

WEST ROXBURY ~ ROSLINDALE BULLETIN

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Roche Bros. will now be storing all its beer and wine on the first floor to better serve residents in a socially-distant environment.

COURTESY PHOTO

Board approves changes to WR Roche Bros and Allston Regina

Jeff Sullivan
Staff Reporter

The Boston Licensing Board met on Dec. 22 to hear changes to licenses in West Roxbury and Allston and voted to approve them on Dec. 23.

In West Roxbury, Roche Bros. at 1800 Centre St. applied for a change to its liquor license to allow them to store beer and wine in a different area. Considine Furey Attorney Alexander Furey, representing Roche Bros., said they want to move the storage down from a second-story area to the first floor.

“We filed an application to amend the existing premises to relocate the existing beer and wine storage area, which currently consists of a 368-square-foot secure cage on the mezzanine area, and we want to move it to the first floor and break it into two separate areas,” he said. “One being 16 square feet and the other 189 square feet for a total of 205 square feet of secure storage.”

Furey said the idea was to better serve customers during the pandemic.

“The move is to have it in a more efficient location so that we can better service e-commerce customers and to better respond to our shoppers’ habits during this COVID-19 environment,” he said. “So it’s more to be able to better service our custom-



Regina's Pizza is still in a holding pattern until a new tenant can be found.

COURTESY PHOTO

ers.”

The Board voted unanimously to approve the change.

The former site of Regina’s Pizza in Allston (as well as the former site of the Sport’s Depot years before) went to the Licensing Board on Dec. 22 to request a transfer of its license to the landlord for holding purposes.

Rashi Mangalick, of McDermott, Quilty & Miller, said the transfer is just to allow the landlord to retain ownership of the license until a new tenant for the space is confirmed.

“So this transfer is really simple,” she said. “Regina’s, as you know, is closed right now and this transfer is mainly to hold the license until the landlord can find a new tenant.”

Mangalick said the transfer will not have an effect on the current status of Regina or the

deal former Great Scott manager Carl Lavin is working on to move the music venue there.

“At this point it’s to stay closed even if this transfer is approved,” she said. “There’s no changes to the operation. It’s to stay closed until further announcement.”

Lavin did not respond to multiple attempts to contact by the Bulletin checking in on what the status of Great Scott’s move to Regina’s former Depot location. Lavin raised more than \$270,000 to move the venue in October through crowd funding, as the former location’s landlord decided to not allow Great Scott to continue operation at its Commonwealth Avenue location.

The Licensing Board voted unanimously to approve the transfer.



The developers of the project announced at the meeting that they have significantly increased the project’s community benefits package.

COURTESY PHOTO

BPDA approves 1717-1725 Hyde Park Ave

Developer to contribute \$100K to Fowl Meadow

Matt MacDonald
Staff Reporter

On Dec. 17, the Board of Directors of the Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) voted to authorize a scoping determination, waiving further review of the Residences at Readville Station, a development proposed for 1717-1725 Hyde Park Ave.

The Board’s approval – which was unanimous and came after a brief site plan presentation by the development team – marks the latest milestone for the project, which was submitted by Boston based Ad Meliora, LLC to the BPDA in September of 2018.

The BPDA had last brought the project to the

Board of Directors on Dec. 12, 2019 to request the same authorization, at which time it was tabled.

Most recently, the BPDA held an Impact Advisory Group (IAG) meeting regarding the proposed development on Nov. 30. Prior to that, it had held two other IAG meetings – in June and November of 2019 – and one public meeting in April of 2019.

The Residences – as currently proposed – would be comprised of two six story buildings totaling 273 units (151 condos/122 rentals), with an additional 3,617 square feet of ground floor retail space tentatively being put aside for a restaurant. Ad-

1717-1725 HP Ave.

Continued on page 10

Senior housing criticized by JP Housing Committee

Richard Heath
Staff Reporter

The fate of the five-story supportive senior housing building planned for 3371 Washington St. was played out at the Dec. 15 JP Housing Committee meeting.

The destiny of those 39 one-bedroom senior apartments hinged on resident Marie Turley defending Nancy Rojas’ abutting back yard and on Carolyn Royce, who insisted that the building be redesigned to add set backs on

the fourth and fifth floors to comply with what she said were Plan JP Rox guidelines.

“This won’t be built for another two or three years,” Royce said. “It may not even be senior housing so can’t we wait another month for other adjustments? Taking the building down at the fourth story would fit better.”

Marie Turley of Union Avenue pointed to a slide on the virtual presentation by Jamaica Plain Neighborhood De-

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HP Santa brings holiday cheer to youth and mentorship year-round

Mary Ellen Gambon
Staff Reporter

Dozens of Hyde Park children got a sneak peak at Santa from their doorsteps when Belnel Family Neighborhood Association (BFNA) vice president Tim Fitzgerald donned a Santa suit, rang a bell, and visited them with candy-grams on Dec. 22.

This year, it was even more critical, Fitzgerald said, as the COVID-19 pandemic took away much of the joy and sense of childhood wonder from the season and from 2020 itself. To the surprise of many, he delivered bags of treats to Belnel neighborhood doorsteps so kids could see Santa in a socially distanced way.

“When you can put a smile on a child’s face, it’s very, very,

very special,” he said in a Christmas Day interview. “You don’t know what a kid has been going through, and we have to do everything we can to support our youth. And it was not only good for the kids but also for the parents to be smiling.

“We have to support our youth,” he continued. “They are not used to living in a pandemic and all of the stress. We have to remember that many of them don’t have cable or computers or parents who have a good education to guide them. We have to be their role models.”

Fitzgerald is no stranger to entertaining children as Santa Claus. He joins the annual Boston Police Department’s Christmas party most years, where officers distribute toys to community youngsters. He also entertains at a Christmas party for

500 families who utilize foster care services at Children’s Services of Roxbury.

