

- ALLSTON
- BRIGHTON
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The Bulletin

- JAMAICA PLAIN
- WEST ROXBURY
- ROSLINDALE

A newspaper dedicated to the community

August 20, 2026



Roath and Lynch fielded questions for about an hour last week in Weymouth.

COURTESY PHOTO

Lynch and Roath face off

Trade barbs during LWV forum

Jeff Sullivan
Staff Reporter

Eighth District Congressional candidates – incumbent Stephen Lynch and challenger Patrick Roath – participated in a public forum last week held by the League of Women Voters (LWV) Massachusetts

Chapter. The forum was moderated by LWV Massachusetts Co-President Courtney Henderson, who lives in Fall River and is not a constituent of the 8th District. The event was presented in conjunction with the LWV Norwood, LWV Boston, LWV Stoughton/Sharon, LWV

Westwood/Walpole/Dedham, LWV Weymouth and LWV Massachusetts.

The forum focused on several topics facing the federal government, mostly orbiting the policies of U.S. President Donald Trump and what they would do to fight them, but also

Forum

Continued on page 5



Norfolk and Suffolk State Representative Candidate Persis Yu recently held a Town Hall and invited incumbent Michael Rush to attend.

PHOTO BY SUSAN KRYCZKA

Yu faces an empty chair

in debate at Norfolk/ Suffolk district town hall

Affordability main issue

Susan Kryczka
Staff Reporter

In what Persis Yu, Democratic party primary candidate for state senate, hoped would be a discussion with incumbent Mike Rush about district issues, turned out to be a presentation of Yu's affordability plan when Rush did not respond to her invitation to debate and was a

Town Hall

Continued on page 7

It is an honor to represent the
Norfolk/Suffolk District
in the Massachusetts Senate

★ ★ ★ ★ ★



I respectfully ask for your vote on September 1, 2026
– *Senator Mike Rush*

406 South Huntington gets BPDA Article 80 review

Positive reaction received

Richard Heath
Staff Reporter

It depends on who you talk to with the responses you get as Frank Schillace of JPlain Developers LLC discovered at the August 3 Article 80 public meeting.

Schillace and his attorney had met earlier on March 17 with the Jamaica Plain Housing Committee (JPHC) for his proposed five-story, 48-unit residential building at 406 South Huntington Ave.

There he heard the usual criticism that the building was too high and the affordability too low; also, predictably, no one spoke in favor.

Neighborhood council and JPHC members often boast that they represent the views of the neighbors, yet none ever attend neighborhood meetings and so were premature in their criticism of 406 South Huntington.

The Article 80 meeting was almost exclusively neighborhood callers (about 25) and most were in favor although they hoped for higher affordability.

Schillace and his architect Monte French filed a Small Project Review Notification on

July 13 with one major change: the unit count was reduced from 48 to 44.

Schillace's attorney Richard Lynds explained on Aug. 3 that the 20,000-square-foot lot is in a local convenience subdistrict and required only two zoning variances.

"It's consistent with the BPDA planning objectives for this area," Lynds said. "This is a wide street and the city thinks about this larger type of building; five-six stories on a highly visible, highly traveled street is where the height will be in the future."

Lynds said the residential building will have 44 rental apartments with four artist live-work units on the ground floor. There will be eight affordable units set between 60 percent and 70 percent area median income (AMI).

After Lynds gave a long review of the zoning process, there was a long description of the landscape plans by the architect Cameron Christopher of Monte French Design Studio, who emphasized the wider setback of 12 feet from South Huntington Avenue and the widened and improved sidewalks.



A rendering of the elevation at Barbara Street showing the rhythmic bays for 406 South Huntington Ave.
COURTESY PHOTO

The elevations Christopher showed on the screen-share had far more façade and window detail and color than those shown at the March meeting of only a white box.

The residential floors will be woodframe set on a conventional podium; the ground floor will have the four apartments, lobby, two stairwells, storage and bike racks.

Christopher went into detail on the "tripartite façade structure" with several bays of façade materials and colors; granite floor base, face brick ground floor and upper floors of terra cotta and wood fibre cement clapboard.

A long building on Barbara Street, the facade is broken up with five insets and bays with balconies. The south corner on South Huntington is dominated by balconies.

Michael Cohen started off the public comments; he said he's lived in Hyde Square since 2011.

"The [original] building has been vacant for years," he said, "the owner did nothing with it."

Cohen liked the new building but wanted more four bedroom apartments and a six-story building, "the more units the better," he said.

Abbott Gilbane agreed.

"This is the building I've been looking for," he said. "I live in Cambridge, I work at 31 Heath St. [The Positive Zone School]. I haven't been able to

find anything close to work. This is a good location but it needs additional units."

John Donnelly said he lived at 11 Barbara St.; he was a BUT.

"I'm not opposed to housing, I'm opposed to size, it's big, too big. I work in Andover. I commute. This will put more cars on the street."

Alex Train is CEO of Victory Programs that has had its new headquarters building opposite Barbara Street since 2022.

"I appreciate the scale," he said, "I'm concerned about affordability, I want higher levels of affordability."

One of Victory Program's missions is that of homelessness. Train said he would like to partner on the affordability question.

Dan Bish from Hyde Square liked the building especially the balconies. He was in support, but wished it had been six stories.

Samantha Nee said she lived in the yellow house at 410 South Huntington.

"Studios and one-bedrooms drive up prices," she said, "and attract more transients. We want more; larger bedrooms."

Karen Brouhard was also a neighbor and agreed with Nee, "We need more family units, more larger bedrooms," she said.

Brouhard was in support.

"I support creating housing, more housing in this neighborhood," she said. "I look forward to seeing this unfold."

Joe Wade was in support yet Rebecca Marks was a BUT.

"I'm happy that this developer is building housing but five stories is out of character, pretty tall," she said.

Diane Brock of Barbara Street was another BUT.

"I support new housing but the height of the building is too big," she said.

Phoebe Cooper liked the design.

"The city needs more housing," she said, "it will help small business."

Jeff McGuinn said he lives on Halifax Street and was worried that the building height would set a precedent.

Lynds explained that the zoning board will "look at this with a higher lever of scrutiny."

"Higher buildings [on major streets] is one of the long-term planning objectives of the BPDA," Lynds added.

Lynds summed up as the hearing concluded.

