

BACC hosts second meeting, focusing on big projects



About 100 residents came out for the second annual meeting of the group, which was designed to give people a sense of the BACC's goals.

PHOTO BY JEFF SULLIVAN

Jeff Sullivan
Staff Reporter

The Brighton Allston Community Coalition (BACC) held its second meeting last week on Jan. 24 in a room packed with about 100 residents.

The purpose of the meeting was to outline the main focus of the group, which is to advocate for the neighborhoods in terms of real estate development, home-ownership and transportation. Organizers said only residents who live in the neighborhood would be able to join as full-fledged members,

and no businesses or none occupying landlords would be able to join.

“What makes us different than other groups is that we are not competing with any group already in Allston Brighton, we seek to collaborate with other groups when there is a common interest,” said co founder Joanne D’Alcomo. “The Brighton Allston Improvement Association (BAIA) and the Allston Civic Association (ACA) are very well established groups, and they have a

BACC Meeting
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City elections could have early voting this year

Jeff Sullivan
Staff Reporter

The Boston City Council met with officials on Monday to go over the possibility of implementing an early voting system for the 2019 municipal election.

Boston currently offers early voting for state and federal election years, as it is required to do after a 2014 state law, but does not offer early voting in off years for municipal elections. District 8 City Councilor Josh Zakim said he wants to change that with a home-rule petition to the State House this year.

“This is something we think we can and should expand in municipal elections,” said Zakim. “We experience the challenges we have when it comes to turnout and participation in any election but particu-

larly in municipal elections, particularly in our non mayoral years, and because we’ve found in other elections, whether it was the state general election this past November or the presidential in 2016, providing more opportunities for eligible residents to cast their votes increases turnout.”

This provision would be only for November elections and not for any primaries or preliminary elections.

Zakim said the bill came about after conversations he had with Cambridge officials, who were able to implement a similar program. Election Department Commissioner Dion Irish said they are looking at 11 days of early voting ending the

Early Voting
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Jamaica Plain Reacts to Cannabis Shop Planned at Hyde Square



Tomas Gonzalez of Core Empowerment shows the elevation of 401 A Centre St entrance. He said there would be no outside signage.

PHOTO BY RICHARD HEATH

Richard Heath
Staff Reporter

It was a tale of two meetings 48 hours apart on the retail cannabis shop that Core Empowerment wants to set up at 401A Centre St. near Whole Foods.

The first before the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC) on Jan. 22 was at times hostile with one

council member calling the property owner a slumlord, another claiming the meeting was a sham and State Rep. Nika Elugardo accusing the council chair of ignoring “men of color who have their hands raised and not being called on.”

The second on Jan. 24 at Curtis Hall hosted by the Office of Neighborhood Services was more congenial.

Edward McGuire, chief of

staff of Neighborhood Services, convened the meeting and said he coordinated the majority of marijuana meetings citywide. He set the tone immediately.

“This is not debate on marijuana,” he said. “That debate took place at the ballot box. There will be no insulting. It’s a friendly dialogue. No voting.

Cannabis Shop
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2018 sees decrease in collisions and speeding citations

Jeff Sullivan
Staff Reporter

Since the city voted to reduce the overall speed limit for streets in 2017, there has been a gradual reduction in collision-related deaths, according to city data.

According to the state, however, speeding citations are about the same as they were in 2016, before the reduction hit. The Boston City Council is currently discussing a plan to create a new traffic enforcement department in the Boston Police Department (BPD) to increase enforcement of speed limits in the city. Boston Mayor Marty Walsh also said they may be looking into starting a pilot



There were fewer collisions requiring a trip to the hospital in 2018, and fewer speeding tickets issued too.

COURTESY PHOTO

program whereby enforcement of intersection signals would happen via camera, as has been

done in areas of Providence,
2018 Citations
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City Life demonstrates for affordable housing

Jeff Sullivan
Staff Reporter

About 150 residents, activists and organizers stepped on to the Fairmount Line in Hyde Park and then continued to the Blue Hills Station in Mattapan to advocate for more affordable housing in the neighborhoods.

According to City Life Vida Urbana organizers, residents have been advocating for more stops on the Fairmount Line for decades, and now that nearly all the stops are realized, they say residents are being pushed out by increased rents. Organizers say the now transit-oriented developments many moderate to low-income residents live in are pushing them out with unfair rent increases, despite the fact it was they who helped to make the area more inviting to developers.

“There is a new train station coming here and we just had a ride in that train, and it was a smooth ride and a good ride, but that train could be a ride to eviction for many of our people,” said City Life Housing Justice Organizer Ronel Remy. “Sow we’re saying our sweat equity is here, you used our money to build this, do you have a place for us to stay here? We’re talking to city officials, big investors coming here, because they have done it before in Somerville, Cambridge and South Boston, Roxbury, ev-

erywhere it’s the same movie, but here, we are the actors in this movie. It’s playing on our turf.”

Organizers pointed out that large corporate landlords are making life difficult for many residents finding themselves close to the Fairmount Line. No-fault evictions are becoming common, according to City Life, and corporate landlords like Advanced Property Management are hiking rents in dozens of its properties. Hyde Park resident Gale Appling, a member of the APM Tenant Association, said they have been in negotiations with APM and its owner Oleg Urtsky for a few years now.

“The hard work and tax money of thousands of residents of communities of color should not be used to drive us out,” she said. “The relentless pursuit of real estate profit has caused great damage to individuals, families and communities. This onslaught is disproportionately directed at communities of color. Perhaps worse, this displacement is an example of the hard work and tax money of thousands of people being turned against us. The community activism of we, the residents created social value. Real estate corporations are using that to drive us out through big rent increases and no-fault evictions.”

Appling said she has experienced this first hand. She said as the Fairmount Line came



About 150 residents came out on Saturday to protest gentrification in the neighborhood. Bruce Green, pictured above, is a veteran who is experiencing severe rent increases in his community.

PHOTO BY JEFF SULLIVAN

online, a line that was created through activism and advocacy in the community, real estate speculation has increased rent a lot.

“We have received notices of large increases, and so we organized a tenant association affiliated with City Life to seek to negotiate a fair increase over the coming years,” she said. “We have tirelessly sent letters, organized protests and made our cause public. In December of last year, a delegation from the Tenant Association, ten tenant leaders with an average tenure of more than

20 years, met with APM owners.”

Appling said the negotiations, set up by the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Development, were finalized to include a rent increase of \$200 for the first year, rent increases of 3.5 percent over the next two years and a complete unit upgrade.

“After much discussion many residents accepted that deal, however APM then changed the offer by insisting on a lease that included an agreement to a huge rent increase in the fourth year,” she

said. “This new demand by APM ended the negotiations, and APM has now filed evictions against all of us as tenant leaders. They want the building but they don’t want the people.”

According to City Life, APM is now taking the families to housing court.

Fairmount Indigo Line Coalition member Mela Miles said the community came together to help build the Fairmount Line about 20 years ago.

“Our goal was not to have

City Life

Continued on page 14



T Community Meetings

Customers want a more reliable and responsive MBTA. Join the MBTA at an upcoming community meeting to learn and offer feedback about two important initiatives, Better Bus Project and Automated Fare Collection 2.0. At the same meeting, you can also learn about and share your views about the proposed fare increase. We look forward to your ideas on how to deliver a better MBTA.

Location	Bus Hub	Date	Open House Times
Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building Community Room 200 2300 Washington St., Boston, MA	Dudley Square	Monday, February 4	6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
North Shore Community College 300 Broad St., Lynn, MA	Lynn Central Square	Thursday, February 7	6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Watertown Free Public Library 123 Main St., Watertown, MA	Watertown Square	Tuesday, February 12	6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Framingham Memorial Building (Fare Proposal Only) Nevis Hall 150 Concord Street Framingham, MA 01702	Framingham	Wednesday, February 13	6:30 PM – 8:30 PM
Thomas Crane Public Library 40 Washington St., Quincy, MA	Quincy Center	Wednesday, February 20	6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Woburn Anderson RTC (Fare Proposal Only) 100 Atlantic Avenue, Woburn, MA	Woburn	Thursday, February 21	6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Cambridge Rindge & Latin School 459 Broadway, Cambridge, MA	Harvard Square	Tuesday, February 26	6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
State Transportation Building 10 Park Plaza, 2nd Floor, Boston, MA	Downtown Boston	Thursday, March 7	6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

MBTA.com/community



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Lynch Named Chairman Of National Security Subcommittee

As one of the most senior Members of the Committee on Oversight and Reform, Chairman Stephen F. Lynch has been named the Chairman of the National Security Subcommittee. Representative Lynch has been a leader on national security issues for many years and has the distinction of having traveled to the conflict zones of Afghanistan and Iraq as often as any Member of Congress. He will lead the Subcommittee's oversight efforts on national security, homeland security, foreign operations (including the relationships of the United States with other nations), immigration, defense and veterans.



