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Jamaica Plain GAZETTE



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ANNUAL PRIDE PARTY AT SEED DISPENSARY



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CORE CANNABIS/SEED
Residents from Jamaica Plain and the Greater Boston area gathered at SEED Dispensary in Hyde Square for the Dispensary's second annual LGBTQ Block Party in celebration of Pride Month. See more photos on Pages 12 and 13.

Community meeting held for proposed Forest Hills Station accessibility upgrades

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The MBTA held a virtual public meeting regarding the Forest Hills Station accessibility upgrades on June 9, where the team presented some changes to the proposal and addressed comments and questions from residents.

MBTA project manager Arthur Gillis said that there have been some small changes made to the 30 percent design update that was presented at the last meeting in March. In 2020, AE-COM was awarded a \$6.84 million project contract to complete the proposed work.

The existing Forest Hills station was built in 1987 as part of the Southwest Corridor Project, and the Casey Arborway project in 2018 “triggered the need for full station accessibility upgrades,” according to a slide presented. Right now, there are four elevators and four escalators, and no direct connection between the upper busway and the lower busway, forcing people to go through the station to travel between the two.

Currently, the train platform needs ADA upgrades, the existing elevators need to be replaced, the lighting and escalator on the

Continued on page 2

MSPCA-Angell Critical Care Center open and serving patients

BY LAUREN BENNETT

MSPCA-Angell's brand new, state-of-the-art Critical Care Unit (CCU) is now open at its S. Huntington Ave. location.

Kiko Bracker, a veterinarian at MSPCA-Angell, told the Gazette that Angell's previous ICU was “old and too small,” and did not efficiently serve animals.

“In order to better take care of our patients and our clients,” Bracker said, “it was important to update that space.”

Continued on page 17

Unidad de Cuidados Críticos de Angell está abierta

BY LAUREN BENNETT

La nueva Unidad de Cuidados Críticos (CCU) de Angell Animal Medical Center ya está abierta en su sitio en S. Huntington. Ave.

El departamento de emergencias de Angell atiende alrededor de 35.000 casos al año. La CCU estuvo en construcción durante aproximadamente dos años y abrió para atender a los pacientes el 26 de mayo.

La CCU consta de dos pisos y miles de pies cuadrados. Brinda atención las 24 horas para perros, gatos y animales exóticos. La

Continued on page 17

BLC hears advisory review for Blessed Sacrament Church project

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The Boston Landmarks Commission (BLC) heard an advisory review on June 14 for the proposed changes to the Blessed Sacrament Church at 362 Centre St., to be developed by Pennrose in partnership with the Hyde Square Task Force (HSTF).

HSTF owned the church building since 2014, but was unable to find a partner to help renovate the building so it could be used for community art and performance space. After decid-

ing to sell the building, HSTF led a community process to find a developer who would best serve the needs of HSTF and the surrounding community.

HSTF and the community chose Pennrose as the developer for the church project, which is proposed to have 55 affordable and workforce apartments plus a multi-use community space both inside and outside of the building for HSTF programming.

Maureen Cavanaugh of The Public Archaeology Laboratory, the cultural resources consul-

tant with Pennrose, said that a landmark petition for the church was submitted in 2005, but is still pending.

Rosanne Foley, Executive Director of the BLC, informed commissioners at this hearing that the study report for the church is expected to be complete on June 30.

“There are likely to be many character-defining features that will be emphasized in that study

Continued on page 3

MBTA announces service changes to Orange Line

By JOHN LYND

The MBTA and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) dropped a bombshell on Jamaica Plain commuters that rely on Orange Line service. Last Thursday, the MBTA announced weekday subway service changes that took effect Monday on the Orange Line as well as the Blue and Red Lines. MBTA officials said these

changes are the result of staffing challenges among the ranks of subway dispatchers in the MBTA's Operations Control Center. With a limited number of dispatchers, the service changes will allow the MBTA to schedule dispatchers in compliance with new FTA directives after an investigation into a recent spate of derailments, crashes and railroad crossing accidents. On Monday, Orange Line weekday trains began operating

every 10 minutes in the mornings, 11 minutes between trains in the evenings, and eight to nine minutes between trains during mid-day periods. Orange Line weekday summer service is typically six to seven minutes between trains during morning and evening peak periods, and every seven to eight minutes between trains during off-peak periods. The MBTA said the Orange Line volume was about 50% be-

low pre-Covid ridership levels according to data collected last week. In a statement last week the MBTA said it is exploring multiple options to add capacity at the Control Center, including an aggressive recruitment campaign, offering bonuses, and potentially hiring back former dispatchers. "If dispatch capacity permits, there may be days when the MBTA can increase the number of trains in service," said the

statement. "And as soon as sufficient dispatch capacity exists, the MBTA will revert to its previous level of service." There is one exception to the revised summer schedule. In the afternoon and evening of Monday, July 4, the MBTA will provide regular weekday service in order to accommodate people attending Independence Day festivities.

JP weekly COVID positive test-rate drops

By JOHN LYND

Jamaica Plain's weekly COVID positive test rate dropped once again according to the latest data by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC). Last week, 1,161 Jamaica Plain residents were tested for the virus last week and 7.2 percent were positive--this was a 28 percent increase from the 10 percent that tested positive between June 6 and June 13. Eighty three Jamaica Plain residents contracted the virus between June 13 and June 20 there have now been 9,191 confirmed cases in the neighborhood since the start of the pandemic. Boston's citywide weekly positive test rate decreased last week According to the BPHC,

14,523 Boston residents tested citywide and 7.7 percent were positive—a 19 percent decrease from the 9.5 percent that tested positive between June 6 and June 13. 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 0.4 percent last week and went from 191,740 to 192,591 confirmed cases since the start of the pandemic. There were three additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total number of COVID deaths is now at 1,478.