"The comment period closes on Aug. 17," he said. "We'll refine and make adjustments and submit to the BPDA board, at the earliest in September. Probably later."

"Then it's to the zoning board later in the fall. We expect to start in 2017," Lynds said,

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Tickets available day of the show - online or box office



<https://gvimes.link/symphno2>

Miracle Prayer

Dear Sacred Heart of Jesus, I have asked You for many favours. But I plead for this one. (mention favour). Take it, place it in your open broken Heart. And when the eternal Father sees it, covered with the mantle of his most precious Blood, He cannot refuse it. For then it is your prayer, not mine. Dear Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place my trust in thee. Amen.

Say three times for three days, promise publication and favour will be granted.

—V.C.

BFFC to turn Poplar St. Park into food forest

Looking for Rozzidents to help out



Coalition members spoke with residents about how they could change the face of Roslindale.

PHOTO BY DILANI YOGARATNAM

Dilani Yogaratnam
Staff Reporter

Ever heard of a food forest? Community gardens are another matter, which are lovely and useful, but more about the individual, according to executive director of the Boston Food Forest Coalition (BFFC), Orion Kriegman.

On August 13, in the Roslindale Branch of the Boston Public Library, BFFC stewards provided an interactive overview of what their mission is and how community mem-

bers can get involved to make this dreamscape a reality. Who wouldn't want to upgrade their neighborhood greenspaces into something lush, inviting and for the public? In this case, the vacant lot is Poplar Street Park, a stone's throw away from Roslindale Square.

So far, BFFC has transformed 13 vacant lots into food forests, including: Edgewater Food Forest on 640 River St., Mattapan; Egleston Community Orchard, 195 Boylston St., in Jamaica Plain; Frederick Douglass Peace Park, 1001

Tremont St., in Roxbury and Maple Street Food Forest, 44 Maple St., in Roxbury; among others across the city. The group hopes to bring two-to-three more food forests by the end of 2026 and the goal is 30 by 2030.

Liz Luc Clowes, engagement and construction director for BFFC, spoke animatedly, swinging her arms as she spoke about all the good work the organization does and its reliance and interest in community par-

Food Forest

Continued on page 6

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PERSIS YU
FOR STATE SENATE

Norfolk & Suffolk District



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The daughter of an immigrant, Persis Yu is a nationally recognized consumer advocate who stands up to powerful interests. She sued Donald Trump's Department of Education, big banks, tech companies, and debt collectors to protect families, workers, and labor unions. Persis will fight for affordable housing, childcare, strong public schools, and a fair economy where families come first.

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Around the Neighborhood

STATE PRIMARY: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2026
Voter Registration Deadline: Saturday, August 22, 2026
For the State Primary, any absentee request by mail must be received by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, August 25, 2026. If you qualify, you have until Monday, August 31 at 12 p.m. to vote absentee in person in the Boston Election Department Office, City Hall 241.
Early Voting: Saturday, August 22 through Friday, August 28 (Locations and Times TBD)
Applications to request a vote-by-mail ballot must be received by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, August 25, 2026, for the State Primary on Tuesday, September 1, 2026.
To access the Accessible Electronic Voting system, you must first submit a complete Vote by Mail application

ALLSTON BRIGHTON VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE
("Democracy is not a spectator sport") The Voter Registration Deadline for the September 1, 2026 State Primary Election is Saturday, August 22, In Person 5 pm; Online 11:59 pm; Postmarked by August 22. voteinma.com lleries

ZERO WASTE DAY DROP-OFF
Bring your household hazardous waste and certain waste ban items to a Zero Waste Day for safe disposal on Sept. 26 at 400 Frontage Road Central DPW Facility Roxbury, MA 02118
Accepted materials <https://gvimes.link/accpmtmrts>
Please note:
We only take waste from Boston residents. You need to show us a photo ID, utility bill, or lease as proof of your residency. We will not take any waste from businesses.
We reserve the right to reject any materials that do not meet our regulations.
Latex and acrylic paint are NOT hazardous. Just let the paint dry out in the can and put it out on your trash day.
We accept rechargeable batteries such as lithium-ion batteries. We do NOT accept Alkaline Batteries - these are your traditional, non-rechargeable AAA, AA, C, D and 9 volt batteries - they are NOT hazardous. Alkaline batteries will be labeled with "no added mercury" or with a green tree logo. Please place them in your regular trash. Visit our website for more details on what batteries we accept.

ROSLINDALE VILLAGE MAIN STREET GALA
You are invited to the Roslindale Village Main Street Gala
Honoring Glenn & Janice Williams Thursday, October 29, 2026 7:00pm - 10:00pm
The Substation 4228 Washington St. Roslindale, MA 02131
?
The gala provides vital funding that enables RVMS to support local businesses and create inclusive programming that makes Roslindale Village a vibrant and welcoming destination for all.

WEST ROXBURY COMMUNITY CLEANUP
Date: 09/19/2026 (Sat.) Time: 9:00am - 12:00pm EDT
Join the WRMS Beautification Committee in cleaning up our Main Street!
Location: Tim White Way – Meet at the Post Office – sign up below or email Lindsay Chase at Director@WRMS.rog
RSVP: <https://gvimes.link/wrmscleanup>

HPARTISTS-AT-LARGE PRESENT WOMEN OF BOSTON
6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Hyde Park Branch of the Boston Public Library
From the current exhibit Faces in the Crowd at Boston's MFA to the documentary Finding Vivian Maier, street photography is a popular subject. Dating back to Henri Cartier-Bresson and his contemporaries to current day photographers the streets have possessed a interesting subject matter and an array of stories. From Helen Lewitt to Garry Winogrand to Joel Meyerowitz stories have been conveyed via a single frame. Those are big names but lesser known names are just as good, if not sometimes better, locally the Boston scene is covered with many photographers; Lou Jones, Jim Dow, Mitch Weiss, and so on. Somewhat lesser know yet brilliant is Robert Richmond. He has left a substantial body of work and this exhibit explores one of his bodies of work; Women of Boston.
Possessed of a keen and dry wit, he pursued his passion for black and

Calendar
Continued on page 10

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Letters to the Editor

SHOW YOUR WORK

When I was in school, my teachers didn't give me full credit for an answer just because I wrote one down. They wanted to see how I got there; they told me, "show your work."

I've been thinking about that a lot during this year's state Senate race.

