

Boston Bulletin

citywide news • street by street

VOLUME 13 NUMBER 1

JANUARY 3, 2019

FREE

Seniors First Night drops the ball early



About 2,300 residents came out for the 30th annual Seniors First Night at the Seaport on Friday to ring the new year a little bit early.

COURTESY PHOTO

Jeff Sullivan
Staff Reporter

Boston's big First Night Celebration went off on Monday night, however the city's older residents celebrated early on Friday and rang in the New Year in style.

Co-hosted by the Elderly Commission and the Seaport World Trade Center, more than 2,300 residents celebrated 2019 at noon. The celebration featured food,

dancing and a commencement speech from Boston Mayor Marty Walsh.

"Are you ready to party?" Walsh asked. "You are the people who built our city, I want to thank you for making Boston your home."

Hundreds danced the afternoon away while volunteers served food and drink and gave out information on city services available to them. The tradition has been going on for 30 years, and usually garners a huge crowd.

Resident Robert Sherman said despite a few hiccups in the afternoon, it was still a great time.

"The food was a bit cold this year, but you can't complain about a free meal," he said. "The speeches were quick though, thankfully. It's hard to do, but it was a very nice meal and the mayor does a good job."

Resident Willa Brandt said her friend Frankie

First Night

Continued on page 13

ABCDC looking to develop more affordable housing in 2019



The Allston Brighton CDC is looking to make more affordable housing like this building on Comm. Ave.

COURTESY PHOTO

Jeff Sullivan
Staff Reporter

The Allston Brighton Community Development Corporation (ABCDC) is looking ahead to 2019 to create more affordable housing units in the neighborhoods.

ABCDC Executive Director John Woods said the first thing to do in the new year is to work with the community, as they have done for the more than 500 housing units they've developed since 1980.

"First and foremost, we're going to build some neighborhood consensus. Then we will figure out a financing plan using public and private resources," he said. "Many of these ideas start

out as small seeds and the hope is we can get something to grow."

Both Brighton and Allston have seen a huge increase in residential development during Boston's housing boom, and many residents are opposed to hyper-dense developments that don't offer home ownership components in the neighborhood. According to the 2010 census, Brighton had 24 percent of its housing stock owned by its occupants and Allston had 11 percent. Those have increased slightly in the past few years, but residents are still wary of new development.

"I think it is specific to each site, and once we pursued sites

Affordable Housing
Continued on page 12

Keep Hyde Park Beautiful starts spring cleaning early

Jeff Sullivan
Staff Reporter

While Sunday was cold, it was still beautiful weather for the team at Keep Hyde Park Beautiful to go out and help keep the neighborhood clear of trash and litter.

The group called for a cleanup at the Fowl Meadow on Friday of last week and more than a dozen residents showed up ready to clean.

"It was kind of spontaneous," said KHPB member Cathy Horn.

Horn said they had installed "No Littering" signs on the stretch of Meadow Road, which sees a lot of truck traffic from



About a dozen Hyde Parkers came out on Sunday for a cleanup at Fowl Meadow on the Milton line.

PHOTO BY JEFF SULLIVAN

Spring Cleaning
Continued on page 9

Jamaica Plain girl personifies what the holiday season is all about

A 12-year-old Jamaica Plain girl was given a \$100.00 gift card intended to allow her to buy whatever she desired for Christmas. But, instead of buying for herself, she put others first and proceeded to spend the entire \$100.00 on family members without spending so much as a single cent on herself. Sounds almost too good to be true, but it isn't. In fact, that was the scenario that greeted Boston Police Officer Jorge Dias a couple weeks ago at this year's Shop with a

Cop, the 10th annual event, which took place December 10, 2018, at the Target Store in Dorchester. As for Dias, he'd be the first to say the encounter with the young girl most assuredly left an impression. So much so, when New England Patriots CB Stephon Gilmore recently reached out to Dias looking for a family or good kid to buy Christmas presents for, well, let's just say Dias didn't have to think long

Holiday Cheer
Continued on page 12

Fire hits West Roxbury house on Christmas Day

GoFundme page set up to help family

Jeff Sullivan
Staff Reporter

The Boston Fire Department (BFD) reported arriving at 4 Perham St. in West Roxbury to a house fire on Christmas Day.

The BFD reported smoke on arrival at the two-story single-family home at about 4:50 p.m. No one was in the building as residents Shannon McNamara and her son Kyle were away during the fire.

The fire was knocked down in about a half an hour, and the BFD reported double-checking for extensions of the fire. The BFD reported no injuries to themselves during the fire. The fire chief on scene estimated the damage at \$200,000.

Friends of McNamara have started a GoFundMe page, which can be found at gofundme.com/shannankyle. As of the date of publication, the fundraiser has garnered \$34,405 to help the family rebuild in the neighborhood.

According to the GoFundMe page, residents are encouraged to donate based on factors such as how the family



Residents are coming together for the McNamara family, who lost their house on Christmas.

PHOTO BY BFD

has affected residents' lives.

"If you're not sure about how much to donate, a good rule of thumb is \$5 for every time you've given Kyle a ride, \$10 for every time you've made him repay the favor since he got his driver's license and \$20 for every time Kyle has invited himself to dinner at your house."

Several residents have donated large sums to the family according to the GoFundMe page, like donations of \$5,000

and \$1,500, but most of the 370 donations as of the date of publication came from residents donating what they could.

According to the page, the family has returned to the house and was able to rescue several items and survey the damage. They are reported to have to rebuild the house from the ground up before they move back in. The family did lose one member, however, in that their cat Stanley did not survive the fire.

Mayor Walsh announces appointments to Boston School Committee

Mayor Martin J. Walsh today announced the appointment of Quoc Tran and reappointment of Jeri Robinson to the Boston School Committee, the governing body of the Boston Public Schools (BPS). Tran is currently the secretariat deputy director of the Office of Diversity and Civil Rights at the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services. Robinson has been a member of the Boston School Committee since 2014, and recently retired from her role as vice president of Early Childhood Initiatives at the Boston Children's Museum. The swearing-in ceremony will take place on Monday, January 7, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. at the Bolling Building.

"Quoc Tran is a great addition to the Boston School Committee. His experience as a civil rights attorney and a community leader will add a unique and crucial perspective to the group," said Mayor Walsh. "I'm also proud to reappoint Jeri Robinson to the Committee, who for the last four years worked and advocated tirelessly to create opportunities for

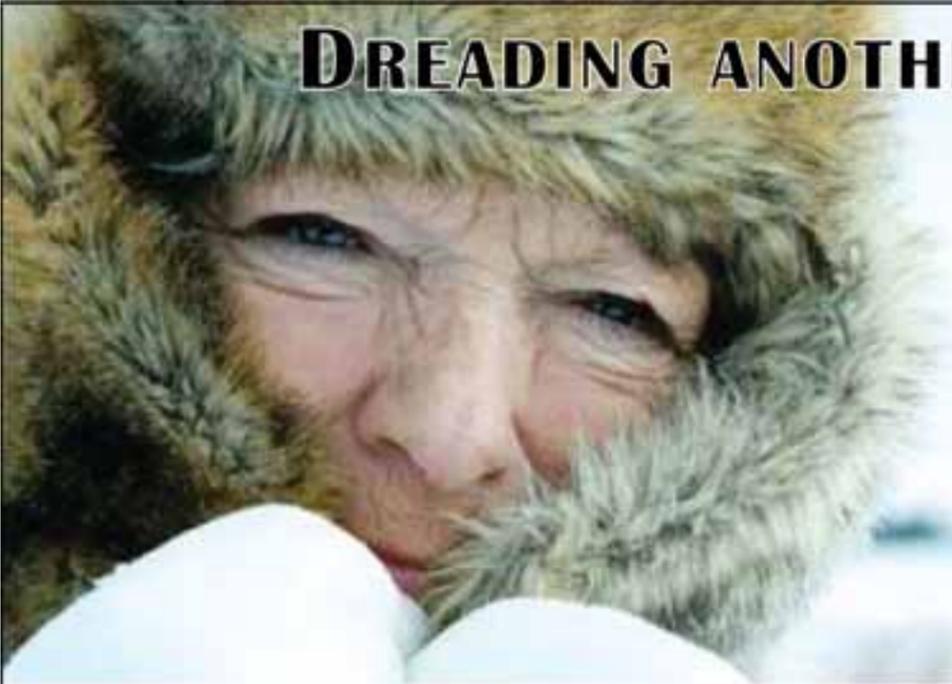
our students. I thank all members of the School Committee who have served in this important role, and look forward to reviewing applications for the remaining vacancy, and encourage those who are interested in serving on the Committee to apply by the January 7, 2019 deadline."

Dr. Miren Uriarte stepped down from the Boston School Committee in December 2018, ending almost four years of service on the Committee. The Citizens Nominating Panel is currently accepting applications from candidates interested in filling the remainder of her term, which expires on December 31, 2019. The Panel is expected to submit a list of nominees to the Mayor by January 16.

The seven-member Boston School Committee is responsible for defining the vision, mission and goals of the Boston Public Schools; establishing and monitoring the annual operating budget; hiring, managing and evaluating the Superintendent; and setting and reviewing

School Committee
Continued on page 10

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Editorial

ADULT BEHAVIORS

What makes someone an adult? Different cultures and religions have unique dividing lines between boys and men, girls and women. There is also a legal standard.

Well, there used to be a legal standard. Many moons ago, government officials in various states decided that while 18 may be the age of “adulthood,” that birthday was no longer good enough for purchasing alcoholic beverages. In Massachusetts, as of New Year’s Day, we officially added cigarette purchases to the list of things you cannot do as an otherwise legal adult.

