."

She said that about 40 decibels, people begin to experience mood disruption. She said as you move up on the decibel spectrum, it begins to disrupt sleep around 55 decibels. At around 65 decibels, which Walker said is about how loud Boston is on a typical day and sometimes at night as well, "we begin to see cardiovascular related issues, such as hypertension, increased risk for heart attacks, cardiovascular related emergency admissions, and cardiovascular related mortality," she said.

She said that instead of competing Boston's sound levels with those of other cities, it is more important and more useful to compare it to what studies show impacts health. She said that when it is looked at this way, "sound levels in the City of Boston are concerning."

"I feel like Boston can be at the forefront of dealing with environmental noise issues," Walker said, encouraging the City Council to use her resources and others as well. "We should take a risk and begin to be more creative about how we address these things and how we provide data to our residents. I feel like this is

the beginning of a conversation that could move and shape the way other cities in the United States and across the world handle noise issues."

After Erica's testimony and question and answer, two people signed up for public testimony. The first was Victor Brogna of the North End/Waterfront Residents' Association. Brogna said that he has been a Boston resident for about 70 years. "What I see is a cultural change that is amplification has become louder and louder and the loudness has become more standard," he said. He said that he can frequently hear outdoor concerts at City Hall Plaza from halfway down Hanover St. "I find this certainly annoying," he said.

He said he can also hear the street performers at Faneuil Hall from "probably a quarter of a mile away" on State Street. "This is a quality of life issue, but I don't know whether that's pressing enough to cause a major correction," Brogna said. "I would like to see the focus on the public health issue and maybe that can bring us to a cultural change."

Roy Owens also complained about noise levels in Roxbury, as he also said music can be heard from several blocks away. Noise from college parties on Woodville St. and West Cottage St. are also a problem.

"As we become more and more overdeveloped and do not adequately regulate these ever increasing noise levels, our pollution has become a public safety hazard that should alarm all of us," Councilor Garrison said in her closing statement. "We can do better and my sincere hope is that this hearing today will lead to real solutions and would change how we handle the cases of excessive noise. As an at-large City Councilor, I will continue to be an advocate for all residents who, like me, are concerned about unreasonable noise."

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Free MBTA passes for all seventh through 12th graders this school year

By JOHN LYNDS

Starting this fall, Boston Public Schools will provide MBTA passes for all 7th to 12th graders, not just students living far from their assigned school.

Superintendent Brenda Cassellius said in a statement that the expanded T pass program “will increase transportation access for all students in grades 7-12.

“It brings the ‘city as a classroom’ concept to life, allowing students to more easily access the city’s parks, museums, libraries, after school programs, job opportunities and more,” she said. “BPS will continue to be in close communication with the MBTA and our fellow city agencies about their plans to ensure a smooth rollout.”

Expanding the free MBTA pass program was a key recommendation of At-Large City Councilor Michelle Wu’s youth

transportation report.

“We should celebrate this step toward transit equity,” she said. “Although the passes are free for students, I am under the impression that BPS must still pay the MBTA for passes as before. The T should be free for all youth and it shouldn’t have to come out of the BPS budget.”

Wu’s Boston Youth Transportation Project (BYTP) examined the transportation experiences of Boston teenaged youth. BYTP researched whether Boston youth face any barriers to transportation and what attitudes they held toward different transportation modes.

The findings revealed that there are young people who cannot access opportunities available to them, and worse, that their transportation experiences put them at risk for discipline with educational and transit authorities, limit their learning

and earning potential, produce social apprehension, affect relationships with their parents, and reduce their ability to meet basic needs.

These issues were not only exacerbated by the city’s M7 walk-zone policy, but also by the lack of reliable public transit service.

BPS’s M7 walk zone policy prohibited students within two miles of the school they are attending from receiving a free MBTA pass.

To put it in perspective a Mission Hill student living on Parker Hill Avenue and assigned to English High School, which is 1.9

miles away on foot, would not be able to qualify for a free MBTA pass. That student would either have shell out \$30 for a monthly MBTA pass fee or walk to school.

Walking would take the student roughly 40 minutes both ways, while jumping on the T or bus would be 20 minutes.

