Guest Opinion

Boston’s next steps to address the opioid crisis

BY MAYOR MARTIN J. WALSH

In big cities and small towns across the United States, the opioid epidemic is tearing families apart. It is inflicting incredible pain, and it will have implications for years to come. In Boston, we’ve made this issue a top priority. And now, we’re ready to take the next step with a new strategic plan called Melnea Cass/Mass Ave. 20.

This new plan focuses on a neighborhood in Boston that has been hardest-hit by the addiction crisis: the intersection of Melnea Cass Boulevard and Mass. Ave. in the South End, often referred to as East Cambridge. For decades, this has been a hub of vital services for people struggling with substance use disorder, mental health issues, and homelessness. It’s one of the places where the city and its wide array of partners, including nonprofits, medical centers, and service providers, have dedicated the most resources to treat and prevent programs. People from throughout the state and region have been drawn to the area due to the availability of treatment, health care, and shelter.

We recognize the impact this has on the surrounding communities which have borne a disproportionate share of the issue. In addition to those struggling with addiction, we also need to consider the health needs of families, schools, and businesses in the area as they contribute to the help they need.

That’s why this neighborhood is ground zero for our response. Focusing on this area, we will be able to reach the people most in need of life-saving care, and address pressing safety and quality-of-life concerns for the surrounding community as well. At the same time, we’re expanding services city-wide, and calling for improved access to resources outside Boston and throughout the region.

The 20 plan is informed by public health and public safety professionals, community members, and people recovering from substance use disorder themselves. This plan has three focuses: access to public health, quality of life, and public safety. We’re hiring new staff members to work in the area, and funding for new programs and initiatives to help people the help they need. Our plan lays out specific, actionable, and measurable life-saving care, and addressing safety and quality-of-life concerns for the surrounding community as well. At the same time, we’re expanding services city-wide, and calling for improved access to resources outside Boston and throughout the region.

Continued on page 2

Building the New BMC

(L to R) Chair of Boston Medical Center’s philanthropic trust and building the new BMC Co-Chair; Randi Cutler of Boston; Boston Medical Center’s Surgeon-in-Chief and Chair of Boston Medical Center’s Hospital Board of Trustees, Jennifer Tseung; M.D.; MPH; John Newton; Boston Medical Center Health System Board Chairs; James P. Duklas; and Boston Medical Center Health System President and CEO Kate Walsh of Boston CEO and Chair of BMCCP’s Access and Engagement Group and Chair of Boston Medical Center’s Hospital Board of Trustees, Martha Samuels; Newton; Boston Medical Center Physician Trust Member and Building the New BMC Co-Chair; Susan Donahue of Norwell; Executive Chairman of Bob’s Discount Furniture and Building the New BMC Co-Chair; Ted Haggerty; CEO of Boston; Ted and Vice President of MDA in Boston’s South End, Douglas Williams.

Our Medical Center (BMC) celebrated the conclusion of its six-year campaign, building the New BMC, which raised more than $950 million. The endowed included a campus redesign—including a newly expanded Emergency Department—and also supported a variety of research efforts and essential programs that address the unique needs of BMC’s patient population.

Halloween Happenings

Saturday, October 26

Haunted Graveyard Tour
South End Burial Ground, 5:30pm
Halloween is approaching, and so is this year’s Haunted Graveyard Tour at the South End Burial Ground on Washington Street between East Newton and East Concord Streets in Boston’s historic South End. South End News contributing writer Michele D. Martinez will share the surprising history of the burial ground, which operated between 1810 and 1866, as well as other spooky and lurid tales from South End history while exploring the burying ground. The tour is free and open to the public.

Continued on page 3

Election Day Is Tuesday, November 5

The deadline to submit absentee ballot application for the is November 4, 12 PM.

More information at www.boston.gov/departments/election

Fund Our Future!

BY ANNA ZHANG
Joshua Quincy Upper School, Sophomore

What do we want? Fund Our Future! When do we want it? Now! For the past 25 years, Massachusetts public schools have been underfunded by more than $1 billion dollars each year, according to the state’s Foundation Budget Review Commission.