Forest Hills

Continued from page 1

Orange Line platform need to be upgraded, the steps are uneven and not ADA-compliant, and the exterior of the building is worn down. Gillis explained that the project proposal includes the following: a new stairway and elevator connecting the upper and lower busways, the replacement of three existing elevators (except for the elevator at the North head house), the replacement of entrance doors and the repairing of non-compliant walking surfaces, regrading the lower busway, the creation of a new accessible exit from the commuter rail platform to the Southwest Corridor Park, repairing the station's roof and exterior, improvements to lighting and wayfinding, and improvements in code compliance and the life safety system. The new proposed direct connection between the upper and lower busway will result in about 130 feet of travel between the two busways, as opposed to the existing 450 feet of travel. It will feature a new staircase and elevator for people to use. A new design feature that was presented at this meeting was an exit-only platform ramp from the commuter rail platform that will connect it to the Southwest Corridor Park. The "ramp will meet accessibility and safety standards," according to a slide presented, and also "provides a secondary exit from the commuter rail platform." The 30 percent design was complete earlier this year, and the 75 percent design is expected

to be complete by this summer, after which another public meeting will be held. The final design is expected to be ready by early next year, with construction to begin after that. JP resident Patty Yehle, who said she lives close to the station, said, "I'm really excited that you're doing this project," but wondered if any traffic or crosswalk mitigation is part of this project. She said she uses the commuter rail, the subway, and the bus on a regular basis, but "I find it rather challenging to get across the Arborway," she said. "The way the lights are timed, it's a little confusing." Gillis said that this is something that's usually done by the City of Boston, and "there's no plans to do anything outside of the station. It's strictly an accessibility project within the station." Lou Free of AECOM said that "we are focusing on the MBTA property itself and the station proper..." except for the commuter rail exit-only ramp. JP resident David Moir had a question about the existing glass roof panels and whether or not they were going to be upgraded. He also asked about the rest of the proposed roof work, and the existing clock. "That's a fantastic question," Gillis said. "It's a, in my opinion, very attractive station. We do plan to maintain the aesthetic of it. We're doing a little further investigation into the existing glass." He said that although the glass is around 40 years old, "it's holding up pretty well." He said that they want to address existing leaks, but are still "deciding whether to remove, clean, and re-

seal all of the existing glass; possibly upgrade the existing glass," or "maybe take it a step further and upgrade the entire system." He said the team will have more information at the 75 percent design meeting. E also said that the existing metal paneling has "held up extremely well." Gillis also said that "I think the clock has really become a landmark. It will remain." A question was also asked about interruption to service once construction on this project begins. "We definitely anticipate service interruption," Gillis said. "To what extent, I don't think we've quite developed that far yet." He said much of the work will happen in the evening to avoid disruption during work commutes. Free said that there is no anticipated interruption to the upper busway, but lower busway buses may be relocated temporarily while the lower busway work is being completed. He said that they are looking at how constructing the ramp on the commuter rail platform will affect service, but there are no "major disruptions" expected on the Orange Line, he said. Next steps for this project include keeping local organizations and community groups, as well as other stakeholders, updated on the project as it progresses. Additionally, another public meeting will be held later on this year once the design has been further refined. Any questions or comments can be directed to foresthills@mbta.com, and more information about the project can be found at mbta.com/foresthillsimprovements.

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NEWS BRIEFS

ENGINE 28 CLOSED FOR REPAIRS

The Boston Fire Department said that Engine 28/Tower Ladder 10 "is currently closed for some minor repairs and industrial cleaning. They will be back

in a couple of weeks once it is completed."

SHATTUCK CAMPUS RFP NOW AVAILABLE

The state's Division of Capital Asset Management and Main-

tenance (DCAMM) announced on June 14 that the Request for Proposals (RFP) has been released, seeking a redevelopment partner for the Shattuck Campus at Morton St. "We hope to identify a partner with devel-

opment and healthcare experience, a mission and vision that are aligned with the inclusive public health purpose of the site, and the capability to execute this complex project," DCAMM wrote in a recent email. More informa-

tion can be found at mass.gov/service-details/shattuck-campus-redevelopment-at-morton-street-proposal.

Continued on page 8

BLC

Continued from page 1

report," Foley said. "Once the Commission has a chance to vote on that and accept the building as a landmark, it would be difficult to make the case to change those character-defining features."

Charlie Adams, Regional Vice President for Pennrose, said that "this has been a really great process here working with the HSTF."

Rebecca Schofield of Pennrose said that a survey of the existing building was completed to investigate its structure. The exterior of the building is deteriorated, and there are a number of other structural concerns as well.

Architect Kenneth Hartfiel said that "we're leaving the building pretty much intact," but the proposal includes two additions on the north side of the rear. He said the existing sacristy on the left hand side of the building will be demolished.

The existing steps on the front facade of the building (which faces Centre St.) will remain, but will be narrowed and the two side entrances will be lowered to sidewalk level for accessibility.

Hartfiel said that the original proposal included additions on the sides of the building, but those have since been removed because it was determined they were not necessary for the proposed unit count. He said there will be a "large number of two bedroom units."

Landscape architect Warner Larson said that the proposal includes opening up the plaza space to "give the building better presence."

He said that an existing small maple and an old yew hedge will be removed so there is more outdoor space for HSTF to use. The project includes streetscape improvements, and the community space will be accessible to the general public as well as residents.

He talked about a proposed "multi-level deck" underneath the existing Linden tree on the property that would also provide seating for HSTF performances, and there is also an outdoor terrace proposed for residents of the building. The residential entrance will be on the east side of the building.

Hartfiel said that the existing arched windows will be opened up and made larger to allow for more light in the units.

He said that in response to feedback from the city that the building "didn't look residential enough," there is now an option proposed to include Juliette balconies with sliders.

On the rear, he said that the chimneys are not able to be salvaged, so they will be removed, along with the sacristy and "two flanking stairs" that exist on the bottom part of the rear facade. There are also "additional punched openings in the rear facade" proposed for the residential units.

Overall, the Commission had some clarifying questions about certain aspects of the proposal,

but a major concern was with the loss of the arched windows.

"I understand the need to expand the openings and create a more residential look, but this is a Romanesque church and losing those arched windows is a bit disturbing to me," said BLC Chair Lynn Smiledge. "Certainly, the side and the rear elevations are almost commercial; institutional looking," she added.

"We tried in earnest," Hartfiel said, to work with the existing arched windows, but he said it is difficult to put new construction residential units within the footprint of a large church like this.

"The top floor was the biggest challenge with the arches," he said, and ensuring there is enough light coming into the units.

Commissioner David Berarducci said that the impending

study report on the church "will dictate a lot..." about some of these details.

Other comments were made about the color of the proposed wings, some other questions about materials, as well as masking the sides of the parking lot. The team said that the shrubs will be two to four feet in height and will block off the parking lot while still allowing for visibility for drivers. A suggestion was also made to potentially include skylights so those top units could have more light without sacrificing too much of the architectural detail of the existing building.

Cavanaugh said that although the team has previously met with BLC staff, they were not told about the study report being released on June 30. "Those will make or break this project," she said, and asked if a draft could

be viewed ahead of time.