DND Affordable & Income Restricted Rental Opportunity Preference for Active Duty, Reservists, Veterans and their Families

The Residences at Brighton Marine
1465 Commonwealth Avenue, Brighton, MA 02135
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# of Units	# of Bedrooms	Price	Income limits (details below)
2	studios	30% of income	Up to 30%
1	studios ¹	\$622	Up to 30%
3	1	30% of income	Up to 30%
1	1	\$666	Up to 30%
2	2	30% of income	Up to 30%
1	2	\$800	Up to 30%
1	3	30% of income	Up to 30%
The 11 units listed above are homeless set aside units and will be filled by direct referral through HomeStart. The interest form to complete for these units is located at https://www.homestart.org/bostonhsa .			
4	studios	\$1,245	Up to 60%
29	1 ^{1, 2, 3}	\$1,333	Up to 60%
20	2 ^{1, 2, 3}	\$1,600	Up to 60%
6	3 ^{1, 2}	\$1,848	Up to 60%
2	studios	\$1,415	Up to 80%
4	1	\$1,518	Up to 80%
3	2	\$1,825	Up to 80%
1	3	\$2,108	Up to 80%
2	studios	\$1,686	Up to 120%
10	1	\$2,044	Up to 120%
7	2	\$2,700	Up to 120%
3	3	\$3,200	Up to 120%

¹ 1 unit is built out for persons with mobility impairment

² 1 unit built out for persons with vision impairment and/or who are deaf/hard of hearing

³ 2 units built out for persons with mobility impairments.

Maximum Income per Household Size (Current Income Limits, subject to change by HUD).

HH size	30%	60%	80%	120%
1	\$23,800	\$47,600	\$63,500	\$95,200
2	\$27,200	\$54,400	\$72,550	\$108,800
3	\$30,600	\$61,200	\$81,600	\$122,400
4	\$34,000	\$68,000	\$90,650	\$135,950
5	\$36,750	\$73,450	\$97,950	\$146,850
6	\$39,450	\$78,900	\$105,200	\$157,750

Minimum incomes apply except for households receiving housing assistance such as VASH, Section 8, MRVP.

Applications are available during the application period from 7/1/2019 – 10/1/2019. Two information sessions will be held at the following locations, dates and times:

July 2nd, 2019, 5-8PM
Castle Square Community Building, 2nd Floor
464 Tremont St., Boston, MA 02116

August 7th, 2019, 5-8PM
Brighton Marine, Main Conference Room
77 Warren St., Brighton, MA 02135

During the application period, to complete an application please go to www.livebrightonmarine.com or email brightonmarine@winnco.com to request an application.

During the application period, applications may also be picked up in person at Residences at Brighton Marine, Leasing Office, 77 Warren Street, Building 2, Brighton, MA 02135, Monday- Friday, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Additionally, during the application period applications will be made available every Monday and Tuesday evening until 8PM, and every Saturday from 10AM – 1PM.

For entry in lottery, applications must be submitted online or postmarked no later than 10/1/2019. Mailed applications must be mailed to: Residences at Brighton Marine, Leasing Office, 77 Warren Street, Building 2, Brighton, MA 02135.

Selection by lottery.
Asset, use and occupancy restrictions apply.
Preferences Apply

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Walsh announces events planned for September as Recovery Month

Mayor Martin J. Walsh announced a series of events marking September as Recovery Month, a national observance that aims to combat the social stigma around addiction, celebrate recovery, and promote overall awareness. The effects of the opioid epidemic can be felt in every neighborhood in our City, across the Commonwealth, and all over the country," said Mayor Walsh. "Addiction is a serious disease but with support and treatment, we know people can recover and get their lives back on track. This month is dedicated to everyone who has been impacted by substance use disorder, and to the care providers who support people throughout their recovery."

The City's Recovery Month programming began this week with a voluntary overdose prevention and naloxone training hosted by the Mayor's Office of Recovery Services and the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) for City employees, following an announcement that Boston will have opioid overdose reversal kits in municipal buildings. The kits contain the overdose reversal medication naloxone (Narcan), clear instructions for its use, and other medical supplies to assist individuals

who experience an overdose.

The training kicked off a series of events throughout Boston aimed at starting community conversations about the effects of the opioid crisis. It is also a time to shine a spotlight on the treatment and services offered here in the City of Boston that make recovery a reality for individuals and families.

Every day of the year, we are committed to helping people access the care they need for substance use," said Jennifer Tracey, Director of the Mayor's Office of Recovery Services. "Recovery Month gives us an opportunity to honor those in recovery, and the providers, first responders, and community members that support them and provide hope to those still struggling with substance use."

