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WHAT'S HAPPENING ON MAIN STREETS P. 8

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Happy Valentine's Day

## SATURDAY SKATE

Photo by Mike Mejia

*Jadaviya Smith-Turner, of Mission Hill, skating on Saturday, January 18, at the Kelly Outdoor Rink in Jamaica Plain. The rink is one of the only state-owned skating resources in the area, and hosts a very popular Learn to Skate program every Saturday morning. The 20-year-old facility is the only state-owned outdoor rink in Massachusetts.*

# Hill Talk

## Dr. Marc Lamont Hill ponders race, politics and criminal reform during far-ranging discussion

BY DAN MURPHY

Award-winning author and former CNN political commentator Dr. Marc Lamont Hill mused on race, politics and criminal reform during a far-ranging discussion Friday at Northeastern University's Blackman Auditorium.

"I firmly believe this generation of young people has all the tools and talent to make this movement just as transformative as the previous one," Dr. Hill said while drawing a parallel between today's "woke" movement, which has raised awareness of issues concerning social justice and racial justice, and the struggle for civil rights in the 1950s and '60s. "Young people around the world get it, and they're right to want to be free."

Dr. Hill told moderator Latoya Edwards, an Emmy Award-winning anchor on NBC 10 Boston and NECN, Emerson College graduate and Dorchester native, that today's politically conscious young people often face unfair criticism from their elders, just as trailblazers like Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jr. previously did. "There has never been a generation where their parents say, 'these kids get it,'" he added.

Regarding the Black Lives Matters movement, Dr. Hill said, "There's a perception that it went from being the center of the conversation, and that it's just dissipated. "I think that's unfair criticism." Instead, he believes the movement brought issues like police brutality to the "mainstream."

"Police should be held accountable, but that doesn't mean

Continued on page 7

# Sociedad Latina relocated during major renovations

BY LAURA PLUMMER

Sociedad Latina shuttered its site at 1530 Tremont St. in January of this year in order to realize extensive renovations. The organization has temporarily moved across the street to the Tobin Community Center building at 1483 Tremont St. in the interim.

Continued on page 3

# Sociedad Latina reubicada durante renovaciones

BY LAURA PLUMMER

Sociedad Latina cerró su sitio en 1530 Tremont Street en enero para realizar renovaciones extensas. La organización se mudó temporalmente al Centro Comunitario Tobin en 1483 Tremont Street.

Sociedad Latina compró el edificio de tres niveles en 1530 Tremont Street en 2017 después de alquilarlo desde los años ochenta. El edificio solía ser una residencia y estaba dividido en varias habitaciones pequeñas y desconectadas. Las renovaciones incluirán derribar unas paredes

Continued on page 3

Courtesy of Studio Luz Architects

*A rendering of what the rennopvated Sociedad Latina building will look like upon completion.*

# Hill Happenings

By Mossy Martin

At Mike's Donuts across form Mission Church, my fellow coffee drinkers and I engage in a variety of subjects, and recently the topic was the alleged cheating by the Houston Astros and our Red Sox.

The teams are accused of using technology to steal signs from the catcher and relaying the information to the batter, a blatant violation of Major League rules. We are beleaguered by dishonesty in everyday life, particularly in politics, as we have a presidential candidate with blue eyes who previously claimed to be a Cherokee Indian to advance her career. Baseball, however, was still thought of as clean, aside from the steroid abuse some years ago.

Once an avid Red Sox fan, I haven't been to Fenway Park since Sox owner, John Henry, with the approval of Mayor Walsh, had the Yawkey Way street sign removed in 2018. Yawkey Way was named in honor of Tom Yawkey, who bought the Red Sox in 1936. The snooty Henry concluded that Yawkey was racist, thus walking on the grave of a dead man. Evidently it didn't matter to Henry or the Mayor that Yawkee Way was replaced by its previous name, Jersey Street, named after the sixth British Duke of Earl, who was a slave owner. When the weather warms the only live baseball I'll watch is up the Hill at Killilea Playground where the Mission Hill Little play for fun and they don't cheat.

Condolences to the family and friends of Ricky Keefe, who passed away last month. The Keefes are a terrific family from the Mission Hill project. I often chatted with Ricky at his favorite Jamaica Plain tavern, Paul Griffin's, which closed a few years ago. More recently, Ricky enjoyed playing cards at the Elks Club in West Roxbury. In his younger years, Ricky was a laborer, and he worked for several years on the Big Dig. R.I.P., Ricky.

*Mission Hill Post party in 1999; left to right, Joe Corsetti, James Cosby, Janet Earley, Mossy Martin and the late Ricky Keefe.*

The next Mission Hill Post 327 meeting will be held Thursday, March 5, at an undecided location. The Post is sponsoring a traveling team in the Thomas L. Johnson Basketball League. The team is coached by John Jackson, who is great working with the kids at the Tobin Community Center. The Mission Hill Post also donated to the Mission Grammar School, which is now 150 years old.

Speaking of Mission Grammar School, more than a dozen of their kindergarten students, upon entering Mike's Donuts, said "thank you" in unison to owner, Maria Weinograd. It was a touching tribute to Maria for her long time support of Mission Grammar. The youngsters also appreciate the delicious honey-dip donuts.

Kelly Farqharson passed away last month in North Carolina. Kelly lived in Mission Hill for many years and worked tirelessly for the neighborhood. An early opponent of institutional expansion, Kelly, along with Kevin Fitzgerald, was instrumental in creating the Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Service in 1975. Former Mission Hill State Rep. Jeff Sanchez fondly recalled Kelly who served as a Lector at the 7 o'clock Mass at Mission Church that Jeff attended daily. "We would talk after Mass and she would offer advice. She was a wonderful woman," said Sanchez.

January was an ominous month as we lost two other former Mission Hillers. Timmy McGuillycuddy, a retired Boston firefighter, died unexpectedly in Florida. I lived on Oswald Street in the '70s in a triple-decker owned by Timmy, and he was kind, giving me a good shake on the rent. Timmy was a good man.

Thomas "Timo" Maloney also died suddenly. Timo, who was 76 and retired from the telephone company, grew up in the Mission Hill projects. Timo was my Tobin Court neighbor, and he was always a gentleman . A terrific athlete, Timo pitched for English High School. He had a blazing fastball but not great control. One afternoon at Fens Stadium in 1960, Timo was dominant on the mound, hurling a no-hitter.

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## Sociedad Latina

*Continued from page 1*

para crear un flujo más abierto.

En el primer piso, los espacios de música y arte recibirán una actualización muy necesaria, expandiendo las áreas de interpretación y abriendo más espacio de práctica. El segundo piso tendrá un laboratorio STEM para apoyar los estudios de la ciencia, la tecnología, la ingeniería y las matemáticas. Un espacio en el tercer piso apoyará a los jóvenes emprendedores con tecnología, herramientas y tutoría.

Anteriormente, Sociedad Latina ofrecía programas en varios lugares de la ciudad, incluidas Timilty Middle School en Roxbury y Mario Umana Academy en East Boston. El espacio mejorado permitirá que Sociedad Latina tenga todos sus programas bajo el mismo techo.

Además de ampliar el espacio, el diseño también será más moderno y atractivo con la esperanza de atraer a más jóvenes al centro.

"Nuestras renovaciones aumentarán la participación en nuestros programas al equilibrar las reparaciones esenciales con mejoras arquitecturales", dice un comunicado de prensa de Sociedad Latina.

El rediseño fue la visión de Studio Luz Architects, basado en Boston. Haynes Group, Inc., de West Bridgewater está realizando la construcción.

El costo de la renovación es un poco más de $2 millones. Parte de los fondos se recaudó a través de la campaña de capital que Sociedad Latina lanzó en relación con el cincuentenario de la organización, que se celebró en 2018.

Sociedad Latina se fundó en 1968 como un club social para los inmigrantes latinos recién llegados a Boston. Actualmente se centra en el desarrollo juvenil y el cambio sistémico. Sus programas ayudan a 5.000 jóvenes por año en los niveles educativo, profesional, personal y comunitario.

Sociedad Latina espera ocupar el espacio renovado para el otoño de 2020.

"En este vibrante centro de liderazgo y logros juveniles, Sociedad Latina capacitará a nuestros jóvenes para que se den cuenta de su potencial y se conviertan en verdaderos líderes", dice el comunicado de prensa.

Para conectar a más jóvenes y familias con programas holísticos y culturalmente receptivos en su vecindario, reconocemos la necesidad de un espacio seguro, acogedor y diseñado para la participación juvenil. Nuestro "Centro para el Liderazgo Juvenil Latino" abordará las deficiencias actuales en nuestro edificio y nos permitirá profundizar nuestro compromiso y apoyar el éxito a largo plazo de más jóvenes y familias de las comunidades latinas, inmigrantes y de Mission Hill de Boston.

Nuestras renovaciones reforzarán la participación en nuestros programas al equilibrar las reparaciones esenciales del edificio con mejoras arquitectónicas para mejorar el espacio del programa. Finalmente, el proyecto de renovación dará como resultado un edificio moderno, acogedor y amigable para los jóvenes, que beneficia y embellece a las comunidades latinas y Mission Hill de Boston. En este vibrante centro de liderazgo y logros juveniles, la Sociedad Latina empoderará a más jóvenes para que se den cuenta de su potencial y se conviertan en verdaderos líderes.

## Sociedad Latina

*Continued from page 1*

Sociedad Latina purchased the three-level brick building at 1530 Tremont St. in 2017 after leasing it since the 1980s. The building used to be a residence and was divided into various small, disjointed rooms. Renovations will include knocking down several walls in order to create a more open flow.

On the first floor, the music and arts spaces will be getting a much-needed upgrade, expanding performance areas and opening up more practice space. The second floor will feature a STEM lab to support students' education in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math. A space on the third floor will support young entrepreneurs with technology, tools and coaching.

Previously, Sociedad Latina offered programs at various locations around the city including the Timilty Middle School in Roxbury and Mario Umana Academy in East Boston. The enhanced space will allow Sociedad Latina to have all of its programs operating under one roof.