Congressman Stephen F. Lynch

"I am very pleased to be named Chairman of the National Security Subcommittee for the 116th Congress, and eager to take on these critical responsibilities" said Lynch. "As Chairman I vow to re-start active Congressional oversight of President Trump's National Defense Strategy, which has been ill-defined and prone to sudden and erratic revision. I will ensure there is proper oversight related to the use of cyber espionage against U.S. Government entities and the private sector, and I plan to start a robust oversight on pipeline safety and security as we have witnessed an alarming number of gas explosions across the country recently. We have a lot of work to do, and I am prepared to get it done."

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The 3rd annual Winter Walk Boston will be on February 10

The Winter Walk, an initiative raising awareness and funds for Greater Boston's homeless community announces its third annual homelessness walk on February 10, 2019. This 2 mile walk through the streets of Boston during the coldest month of the year will begin and end on Copley Plaza. Participants, housed and unhoused, will walk shoulder to shoulder and then share a community breakfast together as we hear real stories of Boston's homeless population.

The 2019 Winter Walk is presented in partnership with Boston Medical Center (BMC) and Boston Medical Center HealthNet Plan (BMCHP). Both BMC & BHCHP have been supportive of the Winter Walk since its first event in 2017, and both support BMC's life-changing programs serving Boston's most vulnerable homeless adults and children.

Boston's Mayor Marty Walsh will kick off the February 10th Winter Walk, welcoming participants and sharing his support for ending homelessness in the Boston area.

The event will be hosted

by veteran radio personality and homelessness advocate Sue Brady Hartigan. Attendees will learn about partner organizations, and hear from individuals that have experienced homelessness.

100% of proceeds raised by walkers and donors goes to Winter Walk partner organizations providing direct service and programs to Boston's homeless community. These include Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program, Bridge Over Troubled Waters, Brookview House, Pine Street Inn, and Y2Y Harvard Square. Many other incredible service organizations will also walk together in solidarity to support awareness around the issues of homelessness.

All participants are encouraged to donate or fundraise a registration fee of \$100 for adults, and \$50 for youth and students. Registration for this event provides the opportunity to walk, a warm Winter Walk hat, breakfast, live music, a backpack loaded with information and offers from local organizations, and an opportunity to learn and share together.

Winter Walk encourages local businesses, clubs, religious groups, families, friends and

surrounding communities to create a team to walk. The event is family friendly and dog friendly. To register to walk or learn more please visit www.winterwalkboston.org.

About The Winter Walk
The Winter Walk Boston is an annual homelessness walk that raises awareness and funds for Boston's homeless community through a two-mile city walk every year in February. The Winter Walk was founded in late 2016 by a group of compassionate local advocates, including Kayak co-founder & CEO of Lola, Paul English.

The misperceptions around homelessness lead to unfair judgement, apathy, lack of resources and sometimes violence towards the homeless. The Winter Walk brings together compassionate people from all walks of life, including Boston's homeless, during the coldest month of the year to create an immersive experience that cultivates empathy, respect and advocacy.

For more information, visit us at winterwalkboston.org, follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, or email us at info@winterwalkboston.org.

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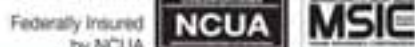
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Editorial

CHAMPIONS

Boston's sports teams certainly make things easy for us. It is an admitted cliché that newspaper writers will use local teams as fodder, especially in the days leading up to a championship game, and in the aftermath of hoisting a trophy.

Most newspapers, in most cities, get away with it because their teams are infrequently in championship mode. The odds speak against dynasties and perpetual winning streaks.

Not here in Boston, though. Here we are blessed with clockwork appearances by the New England Patriots in the Super Bowl and less-frequent, but no less impressive, World Series runs by the Red Sox. Added into the mix are the Bruins and Celtics teams that are frequently on the threshold of being champion caliber.

We have previously remarked about the good tidings that envelop this region when our teams rise to elite status. For a brief stretch of time, we all have something in common and hopes are aligned.

We should backtrack a little. The cheering is not exactly universal. There are, of course, blockheads (often found hosting or calling into radio shows) who take joy in being naysayers and contrarians. In other parts of the country this is understandable. Sports dynasties are almost always despised beyond their home turf. Those local folks rooting against the Patriots on Sunday are little more than troublemakers. Ignore them; lest they drag you down.

What we cannot ignore is how fortunate we are to live in this region at this time in sporting history. Aside from the New York Yankees and L.A. Lakers, few cities have ever had such dominance in even one sport, much less with multiple teams.

This winning streak will not last forever. All good things come to an end. Tom Brady will, sooner or later, retire. New coaches will come and go with various degrees of success. It all serves as a valuable lesson that philosophers and theologians have tried to pound into our thick skulls over the centuries: enjoy the good things in life while you can.

The Patriots, whether they win or lose on Sunday, are ambassadors of this message. Enjoy the ride for as long as you can.

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Ban lets others roll on

Having just watched the 1977 movie "Smokey and the Bandit," I could not help but side with Burt Reynolds and his many truck driver friends against Jackie Gleason's Sheriff Buford T. Justice. But I have to admit that I was delighted with New York Governor Andrew Cuomo's ban against 18-wheelers and buses using the New York Thruway and other interstates within NY during a recent snowstorm.

Nothing personal against long-haulers, but nothing ties up traffic more quickly than a jackknifed trailer truck or an overturned bus, frequently thwarting any and all traffic from continuing on. Governor Cuomo was not necessarily pointing fingers at the teamsters because frequently they are the ones who, having been cut-off by car-driving motorists, brake suddenly to avoid collision: in case of a jack knife or a bus rollover, the governor merely wanted traffic to continue on during the storm without waiting for extra state police, ambulances, and special wreckers to arrive to assist the rig/bus or without waiting for the damaged semi to be offloaded.

Decades of having to drive

on highways in snowstorms lead me to think that half the yahoos who continue on at normal speeds are car drivers while the other half are 18-wheel drivers and (non-school) bus drivers. Needless to say, it is the second half who inflict the most fear when they go roaring by in blinding snow.

I realize that truck drivers for companies such as Hunt, UPS, and FedEx have schedules to meet established by greedy corporate honchos and that independent drivers make money only when they are on the road, but the general driving public suffers when one of their vehicles, involved in a crash, incur the need for the road to be closed for hours, thereby allowing many state police and service vehicles to do their work.

Governor Cuomo's prohibition against semis undoubtedly caused the local communities to be none too happy about seeing the huge vehicles lumbering through their town near the interstates when the ban was in effect.

We New Englanders are not used to have our major highways closed, such as the Blizzard of '78 accomplished with Route 128 (was it I-95



My Kind of Town/ Joe Galeota

then?). But western states have huge gates that bar all vehicles from certain sections of their highways during major storms; moreover, they impose the need for truck to have chains already attached.

So maybe, just maybe, Governor Baker should consider for future reference this accident-preventing ban imposed by his fellow governor: if it is going to allow doctors to be on time for necessary surgery and harried adults to come to needy ailing parents, it's worth a try the next time a north-easter barrels in during the winter months.

Letters to the Editor

WEST ROXBURY HIGH A GREAT LOCATION FOR ROXBURY PREP

To the Editor:

I completely agree with the idea that Stephen Smith had about the Roxbury Prep Charter School location that he wrote in the January 3, 2019 edition of the paper and the letter of Joseph Coffey in the January 10, 2019 edition of the paper. Since the city is closing the West Roxbury High School, that would be a perfect location for the proposed Roxbury Prep Charter School. There would be no traffic or parking issues and it will be housed on land that is large enough and suitable to accommodate for the size school they need. They can then have their entire school together as they had planned. Problem solved!

The proposed plan, even at a reduced capacity is still going to be too large for the site at 361 Belgrade Avenue and will still have a very large impact on our neighborhood when it comes to traffic

and parking. I am not sure why they would want to reduce their project to almost half the size when the project was initiated to be able to accommodate the entire school to begin with, since it is split up into several locations currently.

The West Roxbury High School site seems to be a great solution.

Nancy Geourtas
Roslindale

EVERYONE'S OPINION THEIR OWN

To the Editor:

As I read last week's Bulletin, I came across a letter to the editor that wasn't so much supporting the plastic bag ban inside the city of Boston as it was knocking another letter writer who opposes the plastic bag ban.

I personally support the plastic bag ban and have been for a number of years after seeing it work firsthand in the City of Austin in Texas. I like recycling when I go supermarket shopping. Many people in Austin opposed the idea

of bringing or buying bags to go shopping for all the same reasons why most people oppose this ban. It is seen as an inconvenience or needless.

Plastic bag bans should not be about whether or not you are a liberal of conservative or whether you wear a MAGA cap or not. Why do we let ideology get into our shopping carts. It's just about not wasting and throwing our plastic bags to the wind. It is none of that.

I recycle for the obvious reasons. We throw away too much too fast. Personally, I miss those plastic bags I used to save for my cat's poop but I've already found a substitute so no big deal.

I am no big fan of Hal Shurtleff but I do read all his stuff. We shouldn't be afraid to read all kinds of opinions. However, I don't think Alan Wright's letter is right too. You don't have to pounce on opinions. You don't have to attack others to prove your point.