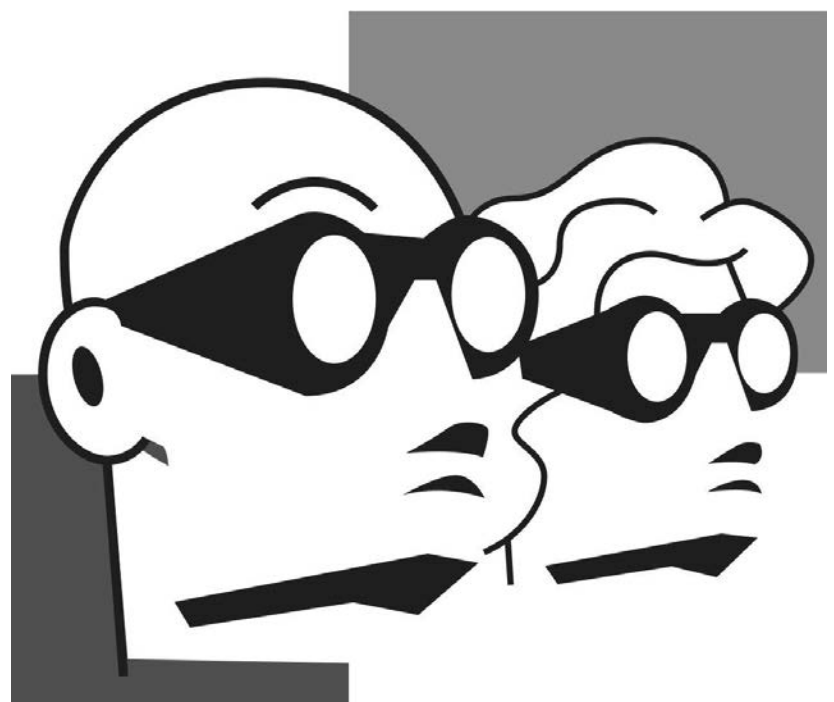
"Our schedule is so tight to get these study reports completed by the end of the year," Foley said. "We're hauling to get this stuff done." She said that the team did not receive funding for this until March, so the reports were started late.

"I understand how difficult it is to get housing into a completely blank, yet gorgeous brick facade," she said.

Smiledge added that "standards and criteria shouldn't make or break a project," and the BLC is always willing to "engage in conversation and negotiations on these projects."

Since this was an advisory review, no vote was taken. The team can use the feedback from the Commission to make adjustments to the proposal before they come back for approval.

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JP OBSERVER

MA + 14 other states support National Popular Vote; more states needed

BY SANDRA STOREY / SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

BY SANDRA STOREY

If things go well in the next two years, Massachusetts electors will vote for whomever wins the national popular vote for president on Nov. 5, 2024. And the United States would be guaranteed for the first time that its president got the majority of votes.

No more giving all 11 of our electors' votes to whomever wins the popular vote in Massachu-

setts alone. Instead, our electors would be pledged to give their votes in the Electoral College to whomever wins the national popular vote.

The Massachusetts legislature passed a bill to sign onto what's called the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPV for short) in 2010.

Under the NPV, 270 or more electors—the majority of the 538 total U.S. electors—would cast their ballots for the person who

wins the national popular vote. That winner would be sworn in as president in January, 2025.

Bit by bit, 15 states joined the compact over the years. Included so far are: Maryland, New Jersey, Illinois, Hawaii, Washington, Massachusetts, Vermont, California, Rhode Island, New York, Connecticut, Colorado, Delaware, New Mexico, Oregon, and the District of Columbia.

The pledge that electors vote for the national popular vote winner will take effect after enough states sign up to equal 270 or more electors; the number now is 195. Only 75 more electors are needed from a combination of states to ensure that the nation's favorite candidate wins the presidency.

Massachusetts voters who want a popularly elected president need to reach out to friends, family, and colleagues in other states. Advocacy organizations called Abolish the Electoral College PAC and People's Choice for President could use our help and support with their efforts to recruit enough other states through their legislatures.

The Constitution says each state must decide how it chooses its electors, and that's what would continue to happen under NPV—without abolishing the Electoral College. Turns out abolishing the worst effects of the Electoral College is quite possible without removing it from or otherwise changing the Constitution.

The results of this revised, sensible system would create a revolution in favor of democracy when it comes to how we choose our country's leader for the following four years.

Majority would rule. Whoever gets the most votes from the American people would win the presidency. Twice this century and five times in the country's history we have had a president that a majority of Americans did not choose.

Despite winning the popular vote by more than 7 million ballots, Joe Biden still nearly lost the Electoral College and the presidency in 2020. Hillary Clinton got 2 million more votes than Trump, yet she lost the Electoral

College. In 2000, Al Gore got half a million more popular votes than Electoral College "winner" George W. Bush.

The American people would finally benefit from the principle of one-person, one vote for president. The national final vote tally, in the millions, would be the only numbers to count to determine who becomes commander in chief.

As of now, votes for the losing candidate(s) within most states are not represented in the Electoral College. It's winner-take-all—but only within the 48 states that have chosen that system of allotting electors to candidates, not nationally. (Maine and Nebraska are the only states that still apportion their electors among those two states' winning and losing candidates.)

With NPV, we would have a real winner-take-all result, where the winner of the popular vote across the country would become the next president, and everybody would know that before they cast their ballots.

The awkward system of totaling the number of senators and representatives for each state to determine the number of that state's electors wouldn't matter anymore.

The current strange discrepancies in voting power would no longer occur. For example, poor California has only one electoral vote per 712,000 people, and super-empowered Wyoming has one vote per only 195,000 people in the current system.

New York, Texas, and Florida are also under-represented in the Electoral College compared to some less populated states.

In the revised system, each state would contribute the same number of votes nationally as it has voters in that presidential election. When the Electoral College meets,

all the electors from states that signed the compact would go to whomever won the national popular vote.

The NPV would also soften the current superpowers of "swing" or "battleground" states—those where it's thought that either major party's candidate could win and get all the

electoral votes from that state. Under NPV, more states would get campaign visits from candidates, ads, and other attention from them, too.

Our presidents would be more respected here and in other countries after NPV takes effect. Presidents who didn't win the popular vote are not as credible to many as those who won the most popular votes. No other democracy has something like the Electoral College to select their leader

The phrase "Every vote counts"—often said to encourage voting—would finally be true in our presidential race. Now, this democratic principle is followed in state and local elections, of course, but not nationally for president. With NPV, all votes cast in all states would count to determine who the president will be.

Votes on NPV in eight more states (68 total electors) are pending. Advocates will have to persuade an additional state or states that provide the necessary additional 7 electors to get to the majority of 270.