In addition to expanding the space, the design will also be more modern and attractive in the hopes of drawing more young people to the center.

"Our renovations will bolster participation in our programs by balancing essential building repairs with architectural enhancements for improved program space," reads a press release from Sociedad Latina.

The redesign was the vision of Boston-based Studio Luz Architects and construction is being realized by Haynes Group, Inc. of West Bridgewater.

The cost for the entire renovation comes to $2.5 million. Part of the money was raised through Sociedad Latina's capital campaign launched in connection with the organization's 50th anniversary, which it celebrated in 2018.

Sociedad Latina was founded in 1968 as a social club for Latinx individuals who had recently moved to Boston. Currently it focuses on youth development and systemic change. Its many programs serve 5,000 youths per year on the educational, professional, personal and community levels.

Sociedad Latina hopes to occupy the newly renovated space by the fall of 2020.

"In this vibrant center for youth leadership and achievement, Sociedad Latina will empower more of our young people to realize their potential and become true leaders," reads the press release.


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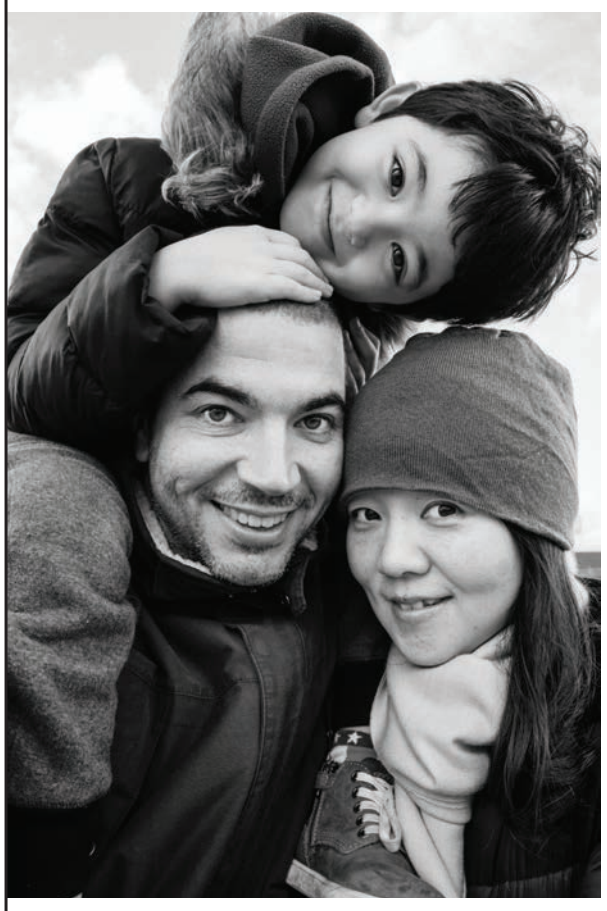

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# EITC program is now in full swing

By John Lynds

Most people don't want to think about it but it's the time a year to begin thinking about filing 2019 tax returns. For many working people in Mission Hill there's some relief from the confusing process of figuring out taxes.

Action for Boston Community Development's (ABCD) Parker Hill/Fenway Neighborhood Service Center site, in partnership with the City of Boston, kicked off its annual Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) program at its office at 714 Parker St. Mission Hill residents can head to ABCD's Parker Street site for free tax prep. The office will be opened Monday through Friday to help begin the tax filing process. Taxes for qualifying residents can be done through appointment by calling the office at (617)-445-6000.

If you earned less than $56,000 in 2019, you may qualify.

For many working people in Mission Hill the program has provided some relief from the confusing process of figuring out taxes. Qualified hard working low-wage workers often receive significant EITC credits and see a big increase in their tax returns through the free program. This is money that can directly help low-income residents who work hard for their money. It can be used to pay the heat, food and rent costs that are weighing people down.

"Hard-working income-eligible workers who file for EITC with their tax returns can see a significant increase in their refunds," said John J. Drew, ABCD President/CEO. "A married couple with three or more children earning up to $55,952 and filing jointly will receive the maximum federal EITC of $6,557 plus the state EITC of $1,967 for a total EITC of $8,524. That can have considerable impact on a family that's scraping by week to week."

Drew noted that the EITC has been called one of the most successful anti-poverty programs. It was established to assist income-eligible taxpayers who come from traditionally hard-to-reach and underserved communities. Wages have been virtually stagnant since the 1970s, meaning it's harder than ever for working people to meet their basic needs.

Last year, ABCD's sites completed 5,192 tax returns that resulted in a total of $10.4 million in federal and state refunds for Mission Hill and Boston residents through the EITC program. Parker Hill was one of several free tax preparation sites in the city that made filing taxes trouble-free for hundreds of low-income residents and families.

In 2019, the average EITC refund amount was $2,400. Yet, according to the Internal Revenue Service, an estimated one in five EITC-eligible workers fail to claim this valuable credit each year.

Last Friday Mayor Martin Walsh's encouraged Boston residents to take advantage of free tax preparation services available at more than 30 sites across the Boston area during an event at ABCD in Roxbury.

*Action for Boston Community Development's (ABCD) Parker Hill/Fenway Neighborhood Service Center site, in partnership with the City of Boston, kicked off its annual Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) program.*

"The free tax services provided by the Boston Tax Help Coalition are a fantastic opportunity for hard-working residents to save money," said Walsh. "The services help taxpayers avoid the costs of for-profit tax preparation agencies while still claiming cash back on their tax returns. These savings can provide a critical boost to a family's financial health."

The EITC credit can be accessed retroactively for the past three years, so qualifying low-income workers may qualify for a considerable sum.

Also seniors aged 65 and older were eligible to receive tax refunds from the State of Massachusetts through the "Senior Circuit Breaker Tax Credit". This credit was available to all eligible seniors who paid unsubsidized rent or property taxes and was also retroactive for three years. The "Senior Circuit Breaker" offered a tremendous financial opportunity for those who qualify.

Initiated by the IRS in 1969, the EITC and VITA is a nationwide program that assists taxpayers earning up to $58,000 a year. VITA sites are generally located at community and neighborhood centers, libraries, schools, shopping malls and other convenient locations such as community colleges in low income areas.

In addition to tax preparation, the Coalition provides clients with other services to improve their financial health. For example, the Coalition connects taxpayers to Bank On Boston, an initiative launched by Mayor Walsh that helps residents identify banking services that are safe, affordable, and non-predatory. Trained financial guides also offer taxpayers the Financial Check-Up, a key component of Boston Builds Credit, the City's free credit building program. A Financial Check-Up is a one-on-one session in which a taxpayer can review his or her credit score and obtain personalized credit-building strategies. A new funder of this work is the SunTrust Foundation, which this year provided a $50,000 grant to support Boston's credit-building programs.

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- 10-11 State Legislative Agenda for Seniors With Rep. Nika Elugardo
- 11-11:30 JP@Home
- 11:30 Lunch

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# BPDA approves Notice of Project Change for Mission Hill project

By John Lynds

Last month the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) approved a Notice of Project Change (NPC) request by the developers of the 154 Terrace St. development in Mission Hill.

The approved NPC by the BPDA reduces the overall building height and unit density for the project. The Board approval represents a reduction of 18,750 gross square feet and a total of 46 income-restricted units, 20 more than were included in the originally approved project.

The approved NPC applies to Phase II of the two phase project. Phase I developed the 164-166 Terrace St. parcel into 175 artist housing units along with 84 underground parking spaces while Phase II of the project consists of a new six story building measuring approximately 61,250 gross square feet and containing 64 residential ownership units. The project is located seven minutes away from the Roxbury Crossing and Jackson Square MBTA stations. The preliminary unit mix consists of thirty-two 32 one-bedroom units, twenty-four 24 one-bedroom plus den units, and five two-bedroom units.

Both Phase I and Phase II will result in a total of 126 units of which there are 43 onsite affordable units in the Phase I building. There will be an additional three onsite affordable units in the Phase II building for a total of 46 income-restricted units or 20 more than originally proposed.

The preliminary unit mix consists of 32 one-bedroom units, 24 one-bedroom plus den units, and 5 two-bedroom units.

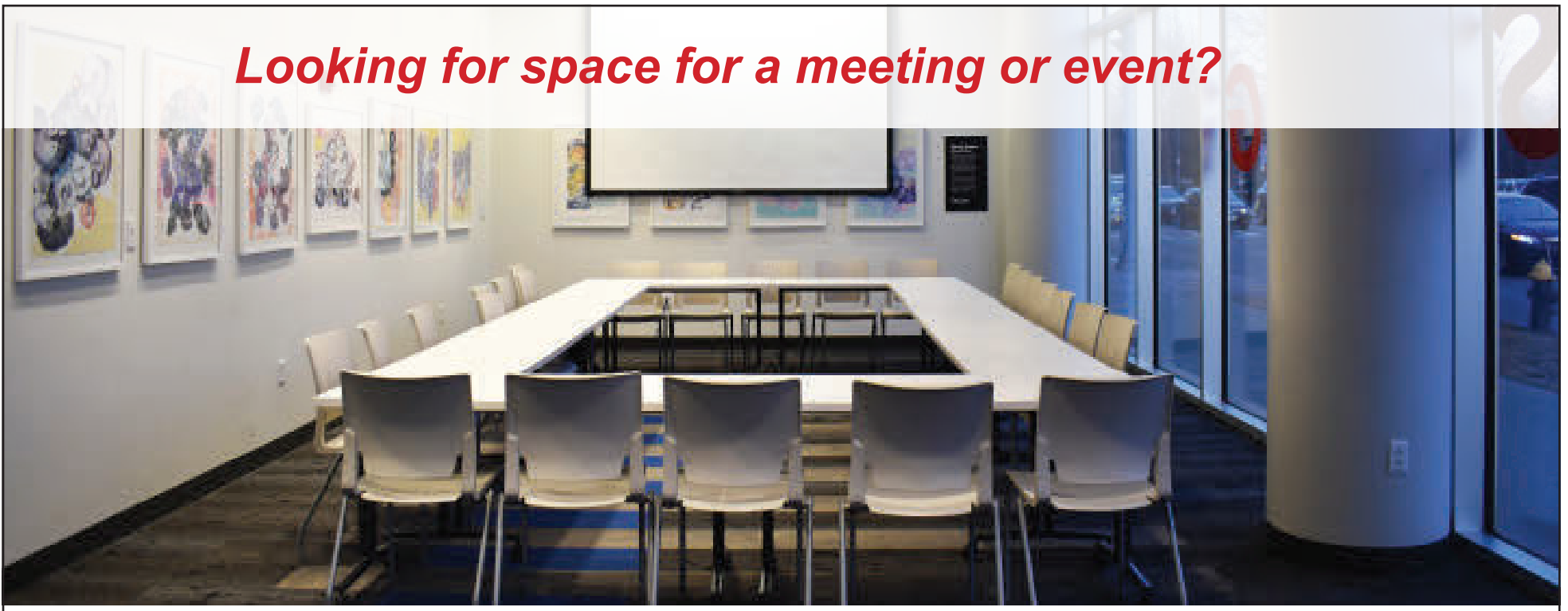
The developer will also contribute approximately $1.23 million, which would be used to create affordable housing elsewhere in the neighborhood. With this contribution the Phase II Project will be fully compliant with the BPDA's Inclusionary Development Policy.

