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Judge sides with School Committee on Exam School admissions policy

BY SETH DANIEL

Federal Judge William Young late last week issued his decision on the challenge to this year's altered Exam School Admission process, saying that the temporary admissions system did not discriminate by race against white and Asian students, but it should be a system in place only one year to accommodate COVID-19.

In a 48-page opinion, Judge Young stressed that the plan was well-thought out and accomplished the goals of making the school more geographically and economically diverse, and though race was spoke of, it wasn't a plan that sought to racially balance the Exam Schools – which would be unconstitutional.

"It comes down to this: This year, the best way for a rising seventh or ninth-grader to get into one of Boston's three pres-

Continued on page 10

TOURING JP



MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTO BY JEREMIAH ROBINSON

Acting Mayor Kim Janey spoke with Marianao Narzario, 5, inside of Rosanna Beauty Salon in Egleston Square on Tuesday, April 20, during her business and infrastructure tour of Egleston Square. See more photos on pages 18-19.

State holds public hearing for Shattuck campus proposal

BY LAUREN BENNETT

On April 13, a public hearing was hosted by the state's Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) to present the project proposal for the Shattuck Hospital campus on Morton St. in Jamaica Plain, and to allow for public comment on the proposal.

The Shattuck Hospital plans to move to the Newtown Pavilion in the South End in 2024, and throughout a several year process, the community has been outspoken about what should be done with the campus site. The proposed plan includes turning the existing 13 acre campus into an area for supportive housing, integrative health care, and other services.

Many residents and organizations have said they would like to see the existing Shattuck site be returned to parkland for Franklin Park and have suggested that these services be sited at the MBTA's Arborway bus yard instead, while others expressed that they feel these services are needed as soon as possible and agree with the plan as proposed.

As previously reported by the Sun, the state has four goals for the proposed project, including:

- Provide stable health care and housing options for underserved populations, including the chronically homeless;
- Provide integrated, 'person-centered' behavioral and physical health care and hous-

Continued on page 2

SNA hears from mayoral candidate David Halbert; updates on projects

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The Stonybrook Neighborhood Association (SNA) met virtually on April 12, where At-Large City Council candidate David Halbert spoke about his campaign and addressed questions from the community. Then, members heard subcommittee updates on various projects in the neighborhood.

Halbert gave a brief overview of his campaign, saying that he is a proponent of affordable housing, as well as a supporter of education, as he has two young daughters, one of them a Boston Public Schools student.

SNA Steering Committee member Trevyn Langsford said that there is a "lack of equitable

transportation options" in the city, and asked what Halbert would do to address that.

"I think about it in two ways," Halbert said, bringing up the ongoing conversation about a fare free transportation system. He said that he would be "advocating and working in concert with our friends at the top of Beacon Hill."

He also said it is important to get "people off the roads and onto mass transit."

JP resident Caliga said that "we have felt very powerless" as residents when it comes to the Zoning Board of Appeal ((ZBA) and the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA).

Continued on page 3

SNA escucha al candidato al consejo, ofrece actualizaciones

BY LAUREN BENNETT

La Asociación de Vecinos de Stonybrook (SNA) se reunió virtualmente el 12 de abril, donde el candidato a consejero municipal David Halbert habló sobre su campaña y respondió a preguntas de la comunidad.

Halbert dio una breve descripción de su campaña y dijo que es un defensor de la vivienda y la educación asequibles.

El Comité Directivo de la SNA

ha identificado una falta de opciones de transporte equitativas en la ciudad y preguntó cómo Halbert abordaría eso.

Dijo que trabajaría con Beacon Hill, y agregó que es importante que "la gente salga de las carreteras y se incorpore al transporte público".

Los miembros de la comunidad han expresado sentirse impotentes cuando se trata de la Junta de Apelación de Zonificación (ZBA) y la Agencia de Planificación y De-

sarrollo de Boston (BPDA).

"Estamos atropellados por estas entidades", dijo una residente, preguntándole a Halbert qué haría para reformar las organizaciones.

Halbert recomendó dividir las en una agencia de planificación y otra de desarrollo.

También habló sobre las reformas de la ZBA introducidas por la Consejera Lydia Edwards, clasificándolas de "críticamente im-

Continued on page 3

Shattuck

Continued from page 1

ing systems;

- Provide substance use disorder (SUD) and mental health services that play a critical role in regional public health and treatment systems;

- Provide safe, stable and supportive housing that contributes positively to health outcomes, and contributes to the supply of supportive housing in the region.

DCAMM project manager Loryn Sheffner explained some of these goals further at the public hearing, saying that they include a “minimum” of 75 to 100 supportive housing units, as well as “integrated health services including both services currently offered on the site and new types of services/programs cited in the Vision Plan,” according to a slide presented.

The state is also looking at “other allowable public health uses pursuant to deed restriction,” the slide stated.

Sheffner said that the team anticipates a “phased redevelopment” of the site.

“This project only pertains to the Morton St. site,” she said, and addressed the suggested use of the MBTA Arborway Yard

for these services that has been brought up several times in the community.

“Our discussions with the MBTA have indicated that this is not an option at this time, and we are moving ahead with this project at this site,” she said.

In a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the site, DCAMM “will include all of these elements” of the proposal, “including team qualifications,” Sheffner said, and will look at things like “responsiveness to the program and design goals, financial feasibility,” and the schedule for implementation.

“The RFP will seek a single master developer,” she said—which could either be a sole developer or a partnership—“to propose a redevelopment plan and lead implementation.”

She said that after approval from the state’s Asset Management Board (AMB), the RFP will be issued and “advertised for no less than three months,” according to a slide presented.

The state will then review the proposals and choose a “private/non-profit development partner/service provider” which will then be required to come up with project plans and secure approvals, permits, and financing.

Sheffner said that the state

hopes to issue the RFP this year, and the final project proposal draft can be found at mass.gov/service-details/shattuck-campus-redevelopment-at-morton-street-proposal.

The majority of the hearing was dedicated to allowing the public to make comments on this proposal.

Many residents spoke in favor of the proposal, saying they believe these services are crucial and this plan would provide a space for them to become a reality.

Sue Sullivan, Executive Director of the Newmarket Business Association, said that “I truly think we should stay with the vision that is intended,” as the city is in “desperate” need of affordable housing. She supports the proposal as is.

“We will be the new host for the Shattuck Hospital and as such, we have a really important and vested interest in this process and how the Shattuck campus is redeveloped,” said Steve Fox, chair of the South End Forum.

He said that there is a “need for both temporary and permanent supportive housing,” and he believes that the “recommendations that have come from this process” are “right on target in

terms of how it can help the South End.”

Fox said that the South End community supports the proposal as is.

Kathy Brown of the Boston Tenant Coalition was a part of the Citizen’s Advisory Board for the Shattuck planning process, and said that there is an “unbelievable housing crisis” that has been made worse, and there is a great need for emergency shelter and substance abuse treatment. “Please move forward on the plan,” she said.

However, many JP and Roxbury residents, like Louis Elisa, don’t feel that the Morton St. site is the right place for these services.

Elisa expressed his concern with the siting of these services, as he believes it is “not well thought out,” and will isolate people from the rest of the surrounding community. He said that “no amount of transportation” to and from the site will be of any help.

“Other than Franklin Park, the only surrounding for that community is cemeteries,” he said.

Sarah Freeman, a JP resident who is active in the community, suggested that the MBTA site be seriously considered.

“I’m not suggesting displacing the bus uses; it is a bus site,” she said, “but if they segue to cleaner technology with a more compact site, their needs could be met. These Shattuck proposed uses have been shown that they could work by some collaborations between the Emerald Necklace Conservancy and Northeastern University.” Freeman said that she “urges” the state to “take a look at those” and to “help us work together to get the T to follow through on their promises.”

Karen Mauney-Brodek, president of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy, said that “Boston’s Emerald Necklace is a very important park system for the City of Boston.” She also said that

there is “an important set of needs” that this proposal seeks to fulfill, “and we must find a location,” as she does not believe Franklin Park is the best location for them.

She and others support the use of the Arborway Yard site because it provides easy access to public transportation, along with “a more accessible site for supportive services and the 75–100 housing units for the formerly unhoused, as proposed by Massachusetts Health and Human Services, eight acres for community-serving development, residential units and affordable housing, the opportunity to provide space for the MBTA’s electric bus fleet, and continued direct access to Franklin Park,” Mauney Brodek said in a statement.

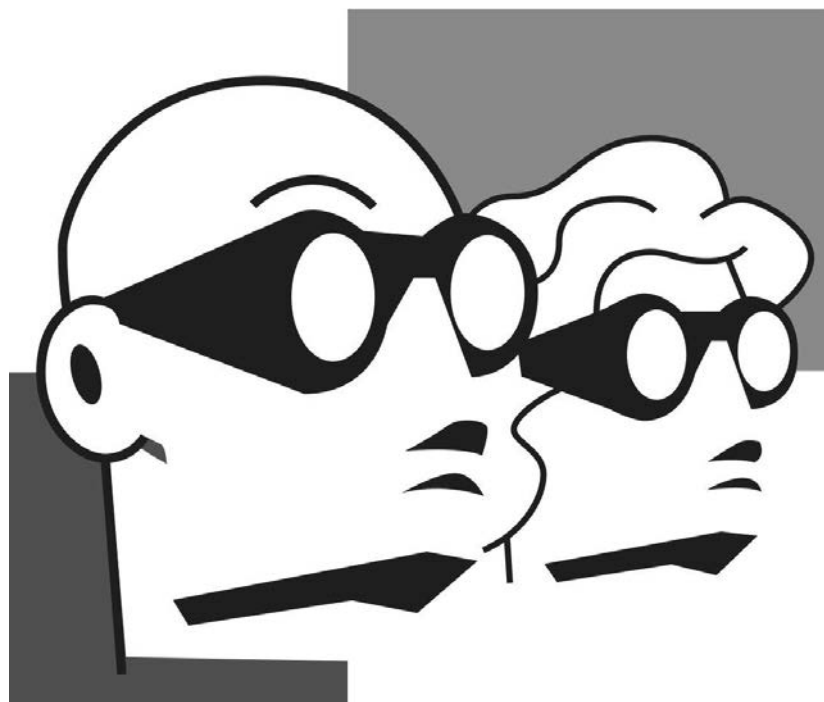
Former governors Bill Weld and Michael Dukakis also supported the use of the MBTA Arborway Yard for these services, with Dukakis saying that “this is precious parkland.” He said that “the T is a public agency. It responds to the governor,” adding that “I hope we can work with you and I hope we can do this right.”

However, resident James Michel said that he doesn’t believe Dukakis or Weld “are in a position to speak for Black and Brown and indigenous communities that surround the park.” He said believes affordable and supportive housing is much needed, and he supports the project as proposed.

Teronda Ellis, CEO of the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation, said that “we have to remember that we’re all kind of working towards the same set of principles here,” and “understand that our positions need to be flexible. We need to find ways to find common ground.”

The written comment period for the proposal has been extended to April 23, and comments can be sent to loryn.sheffner@mass.gov.

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SNA

Continued from page 1

“We’ve done our due process as a very strong neighborhood association,” she said. “We’ve just been run over by these two entities.” She asked Halbert if he had plans to make changes to these organizations.

“The BPDA should be split,” Halbert said, into a distinct planning agency and a distinct development agency.