Last month, I started my junior year at the Josiah Quincy Upper School, and I’m one of many students across the state who understands what it’s like to attend a public school that has been underfunded by the Massachusetts legislature.

After years of pressure from students, parents, educators, and community advocates, the state legislature’s Education Committee released a bill on September 19th that, once fully implemented, would increase state funding for local schools by $1.5 billion each year.

The state senate passed the bill on October 5th. As State Representatives examine the bill, they should consider the obstacles that students face when our schools aren’t funded for success.

The school which I currently attend is housed in a building that was built in the early 1980s. Our building’s fire alarm system consists of bells that have to be run manually in case of fires. Manually. There. One. They are either torn or decades old.

The state, which I currently attend, is housed in a building that was built in the early 1980s. Our building’s fire alarm system consists of bells that have to be run manually in case of fires. Manually. There. One. They are either torn or decades old.

Unfortunately, the examples I
WALK WITH US
Southwest Corridor Extension Project

Share your ideas and experiences.
Please join the City of Boston Transportation Department for a series of community walks to discuss pedestrian and bicyclist safety and connectivity as part of the Southwest Corridor Extension Project.

Want more information?
Website: boston.gov/scc-extension
Email: scc-extension@boston.gov
Phone: 617-635-0738

CITY OF BOSTON
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor

COMMUNITY WALKS

Beacon Hill
Saturday, Nov. 2, 2019
10 A.M. @ 150 Charles St.
Start time: Sat., Nov. 16, 2019

Back Bay
Thursday, Nov. 7, 2019
7:30 A.M. @ 65 Beacon Street
Start time: Thurs., Nov. 14, 2019

South End
Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2019
7:30 A.M. @ 400 Tremont St.
Start time: Thurs., Nov. 21, 2019

Bay Village
Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2019
7:30 A.M. @ 10 Park Plaza
Start time: Tues., Dec. 10, 2019

CAMINA CON NOSOTROS
Proyecto de Extension del Southwest Corridor

Comparte tus ideas y experiencias.
Por favor tome en el Buró de Transportes de Boston una serie de caminatas comunitarias para discutir la seguridad y la conectividad de los peatones y los ciclistas en el Proyecto de Extension del Southwest Corridor.

¿Necesita más información?
Sitio de web: boston.gov/scc-extension
Email: scc-extension@boston.gov
Teléfono: 617-635-0738

CITY OF BOSTON
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor

CAMINATAS COMUNALES

Beacon Hill
Sábado, Nov. 2, 2019
10 A.M. @ 150 Charles St.
fecha de inicio: 11/16/2019

Back Bay
Jueves, Nov. 7, 2019
7:30 A.M. @ 65 Beacon Street
fecha de inicio: 11/14/2019

South End
Miércoles, Nov. 13, 2019
7:30 A.M. @ 400 Tremont St.
fecha de inicio: 11/21/2019

Bay Village
Martes, Nov. 12, 2019
7:30 A.M. @ 10 Park Plaza
fecha de inicio: 12/10/2019

Opioid
Continued from page 1

goals for the months ahead. We will improve coordination between city services and make sure that city agencies and our partners are working together as efficiently and effectively as possible. It will allow us to get more people off the streets and into treatment, and make the neighborhood safer for everyone.

This new plan builds on the work we’ve done over the past 5 years. Since I took office in 2014, we have invested $64 million across several City departments to address the addiction crisis. We created the first municipal Office of Recovery Services in the country. We created a 24-hour hotline to connect people to quality, affordable addiction treatment. We’re investing in shelters, street outreach workers, and training for first responders. We’re using the pharmaceutical industry that played a role in creating this crisis, and making sure that they help fund the relief efforts. And we have a plan to build the comprehensive recovery campus on Long Island that our entire region needs.