*An artist rendering of the 154 Terrace St. project.*

There will also be 27 new parking spaces in a ground floor garage in the Phase II building.

With a height of 65 feet along Terrace Street, the NPC II Project will blend in with the significant Mission Hill hillside in the front of the site, and will generally conform to the heights of the existing Phase I Project building. Additionally, these new residential units will provide much- needed housing to the City.

Prior to submitting the NPC for Phase II the developer presented the changes at community meeting before Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Services on February 2, 2018, March 20, 2018, June 26, 2019, and more recently on October 21, 2019. Additionally, the developer discussed the proposed at a community meeting with the Community Alliance of Mission Hill on May 16, 2018. The group voted in support of the proposed changes.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# Hill Agenda

*The deadline for Hill Agenda listings is noon, Tuesday, March 3 for the issue March 6. Email listings to reporter@jamaicaplaingazette.com. Note: 617 should be dialed before numbers below, unless another area code is given.*

## Meetings

**Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Service** holds its monthly meetings on the first Monday of each month at 6 PM at the NHS office at 1 Brigham Circle in Mission Hill on the mezzanine level.

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

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

## Health/Fitness

**New Learn-To-Skate classes** for figure and hockey skating skills for children ages 4 and 18 are starting at 11 Greater Boston rink locations: Brookline – Cleveland Circle & Larz Anderson, Cambridge, Medford LoConte, Newton-Brighton, Quincy, Somerville, Waltham, West Roxbury and Weymouth.

Use either hockey, recreational or figure skates. Beginner, intermediate and advanced classes taught by professional instructors. Over 50 Year's Experience. For information and to register, call Bay State Skating School at 781-890-8480 or visit online at www.BayStateSkatingSchool.org.

**Mission Hill Line Dance Class** second Saturday of the Month 12:30-2:30 p.m. Exercise and Socialize with your neighbors. Sponsored by the Mission Hill Health Movement at Tobin Community Center call 617 427 6919 for more information.

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

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

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## Music /Art/Culture

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

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

Museum of Fine Arts

Regular hours are Saturday through Tuesday, 10 am–5 pm, and Wednesday through Friday, 10 am–10 pm.

## Parker Hill Branch Library

**The Parker Hill Branch Library has the following upcoming program:**

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

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

## Youth/Families

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

## Workshops/groups/talks

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

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

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

## Office Hours

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

## Tobin Community Center

1481 Tremont St., yearly membership: seniors 55+ free, family & adults $20, teens 13-17 $10, 12 and under $5. Info: 635-5216/TobinCommunityCenter.org.

**After-school,** ages 6-12, M-F, Sept.-June, $60 per month plus membership. Homework help, tutoring, sports, arts, computers. Info: 635-5216.

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

Sports Camp, licensed sports for kids 6-13, M-F, 8am-4pm, $65/week. Register: 635-5217.

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

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

## Public Notices

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

**$5 Million Reward,** for information leading directly to the return of 13 works of art stolen two decades ago from the Gardner Museum. Anonymous tips can be mailed to 280 The Fenway. Info: Anthony Amore, Director of Security: 278-5114.

# Business Bulletin Board


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# CAMH hears proposals for Sunset Street, Huntington Ave.

By Laura Plummer

On Jan. 15, the Community Alliance of Mission Hill (CAMH) held its regular monthly meeting where it heard two proposals on Sunset Street as well as a development on Huntington Avenue

**17-19 Sunset Street**

At its December meeting, CAMH heard a presentation by Attorney Patrick Mahoney, who represents Janice Ye, the owner of a three-family rental at 17-19 Sunset St.

There are currently no paved parking spaces in the rear of the building, although tenants sometimes park there. Ye wants to repave four existing parking spaces and add one new parking space in the rear yard. The area will be paved with permeable or porous asphalt in order to prevent runoff into neighboring properties. A six-foot vinyl fence will also be installed to block headlights from vehicles and the addition of concrete bollards could prevent cars from running into the fence.

Mahoney said that the additional spaces were for short-term visitors to the residence, such as house cleaning services, and that the owner had no intention of renting them out.

Ye requires variances for the following violations: the parking is within five feet of the side lot line, there is insufficient maneuverability of parking and insufficient usable open space.

CAMH voted in support of this project.

**18 – 20 Sunset Street**

Attorney Matt Eckel is requesting a change of occupancy from two three-family buildings to two four-family buildings. Six units would be owner-occupied condos and two would be rentals. New work would include a second means of egress to the two top units and other requirements from the Fire Department. There is currently no sprinkler system in place. Six abutters have expressed their support for the project in letters.

Eckel is currently seeking variances for the following: not enough off street parking, insufficient lot width, prohibited multifamily use, lack of lot frontage and usable open space, and excess of floor area ratio and building height. These were all preexisting conditions of the property, which documents prove have been four-unit buildings since the 1950s.

CAMH will hold a vote on this project at its next meeting. A vote on the project will be taken next month.

**754 Huntington Ave.**

Long Pan and Elaine Huang are seeking a common victualler license for their bubble tea shop TBaar at the site of the former Green Tea Shop. They would like to add three tables where customers can wait for their orders. TBaar is a franchise with three other locations in Boston. The Mission Hill location would be open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. CAMH members voted in support of the project.

**Energy Shift Boston**

Representatives Nathan Phillips and Rickey Harvey announced that Energy Shift Boston is seeking volunteers to be part of a citywide study exploring residential electricity capacity. Its goal is to assess households' readiness to switch to temporary electric heating and cooking in the event of a natural gas outage. Interested households can sign up at heetma.org/energy-shift/electrification-signup.

Community Alliance of Mission Hill meets on the third Wednesday of the month in auditorium G-3 of the Kresge building at Harvard's Chan School of Public Health at 677 Huntington Ave., from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Their next meeting will be on Wednesday, Feb. 19.

## Hill Talk

*Continued from page 1*

we hate the police or wish harm on the police," Dr. Hill said. "They shouldn't operate with impunity. That's the point of Black Lives Matter."

As one of five children, one of whom was recently released from incarceration, Dr. Hill said he strives to "struggle for a world without prisons."

"I'm not a reformer, I'm an abolitionist," he said. "I want to live in a world where justice doesn't look like punishment."

A 42-year-old native of West Philadelphia, Dr. Hill also witnessed firsthand the devastation that the crack cocaine epidemic wreaked on the community he grew up in, as well as on his own family.

Dr. Hill recalls as a boy, an older cousin who would babysit for him would inexplicably go missing for extended periods of time; only later did Dr. Hill learn his cousin was smoking crack during theses absences.

"I remember these moments," Dr. Hill said. "I knew he was sick, he had an illness."

Moreover, Dr. Hill points to the hypocrisy of a prevailing view in society and the criminal justice system that cocaine use is a bad habit whereas use of crack cocaine equates a "bad person."

"If you make a bad choice with cocaine, they send you to rehab, but if you make a bad decision with crack, you go to prison," Dr. Hill said. "Justice doesn't equal punishment, and punishment doesn't equal confinement."

Despite reports of a flourishing economy, Dr. Hill said the largesse – and opportunities- often doesn't trickle down to people of color at the same rate.

"If you're measuring the economy by how Wall Street is doing, you can absolutely call it a victory, but so many people have stopped looking for work and so many are vulnerable," he said. "We have to keep track of that as well.

"We have to keep track specifically of the ways blacks experience unemployment, which doesn't mean there aren't jobs available [because] when you're seen as black, you're less likely to get a job – or even an interview," he added.

Speaking two days after President Trump's acquittal, Dr. Hill said, "If you don't impeach this President, you should take impeachment off the list of possibilities. This President has clearly violated the spirit and letter of the Constitution."

Dr. Hill added that U.S. citizens have a moral and ethical responsibility to hold both Congress and the Republican Party accountable for the trial's outcome, with one notable reception – Sen. Mitt Romney of Utah, the sole Republican who voted to convict the president.

Still, Dr. Hill said, "I'm cynical about Mitt Romney because he had many other opportunities to hold Trump accountable before this, why now?"

Looking to the primary elections, Dr. Hill postulated that one Democratic candidate, Kamala Harris, is being held to a higher level of scrutiny by other women of color.

When Edwards asked Dr. Hill how to people of color could be better engaged at the voting polls, Hill said, "Part of the problem is we have to talk to everyday, working people and find out what's important to them and articulate that in a way that resonates."

And while the results of last week's Iowa primary might've come as a shock to some, Dr. Hill said it wasn't a very surprising outcome considering the state backed Barack Obama and Hilary Clinton in the 2008 and 2012 primaries, respectively.

"There open to something different, it's possible," Dr. Hill said. "America's a funny place – why is Mayor Pete still around?"