He also spoke about the ZBA reforms that were “put forward” by City Councilor Lydia Edwards, saying that they are “critically important and need to be carried out to the fullest extent.”

Halbert talked about his time as a staffer on the City Council where he was a representative at the ZBA hearings, so he is familiar with how they operate.

He said that it’s “really important that we empower communities.”

SNA Steering Committee member Roberta Hantgan also said that the SNA is fighting “not just for affordable housing, but more housing that allows for families to move into our

neighborhood and stay in our neighborhood,” adding that is is “frustrating to not be able to make an impact in that area.”

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES BMS PAPER SUPPLY, 3390 WASHINGTON ST.

SNA member Jennifer Uhrhane reported on the expansion of BMS Paper Supply, which includes a restaurant space, an expanded version of the store, and around 160 units of residential housing.

Uhrhane said that the subcommittee’s “main concern” is that many of the issues and concerns that they have expressed to the developer have not really been addressed in the design, as it “hasn’t substantially changed at all,” she said.

DOYLE’S PROPERTY, 3478-3484 WASHINGTON ST.

SNA Steering Committee member Paige Sparks said that there are a “couple of issues that the subcommittee is looking at” when it comes to the project at 3478-3484 Washington St., which includes a new version of the Doyle’s restaurant, along with a grocery store and residential housing.

ington St.

El Comité Directivo de la SNA está analizando algunos temas, incluida una nueva versión de Doyle’s, junto con viviendas y una tienda de comestibles.

Las preocupaciones del subcomité son la asequibilidad y el desplazamiento; tráfico y estacionamiento; violaciones de masificación y zonificación; y operaciones de restaurante.

El desarrollador y el propietario del nuevo restaurante están en discusiones con el subcomité y parecen dispuestos a colaborar para que el espacio esté disponible a la comunidad.

Burnett St. Jardín y Parque

El jardín comunitario en Burnett Street pronto estará listo para aceptar jardineros. Actualmente hay una lista de espera para las 28 parcelas de jardín. Se anima a los jardineros interesados a registrarse.

Se está llevando a cabo un concurso de murales para el edificio Extra Space Storage, y la SNA convocó a artistas. Los profesionales de las artes de Boston seleccionarán a los ganadores.

Sparks said that the subcommittee’s concerns lie in the areas of: “affordability/displacement, traffic and parking, building massing and zoning violations/compliance with PLAN:JP/Rox, [and] restaurant operations.”

Beth Abelow of the Save Doyle’s group said that an issue of concern is having a place for the community to gather that was once offered by Doyle’s Cafe.

“Both Lee [Goodman] the developer and Jay [Kean] from Brassica have been very willing to engage in dialogue with us,” she said. Brassica Kitchen and Cafe will be the operator of the new restaurant on the site.

She said that when they first saw the design for the proposed community room in the restaurant, it “initially was the size of a board room. We really need

community space—they did go back and redesign,” she said.

Abelow said outstanding concerns include “how available to the community it’s going to be,” as well as community preservation. She said some of the memorabilia that was auctioned off when the original Doyle’s closed will come back, but not all of it.

“They do seem to be willing to work with the community,” Abelow said.

The SNA subcommittee is still working to address these concerns with the developer, and Abelow said she would be “willing to share in the discussions” with the SNA.

BURNETT ST. GARDEN AND PARK

Leanne Manchineella reported on the community garden that was created in the middle of the

45 on Burnett condo complex and the Extra Space storage building on McBride St. The garden will be ready to accept gardeners soon.

There is currently a waitlist for the 28 garden plots that exist right now in the garden, and she said they might be able to squeeze in a 29th. As of the meeting on April 12, there were 41 households on the signup list.

“Please sign up if you’re interested,” she said.

Jennifer Uhrhane has also been working on organizing a mural competition for the Extra Space Storage building, and the SNA had put out a call for artists to create two murals. The deadline was April 17, and winners will be chosen by arts professionals and representatives from the community.

Escucha

Continued from page 1

portantes”.

Halbert habló sobre su tiempo como consejero municipal, donde fue representante en las audiencias de la ZBA, y agregó que es “importante empoderar a las comunidades”.

El SNA está luchando no sólo por viviendas asequibles, sino por más viviendas, y está frustrado por sus esfuerzos hasta el momento.

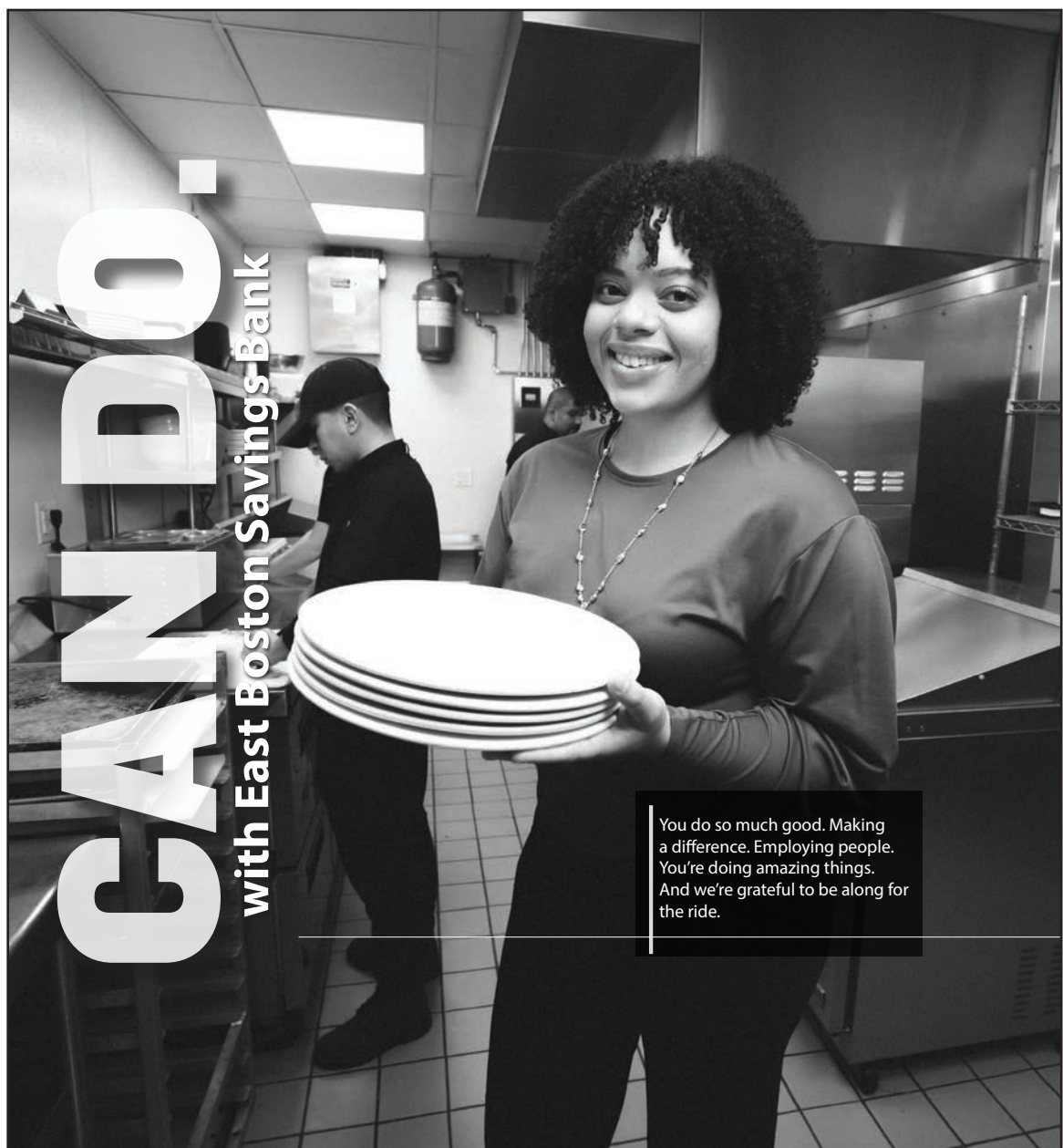
Los miembros también escucharon actualizaciones del subcomité sobre varios proyectos en el vecindario:

BMS Paper Supply, 3390 Washington St.

BMS Paper Supply incluirá un espacio de restaurante, una versión ampliada de la tienda y alrededor de 160 viviendas.

La principal preocupación del subcomité es que el desarrollador no ha abordado sus preocupaciones en el diseño, ya que el diseño sigue siendo el mismo.

Doyle’s Cafe, 3478-3484 Wash-



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Spillane announces candidacy for City Councilor at-Large

BY DAN MURPHY

A Beacon Hill resident and lifelong Bostonian with firsthand experience at City Hall and a proven commitment to affordable housing, Jon Spillane has announced his candidacy for City Councilor at-Large.

Spillane, a 29-year-old Irving Street resident, has taken a leave of absence from his role as City Councilor Kenzie Bok's Director of Budget and Constituent Services to focus on his campaign. He grew up in Hyde Park as the son of two civil servants – his father was a police officer and his mother the city's deputy commissioner of elderly affairs – so, he said, community organizing and civic engagement, such as taking part in neighborhood cleanups or helping to turn out voters on Election Day, were “part of his family's everyday life,” as well as something that has left an “indelible impression” on him.

A graduate of Boston Latin School and Boston College, Spillane spent several years working in multi-residential real estate sales and financing, which, he said, made him aware of the city's housing crisis and subsequently compelled him to find employment that would combine his experience in the private sector with his lifelong commitment to public

service.

“After a couple of years in the private sector, I started taking account of what direction my life was going,” Spillane said. “My parents were both civil servants so I had an inclination towards the public sector and being publicly engaged.”

In September of 2017, Spillane joined the city's Department of Neighborhood Development (DND) as part of a team, he said, that “leveraged city resources – NHT grants, HUD funding, city-owned parcels, and inclusionary zoning requirements” – to build more than 1,000 affordable housing units citywide.

In January of 2020, Kenzie Bok began her first term as District 8 City Councilor, and Spillane became the Director of Budget and Constituent Services for her office.

“I saw it as an opportunity to contribute and participate in the policy-making process that impacts the city on a wide scale and also as an excellent opportunity to get experience at City Hall and practically apply a lot of the things I learned at DND,” said Spillane, who had previously known Councilor Bok through community engagement and local politics.

In his new role, Spillane has had regular contact with the city's Office of Housing Stability

on Court Street, which is part of DND and located just a few floors away from where he previously worked, so he was already well acquainted with the staff there.

“I can't say enough good things about the Office of Housing Stability and the amazing job they've done,” Spillane said.

Meanwhile, Spillane “helped manage one of the toughest city budgets in recent memory,” he said, as Director of Budget for Councilor Bok, who serves as Chair of Ways and Means. He also said he has “contributed to new policy discussions that resulted in new ordinances.”

Moreover, Spillane has worked as an advocate for Bostonians affected by COVID-19 by helping tenants access rent relief and by connecting struggling small businesses with the city's Office of Economic Development.

Outside of work, Spillane previously served on Mayor Martin Walsh's Spark Boston Council, which partners with City Hall to represent and advocate for young Bostonians, ages 20 to 34. He is currently a member of the Boston Ward 5 Democratic Committee, as well as a founder and current Young Professional Board Member of the Genesis Foundation for Children, a nonprofit that helps children with rare diseases and rare genetic disorders.