Recovery Month lauds the contributions of treatment and service providers, and the message that recovery in all its forms is possible," said MOAR Executive Director Maryanne Frangules. "Recovery Month spreads the word that addiction recovery is essential to overall health, prevention works, treatment is effective, people do recover!"

In 2018, 181 Boston residents lost their lives to a drug overdose. Tomorrow, Saturday, August 31,

2019, City Hall will be lit purple, the recognized color for drug overdose awareness, to remember the lives lost and to honor all those impacted by overdoses.

Events during Recovery Month are free and open to all to attend, and include:

- Sept. 9, at 3 p.m.: Overdose Prevention and Naloxone Training at 774 Albany Street. Participants learn about the importance of calling 9-1-1 in the event of an overdose, how to perform rescue breathing and administer nasal Narcan, and treatment options for opioid users.

- Sept. 16, at 9 a.m.: MOAR and Friends 29th Annual Recovery Month Celebration at City Hall Plaza. Recovery advocates, community leaders, and legislators will come together to rally at City Hall Plaza and march to Faneuil Hall.

- Sept. 17, at 6 p.m.: Overdose Prevention and Naloxone Training at 774 Albany Street. Participants learn about the importance of calling 9-1-1 in the event of an overdose, how to perform rescue breathing and administer nasal Narcan, and treatment options for opioid users.

- Sept. 21, at 5 p.m.: Recovery Month Interfaith Service at the

Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center. This service will remember and celebrate recovery leaders in our community, and commemorate National Recovery Month.

Walsh, who has been in recovery for more than 20 years, has made expanding access to recovery services in Boston a priority. In his first term, he created the Office of Recovery Services to study substance use in Boston and lead the city's strategy around substance use disorder, addiction and recovery. This is the first municipal recovery office in the nation.

The City has taken a comprehensive approach to tackle the opioid epidemic. The City serves people in all stages of the continuum of care, from providing harm reduction services to ensure people can maintain health in various aspects of their lives, to connecting people with beds at treatment programs, to offering outpatient care and long-term peer support.

The City of Boston is planning an innovative and holistic recov-

ery campus on Long Island that will expand essential recovery services for the region, fill gaps in the continuum of care and utilize the natural environment to provide a healing space. The City has contracted with Gensler and Ascension Recovery Services to identify the types of services, resources and treatment options that would be best suited for the island and create a master plan for the recovery campus. The draft design for the Long Island bridge was completed earlier this year.

Continuing these efforts, the City of Boston filed a complaint in Suffolk Superior Court against 13 opioid manufacturers, four distributors, and one local doctor that have contributed to the local opioid epidemic through misleading marketing and reckless dissemination of opioids that has led to the deaths of more than 832 Boston residents since 2014. As part of the litigation, the City is seeking to recover both past and future damages and injunctive relief.

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- Upgrade rail, signal, and power cables

Each public meeting will include a presentation of the proposed program on modernizing the Green Line.

Visit mbta.com/glt to learn more about the Green Line Transformation Project, to sign up for email updates, or to submit feedback. You can also email feedback to GLT@mbta.com

Accommodations

The public meetings are accessible to people with disabilities and those with limited proficiency in English. Accessibility accommodations and language services will be provided free of charge, upon request, as available. Such services include documents in alternate formats, translated documents, assistive listening devices and interpreters (including American Sign Language). For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation and/or language services, please email apoggenburg@reginavilla.com or call 617-357-5772 x 26.

JOIN US AT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:

Tuesday, Sept. 10

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM | FOCUS: Central Tunnel
State Transportation Building
10 Park Plaza, 2nd fl, Boston, MA

Thursday, Sept. 12

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM | FOCUS: C Line
Coolidge Corner School
345 Harvard Street, Brookline, MA

Tuesday, Sept. 17

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM | FOCUS: B Line
Boston University,
Jacob Sleeper Auditorium
871 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, MA

Monday, Sept. 23

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM | FOCUS: D Line
Newton Free Library
330 Homer Street, Newton, MA

Thursday, Sept. 26

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM | FOCUS: E Line
Tobin Community Center
1481 Tremont Street, Boston, MA

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EDITORIAL

The real American Carnage

Whenever a mass shooting occurs -- which is to say, fairly regularly somewhere in America these days -- investigators scour for clues as to the "motive" of the gunman.

Often, as was the case in El Paso two weeks ago, the shooter espouses some sort of political ideology, whether it be homegrown white nationalism or foreign-based anti-Americanism.