To me, this work is very personal. I am a recovering alcoholic. I understand how addiction can take hold and derail a person’s life. I believe that we need to address this issue with empathy and compassion. We also need to focus on the root causes. Often, times, when people turn to addictive substances, it’s out of loneliness or desperation. It’s an outcome of trauma, fear, and poverty. Stigmatizing the disease of addiction only discourages people from getting help for themselves and their families. People don’t need more judgment, they need more help. Building a strong, living community that helps people up is one of the most important things we can do. This work will save lives and change our city for the better. This is an opportunity to set an example for the nation, and help other communities rise up from under this crisis, too.

I encourage everyone to read the Melnea Cass/Mass. Ave. 2.0 plan at boston.gov/recovery. This is also where you can learn more about the work we’re doing citywide, and how you or a loved one can get access to help. This is one of the biggest challenges we’ll face as a city, and we’re rising to the occasion, together.

Join us to raise funds to provide daily financial and emotional support for children with cancer and their families.

Children's cancer is devastating, not only for the child, but for the entire family. These families desperately need additional support to cope with the many harsh challenges that they face while battling their child’s cancer. The Tomorow Fund supports children with cancer who are treated at Boston Children's Hospital. 100% of the funds that are raised during our walk will be donated to the Tomorow Fund.

Walk with us on the beautiful South Kingstown Bike Path starting at Kingston Train Station
Noon on October 26th

All donations are deeply appreciated and are being collected through the GoFundMe page, whether or not you can join us for the walk.

WWW.GOFUNDME.COM/WALK-FOR-TOMORROW

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Advice on Pets, Life, Love
By Monica Collins

Dear Dog Lady,

I despise the way dog addictions attempt to get their dog into places where pets aren’t allowed, by claiming the pet is a “comfort dog” or “therapy dog.” What a load. These people are using minor health stuff as an excuse to bring their mutt everywhere. “Therapy dogs” are faddish nonsense. Americans have gotten so soft.

Halloween
Continued from page 1

RAIN DATE: Sunday, October 27

Sunday, October 27

Temple’s Halloween Block Party for Kids 2-4pm
Chandler Street at the Corner of Clarion Street
Come See Wally!
Bouncy House, Face Painting, Food, Treats, Live Music, Petting Zoo
Corned Square Pumpkin Carving
2-4pm
SoWa Halloween Bash
10am - 4pm
The final SoWa open market of the season, and sox’s annual halloween bash! We’ll be celebrating on october 27 along with the region’s best makers, farmers, brewers, vintage vendors, and food trucks. Check out the event lineup below.
SoWa Costume Contest (Humans + Pets) - Details Below
Pumpkin Painting: 10:30 am - 3:30 pm

Fund Our Future!
Continued from page 1

There are not specific to just me or BPS students, but all are too familiar to students enrolled in underfunded urban, rural and suburban school districts across the Commonwealth. In one of the wealthiest states in our nation, this simply should not be the reality.

Underfunding affects in either harmful ways, too. In 90 out of 20 cases, hundreds of students are assigned to only one counselor, and the majority of schools in Boston and other low-income school districts did not staff a full-time nurse until this year, when the Boston Teachers Union won a full-time nurse in every school through their union contract.

I’ve experienced going to the school nurse’s office only to find it empty and having to return to class enduring pain or illness or being sent home, resulting in lost time and learning. I’ve seen friends who had their hands or arms cut by razors because they didn’t have enough bandages. Without a doubt, health and safety are fundamental human needs. Our right to health and safety should not be compromised when we walk through our school doors.

As the clock continues to tick almost four years after the Foundation Budget Review Commission published its damning recognition of the severe underfunding of Massachusetts schools, the Education Committee’s legislation, as passed by the Senate, would go a long way towards addressing these issues by greatly increasing funding for local school districts.

Amortization of this increase will go towards the districts with the greatest needs and fewest resources, addressing English Language Learners, students of color and low-income families.

Students, parents and teachers have always known our schools are underfunded, but with a clear confirmation from the state government itself, there is no excuse for inaction. It’s time for us to speak up. It’s time for us to take action! All students, regardless of their language, income, or identity, have the right to quality public education. What do we want? Fund Our Future! Where do we want it? Now! Anna Ziaias is a junior at the Josiah Quincy Upper School. She lives in the South End.