Everyone has a right to their opinions but keep it all civil. Name-calling is pretty dumb. I use recycled reusable bags because I want to. It has nothing to do with anything else.

When I go shopping the last two people I am thinking about is Hal or Alan. It's just about me, my groceries and the bag they're in.

Sal Giarratani
East Boston

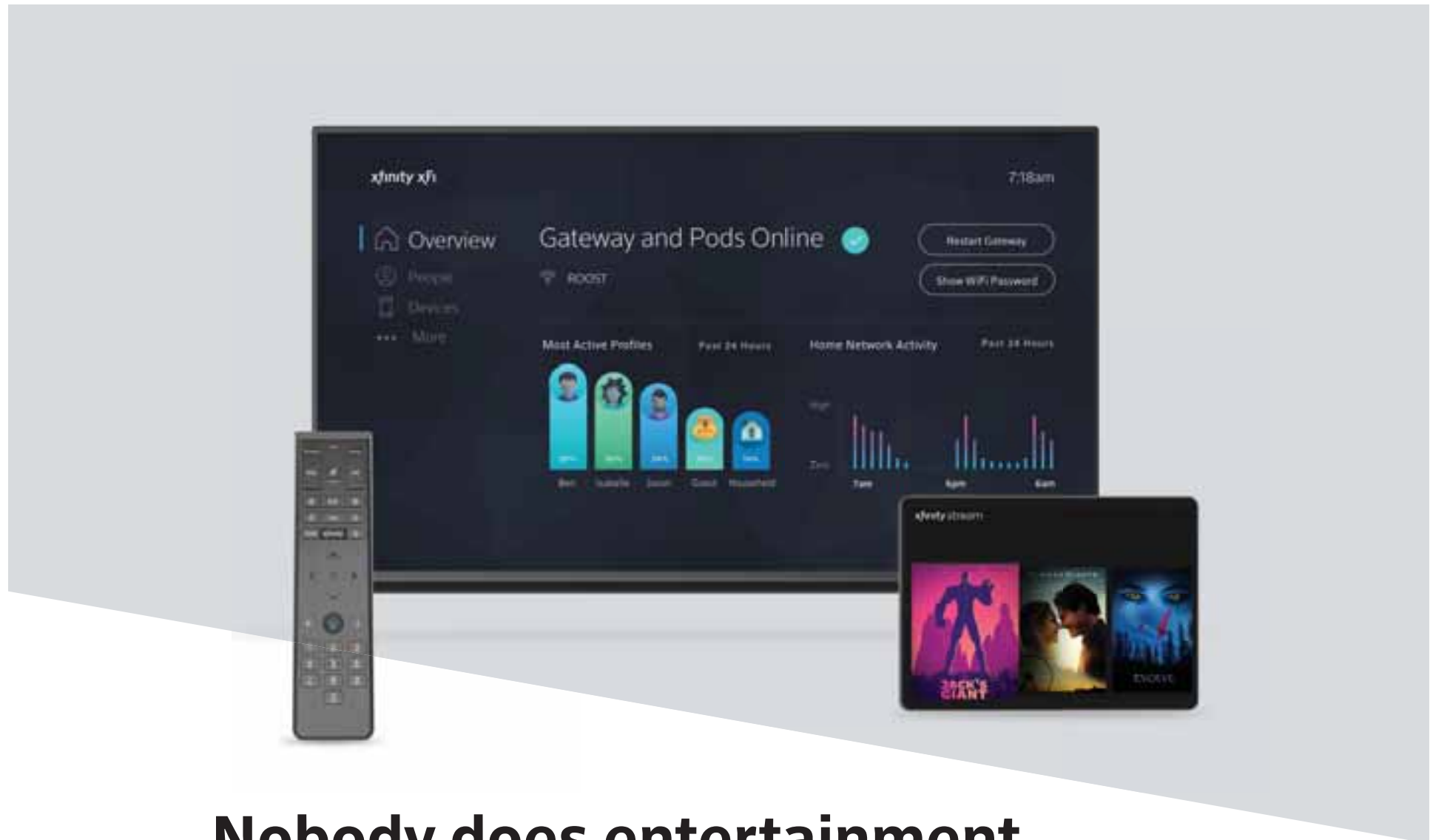
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Letters

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Allston Brighton U12 Girls take home Mayor's Cup



The Allston Brighton Girls U12 won the Mayor's Cup Youth Hockey tournament this year in their division after beating out the Girls Parkway Team in the final. The hockey tournament is a citywide initiative designed to build community in the city and challenge youth. The Allston Brighton Youth Hockey League has several divisions in the dual neighborhood, and is driven by volunteers and donations in the community.

COURTESY PHOTO

2018 Citations

continued from page 1

Rhode Island.

Throughout the whole city, the BPD issued 1,577 speeding citations in total in 2018, which is consistent for the department. The BPD issued a total of 1,518 speeding tickets in 2016 and 1,383 in 2017.

Most of the speeding citations issued in Boston came from the Massachusetts State Police on state roads and highways (and one Wareham Police Officer in West Roxbury for some reason). The State Police issued a grant total of 6,129 speeding citations in the city, and college police at the University of Massachusetts Boston issued 14, the MBTA Police issued eight. That's heavily down from the numbers in 2016 which were 15,083, down from 2017 at 7,544. Most if not all of the citations were on state roads or highways, which would not have been effected by the speed limit reduction.

According to a 2017 Boston Globe article, this could be a part of a growing trend, as speed enforcement is down throughout the state since about 2009. In 2016, a total of 666,600 violations were issued, while in 2009 more than a million were issued.

In 2018, West Roxbury saw the most citations by the BPD at 255, with Roxbury at 252 and South Boston trailing close behind at 251. In Downtown Boston, the BPD issued 179 speeding tickets, while in Dorchester, the city's largest neighborhood, there were 59 issued.

In Brighton, there were 72 issued, while in Charlestown, there were 22 citations issued. In East Boston, there were 48 citations and in Jamaica Plain there were eight citations for speeding. In Hyde Park, there were 23 citations and in Mattapan there were three, but two of them were issued by Mattapoisett and Maynard Police. Roslindale saw 69 speeding citations.

In terms of deaths on the road, the Boston Transportation Department (BTD) states that data from the Boston Emergency Medical Services shows a steady decrease well. In 2016, 21 people were killed on the road and in 2017, it was 14. In 2018, a total of 10 people died on the road.

BTD Commissioner Gina Fiandaca said the department is working towards strategically targeting problem areas, and has installed tactical islands, stop signs and pavement markings to enhance safety. She said the installation of speed boards have also helped to see a marked reduction. She said also the 25 mph reduction saw an improvement, mainly because it alerted residents to the fact Boston even has a citywide speed limit.

"We had a significant public outreach campaign, and a lot of people didn't even know what the speed limit was in the City of Boston at 30 mph," she said. "Through that public outreach, we think we were able to highlight the importance of slowing down and also champion reducing distracted driving. The Mayor has been very supportive of legislation reducing distracted driving too."

The BTD has also instituted a new program in the past few years called Neighborhood Slow Streets, where a neighborhood petitions the city to have speed-reducing installations, like speed humps, traffic islands and so forth, installed in streets situated around heavily-trafficked corridors. During last year's program more than 50 petitions and saw five approved. A total of 12 Slow Street programs are either completed or in the works for neighborhoods in Boston.

"There's a lot of interest in the program," Fiandaca said. "We'll be assessing more neighborhoods every year, but there's also other improvements that we want to make that will be complimentary to Slow Streets., where we can make some improvements that might not need, I would say, such aggressive improvements."

Fiandaca said they are looking to improve street safety through daylighting, whereby crosswalks are made more visible by increasing the space vehicles must keep away from them, and would be far less capital-intensive.

The total number of crashes in 2018 has not been tabulated yet, according to city data, but as of September, there were 3,250 crashes requiring a hospital visit. That number suggests that it will line up pretty even with 2017's number of 4,521 and 2016's number of 4,346.



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 Fellows of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Miracle Prayer

Dear Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked You for many favours. This time, I ask you this very special one (mention favour). Take it, dear Heart of Jesus, and place it within Your own broken heart where Your Father sees it. Then, in His merciful eyes, it will become Your favour, not mine. Amen. Say for three days, promise publication and favour will be granted.

—J.R.G.




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Please include your name, address & telephone number. Unsigned letters will not be published.

More high school voices heard in Umana Coalition meeting

At our third BOSFoodLove Coalition meeting on Monday, December 17, five high schoolers from a science class at Fenway High School voiced their opinion on school food after doing a project on school meals for their class.

The Fenway students were in the process of completing a project on school food for their class and came to give their opinions. Through their project, they learned about the USDA requirements for school meals, such as the calorie, sugar, and salt limits, and they were surprised to discover how stringent these standards are. They also discovered their own calorie and nutrient needs based on age, weight, level of physical activity, and gender from other online nutrition programs. They also found, however, that the meals did not always match their personal requirements. The students mentioned feeling hungry after eating their meals, and upset that they were not able to get more food for meals that they enjoyed.