Many of the bills at state houses that would commit the state to the Interstate Compact did not pass the first time they were introduced. Massachusetts legislation to join the compact failed in 2007, but passed in 2010.

Although revising the electoral vote process has been favored by the majority of Americans in the past, Republicans are mostly against it nowadays for obvious reasons.

Two of our Republican presidents in the past 20 years took office after losing the national popular vote. There are more registered Democrats (48 million plus) than Republicans (35 million plus) in this country and it has been similar for decades.

Some Republicans offer other "reasons" than fear of losing to oppose majority rule. Most of what opponents of NPV say is either hyperbole or just plain not based in fact. Advocacy group "Save Our States," founded "to protect the Electoral College

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CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE GRADUATES IN JAMAICA PLAIN!

LOCAL STUDENTS GRADUATE FROM COLLEGE

KACZMARSKI EARNS DEGREE FROM WIDENER UNIVERSITY

Widener University recently awarded degrees to its graduates. Ceremonies were held Thursday, May 12 and Saturday, May 14. The university provided two in-person, outdoor celebration options for graduate students who chose to participate:

- A drive-through ceremony May 12 where graduates were able to exit their vehicles and be recognized as they crossed a stage in front of the historic Old Main administration building.

- A traditional ceremony May 14 at The Mann Center for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia. Graduates included:

- Alexa Kaczmariski of Jamaica Plain who earned a Master of Education in Human Sexuality Studies from the College of Health & Human Services.

Widener University is a private institution known for its commitment to the personal and professional success of every student, where academic experiences are distinguished by excellence and students develop the leadership qualities employers seek. Core values of respect, integrity and excellence are reflected in an outstanding student experience provided through an agile, innovative and inclusive approach to learning. Industry-shaping faculty provide close, personal mentorship and share powerful connections that help students build professional networks. Recognized as one of the Philadelphia region's leading universities, Widener offers programs and experiences that empower our community of learners to discover and create better futures as scholars, leaders and globally engaged citizens.



PHOTO BY PATRICK O'CONNOR

The English High Class of 2022 arrives for graduation at Fenway Park on Sunday evening, June 12.

LOCAL STUDENTS EARN DEGREES FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

This year's commencement at the University of Vermont-the

221st in its history-marked a return to a traditional celebration outdoors on the University Green after two years of re-imagined ceremonies due to pandemic restrictions.

The following students grad-

uated from the University of Vermont during commencement ceremonies in May, 2022.

- Hunter Amory of Jamaica Plain graduated with a Bachelor

Continued on page 6

Observer

Continued from page 4

from the NPV plan," says on its website that states would lose their voices in elections, and it would "create instability," without say exactly how or why.

Others have said NPV would give cities more power than rural areas. Huh? Cities have more voters, of course. Just like in state elections for governor and other state offices.

Brookings Institution, after doing extensive research, came

out in support of NPV a few years ago, writing, "If the Electoral College system begins to prevent, on a regular basis, the popular vote winner from becoming president, it will create systemic challenges. Faith in elections, trust in government, and the legitimacy of elected officials and the offices they hold will be challenged by a system that consistently turns its back on the will of the voters."

For more information on NPV and/or how to get involved, see the Brookings articles and advocacy websites on the internet.

Congratulations to our JP Graduates!

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CONGRATULATIONS 2022 GRADUATES!!!

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LOCAL STUDENTS GRADUATE FROM COLLEGE

of Arts in Philosophy.

• Peninah Hodin of Jamaica Plain graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science.

• Erik Weihenmayer, one of the most renowned adventurers of the 21st century-best known as the first blind person to summit Mount Everest-urged graduates and family members to emulate a climber in their lives, not to quit or settle comfortably like a camper half-way up the peak. “Climbers understand life’s an ongoing, never-ending process of reaching out into the darkness,” he said, “reaching towards immense possibilities.”

The ceremony was especially meaningful for UVM President Suresh Garimella-his third as president but the first one on the Green. Garimella conferred degrees on an estimated 3,332 graduates, including 2,558 bachelors, 515 masters, 131 doctoral and 118 medical degree recipients. Degree recipients hail from

44 states; among the graduates were 122 international students from 27 foreign countries. Approximately 1,057 of the graduates are from Vermont. The graduating class includes approximately 415 students of color.

Since 1791, the University of Vermont has worked to move humankind forward. Committed to both research and teaching, UVM professors -- world-class researchers, scholars, and artists -- bring their discoveries into the classroom and their students into the field. Located in Burlington, Vermont, one of the nation’s most vibrant small cities and top college towns, UVM is a Public Ivy and top 100 national research university educating 10,700 undergraduate students, 1,627 graduate students, 776 certificate and non-degree students, and 478 M.D. students in the Larner College of Medicine.



English High School held graduation on Sunday evening, June 12 at Fenway Park. Diplomas were presented to 122 graduates. Shown are Head of School Caitlin Murphy, salutatorian Oselumese William Aghedo, class president Rosilainy Mejia Garcia and valedictorian Ivanna Leiliani Mercado.

RICHARDSON GRADUATES

Nathaniel Richardson of Jamaica Plain graduated from the University of Hartford in May of 2022.

Nathaniel earned their Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance - Performance Emphasis.

Congratulations to Nathaniel and the entire UHart Class of 2022!

Spread across seven dynamic schools and colleges, the University of Hartford has been guiding the purpose and passion of students for over six decades. On our 350-acre campus alongside Connecticut’s capital city, approximately 5,000 undergraduate and 1,500 graduate students from 48 states and countries come together for a common purpose: to collaborate across different disciplines, diversify perspectives, and broaden worldviews. We’re a four-year private university focused on advancing the

public good through meaningful connections within our communities. Our unique approach to comprehensive education gives us the critical perspectives that lead to impactful change, regionally and beyond. With degree programs spanning the arts, humanities, business, engineering and technology, education, and health professions, we focus on doing the work that matters. Visit www.hartford.edu for more information.

JAMAICA PLAIN’S ISABELA MARINO GRADUATES FROM COLLEGE OF THE HOLY CROSS

Isabela Marino, of Jamaica Plain received a bachelor of arts degree from College of the Holy Cross.

Marino is among 755 graduating seniors Holy Cross celebrat-

ed at its 176th Commencement held in person on Friday, May 27 at the DCU Center in Worcester. Acclaimed writer and infectious disease physician Abraham Verghese delivered this year’s address to the Class of 2022 and received an honorary degree.

Vincent D. Rougeau, president of the College, presided over the celebratory event, bestowing the honorary degrees and greeting each graduate as they crossed the stage. This marks Rougeau’s first commencement exercises since being installed as Holy Cross’ 33rd president - the first lay and first Black president to lead the 179-year-old institution - back in October 2021.