*Dr. Marc Lamont Hill speaking with Emmy Award-winning NBC 10 Boston and NECN anchor Latoya Edwards at Northeastern University's Blackman Auditorium.*


VOTE EARLY BOSTON 2020

**Monday, February 24 – Friday, February 28**

*Registered Boston voters can vote at any early voting location in the City, including City Hall. Pick a time and place that is best for you.*

*Los votantes registrados de Boston pueden votar en cualquier lugar para votar por adelantado en la Ciudad, incluyendo la Sede Municipal. Elija la hora y el lugar que sea mejor para usted.*

**MONDAY, FEB. 24, 9AM – 5PM**
**Lunes 24 de Febrero**
**Boston City Hall**
One City Hall Square, Boston, MA 02201

**TUESDAY, FEB. 25, 12PM – 8PM**
**Martes 25 de Febrero**
**Boston City Hall ( 9a.m. – 8p.m.)**
One City Hall Square,
Boston, MA 02201
**Copley Square Library**
700 Boylston Street,
Boston, MA 02116
**East Boston High School**
86 White Street,
East Boston, MA 02128
**Jackson Mann School**
500 Cambridge St. Allston, MA 02134
**James F. Condon Elementary School**
200 D St. South Boston, MA 02127
**The Dewitt Center**
122 Dewitt Drive, Roxbury Crossing, MA 02120
**ABCD Thelma D. Burns Building**
575 Warren St. oston, MA 02121

**WED. FEB. 26, 9A.M. – 8P.M.**
**Miércoles 26 de Febrero**
**Boston City Hall**
One City Hall Square,
Boston, MA 02201

**THURSDAY, FEB. 27, 12PM – 8PM**
**Jueves 27 de Febrero**
**Boston City Hall (9a.m. – 8p.m.)**
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Boston, MA 02201
**All Saints' Church**
209 Ashmont St.
Dorchester, MA 02124
**Another Course to College**
612 E Metropolitan Ave, Hyde Park, MA 02136
**Margarita Muniz Academy**
20 Child St. Boston, MA 02130
**First Parish Church of Dorchester**
10 Parish St. Dorchester, MA 02122
**Mildred Ave. Community Center**
1-5 Mildred Ave. Mattapan, MA 02126
**Roche Community Center**
1716 Centre St.
West Roxbury, MA 02132

**FRIDAY, FEB. 28, 9AM – 5PM**
**Viernes 28 de Febrero**
**Boston City Hall**
One City Hall Square, Boston, MA 02201

In order to vote early or on Election Day, you must register to vote by February 12. Check your voter status at **boston.gov/elections**

*If you miss the early voting period, you can still vote on Election Day, Tuesday, March 3rd.*

*Si pierde el período para votar por adelantado, todavía puede votar el Día de la Elección, que es el martes 3 de marzo.*

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City of Boston
Mayor Martin J. Walsh

# What's Happening on Main Streets

By Ellen Walker with contributors Eric Alden, Gar Chiang and Toni Ann Komst
Special to the Gazette

As we enter 2020 and the new decade, it time to reflect on the past from an individual perspective. To that end, some of the Mission Hill Main Streets Board members, who were or are residents, have contributed their memories to this months' story.

Here are their stories and MHMS thanks Eric, Gar and Toni Ann, for the trip down memory lane. Enjoy!

From Eric: "I think the biggest difference is obviously the make-up of the neighborhood. Growing up here in the 70's and 80's meant there were large families with lots of kids. Every triple decker had multiple families in it, many who had been in the area for years.

With the number of families (and kids) in the area we were able to support a lot of neighborhood activities such as the ability to field a dozen little league teams or to have a very active softball league with numerous teams made up of all local dads. Throughout the 80's, we had a large event at McLaughlin Field (top of the hill softball fields) called "The Mission Hill Fair." This event is one of my fondest memories as it seemed like every resident of Mission Hill was there. The fair incorporated the Mission Hill Road Race on the same day. This event brought everyone together for the race, live music, food, rides and games. This event was circled on everyone's calendar and could not be missed.

The Hill is obviously a different place now and is still a great place for those that live here. Every neighborhood in history has gone through some type of renaissance and Mission Hill is no different. The sign of a great neighborhood is when folks still want to live there or open a business there. I hear many old timers from the hill reminisce about "the good ole days" and I always reply with the following…in 30 years the folks that live here now will call these the good ole days."

From Gar: "Mission Hill was a welcoming place when I first moved here in 1967. My fondest memories were eating meals at my Irish American friends' home - potatoes cooked in so many ways! This was a real special treat to a Chinese kid who was used to noodles or rice every day. They were my friends - and still are today. We used to hang at the street corner of South Huntington Avenue and played in Brookline parks where the Mission Football Team also practiced.

None of our families lived in a house or had a yard to play in so we would meet at the park. Our parents all had ordinary jobs and we went to public schools. Later, we all went on to graduate from universities and achieved our parents dreams of better jobs. In the summer of 1969, sixteen of us went to Woodstock Music Festival in a rented van. Many of our group ended up in the photo on the front cover of the Woodstock album. By the way, none of us saw any naked women during the three-day festival - they were only in the movie!

I am the only one from my group who is living in Mission Hill, but I don't feel alone. Thinking about the good old days and my friends, I feel surrounded by the community spirit and friendship. Mission Hill has a special place in my heart."

From Toni Ann: "We lived here from 1959-1971 on Kempton Street and Shepard Avenue, where everybody knew each other. We never locked our doors. Neighbors played the role of parents when the parent/parents weren't around. Coming from an interracial family, Mission Hill and the South End were the only places mixed families could live without harassment back then.

Leon's' Drugstore at the corner of Huntington Avenue and Fenwood Road is where I'd buy my mother her Christmas gifts … mostly Evening in Paris perfume for a quarter. She would buy our lunches at Leon's' and hand it to us at recess across the street at the Farragut School. Recess was an important part of our days and in the summer, the school yard was used for kids' summer activities and they served free lunch. On summer nights everyone would be sitting on the stoops – kids and adults - when it was too hot to stay inside.

Other memories include sledding down Frawley Street with a lookout for cars and trolleys on Huntington, fruit trees in almost all the back yards, especially around the Baptist hospital, and walking over to the Muddy River to catch turtles and frogs. Also, taking the trolly for a free swim at the Boston Common with a free transfer back to the Hill, Church every Sunday at Mission, donuts across the street, catechism every Friday and confession every Saturday.

Thank goodness for people like Theresa and Anna Parks and others who fought back to keep affordable housing, where Mission Park is now located. I came back to the Hill in 1998. Still here, not leaving. Love this place!"

Moving back to the present, MHMS wants to thank all our local businesses who continue to rise to the occasion by keeping their sidewalks clean, clear and safe for everyone here in Mission Hill! Though we have not had a typical snowy winter, the blustery winds and cold have created challenges of their own. Mission Hill Main Streets looks at this when we consider selecting its annual "Golden Broom Award" recipient.

Mission Hill Main Streets was honored to be voted as Community Organization of the Year by Mission Hill Gazette readers. Thank you all for your continued support.

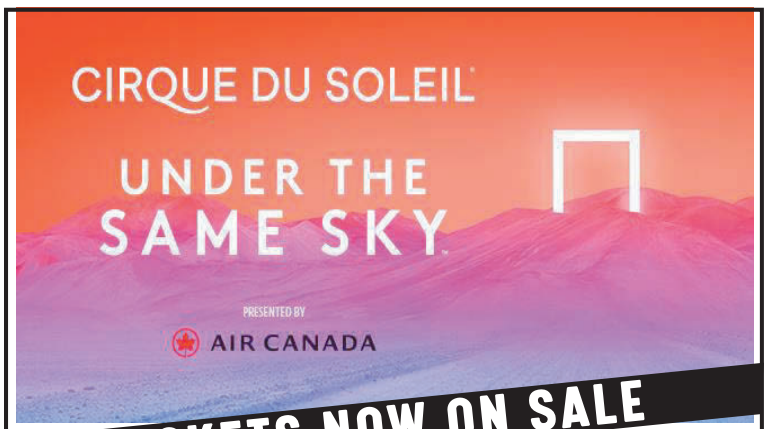
Wishing a Happy New Year to our Chinese neighbors and friends! This is the year of the Rat, which symbolizes agility, fertility and flexibility. Congratulation to all those who were born in 2020, 2008, 1996, 1984, 1972, 1960, etc.

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

"Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is a gift which is why we call it the present. "

*Bill Keane*

*McLaughlin Field Park.*




**Cirque du Soleil announces a U.S. Premiere**

***Cirque du Soleil* UNDER THE SAME SKY**

**a brand new Big Top production to Premiere in Boston at Suffolk Downs on August 29th, 2020**

**Tickets on sale now!**

Cirque du Soleil is thrilled to announce that its new Big Top production, ***Cirque du Soleil* UNDER THE SAME SKY**, written and directed by renowned artist and stage designer Es Devlin, is coming to Boston for its U.S. Premiere. The show, presented by Air Canada, will premiere under the Big Top at Suffolk Downs **starting August 29th, 2020. Tickets are now on sale.**

While staying true to its roots in astonishing human performances, Cirque du Soleil's 51st original production and **20th Big Top show** will bring a bold new visual approach to the Big Top. Vice President of Creation, Daniel Fortin, explains, *"In working with iconic visual artist Es Devlin to lead this new creation, we are committed to making a strong and absolutely distinctive creative statement in 2020. This show marks not only the start of a new decade, but also an exciting new era for Cirque."*

Through Devlin's exceptional creative lens, high-level acrobatics will be woven within a striking and disruptive visual universe. Spectators will be touched by uplifting choreography and startling physical theatre, and moved by the vibrant musical score, all infused with the warmth of human interconnection. The show's visionary approach will wow fans with monumental kinetic geometry glowing with vibrant color and light, bringing Cirque du Soleil on an exciting visual journey.

*"Our intention for this show is to surprise the audience with something that is bold, daring and visually exciting, a fresh creative take on what we are."* says Creation Director Chantal Tremblay.

Writer, Director and Set Designer, Es Devlin explains further: *"At the roots of Cirque are exceptionally skilled humans performing at the limits of what is humanly possible. There are no words, no text. But the strongest story is understood: 2000 people all willing someone not to fall. It's a potent communal experience, a travelling tent full of 2000 strangers, all realizing at once that when it comes down to falling or flying, we all want the same thing."*

Cirque du Soleil invites fans to meet under the big top in 2020 to share the experience of this new, surprising and joyful live gathering, a hymn to the vibrant communal experience that only a live show can offer.