We do, in many ways, appreciate the new law and its prohibition. Medical research shows that smoking can be especially harmful for younger, still-developing bodies. It is also not easy to argue that being 18 triggers some magical transformation into a mature adult. Put a beer in their hand to be quickly disillusioned of that theory.

Our problem has less to do with nicotine consumption than it does the misguided attempt to manipulate legal human behaviors through state law.

If something should be illegal in the eyes of officials and a majority of voters, so be it. If those same elected officials want to draw boundaries for where smoking is, or is not, allowed in public places, we support them. Taxing these products to extinction? Go for it.

We do, however, worry about deciding that a class of folks, in this case those between the ages of 18 and 21, can be barred and banned from buying (or, presumably, using) otherwise legal products.

We resort to a cliché often used to argue against these restrictions. At the age of 18, you can vote and join the military, potentially making a rational choice to sacrifice your life for the good of the nation. These difficult choices are all well and good, but nicotine is apparently a bridge too far.

Massachusetts, and Boston specifically, have resorted all too frequently to the role of a nanny state.” As we have written about in the past, since 2008, food service establishments in Boston may no longer use oils, shortening, or margarine containing partially hydrogenated vegetable oil for cooking and serving food.

It was a bad look then, and it remains so.

We do understand that creating a healthier populace helps all of us. Better health, in theory, means more efficient health care systems and maybe (just maybe) less expensive health care bills and insurance.

We can’t help but wonder, however, whether these and other positive outcomes are really what’s under consideration.

Consider that other annoying and targeted vice: vaping. How strange is it that, as marijuana is legalized, the least intrusive ways to ingest THC are in the government’s crosshairs? Edibles? Can’t allow that. Kids might accidentally ingest them. Vaping? What about teenagers who may be drawn to those new toys. Heck, even flavored tobacco products are systematically banned. Adult consumers are somehow less important than the occasional, errant child.

For every fear laid onto e-cigarette and vaping devices there is someone who might otherwise be able to quit smoking using them as a temporary crutch. Limit accessibility and supply, and you might as well demand that they start smoking again.

Stopping the smoking scourge isn’t rocket science and our officials are well-armed with the needed tools. We encourage them to use them.

Redrawing the boundaries of what is legal, however, is not the right approach, nor is outlawing new technology just because it could be misused by teens, a generation that would benefit far more from increased parental supervision than overextending government reach.

With neighbors like these . . .

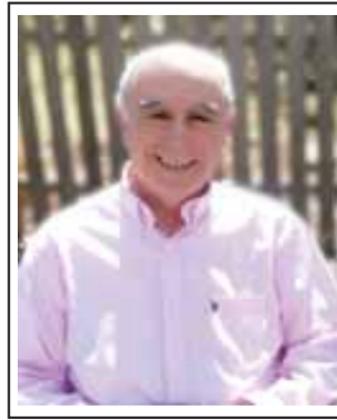
Sometimes when a community has a monolithic neighbor, be it corporate or human, the residents realize that their needs and wants are subservient to those who exude importance. They cringe at the thought of the geographical giant flexing its muscles, political or otherwise.

But this is not the case with Roxbury Latin. A huge and legendary land-owner in West Roxbury—one that has been here since 1645—RL never tries to bully its way in spite of its ownership of a vast 117-acre expanse. In fact, quite the contrary is true.

This centuries-old institution, reminiscent somewhat of the one depicted in the fictitious movie “The Dead Poets’ Society” (without the dormitory component), has been very gracious toward its neighbors. Their generosity for scholarships to city kids is without refute, as they educate boys coming from both near and far, with 90 of its 303 students hailing from within city limits.

Years ago, before Millennium Park was built over the LaGrange Street landfill, every spring there was contentious efforts to reserve park space for men’s softball, high school baseball and softball, and youth soccer. Girls’ CYO softball was at the bottom of the list. Millennium Park, built under the direction of the late Alice Hennessey, relieved the stress for playground and park space with its numerous soccer fields.

Previous to this, Roxbury Latin stepped into the fray to offer its diamonds to St. Theresa’s softball practice and games, alleviating no small amount of the stress. I hope that mourners at the funeral services of the recently deceased former



My Kind
of Town/
Joe Galeota

headmaster, Reverend Tony Jaryis, were made aware of this tidbit.

For almost a quarter of a century RL has been very kind to its JP neighbor, Nativity Prep. Serving boys only from low-income families, the tuition-free Jesuit-run school located a block from the Bromley-Heath project has benefitted in numerous ways from its more financially secure bigger brother.

And just recently, within the past several weeks, I, too, became aware of Roxbury Latin’s generosity towards its neighbors as it hosted a (free) Community Sing culminating with Handel’s Messiah. Because the event was mentioned several times in the Globe, the event did not target only physical neighbors of Rev. John Eliot’s school founded in 1645: it was available to any reader within the broadsheet’s distribution area. And it was without charge.

The first half of the festive night featured about a dozen alumni blessed with no small amount of musical talent, rendering Christmas songs, led by

Headmaster Kerry Brennan and highlighted by intricate harmonizing. Creatively named The Sly Voxes (a cute play on words since “vox” means “voice” in Latin, although the accurate plural is “voces” but who wants to nitpick with a great play on words?), they rendered mostly spiritual selections. Because the school was religiously founded, no listener could object to such a repertoire.

Indeed, if the Boston Symphony Orchestra ever needs a group to substitute for the Tanglewood Festival Chorus (with its superb tenor, Roslindale’s Fran Rogers), this group could step right up at Symphony Hall behind Keith Lockhart’s instrumental assemblage.

There was a unique Jamaica Plain connection of the aforementioned talented and effervescent group singing 12 pieces with all sorts of sophisticated harmony: the son of legendary Longwood Pediatrics/Children’s Hospital pediatrician John Cloherty, originally from Montebello Road in the shadow of White Stadium, was one of those with a gifted larynx.

The reception afterwards was befitting a Board of Trustees’ meeting. Roxbury Latin spared no expense, offering all types of exquisite desserts and drinks on its china to attendees in its historic Bernstein Tea Room with a large fireplace all aglow.

Robert Frost believed that fences make for good neighbors. Perhaps there are other components, garnered from last month’s performance on St. Theresa Avenue, that the renowned poet could have added to his list.

Letters to the Editor

NEIGHBORHOOD POSITIONS BASED ON EXPERIENCE

To the Editor:

As co-leaders of the Mt. Hope Canterbury Neighborhood Association, we would like to thank the West Roxbury - Roslindale Bulletin Newspaper for its continuing news coverage of our neighborhoods along American Legion Hwy. in Roslindale. Specifically, thank you to reporters Jeff Sullivan and also more recently Mary Ellen Gambon who have for the past

many years covered almost all our monthly meetings and events.

In the December 20 issue of the Bulletin, Ms. Gambon wrote a detailed article concerning City Realty’s (CR) proposed 6-story 52-unit rental housing development fronting Cummins Hwy., on a 0.9-acre lot, zoned for a maximum of 10 units. It is adjacent to two of our neighborhoods along American Legion Hwy. The article included some of the issues our residents are concerned about. These residents have been negoti-

ating on these issues with the CR team for many months leading to some good progress.

We feel that while the article on the meeting was accurate, the headline “Some MHC members say NIMBY to City Realty Development” was unintentionally misleading. The term ‘not in my backyard’ is now a loaded and divisive word that is not helpful in finding ways forward, and neglects the history of this area. There are many similar community meetings with developers happening all over, and many articles about them, without using that term as a headline. We prefer to use the term QUIMBY, quality in our backyard.

Over the past four years the residents of the neighborhoods in the Mt. Hope - Canterbury area have supported zoning variances requested in the building of 27 new housing units at locations in and

Letters

Continued on page 14

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CM donates more than 250 gifts to Saint John Paul Academy

Christmas arrived early at Saint John Paul II Academy when seven students from Catholic Memorial School delivered over 250 presents to the school's Columbia Road campus in Dorchester on Tuesday afternoon.

Before the donation, the school needed gifts to support 70 percent of their families who asked for assistance at Christmas time. Thanks to the donations provided by CM Campus Ministry's Christmas Gift Drive, the Columbia campus met their need and then some.

"Just like loaves and fish, it just kept growing," said Ms. Kate Brandley, the regional director of the three Saint John Paul II Academy campuses.

"After my principals went through everything, there were so many gifts left over. It wasn't just baseballs and basketballs either. We had robotic toys and themed books. It seemed like they really cared about the boys who they were donating to."

Over 1,100 students attend Saint John Paul II. A parochial school for children from grades pre-K to eight, the school offers financial aid to 70 percent of students.

Every year, Saint John Paul



The students at Catholic Memorial High School donated more than 250 gifts for those in need at the Saint John Paul Academy in Dorchester.

II keeps track of families who request gifts for their children during the holiday season. The school raises gifts and accepts donations from other schools to meet the annual need. A low donation total puts more pressure on Ms. Brandley's faculty and staff to fulfill the remaining need.

CM's Campus Ministry program, led by Mr. Kevin Durazo

and Mr. Nicholas Genovese, orchestrated the CM Christmas Gift Drive to support Saint John Paul II's Columbia campus. Together, they advocated for donations through posters in school hallways, lessons on service in the theology curriculum, and announcements about the initiative in the CM weekly newsletter. Starting at the beginning of December, students

and faculty placed their donated gifts underneath a Christmas tree display in CM's main lobby.

On Tuesday, the seven-student cohort gathered in front of the CM main lobby. They packed up the gifts underneath the tree, loaded the CM Campus Ministry van, and delivered the gifts to Dorchester. When they arrived at the Columbia

campus, the students engaged with the Saint John Paul II faculty and learned about the school's mission.