In his remarks, Dr. Verghese, the best-selling author of “Cutting for Stone” and the Linda R. Meier and Joan F. Lane Provostial Professor and Vice Chair for the Theory and Practice of Medicine at Stanford University, asked graduates to consider how they will define success in their personal stories after graduation.

“My advice to you would be: don’t set the bar too high,” Verghese told the graduates. “Don’t live your life waiting for the one magical moment when you achieve this or that, or have this much in the bank, or particular letters behind your name You and I know too many people, often successful, famous, accomplished people, whose success was not enough to keep them joyful. I would urge you to define success for yourself simply such that on a daily basis you can feel joy.”

In addition to Verghese, Holy Cross also awarded an honorary degree to Rev. Philip L. Borroughs, S.J., the 32nd president of Holy Cross, a role he held from 2012-2021.

The College of the Holy Cross, in Worcester, Mass., is among the nation’s leading liberal arts institutions. A highly selective, four-year, exclusively undergraduate college of 3,100 students, Holy Cross is renowned for offering a rigorous, personalized education in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition. Since its founding in 1843, Holy Cross has made a positive impact in society by graduating students who distinguish themselves as thoughtful leaders in business, professional and civic life.



PHOTOS BY PATRICK O’CONNOR

English High football players get together for a team pic prior to the graduation. The seniors will always be remembered for the Thanksgiving Day win over Boston Latin by a score of 66-42.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE GRADUATES IN JAMAICA PLAIN!



Nativity Prep, located in the Jackson Square area of Jamaica Plain held graduation on Sunday, June 12 at the Lion of Judah Church in the South End. Eighth-grade diplomas were presented to the following seventeen graduates: Sean Carter, Dana Jackson, Omar Emiliano-Santos, Ismael Lopes, Pharoahe Gasasu, Gabriel Leggett, Elias Melo, Amari Tavares, John Valerio, Raymond Williams, Dimitri Mentis, David Olamokun, Janiel Peres, Oscar Perez and Kris Rivera.

ZBA approves extension of loft at 57 Brookside Ave.

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA) on June 21 approved a proposal for 57 Brookside Ave. #14 to add a bedroom on the second floor loft.

Owner Luke Bruffee explained that he would like to extend the existing loft in his unit that currently covers about a quarter of the unit. He wants to extend it so it covers about half the unit, to create a bedroom. At a recent Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC) Zoning Committee meeting, Bruffee also said he wants to add a laundry closet as well as a window above the existing front door to create an egress for the new bedroom.

This is an extension of an existing non-conforming use, so that's why it is before the ZBA. Bruffee said that the floor to ceiling height in the loft is a little over seven feet. No one commented either in support or in opposition of this proposal at the hearing.

Jeff Hampton of the Boston Planning and Development

Agency (BPDA) said that the BPDA recommends approval and is in support. The JPNC

had also voted to approve the proposal at its meeting.

The ZBA voted to approve.

congratulations!

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LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

LOCAL RESIDENT MAKES DEAN'S LIST AT CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

Mairead Hayes of Jamaica Plain, 2024, Dean's High Honors, who is studying Sociology has been named to the Connecticut College dean's list for the 2022 spring semester:

Founded in 1911, Connecticut College is a highly selective private liberal arts college of 1,800 students located on a 750-acre arboretum campus in New London, overlooking Long Island Sound and the Thames River. The College's mission is to educate students to put the liberal arts into action as citizens of a global society. Through an innovative four-year program, Connections, students integrate every aspect of their experi-

ence-from classes to majors to internships to activities to jobs on campus and abroad-into a meaningful pathway that allows them to synthesize different perspectives, solve complex problems, and contribute to the public good. For more information, see www.conncoll.edu or find us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn.

CURRY COLLEGE SPRING 2022 DEAN'S LIST

Curry College congratulates of who was named to the Spring 2022 Dean's List.

- Christopher Jenkins of Jamaica Plain
- Nicole Mertiri of Jamaica Plain
- Luke Murray of Jamaica Plain

Curry College, founded in Boston in 1879, is a private, co-educational, liberal arts-based institution located on 131 acres in Milton, Massachusetts. The College extends its educational programs to a continuing education branch campus in Plymouth. The College offers 22 undergraduate majors in specialized and liberal arts programs, as well as graduate degrees in accounting, business, education, criminal justice, and nursing to a combined enrollment of nearly 2,500 students. The student body consists of 1,700 traditional students and nearly 800 continuing education and graduate students. The College offers a wide array of co-curricular activities ranging from 16 NCAA Division III athletic teams to an outstanding theatre and fine arts program.

during the spring semester of the 2021-22 academic year. The following local students made the list:

- Aidan Carroll of Jamaica Plain, Class of 2025
- Lisalina Pena of Jamaica Plain, Class of 2023

To qualify for the Dean's List, students must pass four or more letter-graded courses with no failing grades during the semester and earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

LOCAL RESIDENT NAMED TO WILLIAM & MARY DEAN'S LIST

Isla Hanlon of Jamaica Plain was recently named to the Dean's List at the College of William & Mary for the spring 2022 semester:

In order to achieve Dean's List status, a full-time degree seeking undergraduate student must take at least 12 credit hours and earn a 3.6 Quality Point Average during the semester.

William & Mary is the second oldest institution of higher learning in the United States.

GERMAN NAMED TO SPRING 2022 DEAN'S LIST AT STONEHILL COLLEGE

Emily German of Jamaica Plain, a member of the Class of 2022, has been named to the Spring 2022 Dean's List at Stonehill College.

To qualify for the Dean's List, students must have a semester grade point average of 3.50 or better and must have completed successfully all courses for which they were registered.

Stonehill College, a Catholic institution of higher learning, was founded by the Congregation of Holy Cross in 1948. Located on the beautiful 384-acre campus and former estate of Frederick Lothrop Ames in North Easton, Massachusetts, it is a community of scholarship and faith, anchored by a belief in the inherent dignity of each person.

Through more than 100 academic programs in the liberal arts, sciences, business and pre-professional field, Stonehill College provides an education of the highest caliber that fosters critical thinking, free inquiry and the interchange of ideas for over 2,500 students.

News BRIEFS

Continued from page 3

REGISTRATION FOR JPOS OPEN MAY 31

Registration for Jamaica Plain Open Studios has begun with online registration being offered this year. Registration will remain open until June 30. For more information, visit jposenstudios.com

CALL FOR FARMERS MARKET VOLUNTEER

The Mayor's Office of Food Justice is looking for volunteers to support Farmers Markets this summer. Spend time outside and working with amazing farmers

and vendors! If you're interested, please submit this form: bit.ly/Volunteer-FM.