**Ticket Information**

Cirque du Soleil's new show will be presented under the Big Top in Boston at Suffolk Downs starting on August 29th, 2020. To live the Cirque Experience to the fullest, VIP and Behind the Scenes packages are available. Tickets for these performances can be purchase online starting today at Cirquedusoleil.com/underthesamesky

# A Different Budget:
# New superintendent's budget reflects what she heard

## Investments being proposed for the Tobin School K-8, Mission School K-8, and Hennigan School K-8

By Seth Daniel

The world of school budgets within the Boston Public Schools (BPS) has rarely been marked by intrigue or excitement in year's past, but new Supt. Brenda Cassellius said this month that her first budget proposal is different than any previous ones because she simply did what parents asked her to do – and that will be grounds for excitement in the schools.

Cassellius presented her first School Budget proposal to the School Committee Wednesday night, Feb. 5, and it was one that was quite different from previous budgets – full of supportive services, basic fixes and laying the groundwork for expansion, all buoyed by a new commitment from Mayor Martin Walsh of $200 million over three years. It also came after her exhaustive tour of every school building in the city, and hosting several community meetings also, throughout the city since last August.

"We are going to fix things because we were listening to what the parents told us they want us to do," said Cassellius in an interview with the Gazette. "That's why I think it's such a different budget. It's based on what students say they need and what teachers say they need. When I was on my tour, I'll never forget a girl I met in (Roxbury). She was asked why she liked her school. She said it's because they give her what she needs. We are going to give people what they need to succeed."

One of the first tenets of the new budget is to roll out a complete supportive service program in 33 of the most underachieving schools in the city. In Mission Hill, that will mean historic investments in three local schools, including the Tobin School K-8, the Mission School K-8 and the Hennigan School K-8.

The Mission Hill K-8 and the Hennigan K-8 will be two of those 33 schools that will receive Transformation funding from the proposed budget. Meanwhile, the Tobin School K-8 will qualify for a new social worker position in the proposed budget.

The full Transformation program will include social workers, school psychologists, a family liaison and teaching instruction facilitators. That will also include revamping the curriculum in those schools, particularly high schools like nearby Madison Park and John D. O'Bryant, to align with the Mass Core standards.

Cassellius said some high schools don't offer Advanced Placement (AP) classes, while others do. That, she said, should change.

"We need to make sure teachers are up to speed to offer advanced programming, raising expectations throughout the city," she said.

That investment will also give teachers one extra hour to work with a type of coach to help them advance their teaching. While they do that, students will be able to participate in science, arts, performing arts, physical education and health – among others.

"This program hits every single neighborhood outside of West Roxbury at the schools that are in significant need of support," she said. "If you start with the schools that need it most in year one, all schools move up and work together as a cohort…All boats rise when you do that because everyone is getting the benefit of that…The momentum begins to build."

Overall, in that line of thinking, the schools are preparing for a decline in enrollment citywide. Nate Kuder, the BPS CFO, said they will have 1,000 fewer students citywide next year at this time. The goal of the investments in the budget is to stop that bleeding.

"If you don't interrupt that cycle of declining enrollment, declining parent perception, you will continue to lose students," Cassellius said. "We have to stop the decline to stabilize and then to improve."

BPS buildings for years have had an issue with curb appeal, simple maintenance and basic cleanliness.

A major piece of the budget is trying to put an end to that by allocating $15 million towards the small things, she said, touting the increased investments in janitors, new bathrooms and better facilities at all schools in Mission Hill – both in this budget and the upcoming April Capital Budget.

*Supt. Brenda Cassellius has proposed a very unique School Budget this year, one that provides major investments for support services and academics at Mission Hill schools.*

Cassellius and Kuder said they have put on 25 new night janitors in the budget proposal, and will make even more investments in the Capital Budget for bathrooms and improvements in school facilities.

"I saw that need before I actually started," she said. "I was first approved on May 8 and saw this as a problem when I first came here. I was pretty surprised by that. The way things look around the buildings and particularly the cleanliness…This is a statement that says the learning environment matters. The way kids feel when they enter a classroom matters. You're going to see a change."

The new investment in the Tobin, Hennigan and Mission Hill, if approved, will mean a radical shift in how those schools operate in terms of providing supports to students and families. That investment is meant to help the school community stabilize in and out of school so that teachers can focus on their work of teaching students.

One hearing on the proposed budget already took place this week, Feb. 13, at the Curley School in Jamaica Plain. However, there are other opportunities to hear about this budget. There will be a hearing on March 10 at the MLK K-8 in Dorchester, and March 18 at the Bolling Building in Dudley Square. The final budget is expected to be voted on by the School Committee on March 25.

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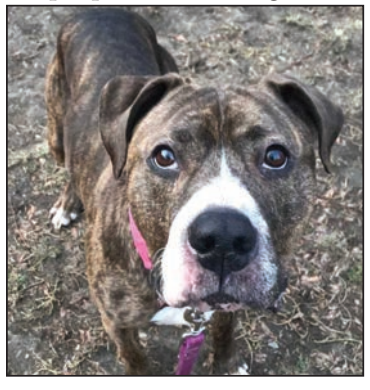
## Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll

### FRANKIE

Looking for a sweet, easy-going dog to cuddle up on the couch with you? Check out Frankie, a soulful and sweet brindle pit bull! This handsome fella is about 5 years old and while he's a little nervous about being at the shelter, he takes comfort from his people. He loves a good snuggle session and likes to think he's a lap dog. While he has lived with dogs before, he was a bit much for them and would prefer to be the other dog in his new home. He might be able to live with kids! If Frankie sounds like the ideal couch companion for you, come by and meet him today! Email adoption@mspca.com today for more information on Frankie!



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

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# Construction begins on 80 Terrace St.

By John Lynds

After receiving a $6-million construction loan last month, Primary Development has begun construction on their third condo project in Mission Hill.

JLL Capital MarketsDirectors Martha Nay and Michael Johnson worked on behalf of the developer, Primary Development, to secure the floating-rate construction loan through Centreville Bank to begin building the nine-unit, boutique, condo building at 80 Terrace St.

According to Primary Development Partner Steven Meyer the project should be completed in early 2021 and will feature 21,000 gross square feet, including nine two-bedroom/two-bathroom for-sale condo units, one commercial unit and nine parking spaces. The commercial component can be divided into six office studios connected to a common kitchenette area.

"As Mission Hill continues to become a community that draws focus to the arts in Boston, this is a great opportunity for Primary to develop unique design-driving buildings in this growing neighborhood," said Johnson. "Terrace Street has a rich industrial history and we have incorporated this into the architecture of the three buildings that we are currently developing."

Johnson added that the 80 Terrace St. project will be part of the developer's on-going efforts to provide a diverse and carefully designed array of buildings along Terrace Street.

According to Primary Development's filing with the city the company describes Terrace Street as, "steeped in rich industrial history, and is set to experience abundant growth and transformation, becoming an exciting artistic and residential corridor not only for Mission Hill, but also the City of Boston as a whole."

Johnson said Terrace Street will see an exciting transformation over the next few years, with the addition of residential rental and homeownership units, new retail, artists' studio spaces, and community gardens.

The five-story building will feature a distinctive pleated facade as a nod to the industrial heritage of the neighborhood with the classic Boston residential bay window.

Each unit features generous ceilings throughout, Thermador and Bosch Appliances, Caesarstone countertops, Marazzi tile, wide-plank oak flooring, in-unit washer/dryer and oversized casement windows. The building also includes an enclosed parking garage, as well as a shared roof deck with views of downtown Boston.

Additionally, up to 3,200 square feet of commercial space will be available for lease. With oversized windows and 12' ceilings, this space will be ideal for small offices, studios or fitness tenants that will further enhance the street life in the corridor.

In addition to 80 Terrace Street, Primary Development is currently building the Terrace Street Artist Condominiums. Located at 40 and 132 Terrace Street, the project will provide 14 new units of 100 percent affordable artist live-work home-ownership as part of Mayor Martin Walsh's Housing a Changing City: Boston 2030 initiative. Containing a mix of one- and two-bedroom units, Terrace Street Artist Condominiums is set to be completed in early 2021, and will be available to artists who make at least fifty percent of their income from working in the arts.

*An artist rendering of the project at 80Terrace St. that is currently under construction.*

# Congressman Kennedy hosts rally at Puerto Rican Veterans Monument

Staff Report

As the campaign for U.S. Senate continues to heat up, Congressman Joe Kennedy has made a concerted effort to appeal to the Spanish-speaking electorate in Boston.

Two weeks ago, he hosted the first-ever Spanish language Town Hall in East Boston, and on Monday, he was in the South End rallying with Puerto Rican voters at the Puerto Rican Veterans Monument for the approval of aid to the island recently ravaged by earthquakes.

*Tony Molina, president of the Puerto Rican Veterans Monument Association, joined Kennedy to call for a lifting up of Puerto Rican voices, as well as aid payments to help the island rebuild after recent earthquakes.*

Speaking in English and Spanish in the rain on Monday, Congressman Kennedy hosted a solidarity rally at the Puerto Rican Veterans Monument, a fixture in the Puerto Rican community all over the city, including in Mission Hill. Last Friday, the House of Representatives had approved a spending package of $4.7 billion in recovery aid and tax relief to Puerto Rico that would significantly help efforts to rebuild after a series of devastating earthquakes. Kennedy told the crowd that he was proud to support this package and called on his colleagues in the Senate, along with President Trump, to approve the package as well.

"Last week we learned that President Trump's administration has threatened to veto this funding - once again showing callous disregard for the pain and suffering of our fellow American citizens in Puerto Rico," said Congressman Kennedy. "I was proud to support this aid and I am proud to stand with you all here today to send a message to Donald Trump that enough is enough."

Congressman Kennedy and Tony Molina, president of the Puerto Rican Veterans Monument Square Association, noted that this rally was not just about one relief package, but about lifting up the voices of those in Puerto Rico.