On occasion, individuals with mental illness are the perpetrators. But just as often, as was the case in the country music shooting in Las Vegas two years ago, there is no discernible motive, other than that the shooter simply is unhappy and frustrated with his lot in life. That appears to have been the situation with this past weekend's shooting spree in Texas by a 36-year-old man who was fired from his job and who was described by his neighbor as a loner.

In short, the shooter fit a certain profile -- a young, white male with no money, no wife or girlfriend, no children, and no prospects.

However, each and every one of these shootings, regardless of the perpetrator's motive, have two things in common: Innocent Americans are being shot while going about their daily lives and the shooter had military-style weaponry that allowed him to kill and maim dozens of Americans with a single pull of the trigger.

About 13,000 innocent Americans are slaughtered by guns every year in this country. (There also are about 26,000 suicides by guns each year).

To put that 13,000 figure into perspective, that is almost twice the number of American soldiers who have been killed in the entirety of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Cumulatively over the past 15 years, 7000 American soldiers lost their lives in our Mideast wars, while 200,000 innocent Americans have been killed by gunfire right here in America. In addition to those who died, more than one million Americans have been shot and wounded in the past 15 years.

When President Trump used the term, "American Carnage," in his Inaugural Address, it was not entirely clear what he was referring to. However, given that more Americans are shot, killed, and maimed by guns every year on their home soil than anywhere else in the world, our American Carnage is indeed, very real.

When will it be our turn?

Hurricane Dorian, the fifth Category 5 hurricane to hit the U.S. in the past four years, has captivated many of us for the past week as we watched the latest forecasts to see where it would strike the American mainland.

The increasing intensity of tropical storms has been predicted for decades by those who have studied the effects of climate change caused by the burning of fossil fuels that is heating up the planet. Superstorm Sandy was an example of the catastrophic effects that can occur when a huge storm strikes our heavily-populated urban areas in the northeast. The Boston area was largely spared from Sandy's wrath (though we did have extended power outages), but we have to face the reality that given the acceleration of the effects of climate change and rising sea levels, it will be our turn, sooner rather than later, for a catastrophic weather event to visit us with devastating force.



WE REMEMBER AND HONOR OUR HEROES

OP-ED

Welcome Back, BPS students!

BY MAYOR MARTIN J. WALSH

Yellow buses, backpacks and excited kids are here: it's back to school season. We're lucky to live in Boston, a city with some of the smartest people in the world. I have a message for all our students heading into school this fall: nobody's education is more important than yours, because nobody has the potential to change the world like you do.

I'm proud of how hard you work and how brave you are in the face of all your different challenges. I know that this school year will be full of new opportunities, and new ways to learn and grow.

In Boston, we had an active and busy summer — from our Boston Summer Eats program to our Fifth Quarter of Learning program that helps kids learn all summer long, we're ready for a great start to the 2019-2020

school year.

As the school year starts, I think a lot about how I felt in school. In the fifth grade, I had been held back the year before — I had missed too much school because in first grade, I was diagnosed with cancer. With the help of my doctors, my family and my community, I was able to get better, and graduate. But that

Continued on page 16

OP-ED

It's time to stand with immigrants

BY STATE REP. NIKA ELUGARDO

When I was a kid, a series of events led me to a leisurely drive through a lush wealthy enclave in Miami. Don't ask me questions, but it involved a drug deal, a small bribe, and my first real lesson in political corruption. By the time I'd return home to Ohio by car, I'd realize that our black communities were getting played by drug bosses and political cronies living in lily-white, gated paradises like that one. The "bosses" routinely sent our youth to their deaths, like my relative who was the driver on our road trip. Bosses would never be held accountable for the havoc they were wreaking on our communities in the name of their illicit and perfectly laundered profits.

In mid-August, I traveled to Honduras with a Massachusetts delegation. I joined fellow State Representative Andy Vargas, Boston Globe reporter Marcela Garcia, and the local leaders who invited us from Centro Presente, Alianza Americas, and Lawyers for Civil Rights. We were investigating realities driving unprecedented immigration from Central America to the United States. It was so like my Miami ride— miles of coastal beauty ostensibly indicative of the area's rich resources, but in reality a deceptively lovely frame for unfettered institutionalized corruption, oppression, and murder.