“Helena Tonge, the president of our neighborhood association, heard about me playing Santa for the police and thought the candy-grams would be a great idea,” he said. “Anything for the kids – I’m all for that.”

Fitzgerald works with area youth in all aspects of his life. For the past eight years, he has served as the program supervisor for teens age 15 to 18 at Children’s Services of Roxbury’s Youth & Police in Partnership program.

“A lot of young people are judged only by the bad things they do,” he said. “In the Youth & Police and Partnership program, we focus on building life skills, self esteem and public speaking. We want them to de-



Santa Claus visited several homes in the Belnel Neighborhood to lift some spirits this year.

PHOTO BY MARY ELLEN GAMBON

velop a sense of character and responsibility and want to give back to their community.”

He knows how important this type of education has been firsthand. Born in Baltimore, MD and raised by his grandmother in South Carolina, Fitzgerald traveled to New York to serve in the Job Corp after graduating from high school.

He has coached AAU basketball and Pop Warner football here for several years.

“My grandmother instilled a lot of these skills in me when she raised me,” Fitzgerald said. “My Southern roots still are in me. And then I had so many mentors during the three or four

HP Santa

Continued on page 9

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WRMS announces Holiday Cheer winners

Ariane Komyati
Staff Reporter

West Roxbury Main Streets (WRMS) spread holiday cheer this season amidst the pandemic by hosting a "2020 Storefront Holiday Contest."

Local WR businesses and WRMS helped to make this December one to remember by hosting a socially-distant friendly holiday decorating contest. The businesses have decorated their storefronts with holiday decor, and WRMS posted photos of the festivities on their social media. Over the past few weeks, residents have been voting for their favorite storefronts by "liking" the pictures on social media. According to WRMS, thousands of votes have been cast and the winners have been announced.

Each voter was entered to win \$50 gift card to their local business of choice. The Centerpiece Flowershop, Christo's Pizza, Davis and Sawin Florist, Gilmore Murphy Realty, Images Hair Studio, Inspiration Salon & Spa, Perfect 10 Unisex Salon, Recreo Coffee, Roslindale Pediatrics, Sugar Bakery, The Paper Store, and Vogt Realty Group are all participating in

the WRMS holiday decorating contest.

First place went to Roslindale Pediatric Associates, with second place going to Inspiration Salon and Spa, and third place going to Davis & Dawin Florists.

"Since we work in pediatrics, everyone here loves Frozen," said Dr. Anuja Khettry, a pediatrician at Roslindale Pediatric Associates who grew up in the area. "It was truly a collaborative team effort in creating all of these Frozen-themed decorations. We're excited that the neighborhood loves them!"

Davis and Sawin Florist decorated their storefront with two large peace sign wreaths, which is symbolic given what a tumultuous year 2020 has been. "We [Davis and Sawin Florist] find that these types of events help to foster a sense of community and belonging for our neighbors, and for us. We have lived in this West Roxbury community for most of our lives and have witnessed many changes over the years. But the feeling of community pride and of belonging has not wavered during all of that time. This year, we decided to participate in the storefront contest and decorate our



Roslindale Pediatric seemed to warm voters' hearts with the business' Disney's Frozen theme.

COURTESY PHOTO

store front with large "Peace" wreaths as our way of wishing Peace to all of our neighbors, customers and friends. This past year has been so difficult for so many and we just wanted to remind ourselves and others what this time of year symbolizes," stated George Sawin, the Owner of Davis and Sawin Florist.

Vogt Realty Group also joined in on the holiday fun with a Santa doll in their window and decorated planters. Their display is also extra

meaningful this year.

"We have always taken pride in our window display. However, this year means more to us than past years. The most obvious of all is this year being the pandemic - but on a personal note, our building exterior has seen a major facelift. But MOST importantly, our friend and fellow Real Estate Agent, Richard Reed, who was battling cancer for over three years, has just passed this week," explained Broker/Owner/Realtor Marjorie

Vogt. "Richard, a Vietnam Vet, always loved sharing in the decorating festivities. We give Richard a special salute in our display this year. Our holiday decorator extraordinaire, our Boston's Own, Mr. Christmas, Tim Parker has been doing our Holiday exterior decorating for many years and is also fighting cancer. Tim makes everything look more Christmassy and festive. We could not do this without his

WRMS Winners
Continued on page 7

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The bulldozers are coming, the bulldozers are coming!

Happy New Year, and by the way the bulldozers are coming.

Anybody who saw the comical 1966 movie with Carl Reiner about the "invasion" of Martha's Vineyard by submariners from the Soviet Union can appreciate the redundancy in the title. But there is nothing comical about what will soon be happening to two bucolic roads in Jamaica Plain.

Allandale Street is on the verge of being deluged with convoys of loud earth-moving equipment that will probably remind Sturbridge residents of the time when the I-84 was connected to the Massachusetts Turnpike (okay, there's a wee bit of hyperbole here). It's bad enough that years ago the Spring House Senior Living Center commandeered a huge parcel for its buildings; it's bad enough that Allandale condominiums built out so vastly. Across the street the Brigham and Women's Faulkner Hospital is on the precipice of launching a huge expansion. If that were not enough, large lots at 64 and 90 Allandale are about to be developed. For these last two none of the real estate tax surcharge to fund the Community Preservation Act is being used to mitigate development.

The destruction of woodland at 64 Allandale is to accommodate 16 units; the development at 90 Allandale involves 8 units within 4 buildings.

Those of us who value woodlands see the desecration of any forested lot as ecological blasphemy. Would that more people with this outlook were on the Boston Planning and Development Agency (formerly the Boston Redevelopment Authority)! But if landowners are within their selfish rights to destroy trees and other vegetation, so be it, ever so regrettably.