With his campaign now underway, Spillane said affordable housing is one of the biggest issues now facing the city, and in the spring, he said he would soon release his plan for policy ideas that can be implemented at the local level.

“I'm utilizing things I learned through my work at DND and at City Hall,” he said of the plan.

Spillane also describes his knowledge of constituent services, such as being able to connect someone seeking assistance at the with the appropriate city department as he has done throughout his time in Councilor Bok's office, as being “vitally important” to the role of City Councilor.

“We need someone at City Hall who understands budgeting and has a background in finance,” Spillane added, “and can advocate for countercyclical fiscal policy” – an approach that increases capital spending and the debt level during an economic downturn.

As City Councilor at-Large, Spillane would also advocate for small businesses, he said, and seek to improve the sometimes-strained communication between small businesses and city and state government.

“One thing I heard from a lot of small business during the peak of COVID was the lack of communication on getting information from the state-level down,” he said.

“Having a councilor who saw



City Council at-Large hopeful Jon Spillane.

their frustration firsthand and can use their office as a microphone [could promote] transparency.”

Another asset that Spillane would bring to the role of City Councilor at-Large is his legal background.

He attended Suffolk University's Evening Program while working at the DND and Councilor Bok, graduating in May of 2020, and as he looks forward to seeking Bar Admission this spring, Spillane said he has been inspired by City Councilor Lydia Edwards, who, as an attorney, he said, “has been able to do some amazing things at City Hall.”

And for Spillane, that's something to aspire to.

To learn more about Jon Spillane's campaign for City Councilor at-Large, visit <http://jonforboston.com>, or follow him on

Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.



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Article 80 Virtual Public Meeting in connection with the proposed Second Notice of Project Change for the 64 Allandale Street project in West Roxbury, which was filed with the BPDA on April 8, 2021.

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JP OBSERVER

Neighbors join voices outdoors in spirit of community

By SANDRA STOREY / SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

The sound was perfect for the day. Twenty-two neighbors joined to sing “You Are the Sunshine of My Life” on a Hall Street sidewalk at 5 p.m. this past April 13. The sun was shining brightly as it moved lower in the sky.

The Hall Street Howlers, as the residents call themselves, have been gathering for a Sing-Out every day since the beginning of the pandemic. Afterwards, they linger to chat for a while—always masked and socially distanced, of course.

“We have certainly become closer as neighbors, and this activity is a lift emotionally after many of these long days,” longtime Hall Street resident Judy Bumbalo said.

Other Howlers described the more than year-long series as they socialized afterwards and in a few emails.

“What we’ve done shows the

best of what community is—having fun, getting to know each other better and in times of need, offering support,” said 20-year resident Joanie Parker, who handles group communications. The Howlers have celebrated neighbors’ birthdays and honored personal losses over the year.

On April 13, five children were part of the crowd, as usual. They joined the adults outside 48 Hall Street for an enthusiastic rendition of the Hokey Pokey. Singers range from 2 to 80 years old.

“It has been wonderful to watch my son Enda, almost 3, get to know all the neighbors up and down the block,” said Nathan (Nate) Eckstrom, who plays guitar for the Howlers. He and his wife Nancy have lived on Hall Street for three years and in JP for more than ten. Son Aidan, six months, puts in an appearance

from time to time.

“Enda can name almost every person in every house on Hall Street at this point,” Eckstrom said. “I love music and I always hoped my son would, too. It has been incredible to share that love with the community that has formed on our street.”

Margie Lawson and others described how the Sing-Outs got started. First, people banged on pots for health care workers, she said. Then they started singing, especially for a specific health care worker in the neighborhood who was having a tough time.

“We are so lucky to know each other,” Lawson said.

The first Sing-Out was on St. Patrick’s Day, 2020, Eckstrom and Nadine Desharnais reminisced. The Howlers sang the Drop Kick Murphy’s “I’m shipping up to Boston.” The band had to cancel their Boston appear-



PHOTO BY JOANIE PARKER

The Hall Street Howlers join in song to celebrate their first anniversary in March.

ance at the last minute because of the pandemic.

Then, appropriately, everyone sang the Rolling Stones’ “You

Can’t Always Get What You Want.”

Continued on page 9

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StoryWalk series, a family-friendly outdoor multilingual program comes to the area

By JOHN LYNDIS

A family-friendly outdoor multilingual program that combines

reading with the outdoors kicked off Monday and will go through May 10 at nearby Franklin Park, the Hyde Park Library

and Iacono Park in Hyde Park. The city's second StoryWalk series will be held at Franklin Park, the Hyde Park Library at

35 Harvard Ave. and Iacono Park at 150 Readville Street and features "Augustus and his Smile" in both English and Spanish as well as library activities.

At the park locations there will be a multicultural "board book" that lets young children explore the area. The board book's bold illustrations show children the people and animals they will meet, and objects that they will see and hear during the outdoor park experience. Laminated pages from children's books are attached to wooden stakes and installed along outdoor paths. As visitors stroll through the park, they are directed to the next page in the story.

According to the Boston Public Library, "Augustus goes on a journey to find his lost smile, and discovers so much about the natural world: shiny insects, birds, mountains, fish, and even a rainstorm. Celebrate the beauty of nature with this gorgeously illustrated tale."

Over at the Hyde Park Library there will be Facebook Live craft videos posted that participants can watch asynchronously for the duration of the Storywalk installation

The Boston Parks and Rec-

reation Department teamed up with the Boston Public Library, the Highland Street Foundation, the New England Patriots Foundation, and Xfinity to produce the series of these StoryWalk installations at 10 neighborhood parks across the city.

After completing the StoryWalk, City of Boston residents are invited to scan the QR code and enter their information to enter to win one of five grand prizes of a Kindle with a three-month Kindle Unlimited subscription courtesy of Xfinity.

The StoryWalk Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, Vermont, and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library as an innovative way for children and adults to enjoy both reading and the outdoors.

The distance between stations will naturally support social distancing, but visitors are reminded to stay six feet away from those who are not members of their own household. Face coverings must be worn in public parks. If participants find the StoryWalk to be crowded, they are encouraged to come back another time or choose a different StoryWalk location.

Money in city budget earmarked for local projects

By JOHN LYNDIS

Last week, acting Boston Mayor Kim Janey proposed her administration's recommended \$3.75 billion Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) operating budget and \$3.2 billion Fiscal Year 2022-2026 (FY22-FY26) Capital Plan. Janey said the budget focuses on providing the resources for the city's continued robust public health response to COVID-19, making strategic investments in Boston's neighborhoods and residents, and setting the stage for Boston's equitable reopening, recovery and long-term renewal.

In the budget is money earmarked for two local projects in Egleston Square.

Under the category of creating and preserving affordable housing, and addressing homelessness, Janey earmarked \$10 million to upgrade public housing

units for seniors and residents with disabilities, which includes money for upgrades to the Doris Bunte Apartments in Egleston Square.

Janey said she recognizes the importance of making sure that residents of all incomes are able to access quality, affordable safe housing options that meet their needs.

There's also another \$12.1 million for the Egleston Square Branch of the Boston Public Library.

Under the "investing in the joy agenda" Janey said she plans to prioritize city services, programs and infrastructure needs that improve the quality of life for Boston residents. Janey has made the joy of residents a strategic focus throughout this budget.

The \$12.1 million for the Eg-

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Observer

Continued from page 5

“From that day on, the Sing-Out had begun,” Desarnais reported. “Most days it would be people suggesting songs and looking at lyrics on their phones. Since our Lyrics Leader Evelyn Barbee took over around then, we now are supplied with papers with all the lyrics and she sends out the week’s songs in advance so everyone can listen and practice beforehand, especially our guitarist Nate [Eckstrom], and our banjo and ukulele player Jim [Stark].”

Barbee, who has owned her two-family on Hall Street since 1993, said she volunteered for the job when she noticed people tend to know only a few lines from each song. She said she “has so much fun” researching all types of songs for the group to sing. She spends time looking for songs of all types to sing—at least three per evening. Sometimes she watches songs performed on Youtube and looks for different lyrics. The Howlers got together and gave her a songbook to consult, too.

Barbee gathered some black spirituals for people to sing during black history month.

The daily Sing-Outs are organized and run completely by volunteers, including members who volunteer to send out reminders. Many people praised Barbee, Bumbalo, Eckstrom Parker and Stark for all their help.

“What makes me the happiest about the Sing-Outs is the children. Having the children with us is an added joy,” Irene Desharnais, mother of adult Nadine Desharnais, both long-time residents, said.

“I like to sing,” Ingrid Master-son, 11, said about why she goes to the Sing-Outs. “There is no other opportunity during covid.”

Many friendships have been born at the Sing-Outs over the past year. Enda Eckstrom and the daughter of Emma Anderson and Lis Pardi, Lula, got to know and play with each other at the Sing-Outs.

The parents became friends, too, and decided to create a “pod” and share a child care person to take care of the two almost 3-year-olds. Former Hall Street

residents, Anderson and Pardi have moved to Roslindale, but they come back with Lula for Sing-Outs many evenings.

Anderson said how much she has appreciated that, “People created five to 10 minutes a day of human interaction” when they formed the Howlers, she said.

“The Sing-Out is the thing that has gotten me through the pandemic. Without the social interactions it would have been a lot harder,” Pardi said.

Deborah Grose moved to another JP location ten years ago, but she returns for Sing-Outs, too. “I love singing in community,” said the member of chorale group The Boston Cecelia. “I grew up singing around campfires and the like. It’s a cultural thing. The singing group is a microcosm.”

The Hall Street Howlers are very proud of singing in every type of weather. Eckstrom said he was having a “bad day” one cold, snowy winter day, and thought he would stay inside at 5 for a change. Suddenly two Howlers appeared and started singing. He couldn’t resist, he said, and went outside to join them.

Hall Street, which runs between South Street and the Southwest Corridor Parkland has been a cohesive neighborhood for years. A group of the singers listed some of the activities they have done together as they chatted following the singing: caroling, annual clean-up, snack swap, cleaning up leaves, National Night Out potlucks, and Easter egg hunts, including one just recently.

“Sing Out! has become an anchor in our day for most of us. We’ve enjoyed safe distancing while singing and chatting — taking us through a dark year of the pandemic,” Parker said.

“What we’ve done shows the best of what community is—having fun, getting to know each other better and in times of need, offering support,” Parker added. “During these challenging times, our communities, our neighborhoods, are our real security, looking after one another and making sure everyone is included.”

“We meet to sing, but more importantly we gather and share stories of our day, resources for Covid tests and vaccines, suffered

together the deaths of two dear neighbors, chalked sidewalks for birthdays, set up meal chains for doctors and new parents, and we chat, laugh and learn more about one another each day,” Nadine Desharnais said. “We are creating a village within a city, where people celebrate and take care of one another.”

The Howlers aren’t the only sidewalk singing group to spring up in Jamaica Plain during the pandemic.

The Olmstead Street Choristers in Parkside off Washington Street have been singing every day as well. The Choristers have a 50-person email list and 10-12 folks who show up almost every day to sing, member Alvin Shiggs said in an email.

The Choristers also have “Sunshine of My Life” on their song list. They gather at 6 every day.

Neither the Howlers nor the Choristers intend to stop singing in the foreseeable future.

“Getting together every day allows neighbors and friends to stay connected with each other during the pandemic,” Shiggs said. “Songs we sing bring smiles to faces and say, ‘We are here for you.’”