Meeting with a diverse range of leaders from around the country, we learned the Honduran president is known as a narco-dictator. His drug money pays

off all branches of the government and the military, even as he embezzles tax-payer money and steals local farmland to enrich the fully militarized narco-empires of his family and allies. He sells stolen land and water to North American and other corporations who hire private security that harasses locals when they don't get out of their way. Local legitimate companies pay exorbitant and arbitrary Sheriff-of-Nottingham-style taxes, filling traffickers' coiffures even as health, education, security, and commerce deteriorate. New narco-lobbied laws reduce penalties for felonies and criminalize resistance. The judiciary is infiltrated too. Those who assert their rights through the courts, law en-

Continued on page 15

LETTER

Hats off to the staff — A first rate community newspaper

Dear Editor,

I am a subscriber from Wattertown, ex of Mission Hill. I have enjoyed the Gazette over the years and have witnessed its emergence into a respected journalistic endeavor to become

a first-rate community newspaper. For instance, the recent July column “Hill Happenings” by Mossie Martin, reflecting the tenor and flavor of the Hill, was a superb piece of journalism infused by his top-shelf style of

writing.

Especially sparkling was his observation that the honchos at Brigham and Women’s Hospital were way off the mark in removing the photos and portraits of pre-eminent physicians and staff who contributed mightily

to medicine in general and to the institution.

This removal of their likenesses from an honored place was done apparently in the name of diversity – because they were white. Maybe they could have

Photoshopped them.

Tom Killilea

P.S. I am he who absconds with 9 Gazettes from Mike’s Donuts each month to bring along to our MH monthly coffee.

OP-ED

Compassion is key to addressing the opioid epidemic

BY JENNIFER NASSOUR

My brother died of an overdose. When I see men and women struggling with addiction on the streets of Boston, I see my brother, and my heart breaks, again.

We all wish for a quick and easy solution. In today’s world of convenience and instant gratification, we are frustrated by intractable problems such as addiction and homelessness. We are right to demand action and solutions, but we need to understand progress takes both time and a change in public attitudes and priorities.

I believe the root cause of much crime, addiction and homelessness can be traced to mental health issues. Improving behavioral health services is the only way we will break the cycle of

destructive behavior.

While the medical community has gotten serious about the role it played in over-prescribing opiates for pain relief, our society needs to prioritize mental health. We need to view a person with a mental illness with the same compassion we show a cancer patient. Our Commonwealth needs to put the funding behind behavioral health services so treatment beds outnumber prison bunks.

Boston is in the spotlight, but the opiate epidemic is everywhere in our nation. Boston needs to insist on statewide cooperation, and that should start with reconstructing the Long Island bridge to allow safe access to hundreds of treatment beds on the island.

Quincy officials object to reopening the bridge because it

brings traffic to its streets, but no city is an island unto itself. The addiction epidemic flows freely across the state. Quincy is not immune, and more treatment would help it as well. When police swept Newmarket Square, police officials reported 34 arrests, including 21 from outside of Boston. Clearly, this is not just Boston’s problem, and we must abandon parochialism and work together.

By opening more treatment beds, we can divert defendants suffering from addiction into treatment and avoid incarceration. Prisons and jails are costly and should be reserved for serious offenders. Those who commit petty crimes to support addiction should be given the chance to achieve sobriety and return to a productive life.

They should be held account-

able, but provided the long-term care they need, including appropriate post-release supervision for high-risk offenders. Taxpayers should expect a decrease in prison spending if this occurs, and that savings can help to fund treatment, housing and job-training programs for those in recovery.

Some are advocating for officially sanctioned injection sites to curtail overdoses, with medical staff monitoring the drug users and, if necessary, administering Narcan. I appreciate the compassion of the advocates, because we care deeply about the lives of those suffering with addiction. However, the legal obstacles alone make this idea a non-starter.

Rather than investing time, money and energy into opening

injection sites, let’s direct those resources to increased treatment options and outreach to those with addictions, whether they are visible on our streets or secluded in their homes. We should also fund family advocates who can support the relatives who want desperately to help a loved one battle an addiction, but don’t know how to proceed.

Whether it is Newmarket Square, the Boston Common or any other park and neighborhood in our city, we see the impact of addiction daily. The crimes committed as a result are intolerable, but they are a symptom of disease. We must treat the disease.

Jennifer Nassour, a 20-year resident of Boston, is a mother of three and a candidate for Boston City Council District 8.

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

Mission Hill
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Op-Ed

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forcement, or peaceful protest are threatened, framed, kidnapped, or killed. That’s why many are fleeing the resource-rich country they love.