A few of the CM students who dropped off the donations once attended Saint John Paul II Academy. Junior Clayton Majors-Rice attended Saint John Paul II's Neponset and Lower Mills campuses while growing up in Dorchester.

"You should always give back to the place that raised you," said Clayton.

"[Saint John Paul II Academy] helped me when I was younger by giving me a really caring environment. I hope to do the same kind of service work in my last few years at CM and when I go to college. It's taught me to be a better man, to take charge, and to be a leader."

The CM students left Dorchester with a feeling of fulfillment. They knew their service made a significant difference in the lives of many.

"It made me feel like Santa Clause," said Kevin Hicks II, a sophomore from Roxbury.

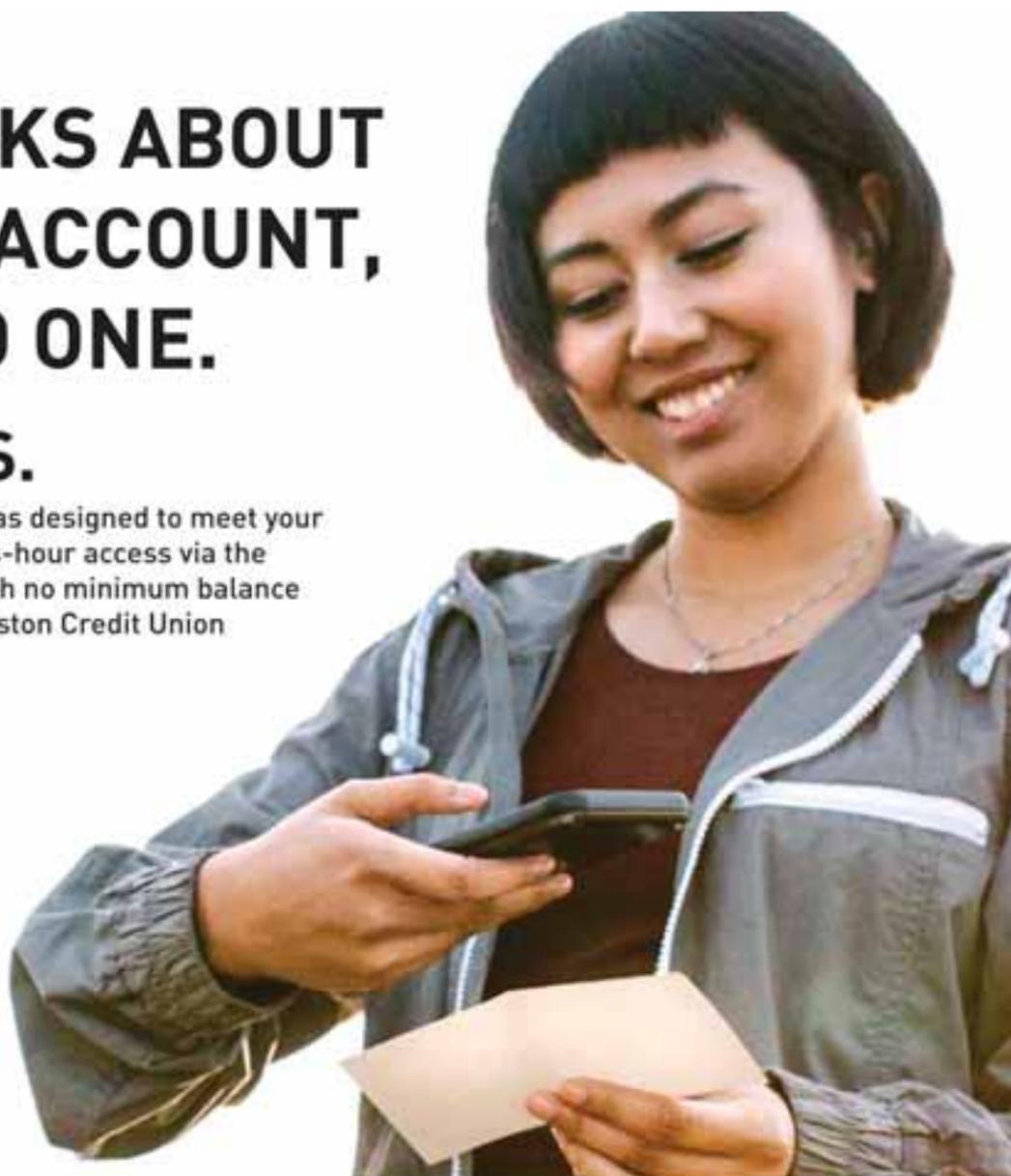
"I felt that I was doing it to make a difference. Especially when it means that they're getting gifts for Christmas."

COURTESY PHOTO

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Hyde Park's 2018 in Review

Mary Ellen Gambon
Staff Reporter

Hyde Park celebrated its 150th anniversary this year, and festivities abounded throughout the spring and summer commemorating this occasion.

But this was only one of many special events in Hyde Park over the past year. It was a time that that was marked by major concerns over two major developments in Readville – the Sprague Street development and the Readville Yard 5 project.

Between the two, if approved, approximately 800 housing units would be added to Readville at the Dedham border. This area, residents complained, is already plagued by traffic and parking problems.

Hyde Park also saw its first major development erected on Fairmount Avenue. The 37-unit apartment complex received 3,700 applicants. The new building, spurred by the need for affordable housing in Boston, came about through the efforts of the Southwest Boston Community Development Corporation. (SWBCDC.)

Councilor Tim McCarthy and City Councilor at Large Michelle Wu were two of the major proponents of fare equity on Hyde Park's commuter rail lines. Depending on the line and zone, the fare can be a couple of dollars more each way. This issue still is being addressed.

An ancillary issue to this is parking. To avoid more costly parking at the Fairmount lot, commuters have encroached onto the side streets of the Fairmount

neighborhood. This prompted advocacy for resident parking stickers. Now, other neighborhood groups are beginning to debate the effectiveness of the issue.

Since recreational marijuana has been legalized in Boston, the struggle this year has been trying to find places for dispensaries. Two potential marijuana dispensaries have high hopes to open in the former Serino's site at 931 Hyde Park Avenue.

One is a local man from Roslindale who will sell pre-packaged marijuana. The other is an Arizona-based company which would process marijuana and distribute it on-site.

Fairmount Avenue was the scene of many notable events.

One of them was this summer's major HP 150 event, the Festival in the Streets. On June 16, Fairmount Avenue, Logan and Cleary Squares were transformed into a carnival-like atmosphere. The Blue Hills Bank parking lot became a mini-beer garden, selling tickets to enjoy craft beers at the 21-plus event.

The stage at the center of the four-hour festival, which attracted an estimated 2,000 people, had three bands with singers performing disco jams, 80s covers and other tunes to pump up the crowd. Local restaurants served food outdoors while artisans from The Switch displayed their crafts for sale.

Because of the success of the event, HP 150 organizers said they expected the event to be held on a more frequent basis, not in another 150 years.

Another landmark event on Fairmount Avenue was the 37th anniversary of Riverside Theatre Works. On June 1, 1981, Marietta Phinney founded Riverside Theatre Works in her backyard "down by the riverside" of the Neponset River with 12 students. Her mission now is to make Fairmount Avenue the "Avenue of the Arts."

One of these students was P. J. Terranova. Now 47, Terranova in 2018 took the role as RTW's Executive Artistic and Educational Director. He had assumed several positions at the theater after he brought the skills he had honed at RTW to Broadway in "Jesus Christ Superstar."

This fall, Terranova made an emotional return to the stage for the first time in RTW's production of "A Chorus Line." His role in developing youth theater, he had said, is hoping will become part of fulfilling Phinney's dream of making Fairmount Avenue the "Avenue of the Arts."

Another project that is in the works is the restoration of the neighboring historic Everett Square Theatre. This venture has been spearheaded by real estate firm owner and neighborhood philanthropist Pat Tierney.

According to a study done by students from Boston College students as part of a Field Projects in Real Estate Course in 2017, the estimated cost of restoring the theater would be \$10 million.

The theater, a city landmark, first opened as a vaudeville theater in 1915 and later hosted other live performances. It was also known as The Pixie Theater, a cinema which showed classics including "Grease," "Star Wars" and "Saturday Night Fever."

Art activities flourished in Hyde Park. The Hyde Park Art Association, through the Menino Arts Center, held several successful exhibits. One of the most notable ones, especially considering Hyde Park's anniversary, was the celebration of the 54th Regiment.

This reenactment exhibition had portrayals of soldiers and officers of the first African American regiment for the North, stationed at Camp Meigs in Readville. It attracted dozens of patrons over the course of several days.

There were both children's and adults exhibits showing replicas of the uniforms, tents and even the food that the soldiers ate. The soldiers, dressed in uniform, described what it was like to serve under those conditions, some having escaped from slavery.

Their valiant service, which eventually united the country, was portrayed in the movie, "Glory." The film starred Denzel Washington and Matthew Broderick.

Hyde Park also saw the Urban Arts Festival at the Martini Shell at Truman Parkway. Hundreds flocked to see a steamroller press paper and ink into wooden carvings to create unique works of art.

In addition, there was a "Battle of the Arts to create a piece of artwork in a contest setting within a three-hour time frame. Dance troupes, a rapper, poets, singers and spoken word artists performed while artisans showed off their creations for sale and enjoyment.

Artists at Large hosted a number of art exhibits at the library, including several by artists in the Haitian community. One of the most popular was recently on display. "Biomimicry" by artist Yves Rigaud of the Haitian Artists Assembly of Massachusetts (HAAM) showed paintings made from microscopic pictures of butterflies and other insects with stunning color, detail and technique.