After Joe Biden’s inauguration as president, “We set singing aside a couple of days and recited together Amanda Gorman’s wonderful poem,” group member Robert Crabtree said in an email.

A group of residents on Sedgwick Street have been singing, too, he said he heard.

Crabtree has written some take-offs on well-known songs for the group to sing, including “Have Yourself a Cozy Covid Season.” The last stanza goes, “Some day soon we all will be together/ If the fates allow/Until then we’ll have to muddle through somehow/So have yourself a cozy covid season now.”

The Howlers end every Sing-Out session singing “Row, Row, Row Your Boat” in a round. Early in the pandemic, Parker wrote a different last verse that she said, “The children especially like.”

It goes: “Love, love, love your neighbor up and down Hall Street/Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily/Everyone stomp your feet!”

And everyone does.

“Only in JP!” Bumbalo said.

Budget

Continued from page 8

leston Branch, Janey said, aims at investing in neighborhood library branches to make them more accessible with new library services and programs.

“During the past year, Boston has come together like never before, and we must take that spirit of inclusiveness and compassion and translate it into real investments for the City of Boston and our residents. COVID-19 has brought on unprecedented

economic and social change for our city, and this budget proposal meets the moment and makes targeted investments to ensure that as we emerge from this public health crisis we are not going back to normal, but going forward better than before,” said Mayor Janey. “I am proud of this budget and the enormous work that goes into running our City government and providing the services Bostonians need and rely on. No one can be left behind as Boston recovers from COVID-19, and looks forward to the future.”

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The Gazette welcomes letters to the editor.

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Exam School

Continued from page 1

tigious exam schools is get excellent grades all around (the GPA Criterion), attend a school with a high level of grade inflation, live in a Boston zip code heavily populated with school-age children (geographic diversity) - but hopefully not too many rising seventh or ninth-graders (your direct competition), but a zip code encompassing the poorest residential area of the city (socioeconomic diversity)," he wrote. "...Only the third and fourth criteria bear any correlation to racial demographics at all, and both have been approved by the Supreme Court...The fact that the policymakers appreciated the correlation does not render these diversity criteria unworthy of consideration as rationally advancing proper educational goals for Boston's children.

"Here, this Court rules only that this one year Plan has a rational basis and denies none of Boston's citizens the equal protection of the laws," he continued. "Nor does it violate Massachusetts General Laws. Judgment

shall enter for the School Committee defendants."

That said, Judge Young also ruled that the plan should only be in effect for one year and the new mayor elected in November should champion a robust discussion about how these schools handle admissions in the future.

"The education of one's children is a matter of prime concern to any parent," he wrote. "Thus it is worthy of remark that the Plan the Court today upholds applies only to the 2021-2022 school year. All parties here concede there may be better race-neutral ways to handle Exam School admissions. This is also the year of a mayoral election. As the mayor appoints the School Committee, these matters are sure to be, and of right ought be, the subject of lively civic debate."

The Admissions Process to the three Exam Schools - Boston Latin School, Boston Latin Academy and O'Bryant High School - typically involved a standardized Admissions test and the consideration of grades for students, who all must live in Boston. This year, because of COVID-19, it became impossible to conduct the exam, so that was scrapped for a new system based on zip code

and grades that also sought to make the school population more geographically and economically diverse - while at the same time likely increasing the racial diversity as a consequence.

In February, the Boston Parent Coalition for Academic Excellence filed suit against the School Committee and its plan, saying it - among other things - violated the 14th Amendment and discriminated against white and Asian students. The students and families were from West Roxbury, Chinatown, Beacon Hill and Brighton.

Judge Young said he did not agree with the arguments made by the attorney for those parents, that there was an illegal racial diversity goal that was discussed when formulating the plan and that discussion influenced the plan.

"The School Committee's goal of a more racially representative student body, although more often discussed and analyzed, did not commandeer the Plan, and it in fact necessarily took a back seat to the Plan's other goals, which the Plan more aptly achieved," he wrote. "Consequently, any effect on the racial diversity of the Exam Schools is

merely derivative of the Plan's effect on geographic and socioeconomic diversity -- not the reverse. This Court finds and rules that the Plan is race-neutral, and that neither the factors used nor the goal of greater diversity qualify as a racial classification."

That said, the judge did not take lightly the racial comments made by the School Committee members in formulating the plan, and even racially-insensitive comments toward Asian Americans allegedly made by the former Chair of the School Committee during a hearing on the Admissions Plan in October. He said some of the comments made by the Committee and the Admissions Working Group were cause for concern, but didn't drive the plan.

"...this Court does not take lightly the statements made by the School Committee and the Working Group," he wrote. "Without question, some statements raise cause for concern. The statement within the Equity Planning Tool, for example, about a hard pivot away from equality and towards equity simply has no support in the Equal Protection jurisprudence of the Supreme Court...Had this Plan unconstitutionally substituted equality of result for equality of opportunity along racial lines, this Court would not hesitate to strike it down. But that is not what happened here. Apparently well counseled, the School Committee considered diversity and developed its Plan within the permissible framework of the Supreme Court precedent."

The Boston Branch of the NAACP, The Greater Boston Latino Network, Asian Pacific Islander Civic Action Network, Asian American Resource Workshop, Anti-Defamation League of New England, and the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, who are intervenors on the lawsuit, said the ruling was a victory for all students in Boston.

"Over the past year, the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed deep inequities in our education system, and created unprecedented and unforeseen challenges for students, educators, school leaders, and families," read the statement. "The

admissions criteria that were the subject of this lawsuit were designed thoughtfully and intentionally to respond to this crisis in a way that is fair to all of our students. By upholding them, Judge Young has helped ensure that every student in Boston, despite the pandemic, will have the chance to attend some of the most selective schools in our city. We look forward to continuing our multi-racial coalition work with Boston Public School leaders, educators, students, and families to ensure that this policy is implemented with integrity and transparency."

Almost immediately, the Boston Public Schools sent out instructions about how they would begin issuing invites to students who had applied to enter the seventh grade or ninth grade at the Exam Schools. Due to the lawsuit, sixth grade to seventh grade assignments citywide were delayed for about a month.

"The court issued a ruling today in the exam schools admissions suit that means Boston Public Schools (BPS) can now proceed with the temporary Exam Schools admissions policy as adopted by the Boston School Committee in October 2020," read the letter. "This one-year policy was developed in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic and the challenges of administering the entrance exam during a public health crisis. We are in the process of finalizing exam school invitations and working with our external independent partner to make sure our final calculations are accurate. Invitations to the three exam schools will be sent via email and regular mail by the end of April as soon as that work is completed."

In a simulation released in January, Jamaica Plain would be scheduled to lose approximately 21 percent of its Exam School seats - going from 77 seats last year to approximately 61 this year. That is only from the allotment of 80 percent of the seats that go by zip code. Another 20 percent of the seats go to the students with the top GPA citywide, no matter what zip code they are within.



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Boston Water and Sewer Commission offers property owners credit to replace lead pipes

Boston Water and Sewer Commission announced today it is doubling to \$4,000 the credit for replacing lead pipes through its Lead Replacement Incentive Program. A recent review conducted by the Commission estimates that as many as 4,800 property owners may be eligible for the program. For most customers, this credit will cover the total cost of the lead pipe replacement.

Lead water pipes can significantly increase a person's exposure to lead, a toxic metal that can be harmful to human health. The water provided by BWSC and

Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) is lead-free when it leaves the reservoirs because distribution pipes are made mostly of iron and steel. However, lead can leach into tap water through home service lines and internal plumbing, especially if water sits for long periods of time before use. People in homes and businesses built before 1950 should run their drinking water for two to three minutes if it has been stagnant for several hours, before drinking or cooking, to flush out any lead that might have leached into the system.

Under the Lead Replacement Incentive Program, properties owners who may have lead pipes will receive a letter outlining the program and urging them to reach out to the Commission to schedule an evaluation and estimate. Owners are responsible for all pipes on their property. The Commission is giving property owners 60 months interest-free to pay for replacement costs beyond the amount of the incentive. To be eligible for the program, property owners must be current in their payments and agree to have the work performed by the Commis-

sion. Lead pipe replacement is subject to availability and is offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

For additional information regarding the program and other lead resources, property owners are encouraged to visit the Commission's website at: www.bwsc.org, or call the LEAD HOTLINE at (617) 989-7888.

About the Boston Water and Sewer Commission: The BWSC manages the largest and oldest system of its kind in New England, providing drinking water and sewer services to more

than one million people daily. The BWSC's goal is to provide residents and businesses in the city of Boston with the best water quality and sewer services available in a way that is both protective of the environment and financially prudent. BWSC was created by the Massachusetts Legislature in 1977, replacing separate water and sewer divisions of the city's Public Works Department. BWSC is overseen by a three-member Board of Commissioners that is appointed by the Mayor with the approval of the City Council.

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JP Kids
Special Section

Heading into summer, arts programs and camps are up and running for kids

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

It's been more than a year since the COVID-19 pandemic hit Boston, bringing many people's lives and activities as they knew them to a standstill. Now that more people are receiving the vaccine and more is known about the virus, many of those activities have opened back up with rules and regulations in place.

If you're looking for activities for kids in Jamaica Plain, there are many programs available, especially as summer approaches. The Gazette spoke with Tony Williams of Tony Williams Dance Center, as well as Mary Ehrenreich, who runs the Kids...Together in the Arts!!! summer camp at Spontaneous Celebrations, to learn about what they have to offer.

**TONY WILLIAMS
DANCE CENTER**

When the pandemic first hit, Williams shut down his dance classes, which are offered most-

ly to children. In the summer, he was able to run a modified version of his usual dance camp, and then begin his fall semester with masks and distancing last September.

In the fall, enrollment was down from its normal level, and Williams said that it still generally remains at that level, but "it's creeping up. We're happy about that," he said.

He said that parents still aren't allowed in the reception area, and have to just drop their kids off for their classes. Masks and distancing are still required.

"It's been positive for the children to have an opportunity to come into live classes just for their mental state," Williams said. There was no recital last year due to the pandemic, but one is being planned for this year, albeit virtual, he added.

He said that each class will be recorded performing the dance the students have learned, and families will be able to watch the recital on Zoom as it's happening.

He said he believes that there



Members of the Boston City Youth Ballet (in residence at the Tony Williams Dance Center) performed the Garland Dance from the Sleeping Beauty ballet at the First Baptist Church on Centre St. on April 10.

is "pent-up demand" for kids to take dance classes, and he's "hopeful" that with more vaccinations, a sense of normalcy will return.

Williams is still offering a hybrid in-person and Zoom model for some of the dance classes. "Most of our kids take more than one class a week," he said, in which case one of those classes would be on Zoom. In the morning, there are open professional adult ballet classes taught by professional dancers.

"There's a sort of hidden population of professional ballet dancers" in Boston, Williams said.

These classes are offered both in-person (with 8-9 people) and on Zoom, so there's a special challenge for the instructor to have to teach people in person and on the screen at the same time, he said.

Enrollment is now open for the summer dance camps, which Williams said he's been doing for nearly 20 years. Last year,

Continued on page 13

SUMMER DANCE CAMP

TONY WILLIAMS
DANCE CENTER



AGES 5-14

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Kids

Continued from page 12

the camps were able to open for two weeks with 12-13 kids in each week, compared with the usual 20.

"It was a sign that there's a real need for the young people to have their social activities," he said, adding that the sign-up is going well so far.