*Congressman Joe Kennedy, a candidate for Senate, appeared in the South End at the Puerto Rican Veterans Monument on Monday to rally with Puerto Rican voters.*

"But this is bigger than aid programs or financial infusions," Kennedy added. "We are here today because the U.S. government has systematically and strategically silenced the voices of Puerto Rico for generations. The people of Puerto Rico are our fellow citizens. They have made immense contributions to every corner of American life. Puerto Rican soldiers like some of the ones standing here with me today have protected our freedoms as part of the United States Armed Forces in every armed conflict since 1917. We need to engage in a much larger and longer strategic overhaul of our government's treatment of Puerto Rico, including reforms to PROMESA."

So far, Congressman Kennedy has made two stops in Mission Hill, while Senator Ed Markey – his opponent – has not visited the neighborhood yet. Their race will be decided in the Sept. 1 Primary Election.

# Participación

*El plazo para la sección de participación es al mediodía martes 3 marzo para la edición 6 marzo. Mande eventos a news@missionhillgazette.com. Los números telefónicos empiezan con el código 617.*

## Reuniones

**Junta de directores de Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing,** primer lunes del mes, 6 PM a la oficina de NHS, 1 Brigham Circle en Mission Hill en el nivel de entrepiso. Información: 566-6565. 6

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

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

## Salud y Bienestar Físico

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

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

## Música, Arte, Baile

**Estudio de grabación**, de alta calidad en Sociedad Latina, disponible a la comunidad. Tremont St. Info/Scheduling: Josh Snyder 442.4299 Baile de salón, presentado por RTH, los domingos, 7.30-9pm, 2 New Whitney St., primer piso. 232-0400, hhui@roxburytenants.org.

## Museo de Bellas Artes

**Parker Hill Branch Library**

Charla de libro, tercer jueves del mes

Yoga para los mayores de edad, los sábados, 10am

## -Horas de Oficina

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

## Jóvenes/Familias

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

## Clases/Discusiones

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

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

Clases de inglés y de ciudadanía, con RTH. inglés para principiantes, lunes y viernes, 7.30-9 pm. Inglés para la oficina, martes y jueves, 7.30-9 pm. Clase de inglés avanzada, viernes 6 a 7.30 pm. 805 Huntington Ave. Clase de ciudadanía, martes y jueves, 2.30 – 4 pm, 2 New Whitney Street, Segundo piso. 232-0400/hhui@roxburytenants.org.

## Noticias Públicas

**Sociedad Latina,** centro de bienvenido cada jueves y viernes, 10 am – 4 pm. Familias de Puerto Rico afectadas por el huracán pueden recibir asistencia para establecerse en Boston. Info@sociedadlatina.org.

**Recompensa de $5 millón**, para información sobre la ubicación de 13 obras de arte robadas hace dos décadas del museo Gardener. Mande denuncias anónimas a 280 The Fenway. Info: Anthony Amore, director de seguirdad Security: 278-5114.

## Centro Comunitario Tobin

**1481 Tremont St., membresía anual: 55+ gratis;** familias y adultos $20; jóvenes 13-17 $10, niños con menos de 12, $5. Info: 635-5216/TobinCommunityCenter.org.

**MissionSAFE,** programa de liderazgo para jóvenes. Info: 319-0679.

Campamento de deportes, para niños 6-13, lunes a viernes, 8 am – 4 pm, $65/semana. 635-5217.

**Bienestar físico para adultos/familias,** kung-fu: 6+. Info: 635-5216. Tai chi para adultos: lunes, 6.30 – 7.30 pm. Info: 635-5216.

Laboratorio de computadoras, miércoles, 10 am – 1 pm. 635-5216.

**Actividades para mayores de edad,** gratuitas para 55+. Martes y jueves, 10-11am. Info: Carmen Pola, 820-1089.

# Absentee ballots, early voting dates available for presidential primary

The City of Boston's Election Department announced that absentee ballots are now available for the Presidential Primary taking place on Tuesday, March 3, 2020. Voters registered in Boston who meet one of the requirements below are eligible to vote by absentee ballot:

• Voters absent from the city and unable to vote at the polls on Election Day,

• Voters who have a physical disability preventing them from getting to a polling site,

• Voters who are an active member of the armed services, and

• Voters who cannot participate due to religious obligations.

The deadline to submit an application for an absentee ballot is Monday, March 2, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. and can be done by mail or in person at the Election Department in City Hall. In person absentee voting is available during regular business hours as well as on Saturday, February 15, February 22 and February 29 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Absentee applications can be downloaded at boston.gov/absentee. When requesting a ballot by mail, voters are asked to mail their applications to the Election Department early to be processed on time. Voted ballots must be mailed back and received by the Election Department no later than 8 p.m. on Tuesday, March 3, 2020. For more information please visit: boston.gov/absentee

VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE: the deadline to register to vote or to update voter profiles for the Presidential Primary is Wednesday, February 12, 2020. On February 12, the Election Department will be open until 8:00 p.m. for those who want to register to vote. Fore more information on how to register to vote, please visit https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/

EARLY VOTING: early voting for the March 3, 2020 Presidential Primary will be available to all Boston voters from Monday, February 24 through Friday, February 28, 2020. Any registered voter can vote early. A listing of all early voting locations, dates, and times will be included with the annual city census. For more information on early voting please visit https://www.boston.gov/departments/elections/vote-early-boston

Polling locations for Election Day can be found using the Secretary of the Commonwealth's website.


**The Mission Hill / Fenway Neighborhood Trust**

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

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

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

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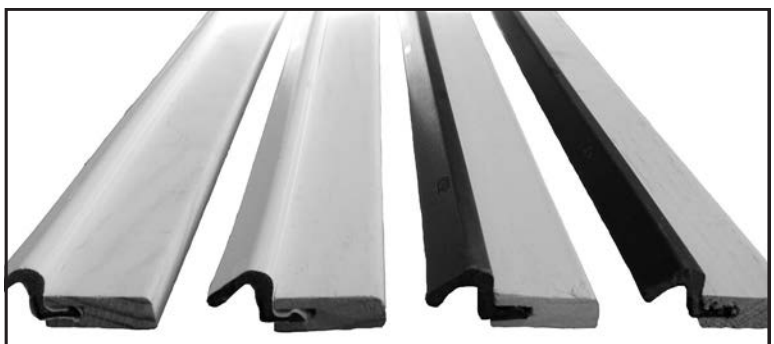

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# Hill HISTORY

## *This Month in Hill History:*

### *The Gazette's top headlines from this month in local history*

## 5 Years Ago: 2015

**Zakim files order about hosting Olympics**

City Councilor Josh Zakim announced that he has filed an order for four nonbinding questions about Boston's 2024 Summer Olympics bid to appear on the Nov. 3 municipal election ballots.

The yes-or-no questions would ask whether Boston should host the Games, and if so, whether public money or seizing of private property by eminent domain should be used. The vote would come after a September deadline for submitting the first draft of Boston's official bid, but before the International Olympics Committee would make a final decision in 2017.

**CEDAC is a private-public community development finance institution**

MHNHS plans a mixed-use redevelopment for Parcel 25, which is bordered by Tremont, Gurney and Station streets, across from the Roxbury Crossing MBTA Station. The former T-owned property is now vacant.

The 305,750-square-foot project will be done in three phases, and once completed, include 88 housing units, 10,000 square feet of retail space, 196,500 square feet of office space and 1,250 square feet of community space. The project will also have 201 surface and below-ground parking spaces.

**Receives funds for project**

The Community Economic Development Assistance Corporation (CEDAC) recently approved a $200,000 loan to the Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Services (MHNHS) for its transit-oriented project at Parcel 25, according to a press release.

"Well-located community development projects make it easier for residents to commute to work and get around the city, which helps them to improve their quality of life and improve access to education, employment and other opportunities," said CEDAC's executive director Roger Herzog, according to the press release.

## 10 Years Ago: 2010

**"One Brigham Circle for sale"**

The gigantic One Brigham Circle commercial building was listed for sale by its developers, Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Services and the New Boston Fund, seven years after its opening. The building sold the next month to AEW Capital Management for nearly $97 million. A landmark of the neighborhood's physical and economic transformation, One Brigham Circle was built on a largely vacant site and included the adjacent Kevin W. Fitzgerald Park.

## 15 Years Ago: 2005

**"Church plans call for 229 units"**

Weston Associates unveiled its final plans for redeveloping part of the Mission Church complex along Smith Street into two residential towers flanking a renovated Mission Grammar School. The plans, which involved demolishing two historic buildings and replacing them with 9- and 13-story buildings, received mixed community response.

But a decade later, the project remains stalled for unknown reasons, and both Weston and Mission Church have declined to comment on its status, while the Boston Redevelopment Authority has publicly pushed for progress. Meanwhile, two of the buildings sit vacant, while the former school is leased to the Harvard School of Public Health.

## 20 Years Ago: 2000

**"Local groups celebrate groundbreaking for new housing"**

More than 75 neighbors and supporters joined the Back of the Hill Community Development Corporation (BOTH) and the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation (JPNDC) at the Jan. 29 groundbreaking ceremony for 22 units of affordable housing on city-owned vacant lots on Wensley Street, Bickford Avenue and Fisher Avenue. Today, the two nonprofit developers are now teaming on a similar project on Heath Street.

## 25 Years Ago: 1995

**"PZAC's future unclear"**

The Mission Hill Planning and Zoning Advisory Committee, appointed by Mayor Flynn in 1988 to advise the Boston Redevelopment Authority on new local zoning plans, finished its Mission Hill rezoning work and was set to review the Longwood Medical Area rezoning. It was unclear whether it would continue to exist and review new developments—a significant issue because there were few local community organizations at the time. There was dispute about whether PZAC was representative of the neighborhood and its lack of actual power. In the end, the city dissolved PZAC and the Community Alliance of Mission Hill, founded in 1993, became the more prominent development-reviewing organization.