Also, I know of a guy who doesn’t date because he says his mutt fills that role. So strange. It’s dysfunctional to turn to dogs for a relationship. A dog is not a substitute for human companionship: no matter what anyone says.

—Harry

Dear Harry,

Ummer. When has Ask Dog Lady ever suggested a dog as a substitute for human companionship? What side of the bed did you wake up on? Obviously, the side of the bed with no dogs allowed. Dogs are not substitutes for human companionship. They are emotional support place holders. They can fill the empty spaces with warmth, joy, and humor. By the way, you thought of getting a dog? A pet might ease the stress on your shoulder.

Grudgingly, Dog Lady agrees with you about "comfort dogs," also known as "emotional therapy dogs." These pets — and the loose guidelines governing their access to airlines, pet-upartment buildings and other places where dogs are not allowed — make Dog Lady uncomfortable. Some people abuse the privilege of bringing a dog anywhere with a doctor's note. This two-page range of society's rules and conventions has given rise to the sort of anger you exhibit. In this case, he or she can only blame you.

Dear Dog Lady,

I am looking for a pet dog. My hands down favorite breed is the Boston. However when previously owned a Boston, me and my roommate walked the dog multiple times a day and gave the dog rigorous play time. That was several years ago. Now, I live alone and work a full-time job. I still love Bostons. However, I fear my current lifestyle would be hard on a dog with such a high energy level. I am curious and wonder if you have a suggestion as to which breed would be ideal for me now.

—Cee

Dear Cee,

Dog Lady is very reluctant to suggest a dog that doesn’t need exercise forever; however, she doesn’t believe such a creature exists. You

Continued on page 5

Thursday, October 31

The Friends of Triton Spurrier Park
Halloween Party 5-6pm
Refreshments, roving entertainers, trick-or-treat fun

The Revolution Hotel
Bring your pup in their best Halloween costume to The Revolution Hotel on October 31 from 5:30pm - 7:30pm to win amazing prizes from Polkdag Bakery and The Revolution Hotel. Hang out and grab a drink from our cash bar and get free treats from Polkdag Bakery for your four legged friend!

First place winner will walk home with a 3 pack of Polkdag Bakery’s top selling treats, a $25 gift card to one of their stores, and 1-month membership to The Revolution Hotel’s gym.

Second place will receive a cool shirt, chicken strip knife, a $10 gift card to one of their stores, and a 1 month membership to our coworking space, Commute.

Third place will receive a cool shirt, a $5 gift card to one of their stores, and some of The Revolution Hotel’s best swag.

This event is family friendly. All friendly, well behaved dogs and humans are welcome to attend.

Letters to the editor:
letterstosouthendnews.com

Calendar listings:
serveandsustain@southendnews.com

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- 58 Charles Street
- 617-227-0153

- South Bay Veterinary Group
- 107 Tremont Street
- 617-336-6616

- Commonwealth of Massachusetts, The Trial Court, Probate & Family Court, Suffolk Probate and Family Court, 24 New Market Street, P.O. Box 9667, Boston, MA 02114
- 390 Newbury Street, Suite 700, Boston, MA 02116

- NOTICE AND ORDER: Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor in the interest of Nevany Angel Hamilton of Boston, MA Minor Notice to All Interested Parties

1. Hearing Date: Times a hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor in the interest of Nevany Angel Hamilton of Boston, MA Minor Notice to All Interested Parties.

2. Response to Petition: You may respond by filing a written response to the Petitioner by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to file the original with the Court and mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. Counsel for the Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor. A hearing must be held in the presence of the minor.

4. Notice of the Hearing: A notice of the hearing shall be served on all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

WITNESS: Hon. Brian J. Quinn, First Justice of this Court.