There are three weeks of "fun camp," where kids ages five through 12 learn different types of dance, such as tap, modern, and jazz, and then there is a small performance at the end of the week where friends and family can watch the dance that the kids leaned. There is also one week of "ballet intensive camp" for kids around ages 10 and 11.

The camps run Monday through Friday from 9am to 3pm, with the performance on Friday towards the end of the camp day.

Williams also has a nonprofit called City Ballet of Boston, which has a dance apprentice program with a "strong outreach for kids of color," he said, as there is a "need to have more diversity in the ballet world."

The program is for youth that "really want to possibly have a career in ballet," he said. "Part of what I'm trying to do is bring that diversity more to play with

training youngsters in Greater Boston and Boston."

He added that the group is "penciled in to go back to the Shubert Theater "with some sort of a hybrid run," this year, where the performance will be live and can also be shown virtually.

The Tony Williams Dance Center students along with the Boston City Youth Ballet apprentices recently had their first live performance since before COVID on April 10 at the First Baptist Church on Centre St. The performance also featured live projections onto the church facade behind the dancers.

The entire event was outdoors and socially distant, where several dances were performed on the asphalt driveway in front of the church while family and friends sat distanced on the lawn to watch.

Williams said that people going by on Centre St. in buses and cars were also able to see the kids dance as well.

"It was just such a release of joy for the dancers to perform and also for myself and my staff," he said. "I could see in the eyes of the audience" that it was the first time they've been in a live setting for a performance in more than a year, even though it was outdoors.

"It was really cool," he said. "It was a great, great response."

He added that while it is certainly important to ensure that

businesses and restaurants stay open in light of the pandemic, the arts hold a special place in the hearts of many, especially for youth.

"I think theater and music and all of that really have to come back, because it's sort of the soul of human beings and we just need to keep that going."

For more information about Tony Williams Dance Center and its programs, visit tonywilliams-dancecenter.com.

KIDS...TOGETHER IN THE ARTS!!!

Kids...Together in the Arts!!! is a summer camp run by Mary Ellen Ehrenreich, who started the camp about 20 years ago when she discovered there was no camp in Jamaica Plain for her young daughters who were more interested in the arts than sports.

As a K-12 art teacher with a masters from Boston University in studio teaching, she decided she could start a program like this for her daughters and other kids who had an interest in the arts.

"A lot of the kids who were in the program became counselors and teachers," she said, including her own daughters.

She said the camp started out small, but has grown over the years. During the camp, kids take classes in four arts disciplines: drama, music, visual arts,



Some artwork designed by kids as part of the Kids...Together in the Arts!!! Summer camp.

and dance, and at the end of each week, a performance is put on for family and friends. Kids are also given two snack periods, a lunch period, and time to play outside.

There are five weeks of the camp, each with a different theme. Kids ages 6-13 can participate in as many weeks as they would like, but they don't find out the theme for each week until Monday morning.

She said past themes have included witches and wizards, the decades, traveling the world, the four seasons, and many others. She said that not many have been repeated, and her teachers help decide what the themes are going to be.

"We don't do Disney or Harry Potter," she said, instead calling the themes "really obscure."

"It's a pretty grassroots kind of program," Ehrenreich said, having rented spaces across

the neighborhood before finding Spontaneous Celebrations, where the camp has been held for the past several years.

No camp was held last year due to the pandemic, but Ehrenreich said that this year, she and her staff will be following all of the CDC's recommended protocols. She said that when the first week of camp begins at the end of June, the hope is that more people will be vaccinated, but she is still expecting lower enrollment than in previous years.

She said that there will be mask wearing and social distancing, and teachers and staff will all be fully vaccinated by the start of camp.

Enrollment is still open, and interested parents and guardians can visit www.kidstogetherinthearts.com for a full list of camp dates and pricing as well as to sign up.

Three ways to make more time for fun this summer

(StatePoint) Even relaxation and fun take some preparation. But there's no reason to work harder than you need to. Follow these hacks to get to the good stuff faster this summer.

1. Optimized Travel: Traveling by car this summer? Road navigation apps like Waze combine GPS and real-time crowd-sourced information to help you find the best route based on traffic conditions. But remember, sometimes the journey is also an opportunity for fun and there are apps for people who embrace that mindset. RoadTrippers, for example, can help you make the most of the mileage, as it offers information about scenic de-

tours, local attractions and more.

2. Waterside Fun: Whether you're hanging out poolside, lakeside or at the beach, faster, smarter set-up means there will be more time to unwind. Luckily, there is a brand new pool flotation technology designed to help you get out on the water faster. Check out Swimways Spring Floats, an ultra-comfortable collection of foldable, portable fabric-covered floats that now have three times faster inflation and deflation with no pump needed. Their exclusive, patent-pending Hyper-Flate Valve Technology is engineered to increase airflow in while preventing airflow out to take the stress and struggle out

of setting up your float.

3. Summer Meals: When cooking is accompanied by fresh air and the sounds of nature, it will feel less like a chore and more like leisure. So don't wait for holidays and special occasions to enjoy your backyard grill. You don't even need to wait until the weekend. Select one day a week to do all your indoor meal prep. Then, make the most of summer evenings by grilling and dining outdoors all week long.

From road trips to pool excursions, summer fun awaits, and with the right mindset and the best tools and gear, you can save time and energy on plans and prep.

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JP's Sean Lydon promoted to Interim Building Commissioner

STAFF REPORT

Acting Mayor Kim Janey this week announced the appointment of JP's Sean Lydon as the Interim Commissioner of the Inspection Services Department (ISD).

Marc Joseph will assume the role of Deputy Building Commissioner, and Paul Williams will assume the role of Assistant Housing Commissioner. ISD administers and enforces building, housing, health, sanitation and safety regulations mandated by city and state governments. Inspection Services is made up of five regulatory divisions charged with serving the public by protecting the health, safety and environmental stability of Boston's business and residential communities.

"In Boston, it is critical that

we continue to protect and improve the quality of life for all of our residents. I believe Sean, Marc and Paul will excel in supporting these endeavors in their new capacity," said Mayor Janey. "With a wealth of knowledge, experience and leadership, I know that they can lead this department with dignity and respect for our city and its residents."

Lydon has worked for the City of Boston for 25 years, and most recently served as Deputy Building Commissioner of the Inspection Services Building Division, where he managed over 50 staff members, including Building Officials, Administrative Support Staff and Plans Examiners. Prior to that role, Lydon worked as a Building Inspector where he was charged with enforcing building and zoning codes.

Lydon served six years in the

United States Marine Corps and later worked for Raytheon, Rockwell and Beckman on aerospace and defense programs. He graduated from Fullerton College in California with a major in business. He later attended Wentworth Institute of Technology for construction supervision. Lydon is also a State Board, Certified Building Inspector. He currently resides in Jamaica Plain with his wife and three children.

Following the transition of Sean Lydon, Marc Joseph will assume the role as the Deputy Building Commissioner. Joseph began his career 20 years ago as a Building Inspector charged with inspecting buildings within the city, ensuring compliance with the Massachusetts State Building and Boston Zoning Codes.

Joseph was later promoted to a Plans Examiner for ISD, where he was responsible for performing plan reviews for new construction, repairs and maintenance projects within the City of Boston. This was in addition to ensuring compliance with all applicable codes and other related laws, ordinances and regulations. Joseph holds a Master's Degree in City Planning, a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, and a diploma in drafting architecture tech, as well as several other

certifications. Joseph was born and raised in Haiti and is trilingual in Haitian Creole, French and English.

In his new role, Joseph will oversee all building permit and inspection activities, zoning reviews and the Zoning Board of Appeal hearings and decisions as well as the Board of Examiners licenses. This division employs 22 building inspectors, ten electrical inspectors and eight plumbing inspectors, all of which are responsible for inspecting all construction or renovation work to ensure that proper safety standards are followed.

Additionally, Paul Williams will assume the role of Assistant Housing Commissioner vacated by Claudia Correa, a long-time resident of East Boston. During her tenure at ISD, Correra oversaw the implementation of the Short Term Rental (STR) program, student move-in and a vast majority of housing initiatives, ensuring Boston's residential homes are safe and sanitary. As the Assistant Commissioner, Williams is charged with enforcing the State Sanitary Code and the City Ordinances, all of which regulate the quality of Boston's public and private housing stock. He will lead a team of inspectors and administrative staff who ensure rental units are

safe, sanitary and code compliant throughout Boston. Williams will also lead the department in continuing to expand the use of mobile technology.

Williams graduated from the University of Massachusetts with a Bachelor's Degree in Economics and Political Science. He then went on to Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government to obtain a Master's Degree in Public Administration, focusing on Budget and Finance Management, Statistics for Policy Makers and Performance Leadership in Public and Non-profit Agencies. Williams has 32 years of government experience, beginning at the Federal Reserve and then landing at the City of Boston as the Office of Budget Management. Williams was later promoted to Senior Management Analyst at ISD where he was responsible for leading the Department's IT initiatives, including building the capacity of all department inspectors to work effectively in the field through mobile devices and wireless connectivity, managing the tech team to improve service response to staff members' IT needs, and leading the purchase and implementation of software to improve department operations and service delivery to the public.

Phase 1 of Mildred Hailey Redevelopment gets approval

BY SETH DANIEL

The Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) Board approved the first phase of the Mildred Hailey mixed-income public housing redevelopment project at its monthly meeting on April 15.

The redevelopment will account for replacing some 253 public housing units now via Section 8 vouchers, in brand new buildings and alongside 420 units of income-restricted housing at a variety of income levels. They would be housed in seven new buildings. The total of 673 units would replace the buildings closest to the Jackson Square T Station, and would also reconstruct the Anna Mae Cole Community Center and add an Anna Mae Cole Outdoor Plaza for gatherings.

There is also about 8,300 sq. ft. of retail space on the ground

floors fronting Heath Street and Centre Street for neighborhood retail uses.

Boston Housing Authority (BHA) Director Kate Bennett said they were thrilled to reach another milestone on the project and would be looking forward to starting the project next year.

"We are thrilled to have secured this key City approval for the project, bringing us step closer to bringing new homes to Hailey residents," she told the Gazette. "I especially want to thank the resident organization for their leadership and partnership in reaching this milestone. We are looking forward to a groundbreaking in 2022."

The project design has had a lively airing over the last six months at the Boston Civic Design Commission (BCDC), with members of the Commission working strongly with the designers to create a better plaza

area and a better overall building design as well. The modern-looking buildings in the plan give way to the community center and sprawling outdoor plaza in between the two buildings along the Southwest Corridor Park.

There has been great energy expended to save more of the existing trees within the development, and also to connect the plaza and development more seamlessly to the Southwest Corridor Park and the playground/courts on the other side of it.

The development is a sprawling property between Heath and Centre Streets, and this represents the redevelopment of only a portion of the property. There are no future phases yet planned or contemplated, but there is a desire by BHA to eventually remake the entire de-

Continued on page 15

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Redevelopment

Continued from page 14

development in the same fashion. Any future phases would need

BCDC approval and a robust community process as well.

Centre Street Partners – which is made up of the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corp. (JPND),

Urban Edge, and The Community Builders (TCB) – are in partnership with the BHA and responded to an RFP some years ago to conduct the redevelopment.