The once pastoral road leading from JP's Centre Street to Brookline's Newton Street is about to be ravaged by a constant parade of construction vehicles and trades people. The Allandale Farm, bisecting the closest thing that the city had to exurban



My Kind
of Town/
Joe Galeota

life, might stand to gain with an increase of customers from workers and new residents, but the magic of that address will be forever tarnished ever so slightly.

The Allandale Woods has been under siege for decades, not always from Allandale Street. Centre Street's Trinity Lutheran Church, Little Blessings Preschool and Daycare Center, Sophia Snow House, the former site of Larry's Mobil Gas, and the abandoned rehab building at 1245 have all encroached into the Allandale Woods. On the VFW Our Lady of the Annunciation Church and the Willow Child Care center have necessitated the bulldozing of countless trees.

And the other scenic road in Jamaica Plain awaiting the bulldozers? According to rumor, that would be in the vicinity of Rockland and Avon streets, which connects Brookline's Goddard Avenue (at the site of The Park School) to JP's Pond Street. That large wooded lot near Larz Anderson is also about to be leveled to create more condominiums.

Earth First! was a radical environmental advocacy group that began in 1980 to protect woodlands from greedy developers. Yeah, it accomplished its goals through violence, not against people but against machinery. Its members, jaded by communities caving to developers, took to destruction as a last resort. I'm certainly not advocating this technique here, but can you understand their frustration?

ZBA DETERMINES 11 DANA AVE AS-OF-RIGHT

To the Editor:

Hyde Park's affront by the Zoning Board of Appeals has the nerve (remember we pay their salaries and are responsible for their existence) to determine that 11 Dana Ave is an "as-of-right" property. It certainly seems a violation of our HP Zoning Code. What does this mean? It means that an out of town developer with legal representation, who could care less about Hyde Park, can turn a 6 family into a 24 unit money-making complex with no affordable housing for our needy residents. It also means that considerable parking issues, which are always a problem in this neighborhood, are going to get worse. In addition, it means that MONEY RULES in our corner of the city...that our neighbors who fought for their zoning code to be adhered to and not categorically rejected has been overruled. We spent a couple of years developing it. It also means that expensive lawyers and city hall connections can get their way. Local people, your friends and neighbors, were even denied the ability to testify...they were silenced and the owners' lawyers were not during the virtual hearing. And where were our political voices and what did they do to support neighborhood interests? Missing in action?

We have a slew of hard-working residents who tried to put their knowledgeable, collective fingers in this developmental dike. What problems did our neighbors experience in resisting this development? Well, neighbors, also called voters and taxpayers, have no place, according to the politically connected, to challenge the authority of the "chosen." We are considered nuisances to those developers and their legal teams who want to interpret the zoning code to meet their collective needs. They have money...they have power! Despite the fact that we pay the bills, they want to keep us in "our place." The HPNA's concerns about the behemoth at 11 Dana Ave are valid and concerning. The HPNA's appeals to the ZBA's decision are likewise valid. We need our neighbors and our elected officials to let city government know that we are not FOOLS...we are not people to be dismissed by the power base. Listen to our local leaders and then respond and act to the issues relative to 11 Dana Ave. Hyde Parkers deserve the opportunity. Our appeal should be listened to.

Joseph J. Smith
Hyde Park MA

CHIANG DIAZ'S BILL A NON PROBLEM

To the Editor:

There are important limitations in Emma Faith's letter of December 24 in support of Senator Chiang Diaz's police reform bill that should be pointed out.

Ms. Faith cites an ACLU report that over the last ten years in 34 Massachusetts cities and towns there were 115 cases of police brutality. She neglected to note that the ACLU on its website described these as allegations of brutality, and not demonstrated cases. There is a world of difference between a mere allegation and one that has been demonstrated to be true.

The 34 cities and towns in which cases of brutality were alleged are 10 percent of the 351 cities and towns in Massachusetts. The ACLU did not report information on alleged abuses in the other 90 percent. If there were no allegations in these other 317 cities and towns, the problem that Chiang Diaz's comprehensive bill seeks to address obviously is much less pressing than Emma Faith and the Hyde Square Task Force contend.

The time period covered by the ACLU data is ten years. Thus, on average, there are 11.5 allegations statewide per year. Although it is unlikely these were spread over all 351 cities and towns proportionate to their population, it should be noted that if that were the case Boston with 10 percent of the state's population might have as few as one or two allegations yearly. Chiang Diaz's bill may be addressing what a reasonable person might conclude is a non problem.

Ms. Faith informs us that CNN reported 1098 people murdered in the hands of the police in the US in 2019. Massachusetts' population is two percent of the US population, so the comparable figure for Massachusetts might be no more than two percent of the CNN estimate. But, more importantly, the use of the word murdered by CNN to describe all deaths occurring in the course of police actions in dealing with crimes is both irresponsible and careless. All such deaths are very sad occurrences, but they should not be described collectively as murders. Murder is always a crime, as is manslaughter, and the term murderer should only be applied when there is an indictment and subsequent court conviction for murder.

I have followed local events closely throughout my 91 years in Boston. I am convinced that Boston police officers are more carefully recruited, better trained, and more sensitive to the entire community than ever before. I doubt there is a pressing need for what may turn out to be un-

necessary, poorly thought through, and hastily enacted, comprehensive police reform legislation.

Francis M. McLaughlin
West Roxbury

DIAZ REFORM BILL DOESN'T DO THE JOB

TO THE EDITOR:

As a retired police officer for 28 years licensed by the Massachusetts State Police working for the state Department of Mental Health in Boston, I am opposed to the police reform legislation that was passed by both branches of the state legislature and sent to the Governor's office. I disagree with those legislators such as Senator Sonia Chang Diaz who pushed this measure. I support qualified immunity for police officers protecting them from lawsuits resulting from justifiable actions taken by officers. Qualified immunity does not protect law enforcement from violating constitutional rights or abuse of power. It is not a GET OUT OF JAIL card. The law wasn't created to cover for incompetent police officers who abuse their police powers.