There was also another high school student from the Henderson Inclusion School. He mentioned the food being undercooked and not appetizing. The two groups from completely different high schools tended to agree on most aspects of the food, including that it was often undercooked or overcooked in their cafeteria kitchens, that the meals were much too small for high school students, and that they would be willing to try cuisines from different cultures in order to learn about them, as long as there were some options for students who did not want to eat the food or who had some dietary restrictions. They claimed that there was a limited variety of the food in a given week, and the science teacher noted that he wished that there were more parent choice in menu offerings for young students, such as his children.

It was interesting to see the overlap between the two schools. They are both cafeteria schools, and both groups agreed that the food improved drastically after transitioning from a satellite school to a cafeteria school. However, the meals could still be more cul-

School Food

Continued on page 15

BPD, BFD, EMS and Boston Bruins complete BFit Challenge



On Sunday, January 28, 2019, Commissioner Gross, along with members of the Boston Police Department, and other first responder agencies gathered at the TD Garden for the 3rd annual Boston Bruins BFit First Responder Challenge. Police, Firefighters and EMT's took part in a rigorous course of stair climbs and laps around the TD Garden to raise money for the 100 Club of Massachusetts which provides assistance to the surviving families of police officers and firefighters killed in the line-of-duty.

PHOTO BY BPDNEWS.COM

Cemetery Backhoe Operator Position

We currently have opening for a Backhoe Operator position. This is a union position and is governed by a bargaining agreement. The position averages 40 hours per week. Coverage for weekend funerals which may require additional Saturday/Holiday hours. Will be scheduled to work the Saturday, Sunday and Monday of Memorial Day weekend as required.

This position requires outside work in all-weather types.

Benefits include paid holidays, vacation and sick time, medical, dental, LTD, life insurance and limited company provided clothing.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. Must have a valid driver's license and MA DOT Medical card.
2. Must currently hold and maintain a valid hoisting license.
3. Must be familiar with landscaping practices.
4. Must provide copy of RMV driving history.
5. Must be able to carry heavy objects.

Please apply in person:

The Boston Catholic Cemetery Association
Mount Calvary Cemetery Office
366 Cummins Highway
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No phone calls please

Miracle Prayer

Dear Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked You for many favours. This time, I ask you this very special one (mention favour). Take it, dear Heart of Jesus, and place it within Your own broken heart where Your Father sees it. Then, in His merciful eyes, it will become Your favour, not mine. Amen. Say for three days, promise publication and favour will be granted.

—P.L.D.



Go Pats!



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A spectacular like-new construction in the Highland neighborhood. Over 4,000 sq. feet of extraordinary living. Open & airy floor plan with family room with gas fireplace, designer kitchen with top-of-the-line appliances, Master suite with vaulted ceiling, walk-in closet and sophisticated marble bath, 4 bedrooms and 4.5 baths in total, finished basement, 2 car rebuilt garage, many extras not seen in other new constructions, come and preview. **New Price: \$1,395,000**

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261 PERHAM STREET
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Sweet Bungalow in excellent condition, lots of updates, six rooms, 2 bedrooms with additional sun-room, natural woodwork, direct entry garage to newly finished basement with mudroom and second full bath, energy efficient new gas heat, young windows, new roof, nice yard! One level living with bonus finished basement! **\$525,000**

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Coolidge Corner! One level with awesome new kitchen, new en-suite master with new bath, updated 2nd bath, in-unit laundry, Open floor plan with woodburning fireplace, living room, dining room, kitchen, two bedrooms + rear deck, condo fee includes heat! Convenient location and in excellent move-in condition! **\$850,000**

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Around the Neighborhoods

CITY

“CROSSROADS AND THRESHOLDS: EMBRACING THE SECOND HALF OF LIFE”

The Women’s Table of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston will host a four week series for women entitled: “Crossroads and Thresholds: Embracing the Second Half of Life.” This evolving series explores transitions and strengths in the second half of life. Sister Kathleen Hagerty, CSJ, facilitates this series through input, reflection, and group discussions. Each session is held on Wednesday mornings from 10am-12noon at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse, 637 Cambridge Street, Brighton. Specific dates include: January 30, February 6, February 13, and February 20. There is no charge for this program, but a free will donation is gratefully accepted.

To register, please contact Mary Rita Weschler: 617-746-2056 or Linda Boothroyd: 617-746-1603 or email maryrita.weschler@csjboston.org

NOMINATE A YOUNG CONSERVATIONIST!

Do you know an outstanding youth who is an advocate for wildlife and conservation? Nominate him for her for the Young Conservationist Award. Young

Conservationist Award

As part of the celebration of Zootopia, Zoo New England’s annual fundraising gala, the zoo staff is excited to announce that applications are now being accepted for the Young Conservationist Award. The nominated youth should be between the ages of eight and 18, have demonstrated a positive commitment to Zoo New England and its conservation mission, and have engaged in some outstanding action to support this. The award, which includes a \$2,500 scholarship, will be presented at Zootopia on May 11, 2019 to further the recipient’s project, conservation work and education. The winner and two adults will receive complimentary tickets to Zootopia to participate in the awards ceremony. This year’s presentation marks the seventh award presented to an exceptional youth committed to conservation.

Nominations for the Young Conservationist Award are being accepted through Saturday, March 16, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. Nomination forms are available at <http://www.zoonewengland.org/engage/zootopia>. Email questions to YoungConservationistAward@zoonewengland.org

GAME DAY FUN AT FRANKLIN PARK ZOO!

It’s game time at Franklin Park

Zoo! Get ready for the big game with a visit to the Zoo, and watch the gorilla troop enjoy a game day party with special enrichment! Throughout the day, don’t miss a chance to ask questions directly to zookeepers during special zookeeper chats. Go Pats!

Schedule of Game Day Zookeeper chats: 10:30 AM – lion exhibit 11:30 AM – condor exhibit 1:30 PM – red panda exhibit 3:00 PM – Franklin Farm with the GOATS Please note: the gorillas will go on exhibit at 10:15 a.m.

February 3, 2019 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. For tickets and more information, visit www.franklinparkzoo.org

ALLSTON / BRIGHTON

MURAL CLUB: STREET ART & COMMUNITY

Mondays 4:00–5:30pm Feb. 4 – April 29 (except Feb. 18, March 18, and April 15)

Grades 6–8 Learn about street art, your community, and yourself through the Harvard Ed Portal’s Mural Club: Street Art & Community! Allston-Brighton students in grades 6–8 will spend 10 weeks working with two instructors: an international street artist and educator and a student at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Students will gain skills including drawing, painting, and drafting, and will create a public mural that represents them and their community. The club begins February 4 and will culminate in a celebration and viewing of the students’ work at the Mentoring Showcase on May 3.

Mural Club: Street Art & Community application deadline is January 25. https://edportal.harvard.edu/files/edportal/files/mural_club_app_spring19_final.pdf

FRIDAY TAP DANCE JAM

Friday, February 8, 2019, 7:30pm to 9:00pm @ Harvard Ed Portal, 224 Western Ave., Allston

Join the Harvard Ed Portal and local tap company Subject: Matter for a live performance and jam! Learn about the intricacies and subtleties of one of America’s most storied art forms, as tap dancers perform alongside a live jazz trio. Audience members are encouraged to join. With support from the Boston Cultural Council’s Opportunity Fund, Friday Tap Dance Jam is a free event that is open to all ages.

<https://edportal.harvard.edu/event/friday-tap-dance-jam>

PROGRAMS AT THE BRIGHTON LIBRARY

NOTICE OF TEMPORARY CLOSING

Beginning Friday February 8 at 5 p.m., the Brighton Branch of the Boston Public Library will be temporarily closed for a boiler replacement project. The branch will reopen on Monday, February 25 at 12 p.m.

BRIGHTON AND ALLSTON THROUGH TIME: A SLIDE LECTURE WITH ANTHONY SAMMARCO

Brighton Library/40 Academy Hill Road/ (617)782-6032 Thursday January 31, 6:30 pm

Once renowned throughout New England for its cattle industry as well as its horticultural gardens, Brighton and Allston became a well known town. It has always had a rich and evolving history with demographics that are constantly in flux.

With contemporary photographs by Peter Kingman, Anthony Sammarco has created a fascinating book of 19th and 20th century images that chronicles Brighton and Allston’s history and development over the last 100 years.

Anthony Sammarco is a noted historian and author of over 70 books on the history and development of Boston, and he lectures widely on the history of his native city.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Brighton Library. All are welcome

BEGINNING INTERNET CLASS

Mystified by the net? Don’t know how to surf? Help is available on a one on one basis to get you started. Call for an appointment and ask for Alan. Brighton Branch Library/40 Academy Hill Road/ (617) 782-6032

ESL CONVERSATION GROUPS

Two ESL conversation groups meet at the Brighton Library;: One on Monday evening at 6:15 pm; The other on Tuesday afternoon at 1 pm. Come and practice your language skills in an informal and friendly setting with other new English speakers. Brighton Branch Library/40 Academy Hill Road/(617) 782-6032.