I have lived in this district for 13 years. During all that time, Mike Rush has been my state senator, and for most of that time, there hasn't been anyone on the ballot to seriously challenge him.

So now that someone finally is challenging him, I decided to do something I don't think is unreasonable: I went looking for his record.

Not his endorsements. Not pictures of him with other politicians. Not campaign slogans.

His work.

Rush's campaign says he's "doing the work" to make Massachusetts more affordable. His website says he passed legislation to make Massachusetts more affordable, created housing people can afford, delivered tax relief, expanded healthcare access, increased education funding and more.

Okay.

Show your work.

Which legislation did you sponsor or champion? What did it accomplish? How much did it save a family in this district? How many additional affordable homes did it create? What measurable difference did it make in the lives of the people who elected you?

Because after 13 years of living here, I can tell you something about affordability:

It hasn't gotten better.

And I'm tired of being told that someone is "doing the work" without being shown what the work actually was.

This isn't about pretending Mike Rush has done nothing. He has. His work on behalf of veterans is real, and he deserves credit for it. But Rush has been in the Massachusetts Legislature for 23 years – first as a state representative and then as a state senator.

Twenty-three years is a long time to be doing an assignment.

At some point, "I've been working hard" isn't an answer.

Show your work.

And that's particularly true when the person asking for another term won't debate his challenger.

Persis Yu has repeatedly asked Rush to debate her. Rush has not agreed. When his campaign was asked about the debate request, the response pointed to his "proven record."

If Mike Rush is proud of his

record, why won't he debate Persis Yu?

A debate would give him a perfect opportunity to do exactly what I'm asking him to do. He could explain his votes. He could defend his priorities. He could tell us what he has accomplished. He could tell us why Massachusetts is more affordable because of his work. He could tell us what he plans to do next.

Instead, we're getting endorsements.

Governor Maura Healey endorses him. Mayor Michelle Wu endorses him. Other politicians tell us that he works well with them.

That's nice.

But those endorsements answer a different question.

They tell us that other politicians like Mike Rush.

They don't tell us whether Mike Rush is the best person to represent us.

And there is a striking alternative on the ballot.

Persis Yu is a social worker and attorney who has spent nearly two decades representing consumers and working families. She has taken on banks, corporations and the federal government. She fought the Trump administration on behalf of student-loan borrowers, taking on a powerful government that was trying to strip borrowers of protections.

She is also raising two children who attend public school.

That matters to me.

She isn't talking about the cost of raising a family as an abstract policy issue. She's living it. She knows what housing costs. She knows what childcare costs. She knows what it costs to feed and educate children.

And she has spent her career taking on powerful institutions when they stand between ordinary people and economic security.

Yu is also the daughter of an immigrant who fled fascism.

Her life story is a reminder that democracy isn't something we can take for granted. Neither is government accountability.

That's the kind of experience I want to see brought to Beacon Hill.

I don't expect my state senator to agree with me on everything. I don't expect miracles. And I certainly don't expect one legislator to single-handedly make Massachusetts affordable.

But I do expect accountability.

I expect my senator to be able to tell me what he has accomplished.

I expect him to defend his votes. I expect him to answer hard questions.

And when someone finally steps forward to challenge an incumbent who has gone years

without serious competition, I expect that incumbent to stand on a stage with her and make his case.

We're not stupid.

We know the difference between an accomplishment and a campaign slogan. We know the difference between an endorsement and an explanation. And after 23 years in the Legislature, we are perfectly capable of looking at a record and deciding whether it is good enough.

So, Senator Rush: you've had plenty of time.

You've had 23 years to do the assignment.

Show your work.

And if you're proud of your answer, debate Persis Yu.

Sheeri Cabral Hyde Park

YOU CAN SAY VET

If I was to label myself ideologically I would most likely say Progressive. Some after seeing who wrote this letter might cough and say Liberal.

Given that, maybe that is why I am the person who should write this letter disagreeing with a post by the head of Progressive Mass criticizing State Senator Rush for using the word veteran on his signs.

There are times political groups will make posts that they think will help their endorsed candidate. Progressive Mass has endorsed his opponent. That post in my opinion is not helpful to Rush's opponent.

I think the head of Progressive Mass now regrets the post in that he has clarified the post by saying it was his personal view. The word I use for that type of clarification is backtracking.

While I have had fun with Senator Rush when Army beats Navy, Dad was an Army veteran, I would never criticize him or anyone for using the word Veteran in their political campaigns

Many years ago a friend of mine was running for Boston School Committee. Back then you could put a word beside your name on the ballot. Yes, Veteran was a word you could use.

For my friend he used Democrat. The Boston Globe called him about it asking him why because Boston municipal elections are non-partisan. His reply: It is who I am.

People can disagree with Senator Rush's views but I will say criticizing him for using the word Veteran is wrong

*Stephen Smith
West Roxbury*

Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail!)

Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity. Oh Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech thee from the bottom of my heart to succor me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (three times). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (three times). Say this prayer for three consecutive days and then you must publish and it will be granted to you.

—B.R.

Miracle Prayer

Dear Sacred Heart of Jesus, I have asked You for many favours. But I plead for this one. (mention favour). Take it, place it in your open broken Heart. And when the eternal Father sees it, covered with the mantle of his most precious Blood, He cannot refuse it. For then it is your prayer, not mine. Dear Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place my trust in thee. Amen.

Say three times for three days, promise publication and favour will be granted.

—B.R.



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address & telephone number.
Unsigned letters will not be
published.

Forum continued from page 1

on local issues, like affordability, housing and medical costs (though these did intersect with the president’s agenda during the forum).

The main difference between the two candidates – as they agreed on many singular issues – was that Roath was pitching that he was full of new ideas to bring to congress, while Lynch emphasized that experience was needed to take on the current Republican party.

“It is about providing a compelling optimistic message that resonates across this country and builds majorities, and I am convinced that the path forward is going to look different from the past,” Roath said. “We cannot keep retreading the same thing, we cannot keep sending the same people down and we cannot trust that the system that’s got us here is going to continue to deliver.”

A big issue that caused some apparent consternation between the candidates was that of funding. Roath contended that Lynch gets a lot of money from corporate political action committees (PAC), and Lynch contended that Roath also took money from PACs.

