



COVID TEST RATE INCREASES NEARLY 40 PERCENT, PAGE 5

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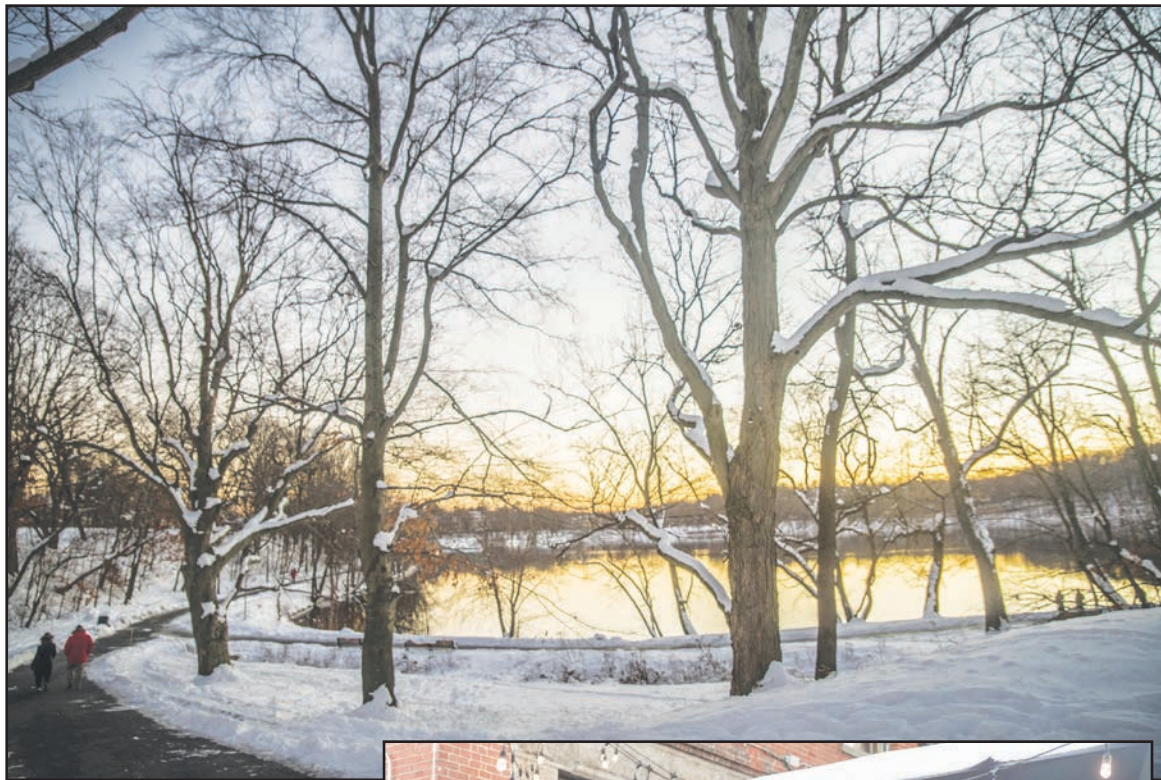
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JP UNDER SNOW



Snow fell on JP last Friday and many residents enjoyed their time outside around Jamaica Pond (above) or fighting the cold with some hot coffee, (right) and, of course, playing in the snow as can be seen on Pages 4 and 5.



City, JP Cannabis Museum offering informational sessions

By JOHN LYNDS

Mayor Michelle Wu announced this month the City of Boston, in collaboration with the Core Empowerment Social Justice Cannabis Museum in Jamaica Plain, will offer a series of free introductory informational sessions beginning Tuesday, January 18 on the cannabis industry and entrepreneurship for those who intend to operate a cannabis business in the City of Boston.

Wu said the objective of these January sessions is to increase the number of equity owned cannabis business licensees and applicants in the City of Boston.

“As we build a cannabis in-

dustry in our City, it’s crucial to uplift the communities that have lived the harms of previous marijuana laws and enforcement,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “I encourage all interested entrepreneurs to use these resources to ensure equitable growth for this emerging industry.”

In November of 2019, the City of Boston passed an “Ordinance Establishing Equitable Regulation of the Cannabis Industry,” which requires the development of procedures and policies that encourage participation in the regulated cannabis industry by communities that have been dis-

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Crime in JP down 32 percent in 2021

By LAURA PLUMMER

On Thursday, Jan. 6, District E13 of the Boston Police Department (BPD) hosted its first virtual police and community relations meeting of 2022. The monthly meeting, which is carried out virtually over Zoom, is an opportunity for members of the public to learn about local crime and ask questions of law

enforcement.