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All six major candidates for mayor have taken out Nomination Papers for Mayor over the past week – including John Barros, Councilor Andrea Campbell, Councilor Annessa Essaibi George, Councilor Michelle Wu, Acting Mayor Kim Janey and State Rep. Jon Santiago.

Six major mayoral candidates have taken out Nomination Papers

BY SETH DANIEL

All of the six major declared candidates for Mayor of Boston have taken out their Nomination Papers this week, with five of the six taking them on the first day of their availability, April 13, and Acting Mayor Kim Janey pulling papers this week on Wednesday afternoon.

The Boston Election Department showed that 13 people had taken out papers for the mayoral campaign, including the declared candidates John Barros, Councilor Andrea Campbell, Councilor Annessa Essaibi George, State Rep. Jon Santiago, Acting Mayor

or Kim Janey and Councilor Michelle Wu.

Janey was the only major candidate not to take out papers on the first day they were available, but she did so this week, saying there is great work to do.

“The work ahead of us requires bold leadership — and we’re just getting started,” stated Janey on her social media page.

Others taking out papers included Michael Bianchi of Brighton; Robert Cappucci of East Boston; Joao DePina of Dorchester; Roy Owens Sr. of Roxbury; Richard Spagnuolo of the North End; Patrick Williams of Dorchester;

and William John Morgan Jr. of Mattapan.

Candidates for mayor and City Council have until May 11 to get their Nomination Papers, though many do it on the very first day, and must file them by the end of business on May 18 in order to appear on the September Preliminary Election Ballot.

Mayoral candidates must get 3,000 signatures of registered voters in Boston. At-large councilors must get 1,500 signatures and a District Councilor must get 200 signatures.

For Jamaica Plain, in District 6, there is an open seat as Councilor

Matt O’Malley announced earlier this year that he would not seek re-election. As of this week, four potential candidates had pulled Nomination Papers. They included Winnie Eke of West Roxbury; Kendra Hicks of Jamaica Plain; Kelly Ransom of Jamaica Plain; and Mary Tamer of West Roxbury.

The at-large Council race will have a full slate, with two seats vacated due to Wu and Essaibi George running for mayor.

Councilors Michael Flaherty and Julie Mejia have pulled Nomination Papers and are running for re-election.

Already, declared candidates

Kelly Bates of Hyde Park; Alexander Gray of Jamaica Plain; David Halbert of Dorchester; Ruthzee Louijeune of Hyde Park; and Erin Murphy of Dorchester had taken out papers.

They were joined by new names in James Colimon of Roslindale; Domingos DaRosa of Hyde Park; Raymond Vasquez of Dorchester; Althea Garrison of Dorchester; Bridget Nee-Walsh of South Boston; Roy Owens Sr. of Roxbury; Donnie Palmer of Brighton; Nick Vance of Hyde Park; Patrick Williams of Dorchester; Said Abdikarim of Roxbury; and Carla Monteiro of Dorchester.

JP’s weekly test-rate increases

BY JOHN LYNDEN

Jamaica Plain’s weekly COVID-19 positive test rate decreased last week and fell below the 5 percent threshold. According to the latest data released by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) last Friday.

According to the latest data 1,878 Jamaica Plain residents were tested last week and 1.7 percent were found to be COVID positive-- a 29 percent decrease from the 2.4 percent reported by the BPHC on April 2.

Of the 35,875 Jamaica Plain residents tested for COVID since the pandemic began, 8 percent overall were found to be positive-- this was an increase of 1.2 percent from the 7.9 percent reported on

April 2.

Positive test rates citywide decreased last week and fell below the 5 percent threshold.

According to the BPHC 26,430 residents were tested and 4.9 percent were COVID positive--this was a 2 percent decrease from the 5 percent positive test rate reported by the BPHC two weeks ago. The 5 percent threshold has been used to plan Boston’s phased reopening strategies.

According to the BPHC data, Jamaica Plain’s infection rate increased 3.5 percent since April 2.

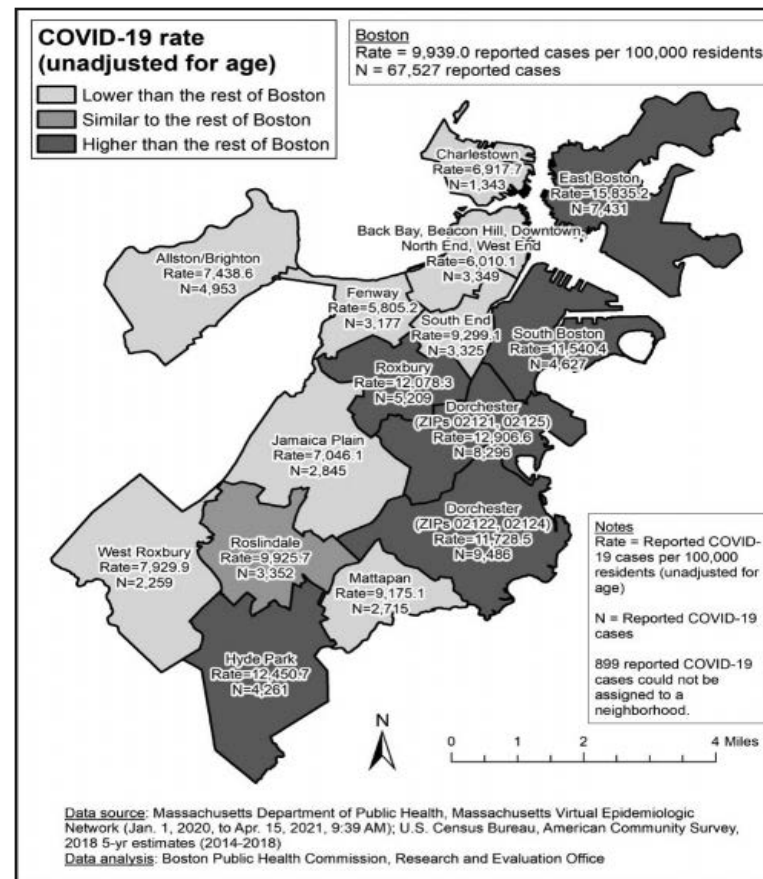
Jamaica Plain went from 680.5 cases per 10,000 residents to 704.6 cases per 10,000 residents.

An additional 97 Jamaica Plain residents became infected with

COVID-19 since April 2 and the number of total cases here went from 2,748 cases to 2,845 cases in the neighborhood.

The statistics released by the BPHC as part of its weekly COVID19 report breaks down the number of cases and infection rates in each neighborhood. It also breaks down the number of cases by age, gender and race.

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased 4.2 percent last week and went from 65,474 cases to 68,255 confirmed cases in a week. Seven additional Boston residents died from the virus last week and there are now 1,361 total deaths in the city from COVID.



On Friday the BPHC released its weekly COVID-19 stats by neighborhood that tracks infection rates and COVID testing results in Boston neighborhoods.

Kelly Ransom announces run for District 6 City Council

By LAUREN BENNETT

Longtime JP community activist Kelly Ransom announced her candidacy for District 6 City Council on April 8, vying with Kendra Hicks and Mary Tamor for Councilor Matt O'Malley's seat after he announced he would not be seeking reelection.

Ransom is a "queer formerly homeless events and communications professional," according to a release from her campaign, as well as a restaurant worker, former City Council staff member, and currently works as the Director of Communications and Public Affairs for the Madison Park Development Corporation.

The Gazette spoke with Ransom to learn more about her campaign and the issues that matter most to her.

"I knew at a young age that I wanted to eventually run for office," Ransom said. She was born in Jamaica Plain, then lived there and in West Roxbury for many years before moving to Roslindale. She's now back in Jamaica Plain, and said she feels as though she has a "unique experience in this district."

As a young adult, Ransom was a volunteer with the Youth Pride Committee on programming and events, where she applied for a grant to have a Gay Straight Alliance Convention at Another Course to College, where Ransom attended and where she and her friends started a Gay Straight Alliance.

The convention was attended by Gay Straight Alliances statewide, according to Ransom's website. "Kelly began to realize how important it is to connect communities," it continues.

"We can make change happen and we can do things, but not

without the help of elected officials," she told the Gazette.

Ransom also worked in City Councilor Annissa Essaibi George's office, which she said really "sealed the deal for me" when it came to running for office.

"I am a product of experience," Ransom said. "I have a lens of affordable housing," adding that she previously worked with the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation (JPND) before Madison Park.

As a formerly homeless individual, Ransom said she understands first hand the need for affordable housing in the district and across the city.

She said that the "groundwork is being laid out" for a 100 percent affordability zoning layover. "I know that that is a pathway to increasing affordability in District 6 and in our city in general. We need to come together as a district to push for more mixed-use development and supportive housing."

She added that people need to hear each other out and everyone needs a seat at the table.

Ransom also suggested starting a "knowledge campaign" for low income communities that would "empower them to understand the development process" and "make it accessible for them to participate in the community process." She said it's a "small step but it's a step toward affordable housing in the community."

Ransom also organized the return of the JP World's Fair as the Latin Quarter World's Fair, which she said helped her further understand the need for small businesses in the district and how she can help rally people together to make something happen.

"I brought the community together," she said, from small

businesses and restaurants to activists to youth.

"We made it happen and we were able to make it an experience that was equitable and inclusive," she said, and "made it so the small businesses and artists were at the forefront."

She also helped food businesses apply free of charge for temporary food licenses through a bilingual training with the city's Inspectional Services Department so they would be able to sell food outside at the event.

"That particular piece showed me that because I know where to go and who to talk to to make this connection possible, I need to use this knowledge; this platform to help every community in District 6 to achieve greatness," she said.

Ransom said that "I have a place in my heart for small businesses," and she said that part of what made her decide to run is seeing how much they are struggling in light of the pandemic. As a former Bella Luna employee, Ransom said she was heartbroken when the restaurant announced it would be closing.

She believes it is "viable, possible," that as a city councilor, she could "advocate for a program within the city that is specifically for small businesses and restau-

rants that are trying to grow or are brand new." She said that programs like these exist, but "not to the level I think we should have."

Business owners would have the process explained to them step by step and it would be accessible to people who speak languages other than English.

Ransom also identified education as an issue of particular concern to potential constituents in West Roxbury, though its important to districts throughout the city as well.

She said that she has a "different perspective in general" on education and does not have children of her own, but she is learning more and more about what residents view as issues with the Boston Public Schools (BPS).

She went to Boston Latin School but ended up dropping out and getting her GED.

"I believe that we can create equitable schools and baseline resources," but all of that takes money. She said she would advocate for more funding to be allocated to BPS, including funds from the Student Opportunities Act.

"We should not be opening any more charter schools in Boston right now," she said, adding that "we need to be doing everything we can to make sure" the learning



PHOTO CREDIT: JENNA CONNOLLY
District 6 City Council candidate Kelly Ransom.

environment for BPS students is inclusive and equitable.

When it comes to her campaign, Ransom said she "intentionally started a late campaign" and is still catching up to others, but she is "really excited to be out there" and "collect signatures," she said.

Her policy points, which are listed on her website, will be "fleshed out" and will include more info as the campaign progresses and she talks to more and more residents. She said her policy plan will be ready by July.

Continued on page 20

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ACTING MAYOR KIM JANEY TOURS JAMAICA PLAIN

COURTESY PHOTOS

Acting Mayor Kim Janey took a business and infrastructure tour of Jamaica Plain's Egleston Square neighborhood on Tuesday, April 20, visiting several businesses and getting an update on the new bus lane construction.