And there is a bit of truth to both of these claims. Lynch, according to records on the Federal Elections Commission website, did collect a lot of donations from unions, as he says below – <https://gvimes.link/lnchdntns> – including the Plumbers and Pipefitters, United Food and Commercial Workers International, the Carpenters Union, the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers PAC, the Employees of RTX Corporation PAC (RTX is Raytheon) and the Teamsters.

“Let me be clear,” Lynch said. “The PACs that I accepted money from are the Ironworkers,” he said. “When I was an ironworker, and they still do it today, it was 9 cents an hour, \$3.60 a week. That’s their PAC. My opponent has had four mailings, you’ve probably got them all, and they’re all from PACs that he’s working with.”

But Lynch also took donations from corporate PACs, like the Blackrock Funds Services Group LLC PAC (which appears to be a subsidiary of the international conglomerate, Blackrock Inc.). The FEC also stated he took money from the

TD Bank US Holding Company PAC and the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company PAC.

“We need to take corporate PAC money out of politics,” Roath said. “This campaign is not taking corporate PAC money.”

While there were no corporate PACs specifically in Roath’s FEC filings, there was \$2,800 that appeared to be donated by META in 14 \$200 donations – <https://gvimes.link/rthdntns>. Roath’s campaign stated these are in fact not donations, but rather that one of the campaign’s cards was compromised and the apparent thief used it for \$2,800 worth of purchases from Facebook/META. The receipt of those funds was actually a refund, according to the campaign. The purchases can be seen at <https://gvimes.link/rthfb>

Roath also received much of his donations from individuals, though much of that was channeled by the organization ActBlue, which describes itself as “the fundraising infrastructure behind Democratic politics.” Lynch also had some donations go through ActBlue.

Affordability was a big issue during the forum. Lynch and Roath went back and forth on it in several questions, with Lynch focusing on reversing Trump’s tariffs and other actions to reduce costs, while Roath had more long-term solutions for reducing prices.

The conversation came to a head when the Medicaid/Medicare/Social Security question came up. LWV asked both candidates what they would do to protect those three institutions, with Roath answering first.

Roath said figuring out how to expand Medicare and Medicaid to more U.S. residents would help reduce healthcare costs with preventative medicine. He said for Social Security, making it easier for more people to come to the United States, increasing the work force and getting a positive ratio of current workers versus retiring seniors would help to make, not only Social Security more financially viable, but the country as a whole.

“We need to make this country easier for people to live in and have families and want to participate in the workforce, and fixing healthcare, childcare, housing cost,” he said. “That is

the long-term solution to fixing all of this.”

Lynch went on to point out Roath’s work with Ropes & Gray LLP, which has had numerous large-scale business transactions, including several with Bain Capital LP and the Nippon Steel purchase of U.S. Steel.

“That’s rich,” he said. “Let’s talk about for-profit healthcare and the impact that has had on the cost of healthcare in this country. You seem to have forgotten what you’ve been doing for the last 10 years. There is a quote from Don Quixote. ‘Show me your company, and I’ll tell you what you are.’ My opponent has been working for Ropes & Gray for the last 10 years. Ropes & Gray is famous for two things: one, they bust unions for a living. Two, they push for-profit healthcare like Cerberus Capital and advise for-profit healthcare providers in taking over not-for-profit hospitals in sucking the federal money out and paying off their investors. That is a horrific system that should not be allowed in this country. Yet that is the business that my opponent has been in the last 10 years. And that is the honest truth.”

Lynch’s solution, at least when it comes to healthcare, is to eliminate all for-profit healthcare.

Ropes & Gray have a Wikipedia page dedicated to its large-scale cases and deals: <https://gvimes.link/rpsgry>

While it’s true that Roath has had most of his donations from individuals and not PACs or organizations, several donating individuals listed their employment in the donation filings, and 10 of them are/were employed by Bain Capital, two employees of Draft Kings, and one from Lockheed Martin.

A total of 96 employees of Ropes & Gray donated to Roath’s campaign.

“I know you object to the law firm work, and that’s fine, but I’m really proud of my background actually,” he said. “I got started working in politics working for (former Massachusetts Gov.) Deval Patrick, I did practice law, I chaired Common Cause, I’ve been in the Justice Department as a Law Clerk, in the State Department as a Fulbright Fellow, Campaigns, the White House, and I’m really proud of it, happy to discuss it, but none of it had to do with for-profit healthcare.”

Roath then pointed to a bill, apparently the Break Up Big Medicine Act from Congressperson Elizabeth Warren – <https://gvimes.link/brkbgmd> – as an example of what a current congressperson could do in office to help bring down costs. He said he would co-sponsor that bill immediately once in office, and he said Lynch has yet to do so.

For immigration reform, Roath said it “could include sensible controls at the border, but it must include a pathway to citizenship for people who have been in this country a long time to become citizens, that’s so important.”

“What we cannot do, is buy into the Republican attempt to weaponize immigrants in this country,” Roath said. “To make them seem like the villains, and blame all our problems on them. Everything from housing to anything you can think of. It is an attempt to turn our communities against each other.”

Roath went through Lynch’s voting record, including the creation of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in 2001, to fund the organization and voting in favor of a U.S. House of Representatives Resolution that, in part, thanked ICE – <https://gvimes.link/ushseres>

“That is an agency that has outlived its purpose, it’s exceeded its constitutional preroga-

tive, it should be dismantled, the people involved in pressing those masked agents onto our streets should be prosecuted and jailed,” Roath said. “It’s not that we can’t have domestic immigration enforcement, if you have that in your mind, we can do that, but not at that agency as it exists today. It has to go.”

Lynch defended his record. “First of all, I am an original co-sponsor of the DREAM Act, to allow children to become citizens in the U.S., at a time where that was not a very popular act,” he said. “That was probably 20 years ago, and I have been a supporter of that ever since. Trump has used the immigration issue to turn us against each other. He really has. When Trump says, ‘Immigrants are poisoning the blood of our nation,’ your Nazi alarm should go off.”

Lynch said ICE’s founding was set at the U.S. border. While that’s still technically true – ICE and U.S. Customs and Border Patrol jurisdiction is 100 miles from the coastline or border – many international airports are also within those two organization’s jurisdiction.

Lynch said he believes ICE’s current operations are illegal.

“Let me be clear, I have repeatedly voted to defund ICE,” he said. “One of the major pieces of legislation that we have put forward on our watch after Alex Pretti and Renee Goode were killed was to force, well completely reengineer ICE. Force them to take their masks off, force them to put name plates on, force them to put body cameras on and force them to comply with the law. Get them back on our border and out of our neighborhoods, and return a sense of stability where ICE is no longer a threat in our communities.”