HYDE PARK

WINTER PROGRAMS AT THE BCYF HYDE PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

Senior Coffee Hour: Join us each Friday morning from 10:00am- 11:30am. Drop by the community center for an opportunity to socialize with others, enjoy refreshments and participate in activities. On Friday, January 25th we will have a guest presentation from Boston Water and Sewer Commission.

Freelance Players: Calling all actors ages 8 -13 years old, the

Freelance Players, a non-profit musical theatre company, is offering a spring session at the community center. They Hyde Park Troupe will meet on Tuesdays from 4:00-6:00pm from February 5th – May 10th. For more information contact Freelance Players at 617-274-6065 or info@freelanceplayers.org.

After school Tutoring: Tutoring for students in grades 2 – 6. Our program is offered Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday from 4:00-6:00pm. A new Session will be starting January 22nd. Contact us for more information 617-635-5178.

MENINO ARTS CENTER HOSTS CURRY COLLEGE AND STEAMROLLER MEGA PRINT EXHIBITIONS IN FEBRUARY

The Menino Arts Center proudly announces two upcoming exhibitions: - “Art of This World,” a Curry College Senior Art exhibition - “Steamroller MEGA Prints” exhibition by 41 Boston area artists. The exhibitions will run from February 1 - March 1, 2019, with an opening reception on Saturday, February 9, from 1 - 3:30 p.m. The exhibitions and reception are free and open to the public at the Menino Arts Center, 26 Central Avenue, 2nd floor, Hyde Park, MA 02136. Normal gallery hours are Thursdays from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.; Fridays from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.; during scheduled workshops and events; and by appointment.

“Art of this World” is the 2nd annual exhibit featuring Curry College’s Senior Studio and Design Majors. The 11 students in the exhibit will be showing recent work in a variety of media, including paintings, drawings and digital prints. This exhibition is a wonderful opportunity for the Curry students to be able to present work at a professional gallery. The “Steamroller MEGA Prints” exhibition will feature 18 super-sized prints, some as large as 40” x 72”, showcasing artwork made by over 41 artists. The artists come from Hyde Park and many other neighborhoods of Boston, and they range in age from junior high school students up to senior adults. The wood cuts and linoleum cuts were printed by steamroller at the Urban Arts Festival, held in September 2018 in celebration of Hyde Park’s 150th Anniversary.

The Menino Arts Center is home of the Hyde Park Art Association. The center hosts workshops, concerts, readings, exhibitions, and other events in the service of promoting the arts in the Hyde Park community.

More info on the MAC and the HPAA at <http://www.hpaa-mac.org>.

PURIM BALL TO BE HELD AT TEMPLE BETH DAVID OF THE SOUTH SHORE

Temple Beth David of the South Shore will host a Purim costume ball on Saturday, March 16 beginning at 6:00

Calendar

Continued on page 13



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BACC Meeting *continued from page 1*

very special role in the community that we don't want to take on."

D'Alcombo said those groups have to hear every housing project, whether it's a 350-unit building or a single-family homeowner, that requires a variance from the Boston Zoning Code at the Boston Zoning Board of Appeals. She said the BACC will be looking at issues in a less all-encompassing fashion.

One of the big projects they will be looking at closely and advocating for are resident interests in the Stop and Shop redevelopment called Allston Yards. The project in its current form will have several buildings comprising 1,900,000 square feet of space. Impact Advisory Group (IAG) member and ACA President Anthony D'Isidoro said he's been working with the development team on the project through the IAG process, and he said the two issues many in the neighborhood have with it are the size of it and its lack of greenspace. He said they're also concerned that the developers have not released information on whether any of the 1,000 proposed housing units would include home ownership.

"They kept it very generic to start with but suffice to say, they have been dead quiet now for a certain period of time," he

said. "I suspect what happened was they did not do their due diligence when working with the community. I think they found out fairly quickly they have massive, massive problems."

D'Isidoro added they are hoping that they can increase the greenspace on the project and that when the adjacent former Volvo Dealership is sold and developed, there can be a combined 1-acre park between the two parcels, as he said Allston and Brighton have the least amount of greenspace in the city.

D'Alcombo said one of the other issues they want to address in the future is the notification period for the IAG. Currently, she said Boston Mayor Marty Walsh and city officials appoint residents based on recommendations from elected officials and members of advocacy groups, but they do not announce when the nomination process begins.

"It's the practice of the city to not notify anyone, they don't tell us when the event has occurred that triggers the nomination period, which is the filing of a letter of intent from the developer to the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA)," she said. "That triggers the time period and it's a very narrow window and they don't tell us."

She said she wrote to the

Chief of the Office of Neighborhood Services Jerome Smith and the response has not been encouraging.

"Nothing, nada, zero, zip," she said.

She pointed out the seven people appointed to the IAG for the Allston Square development for a seven-building, 334-unit complex at 334 Cambridge St. as an example.

"One person on it has an ownership interest in nearby Regina Pizza, and they don't care if people are coming out like ants, it makes the property more valuable," she said. "There's another person on there who works with one of the largest construction companies in the world, and you know where that built-in bias is."

Co-founder Kevin Karagee said they are also looking to improve affordable housing in the neighborhood. He pointed out that the current inclusionary development policy (IDP) requires that for any project requiring a variance or containing more than 10 units have 13 percent of its units be designated as affordable, where their sale value or rent is kept at a rate so that a family making between 50 percent to 100 percent of the area median income can afford to live there. Karagee said they are working to get the city to increase that percentage to 20 percent



ACA President Anthony D'Isidoro spoke mostly about the Stop and Shop project on Everett Street.

PHOTO BY JEFF SULLIVAN

He also pointed out that the AMI for Boston is about \$100,000, and that in Brighton the median income is below \$56,000 and in Allston it's about \$42,000.

"Some of the rents here are at \$3,600 a month for a very small unit, and over a year that's well over \$36,00," he said. "There's a total disconnect between the residents in this neighborhood and the housing being built. It's been a middle class and a working class neighborhood historically, and those people who want to stay should be able to stay. We should be creative enough to enable that to happen."

Karagee also said they are working on transportation and are keeping a close eye on the

Allston Brighton Mobility Study currently underway by the city, the BPDA and the MBTA.

"This is an opportunity to share in the future improvements in public transportation," he said. "In our neighborhood, it's not just public transportation we need improvements in. We need increased pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements too... We think this is an essential project in the city, especially given the amount of development going on... I mean just go to the Seaport if you want an example of ass backwards urban planning. They said, 'let's develop a lot and then maybe we'll worry about public transportation.'"

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Cannabis Shop *continued from page 1*

No approval or denial. The only approval is the zoning board of appeals. We're collecting information."

The neighborhood council met in tribunal format and did take a vote after a long flurry of friendly and unfriendly amendments to support the retail cannabis business 8 to 4 with provisos on community benefits and quarterly meetings.

Tomas Gonzalez is chief operating officer of Core Empowerment (CE) and he went to great lengths to show that it is a thoroughly grassroots organization.

"Let me tell you a little bit about myself," he said at Curtis Hall. "I was born and raised in Boston. First generation Puerto Rican. I lived in an Urban Edge building at 3298 Washington St."

"I'm a neighborhood guy," he told the neighborhood council on Jan 22. "I'm sorry the neighborhood got gentrified."

Core Empowerment plans to rent 6,000 square feet in the basement of 401A Centre St. that formerly housed the Milky Way Lounge and Lanes.

Neighborhood council member Bruce Marks said at the council meeting that he lived on Sheridan Street.

"My real concern here is you're renting from Mordy Levin," he said. "He kept that place vacant for 10 years. It used to be real nice place. He's asking \$40,000 a month for rent. That puts other JP businesses at risk."

Attorney Mike Ross, who has represented Levin in the past, is now counsel for CE.

"I'm not going to discuss a lease agreement," he said. "but cannabis rents are always high. Two times. Three times. Crazy numbers."

Levin—who rarely goes public—was at both meetings.

Gonzalez explained what makes CE unique. "It's 90 percent owned by women and people of color," he said. "100 percent of the investors are local. We believe in social equity. We are a homegrown, stand-alone marijuana establishment."

"We will contribute \$500,000 over five years to local organizations," Gonzalez said. "The Hyde Square Task Force, Spontaneous Celebrations, The Regan League, the Puerto Rican and Dominican Festivals; we're open to other groups years two, three, four and five."

Gonzales said that the hours of operation would be from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. It will be an underground location that will make it more secure and, in his words, have a positive impact. The average time per customer will be seven minutes, with 15-30 customers an hour.

"There will be a security

check-in at the front door," he said. "And a second check in downstairs before you're buzzed in. There's a large reception area for 150 people. A very cool space with social justice art." "Our presence has helped energize the Hyde Square merchants," he said. "We will require a significant investment to build out."