The environment took a prominent role in the neighborhood as well, with the semiannual cleanups of the Neponset River in the Spring and fall. Shopping cars, tires and even a scooter were dredged out by dedicated troops of volunteers from Truman Park-

Hyde Park 2018
Continued on page 13



Boston Water and Sewer Commission

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Cool it! Can it! Trash it!
Pour grease into a covered disposable container and put it into the trash.

Should I take Widow's Benefits or Retirement Benefits?

Dear Rusty: I am 58 years old. My spouse passed away last year, and I am entitled to survivor benefits. I am trying to plan for when I can retire from working, but don't know if I should take my widow's benefit or my own Social Security. I called Social Security twice and have received two different answers. If I claim Social Security at 62, will I receive 70 or 80% of the full amount? This makes a huge difference in deciding when I should retire. Signed: Widowed Worker

Dear Widowed Worker: There are two different types of Social Security benefits that you need to be concerned with – your benefit as a survivor; and your own SS retirement benefit which you have earned from working all your life. The thing to keep in mind is that any time any Social Security benefit is taken earlier than one's full retirement age, it is reduced (born in 1960 your normal full retirement age (FRA) is age 67).

You will be eligible for your survivor's benefit when you reach age 60 (unless you're disabled in which case it's 50). But if you take the survivor's benefit at 60 it will only be about 71.5% of what

you would get by waiting until your full retirement age to claim it. Your FRA as a widow is less than your normal FRA; your widow's FRA is 66 years and 8 months. The reduction for claiming the survivor's benefit earlier than your widow's FRA is about 4.75% per year early. Your survivor's benefit will reach its maximum (100% of what your husband was entitled to at his death) when you reach your widow's full retirement age, but it does not continue to grow if you wait beyond that to claim it.

You will be eligible to collect your own Social Security retirement benefits from your lifetime work record when you reach 62 years of age, but if you take it at age 62 you will only get 70% of what you would get by waiting until your full retirement age of 67. SS retirement benefits are reduced by 6.7% per year for the first 3 years claimed early and 5% per year for anything more than 3 years, so with an FRA of 67 your benefit would be cut by 30% at age 62. Unlike survivor's benefits, your retirement benefit continues to grow in value (by 8% per year) until you are 70 years of age. So, at age 70 you can get a retirement benefit, which is 24% more



Russell Gloor
AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

than you would get at your full retirement age. Here's an example, assuming your Social Security retirement benefit at your normal FRA is \$1000: If you claim at age 62 your benefit amount will be \$700/month; claim at age 70 your benefit amount will be \$1240/month.

Your wisest approach will be to determine which type of benefit will pay you the most for the rest of your life. If that is your survivor's benefit, then you might consider taking your own SS retirement benefit at age 62 and collect that until your survivor benefit reaches maximum at age 66 + 8 months and claim the survivor benefit then. If your own SS retire-

ment benefit will pay more at age 70 than your survivor benefit will pay at your widow's full retirement age, then you can consider collecting your survivor's benefit until your own SS benefit reaches maximum at age 70 and switch to the higher benefit (your own) at that time. You have a choice of which benefit to take and when, but whenever you apply you should be very explicit which benefit you are apply-

ing for. If you want to take the survivor's benefit and let your own grow, you should apply saying "I am applying for survivor's benefits only; I want my retirement benefit to grow." If you are applying for your own SS retirement benefit, you should apply saying "I am applying for my retirement benefit only; I want my survivor's benefit to grow until my widow's full retirement age."

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.



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Around the Neighborhood

CITY

NEW WINTER ICE SKATING CLASSES AT 11 GREATER BOSTON RINKS

Bay State Skating School is one of Greater Boston's most established and popular skating programs. We are celebrating 50 YEARS of teaching children on the Greater Boston area! Professional Instructors teach Recreational, Figure and Hockey Skating Skills to the beginner, intermediate and advanced skaters. Students can wear either figure, recreational or hockey skates. New and ongoing lessons at 11 Greater Boston Rink locations including; Brookline-Cleveland Circle, Larz Anderson/Brookline, Cambridge, Medford, Newton-Brighton, Quincy, Somerville, Waltham, West Roxbury, and Weymouth.

Our emphasis is on having fun while learning to skate. Kids learn the basic skills of ice skating. We have taught over 90,000 students to ice skate. Our Learn-To-Skate program is a great steppingstone for kids that want to play hockey or move onto other competitive skating sports. For more information and to registration, visit www.BayStateSkatingSchool.org or call Bay State Skating School (781) 890-8480.

A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION: THE POWER OF PUBLIC MONUMENTS & WHY THEY MATTER

Wednesday, January 9th @ 6:30pm, Tremont Temple,

Boston On Wednesday, January 9th, the National Parks Service, Friends of the Public Garden, City of Boston, and Museum of African American History will host A Community Conversation: The Power of Public Monuments & Why They Matter with an introduction by Karen Holmes Ward and featuring moderator Beverly Morgan-Welch (National Museum of African American History and Culture) and panelists DeRay McKessen (Black Lives Matter activist and author), Renee Ater (American Public Art historian), and F. Sheffield Hale (President and CEO, Atlanta History Center).

The Shaw 54th Memorial on the Boston Common has been called "one of the monuments that changed America." More than 120 years old, the Memorial is positioned strategically on Boston Common opposite the Massachusetts State House. This conversation will deepen the community's dialogue about race, freedom, and justice and raise awareness of the significance of the memorial and the story it tells.

<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-community-conversation-the-power-of-public-monuments-why-they-matter-registration-53353384409>

FRANKLIN PARK ZOO

In honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, admission to Franklin Park Zoo is free

WHAT: In honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Franklin Park Zoo will offer free admission on Monday, Jan. 14, 2019.

At Franklin Park Zoo, guests are invited to write messages of hope and peace on the mural that will be located within the Tropical Forest Pavilion. This is a wonderful opportunity to spend a memorable day with family and friends while learning about fascinating wildlife from all over the world

WHEN: January 14, 2019 @ 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Please note: Last admission will be at 3:30 p.m.

TICKETS: In honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, admission to Franklin Park Zoo will be FREE on Monday, Jan. 14, 2019.

ALLSTON / BRIGHTON

ABCD FUEL ASSISTANCE

Do you know anyone struggling with the high costs of heating their home or apartment? Apply for Fuel Assistance to get help with heating bills! Open to residents of Boston, Malden, Medford, Everett, Brookline, and Newton. Call or email the ABCD Allston/Brighton Neighborhood Opportunity Center for more information: 617-903-3640 amelia.youngstrom@bostonabcd.org.

PROGRAMS AT THE BRIGHTON LIBRARY

TWO DAY BOOK SALE

Friends of the Brighton Branch Library, Friday, January 11, 2019, Saturday, January 12, 2019 @ 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

RIDING THROUGH WINTER FORUM (BRIGHTON)

Thursday, January 24,

2019, 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Join the Boston Transportation Department to share tips for bicycling through the winter season. Our Riding Through Winter Forums include a short presentation and interactive discussion among attendees. If you've wanted to ride your bike (or Bluebikes!) through a Boston winter, but weren't sure where to start, these forums are for you! And if you have been riding through winter, consider joining us to share your tips.

Brighton Branch Library 40 Academy Hill Rd, Brighton Email Contact: Samuel.Beeker@Boston.Gov

FRIENDS OF THE BRIGHTON BRANCH LIBRARY

Thursday, January 31, 2019 @ 6:30 pm

Latest book written by Anthony Sammarco, the president of the friends of the Brighton Branch Library. The contemporary photos in the book are done by Peter Kingman. Anthony will talk about his book.

Brighton Branch Library 40 Academy Hill Rd, Brighton

Book Discussion Group

A book discussion group meets at the Brighton Library/40 Academy Hill Road (617) 782-6032 on the last Wednesday of each month at 11:15 am. The featured selection for December 26th will be Charming Billy by Alice McDermott. Copies of the book are available at the branch. Everyone is invited and new members 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 af-

ternoon 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.

WEST ROXBURY / ROSLINDALE

BCYF OHRENBERGER COMMUNITY CENTER PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

The Ohrenberger Community Center Preschool is a child-oriented program in which a variety of learning centers encourage exploration, experimentation and discovery. Classroom centers include block building, games, art, science, literature, and music. The use of the gymnasium, playground and mobile equipment allows daily programming for active play. The daily schedule also includes time for group activities, stations, indoor and outdoor play, story time, crafts, free play, baking and daily snacks. The program is designed to provide a warm, supportive environment and a balanced program of activities which will foster a child's emotional, social, physical, and intellectual development. The program is offered from September through June, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm for 3 & 4 year olds (child must be 3 years old by September 1st). Five, three and two day programs are available. Children must bring their own brown bagged lunch. For more general program information, call Grace at 617-635-5183. If interested in registering for the program, please email occpreschool175@gmail.com by January 12th.

HOLY NAME BLOOD DRIVE

Holy Name Parish will host a blood drive on Saturday, January 12th 8:00AM - 2:00PM

Appointments: Logontinyurl.com/HolyNameJan2019

Eligibility Questions: Email BloodDonor@partners.org or call (617) 632-3206

Appointments recommended.

Walk-ins taken as time allows. As a special thank you, donors will receive a Kraft Family Blood Donor Center Sweatshirt!

PHOTO ID REQUIRED FOR ALL DONORS



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.