EGLESTON FARMERS MARKET

The Egleston Farmers Market returns on Saturday, May 21, through Saturday, October 9, in a new location at the Community Servings parking lot. The market will bring fresh, local food back to the neighborhood along with low waste living resources. You can also drop off textile recycling every week Saturday and electronics recycling on the first Saturday of every month.

LOCAL STUDENTS NAMED TO HOLY CROSS' SPRING 2022 DEANS LIST

A total of 1,457 students were named to the College of the Holy Cross' Dean's List for outstanding academic achievement

California woman pleads guilty to 2021 JP fentanyl trafficking bust

By JOHN LYND

A California woman busted in Jamaica Plain last year as part of a police sting operation to curb the trafficking of fentanyl pleaded guilty to traveling across the country to deliver the drug to an undercover officer. The amount of fentanyl seized in the bust had the potential to kill tens of thousands of people.

Adelaida Yudit Garibay, 46, of Burbank, Calif., pleaded guilty to one count of possession with intent to distribute 400 grams or more of fentanyl. U.S. Senior District Court Judge Mark L. Wolf scheduled sentencing for Sept. 7, 2022. Garibay was charged on Sept. 30, 2021.

According to court documents, in September 2021, Garibay drove from California to Boston to deliver two kilograms of fentanyl to an individual who was an undercover officer.

On Sept. 29, 2021, officers observed Garibay picking up fentanyl in Jamaica Plain and

then getting into a ride-sharing vehicle prior to her scheduled meeting with the undercover officer. During a subsequent traffic stop, two kilograms of fentanyl were found inside the vehicle in a bag at Garibay's feet.

According to the DEA two milligrams of fentanyl will kill an adult. One kilogram of fentanyl is equivalent to 1 million milligrams. The amount seized could potentially kill over 600,000 adults.

The charge of possession with intent to distribute 400 grams

or more of fentanyl provides for a sentence of at least 10 years and up to life in prison, at least five years and up to a lifetime supervised release and a fine of \$10 million. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and statutes which govern the determination of a sentence in a criminal case.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Samuel R. Feldman of U.S. Attorney Racheal Rollins' Narcotics & Money Laundering Unit is prosecuting the case.

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JPNC Housing & Development Committee discusses several issues

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC) Housing & Development Committee met virtually on June 21 to discuss several updates as well as to hear a presentation from the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation (JPNDNC) regarding development in the Jackson Square area.

COMMUNITY UPDATES

3390 Washington St.— BMS Paper

An update was provided on the BMS Paper project, which many members of the Stonybrook community have had concerns with. It was reported that the mass of the building has been reduced, and the building has been split into two. The existing historic BMS Paper storefront has been further preserved, and there will be more open space, according to what was presented at the most recent Boston Civic and Design Commission (BCDC) hearing.

Housing & Development Committee co-chair Micah Sachs talked about the settlement that has been reached between Turtle Swamp Brewing and the proponents of the senior affordable housing building proposed next door at 3371 Washington St. The settlement includes moving the wall of the senior building back to eliminate some of the proposed courtyard space.

Monastery of St. Clare

Sachs said that there is no further update regarding this project. As last reported, he said that the Poor Clare sisters still need to submit paperwork to the Boston Landmarks Commission for the demolition delay process, which he said they have not yet done. Sarah Horsley said there is a petition to preserve the existing building and create affordable housing. The petition can be found at bit.ly/PoorClaresJP.

JACKSON SQUARE AND MILDRED HAILEY REDEVELOPMENT

Rebecca Mautner and Giovanna Valencia from the JPNDNC presented some information on development in the Jackson Square area, with a focus on the Mildred Hailey redevelopment project.

Mautner said that there are several JPNDNC projects in development in JP, Roxbury, and Dorchester that will provide both home ownership and rental opportunities to residents.

Valencia said that JPNDNC, Urban Edge, and The Community Builders (TCB) have partnered for more than 20 years on the redevelopment of the Jackson Square area.

They talked about some projects in the Jackson Square area, such as 225 Centre St., which was developed by TCB, is now complete, and consists of 103 units, 35 of which are affordable.

Jackson Commons, which was developed by Urban Edge, is also complete, and consists of 37 affordable units. 127 Amory is being developed by TCB and is currently under design. It will feature 96 affordable units. Future projects include 101 Amory St. with around 140 units, and 1550 Columbus, which does not yet have a proposed unit count.

Mautner also talked about the Greenway proposed for Jackson Square, which will be developed by JPNDNC. According to a slide presented, JPNDNC has been gathering financing since 2019, and this year is looking to secure approval from the MBTA and the city. Construction is expected to begin in the spring of next year.

Mautner provided an overview of the Mildred Hailey redevelopment project. She said that the Boston Housing Authority (BHA) put out a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the first half of the project, which is called Phase One, and consists of “roughly about half of the units.”

The project will feature seven new residential buildings with about 678 apartments, including the replacement of the existing 253 public housing units. The remaining 425 units will be “at various income levels,” according to a slide presented. The project also includes a new 6,800 square

foot Anna Mae Cole community center, along with 8,300 square feet of ground floor non-residential space.

The project is a partnership between TCB, JPNDNC, and Urban Edge, and Buildings 1A and 1B are being developed by TCB and are currently in the midst of the closing process, Mautner said.

Building 2, which will be developed by JPNDNC, “won’t start until early 2025,” she said, once buildings 1A and 1B are complete. Building 4 will be developed by Urban Edge, and buildings 5A and 5B “are no longer connected,” she said. “One is Urban Edge and one is JPNDNC.”

Construction on buildings 1A and 1B is anticipated to begin before the end of the year. Building 1A features 100 affordable units, and Building 1B features 123 affordable units.

Mautner said that the project in its entirety, up to Building 5, is “basically a 10 year plan.”

It will be all rental housing, with no ownership units. “All of the current public housing residents will be able to return, and although the financing will change, their rent payment should stay the same unless their financial situation changes,” she said.

Valencia said that “initially, residents were very scared, very concerned about their homes and their neighborhood,” but after they were engaged with surveys and other meetings, “they can see that things are real” and they will be able to move into a nice, new unit, he said.

Lastly, Mautner spoke about the Shattuck, as the RFP for that land was released last week and has a “60 day turnaround,” she said. She said JPNDNC will be partnering with TCB and Pine Street Inn on a proposal “within the BMC Master Plan,” a slide read. “The RFP is very clear in its focus on supportive housing,”

Mautner said. “We will be working on a plan for both individuals and families.”