I am glad the letter writer is involved in the life of the neighborhood as a youth leader with the Hyde Square Task Force. All of us have a responsibility to have a positive impact on the neighborhoods we call our homes.

Not knowing any of the particulars of the August 2019 incident the writer mentioned, I can only say that all police officers are accountable for their actions and they face consequences for their actions. I speak here as someone who did this job to the best of my ability all the time. My job was to protect people from harm. I treated everyone with dignity as do most police officers. Are there rogues out there? Every profession has their rogues but they are the exception to the rule.

I applaud Emma Faith for expressing her opinions on police reform. I will always support improvements but I think this current reform measure doesn't do the job and appears to be just another anti-police knee-jerk reaction from our elected officials who seem unable or unwilling to listen to all sides before trying to reform the profession I served and loved for 28 years. Hoping I made a difference for our society and still hoping that we all can search together for the solutions that are necessary without the need to hoist up bad actors. We can do this if we want.

Sgt. Sal Giarratani (ret)
Metro Boston D.M.H.
Police

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Council to hold hearing on lead in drinking water

Jeff Sullivan
Staff Reporter

The Boston City Council voted unanimously in its regular meeting on Dec. 16 to hold a hearing on the Boston Water and Sewer Commission's (BWSC) recent announcement of elevated levels of lead found in the city's drinking water.

"There was a survey done recently that showed elevated lead levels and so the BWSC notified homeowners and rate payers. As a result, it's clear that the presence of lead in drinking water does not come from the Boston Water Distribution system, but the premises plumbing system in an older home, generally built before the 1950s," he said. "These pipes may have lead water service and lead solder and old brass fixtures which contain lead."

The survey found five properties for which the levels of lead exceeded the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) limit of 15 parts per billion. When this happened, the BWSC was required to notify all customers and the public of this finding, even though it only affected a small number of

residents.

Flaherty said residents, especially seniors, can apply for the city's rebate program that would allow them to apply for up to \$2,000 worth of reimbursement if they decide to replace the lead pipes and water fixtures in their homes.

"It is important for residents to know that there is a \$2,000 eligible property rebate, but we also may want to look forward in the New Year and try to create a fund, particularly for our seniors, fixed-income seniors who own their property and may not have the wherewithal to do this," he said.

The program, administered by the BWSC, can grant a credit rebate of up to \$2,000 and the ability to pay interest-free over a 48 month period. Eligibility for the program requires that the property is served by a two-inch or smaller water service pipe that contains lead, the water and sewer account for the property is active and not delinquent, the property owner agrees to have the work done by the BWSC, and the work presents no extraordinary physical obstacles like re-

Lead Pipes

Continued on page 7

Boston expanding COVID housing relief

Jeff Sullivan
Staff Reporter

The Boston City Council will continue hosting hearings and approving financing to help residents facing eviction due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The council also recently voted to accept a Community Development Block Grant from the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development in the amount of \$9.7 million, which was awarded to help fund such efforts to keep residents in their homes.

District 1 City Councilor Lydia Edwards said the council has hosted several meetings on the issue of housing relief during the pandemic and said the administration and the council are in agreement on how to spend the \$9 million block grant. Other block grants and city funding have been used to help residents facing evictions and foreclosures, including the signing of the Housing Stability Notification Act, which requires landlords to include relief fund information with their first notice to quit to any tenant. A slew of rental and foreclosure relief funds have also been set up in the city, a full list of which can be found at <https://bit.ly/2KuSXjT>.

Though the Massachusetts eviction moratorium ended in October, the U.S. Centers for

Disease Control (CDC) has taken over and prevented evictions for qualified tenants who submit a letter to their landlords. However, many residents are still facing eviction and Edwards said they need the help of this grant and the city's rental relief efforts.

Edwards said this round of grant funding is going to be set aside for next year and any potential problems that could ensue.

"The \$9 million is not going to be used this year but will be added to the kitty to help us really support, sustain and stabilize our neighborhoods into 2022," she said. "I still think we should release those funds or at least allow them to move on so the city can have access to them as soon as possible, but they are dedicated to rent relief and economic relief as related to housing."

Edwards said the funding is also going to attorneys hired by the Department of Neighborhood Development (DND) to help residents going through the eviction process to try to help them stay in their homes. She said these funds and others set up for rent relief in the city amounts to about \$18 million in total.

"Which is huge," she said.

Edwards said of the \$8 million of that \$18 million that was earmarked for rent relief in

2020, about \$4 million has been allocated and expended to 1,100 families.

"They have recently opened up the application again, and about 1,200 people have applied, and 700 were unfortunately rejected for various reasons," she said. "Some didn't live in Boston; some didn't qualify for financial reasons, all sorts of reasons. But 468 other families are about to be considered. I would have to say, to DND's credit, they had to build a bike and ride it at the same time in a pandemic with no understanding of how this could work."

The council voted unanimously to accept the grant for \$9 million and to continue hearings with residents, landlords, DND and the Mayor's Administration on housing assistance and rent relief.

Tell 'em what you think with a Letter To The Editor

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velopment Corporation (JPNDC) and New Atlantic Development that showed the back of their proposed building.

“See that white house?” she asked. “That’s the Rojas house. That’s actually a home and a back yard.

“The BPDA (Boston Planning and Development Agency) had a commitment for four stories on the site,” she added. “Setbacks are the only protection [for the neighbors]. Union Avenue wants four stories.”

Turley seemed confused; Plan JP/Rox allows for 65 feet as a density bonus that rewards increased affordability with increased height.

Bill Madsen Hardy of New Atlantic agreed with Royce that it might not be built as senior housing; it may not be built at all.

“We’ll sell the building,” he said. “We purchased it on the open market [for \$2.155 million] based on its value under the current zoning of 55

feet and a zero lot line.

“For every unit we take off, that costs \$500,000,” Hardy said. “It can’t be done. We’ve done everything we can. We’ve taken off one floor, cut the program space to the bare minimum. The units are as efficient as they possibly can be.