To the Doctor: I have a 2015 Chevy Silverado 1500 long wheelbase, regular cab truck with 20-inch wheels. I purchased this truck new. It suffers from what the service manager describes as the "Chevy shake." We discussed the shocks, tires and drive shaft, but changing them and wheel balancing doesn't help. The service manager has a 1/2 ton four-door truck with the shake and says GM admits to this intermittent highway speed shaking problem but they do not have a fix for it. Several of my friends with these Chevys have the same problem. Got any ideas as to what is going on with these trucks?

From the Doctor: You are not the first to experience a shake or vibration on some 1500 pickups. I have seen it all over the years. Transmission and torque converters are the most common issues that cause a shake. Very seldom it is axle related.

To the Doctor: I operate a small auto repair shop. What is your opinion on which operating system I should buy into as well as your thoughts on Identifix?

From the Doctor: I have been using both systems for 30 plus years. In the old days I may have been able to both figure out a drive-ability problem as well as using a pen to write up a work order. I did hesitate to spend the money required to buy into either system because I did not know if I could afford it. Within three months, the system had starting paying for itself and I never looked back. You cannot afford not to buy into the systems.

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.

Deadline

The deadline for all press releases for The Bulletin is Friday.

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Spring Cleaning *continued from page 1*



A full toilet, vehicle gas tank, couch and a car jack were among the usual trash found at the site. Members said they cleaned up this stretch only three months ago, and still had dozens of trash bags.

PHOTO BY JEFF SULLIVAN

Amazon delivery vans and Katsiroubas Produce. She said they had to take down the signs for the winter season so they could survive for the spring.

“So they won’t get ruined by the snow and plows,” she said. “We came and took down the signs and noticed how much trash there was and we said we should put together a quick clean up for the weekend and see how many people come out.”

Horn said winter cleanups are tough, as trash can be hard to pick up when its frozen, stuck to the mud or asphalt, and

she said they are planning for spring.

“We are starting a series called Coffee Talk at the new coffee place Coffee Break (formerly Bean and Cream) and once a month we’re going to have a ‘come talk to KHPB’ thing there,” she said. “We’ll have a couple of our reps there and whoever wants to come talk to us and meet with us about problem areas or ideas they have for beautification, cleanups or if they’re interested in volunteering can come talk to us and, if they bring their own mug, they get a free cup of coffee!”

Horn said dates are still being worked out but they should have a formal announcement in the spring.

The area has been a place of love for resident Jim LaFond Lewis for about six or seven years now. He said he’s been cleaning up every so often here by himself, and he’s glad to get the help from KHPB.

“Well, I’m an amateur photographer and I started taking pictures of this place in the winter,” he said. “I thought how beautiful it was, but as spring rolled around, I realized I had

to move some stuff to get the photographs I wanted. I quickly decided that I owed this beauty some payback and I started cleaning up.”

He said the last time he was out cleaning was three months ago. Despite finding a full toilet, a gas tank, a hydraulic car jack and the better part of a couch, LaFond-Lewis said this was not the worst time he’s been out cleaning.

“It was much worse the first year I did it,” he said.

In the first month he started collecting, LaFond-Lewis said he picked up a host of items that included, but not limited to, a television, thousands of beer and brandy bottles, an industrial sized mop wringer, a steel milk crate, a plastic milk crate, a tire and wheel, paint cans, a car battery, planter pots, cassette tapes, DVDs, CDs, MA license plate 9058 DH, a \$20.00 bill, a street sign, a car muffler, a pair of car shocks, three whole intact bags of household waste, a mag wheel and a decomposing raccoon carcass (presumably in a decomposing pear tree).

“The toilets, that’s a new one, but I’ve seen refrigerators, couches and an unexploded World War II mortar, which was detonated by the Boston Police Bomb Squad, and a stack of used adult diapers and construction debris,” he said. “But that’s minor compared to the regular trash we see here, from people who don’t want to take responsibility for their trash.

And some of them are local.”

LaFond-Lewis said he is occasionally able to track down some of those local persons who litter, including the owner of the stack of used adult diapers.

Resident Katherine MacDonald said she started volunteering for KHPB a few years ago and has had an amazing time with the people she’s met there.

“It’s a good way to get some exercise,” she said. “I met up with Cathy and my other friends at KHPB. I joined because I got tired of seeing this stuff. I used to live on Hyde Park Avenue near Meigs Playground, and so I’m familiar with this area biking and walking. I want people to have pride of place, pride in where they live, and if this example of picking up trash can help somebody else to join, then all the better. But mostly, I hate trash!”

Residents Janet Smith and Diane Cylik said they joined when KHPB started and she said they saw this notification and felt it was a good day to come out.

“It’s beautiful trash-picking weather,” said Smith. “Though I have to admit, if it was snowing, we wouldn’t be here.”

Cylik said they have had to postpone cleanups in the past because of snow, but otherwise not much in the way of weather ever stops them. For more information on KHPB and to keep up with upcoming clean ups, go to keepbeautiful.org.



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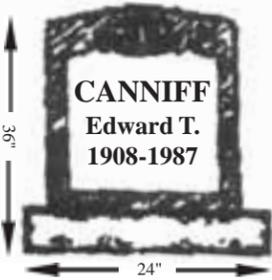
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Deaths

ELLIS



Robert "Bob" Of Largo, FL, formerly of Walpole, passed away unexpectedly on December 15th, after a courageous battle with cancer. Son of the late Louis and Doris Ellis. Beloved husband of Maria (Pittore) Ellis. Loving father of Nikki Muraca and her husband Don of Watertown, Jaclyn Donovan and her husband Dan of Weisbaden, Germany, and Robert Ellis and his wife Karli of Otisfield, ME. Cherished Papa to Brenan, Nicholas, Colin, Jordan, Blake, Carys, and Brynn. Brother of Louis Ellis, Michael Ellis, Patricia Lennon, and Ann Marie Jacobs. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Relatives and friends are kindly invited to join the family for visitation in the William J. Gormley Funeral Home, 2055 Centre Street, WEST ROXBURY on Saturday, January 5, at 10:30 a.m.

Interment Mount Benedict Cemetery. Following burial, Bob's family welcomes you to join them in Celebrating Bob's Life at the Boston Lodge of Elks, 248 Spring Street, West Roxbury. In lieu of flowers, donations in Bob's memory may be made to Dana Farber Cancer Institute, P.O. Box 849168, Boston, MA 02284-9168. For directions and guestbook, please visit: gormleyfuneral.com William J. Gormley Funeral Service 617-323-8600

GAUGHRAN



Helen F. (Hamill) Of West Roxbury, passed away on December 26, 2018. Beloved wife of the late William E. Gaughran. Devoted mother of Nona Murphy of FL, and Barry Gaughran and his wife Helen of West Roxbury. Loving grandmother of Lisa Brunet, Joey Murphy, and Brett and Colin Gaughran. Great-grandmother of Sean, Denis, Chris-

tian, Sara, Caitlin and Meghan. Sister of Nancy Flaherty of NC, and the late Shirley Lennon, Peggy Gaughran, and Frank Hamill. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Longtime bookkeeper for Bay State Battery Corp, Dedham/Canton, and Ace Auto and Plate Glass, West Roxbury. A funeral was held on Saturday, December 29th, followed by a Funeral Mass at St. Theresa of Avila, West Roxbury. Interment Knollwood Memorial Park, Canton. Expressions of sympathy may be made in Helen's memory to Deutsches Altenheim, 2222 Centre St., West Roxbury, MA 02132. For guestbook pemurrayfuneral.com. P.E. Murray - F.J. Higgins George F. Doherty & Sons West Roxbury 617 325 2000

HUNT

Mary A. (Flatley) Age 100, of Hyde Park, formerly of Brookline, passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family on Saturday, December 29, 2018. Beloved wife of the late John J. Hunt. Devoted mother of John F. Hunt and his wife Charlotte of Holliston; Mary McEntee and her husband Timothy of Kittery, Maine; Edward Hunt and his wife Claire of Walpole; Eileen Hunt of Hull and Anne Hunt of Hyde Park. Loving grandmother of 18 grandchildren and

Deaths

Continued on page 11

School Committee *continued from page 2*

ing district policies and practices to support student achievement.

"We are pleased to welcome Quoc Tran to the Boston School Committee, and look forward to working with him on the important issues facing our students, educators and schools in 2019 and beyond," said Michael Loconto, Chair of the Boston School Committee. "These appointments come at crucial time as we continue moving forward on key issues that will enhance learning opportunities for students, including the continued roll out of BuildBPS facilities upgrades and the hiring of a new permanent superintendent. On behalf of the School Committee, we thank all members for their service and are excited to continue this work together."

In his current role at the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Tran develops and implements diversity and inclusion strategies for over 22,000 employees, and creates diversity and affirmative action plans to retain a diverse workforce. Prior to this role, he was the executive director of the Vietnamese American Civic As-

sociation (VACA), where he managed all operations of the organization related to serving the social and public assistance needs of Vietnamese refugees and immigrants. Tran was a BPS high school teacher for six years and is parent of Boston Latin School students. He holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering and a master's degree in education from Northeastern University, and a doctoral degree in law from Suffolk University. He currently resides in Dorchester.

"I am very honored to have received Mayor Walsh's trust and confidence in appointing me to this very important Boston School Committee," said Quoc Tran. "I look forward to working alongside all other Committee members in ensuring the highest quality possible that our city's school system deserves."

Jeri Robinson, first appointed by Mayor Walsh in 2014, brings more than 40 years of experience in teaching and consulting in the fields of early childhood and museum education. She recently retired from her role at the Boston Children's Museum, where she

developed programs and outreach to further the Museum's early childhood agenda, seeking new sources of funding for educational initiatives and developing current resources. She holds a bachelor's degree and master's degree in education, and an honorary doctorate in education from Wheelock College, and serves on numerous boards dealing with family, community, multicultural, and early childhood education issues. She lives in Dorchester.