Acting Mayor Kim Janey posed for photo outside of Joseph's Style Barbershop in Egleston Square. (Mayor's Office Photo by Jeremiah Robinson)



Acting Mayor Kim Janey visited La Parada in Roxbury and spoke with owners Carmen and Yonatan Pena while touring businesses Egleston Square. (Mayor's Office Photo by Jeremiah Robinson)



Acting Mayor Kim Janey greets on the E-13 officers working on Columbus Avenue during her tour of Egleston Square.

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ACTING MAYOR KIM JANEY TOURS JAMAICA PLAIN



Acting Mayor Kim Janey spoke with Ursula Vaughn, owner of Lawsons Barbershop in Egleston Square, during a tour of the area. (Mayor's Office Photo by Jeremiah Robinson)



Acting Mayor Kim Janey spoke with Rosana Rivera, owner of Rosanna Beauty Salon in Egleston Square. (Mayor's Office Photo by Jeremiah Robinson)



Acting Mayor Kim Janey gathers with workers and MBTA officials after getting an update on the Columbus Ave. bus lane in Jamaica Plain. (Mayor's Office Photo by John Wilcox)

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Acting Mayor Kim Janey visits with MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak about the work being done on the Columbus Ave. bus lane in Jamaica Plain. (Mayor's Office Photo by John Wilcox)

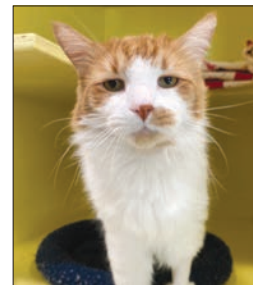
Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll



HENRY

Henry might look a little grumpy, but he is the nicest boy. He is very outgoing and loves affection. At ten years old, Henry still loves to bat around toys, but he won't be hanging from your curtains anytime soon. He may do ok living with kids, another cat, or a calm dog. Henry came in with pretty severe dental disease and a loud heart murmur. He recently got a dental cleaning and is feeling much better now! We also did an echocardiogram (an ultrasound of his heart), and found that this sweet boy has hypertrophic obstructive cardiomyopathy. He does not need medication at this time, but we're recommending that he get echocardiograms every 4-6 months in order to ensure that he stays in tip-top shape. Because he is at an increased risk of blood clots forming in his heart, it'll be very important that his adopter has a close relationship with a vet and is ready to provide whatever care becomes necessary. He promises to pay you back tenfold with his amazing personality, soft fur, and adorable antics. Visit www.mspca.org/bostonadopt today to inquire about Henry!



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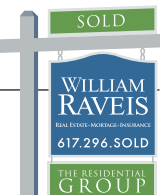
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Earth Day 2021 will be celebrated around the world on Thursday, April 22. In recognition of the role that art can play in the urgent need to combat climate change, the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University has mounted an exhibition, *OVER TIME: Through Art, the Impact of Change in the Arboretum Landscape*, featuring 26 works on paper by artist Ginny Zanger. Due to Covid restrictions, the Hunnewell Gallery at the Arboretum has been closed, and

the exhibition is virtual only, and can be seen at <https://arboretum.harvard.edu/events/current-and-past-art-shows/over-time-through-art-the-impact-of-change-in-the-arboretum-landscape/>

The exhibition of 26 works on paper arose from a unique collaboration between the artist and a climate scientist, Arboretum Fellow Catherine Chamberlain. Following meetings at Chamberlain's lab where she conducts research on the effects of climate change on plants at the Arboretum, Zanger responded with

haunting imagery that evokes the beauty and fragility of the ecosystem and references the ephemeral nature of the nature that surrounds us. Chamberlain has used Zanger's images in her talks about the science of climate change, and the two collaborated in a recent talk sponsored by the arboretum, *The Art and Science of Climate Change*, available on YouTube: <https://arboretum.harvard.edu/visit/explore-with-us/watch-with-us/>

A longtime resident of Jamaica Plain, Zanger has spent 50 years walking in the Arboretum.



Trees of Ancient Memory, Ginny Zanger, monotype painting.



False Spring/Fatal Budburst, Ginny Zanger, charcoal drawing.

Ransom

Continued from page 17

She and her campaign staff have several potential events in the works, but nothing is yet set in stone. She hopes to host "virtual halls of progress" where residents can ask questions and learn about the campaign, but experts in a particular field will be invited as well to talk about what they would like to see from a city councilor.

"I think that's great for me and as a candidate," Ransom said.

She also hopes to host some fundraisers such as emo pop punk karaoke and "Pride at the Pond" at Jamaica Pond where everyone can dress up in Pride outfits and have a socially distanced walk around the pond.

She also said another event

she wants to hold would be some sort of community outreach to people who are afraid to bike in the district. She said she herself is a "terrified biker," and believes that many of the streets in the district are dangerous to bike on. Interested people could join on a bike ride from the top of Centre St. in West Roxbury to Jackson Square, and identify problem areas to be addressed.

All the details for these events are still being ironed out, but Ransom said she looks forward to some safe, fun events as her campaign progresses.

Ransom said she was pleased to hear how many people asked how her campaign would operate through a lens of racial equity, and she said that as a councilor, she would "make sure Boston is equitable, inclusive, and accessible," and a plan needs to be in place to

ensure that happens across the entire city.

She said that hearing that concern from people "reaffirmed to me how together we really are regardless of disparities that we're experiencing financially."

Ransom said that as someone who is a communications planner with experience at City Hall, she believes she can bring people together to work out issues within the district.

"I really hope that in a leadership role I can bring people together to at least hear each other out in a safe, welcoming space so that we can figure out pathways to actually being a collective as a district and truly working together instead of against each other," Ransom said.

For more information about Ransom and her campaign, visit votekellyransom.com.

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A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Ana Victoria Dzerkacz of Boston, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: Ana Victoria Arroyo
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Suffolk Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/29/2021. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 25, 2021
Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate
4/23/21 JP

that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority. You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 05/20/2021. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
Date: April 12, 2021
Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate
4/23/21 JP

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304
Docket No. SU21P07426D
In the matter of: Elizabeth Ann Craven
RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated Person
Of: Jamaica Plain, MA
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Roberta C. Craven, of Hyde Park, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Elizabeth A. Craven is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Roberta C. Craven of Hyde Park, MA, (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond.
The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and

practicable, and defendant(s)/respondent(s) has/have not voluntarily appeared in this action. It is Ordered that defendant is directed to appear, plead, answer, or otherwise move with 5/9/2021. If you fail to do so this Court will proceed to a hearing and adjudication of this matter.
Date: 3/9/2021
Frances M. Giordano
Justice of Probate and Family Court
4/23/21 JP

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Division INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE
Docket No. SU20P1992EA
Estate of: Hermine Joan Greenfield
Also Known As: Joan Greenfield
Date of Death: September 09, 2020
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate by Petition of Petitioner Ronald D. Lefton of Port Washington, NY.
A Will has been admitted to informal probate.
Ronald D. Lefton of Port Washington, NY has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.
The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
4/23/21 JP

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT

PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304
Docket No. SU21P00729GD
In the matter of: Isaac Ventura
RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated Person
Of: Jamaica Plain, MA
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Massachusetts Dept. of Mental Health of Westborough, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Isaac Ventura is in need of a Guardian and requesting that (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond.
The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority. You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 05/19/2021. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
Date: April 07, 2021
Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate
4/23/21 JP

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate And Family Court
24 New Chardon St.
Boston, MA 02114
(617)788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Docket No. SU21P0689EA
Estate of: Marcelle Schmirler
Date of Death: 02/06/2021
To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Susan Joseph of Delray Beach, FL requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that: Susan Joseph of Delray Beach, FL be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/19/2021.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
Date: April 06, 2021
Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate
4/23/21 JP

OBITUARIES

Charlie Sandler Beloved Educator, Mentor, Leader

Boston lost an old-style leader in manual arts on March 28 with the death of Charlie Sandler, 88. A man with a "heart of gold," Sandler stewarded the Eliot School of Fine & Applied Arts as a center for woodworking, sewing, and other crafts through more than half a century, all while supporting Vocational Education in Boston's public schools.

The Eliot School of Fine & Applied Arts was an early leader in the spread of "Shop and Home Economics," staples of 20th century American public education. Charlie Sandler was one of a series of educators who directed the nonprofit, remaining tied to the school for 55 years. Stopping by in early mornings to stoke the boiler, returning after dinner to teach woodworking to adults, and on Saturdays to teach kids, Sandler gathered his young children to mail out course catalogs from their kitchen table, and recruited teachers from amongst his old union colleagues and old-style artisans in Boston's neighborhoods.

Charlie Sandler came to the trades through shipbuilding and carpentry after World War II, then turned his passion for 'making' to a commitment to vocational training. He taught carpentry and supervised teachers at Roxbury High School, Dorchester High School, Madison Park Technical Vocational High School, and the Hubert H. Humphrey Occupational Resource Center; and at Fitchburg State College and UMass Boston.

In 1966, he joined the Eliot School as a woodworking instructor, bringing his craft to children outside of school hours and adults outside of work. Warm-hearted and generous, he was known for his open embrace of all who wished to learn. He



taught hundreds of Boston Public School and college students as well as hundreds more through the Eliot School. Sandler retired from the Eliot School in 2012, on his 80th birthday, but continued to provide advice and support. In the weeks before his death, he helped advise on installation of an air-cleaning system for the Eliot's 19th century Jamaica Plain schoolhouse, a measure designed to ease re-opening after the Covid-19 pandemic.

Neighbor, educator, and historian Mary Smoyer recalls, "Charlie did everything at the Eliot School: sweeping the floor, shoveling the snow, bringing in teachers, opening for the classes and closing up after the classes—all in addition to his full-time job in the BPS."

Abigail Norman, Executive Director, says Sandler will be missed. "Charlie infused the Eliot School with warmth and charm. He truly had a heart of gold."

The Eliot School's wood shop bears his name, and the school is establishing a Scholarship Fund in his honor. Donations may be made online or sent to: Eliot School, attn: Sandler Scholarship, PO Box 300351, Boston MA 02130.

OBITUARIES

Effective Jan. 1, 2021
All obituaries and death notices will be at a cost of \$150.00 per paper. Includes photo.No word Limit. Please send to obits@reverejournal.com or call 781-485-0588

Do You need to run a legal?

Don't forget to check at the court to see if you qualify for a fee-waiver!

EDITORIAL

At last, spring has sprung

Spring officially may have arrived on March 21, but the past month has been anything but spring-like.

For those of us who live along the Massachusetts coastline, this is nothing new of course. The prevailing, on-shore sea breezes at this time of year transport air from the ocean that still is in the low 40s. So on days when the temperature may be in the 60s in central Mass., we're at least 10 degrees cooler, with a wind-chill factor that makes it feel 10 degrees cooler than that.

In other words, the 60s elsewhere feel like the 40s for us.

But this week finally brought a measure of spring, not only because of the warmth, but because of the daffodils, forsythia, and flowering trees that signal the end of winter and the promise of nicer days ahead.

With the coronavirus pandemic hopefully coming to an end, the arrival of spring is coming none too soon.

Mass shootings are our new epidemic

Mass shootings with high-powered weapons are nothing new in America. The recent tragedies in Atlanta and Indianapolis are just two more of a long string of the slaughter of innocent Americans who simply were going about their everyday lives at work, in school, or at a shopping mall.