FORBES BUILDING

The Housing & Development Committee also returned to its discussion on the Forbes Building, which has been at the top of people’s minds as they try to save the affordability of the units and come to an agreement with owner Paul Clayton so current residents are not displaced.

Micah Sachs said that a letter was approved and sent by the JPNC to Clayton and several elected officials.

The letter asks that Clayton “temporarily but formally alleviate the Section 13A tenants’ housing anxiety by formally and publicly agreeing to neither evict nor raise the rent of these tenants through December 21, 2022.”

It also invited Clayton to a JPNC Housing & Development Committee meeting to share his plans for preserving affordability, as well as restates that the Council continues to support the petition, titled “Sign the Contracts Now to Save Our Homes,” which was signed in August of last year and sent to Clayton in October of last year.

Lastly it calls for Clayton to “be transparent with tenants of the Forbes about your long-term plans for the building and the process you are undertaking to develop these plans.”

Michael Kane, executive director of MassAlliance of HUD Tenants, reported that some tenants “received a couple of threatening letters” from Clayton, and rent has been increased for some tenants.

Annette White-Cole is a cur-

rent tenant in the Forbes Building, and has been living there since 2018.

“Right now, presently, my rent is greater than my income,” she said. “I have been trying to keep my head above water and trying not to experience homelessness for a second time. My health has declined; I am unable to work.”

She said she has been reaching out to agencies to try and get assistance with her rental payment, but that will expire in July and she also has medical equipment that she cannot bring to a shelter. She said she really hopes that Clayton can sign the agreement offered by the state soon.

Kane said that an “emergency tenant meeting” was held, and there are “former 13A tenants who were paying more than 30 percent of their income before, with the rent increase, it gets a little worse. The answer for this is for the owner to sign the state’s offered contract. The owner would actually make more money from that contract than from the rent increase that was just imposed on the tenants. We’re glad to hear that they’re working on a proposal.”

He added that such a proposal has yet to be received by the city and state, however. “We look forward to seeing it,” he said, but it “will have to include a long-term and subsidy contract.”

He thanked the Housing & Development for its letter, which he said “encouraged; supported our request to be part of the process.” He asked for a follow up on that letter to help elicit a response from representatives of the owner about the recent rent increase.

PLEASE WRITE...

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. More information: 617-524-2626

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OEE receives Justice in Action award from Jane Doe Inc.

Staff Report

The State Treasurer's Office of Economic Empowerment (OEE) has received Jane Doe Inc.'s 2022 Justice in Action Award. Each year, Jane Doe Inc. (JDI) awards people and organizations in Massachusetts working to prevent and end sexual and domestic violence. OEE was joined by U.S. Attorney Rachael Rollins who was also awarded the 2022 Justice in Action Award for her steadfast commitment to building safer and healthier communities. The Office of Economic Empowerment has partnered with JDI since 2019 to develop necessary training and

resources to support domestic and sexual violence survivors and increase awareness around financial abuse.

This partnership has engaged employees at Citizens, M&T Bank (formerly People's United Bank), and the Massachusetts State Treasurer's office. During workshops and mentorship training, participants are given information on identifying customers who may be experiencing some form of financial abuse. Experts from JDI then provide resources and actions that workers can use to provide appropriate and quick support to customers.

"Through our partnership with



Pictured Left to Right: Maria Harris, Spring Into Action Co-Chair and Chief Human Resources Officer at Rockland Trust; US Attorney Massachusetts Rachael Rollins; Alayna Van Tassel, Deputy Treasurer and Executive Director, Office of Economic Empowerment/MA Treasurer's Office; Denella Clark, Spring Into Action Co-Chair and Philanthropist and Author; Debra Robbin, Executive Director, Jane Doe Inc.; Deb Collins-Gousby, JDI Board President and COO of Brookview House.

Jane Doe, we have been able to support and empower victims of domestic and sexual violence with financial resources and ed-

ucation," said State Treasurer Deborah Goldberg. "We are honored to receive this recognition and are committed to continuing

this important program that contributes to healing and independence for survivors."

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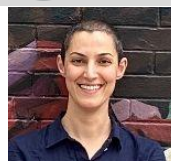
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CORE CANNABIS/SEED DISPENSARY HOSTS GAY PRIDE BLOCK PARTY

By JOHN LYNDS

On Sunday, June 12 Core Cannabis/Seed, Jamaica Plain's first adult-use cannabis dispensary and the nation's first Social Justice Cannabis Museum that opened in Hyde Square back in March, hosted their second annual free block party to celebrate Pride Month.

As Boston's first woman-owned adult-use cannabis dispensary and ally of the LGBTQ community, Core Cannabis/Seed invited the Jamaica Plain community to come down

to Perkins Street between Centre Street and South Huntington Avenue for a day of music, food, games, contests and prizes.

CEO of Core/Seed April Arrasate said attendees were encouraged to dress up in festive Pride garb and enter the costume contest during the event. There were prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place contestants.

Last year Core Cannabis/Seed became Jamaica Plain's first adult-use cannabis dispensary and the nation's first Social Justice Cannabis Museum. Core Cannabis's Seed Dispensary and



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CORE CANNABIS/ SEED



attached Social Justice Cannabis Museum opened at 401 Centre St. in Jamaica Plain with a ribbon cutting that included the dispensary and museums founders, staff and former Acting-Mayor of

Boston Kim Janey.

The unique dispensary has already gained national recognition for being the first dispensary in the US with a social justice museum attached to the project.

One of the first exhibits featured Boston native Niambe McIntosh, daughter of legendary Jamaican Reggae Musician, former Wailer and cannabis activist, Peter Tosh.

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Massachusetts House passes comprehensive behavioral health legislation

STAFF REPORT

The Massachusetts House of Representatives last week passed comprehensive legislation addressing longstanding issues with our behavioral health care delivery system. The bill focuses on acute psychiatric care and crisis response, youth behavioral health initiatives, community-based behavioral health services, investments in the workforce, and enforcement of existing behavioral health parity laws.

"I'm proud of the legislation passed by the House today that builds on our long-standing efforts to advance important reforms and substantial investments that are aimed at improving our behavioral health care delivery system," said Speaker of the House Ronald J. Mariano (D-Quincy). "From addressing the behavioral health crisis that our young people are currently experiencing, to our efforts to alleviate emergency department boarding, to provisions that will bring us closer to treating mental and physical health equally, this legislation will benefit all residents in the Commonwealth

when accessing critical health care. I would like to thank Chairman Adrian Madaro for his hard work, and for his commitment to producing a strong bill."