For the full recording of the forum, go to <https://gvimes.link/lnchrthfrm>

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City: Jackson Mann consensus unlikely

Allston-Brighton residents continue to push for community center, new survey online

Jeff Sullivan
Staff Reporter

The City of Boston and the Boston Centers for Youth and Family (BCYF) held a virtual meeting on the Jackson Mann Community Center in Allston last week.

The meeting was a way for the city to check in and share its findings from its previous survey, as well as share that there is another survey asking for further detail: <https://gvimes.link/jcksnmmnsrvy2>

City of Boston Deputy Chief of Operations Patricia Cafferky said the reason for the new survey is to hone down the responses from the last one and create a priorities list so the city can move on and rebuild the community center.

For those new to the discussion, the Jackson Mann Community Center is in serious disrepair, and the city has tried to close it several times. Community members rallied for the center each time. Despite services being moved to other locations

to accommodate the loss of the center, the building was shored up and services moved back in.

But the building is falling apart. So the City started the planning process for a new building a few years ago and this past summer, announced that it was looking for community input on the site. The site used to house two schools, the Jackson Mann K-8 and the Horace Mann School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Jackson Mann was shut and its students moved throughout the district and Horace Mann moved to Charlestown. So now there’s a lot of extra space over there, and the city is asking residents whether they want a new school with the community center, new housing with the community center, or all three.

Cafferky, warned, however that the process will not make everyone happy.

“Something the surveys made very clear, is that Allston-Brighton community isn’t a monolith,” she said. “It really



The city held a follow-up meeting last week on plans for a new Jackson Mann BCYF Community Center in Allston. It would be the only community center to service the 80,000 residents of Allston and Brighton.

COURTESY PHOTO

shows that there is not going to be one perfect answer as to what happens on the Jackson-Mann site that makes everyone happy. So as we work towards consensus, it’s also important to call out that complete universal agreement is probably not possible, unsurprisingly.”

Cafferky showed several different responses from the survey arguing seemingly opposite points. One respondent said, “Parking is a MUST!! A garage

or underground parking garage would be ideal,” and another said “I hope any housing has minimal wasted space on parking, since it is well resourced by buses.” Another resident stated: “It needs to be a school,” and another “I recognize we need schools as well, but that funding would be better served investing in existing schools.”

Cafferky said the first survey had more than 554 respondents.

While Cafferky said the most popular option for the community center was a center with housing – some of the pitch there is that the housing will help pay for the community center making the project more feasible on the funding side of things – the second most popular, by seven votes, was with a school. The other option was for just a community center, and several

Jackson
Continued on page 9

Food Forest

continued from page 3

ticipation. The City of Boston has also backed the organization with funding much to the delight of Kriegman, who began the effort 10 years ago, he said.

Kriegman lives in Jamaica Plain, and BFFC grew from community work in Egleston Square where he and neighbors were clearing up trash and then planting fruit and nut trees. The City of Boston initially blocked his efforts for technical reasons and listed the various hoops to jump through in order to be legitimate. Kriegman then discovered many other kindred groups doing similar work. The food forest is more than just food, Kriegman said. For example at

Egleston Community Orchard, they offer movie nights in Spanish and English and JP Porchfest took place there too, as well as barbecues, birthday parties and Easter Egg hunts.

On the planting front, Kriegman tends toward perennials as they keep growing each year which is good on the environment. He added it makes for easier work which drew some laughs.

It was also a learning experience for the group members to discover berries that Native Americans and ancestors ate and trying to bring that back to the community. The efforts have been cross cultural because of

Boston’s diversity. That led a food forest in Norwood that is loosely affiliated with the BFFC to plant Pawpaw trees, one of New England’s few native fruits. That notion became the theme of the BFFC – creating equity among community members. To accomplish this, Kriegman realized they needed to own the land.

Kriegman brought up one of the food forests in Dorchester where the neighbors were piling up tires and planting in them and then bringing wheelbarrows of water to nourish the plants. When a future board member of BFFC saw this he had a vision of the possibility of trees lining this vacant lot. He talked with the neighbors and realized their intent was to put a stamp on this land for community so no one could steal it.

Kriegman said the real challenge was the developmental process and meeting the needs of everyone, including affordability. “We deserve the full quality of life in our neighborhoods,” Kriegman said while also saying that not every available space needs to be open to the community. He said open spaces are known for helping children with their mental health. Climate change is another motivating factor to upgrade vacant lots into green spaces for the

cooling effects and such spaces provide animals with safe spaces too.

“It took us a long time as a scrappy grassroots group of neighbors who were dumpster diving for cardboard just to repair the soil – no budget, everyone was volunteer — and now we have a staff of 11. We can get access to real resources and budgets and make sure we are doing state-of-the-art design, irrigation and solar panels, water pumps. We’ve upped the game in these recent years.” He said his group is now part of many of Boston’s existing environmental organizations and working alongside the city to help fight climate change issues. Mayor Michelle Wu has endorsed the group’s vision, he said.

“Tonight is a chance to start gathering ideas for what you want in your food forest. I won’t say start because we have some folks who have been working and putting ideas together for the last couple of years. This is really an extension of that and this will be a part of the design of what is coming next,” Clowes said.

She passed around large blueprints of Poplar Park for people to sketch their ideas in small groups before shar-

ing with everyone. About 15 people were at what felt like a brainstorming event. Clowes asked each person to introduce themselves and share their hopes for this space. A young person named Avery Lepczyk, of Roslindale, was seated next to their mom and gently shared ideas with the group regarding their hopes for this parcel of land.

“I really like nature and animals and I want there to be a gaga ball pit.”

The audience laughed and Clowes and this reporter needed an Internet search on the meaning.

A gaga ball pit is an octagonal enclosed space filled with composite lumber. One of the eight walls is a little lower so kids can enter. The game played is similar to dodge ball except the kids throw balls at the knees and in some cases using the wall is allowed to jump higher. Rules need to be agreed upon before the game starts.

Someone else suggested integrating art into the space by way of kids designing stepping stones as a way to make the area feel more special and perhaps invites artists to create open studios. Lepczyk said, “I think we should make bat boxes or shelters for bees and places for bugs.” The group cheered on those ideas.