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Hill HISTORY

# LOOKING BACK: THE BLIZZARD OF 2015

Mother Nature did not hold back at the start of 2015. Shown below are photos from around Mission Hill following the Jan. 25, 2015 snow storm that brought over 2 feet of snow down in Mission Hill and the Greater Boston area as a whole. The Jan. 25 blizzard kicked off a weekly winter wallop, with between 1 and 2 more feet falling each Sunday, into Monday, on Feb. 8-9, and Feb. 14-15, respectively.

*Cars on Wigglesworth Street are buried in snow on Jan. 27 during the Blizzard of 2015. (Photo by Patrick E. O'Connor)*

*Pedestrians—one carrying snowshoes—trudge down an empty, snow-covered Huntington Avenue in Brigham Circle on Jan. 27 during the Blizzard of 2015, which dumped more than 2 feet of snow on the city. (Photo by Patrick E. O'Connor)*

*Mission Church is hard to see through the veil of snow during the Jan. 27 Blizzard of 2015. (Photo by Patrick E. O'Connor)*

*GREEN AND WHITE A Green Line streetcar pushes through the snow in Brigham Circle on Jan. 27 during the Blizzard of 2015. (Photo by Patrick E. O'Connor)*

*A man uses a snowblower to clear One Brigham Circle's plaza on Jan. 27 during the Blizzard of 2015. (Photo by Patrick E. O'Connor)*

Please Recycle this Newspaper

# Editorial

## The (climate) news is all bad

At the start of World War II, President Franklin Roosevelt reportedly said to his aides, "So far, the news is all bad," referring to the reports from the front in the immediate aftermath of Pearl Harbor when the Japanese were taking unopposed control of territory throughout the Pacific.

That's the way we've been feeling lately about the matter of our changing climate and the resulting degradation of the environment in every corner of the planet. Week after week, all we hear and see is bad news about the negative effects of climate change.

At the beginning of the year, there were the terrible images of the continent of Australia, literally on fire, with great clouds of smoke suffocating the populace and even affecting the people of New Zealand, which is 1,300 miles across the sea. There also were the estimated hundreds of millions of wildlife creatures who were consumed by flames that became so hot that they formed a phenomena known as a fire tornado.

In the middle of January, we in the Boston area, along with most of the Northeast, experienced record-high temperatures that reached 70 degrees on back-to-back days for the first time ever in the supposedly-coldest month of the year.

Europe also experienced its warmest-ever January.

The warm winter trend has continued into February. Just this past weekend, as we were watching the local news, the weatherman said that the average temperature in Boston thus far in February is a whopping 8.8 degrees above normal.

Last week, it was reported that the highest-ever temperature, 64.9 degrees, was recorded in Antarctica, a reading that was comparable to the high temperatures in the southern half of the U.S. on that day. Similarly, last summer saw record-setting high temperatures in the Arctic Circle at the earth's northern pole.

Bob Dylan wrote, "You don't need a weather man to know which way the wind blows." Similarly, none of us need the experts to tell us that climate change is happening at a far greater rate than even the most dire of forecasts had predicted just a few years ago -- the evidence is all around us. (And at the other end of the political spectrum, we certainly do not need bozo politicians in Washington telling us that climate change is NOT happening).

Those of us who live in the Greater Boston area are among the most at risk for the twin dangers of climate change posed by rising sea levels and massive storms.

The inescapable reality facing us simply seems to be this: Given the inaction of our federal government leaders to reduce carbon emissions, which are at the root of climate change, it would appear that our way of life as we know it is all but doomed, as the impact of climate change grows by degrees, literally and figuratively, day-by-day.

## Thanks for the memories, Mookie

It is inconceivable to life-long Red Sox fans such as ourselves that the Sox' management decided to trade away Mookie Betts to the Los Angeles Dodgers in exchange for a few random players.

Mookie not only was an amazing talent who gave the Sox an ability to compete with the best teams in the league, but he also brought a joy and exuberance to the game that was infectious both on the field and throughout every nook and cranny of Fenway Park.

The Red Sox management apparently feels the need to cut payroll because of the luxury tax, whatever that is (and you need to be an accountant to figure out the Byzantine structure of salary caps in pro sports these days).

Maybe that's so, but what is not beyond dispute is that our summer evenings, whether at Fenway or in front of our big-screen televisions, will be a lot less exciting without Mookie Betts either at the plate, on the basespaths, or in right field.

### *PLEASE WRITE...*

The Gazette welcomes letters to the editor. Word limit: 500. Deadline: Friday at 5 p.m. one week before publication. Letters may be emailed to *letters@JamaicaPlainGazette.com*. Please include address and telephone number for verification purposes.

Anonymous letters will not be published. More information: 617-524-2626

# Op-Ed

## Black history is more than a month

By Mayor Martin Walsh

February is Black History Month and, in Boston, we have a full series of events planned to celebrate the achievements of Black Bostonians-- the women and men, seniors and students, veterans and clergy, business owners and activists who have been at the heart of our city's progress and success since the beginning. Honoring this history and progress is something we must do every day, all year round. That's why Boston is helping to lead a national movement to recognize that Black history is #MoreThanAMonth. This year, Black History Month kicks off a year-round celebration, in partnership with Boston's Black community, that we are calling a Year of Black Excellence. Black Excellence events will reach all ages and offer a range of activities including arts, sports, history, culture, job resources, and community programming.

Black History Month began on February 3 at City Hall with a Black Heritage Kickoff Celebration. It continues with events like the Carter G. Woodson Basketball Tournament, the Dream Chasers Call for Artists, our Age Strong Black Heritage Celebration for seniors, the 3rd Annual Fashionscape and Arts of Boston, our 4th Annual African American Veterans Brunch, and many more. The remainder of our Year of Black Excellence will be anchored by a series of signature events, in partnership with community members and leading Boston institutions.

In July, Boston will host the national NAACP convention. Being named the host city for this national event was a great honor. We saw right away what an opportunity it would be to not only celebrate our city's progress, but also to catalyze a future of Black achievement that pushes us ever closer to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream of equality, justice, and harmony. We are working closely with the community to host the greatest NAACP convention ever held. This event will be a milestone in Boston's history and a focus of the national conversation around social justice and economic equity.

Ultimately, real change is what it's all about. That's why our Year of Black Excellence also coincides with major new initiatives and investments we are making in affordable housing, equity in education, access to transportation, and environmental justice. We will show that when we work to empower everyone and increase equity across our neighborhoods, our city becomes a better place for all-- and we can lead the nation forward as well.

We are being bold in Boston. We have made progress, but there is much work still to be done. We are inspired by the history of individual accomplishment and community progress that Black Bostonians have achieved, often against tremendous odds.

In January, we began the year by remembering the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He led the country to greater equality and justice, but the realization of his dream is not complete. His vision continues to inspire more progress every day. That's ultimately what our Year of Black Excellence is all about. I invite you to join us.

If you'd like to learn more, visit boston.gov/black-excellence.

*Martin Walsh is the Mayor of Boston.*

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

*Mission Hill* GAZETTE

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# Op-Ed

## Why Kobe's death matters — and what we can all learn from his life

Robert Lewis, Jr.

The BASE joins millions around the world in mourning the death of basketball legend Kobe Bryant in a helicopter crash. Kobe – among just a handful of superstars identified by first name only -- died along with eight others, including his beloved 13-year old daughter, Gianna.

His death reverberated throughout the sports world and beyond, cutting across boundaries defined by geography and race, gender and generation. His fame was truly universal, his post-NBA career as a businessman and youth-sports champion just getting started.

His loss hit home for many reasons. For one, it reminded us of the power of sports to transform individual lives – and the power one individual can have to inspire countless others.

For another, his death has been a reminder that it often takes a tragedy like this to brings folks together and embrace our common humanity. The outpouring of love for Kobe – elite ballplayer, devoted dad, entrepreneur, global icon – stands as a bulwark against the polarizing hatred that too often divides our country these days. What a lesson for us all to think about right now.

Another reason we mourn his loss: Kobe's values lined up closely with our own.

As a player, Kobe gave no quarter on either end of the basketball floor, competing until the very last shot. From the day he was drafted as a raw teenager, he believed in "earning your spot." While he may have been out-scored or out-rebounded in any given game, he was rarely out-worked or out-hustled.

The BASE teaches our student-athletes and coaches the same mindset on the baseball diamond, softball field, and basketball court:

- Show up when you're supposed to
- Lead by example
- Play hard until the last pitch or whistle
- Support your teammates
- Respect your opponents

Learn the fundamentals, then apply them to life going forward

That's the BASE Way. It was Kobe's way, too.

His life was not a perfect one, but on that score, too, there is much for us to reflect upon.

Many of our student-athletes come from challenging backgrounds. Some have made poor choices that threatened to derail their young lives. However, if given a second chance, they show a resilience and work ethic that make everything we do rewarding.

Kobe died on his way to his daughter's basketball game being held at the sports academy he founded. The girls scheduled to play that day could have been enrolled in our BASE HOOPZ program.

More broadly, as Kobe he grew into his role as father, he invested fully in the power of youth sports -- girls' and women's basketball in particular. That passion of his was not lost on Gianna, who hoped to play college and pro ball herself.

Kobe was often asked by well-meaning fans if he and his wife, after having four girls, planned on having a son "to build on your legacy."

"No," Gianna would say, jumping in. "I got this."

*I got this.*

That, too, is The BASE Way. Our student-athletes reflect that every day.

And so, while we mourn the deaths of Kobe and eight others, and celebrate his extraordinary legacy, let us also reflect on how and why he mattered to so many. And how and why the power of sports, in crossing so many boundaries in our society, reminds us that we are all in this game together.

*Robert Lewis Jr. is the founder and president of The BASE, a Boston non-profit with a mission of shifting the national mindset about what it takes for urban youth to succeed*

# Op-Ed

## Valentine Day befuddling

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

Valentine's Day is a befuddling time - bewildering, confusing.

Flowers that you would buy to give to someone are probably already tripled in price. Our local grocery store sometimes sells a dozen roses for under $30, but they will be over $70 during Valentine's season. You can't go a week early and save either. They are smart about that and have already priced them higher.