Felicia G. Arroyo, Register of Probate

Eleventh Day of October, 2019

Letters Policy

The South End News welcomes letters to the editor. All letters must be signed by a mailing address and phone number.

e-mail: letters@southendnews.com or fax: 617-464-7286

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Zoning News
South End going to the dogs: Failed pressed-smoothie joint on Tremont Street to be replaced by dog-grooming and pet-supply place

The Zoning Board of Appeal this week gave a 2-1 vote of approval to plans by a pair of dog walkers and groomers to open a brick-and-mortar grooming and pet-supply store at 693A Tremont St, where a previous tenant learned the South End had a limited appetite for pressed smoothies.

"Frankly, there’s a lot of dogs in the South End and people have been asking for this, even these guys specifically," Boston Dog Butlers owner Nick Zouzoulas told the board at a hearing. The company currently operates as a "virtual company," traveling around the South End to provide services at clients’ homes.

A veteran pet-services provider from the Fenway rose to support the proposal, agreeing that the South End has "the biggest concentration of dogs in the city or one of them."

Calliga—she told the board she legally goes by just one name, the right to which she applied for after "Cher, but before Madonna," said hard-charging South End resident "really, really need this grooming service, not just want it," and that Boston Dog Butlers really knows and cares about dogs, to the point that she routinely recommends it to South End residents.

The mayor’s office and the office of City Councilor Ed Flynn also supported the proposal. Nobody spoke against.

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8 am – 8 pm, 7 days a week
FAX: 617-830-0634
CCASCO.org
30 Winter Street, Boston MA 02108

Commonwealth Care Alliance (CCA) Senior Care Options Program (HMO SNP) is a Coordinated Care plan with a Medicare contract and a contract with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts/EOHHS Medicaid program. Enrollment in the Plan depends on contract renewal to provide benefits for both programs to enrollees. CCA complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate based on race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, gender identity, sex, age, mental or physical disability, health status, claims experience, medical history, genetic information, evidence of insurability or geographic location. ATENCION: Si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 866-610-2273 (TTY 711). ATENÇÃO: Se fala português, encontram-se disponíveis serviços linguísticos, grátis. Ligue para 866-610-2273 (TTY 711).

bpda
Public Meeting

Lower Roxbury Properties

Saturday, November 16
6:00 PM - 7:45 PM
Boston Water & Sewer Commission
980 Harrison Avenue, 2nd Floor
Roxbury, MA, 02119

Project Description:
The Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) invites you to a community meeting to gather community input on the future of two publicly owned properties in the Lower Roxbury neighborhood:
1) Parcel Y-260, known as the Frederick Douglass Peace Garden, located to the rear of 1038-1012 Tremont Street in the South End Urban Renewal Area.
2) 9 Warwick Street, a parcel abutting 90 Windsor Street in the South End Urban Renewal Area.

Contact: Morgan McDaniel
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Plaza, 6th Floor
Boston, MA 02108
Phone: 617-635-4250
Email: morgan.mcdaniel@boston.gov

Class of Comment Period
11/29/2019

bpda
Community Meeting

The Roxbury Strategic Master Plan Oversight Committee

Monday, November 4
6:00 PM - 7:45 PM
Boiling Building
2300 Washington Street
2nd Fl. School Committee Room
Boston, MA, 02119

Event Description:
The Roxbury Strategic Master Plan Oversight Committee (RSMPOC) was developed to oversee projects that fall under the Roxbury Strategic Master Plan. Since the launch of PLAN: Dudley Square the RSMPOC meetings also include progress reports on the initiative. All meetings are open to the public and community input is desired. The location of the RSMPOC meetings has changed for the rest of 2019 and will be held in the evening on the first Monday of the month at the Boiling Building in the 2nd Floor School Committee Room.

PLAN: Dudley Square workshops are typically every third Monday of the month, location varies. For more information on the upcoming meeting, including the draft agenda and any materials from previous RSMPOC meetings, please visit bit.ly/theRSMPOC.

Please come join your neighbors to help shape the future of the neighborhood!

Contact:
Muge Undert
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Plaza, 6th Floor
Boston, MA 02108
Phone: 617-635-4446 | muge.undert@boston.gov