The seven members of the School Committee are Boston residents appointed by the Mayor of Boston to serve four-year staggered terms. Mayor Walsh made these appointments based on a list of candidates recommended by a 13-member Citizens Nominating Panel composed of parents, teachers, principals, and representatives of business and higher education. Under the legislation that established the appointed School Committee, "the Mayor shall strive to appoint individuals who reflect the racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic diversity of the city."

Deaths *continued from page 10*

13 great-grandchildren. Sister of Ellen Neshe and the late Edward Flatley. She was the daughter of the late Dermot and Agnes Flatley. Also survived by many neices and nephews. Mary had many interests, but, was most important to her were her kids and grandkids. Everyone who met her fell in love with her. A funeral from the William J. Gormley Funeral Home, 2055 Centre Street, WEST ROXBURY on Friday, January 4, at 9:00 a.m. followed by a Mass of Christian Burial in St. John Chrysostom Church, 4750 Washington Street, West Roxbury at 10 O'clock. Relatives and friends are kindly invited to attend. Visiting hours Thursday from 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Interment Mount Benedict Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations in Mary's memory may be made to Autism Speaks, 85 Devonshire Street, 9th floor, Boston, MA 02109 (autismspeaks.org). For directions and guestbook, please visit: gormleyfuneral.com William J. Gormley Funeral Service 617-323-8600

KALIVAS

Stratigoula "Stella" (Tsaousis) Of Roslindale, formerly of Greece, December 28, 2018. Beloved mother of Sophia Egan and her husband Kevin of Hyde Park, Dimitria Higgins and her husband John of West Roxbury, and the late Peter Kalivas. Devoted grandmother of Peter and Daniel Egan, and Elizabeth and Rebecca Kalivas. A funeral Service was held in St. Nectarios Greek Orthodox Church, 39 Belgrade Ave., Roslindale. Interment Forest Hills Cemetery. www.lawlerfuneralhome.com Lawler & Crosby Funeral Home 617-323-5600

KUTTAB



George of Cheriton Heights, West Roxbury passed away on December 22, 2018. Beloved husband of Afaf Battikha. Devoted father of Rana Kuttat and her husband Samir Abed Al Nour, John Kuttat and his wife Samira Richa Kuttat, and Raja Kuttat and his wife Basema Nemeh. Loving grandfather of Fuad, Karim,

Joud, Maria, George, Paul, Andrew, and Alexander. Brother of Edmond Kuttat, Jamileh Berni, Lydia Kuttat, and the late Shukri, Isa, and Samir Kuttat. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. A funeral Service was held at St. George Orthodox Church 55 Emmonsdale Rd. West Roxbury on Wednesday, December 26th. Interment St. Mary's Cemetery, West Roxbury. Expressions of sympathy may be made in George's memory to St. George Orthodox Church 55 Emmonsdale Rd. West Roxbury, MA 02132. Arrangements by P.E. Murray - F.J. Higgins Funeral Home, West Roxbury.

McLAUGHLIN

Imelda M (Phelan) Of Roslindale, Dec. 30, age 87. Beloved wife of the late James A. McLaughlin; loving mother of James A. McLaughlin, Jr., and William McLaughlin of Roslindale, MaryEllen Hansen and her husband Tom of West Roxbury; grandmother of Julia Hansen; sister of William Phalen of Salem, and the late Mary, Alice, John Phalen and Ellen O'Neill; also survived by several nieces and nephews. Imelda was a graduate of Boston City Hospital School of Nursing class of 1952. Funeral from the P.E. Murray - F.J. Higgins George F. Doherty & Sons, 2000 Center St., WEST ROXBURY, Monday, Jan. 7, at 9am, followed by a Funeral Mass in Holy Name Church, West Roxbury, at 10am. Relatives and friends kindly invited. Visiting hours Sunday, Jan. 6, from 2-5pm in the Funeral Home. Interment St. Josephs Cemetery, West Roxbury. For directions and guestbook . www.pemurrayfuneral.com P.E. Murray - F.J. Higgins George F. Doherty & Sons West Roxbury 617-325-2000

O'BRIEN

William J. Captain B.F.D., (Ret.) in Naples, Florida, December 25, 2018, formerly of

West Roxbury. Visiting hours Sunday, January 6th from 3-8pm. Funeral Mass Monday, January 7th in St. Theresa Church at 10am. Complete notice to appear on Thursday, January 3, 2019. William J. Gormley Funeral Service 617-323-8600

SAWAN

Elsa (Benhur) Of West Roxbury, passed peacefully on December 30th, surrounded by her loving family, at the age of 80. Beloved wife of Joseph S. Sawan of 55 years. Devoted mother of George Sawan and his wife Anne of Medfield, and Joseph Sawan Jr. and his wife Michelle of Sherborn. Cherished sister of Janet Nore of Dover, and the late Georgina Aude of Roslindale. Loving "Sitto" of Anna, Joseph, George Jr., Steven, Harry, Jillian, Natalie, Teddy, Eliza, and Bella Sawan. Also survived by many loving cousins, nieces, nephews, in-laws and friends. Visiting Hours will be held Wednesday evening, from 4-8 p.m. at the Carroll-Thomas Funeral Home, 22 Oak Street, HYDE PARK. Relatives and friends invited. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated Thursday morning at 10 a.m. at Our Lady of the Cedars of Lebanon Church, 61 Rockwood St., Jamaica Plain. Interment at Mt. Benedict Cemetery, West Roxbury. Please, in lieu of flowers, all donations can be made to Our Lady of the Cedars of Lebanon Church, 61 Rockwood St., Jamaica Plain 02130. For directions and guestbook, please visit thomasfuneralhomes.com

Obituary Policy

The Bulletin Newspapers and The Boston People's Voice publishes obituaries from information supplied by funeral homes. Relatives and friends also may supplement information by e-mailing to news@bulletinnewspapers.com by Monday at 1 p.m. Photos also will be accepted.

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Holiday Cheer continued from page 1

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Patriots CB Stephon Gilmore joined JP resident Marisa and her family recently when she spent her Shop with a Cop money on her family.

PHOTO BY BPDNews

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or hard about who the Pats CB needed to go shopping for. In fact, in the days after the Shop with a Cop event, Dias couldn't stop thinking about Marisa, a 12-year-old girl from Bromley Heath, whose generous spirit and big-hearted innocence seemingly personified everything the holiday season is supposed to be about. Dias could not have been more impressed with her generosity and her generosity most certainly separated her from the pack.

In fact, of the 400 kids given the opportunity to go shopping for themselves at this year's Shop with a Cop, there was one, who, instead, chose to go shopping for others. As Dias watched, 12-year-old Marisa proceeded to buy clothes for her parents, her two little brothers and her older sister, older by a year, who suffers from severe paralysis and, consequently, spends majority of her time in a wheelchair. When Dias noticed that Marisa had purchased

a few stuffed animals, Marisa explained to him that her older sister loved the softness of stuffed animals. She further explained that her sister had difficulty holding things given her paralysis, but she could hold soft things like stuffed animals. Said Dias, "I couldn't get over how special this little girl was. Not a selfish bone in her body. I was so impressed that I wanted to celebrate her generosity in some way and then, out of the blue, I get a call from Stephon."

Last night, a few hours after helping his team defeat the Buffalo Bills by the score of 24 - 12, Patriots CB Stephon Gilmore chose to celebrate the Pats 10th consecutive AFC East title in a

different way. While accompanied by Boston Police Officer George Dias and several other officers assigned to District E-13 (Jamaica Plain), Gilmore visited a few families and stopped by a few apartments with one, of course, being Marisa's apartment inside the Bromley Heath Housing Complex. Suffice to say, Gilmore and Dias were on a mission Santa Claus himself couldn't deny and would wholeheartedly endorse. And, as you can see by the photos, Gilmore spared no expense in making sure that Marisa and her family would enjoy an extra special Christmas this year. Said Dias, "It's a moment Marisa and her family will never forget. And, the best part, she deserves every bit of it."

Affordable Housing

continued from page 1

we thought would be appropriate, the first thing we do is meet with the local folks and the people who would be most affected," Woods said.

The need for affordable housing in the City of Boston is great. A recent study found that though a fifth of the city's housing units are income-restricted, the city is still seeing many residents priced out of their homes at alarming rates. That's why Woods said they are working to increase the number of units they can offer.

"I think the thing that's most compelling to me is that of the 506 units we have in our portfolio, there is a current wait list of about 17,000 people," he said. "We're going through a purge process now to make sure people who are on the list are still interested, but even if we can cut that number in half, that's still way too many people."

Recently, the ABCDC reopened its property at 1285 Comm. Ave. in Allston, which has 118 dwelling units. It was a monumental undertaking, especially since it was a phased construction that allowed each resident to stay in their units for the majority of construction. Woods said it was a complicated financing structure that allowed them to renovate the building.

"That was one complex financing structure on another already complex financing structure," he said. "That's the thing with a lot of the affordable housing in our portfolio; they were created with a combination of these public and private resources that are sort of a big Gordian knot. It's a very complex set of requirements we need to adhere to in order to both maintain the properties and go ahead and improve them. In the past, a lot of the agencies we dealt with have relationships with public Boston community capital. The Local Initiative Support Corporation out of Boston, they help a lot and then, of course, the private lenders tend to step up and provide us with some attractive financing."