Creating spaces in the community for people to relax, gather food or just enjoy communion seems in everyone’s best interest or at the very least to put their phones down for a few minutes. To learn more, visit bostonfoodforest.org.

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Pressley, Markey, advocates celebrate \$850,000 Delivered for LGBTQ+ Senior Housing at HP's The Pryde

Funds help support the 74 units of housing in Hyde Park

Last week, Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley (MA-07) and Senator Edward J. Markey (D-MA) visited Hyde Park to celebrate the \$850,000 in federal community project funding they helped deliver, in partnership with Senator Elizabeth Warren, for The Pryde, an affordable housing development for LGBTQ+ seniors in Hyde Park. The federal dollars, secured at the end of the Biden-Harris Administration, have supported the conversion of a former Boston Public School building into 74 units of high-quality, service-enriched affordable housing for seniors in Boston.

Congresswoman Pressley and Senator Markey toured the facility and participated in a roundtable discussion with residents and community partners. Joining them at the event were Gretchen Van Ness, Executive Director, LGBTQ Senior Housing, Inc., The Pryde

leadership and staff, and residents and community members.

“While the Trump Administration attacks our LGBTQ+ siblings and guts essential housing programs, I’m so proud to help deliver these funds and help seniors in the Massachusetts 7th access the affordable housing and community space they deserve,” said Congresswoman Pressley. “It was a joy to join Senator Markey and our advocates to see the progress being made at The Pryde, and I am more resolved than ever to continue advancing housing justice and help our elders age with dignity.”

“The Pryde is setting the gold standard for what affordable senior housing should be,” said Senator Markey. “I’m so proud of the joyful community created here by our advocates and partners who know that every LGBTQ+ senior deserves a safe, dignified place



Pressley and Markey met with Hyde Park advocates last week to celebrate \$850,000 in funds coming to the Pryde.

COURTESY PHOTO

to live. It was wonderful to join Representative Pressley today in celebrating this funding for The Pryde, and I’m grateful to have her as a champion fighting with me to protect our LGBTQ+ community.”

“Building communities

likes The Pryde would not be possible without the support and advocacy of our Congressional delegation. We are forever grateful to Congresswoman Pressley for refusing to back down when Republicans stripped Community

Project Funding from the House appropriations bill, and we are forever grateful to Senators Markey and Warren for joining in the fight to restore that funding,” said

Pryde

Continued on page 9

Town Hall *continued from page 1*

no-show for the event.

Yu spoke to about 50 attendees at the Aug. 13 gathering at the Stratford Street United Church and spoke about her “affordability agenda” which includes addressing costs at the state level through universal free childcare, auditing utility companies and making corporations accountable to drive down costs in housing and strengthening worker’s wages.

“I am running because here in Massachusetts, we have a growing affordability crisis, and we have a dangerous rise in authoritarianism, and we need to be talking about these issues together,” said Yu.

She described the Trump administration as one that seeks to divide people by blaming immigrants and minorities for all economic problems while enabling corporations and some politicians to benefit from the high prices. She challenged Rush to produce a plan to address the rising prices

facing working people and opened the meeting to take questions from the audience.

One audience member asked about the link between higher wages and childcare quoting an article in the Boston Globe about Harvard’s plan to increase hourly wages to \$20 an hour enabling workers to stay employed and afford childcare. “If we had one silver bullet, it would be to provide universal childcare ... it is too expensive to get childcare ... we need to have a system where we are subsidizing childcare workers,” said Yu, describing a system where corporations would pay their fair share to provide vital services like childcare for their workers. “With the millionaire’s tax, we saw an increase in universal prepay, or not some universal prepay, but free childcare, free preschool for three-year-olds.”

Vivian Wu asked, “How can we better support our small busi-

nesses?”

“The small businesses are such a vital part of our community,” said Yu. “I think a lot of folks don’t realize that our general consumer protections don’t always apply to small businesses. So, we need to shore up protections and recognize that the laws that make sense for Amazon don’t necessarily make sense for our small businesses down the chain, right?”

Yu went on to propose supporting communities so they can afford to support their local small businesses. “A lot of folks are desperate if they go to Amazon because that is the cheaper, more available option. So, we need to make it so that it’s possible for people to shop their local businesses.”

Another community member, Gio Valencia, said “The biggest affordability problem that we have is related to housing... As our senator, what could you do with your colleagues to ensure that we keep our workforce here, that we keep our teenagers and college

students after they graduate living in Boston?”

Yu responded, “The housing crisis is out of control, and it stems from really decades of inaction on housing. We do need to be building, and we need to be building and making sure that we’re building affordable units for housing.”

Yu cited Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), using land that owners are willing to use to build more housing on their property. She said the idea is to give working people a chance to participate in the housing market that large developers have been benefitting from for years. She also said she wants to keep potential buyers from being priced out by costs beyond the sticker price of a home. “It’s insurance ... and property taxes, I think we need to be looking at all the different ways that housing is unaffordable.” She supports increasing housing stock but also finding ways to reduce prices. Some ways are through affordable energy, investing in longer-

term solutions that lower prices and stabilize costs.

Yu was also asked whether she favored the auditing of the state legislature. She said that a large percentage of voters asked for a state audit.

“What is our legislature doing and who are they listening to when they are not passing the laws that we ask them to pass? So, the very simple answer is I support the audit and I think that we need to hold the legislature accountable to doing the audit in the way that 70 percent of voters asked for. And I think we need to more broadly increase accountability and we need to call them out on the steps that they have taken to try to evade that accountability through court challenges and through passing laws.”

Voting is now ongoing with mail-in and absentee voting occurring now. Primary Day, in-person voting takes place on Sept. 1, 2026. For information on how and where to vote, go to <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/>



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Enrico of West Roxbury, passed away on August 10, 2026, at 96 years of age. Beloved husband of Jennie (Romano) of West Roxbury. Devoted father of Enrico Magnani, Jr., of Fitchburg, MA, Rosemarie Magnani and her husband David Jackson of Newton, MA, Carolyn Magnani and her husband Christopher Tucci of Lausanne, Switzerland, and Dianna Magnani and her husband John McDonald of Newton, MA. Cherished grandfather of David, Jennifer, and Christopher Jackson; Enrico, Romano, and Matteo Tucci; and John and Carolyn McDonald. Dear brother of

Maurizio Magnani and his wife Margaretta (Gullet) of Duarte, CA, the late Silvia and her husband Domenic Marino of Belmont, MA, and the late Luana and her husband Gianfranco Colitti of Rome, Italy. Dear brother-in-law of Carmela (Romano) and her late husband Gaspare Balsamo, and the late Emma (Romano) and her husband Francesco Magro. Also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Born in Rome, Italy, on August 16, 1929, Dad grew up during a difficult and unstable period in the country's history, when Italy was ruled by a dictator. A wonderful storyteller, Dad told us about how one time when he was playing trumpet in a marching band at a national ceremony, Mussolini patted him on the head and posed with him for the newspaper. Dad was immediately suspicious of this powerful man.