Those Valentine boxes of candy have been out for awhile. If you want to buy a cheap box you had better go now. A retailing friend told me about a man walking in his store late on Valentine's Day one year and the only boxes of candy left were the very expensive ones. He said the man stood and looked befuddled and finally gave in and shelled out the cash but he could tell the man was feeling the pinch in his billfold.

Women like candy, flowers, cards, dinners, jewelry and all kinds of stuff. Men like stuff too but speaking from a man's point of view it seems like the pressure is on us men to not foul up Valentine's Day.

I always try to come up with the flowers and a card and usually a dinner out. My wife and I agreed a long time ago that we didn't need candy. We figured this out the year my wife bought me a pound of really good chocolate and I ate the entire box in less than 24 hours. You see, sometimes when we are treated too good, we just make ourselves sick.

Valentine's Day is about warm feelings, love and showing kindness to special people. It's certainly about not forgetting the day or the warm feelings will go south. I like how we did it in grade school. We had a Valentine's card box and my mother would buy me a cheap box of Valentine cards and we made sure everybody in the class got a card. Sometimes people would not receive as many as others and some cute girls and guys always got a few more. That may or may not have been so good.

Maybe this Valentine's Day while you are being romantic toward your spouse of significant other you can pass some kindness and love out to some others. If you can get to the cheap boxes of candy early you can buy several people a box. I've found that my coworkers love getting a small box of candy as do children and friends. It never hurts to pass the love around.

I was taught to love God and my fellowman but I can't love Hitler, serial killers. ISIS terrorists and a few other evil people. God has a kind of love that I don't always understand or grasp, especially when it comes to me. Why would he ever love me? It befuddles me. This year think about befuddling a few people as Valentine's Day gives you a perfect opportunity.

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

# Op-Ed

## Remembering Jim Hennigan

By Sal Giarratani

I was over at Jim Hennigan's wake over in West Roxbury where folks lined up to say good bye to an old school political legend. When I was a kid, he got himself elected as a state representative out of Jamaica Plain, then state senator. Eventually the Boston School Committee before finishing of as register of probate. His father was a state rep and a state senator before him. There's the Hennigan School in Jamaica Plain named after his dad James Hennigan Sr..; When the funeral ended up at holy Name Church on the way to his final resting place, he ended up visiting Jamaica Plain one more time and passed by the Hennigan School. where students lined the sidewalks paying their respects.

The last time I saw Jim Hennigan alive was on St. Patrick's Day at his birthday party at his home filled with family and friends. Other old school pols like Gerry O'Leary and Gerard Doherty were there too all talking about the old days. Doherty and Hennigan started off in politics together back in the early 50s when they both entered the state legislature together. Allies and friends forever.

I saw Gerry Doherty enter the funeral home and he was escorted to the front of the line out of respect. They were two of a kind from the Old School of Politics. They don't make 'em like Jimmy and Gerry anymore.

Jim Hennigan was a living legend of a time in politics when respect was mutually given, your word was your bond and politics produced results and where meanness was seemingly forbidden. Just like today, Right?

*Sal Giarratani is a freelance reporter amd columnist for various publications in Greater Boston.*

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# Boston Public Schools Exam School test could be changed next fall

By Seth Daniel

In the wake of a scandal late last week involving the maker of the ISEE Exam School test and the Boston Public Schools, Supt. Brenda Cassellius reported this week they have begun to seek new vendors for the exam school test – and an-nual ball of stress for parents of children headed to 7th or 9th grades.

The Boston Public Schools requires students to take an exam to enter either Boston Latin School, Boston Latin Academy or John D. O'Bryan School of Math and Science. The test is taken in the fall for entrance into either 7th grade or 9th grade, and many parents spend considerable amounts of money preparing their kids with tutoring for the test months in advance.

That test has been the ISEE test that is put out by ERB Company for many years, but after much internal – and now public – controversy, that test may not be what students take next fall.

"Boston Public Schools (BPS) is committed to, and actively working to expand equitable access to our exam schools," said Cassellius. "Almost immediately upon my arrival in Boston, it was brought to my attention that there were con-cerns that the ISEE test was potentially creating barriers for some students seeking admission to BPS' exam schools, particularly underrepresented stu-dents.

"As I've previously stated, often and publicly, this is the final year of the BPS contract with ERB," she continued. "As is the case when any contract expires, we will release a new Request for Proposals (RFP) which we expect to issue within the next week. That RFP is being written in a way that specifically ad-dresses some of our concerns, including that it be aligned to the Massachusetts state standards and that it is reviewed and validated for bias."

Concerns have been floating around about the test for many years within Bos-ton Public Schools (BPS), and the test manufacturer says it has warned BPS over a period of many years that it is using the test incorrectly. That's a fact that Cassellius and BPS dispute, but one that the test company says is true.

At issue in particular is that BPS has taken all four categories in the test and lumped them together in one score. The test company, and many private schools, consider all four parts separately and not as one whole score.

BPS said it has looked into the allegations that ERB has been reaching out for many years about the test, but they have found no validity to the claim. In a statement, the schools said they have found no truth to the claims made by ERB.

Cassellius said she refused to work with ERB on a bias study of the test just af-ter she arrived because it could have been a conflict of interest under the new RFP process.

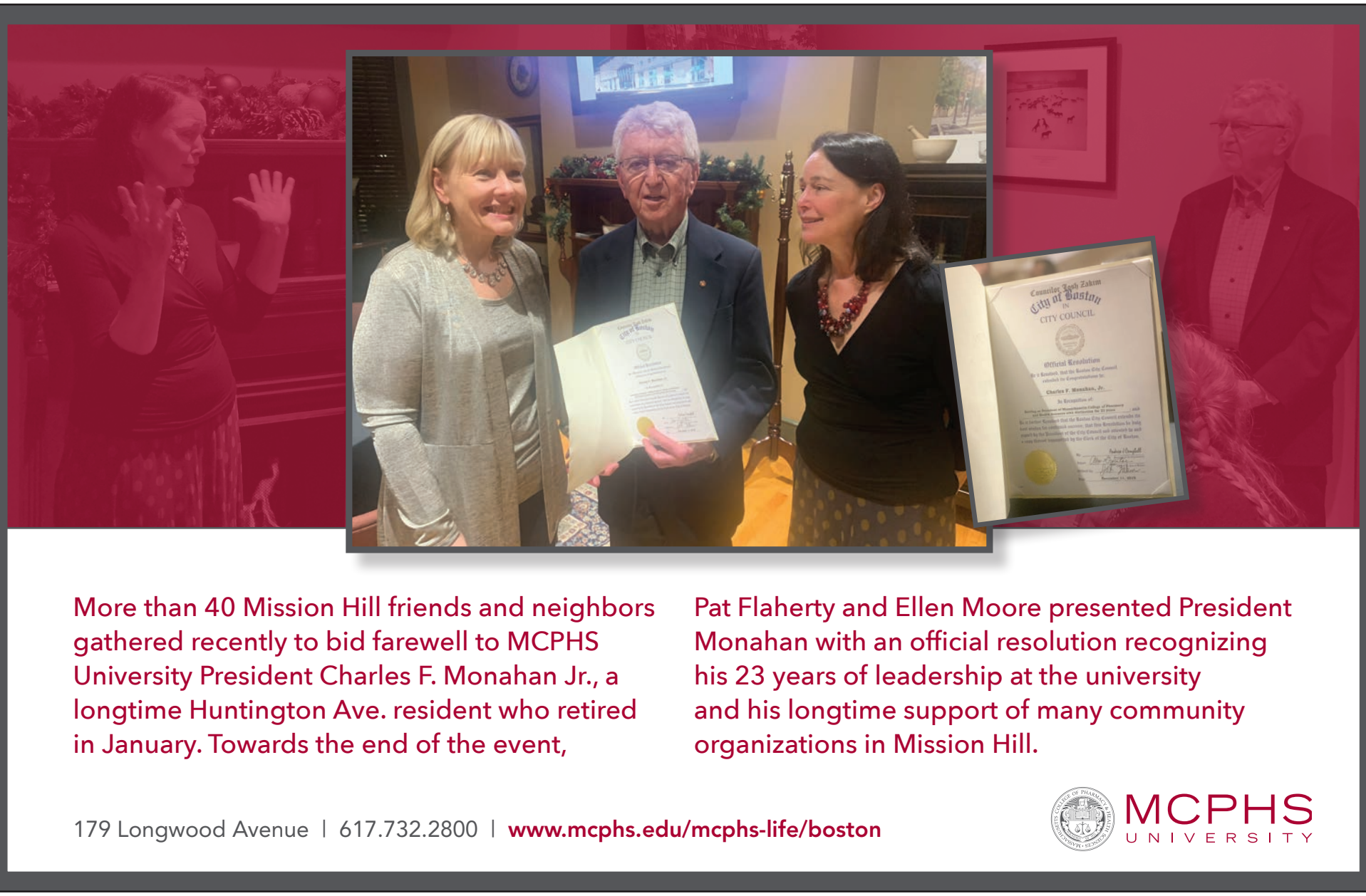
"In addition to setting high expectations for our students and staff, I set high expectations around the way we operate as a district," she said. "I declined par-ticipation in the validation study to avoid giving undue advantage to any one particular vendor who might respond to an RFP in the future and to protect the integrity of our public procurement process."

What many parents want to know at the moment is whether or not they are wasting their money preparing their children for a test that may not be given.

While ISEE could be the selected vendor, that is not yet known. BPS sent the re-quired information to the City for the RFP to be advertised early this week, and those bids won't come in for many weeks.

BPS said in a statement that they would continue to use an entrance exam of some kind, in addition to other existing admission requirements that are cur-rently used.

Earlier this year, in January, Cassellius's Exam School Initiative report was is-sued to the School Committee. That report was commissioned to look at equity in the Exam Schools, and is currently being considered by the Committee.




More than 40 Mission Hill friends and neighbors gathered recently to bid farewell to MCPHS University President Charles F. Monahan Jr., a longtime Huntington Ave. resident who retired in January. Towards the end of the event, Pat Flaherty and Ellen Moore presented President Monahan with an official resolution recognizing his 23 years of leadership at the university and his longtime support of many community organizations in Mission Hill.

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