We met with right-wing business leaders, left-wing labor organizers, climate and public health champions, and Jesuit activists. These historic enemies are drawn to partnership by a present crisis more devastating even than their dark shared war-torn history. Across the board, they agree that the U.S. props up their illegal government. They say, for example, the understaffed U.S. embassy legitimized the president’s illegal re-election, despite all kinds of shady action at the polls and the president’s blatant casting off of the Rule of Law. Does President Trump’s seeming preference for a leadership vacuum in the Hon-

duran Embassy provide cover for greedy corporate interests who violate human rights with impunity in this lush but failing state?

It’s a question worth investigating, and it’s why I became a legislator after years of cynicism about politicians. It’s not enough to drive by oppression like a tourist. We must uncover the truth of our nation’s political influence and responsibility. Whether it’s combating ignorance about the violent corruption driving migration from Central America or investigating our national hand in propping up dirty dictators, we have to hold our government and ourselves accountable.

For reasons like my admittedly limited experience of mid-1980’s Miami, “politician” used to be a dirty word to me. My heart changed when I realized the aspiration of our national Pledge, “liberty and justice for all”, is not a lie. It’s a vision. It requires

leaders like those hosting our delegation in Honduras, determined to see the vision through.

In the current immigration debate, we hear more division than vision. We can forget that we are all angry about the same core things. The struggle of a scrappy kid from Ohio turned Boston politician is the struggle of the Honduran activist turned American immigrant is the struggle of the Massachusetts independent turned Trump voter. The beauty of the American vision is that it isn’t just for any one of us. We’re all in this political “shit hole” together. It’s time for Massachusetts to stand with immigrants. Given our role in the region, Central America is a great place to start.

Nika Elugardo is Massachusetts State Representative for communities in Jamaica Plain, Mission Hill, Roslindale, and Brookline.

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experience made me understand what it's like to be nervous about school starting, thinking you're

behind everyone, and won't ever catch up.

For any kids who have been bullied, or homeless, or scared of their first day, I want you to know your city is rooting for you. Your

teachers want you to succeed. And your Mayor is behind you every step of the way as you have a happy and healthy school year.

At Boston Public Schools, we're working hard to make this

year the best yet. We have committed teachers who work hard to provide opportunities for their students. We have My Way Cafes that serve fresh, healthy meals. We have programs and activities for kids to keep learning, even after the last bell rings.

This year, we're also welcoming Dr. Brenda Cassellius as our new superintendent of Boston Public Schools. I am confident in her leadership and know that she'll ensure a great year, including helping with Boston's universal pre-Kindergarten program, and helping us hand out free MBTA passes for all public, charter and private school students in grades 7-12.

I want to welcome her too, and wish the best of luck to our students who are starting Thursday, September 5 and our kindergarteners starting Monday, September 9. Study hard, enjoy your year, and know that Boston is your home — and your place to succeed.

Martin Walsh is Mayor of the City of Boston.



Mayor Martin Walsh, BPS Superintendent Brenda Cassellius, and members of the Franklin Park Zoo meet to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Boston After School & Beyond and summer learning in Boston, and to increase awareness of the program's impact on Boston students and families.

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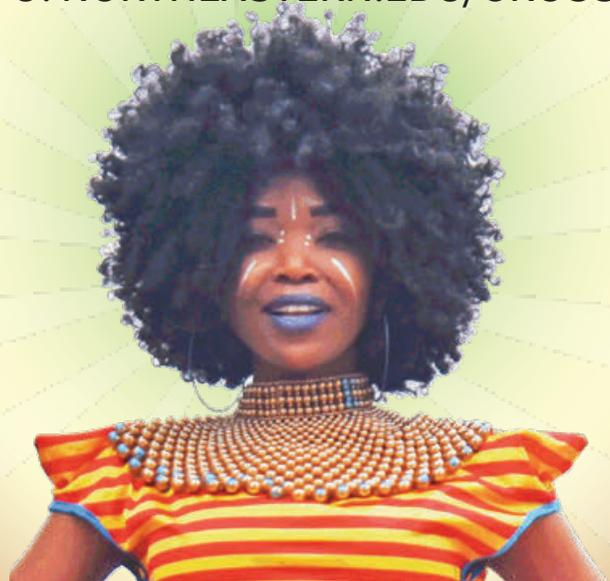
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