

## New book by Anthony Sammarco highlights history of Jamaica Plain

By JOHN LYNDS

Known in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries as the Jamaica End of Roxbury, the neighborhood of Jamaica Plain evolved from agrarian farmland for over 200 years into one of the more dynamic and inclusive neighborhoods of twenty-first century Boston.

A new book by Anthony Sammarco, noted author and historian of over sixty books on the history and development of Boston, entitled, "Jamaica Plain Through Time" Sammarco explores the development of Jamaica Plain from farmland to an urban hub in Boston.

According to Arcadia Publishing this photographic history of Jamaica Plain, Sammarco, with contemporary photographs by Peter B. Kingman, has created a, "fascinating book that chronicles the neighborhood from the late nineteenth century through to the twenty-first century."

"Jamaica Plain became one of the earliest streetcar suburbs of Boston with various forms of transportation linking it to downtown Boston," said Sammarco in his introduction of the new book. "With horse drawn streetcars, the Boston & Providence Railroad as well as the Boston Elevated Railway, by the turn of the twentieth

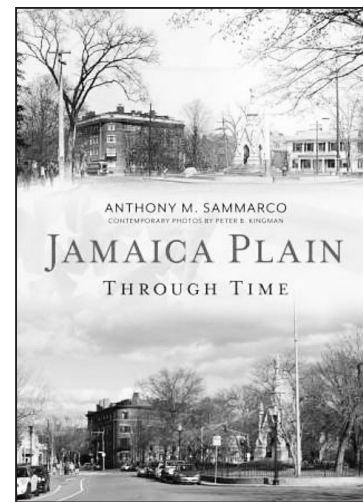
century, the ease of transportation allowed a thriving nexus of cultures to move to a community that not only saw tremendous residential and commercial development, especially with the numerous breweries along the Stony Brook, but also greenspace and open lands that were laid out by Frederick Law Olmstead as a part of the "Emerald Necklace" of Boston. Its bucolic setting led to Jamaica Plain being called The Eden of America."

In the book, Sammarco points out that in the twentieth century, Jamaica Plain was also to become the location of numerous hospitals and institutions that provided care for Bostonians.

"The Faulkner, Washington, Shattuck, Vincent Memorial, Massachusetts Osteopathic and the Veterans Administration Hospitals; the New England Home for Little Wanderers and the Trinity Church Home; the Boston School of Physical Education, the Eliot School, the Perkins School for the Blind and the Nursery for Blind Babies; the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the Children's Museum all contributed to Jamaica Plain's pride of place in Boston," Sammarco continues.

The book can now be found

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Author and historian Anthony Sammarco has released a new photo history book on Jamaica Plain entitled, "Jamaica Plain Through Time."

## Community Servings awarded 10-year Cummings Foundation grant

Community Servings is one of 30 local nonprofits sharing in \$10 million in funding from Cummings Foundation. The Jamaica Plain-based organization will receive \$333,300 over 10 years.

Founded in 1990, Community Servings provides medically tailored meals and nutrition services to individuals and families living with critical and chronic illnesses. As medically tailored meal services are further integrated into patient-centered models of care, Community Servings expects to continue its rapid growth.

"We are so grateful to the Cummings Foundation for this award and the \$100,000 grant we received from them in June; it is an incredible demonstration of support of the healing power of food and our team's mission to prepare and deliver nourishing meals," said David Waters, CEO of Community Servings. "Food heals, and with the support of Cummings Foundation, we will be able to help more people struggling with illness to lead richer lives and have better medical outcomes."

The grant funds will support Community Servings' ambitious 10-year growth plan to expand production and delivery of home-delivered medically tailored meals and nutrition services to individuals, their dependent children, and caregivers affected by illness and hunger.

"Greater Boston is so fortunate to have nonprofits like Community Servings that are listening to the community and

working to meet its needs," said Cummings Foundation grants manager Christina Berthelsen. "By providing a full decade of support, we hope to alleviate some of the constant fundraising burden, enabling nonprofit staff to spend more time actually providing services."

This long-term funding is part of the Cummings \$20 Million Grant Program, which supports Massachusetts nonprofits that are based in and primarily serve Middlesex, Essex, and Suffolk counties.

In the first phase of this philanthropic initiative, 130 nonprofits were awarded \$100,000 each in June. In the second phase, just completed, repeat grant winners were considered to have their \$100,000 grants elevated to 10-years awards of \$200,000 to \$500,000 each.

Nonprofits contending for the extended funding made presentations via Zoom to a panel of Cummings Foundation volunteers. These community volunteers selected 19 of the 30 grant winners. The other 11 recipients had been determined in June by Foundation team members.

"As a way to share the economic power of the Foundation, we have created a system through which volunteers decide more than half of all our grant winners," said Berthelsen. "We benefit from their diverse backgrounds and perspectives; they benefit from an enlightening learning opportunity; and the nonprofits often benefit from increased exposure and new advocates."

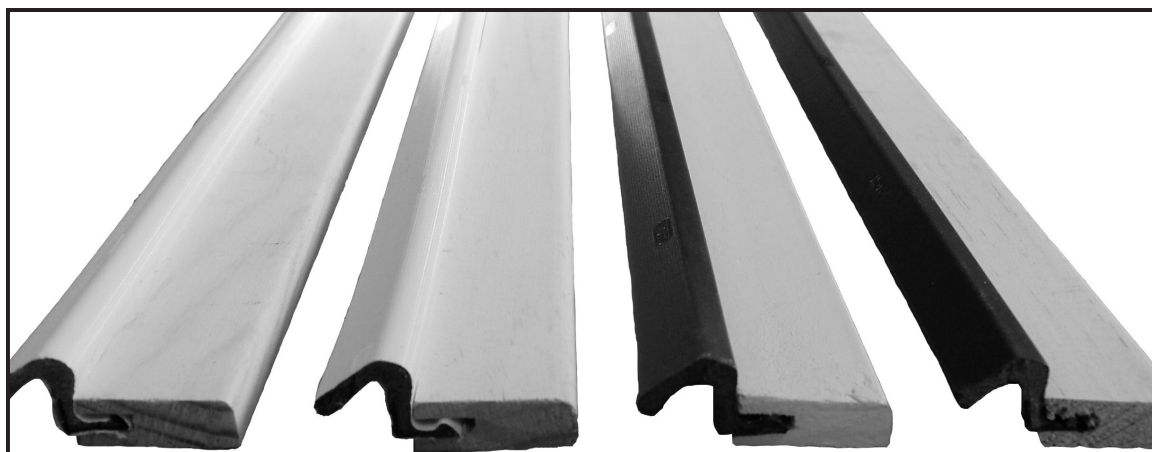
Through the Cummings \$20 Million Grant Program, Cummings Foundation gives back in the area where it owns commercial buildings, all of which are managed, at no cost to the Foundation, by its affiliate, Cummings Properties. Founded in 1970 by Bill Cummings,

the Woburn-based commercial real estate firm leases and manages 10 million square feet of debt-free space, the majority of which exclusively benefits the Foundation.

Cummings Foundation has now awarded more than \$280 million to greater Boston non-

profits alone. It increased its annual grant program from \$20 million to \$25 million during the current 2021 cycle.

The complete list of Cummings Foundation grant winners is available at [www.Cummings-Foundation.org](http://www.Cummings-Foundation.org).



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