“A week, a month, a year [of more meetings]? They want us to reduce units. It’s not going to be done. That’s the deal.” Hardy said. “Those changes, spending time on a total redesign. That doesn’t happen in a day or a week.”

That was the drama at the last meeting of the JP housing committee for 2020.

Royce, who chairs the committee, said she strongly supports the mission of supportive senior housing but was unmoved by Hardy’s resistance.

“Setbacks are important in a low-scale neighborhood,” Royce said.

Turley was also insistent. She spent most of the 90 minute meeting arguing that the developers could “get to



The white house behind 3371 Washington St is at the center of the debate over 3371 Washington St.

PHOTO BY RICHARD HEATH

yes” without losing another story.

Hardy said the BPDA wanted to vote on the proposal at its January 2021 meeting. He said the BPDA had already delayed the vote in December.

“The BPDA doesn’t feel another meeting is needed,” he said.

Ocean Luo of the BPDA was on the call but made no

comment. He has been the BPDA planner for JP, Roxbury, Mission Hill and Fenway since April.

Turley appeared shocked. “This is stunning to hear,” she said. “The BPDA vote in January? There has to be a middle ground between four and five stories. Can we hold up another month?”

“Please have a second BPDA meeting,” Turley asked. “Without pressure they won’t come back to us. We have to get to ‘yes.’”

Royce was losing her committee. Member Aiden Foley wanted a “balanced benefit.”

“Every unit is a \$500,000 investment in the neighborhood,” he said. “Taking off a floor loses \$2 million in public funding. The neighbors remain disappointed.”

Benji Mauer is a neighbor. “There is no ‘yes’ to four stories,” he said. “It’s unfair and denies low-income seniors housing in this community. There have already been substantial changes. This is a great win. A beautiful building.”

Committee member Sarah Horsley reminded everyone that to satisfy the neighborhood the building already lost six units of housing.

“It’s been a pretty thorough community process,” she said.

“I make a motion for a favorable letter of support. There’s no need to further delay this.”

Kathy Brown is a long time housing committee member.

“Union Avenue is one neighborhood association,” she said. “There’s already been a great amount of meetings with Union Avenue. We can’t afford the loss of living space just to support one neighborhood association. This senior housing is an incredibly important public need. We’ve had time to defer to the neighborhood association.”

A letter of support was approved with concerns added about what Royce called “urban design.”

At the Dec 22 JP Neighborhood Council meeting, Royce admitted that although there was “a lot of support for the project, there remained unsettled business.”

“People want to encourage developers to make it easier for neighbors,” she said. JPNDC and New Atlantic agreed to meet again with Union Avenue neighbors in January.

3371 Washington St. is on the agenda of the Feb. 3 JP Zoning Committee.



Ask The Doctor

Junior Damato began servicing vehicles in 1969. He owns an 8-bay center in Middleboro, MA. Junior is an ASE-certified Master Technician, ASE-certified L-1 and ASE-certified Natural Gas.

Dear Doctor: I have 2006 Hyundai Azera. The FM stations work but the AM stations come in very static. Is it fixable? –Pauline

A) The main cause for static and poor A/M reception is the antenna and or ground in the antenna assembly. If the antenna is hard to access there are many universal antennas that you can buy at any auto radio store or online. They sell a simple to install and can attach to the inside of the windshield. Some even require a 12 volt power supply to clearer reception.

Dear Doctor: I have a 2004 Chrysler Pacifica 2004. I replaced my engine heads and I put my timing belt by the marks. When I try to rotate my camshaft one full cycle manually a turn, my piston hits the valve. When the timing mark is off on the crankshaft 2-3 tooth with timing belt on it’s OK. What can be wrong? If all 3 mark are correct on the camshaft and crankshaft engine is hit the valve. –Krasimir

A) For whatever reason the camshaft timing is off. The camshaft timing could be off 180 degrees, the timing sprocket maybe off the crank shaft timing may be off, I would like you to subscribe to Alldata and print out the pictures and procedures for timing belt installation.

Dear Doctor: I feel a wobble in the accelerator pedal of my 2012 Nissan Rogue when I press down on it and go between 15 to about 30 mph and then it goes away. The tires, the lower control arms, both front axles and the front hub bearings are all brand new, and the pads and rotors were replaced about a year ago. The vehicle has 80,000 miles on it and I have heard about people having tons of issues with the Rogue CVT transmission. Do you have any idea what this could be? –John

A) The CVT transmission has been a big problem in Nissan vehicles the mileage failure usually starts around 60,000 miles. BEFORE you spend any more money find a qualified ASE technician or call the local AAA office for a AAA approved shop in your area. Nissan has extended the warranty on the CVT transmission on most vehicles. When a wobble can be effected via the amount of pressure put on the gas pedal drive axles and transmissions come to mind, not tires or control arms.

Junior Damato, the “Auto Doctor,” has agreed to field auto repair questions from Bulletin and Record readers. Please send your questions to news@bulletinnewspapers.com and we will do our best to get them answered.

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WRMS Winners *continued from page 3*

talent. Passersby always stop and look at our windows and smile and give us the thumbs up!"

The Centerpiece Flower Shop, which just opened its doors in WR this year, decked their storefront with boughs of holly.

"I have felt so supported by both WRMS and by my wonderful customers. I feel like my storefront is a way I can express my joy and gratitude to the community. I hope that when people drive by, window shop, or come in to browse, that they will feel the spirit of the holidays and an overwhelming sense that they are welcome, and we are happy to see them," stated Angel Diaz of The Centerpiece Flower Shop. "I've been hearing from so many customers from around the country that call to send their family members and loved ones flowers because they cannot be there in person. For me, flowers are a beautiful way to express love and car-

ing. Even if this holiday season means that we can't gather all together, it doesn't mean it isn't special. I had an older couple that bought a huge centerpiece arrangement and they were just having Thanksgiving by themselves. The way we decorate for the holidays can help us hold on to that special feeling — and keep us hopeful that next year, we will all be together once again."