But as horrific as these well-publicized incidents have been, they are just the proverbial tip of the iceberg when it comes to mass shootings all across the country, which have been occurring at ever-increasing rates.

In the past 30 days since the Atlanta massacre, there have been 45 mass shootings -- defined as incidents where four or more people have been shot -- across the U.S.

The vast majority of these shootings never make it into the national headlines to the extent of the Atlanta and Indianapolis incidents, but they are real. For example, on April 8 in Bryan, Texas, a gunman (who apparently was a disgruntled former employee) shot six persons at a cabinet-making company. One was killed and five were wounded, four critically.

We could go on and on, but the bottom line is that America is the only place in the world where mass shootings are a daily part of life. And the reason is very simple: America is the only country where there are more guns than people and a large percentage of those weapons are high-capacity, semi-automatic firearms.

Ardent supporters of gun ownership make the time-worn argument that if there are restrictions on gun ownership, then only criminals will have guns.

But the reality is that the perpetrators of mass shooting incidents are not criminals -- they're typically the guy next door who has some sort of mental health or anger issue, but who has been able to buy a high-capacity weapon on a whim and go on a shooting rampage a short time later.

The shooter in Atlanta, for example, had purchased his gun just a day before he went on his murderous spree.

Other nations -- principally narco-terrorist states such as Mexico and Honduras -- may have higher homicide rates, but mass shootings by, and of, ordinary civilians are a uniquely American phenomenon.

Countries with broad gun-ownership, such as Australia and New Zealand, have instituted common-sense laws that have eliminated mass-shootings. Australia did so after a school massacre in 1996 -- and there have been no similar incidents since then.

What will it take for America to reach the tipping point that will persuade Congress to implement common-sense gun legislation?

We're obviously not there yet. Our guess is it will occur only when Americans will be fearful of gathering such that it will affect travel and business. After all, who wants to travel to a state where people are allowed to openly carry high-capacity weaponry?

But in the meantime, America tragically will remain among the most randomly-violent places on the planet.

LETTERS

Thank you to all who made skating possible this year

To the Editor,

The Kelly Rink is a beloved community resource -- and one that was especially important during this COVID winter! We want to thank the community sponsors and local elected officials whose support of community skating and the Friends of the Kelly Rink made skating possible this year.

Boston Building Resources
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City Feed and Supply
East Boston Savings Bank

Franklin Park Zoo
Hatoffs Gas Station
Knights of Columbus -- 120 Jamaica Plain

Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation
Mann & Rodgers Funeral Home

Morrison's Auto-Rite Inc.

BWH Southern Jamaica Plain Health Center

Stanley's Towing Service
The Power Company Inc.

Urban Edge Housing Corporation

Yumont True Value Hardware

State Representative Liz Malia

Clerk Magistrate of Suffolk County Maura Hennigan

Boston City Councillor Matt O'Malley

This was a year of exceptional challenges. In 2020, the founding members of the Friends of the Kelly Rink passed the baton to a new generation of leaders. As we stepped in to support the future of ice skating in Jamaica Plain and Roxbury, we never imagined that we would do so in the middle of a global pandemic. Long-established practices and expectations had to change, adapting to the realities of a COVID context.

With a focus on equity and sustained community access, the Kelly Rink played a unique role this past winter. Across the state and across Boston, the Kelly Rink was one of just a handful of rinks that are open for public recreational skating. The Friends of the Kelly worked closely with DCR to create a COVID-safe skating environment, with special precautions around skate rentals and skate lessons.

The response was stunning.

Every day of the week, every skating session was at maximum capacity, with lines forming up to an hour beforehand. Continued access to the ice and affordable rental skates offered a rare, invaluable resource to the Jamaica Plain and Roxbury communities -- safe physical activity in the middle of a pandemic.

We are proud that we were able to keep the Kelly Rink skate rental and lessons open this winter, and could not have done it without the help of the JP and Roxbury communities. Your support ensures that local families -- of all backgrounds, at all income levels -- have access to the joy and challenge of ice skating. Thank you for making this possible!

Because everyone should be able to ice skate.

Yours Truly,

THE FRIENDS OF THE KELLY RINK

KIMBERLY RAND, PRESIDENT

ASHLEY RAO, VICE PRESIDENT

KRISTINE SANTIAGO, TREASURER

CAROLINE BALLOU, SECRETARY

ADAM MARKS

RICK MCLEAN

TREVOR SCHROEDER

Monteiro running for Council at-large

To the Editor,

My name is Carla B. Monteiro and I'm running for Boston City Council At-Large. My story is the story of so many Boston families, one of struggle and rising above it.

My parents emigrated from Cabo Verde in 1979. As the daughter of immigrants, my family, like so many others across Boston, struggled to navigate language barriers in our daily lives. At age 4, my father walked out on us and we were evicted. I was too young to fully understand what was happening, but, in so many ways, that day would form the rest of my journey.

As a 16-year-old, I dreamed of buying a house in Boston and moving my family in to protect all of us from housing insecurity. Eventually, I transformed my dream of owning a home into a reality and at 28 I purchased a triple-decker in Dorchester to provide a home for my family and

create a stable foundation for my son, Mesiah.

As a social worker, I know families and our youth are struggling to navigate Boston's social safety net just as I did.

As one of my many jobs, I am an emergency psychiatric social worker at Boston Children's Hospital where I provide therapeutic support to our youth. Every weekend, we are flooded with young people who are experiencing symptoms of depression and anxiety and need help. When COVID-19, hit I collaborated with other community leaders, elected officials, and institutions to gather masks, hand sanitizer, and hot food then went door to door across the city delivering them to our elders and those most vulnerable. Many times the people who need support must struggle the most to find resources.

Even before the pandemic hit, the systems meant to meet

our basic needs to survive were failing us. I'm running for City Council to use my experience to ensure every Bostonian has what they need to thrive. In this period of healing and recovery, our City Council needs a social worker, one who knows how to put services in place for the people. I know what it takes to help our families and children be successful.

I know that Boston's families are struggling because I have lived that struggle and see the consequences of the gaps in our social services daily. But the reality is this: We can achieve a Boston where everyone's basic needs are met if we're bold enough to imagine it and passionate enough to fight for it. Join our neighborhood by neighborhood movement at CarlaForBoston.com

CARLA B. MONTEIRO

CANDIDATE, COUNCIL AT-LARGE

OP-ED

Don't let the pandemic delay advance care planning

BY CATHERINE DUFFY, NP, ACHPN

Note: This article is published in observance of National Health-care Decisions Day.

Times of our lives may be forever defined as what happened “before the COVID-19 pandemic” and everything after that.

One thing that hasn't changed is the importance of having conversations with your family and health care professionals about your preferences for medical care if you were unable to speak for yourself.

In fact, the pandemic has

only highlighted why it's so important. Patients and family members who had advance care planning discussions prior to the pandemic are prepared when faced with a serious illness or medical crisis. They're comfortable sharing these discussions with healthcare professionals, as in, “IF mom gets COVID-19, and IF it is severe, she would/would not want X, Y, or Z.”

Unfortunately, few families are that well prepared. Only one-third of U.S. adults have discussed or completed advance directive documents such as a

health care proxy, power of attorney, or living will that help guide family members and health care professionals as to what kind of medical treatments you would or would not like to receive if you were unable to speak for yourself.

•Don't wait for a crisis

One of the biggest challenges I've seen during the pandemic is working with families who have not had any in-depth advance care planning discussions. Whether due to COVID-19 or some other illness, their loved one's health suddenly was declining, and they had not been able

to spend much time together because of the pandemic. Perhaps the patient lived in a facility with visitor restrictions or the patient limited visits out of infection concerns. The patient's decline SEEMED sudden to the family, who was not seeing it happen as they normally would over days, weeks, and months. It was hard for them to believe, and thus hard to think in that moment about the crucial need for advance care planning conversations.

Many older adults have vision, hearing, or cognitive deficits and in-depth conversations over the phone or video are difficult. And video chats are not the same as in-person discussions. The conversation flow is different and there often are technical issues

to overcome.

It is never too early to start thinking and talking about your wishes for care if your health status were to change. Choose a health care agent wisely who will be your voice when you cannot speak for yourself and have those important discussions about health care preferences before a crisis occurs.

The COVID-19 pandemic opened a lot of eyes about advance care planning. Giving guidance to your family and friends will help you get the care that you want. Your loved ones can feel confident they are voicing YOUR wishes, not their guesses!

Catherine Duffy, NP, ACHPN, is a palliative care nurse practitioner at Care Dimensions.

OP-ED

Mask wearing in America

DR. GLENN MOLLETTE

Like most everyone else, I'm tired of wearing a mask.

Every time I go to the grocery, a restaurant, church, or work I have to put on a mask. Not long ago, if we wore a mask into a bank or convenience store, the attendants would be alarmed and call 911. Today if we don't wear one, we are in trouble and not welcomed.

A lot of people have died from Covid-19 and thus I understand masks are important in this pandemic era. I don't want a disease. I have had two Pfizer shots and I wear a mask most every place I go.

Is it our American, God given right to take off our masks? While we are free to take off our masks, others are free to ask us to put them on. The business owner has the freedom to require a mask. The airlines have the freedom to require masks. The religious assembly has the freedom to require you to wear a mask. People with whom you

socialize may ask that you wear a mask. Of course, you are free to not patronize those businesses, forsake religious assembly and not hang out with certain people.

You are free to go maskless if you want to. However, you aren't free to be in someone else's face without a mask if they don't want you there without one. There are many places where you aren't allowed to smoke. There are some businesses that will not allow your pet. They have the freedom to refuse you service and you have the freedom to go somewhere else. This is America.

We've all been to the funeral home around sick people. A dear friend of mine eulogized a funeral in late November. Two people were in attendance who had Covid-19. He caught the virus and was dead by mid-December. He spent his last two weeks of life isolated in intensive care. He meant well in trying to help out a family in their time of grief. It cost him his life. He had been very active and healthy.

I've spoken in churches and to groups where people would come up and shake my hand and then say, “Well, I've been sick, but I came anyway.” They acted like they should have received a trophy for coming and contaminating everyone. In reality, their actions were inconsiderate of everyone else's health.

State governments may remove mask mandates. However, keep in mind that business owners still have the right to require masks. Churches still have the right to require masks. You don't have to let anyone in your home without a mask if you choose.

We have freedom in America to make choices - all of us.

Glenn Mollette is the publisher of Newburgh Press, Liberty Torch and various other publishing imprints; a national columnist - American Issues and Common Sense opinions, analysis, stories and features appear each week In over 500 newspapers, websites and blogs across the United States.

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The opinions expressed on these pages are not necessarily those of this newspaper.

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The Gazette welcomes letters to the editor. Word limit: 500. Deadline: Friday at 5 p.m. one week before publication. Letters may be emailed to letters@JamaicaPlainGazette.com. Please include address and telephone number for verification purposes. Anonymous letters will not be published.

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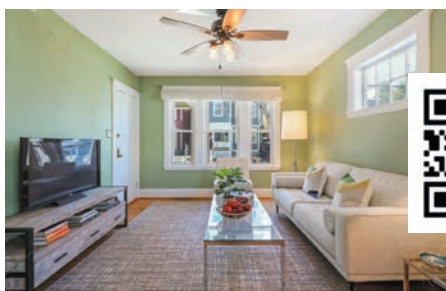
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