The ABCDC also provides residents with referrals, support and new programs to help residents figure out home-buying. The group has also hosted health and wellness events, ESOL workshops, coffeehours, food pantries and holds social events as well. For more information on the ABCDC, go to <http://allstonbrightoncdc.org/>

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First Night *continued from page 1*

Walker got her to come out for the first time this year.

“What made me come out was they were at the senior center and they had people signing up for First Night,” said Brandt. “I was thinking they meant the one they have at the Copley, but they told me it was during the day so I said, ‘oh why not.’”

Brandt said she was having a great time.

“It’s good because you don’t have to do it at night and it’s nice to see people you haven’t run into in a while,” she said.

Many people brought friends and family to the celebration to show them what it was all about, like resident Lloyd Smith and Karen Young.

“My brother invited me so I thought I’d come,” said Young. “It’s my first time and it’s just great to see some of these seniors out, some who might not have families, and it’s good to see people in the company of others like themselves and just to socialize. When I walked in I was just like ‘whoah.’”

Smith said he’s been coming for five or six years and wouldn’t miss it for the

world.

“I want to get out of the house and meet people, and I’ve had a great time,” he said. “They’ve got to change the food though, we need some chicken.”

Residents Georgiana Forte and Terese Stravinsky said they also came for the first time after seeing an ad in a magazine.

“We just said why not,” said Stravinsky.

Forte said it was amazing that they were able to transport so many folks to the Seaport World Trade Center in a neighborhood plagued by parking issues. Many residents took the MBTA Ride or shuttles that were set up for that purpose.

“We took the Ride, but everybody’s going to get home and it’s just a lot of logistics,” she said. “It’s been a great time for us, the volunteers are great and the food is great.”

“I would have liked a salad,” Stravinsky said with a laugh.

“We’ve been coming here for years,” said one resident. “We’re in a fishing club and we come every year. It’s very good. The mayor’s doing a great job.”



Hundreds of seniors stepped on the dance floor during the party, as well as had free meals provided by the city.

COURTESY PHOTO

Hyde Park 2018 *continued from page 6*

way to Mattapan.

Neighborhood groups including Keep Hyde Park Beautiful spearheaded cleanup efforts, the most recent being on December 30 at Meadow Road. The Neponset River Greenway Council, led by the efforts of Jessica Mink, has been organizing walking tours of the river and meets quarterly in Hyde Park.

This spring, Hyde Park lost a decades long community activist in the late Barbara Baxter. She was greatly involved in the

Hyde Park Neighborhood Association as well as the cleanup of the Neponset River and other community endeavors.

In her honor, a fund has been established to buy flowers, in testimony to her love of the environment. These were planted along the canoe launch near the Martini Shell, where she loved to enjoy the view.

To end the year, some noteworthy visitors came to the community center to enjoy the Anderson Tree Lighting festivities. Wally the Green Monster and his

partner, Tessie, came sporting the World Series trophy. Delighted Red Sox fans of all ages had their pictures taken with the trophy, nearly besting the number of pictures taken with a jolly soul from the North Pole – Santa himself.

Hyde Park displayed its vibrancy through community activism, passion for the arts, willingness to become involved in preserving the environment and volunteering in efforts that display their community pride in a myriad of ways.

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Letters *continued from page 4*

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court – Probate and Family Court Department
SUFFOLK Division Docket No. **SU18C0645CA**
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME **Suffolk Probate and Family Court**
24 New Chardon St.
Boston, MA 02114
617-788-8300

In the Matter of: Jeanette Anita Webster
A change of name has been filed by
Jeanette Anita Webster of Hyde Park, MA
requesting that he court enter a Decree changing their name to:
Jeanette Webster Nobles

IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Suffolk Probate and Family Court** before 10:00 a.m on the return day of 01/10/2019.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court
Date: December 21, 2018
Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate

Hyde Park Bulletin, 01/03/19

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court Probate and Family Court

INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE **DOCKET No.SU18P2635EA**

Estate of: Clarence W. Remy Suffolk Division
Also Known As: Clarence W. Remy Sr.
Date of Death: 11/02/2018

To all persons interested in the above-captioned estate, by Petition of
Petitioner: Lena M. Remy of Mattapan, MA
Petitioner: Lena M. Remy of Mattapan, MA
has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.
The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

Boston Bulletin, 01/03/19

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court – Probate and Family Court Department
SUFFOLK Division Docket No. **SU15P1502GD**
NOTICE AND ORDER: PETITION FOR RESIGNATION OR
PETITION FOR REMOVAL OF GUARDIAN OF A MINOR

In the matter of: Prynce J Young-Ryder **Suffolk Probate and Family Court**
Of: Dorchester, MA **24 New Chardon Street**
Minor **Boston, MA 02114**

NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

- Hearing Date/Time:** A hearing on a Petition to Resign as Guardian of a Minor or Petition for Removal of Guardian of a Minor filed on by **Latoria Ryder on 11/16/18** will be held **02/11/2019 8:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing**. Located: **Suffolk Probate & Family Court, 24 New Chardon St., Boston, MA 02114**
- Response to Petition:** You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:
File the original with the Court; and Mail a copy to all interested parties at least (5) business days before the hearing.
- Counsel for the Minor:** The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.
- Presence of the Minor at Hearing:** A minor over the age of 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.

Witness, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court
December 19 2018
Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate

Hyde Park Bulletin, 01/03/19

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court – Probate and Family Court Department
SUFFOLK Division Docket No. **SU18P2684GD**
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT
OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT
TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304

In the matter of: Lyn Romano **RESPONDENT**
Of: Roslindale, MA **Alleged Incapacitated Person**

To The named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Brigham & Womens Faulkner Hospital of Jamaica Plain, MA
In the above captioned matter alleging that **Lyn Romano** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that
Jacqueline Irvin of Boston, MA
(or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.
The petition asks the Court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.
You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **01/30/2019**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.
Witness, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court
December 19, 2018
Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate

West Roxbury/Roslindale Bulletin, 01/03/2019

around our homes, including a few of CR's projects.

The questions for any neighborhood is: what will the impact of a developer's proposal have on the surrounding communities' quality of life, including the new residents. With this proposal, we have five main questions.

1. Home-ownership: Almost all the residential development along the American Legion Corridor in the past 20 years, built and proposed, have been rentals. In this low to moderate income, majority minority area, we need more home ownership opportunities for residents to settle in, build wealth, and invest it and themselves into our community.

2. Our parkway: Although most of the city-owned American Legion Hwy. has the same legal protections of its heavily greened adjacent land as the rest of Boston's better known parkways, these laws have mostly been ignored along ALH. The original CR proposal would have removed all the mature trees along 200 feet of ALH right up to the sidewalk. Would such a proposal be made along the Jamaica way? Due to our public neighborhood meetings with the CR team, they heard our concern and moved their proposed building farther from ALH by designing it to have a smaller footprint, hopefully saving about ? acre of trees.

3. Stormwater and flooding: Residents living across ALH on Wilmot and nearby streets are concerned about stormwater flooding. Wilmot's homes are directly across ALH from CR's parcels and at a much lower elevation. Neighbors report that flooding has gotten worse since the Stop and Shop plaza, also across ALH, was rebuilt with an apparently insufficient parking lot drainage system. The system now dumps all the rain it collects into one retaining pool, immediately across from Wilmot St., which according to the neighbors, then drains under ALH directly into the Wilmot St. area. These neighbors are understandably concerned about how the CR team plans on dealing with heavy rains that would fall on their proposed building's roof. Currently, rain waters are absorbed by the parcels' 100% green space.

Residents voicing concerns have successfully led to a redesign of CR's proposed onsite storm rain storage and disposal system. CR's team now claims that their new collection system will hold the heaviest rainfall hitting the building's roof and direct it under the building into large storage vessels, then will release it slowly later. This will not solve the Wilmot St. flooding problem, but CR promises not to add to it.

4. and 5: Traffic and parking. Residents of our side of Roslindale, Mattapan, and Hyde Park are burdened with some of the longest commute times in the city. Public transportation is inadequate and infrequent. Of the 3 bus lines, one runs every 45 minutes 4.5 days/wk., another takes forever, detouring from Forest Hills through Roslindale village then up Cummins, and the third is almost always overcrowded at rush hour. The nearest rapid transit hub is a

mile away and expensive. Biking and walking are dangerous, intimidating and often impractical. We have been trying to improve biking and walking pathways here, but with little success so far. Drivers generally use ALH, which mostly has a 30 mph speed limit, as a racetrack. But until ALH has a multi-modal redesign, transportation will continue to be difficult without a car.

The current large CR proposal, 500 ft. from the already dangerous 5-way Cummins/ALH/Canterbury intersection, would add to the car, parking, and traffic problems. That intersection would become even more difficult for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers too. CR is proposing 62 off street parking spaces and a storage room for bicycles. The parking would be mostly accomplished by the use of mechanical 'stackers' that stack one car above another. From the video, it appears the mechanism will fit only medium and small size cars. Another issue is the potential for more black ice on that steep section of Cummins Hwy. due to shadow from a 6-story tower.

The proposed 52 units could house approx. up to 100 adults. Most non-domestic activities need a car for easy access, and on-street parking is limited to nonexistent. Add to this a garage driveway that opens onto Cummins Hwy., a roadway that is jammed with cars at rush hour. Any car/parking/traffic problems will fall on the shoulders of both the current and the new neighbors living at this building.