The storefront displays will be on display until early January.

Although many WRMS events were canceled this year due to COVID-19, the non-profit is hosting multiple holiday events. Another fundraiser is the "Donate and Decorate Fundraiser", where WR community members can donate \$20 or more to put an ornament with a personalized message on the WR Holiday tree. Also, in late December, the WRMS will

install winter lights on the pedestrian path next to the Post Office.

To learn more about WRMS and its upcoming events, visit <https://www.wrms.org/>.

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Lead Pipes *continued from page 5*

quiring the removal of a porch, stairs, wall, fence or shrubs. For more information on the program, go to <https://bit.ly/2Kmg2Wd>.

There is also a similar program for the removal and replacement of paint containing lead in residents' homes with forgivable loans up to \$10,000 for each unit of a home. The program offers technical advice from city lead specialists, a free lead paint inspection and help complying with state lead laws so that residents can apply for lead removal tax credits. For more information on this program, go to boston.gov/departments/neighborhood-development/boston-home-center/get-financial-help-remove-lead-your-home.

Because the hearing was filed after the year's legislative session for the council, it will be reintroduced and discussed during next year's session starting after the New Year's holiday.

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Deaths

DelBENE
Francis T. of West Roxbury, December 18, 2020. Beloved husband of the late Carol A DelBene. Frank was born in Boston and lived in Mansfield but was a city boy at heart. Brother of the late Gerald DelBene and survived by his sister Patricia Cronin, his daughter Marie Reed and husband Geoffrey, his son Frank DelBene, Jr. and wife Gwen Burdell, daughter Suzanne DelBene and fiancé Christopher O'Connell. He adored his grandsons Jonathan and Michael Reed. Frank was enlisted in the United States Army and was a supporter of the armed forces. He was very proud of his grandsons, Jonathan currently enlisted in the United States Air Force and Michael currently attending Mass Maritime Academy. Frank loved music and enjoyed the many years he sang in St. Theresa's choir and performing in variety shows. He was a longtime Parkway Youth Hockey coach and a Boston sports fan especially the Bruins. Frank was a sweet, soft spoken, loving man everyone adored and will miss. Funeral Service private. William J. Gormley Funeral Service 617-323-8600.

FITZPATRICK



Edward P. "Lefty" Retired Chief Petty Officer, U.S. Coast Guard, of West Roxbury, formerly of Roxbury passed away on December 20, 2020. Beloved husband of Georgia (Theodorakis) Fitzpatrick. Devoted father of Joseph Fitzpatrick and his wife Paula of Dedham, John Fitzpatrick of West Roxbury, and the late Evelyn Fitzpatrick. Loving grandfather of Sandra, Taylor, Steven, Jonathan, Lexi, and Christy. He was the proud great-grandfather of 5. Also survived by many cherished brothers and sisters and nephews. Vietnam and Korean War Veteran. Longtime Clerk U.S. Postal Service, A St. South Boston. Longtime employee of Needham Golf Course. Due to covid concerns the Funeral Mass at St. Theresa Church, West Roxbury, will be private. Interment with military honors will be held in the Garden of Honor, at Gardens Cemetery, West Roxbury. In lieu of flowers donations may be made in Edward's memory to Amego Inc. C/O Steven Fitzpatrick 33 Perry Ave. Attleboro, MA 02703. For online guestbook pemurrayfuneral.com. Arrangements

by P.E. Murray - F.J. Higgins, George F. Doherty & Sons West Roxbury.

FGALANTE

Louis M. of Hyde Park, December 19, 2020. Beloved husband of the late Patricia (Adams) Galante. Devoted father of Michael L. Galante and his wife Sarah of Dedham and Anthony J. Galante of Hyde Park. Grandfather of Nathaniel Galante. Brother of Paul Galante and his wife Rosemary of Medway and the late Francesca (Galante) Johnne. Son of the late Louis and Emma (Iadonisi) Galante. Funeral from the George F. Doherty & Sons Funeral Home, 456 High St., DEDHAM. Interment in Brookdale Cemetery, Dedham. Online guestbook and directions at gfdoherty.com. George F. Doherty & Sons Dedham 781-326-0500.

HOGAN

Dorthea A. (Shea) Of Naples, Florida, formerly of West Roxbury and Needham, Massachusetts, died peacefully on December 19, 2020 at home surrounded by family. She was 92 years of age. Born in Milton, MA on April 3, 1928, "Dotty" was the beloved daughter of Frank D. Shea and Anna (Scully) Shea. She was raised in West Roxbury. Her mother passed away when she was thirteen years old, and her father married Mary Agnes (Donovan) Shea, to whom she was especially close. Dotty attended Blessed Sacrament School in Jamaica Plain and Notre Dame Academy in Roxbury. In 1949, she graduated from Emmanuel College. She continued her studies at the Boston College School of Social Work, from which she received a Master's degree in 1951. It was at Boston College that she met the love of her life, William T. Hogan, Jr. Dotty and Bill were married on June 7, 1952. They were happily married for nearly 65 years until Bill's passing at the age of 90 in 2017. Together they raised ten children. Dotty and Bill were completely devoted to each other. Dotty was Bill's best friend and confidante throughout his long career in public service. Dotty is survived by her loving children, Mary Hogan Sullivan and her husband Jeremiah of West Roxbury, William T., III and his wife, Susan of Needham, Patricia Henry and her husband Michael of Chattanooga, TN, Joan Hayden and her husband Peter of Naples, FL, Brenda Shisslak of Westwood, Margaret Nellson and her husband Thomas of Wilmington, Michael and his wife Elizabeth of North Andover, Daniel and his wife Denise Doherty of Canton, and Jennifer Guinee and her husband Patrick of Pittsburgh, PA. She is also survived by her sister-in-law Susan G. Shea of Idaho and son-in-law David Kotler of Avon, CT. She was predeceased by her daughter, Ruth H. Kotler, her brother F.X. Shea, her sister Anne (Betty)