Dad's youth was marked by danger and resilience. When Allied planes bombed his Porta Maggiore neighborhood, his family narrowly escaped when a bomb hit their apartment building. His mother's dry cleaning shop was severely damaged, and half the building (the half where they did not live) collapsed a few days later. Dad later witnessed German soldiers rounding up civilians during the events lead-

The Bulletin

DEATHS

ing to the massacre of 335 men and boys in the Ardeatine Caves in March 1944. Small for his age, he believed his size spared him from being taken. After the war, he guided American troops to the site of the atrocity.

After the war, as a young civil engineer, Dad helped rebuild war damaged parts of Rome. When he was 25, at his mother's insistence, he emigrated to Boston to join his older sister, Silvia, who had married an Italian American soldier. Dad boarded the SS Cristoforo Colombo in Naples bound for New York, encountering a hurricane and experiencing eight straight days of seasickness on his journey.

In the United States, he found both opportunity and enduring love. Mom and Dad met in the mid-1950s and married in 1959. They bought a home and a piece of land in West Roxbury where they soon built a new home that Dad lived in with Mom for the rest of his life. One of his favorite hobbies was working on the house; he did everything from plumbing to electrical to masonry work, and he did it with skill and precision.

Dad had a successful career in civil engineering. As we drove around Boston, he often pointed out buildings on which he had worked and described the engineering challenges they presented and how they were addressed. Brilliant, tough, and determined, he assimilated, saved, and advanced—building a life defined by resilience, integrity, and purpose.

Above all, Dad was devoted to

his family. He was an accomplished saver and investor who deeply valued education. Together with Mom, he generously paid our many tuition bills without hesitation. He took immense pride in the accomplishments of his children and grandchildren. His legacy lives on in the strength he showed, the sacrifices he made, and the deep love he gave to those closest to him.

Visitation and funeral services provided by the William J. Gormley Funeral Home, 2055 Centre St. West Roxbury. Interment at Newton Cemetery.

MAHON



The death has occurred of Siobhán Mahon (West Roxbury, Boston, Massachusetts, formerly Rashane, Ardrahane, Co. Galway Ireland) on August 14th, 2026. Siobhán passed away peacefully, surrounded by her loving family in the wonderful care of the staff at Brigham and Women's Hospital as well as the Dana Farber Cancer Institute after an illness borne bravely. Siobhán is predeceased by her father Michael Mahon. Siobhán will be sadly missed and

remembered by devoted sons Kevin and Michael, her mother Agatha, her brothers Denis and Michael, sister Aine, Noreen and Victor, extended family, friends, and her former husband Kieran.

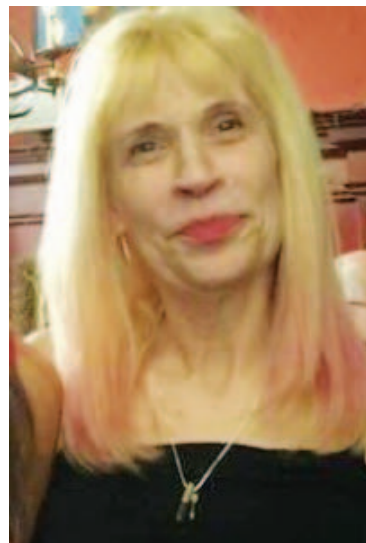
Reposing held by Gormley's
Funeral Home, 2055 Centre Street,
West Roxbury, MA, 02132.

She will be laid to rest in
Galway, Ireland.

In lieu of flowers donations in memory of Siobhán may be made to The Kevin Bell Repatriation Trust at <https://kbrtrust.com/donations/> and or The Dana Farber Cancer Institute at <https://www.dana-farber.org/>

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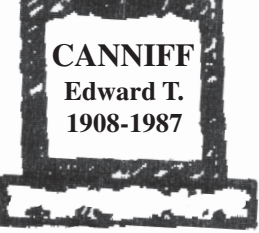


Barbara "Babs" (Cohen) O'Brien of Jamaica Plain, formerly of Bronx, NY, passed away on August 14, 2026. Beloved daughter of the late Harry and Dorine (Axelrod) Cohen. Dear sister of Audrey Kalaf

Deaths

Continued on page 9

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Rozzie Porch Fest deadline Aug. 24

Legendary concert returning Sept. 19



The deadline for bands and hosts is fast approaching for this year's Roslindale Porch Fest.

COURTESY PHOTO

The 11th Annual Roslindale Porch Fest will be held on Saturday afternoon September 19. Last year's event featured 150 bands and musical artists performing at 75 different locations throughout Roslindale. Registration is now open for both hosts and musicians at roslindaleporchfest.org. The deadline to register is August 24.

Musicians, singers and performers of all genres are encouraged to sign up to perform. Previous Porch Fests have featured rock bands, rappers, folk singers, a cappella groups, jazz

combos, children's/family performers, Latin and Caribbean bands, classical ensembles and opera singers of all ages and abilities.

Those interested in hosting a performance should also register via the Porch Fest website. Though called “Porch Fest,” the festival’s performance spaces have included backyards, patios, driveways and garages. Music will be scheduled between 1:00-6:00 PM, and hosts and bands can specify the time slots that work best for them.

Roslindale Porch Fest be-

gan in 2015, and has presented a day of free live music across Roslindale's neighborhoods each year since (with the exception of 2020 due to covid). While early festivals were sponsored by the Roslindale Arts Alliance, since 2022 the festival has been sponsored by Roslindale Village Main Streets. Local business sponsorships and individual contributions are greatly appreciated. There are also volunteer opportunities for publicity, street team, and logistics. For more information visit roslindaleporchfest.org or email hello@roslindaleporchfest.org.