One of our neighbors asked "How does this (project) help our neighborhood?". This is a serious question. Our neighborhoods along American Legion have been invisible as neighborhoods to public officials and others for decades. Often our area has been seen as an obvious place to put infrastructure or businesses that no one else would want in their neighborhood. These are not malicious decisions, but they are thoughtless and destructive to our quality of life. And we have not seen much of the public improvements we see in other wealthier neighborhoods. New housing is important, but where are the public improvements for the new residents as well as for those who have lived here for years? CR should help with this through community benefits, but the city and state should provide the bulk of the resources. Adding new residents, without improving public and active transportation and creating walking distance parks, would just perpetuate neighborhood inequities. The city has invested many millions redesigning and rebuilding existing parks elsewhere; some many times over. We are still waiting for our parks. There is land available, and we have plenty of suggestions.

Our neighborhood association has built great relationships with our elected and appointed officials and we have recently begun to see changes. One pocket neighborhood is slated for a 'Slow Streets' makeover to stop the speeding cut-through traffic on our residential streets. A small vacant, bare lot received \$50,000 for a new lawn, six new saplings

and a bench, thanks to advocacy from our D4 City Councilor, Andrea Campbell. A new traffic light at the ALH Dunkin Donuts was installed with support from our State Rep. Russell Holmes. But still, we are far, far behind in neighborhood public improvements.

So, please appreciate the difficulties our neighbors face and that the opinions are based on need and years of experience here in our neighborhoods that we cherish.

*Rick Yoder and
Lisa Beatman
Mt. Hope Canterbury
Neighborhood Association*

ONE IDEA FOR A WEST ROXBURY SCHOOL

To the Editor:

In case you missed the news last week, the Boston School Committee voted unanimously to close the two Academies, Urban Science & West Roxbury, located at what was used to be West Roxbury High School. In the interest of full disclosure, I graduated from West Roxbury High.

Yes, I was a rarity, a West Roxbury kid who attended West Roxbury High.

I will always be grateful to the teachers who pushed me academically, especially the late Mary McLaughlin and its headmaster at the time, Donald Pelligrini.

The writing has been on the wall for a few years now, in my opinion. This year was not the first time the building was on the list to be closed. It was on a preliminary list the previous year as well, but after an uproar from students, parents and faculty, Superintendent Chang chose not to go ahead with the idea.

I commend the students again for fighting to keep the academies open.

It is not an understatement to say the closing will be very disruptive to students and faculty.

The reason for closing it, according to the Boston School Department, is that it is in need of extensive repairs. Once the repairs are done it is supposed to reopen. I hope that is true. We have seen public buildings where we have been told once repaired it will reopen in the past only to be told later it was too expensive to repair and the building eventually winds up being sold by the City to a developer.

Still what the School Committee should be questioning is how was the maintenance allowed to lapse so badly that the decision was made to close the school down? There are a number of schools older than this one still functioning (Joyce Kilmer and the Lyndon, for example).

One idea I had is that since the school is closing at least for a few years, The City of Boston should begin discussions with the people supporting Roxbury Prep to relocate it there. It would be a better location than the postage sized property on Belgrade Ave. Just thought I would throw it out there.

*Stephen Smith
Boston*

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Thank You for Making Us #1 in 2018!

STREET	CITY	SALE PRICE	SALE DATE
25 Nikisch Avenue	Roslindale	\$829,000	1/5/2018
6 Rawston Road	Roslindale	\$575,000	1/5/2018
10 Orange Street	Roslindale	\$500,000	1/10/2018
27 Nikisch Avenue	Roslindale	\$830,000	1/16/2018
26 Highfield Road	Roslindale	\$360,000	1/16/2018
46-48 Raldne Road	Hyde Park	\$330,000	1/23/2018
70 Cowing Street	West Roxbury	\$625,000	1/26/2018
53 Wren Street	West Roxbury	\$1,195,000	1/26/2018
1560 Commonwealth Avenue	Brighton	\$210,000	2/2/2018
12 Westmount Avenue	West Roxbury	\$920,000	2/14/2018
69 Seymour	Roslindale	\$485,000	2/15/2018
23 Lenniston Street	Roslindale	\$547,000	2/16/2018
33 Bonair	West Roxbury	\$825,000	2/21/2018
13 Winslow Street	Hyde Park	\$367,000	2/28/2018
69 Seymour	Roslindale	\$500,000	2/28/2018
1694 Centre Street	West Roxbury	\$560,000	2/28/2018
78 Hewlett Street #1	Roslindale	\$500,000	3/5/2018
14 Newburg Street	Roslindale	\$834,000	3/5/2018
69 Seymour	Roslindale	\$469,000	3/9/2018
78 Hewlett St #2	Roslindale	\$540,500	3/9/2018
21 Leighton Road	Hyde Park	\$400,000	3/16/2018
259 Willow Street	West Roxbury	\$569,000	3/16/2018
232 Jamaicaaway	Jamaica Plain	\$685,000	3/29/2018
61 Averton Street	Roslindale	\$615,000	3/29/2018
42 Beacon St	Hyde Park	\$545,000	3/30/2018
9 Deforest Street	Hyde Park	\$430,000	3/30/2018
320 Cornell Street	Roslindale	\$775,000	4/4/2018
128 Salman St	West Roxbury	\$540,000	4/18/2018
18 Robert Street	Roslindale	\$541,500	4/20/2018
69 Mount Vernon St	West Roxbury	\$639,000	4/27/2018
180 Telford Street	Allston	\$635,000	4/30/2018
249 Kittredge Street	Roslindale	\$633,000	4/30/2018
316 Park Street	West Roxbury	\$1,175,000	5/1/2018
251 Kittredge Street	Roslindale	\$632,826	5/4/2018
574-576 Lagrange	West Roxbury	\$670,000	5/16/2018
990 VFW Parkway	West Roxbury	\$510,000	5/18/2018
145-147 Chestnut Ave	Jamaica Plain	\$551,000	5/24/2018
109 Deforest	Roslindale	\$405,000	5/24/2018
10 Houston Street	West Roxbury	\$1,350,000	5/24/2018
6 Atherton	Roslindale	\$435,000	5/30/2018
52 Metropolitan Avenue	Roslindale	\$507,500	5/30/2018
69-71 Wylvn Street	Roslindale	\$715,000	6/5/2018
86 Hastings Street	West Roxbury	\$1,250,000	6/7/2018
14 Ansonia	West Roxbury	\$530,000	6/13/2018
34 Westgate Road	West Roxbury	\$360,000	6/15/2018

STREET	CITY	SALE PRICE	SALE DATE
22 Parkson Street	Hyde Park	\$515,000	6/20/2018
62 Patten Street	Jamaica Plain	\$625,000	6/22/2018
181 Beech Street	Roslindale	\$850,000	6/22/2018
20 Pelton Street	West Roxbury	\$1,395,000	6/22/2018
46 Keith Street	West Roxbury	\$719,000	6/22/2018
19 Houston Street	West Roxbury	\$841,500	6/26/2018
62 Patten Street	Jamaica Plain	\$715,000	6/28/2018
20 Seymour Street	Roslindale	\$430,000	6/28/2018
155 Corey Street	West Roxbury	\$1,235,000	6/28/2018
28 Russett Road	West Roxbury	\$725,000	6/29/2018
8 Meredith	West Roxbury	\$840,000	6/29/2018
108 Woodley Avenue	West Roxbury	\$485,000	6/29/2018
132 Dale Street	Roslindale	\$420,000	7/2/2018
4843 Washington Street	West Roxbury	\$585,000	7/9/2018
5001 Washington Street	Roslindale	\$665,000	7/9/2018
143-171 Hyde Park Avenue	Jamaica Plain	\$745,000	7/20/2018
65 Sunset Hill Road	West Roxbury	\$610,000	7/20/2018
11 Porter Terrace	West Roxbury	\$665,000	7/25/2018
10 Temple Terrace	West Roxbury	\$390,000	7/27/2018
31 Mendelssohn Street	Roslindale	\$410,000	7/31/2018
224 Florence Street	Roslindale	\$550,000	8/7/2018
79 Manthorne Road	West Roxbury	\$830,000	8/23/2018
76 Cornell Street	Roslindale	\$920,000	8/28/2018
42 Como Road	Hyde Park	\$500,000	8/31/2018
15 Durant Street	West Roxbury	\$560,000	9/6/2018
33 Wilmot Street	Roslindale	\$270,000	9/7/2018
90 Cass Street	West Roxbury	\$377,000	9/14/2018
307 West Street	Hyde Park	\$495,000	9/14/2018
345 Belgrade Avenue	Roslindale	\$567,000	9/17/2018
90 Cass Street	West Roxbury	\$388,000	9/19/2018
1561 Centre Street	West Roxbury	\$465,000	9/21/2018
15 Zeller Street	Roslindale	\$760,000	9/21/2018
101 Bellevue Hill Road	West Roxbury	\$756,000	9/26/2018
376 Weld Street	West Roxbury	\$815,000	10/2/2018
41 Congreve Street	Roslindale	\$520,000	10/9/2018
97 Partridge Street	West Roxbury	\$450,000	10/10/2018
1 Dow Road	West Roxbury	\$444,000	10/15/2018
554 Weld Street	West Roxbury	\$560,000	10/16/2018
70 Clement Avenue	West Roxbury	\$850,000	10/18/2018
17 Sanger Street	South Boston	\$1,375,000	10/19/2018
60 Guernsey Street	Roslindale	\$499,000	10/26/2018
14 Arborfield Road	Roslindale	\$392,500	11/14/2018
159 Forest Hills	Jamaica Plain	\$405,000	11/19/2018
5 Northdale Terrace	West Roxbury	\$507,000	11/19/2018
38 Richwood Street	West Roxbury	\$860,000	11/20/2018



Michael McGuire
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Kris MacDonald
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Trudy McGuire
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Mary Devlin
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