Mitchell, and her son-in-law Robert Shisslak. Dotty, also lovingly called Nana, is also survived by thirty-two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She was the steadfast center of her family and lived an exemplary life of faith, charity, and commitment. Her wisdom and humor will be greatly missed. A Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Joseph Church, 1382 Highland Ave., Needham on Tuesday, December 29, at 12 Noon. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Dotty's name to St. John's School, 696 Washington Street, Canton, MA 02021, www.sjscanton.org or to Seton LaSalle Catholic High school, 1000 McNeilly Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15226, www.sls.org. www.lawlerfuneralhome.com 617-323-5600

LaFERRARA

Marie S. Marie S. (Sgro) LaFerrara of Roslindale passed away on Saturday, December 19, 2020. Beloved wife of the late James LaFerrara. Devoted mother of Karen Smith, Albert LaFerrara and his wife Sandra, Michael LaFerrara and his wife Jane and the late James LaFerrara and his surviving wife Joanne. Dear grandmother of Casey and her husband AJ, Matthew, Eric, Alison, Max, and Jake. Great-grandmother of Julien. Sister of Gracie Luongo and her husband Wally, and the late Laura Nicaastro and her late husband Jake. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Funeal from the Joseph Russo Funeral Home, 814 American Legion Highway, ROSLINDALE. Interment will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Italian Home for Children, 1125 Centre Street, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130. Joseph Russo Funeral Home www.Russofuneralhome.com 617-325-7300.

LEONARD



James D. of West Roxbury, more recently of Pompano Beach, FL, passed away on December 24, 2020. Beloved son of the late Patrick and Anne (Collins) Leonard of Boston, both originally of County Cork, Ireland. Devoted brother of Patrick Leonard of West Roxbury and the late Jerome Leonard. Cherished uncle of Su-

Deaths

Continued on page 9

HP Santa *continued from page 2*

years I served in Gang Peace.”

In Gang Peace, Fitzgerald learned how to keep young people “from making the wrong choices.” He mentioned how he had some “little struggles in life” that help him identify with the community he serves.

“I went from a broken home into a loving home,” he said. “That’s why I do understand what the youth are going through now. My grandmother showed me what love was, and that’s why I do what I do.

“A lot of these kids are looking for a father figure role in their lives,” he said. “But that’s not my job. Of course I will always be there for them and offer them support. But what I always want to do is to be their role model to instill in them the values that I learned.”

His next project is to create a morning program on Zoom before school so he and other adults can check in with and

motivate young people before they start their school day.

“I had mentors who put me on the right track,” he said. “That’s why I have been married to my wife, who I met in Gang Peace, for 36 years. My son went to Cathedral and Northeastern. He is an inspector general in Maryland. I am very happy I had a son who didn’t get involved in the streets and gang life.”

He told his son to give back to his community by telling young people his success story.

Another dream Fitzgerald has is building a community center for young people and seniors to give them more opportunities and increase intergenerational contact.

“We are losing our human connection with these kids,” Fitzgerald stressed. “I would love to see a community center with programming geared toward our kids and have pro-

gramming with seniors. This generation is so focused on their phones and their tablets that they don’t know how to deal with people. They also need to know the value of hard work and realize that not everything in life will be given to them.”

He wanted to thank his fellow coaches in the AAU and Pop Warner programs for their dedication to steering young men in the right direction.

“I have to give a shout out to all of these dads for coaching on a volunteer basis,” Fitzgerald said. “There are a lot of great men working together.”

Fitzgerald gave this message that he likes to quote to inspire people for the upcoming year.

“When you help people, you have good neighbors,” he said. “When you have good neighbors, you have a good community.”

Deaths *continued from page 8*

san Leonard Repetti (Jim), Beth Leonard, Nan Leonard (Cesar), Jay Leonard (Janelle), Mark Leonard, Karen Hynes (Paul), Paula Leonard-Schwartz (Steve), Pat Maguire (Sean), Kevin Leonard, Janet Colamaria (Jack), Brian Leonard (Judy), Brenda Swanson (Randy), Diane Leonard (Gerard) and the late James Leonard and Gerard Michael Leonard. Also survived by 24 grandnieces and nephews and 10 great-grandnieces and nephews, of whom he was very proud and who loved him dearly. Jim earned his B.S. from Boston College in 1952, and M.Ed. from Boston State Teachers College in 1953. Jim served in the U.S. Naval Reserves for 10 years. As a former Boston Public Schools teacher, he was proud that he taught former Mayors Flynn and Menino. Subsequently, Jim became a special education administrator and school psychologist for Canton Public Schools and was a founding member of the Massachusetts Association of Special Education Administrators. Jim was committed to a number of charitable and community organizations and received the Pro Deo et Juventute Award, from the Archdiocese of Boston, by Cardinal Cushing for his volunteer efforts with the CYO. A devout Catholic, he worshiped with and generously supported the parishes of St. Theresa of Avila in West Roxbury, MA and St. Elizabeth of Hungary in Pompano Beach, FL. A resident of Jamaica Plain and West Roxbury for most of his life, Jim retired to Florida in 1991 and became a snowbird, summering in West Roxbury and returning south after the end of each Boston College football season. Jim was an avid golfer, sports fan, and world traveler (to all seven continents many times). He introduced all of his nieces and nephews to Ireland, taking them on unforgettable journeys to see the Irish homesteads and families in Reengaroga and

Ballylinch in County Cork, Ireland. He will be dearly missed by his many friends and relatives in New England, Florida, and Ireland. Funeral from the P.E. Murray - F.J. Higgins, George F. Doherty & Sons Funeral Home, 2000 Centre St., WEST ROXBURY. Interment Mt. Benedict Cemetery, West Roxbury. In lieu of flowers, donations in Jim’s memory may be made to St. Theresa of Avila Parish, 10 St. Theresa Avenue, West Roxbury, MA 02132 or St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church, 3331 NE 10th Terrace, Pompano Beach, FL 33064. For directions and guestbook, pemurrayfuneral.com P.E. Murray - F.J. Higgins George F. Doherty & Sons West Roxbury 617 325 2000.