He said CE has letters of support from seven businesses and 150 signatures in support petition.

Michel Soltari, who owns Brendan Behan Pub across the street and lives on Perkins Street, is one merchant in support.

"This is better for the small businessman," he said. "It will generate foot traffic. It makes the street safer. There's a fear of walking down the street. The biggest problem here is illegal guns and drugs. We didn't have anything in that place for years. These are honest people. Very good jobs."

Gonzalez told the neighborhood council that CE will have a job fair, hire 20-25 people at \$20 an hour and give preference to local people.

Leroy Stoddard of Lamartine Street wanted to know who the investors and owners were.

McGuire interrupted him.

"The business owner has a right to his property," he said. "They don't individualize who is responsible. The level of investment varies but there is no disclosure required."

Gonzalez asked the investors present to raise their hands and tell where they lived. Two were from Hyde Park, one each from Roslindale and East Boston, two from Jamaica Plain, and Peri Higgins, who is also Chief Financial Officer of CE.

Speaking with The Bulletin after the meeting, April Arrasate, CEO of Core Empowerment, would not say what the capital investment is, but that each investor has an equal share.

One Pondsides resident was enthusiastic. "These are good people," he said. "This is going to happen. I'd rather have them than some big corporation from out of state."

Opposition settled on traffic and parking; neighborhood council member Gert Thorn demanded a more accurate traffic study and a Boylston St resident echoed the concerns of several neighbors that the increased traffic will spoil their quality of life.

Core Empowerment has retained traffic consultant Tom Tinlin who served for nine years as Transportation Commissioner under Mayor Menino.

Tinlin explained that CE

has included City Valet as part of the team and is studying how valet parking would work. Currently the city allows valet parking only for hospitals, hotels and restaurants."

BTD Commissioner Gina Fiandaca is open to allowing it in Hyde Square, Tinlin said.

"The Commissioner is considering it," he said. "It's a good neighborhood enhancement. If the business district as a whole wants it, BTD is willing to allow it."

One resident supported the retail cannabis, but admitted there are questions.

"Every new business will have parking issues," he said. "Boston has parking issues. But marijuana dispensaries are a whole new land use. The size of the facility. The business projection. How many people will come."

Ross said that there will be other dispensaries in Boston and people will shop where they live. Roslindale and Mattapan locations are being considered.

He said that CE is considering appointment-based system the first few months. This is being done in Salem.

McGuire said that CE will be required to provide an operating plan.

"We've heard [appointments] from a lot of different applicants," he said. Arrasate said the Hyde Square cannabis dispensary is planned to open in October, 2019.

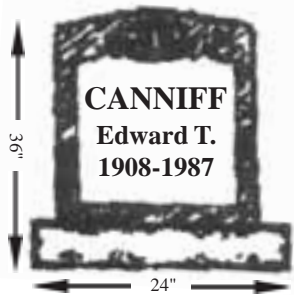
Ross outlined the provisos Core has agreed to in discussions in the past six weeks with the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (twice) and with the Jamaica Pond Association.

"An appointment system. 1 percent charity with no cap. That's above the 3 percent required by the city," he said. "No one else is doing 4 percent. Valet parking subject to BTD approval; valet parking is expensive but we're going to shoulder it. A five-year sunset clause for zoning approval. After five years we'll come back to you again for zoning approval. Quarterly meetings and assistance with the Hyde Square Merchants Association."

McGuire said that Neighborhood Services will review all the public comments and draft the community host agreement that will include hours of operation, security and the \$500,000 commitment; a date will be set for the Zoning Board of Appeals, probably in April.

If approved, Core Empowerment will apply for a recreational marijuana license from the State Cannabis Commission.

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Boston City Council calls for school reform

Jeff Sullivan
Staff Reporter

On Jan. 16, the Boston City Council called for several hearings regarding the Boston Public School (BPS) District.

First up, At-Large City Councilor and Chair of the Council's Education Committee Anissa Essaibi-George called for a hearing to analyze BPS' safety and security measures in every school. Essaibi-George said the hearing would review what measures the schools currently use to protect students from violent situations, like a school shooting.

"The crisis of violence in and around our schools has devastating effects on our school communities, families and the entire city," she said. "At the very least, we have to make sure every school has improved safety practices and infrastructure such as appropriate door locks for classrooms, monitored entry-ways, school-wide active shooting training and other preventative measures against violent attacks. A safe school environment also includes actively addressing and preventing -physical, verbal and cyber bullying."

The BPS district does have active shooter drills and many other security features, like a School Safety Contingency Plan each school administrative head must complete before the end of August of each year. Essaibi-

George said they want to renew school procedures as they approach the one year anniversary of the Parkland School shooting.

"It is also not lost on me that in this 11 months or so, we've had about 100 other school shootings or active shooters, shooting incidents at schools across the United States," she said. "We continue to have work to do, and as unlikely an active shooter case might be in any one of our schools, unfortunately after every incident it becomes more likely, and we need to make sure that we are prepared for what's happening in our schools, around our schools and what's happening to and with our students and how do we give them the skills they need to protect themselves."

City Council President Andrea Campbell and District 7 City Councilor Kim Janey called for a hearing to discuss the admissions policy of Boston's Exam schools. Janey said though they have held meetings on this issue in the past, she felt more work was yet to be done.

"These issues are still prevalent," she said. "We saw in the Rappaport Institute at Harvard report that made suggestions on how we could deal with the admissions policy to make it more inclusive. They had suggested using MCAS and other methods and this hearing will simply let us explore ways to look at admissions and, hopefully, make sure

all of our students in our city can benefit from an education at any of our exam schools."

Essaibi-George also called for a hearing to implement policy to require all BPS schools to have a full-time nurse and an emotional support specialist on staff.

"Our students need to be supported for their social, emotional, behavioral, physical and mental well being," she said.

Essaibi-George said she wants to figure out how to better address issues facing BPS' student body, like trauma, depression, anxiety and bullying. She said they also need to make sure there is a nurse on hand to address any scratches, scrapes, sicknesses or injuries the students face day-to-day.

"During the last budget cycle, BPS invested \$2.3 million in additional nurses, psychologists and social workers, but there is still an inadequate number of social and emotional support specialists, they need to be in every school, every day to support our students," she said.

Essaibi-George also called for a hearing regarding the fiscal year 2019 BPS Transportation Budget. The schools touted at the beginning of 2016 a new bus drop off schedule that would create potentially \$10 million in savings for the district, but it never materialized. In the 2018-2019 school budget, transportation increased \$116 million out



Chair of the Council's Education Committee Anissa Essaibi-George

of the \$1.06 billion budget. In the 2018-2019 school budget, the request is up by \$178 million.

"BPS continues to have cost overruns year after year," she said. "Last year we realized in a mid school year report that we were already \$6 million over in spending in the BPS transportation budget. That's why it's so important to have this analysis done at this point in the school year so we can understand the true spending to date and have a more accurate picture of the BPS transportation budget. This work also affords an opportunity to identify any missed opportunities for savings."

Hearings were also called to

look at the governance structure of the Boston School Committee and see if an elected board, which was abolished in the 1990s, could be re-instituted, and to look at the Madison Park Vocational School admissions policy. The council also called for a hearing for this year's round of Massachusetts School Building Authority proposals for major and minor repairs to the English High School, Jamaica Plain, the McKinley K-12, Boston, the Curley K-8, the Mary Lyon 9-12, Brighton, the Josiah Quincy Elementary School and the Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School in Roxbury.

Join Us for a Community Event

Local audiologist Dr. Adrienne Ulrich and her team at Parkway Hearing are hosting a "Lunch and Listen" event at the Corrib Pub & Restaurant at 2030 Centre Street in West Roxbury. This lunch and seminar will discuss the current treatment options for hearing loss, including hearing aids that stream to televisions and phones. We will have LIVE hearing aids on hand for listening demonstrations.

This "Lunch and Listen" event is FREE to ATTEND, but registration is required.

Please RSVP by February 8th. To learn more and to REGISTER today, please call **(617) 327-0881**.

Bring a friend or loved one who wants to learn about improving their hearing!

You're Invited

**Corrib Pub and Restaurant
2030 Centre Street
West Roxbury, MA 02132**

**Wednesday, February 13, 2019
11 am - 1 pm**


**Parkway
HEARING**

540 VFW Parkway, Suite 1, West Roxbury, MA 02132



Letters *continued from page 4*

LETTER WAS FULL OF MISINFORMATION

To the Editor:

I wish to express my thanks to your paper for publishing Mr. Wright's letter "Regarding The Lift the Bag Ban Letter." Mr. Wright gave us an excellent example of a written version of the Orwellian "Two Minutes Hate." His letter is full of fallacious reasoning, misinformation, economic ignorance, and contradiction.

1. Fallacy of insufficient sample: He writes that "every environmentally concerned" citizen must support the plastic bag ban. I know plenty of people who are environmentally concerned but don't support the plastic bag ban since they know the facts which I presented in my earlier letter.