Deaths *continued from page 8*

and her husband Joe of Jericho, NY. Loving aunt of Alex Kalaf New York, NY. Former wife of John O'Brien of Ludlow. Dearest friend of Denyce Neilson as well as many other close friends and extended family.

A Graveside Service will be held on Sunday, August 16th at the Gardens at Gethsemane Cemetery, 670 Baker Street, West Roxbury, at 11:00am. Relatives and friends are kindly invited to attend.

SHEA

Our family is heartbroken to announce the passing of our beloved mother, Mary A. Shea, 89 of Roslindale, MA who passed peacefully on August 10, 2026 surrounded by her loving family. She was the anchor of our lives and a constant source of unconditional love to everyone who knew her. She lived a life marked by dedication to her family, a quiet strength, and her deep faith. She taught us the true value of kindness, grace and resilience through her everyday actions. She will always be remembered for her attention to little details that were important to those she loved.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Daniel (JM) Shea, her daughter-in-law, Debbie Shea and her parents, Michael and Margaret Lynch.

She is survived by her 8 children, who she loved very much. Daniel, Linda Danforth, Larry and his wife Marie, Gregory and his wife Bonnie, Christopher and his wife Donna, Susan, Timothy and his wife Joanne, Stephen and his wife Eileen. She was also Nana to many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Visitation and funeral services provided by the William J. Gormley Funeral Home, 2055 Centre St. West Roxbury. Interment St. Joseph Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers the family kindly requests donations be made to the Saint Vincent de Paul Society, Holy Name Church, 1689 Centre St. West Roxbury, MA 02132

SULLIVAN

Karen J. Sullivan of Roslindale passed away peacefully at home on August 16, 2026, after a courageous battle with cancer. Beloved daughter of Eugene and Viola Sullivan. Dear sister of Mark Sullivan and his wife Margaret, and their daughter Caitlin Sullivan. Loving companion of John Byrne with whom she shared 27 wonderful years.

Karen was born in Boston on February 26, 1962, and was a lifelong resident of Roslindale. She graduated from Fontbonne Academy. Karen continued her education at Suffolk University where she graduated with a degree in accounting.

She worked in the Office of the State Auditor for over 25 years until she retired in 2025. She enjoyed playing golf, following the Red Sox and trips to the seashore.

Karen will never be forgotten and live on through the family and partner she loved.

Funeral from the William J. Gormley Funeral Home, 2055 Centre St., West Roxbury, on Friday, August 21st at 10:00 am. Followed by a Mass of Christian Burial in Holy Name Church, 1689 Centre St., West Roxbury at 11:00 am. Relatives and friends are kindly invited to attend. Interment St. Joseph Cemetery, West Roxbury.

Visiting Hours Thursday, August 20th from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm in the Funeral Home.

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Pryde *continued from page 7*

Gretchen Van Ness, Executive Director, LGBTQ Senior Housing, Inc. “The federal Community Project Funding awarded to LGBTQ Senior Housing supports low-income seniors and the underserved Hyde Park community with innovative programs and services that celebrate and serve some of

the most vulnerable and marginalized elders in our community. Congresswoman Pressley’s tireless advocacy and support has helped make The Pryde a model for welcoming affordable senior housing for the nation.”

“The Pryde represents what is possible when federal, city, and non-profit lead-

ers unite behind a shared goal of creating a community where every resident feels safe, valued, and at home,” said Age Strong Commissioner Emily K. Shea. “Through this strong public-private partnership with LGBTQ Senior Housing, Inc., we are delivering the innovative housing and programming that every older adult in Boston deserves.”

Jackson *continued from page 6*

residents spoke in favor of this option, as they seemed to think adding the housing would complicate and possibly delay the community center.

“This meeting is supposed to be about a community center,” said resident Thomas Lally. “Why are we throwing in housing into the mix? Allston-Brighton as a community has seen a massive amount of development, and I believe we have done enough for the city as far as housing goes. Let’s just focus on getting ourselves a prime community center with the bells and whistles that many other community centers have.”

The logic for the other uses was, Cafferky said, because there is so much space on the site, as there are two fewer schools there now. But Lally said it could be better utilized.

“So that could mean more parking,” he said. “Maybe a gym, but Allston-Brighton has been pretty much ignored as far as this goes, and to confuse the issue with housing I think is counter productive.”

And parking there is an issue. Current Jackson Mann Director Rosie Hanlon said the parking spaces for the community center get utilized every night.

“Many people come here and utilize the parking, need the parking,” she said. “Our parking is filled every single night because we have people utilizing the recreation and ESOL (English for speakers of other languages) year-round. We have a lot to build and these ideas that come in will make it greater and stronger.”

Hanlon said there were several great ideas for the community center discussed during the meeting and suggested residents keep harping on those ideas in the next survey, because this is the only BCYF community center for District 9, which has about 80,000 residents.

“We have so many needs, childcare, infant toddler childcare is huge, and I think we, as a neighborhood, are an art stop, and looking at a theater, this was something at the community center that was utilized often,” she said. “The thing that we really need to realize is we are the only community center in Allston Brighton, serving a lot of

people. So really lush ideas are great and let’s be able to bring and fill those needs.”

Speaking of childcare, resident Mairead Despagni said she used to work at the Jackson Mann Daycare and asked if that was coming back. Cafferky said the BCYF no longer runs daycares itself, but rather leases out space to other entities for “a nominal fee.”

“I think the important thing here is that there is probably opportunity to make sure there is some sort of retail space that could be prioritized for childcare

and then similarly have some sort of nonprofit partner that runs it,” Cafferky said.

The current timeline for the community center with housing would put construction starting at 2030, with the design of each element – the community center and the housing – taking place simultaneously to reduce time.

Officials said they are working on plans to keep the current community center offerings available during construction so that there is no interruption in services.

For the full project page, go to <https://gvimes.link/jackmannproj>

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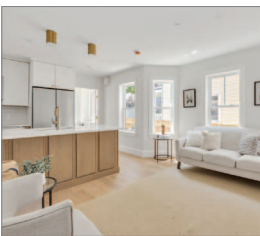
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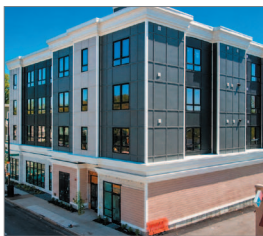
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