MONAHAN

Theresa M. (Collins) of West Roxbury, passed peacefully on December 20, 2020 surrounded by her loving family. Wife of the late John J. Monahan, daughter of the late Martin and Mary Catherine Collins. Predeceased by her sisters Margaret and Mary, brothers Thomas and Joseph and her beloved friend, John “Duffy” Doherty. Survived by her children: John J. Monahan and his wife Marybeth of Hanover, Patricia McGee and her husband Matthew, Maria Walsh and her husband Kevin, Denise Henry and her husband Ralph, all of West Roxbury, Janet McKeeney of Westwood, Terry McIntosh and her husband Timothy, Christine DiCenso and her husband Stephen, also of West Roxbury, along with 13 cherished grandchildren Mary Kate, Michael, Daniel, Sean, Molly, Caroline, Shannon, Timothy, Beth, Bridget, Olivia, Jack and Julie, as well as many nieces, nephews and cousins. Former President, Lynch Taxi South Boston, MA and administrative assistant for the Town of Brookline School Department. Funeral from Gormley

Funeral Home, 2055 Centre Street, WEST ROXBURY. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to: Catholic Memorial School, 235 Baker Street, West Roxbury, MA 02132 or Anna’s Pals 53 Addington Road, West Roxbury, MA 02132. For directions and guestbook, www.gormleyfuneral.com William J. Gormley Funeral Service 617-323-8600.

WEINBERG

Linda S. of Roslindale, formerly of Brookline, passed away peacefully on Dec. 16, 2020 at the age of 68. Linda was born in Miami Beach, Florida. After graduating from Miami Beach High School, Linda attended the University of Florida. One of her greatest accomplishments was graduating with a degree of fine arts. Beloved daughter of the late Louis Weinberg and Anne (Ritter) Weinberg. Devoted and adored sister of Arlene (Weinberg) Lehane of Brookline, MA. Linda is also survived by her loving nephews, Blaize of California and Aaron of Boston. Linda faced life’s challenges with strength, resolve and grace. She never wavered, nor complained. Due to the current restrictions of the Covid-19 pandemic, the service and interment at Shara T’Filo Cemetery, WEST ROXBURY was private. Donations in Linda’s memory may be made to the Pappas Center Brain Donation Program at MGH.

Obituary Policy

The Bulletin Newspaper 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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1717-1725 HP Ave. *continued from page 1*

ditional project features include a 4,300 square foot pocket park at the site's entrance at Hyde Park Avenue, and an underground parking garage that can hold up to 300 vehicles.

The site – currently undeveloped aside from a vacant warehouse and situated in a stretch of light industrial area – is cornered by the Father Hart Bridge and Hyde Park Avenue, from where it descends to the railroad tracks at the Readville commuter station.

During the presentation, project architect Mike Doherty of The Architectural Team (TAT) also summarized the community benefits being offered by Ad Meliora. These include a sidewalk extension running just under a mile down Hyde Park Avenue to Reservation Road; the installation of a street lighting system; the construction of a dedicated city bus lane near the bridge; and the increase of affordable onsite units from 13 to 15 percent.

A significant change in community benefits – from what was presented at the Nov. 30 IAG meeting – had to do with Ad Meliora's proposed contribution to support

local parks. The amount – which, at that time, had been set at \$10,000 – was upped to \$100,000, and is slated for the improvement of the Neponset Valley Parkway-Meadow Road section of Fowl Meadow, which is overseen by the Dept. of Conservation and Recreation (DCR).

The Board appearance was not a public hearing. Consequently, no mention was made of the Father Hart Bridge area's heavy traffic congestion. This has been a major IAG and community concern throughout the project's review process, and has been heightened by the BPDA's approval – in September, 2019 – of the 247 residential unit development located at 36-40 Sprague St., about a quarter of a mile away at the Sprague Street Bridge.

In fact, District 5 City Councilor Ricardo Arroyo – speaking at the top of the

meeting's agenda – offered the only outside commentary regarding the project.

In his comments, the Hyde Park resident and native – elected in 2019 to replace the outgoing Tim McCarthy (and Readville resident and native) – gave his enthused support to the project, citing the lack of development in the area, and Ad Meliora's willingness to increase the affordable onsite units to 15 percent (41 units).

Arroyo also noted what he considered to be the project's importance to the abutting Readville Station, alluding to different projects that the City Council is pushing the MBTA on regarding increased train availability and lowering costs. "They've always come back to us and said that the ridership doesn't merit this," he said of its response to these proposals. "I think this will help push those kinds of con-

versations forward."

He said that his support was also informed by his interaction with the Hyde Park Board of Trade and its Main Streets. "Every time we have these meetings, it comes up over and over and over again that we need development to sustain our businesses."

Arroyo concluded his remarks with this statement: "This is a perfect opportunity to make this in the image of the city and the image of the neighborhood that we want. This is working class homes, and I couldn't be more in support of it."

With the Board's approval and authorization of the

scoping determination for 1717-1725 Hyde Park Ave., the project will be scheduled for a hearing at the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) to request zoning relief, after which it may go back to the BPDA for a final design review and to execute BPDA agreements and related construction documents.

The Dec. 17, 2020 BPDA Board of Directors video is available in the City of Boston's video library or on YouTube. Councilor Arroyo's remarks begin at about 49 minute mark, and the 1717-1725 Hyde Park Ave. appointment begins at the 5 hour 17 minute mark.

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