At every meeting, Sgt. John Dougherty provides Part One crime data assembled by the Boston Regional Intelligence Center. Part One crimes are the most serious, and don’t include offenses like vandalism, drug dealing or possession of firearms.

Overall crime in Boston de-

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La delincuencia disminuyó un 32 por ciento

AUTOR: LAURA PLUMMER

El jueves 6 de enero, el Distrito E13 del Departamento de Policía de Boston (BPD) organizó su primera reunión virtual de relaciones comunitarias y policiales de 2022. La reunión mensual, que se lleva a cabo virtualmente a través de Zoom, es una oportunidad para que los miembros del público aprendan sobre el crimen

local y hagan preguntas sobre la aplicación de la ley.

En cada reunión, el Sgto. John Dougherty proporciona datos sobre delitos de la Parte Uno reunidos por el Centro Regional de Inteligencia de Boston. Los delitos de la Parte Uno son los más graves y no incluyen el vandalismo, el tráfico de drogas o la

Continued on page 3

JPNC discusses requests from SEED dispensary

By LAUREN BENNETT

The Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC) met virtually on January 11 for a make-up December meeting, as there was not a quorum of council members to hold a meeting in December.

The Council first heard a presentation from the team at SEED,

the cannabis dispensary at 401A Centre St., which requested a change in closing hours as well as the removal of language about a shared valet

SEED Chief of Staff Tomas Gonzalez, as well as CEO April Arrasate were on hand to present the proposal and address comments and questions.

Arrasate said that SEED’s current hours are 11am to 8pm but their original proposal was for 10am to 10pm, so that is what they are proposing now.

“We are trying to get in line with our competitors,” Arrasate said, adding that they believe the

Continued on page 4

Urgent need for kitchen volunteers at Community Servings

STAFF REPORT

Kitchen volunteers are urgently needed at Community Servings to help the nonprofit's professional kitchen staff prepare and package 18,000 medically tailored meals that are delivered weekly to critically and chronically ill individuals across the region.

While Community Servings operates one of Boston's largest volunteer programs, the current COVID-19 surge has pushed January volunteer numbers to low levels. Demand for the nonprofit's nutritious, life-saving meals has increased by over

80% since the pandemic began.

"Volunteers have been at the heart of our mission since we began, essential to ensuring that we can feed our neighbors in need and help maintain their health," said David B. Waters, CEO of Community Servings. "Given the effects of this pandemic surge, we are making a plea for anyone with a few hours to lend a helping hand in our kitchen."

Volunteers help peel and chop vegetables; portion soups, stews and salads; and pack weekly meal bags for clients living with HIV/AIDS, cancer, diabetes and heart disease, among other ill-

nesses.

For health and safety reasons, all volunteers are required to be fully vaccinated, have their temperature taken, and wear a surgical or KN95 face mask (provided) at Community Servings' Food Campus in Jamaica Plain, which is on the T's Orange Line. The kitchen is equipped with hospital-grade air ventilation and filtration systems.

Anyone interested in volunteering can visit www.servings.org/volunteer to sign up for three-hour shifts Monday through Friday (9 a.m. to noon, 1 to 4 p.m. and 4 to 7 p.m.).



Volunteers in the kitchen at Community Servings in Boston. Photo courtesy of Community Servings

Wu

Continued from page 18

we must let this be a reminder of what so many in our city have to live with every single day. Our residents who have been standing outside in the cold for hours waiting for a test to make sure they can keep their family safe.

We must do better. Our residents who are living unhoused in tents at Mass and Cass and across the city, we're taking action and we must do better. And for so many residents who have been outside in the cold because of systems that have not seen and valued every single one of our community members we are going to do better and I look forward to

the collaboration with the City Council to make that happen. With this new year, let us find warmth in each other even as we face stiff headwinds. We will make progress and make sure that we are always holding the light of our Boston residents in front of us and build that community that we need and we deserve in 2022."

AN ARTIST VIEW



Joe Carrigg, a Boston Latin School 7th Grade Visual Art Teacher, painted this watercolor of his family and friends walking around Jamaica Pond to share with our readers.

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