2. Red Herring and "Ad Hominem": He claims that since I am a member of The John Birch Society, I must be a liar and a purveyor of misinformation. I believe that the Society is made up of some of the finest men and women I know. They are honest, generous, support good stewardship of the land, and love the United States. I am also a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, and a U.S. Army veteran. By the way, the JBS was started in Belmont, MA-not Concord. I am open about my affiliations, and always have been.

3. Misinformation and historical ignorance: He writes that the mission of The JBS was in the "same vein as Joe McCarthy-to spread disinformation and fear about the supposed spread of communism." Here Mr. Wright displays his abysmal ignorance of history. In 1958, communism was spreading all over the world-China, Russia, Eastern Europe, North Vietnam, and a year later, Cuba murdering millions of people in its wake. Love him or hate him, Joe McCarthy was vindicated in

1995 with the publication of the "Venona Secrets" which thoroughly documents Soviet espionage activities in the United States. Mr. Wright probably never heard of this book or if he did, he cannot let facts get in the way of his bias, and narrow-minded ideological bigotry.

4. Misinformation and historical ignorance: Agenda 21 is no theory. It is being implemented in communities all over the nation. Readers can simply go to YouTube and look for a video of Nancy Pelosi promoting Agenda 21 or do a search for "Towards a Sustainable America" which was published at the direction of Present Bill Clinton. and available as a free download. Since its widespread exposure, Agenda 21 has been re-branded Agenda 2030. Boston's version is called Vision Boston 2030. Mr. Wright appears to support it wholeheartedly. Whether he knows it or not, he is simply following the recommendation of J Gary Lawrence who urged supporters of Agenda 21 to use be deceptive and use terms like "smart growth, and sustainable development." Mr. Lawrence's report "The Future of Local Agenda 21 in the New Millennium" is available as a free download."

5. Misinformation: My letter listed facts about plastic bags. Mr. Wright may not like the facts since they conflict with his narrative, but they are facts, nevertheless.

6. Red Herring and misinformation: Mr. Wright insists that the Koch Brothers fund the Heartland Institute; therefore, its information cannot be accurate. In another forum, I addressed the issue of the Koch Brothers and Heartland. In 2012, the Koch Brothers gave a one-time \$25,000 to the Heartland earmarked for

fighting Obamacare and have not donated one dime since. But Mr. Wright deliberately misleads the readers with this red herring fallacy. If he is so worried about foundation support, he should investigate groups that get money from George Soros' foundation, Bill and Malinda Gates Foundation, and the Rockefeller Foundation just to mention a few.

7. Economic ignorance: Mr. Wright refers to the cost of a plastic bag which he continues to refer to as "single use" as "hidden" implying that retailers are hiding the cost of the bag. The price of any good includes the wages the employer pays, the cost of heat, rent, property taxes, shipping, etc. These are known as overhead. These are not hidden, and anyone with a basic understanding of economics would know that.

8. Contradiction: Mr. Wright concludes his letter suggesting that people ignore me while earlier in the letter, he suggests that people write letters against me and my view.

Mr. Wright's letter is an attempt to silence those who dare oppose his agenda. I have news for him: his vitriol, and hatred has only motivated me to work harder, and has brought me some new friends and allies. I took an oath to defend the U.S. Constitution when I was 17 years of age, and that oath will be upheld to the day I die. I will not let the likes of Mr. Wright bully me or silence me.

Apart from the years I spent in the U.S. Army, I have lived in Boston all my life and have always enjoyed the friendship and respect of my liberal neighbors. Readers who would like information on the information mentioned above or a free copy of the U.S. Constitution, are welcomed to contact me: camppconstitution1@gmail.com

Hal Shurtleff
West Roxbury

SOMEONE NEEDS TO ADDRESS WEST ROXBURY HIGH IDEA

To the Editor:

I'm wondering if there has been a response to the suggestion proposed by Stephen Smith in the January 3, Letter to the Editor, and repeated by Joseph Coffey in the same section of the paper, on January 10th?

It seems a shame to scale down the proposed enrollment for Roxbury Prep, if there is a student need, and a viable alternative location (West Roxbury High Academy).

Mr. Coffey mentions that the two West Roxbury High academies are closing for repairs. Is the intention of the Boston Public Schools to reopen them or leave them shuttered?

Are the repairs needed so extensive that it wouldn't be worthwhile for Roxbury Prep to take on that challenge?

The playing fields at the VFW site were recently renovated. This would give Roxbury Prep students a location for sports- something that the Belgrade Ave. site can not include.

I am unable to attend the January 30th Public Meeting but will be there for the February 13th meeting. In the meantime, could someone with some knowledge of the VFW site provide some answers?

Joan Halpert
West Roxbury

RESIDENTS ARE THE ONLY ONES LISTENING

To the Editor:

If the Roxbury Prep development team, consisting of the charter school board, its out-of-state management, their real estate intermediary, the City Hall lobbyist attorneys and political PR assistants actually believe their latest proposal satisfies residents' fundamental concerns regarding the proposed high school at 361 Belgrade, they're wrong.

Neighbors are asking "It's back again?" Yes, the charter school is back with a plan appearing to show a smaller building and less students. They would like elected officials and decision makers to believe this proposal means they have listened to neighborhood concerns. They haven't.

A smaller building does not address neighborhood concerns - much less benefit students - but does reduce City oversight and limit residents' participation. Specifically, 361 Belgrade now just qualifies for "small project" review, meaning less classroom and activity space, less design require-

ments to ensure neighborhood compatibility and a lot less resident participation. The project advisory group is eliminated - which the school could voluntarily establish if it truly values community feedback. This proposal is worse, not better, than the half-dozen others floated out over the last three years.

Unlike the developers it is we, the residents, who have been watching and listening all this time.

We've listened as the charter made unsupported claims while misrepresenting resident concerns. Tellingly, it has refused to provide specifics about the selection process ending up with 361 Belgrade - while simultaneously insisting this is the only suitable site for a high school - and without documented assessment of overall school facility needs for students and families in Roslindale, West Roxbury or city-wide.

Like the site selection claims, the enrollment numbers do not add up on close examination. The charter says 361 Belgrade will house 560 students. Yet their middle school has over 700 students. Are they intending to cut middle school enrollment to shoe-horn the remainder into an undersized facility? They pledge to keep seats open for neighborhood students (by lottery). But how many "open seats" will actually exist at this ever-smaller incredible shrinking high school? Residents listen but do not hear plausible answers.

All students whether public, private or charter, deserve excellent schools with adequate classrooms and indoor/outdoor activity spaces. As the latest moving target proposal shows, the charter continues to negotiate away the interests of students - not to address neighborhood concerns - but to minimize city review and residents' participation.

When all is said and done, the charter seeks to privatize what should be a public process. At 361 Belgrade, the school wants all the benefits of a charter but none of the responsibilities. It presents itself as an educational organization that cares only about students. But the charter's approach - shrinking school space, using money which should go to education to hire lobbyists and PR people, misrepresenting neighborhood concerns, withholding documents - all while minimizing city review and residents' participation - suggests that 361 Belgrade isn't really about education after all. The more the charter seeks to push this project though, the more 361 seems just another private real estate deal.

Neighbors, students and families alike all deserve better.

Michael Levesque
West Roxbury



Ask The Doctor

Junior Damato began servicing vehicles in 1969. He owns a 10-bay auto repair service center in Hyde Park and an 8-bay center in Middleboro. Junior is an ASE-certified Master Technician, ASE-certified L-1 and ASE-certified Natural Gas.

2019 Lexus NX 300 AWD

SUVs are the craze of today. They come in all brands and sizes, with multiple engines types as well. This week I had an extremely comfortable, powerful, and smooth riding Lexus NX 300 - a mid-size SUV that seats four with comfort and five in a pinch. Power comes from a very smooth and quiet 2-liter, turbo-charged engine via a 6-speed automatic. The gearing in the 6-speed automatic allows for much more power to the ground and ideal engine torque at any speed. There are multiple transmission mode settings, as well as safety and alert systems, eight air bags, an 8-speaker high output audio system, 4.2-inch touchscreen, and 8-way powered driver and passenger seats. And yes, it does have optional heated front seating.

The NX 300 has a low seat height, making it easy to get in and out of the vehicle, from both front and rear seats, which is very important to us short people. It drives and handles more like a car than an SUV. It has a few popular options, such as auto-dimming rearview mirror with Homelink® system: \$125; luxury package with 18-inch wheels and tires, linear black wood interior trim, heated steering wheel, heated and ventilated front seating, rain-sensing wipers, LED daytime running lights, tilt wheel and more for \$4,705; navigation package includes remote touch interface and 10-speaker premium sound system: \$1,800; power rear door with kick sensor: \$550. Base price: \$37,365 plus destination fee: \$995. Total MSRP with options: \$45,560. EPA: 22 city, 28 highway MPG on this AWD, FWD has the same rating. Base FWD price starts at \$35,985.

The front grille design is very modern looking while allowing a lot of air flow to cool the engine in hot climate conditions. The bottom line: this is a very refined SUV that has all the quality of the Lexus brand for under \$50,000.

Boston's own Junior Damato, "The Auto Doctor" has agreed to field auto repair questions from *Bulletin* and *Record* readers. Please forward your questions to news@bulletinnewspapers.com and we will do our best to get your questions answered.



Conserve our resources.
Recycle this newspaper.

Calendar *continued from page 8*

p.m. The dragon-themed event will include a full Chinese food buffet, dancing to the tunes of professional DJ Jimmy Jay and some terrific raffle prizes. Guests are encouraged to come in costume to this adult-only event.

Tickets are \$25 per person, and reservations can be made by emailing event1@templebethdavid.com. Please reserve by March 1. Temple Beth David is located at 1060 Randolph Street in Canton, MA.

For more information, please call the Temple office at 781-828-2275 or emailinfo@templebethdavid.com or event1@templebethdavid.com.

JAMAICA PLAIN

WINTER BLUES GOT YOU DOWN?

JAZZ up your day at Springhouse! Please join us for a Pre-SuperBowl Concert by the renown Winiker Brothers!

Sunday, February 3rd @ 2:00 p.m. RSVP is a MUST! Call Karen Pollack at 617-971-1678 or email at kpollack@springhouseboston.org

GODDARD HOUSE CONCERT

Saturday, February 2nd, 3:00 PM Reception. 3:30 - 4:30 PM Concert

Award-winning musicians, Joshua Peckins (violin) and Eliko Akahori (piano), have performed around the world and are thrilled to perform Beethoven's famed Kreutzer Sonata and pieces by Corelli and Monti for the Winter Classics series at Goddard House.

Please RSVP to Patti at 617-731-8500 or pbarrows@goddardhouse.org.

FALLS PREVENTION FOR SENIORS

Many older adults experience a fear of falling. People who develop this fear often limit their activities, which can result in physical weakness, making the risk of falling even greater. A Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns About Falls is a program designed to reduce the fear of falling and increase activity levels among older adults. Classes run for 8 weeks and include fun videos, group discussion, a safe surroundings survey, and mild exercise to increase strength and flexibility. A Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns About Falls is offered at no charge and anyone from any neighborhood may attend. For more information or to register contact Ann Glora at 617-477-6616 or aglora@ethocare.org

Location: Springhouse Senior Living, 44 Allendale Street in Jamaica Plain Day and Time: Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Class Dates: February 22nd - April 11th, 2019

WEST ROXBURY / ROSLINDALE

ANIMAL TALKS

The next Animal Talks will be Sunday February 10 5 - 6 pm at Stratford Street United Church, 77 Stratford St. West Roxbury, MA 02132. The topic will be: Can our animals really read our minds? Animal Talks is an animal-focused meditation, discussion and reflection on the animals we love and remember. They are run by Kaleel Sakakeeny, Animal Chaplain and Credentialed Pet Grief Counselor. Animal Talks meets every 2nd Sunday of the month. All our welcome!

MOVIE NIGHT FOR KIDS AT GO WEST — FEB. 28TH — GROWNUPS INVITED TOO

Please pencil Thursday, Feb. 28th into your calendars. Here at Go West, we'll show a movie starting at 5:30, for kids, in one room; and we'll provide wine and beer and conversation in other room(s). Food, too. More details to come, about everything. For now, please save the date... thanks!

WEST ROXBURY BICYCLE COMMITTEE MEETING

Feb. 13th, 6:30-7:30, Roche Community Center 1716 Centre St. Initial organizational meeting of the West Roxbury Bicycle Committee. This is a neighborhood bicycle advocacy committee that will work on questions of bicycle infrastructure and safety in West Roxbury. This committee will be a sub-committee of the Boston Cyclists Union. All are welcome.

WEST ROXBURY LIBRARY EVENTS

Poetry Workshops for All Ages at the West Roxbury Branch Library

Saturday, February 2, 2019

Poetry Reading: 1 - 3 PM

On Saturday, January 26, the Friends of the West Roxbury Branch Library will sponsor two poetry workshops led by Mary Pinard at the West Roxbury Branch Library at 1961 Centre Street. The morning session, 10 am -11:30 am, is designed for students in grades 2 through 8. The afternoon session, 1- 3pm is for high school and adults. On Saturday, February 2, 1 - 3 PM workshop participants will have the opportunity to share their poems with fellow poets.

The program is free and open to all. To register by email, send your name, session number and phone number or email address to: FriendsOfTheWestRoxburyLibrary@gmail.com or register at the front desk of the library.

Early Voting *continued from page 1*

Friday before the Tuesday Election Day.

"Every day during the week we typically offer early voting here at City Hall, and the last go around we had a Tuesday, Thursday schedule where we were out in the neighborhoods in different parts of the city," he said. "On Saturdays and Sunday, we were in every council district, and we had one location in each district... It worked really well, early voting weekend this year we had about 8,000 people vote. I think a lot of the challenges we have are things not visible to the public, just back channel things and how we process things."

Irish said he estimates the cost of the new early voting to be about \$380,000.

"That's based on our projection on what it would cost in 2019, and for city elections we actually do our own printing so there's a difference in the cost," he said. "For state elections, they print the ballots for us."

Irish said over time there would be an opportunity to decrease those costs from the \$380,000, mainly because of the upfront nature of the advertising required to let people know they can vote early. He said once that is established as common practice, the costs will go down significantly. He also said that obtaining equipment for the early voting has decreased costs over time in early voting in other elections.

District 9 City Councilor



Mark Ciommo asked if there has been an increase in voter turnout during the 2016 and 2018 elections, so that they could get an idea as to what increases they could expect to see in voter turnout, but Irish pointed out that early voting does not always have such a clear cut effect.

"In 2016, about 17 percent of the overall vote was early vote, and in 2018 just about 13 percent of the overall vote was early vote," he said. "The research I've done with folks who have looked at early voting throughout the country indicates there is no clear proof that you can tie early voting to an increase in turnout and it's more difficult to do that because when you consider the universe of voters changes over time. In 2016, for example, we had many more voters than we did in the years prior to that. We had more than 400,000 voters, so when you have more voters added to that rolls... The way we've always approached it is to make sure that we're making it as convenient as possible."

Chair of the Issues Committee for Progressive Massachusetts Jonathan Cohn said he felt the benefits for early voting

were clear.

"As the Brennan Center for Justice notes, early voting means reduced stress on the voting system on election day, shorter lines on Election Day, improved poll worker performance, early identification and correction of errors for voting system glitches and increased voter satisfaction," he said.

Cohn and District 6 City Councilor Matt O'Malley both discussed the possibility of introducing no-fault absentee voting, for which a person can send in a ballot whether or not they are out of the municipality they are voting in. Cohn said many other states offer this measure, but Irish said it would require another home-rule petition to pass the state legislature.

Cohn also pointed out that Boston needs to start re-precincting its voting locations, as the city is undergoing a large increase in population. Many residents can find it difficult to get to their polling locations.

Irish said if the bill passes the State House, they would begin looking at a schedule of neighborhoods for early voting in 40 locations.

"Ultimately we're going to put together a draft and put it out for community feedback and elected official feedback and from there we'd go on to a final schedule," he said. "For 2018, we began putting out drafts in February."



Public Meeting

15 Washington Street

Wednesday, February 6th

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

77 Warren Street

Brighton Marine Health Center
Brighton, MA 02135

Project Proponent:

New Creek LLC and WSP 1725 Holding LLC

Project Description:

Public Meeting to discuss the Proponent's proposal for a new development at 15 Washington Street in Brighton consisting of up to 270 dwelling units, a new approximately 45,753- square foot Whole Foods grocery store, a new approximately 3,593 square foot Citizens Bank, and up to 323 structured parking spaces that will support the residential and commercial uses.

mail to: **Casey Hines**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
phone: 617.918.4244
email: casey.a.hines@boston.gov

Close of Comment Period:
2/21/2019

BostonPlans.org | [@BostonPlans](https://twitter.com/BostonPlans)

Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

School Food *continued from page 7*

turally relevant and prepared better. They did say that the cafeteria staff were great and that it was not so much the environment of the cafeteria at their schools, it was mostly their concerns with the food preparation.

It would be very interesting

to hear from more students from schools with the new My Way Cafe model from the Shah Family Foundation that is new in East Boston, Roxbury, and soon to be in Dorchester. We heard from one student at the Umana during a coalition meeting who said that there was a

definite language barrier between the students and the staff, but it would be interesting to hear more about food perceptions as well.

We are excited to soon be doing more meetings within existing school groups, such as parent councils, as well as surveying busy family members and stu-

dents about school food and the cafeteria. We hope that we will get yet more feedback on food options, and connect with far more community members this way. We will be doing these meetings at the Maurice J. Tobin School in Mission Hill, the Mario

Umana Academy in East Boston, Thomas J. Kenny School in Ashmont, and other schools who want to participate.

This post was written by Sarah Curless, FoodCorps AmeriCorps Service Member at the Thomas J. Kenny School.

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