"Everyone deserves access to quality mental health services, yet far too many people face unnecessary barriers to care. This bill reaffirms the House's commitment to increasing access to behavioral health care across Massachusetts," said Representative Adrian Madaro (D-East Boston), Chair of the Mental Health, Substance Use, and Recovery Committee. "For too long, the healthcare system has not treated behavioral health as equal to physical health, creating obstacles in addressing the mental health crisis, which has on been exacerbated by the pandemic. That's why this timely piece of legislation makes critical steps toward prioritizing mental health services for people across the Commonwealth, including our youth who have been acutely affected, and those who face challenges in getting the care they need. These policies reflect our strong belief that behavioral health care is essential."

Highlights of the bill include:

- Initiatives to address emergency department boarding:
- Creating online portals that provide access to real-time data on youth and adults seeking mental health and substance use services, including a function that allows health care providers to easily search and find open beds
 - Requiring the Health Policy Commission (HPC) to prepare and publish a report every three years on the status of pediatric behavioral health
 - Codifying an expedited psychiatric inpatient admissions (EPIA) advisory council to reduce hospital emergency department boarding, including a protocol to expedite placement into appropriate care settings for patients under the age of 18
- 988 implementation and 911 expansion:
- This legislation seeks to increase behavioral health care access across the Commonwealth through the implementation of the nationwide 988 hotline to access 24/7 suicide prevention and behavioral health crisis services. This legislation also expands 911 to bridge the gap until 988 is implemented by increasing train-

- ing, funding, and capacity for regional emergency responses to behavioral health crises.
- Red flag laws and Extreme Risk Protection Order:
- This bill initiates a public awareness campaign on the Commonwealth's red flag laws and Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs), passed by the Legislature in 2018, that limit access to guns for people at risk of hurting themselves or others.
- Full-system accountability for parity:
- This bill tackles disparities in mental health and other forms of health care by giving the state additional tools to enforce existing parity laws, such as:
- Requiring licensed mental health professionals to be available during all operating hours of an emergency department (including via telehealth)
 - Codifying hospital clinical competencies and operational standards and directing the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to establish a complaint process for alleged violations
 - Directing DMH to create a comprehensive plan to address access to continuing care beds, intensive residential treatment programs, and community-based programs for patients awaiting discharge from acute psychiatric hospital units
 - Implementing mental health watch reforms in correctional settings, including changes to the referral to mental health process for those who are incarcerated or detained, and

- establishing a process for a person on mental health watch for longer than 72 hours to petition to be transferred
- School-based behavioral health services and programming:
- Limiting the use of suspension and expulsion in all licensed early education and care programs
 - Requiring school districts to adopt a behavioral health crisis response plan which may be based on a cost-neutral model plan to be developed by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
 - Creating a statewide program to help schools implement school-based behavioral health services
- Access points for youth for effective behavioral health treatment:
- Creating a complex care resolution panel to ensure children with complex behavioral health needs are assisted quickly and with cross-agency support and coordination
 - Requiring behavioral health assessments and referrals for children entering the foster care system
 - Empowering the Office of the Child Advocate (OCA) to receive complaints from children and families and to assist them in resolving issues with access to behavioral health services
- Expanded insurance coverage:
- This legislation requires insurance coverage of critical behavioral health services, including:

Continued on page 15



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Treasurer Goldberg announces Baby Bonds Task Force

STAFF REPORT

State Treasurer Goldberg announced last week a group of experts, leaders, and community members to spearhead the Baby Bonds Task Force. This Task Force is charged with providing the Treasurer, the Office of Economic Empowerment, and the Economic Empowerment Trust Fund with recommendations on creating a Baby Bonds initiative in Massachusetts. The Task Force will meet monthly and will provide their final recommendations by November, ahead of the legislative filing deadline.

Baby Bonds is an initiative that provides government-supported trust funds for children. When account holders reach adulthood, they can access their funds and spend it on assets that can grow over time or generate

wealth (e.g., higher education, buying a home, starting a business, etc.). Studies show Baby Bonds can help close the racial wealth gap.

The Task Force's diverse cross-sectoral group is filled with people who have expertise and lived experience in racial wealth equity, community engagement, child welfare, and asset-growth initiatives. The members' personal experiences and professional backgrounds will help the Task Force design a Baby Bonds program that is feasible, impactful, lasting, and tailored specifically to Massachusetts. The Task Force will be chaired by former Massachusetts State Treasurer Shannon O'Brien. A full list of Task Force members can be found on our website, www.mass.gov/babybonds.

"Baby Bonds has the poten-

tial to narrow the racial wealth gap and provide our youngest generation with a foundation for success in adulthood," said State Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg. "Our task force members have multiple and diverse experiences in developing impactful programs that make a difference for Massachusetts residents of all backgrounds."

"As a former Massachusetts State Treasurer, I am so thrilled to work alongside Treasurer Goldberg to improve the lives of all children and set up our economy for continued success," said former State Treasurer and Baby Bonds Task Force Chair Shannon O'Brien. "Baby Bonds presents Massachusetts with an opportunity to close the racial wealth gap and create a bright future for all newborn Bay Staters."

Several policy proposals on Baby Bonds have been introduced on the federal level, including Massachusetts Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley's American Opportunity Accounts Act, which would establish federally funded savings accounts for all children in the United States. Multiple cities and states are exploring or have launched these wealth-generating programs as well, including Washington, D.C. and Connecticut.

Treasurer Goldberg created

the Office of Economic Empowerment (OEE) with the goal of increasing financial stability for everyone in Massachusetts. The office works to promote programs that serve women, families, high school students, Veterans, and seniors. Its initiatives focus on closing the race and gender wage gap, racial equity, increasing access to financial education, improving college affordability, and investing in STEM careers and education.

Health

Continued from page 14

- Emergency service programs
- Services provided under psychiatric collaborative care models

- Mental health acute treatment, community-based acute treatment, and intensive community-based acute treatment without prior authorization
- Annual mental health wellness exams

Workforce investments: This proposal builds upon the Behavioral Health Trust Fund by carving out specific grant programs for health care providers, which would finance:

- Workforce Pipeline Investments: a scholarship program to support a culturally, ethnically, and linguistically diverse behavioral health workforce, with a focus on clinicians who commit to serving high-need populations.

- Integrated Care: a grant program to expand integrated care models that enable providers to expand their practices to provide behavioral health care in primary care settings
- Support for Providers: a grant program to promote the mental health and wellbeing of providers

Behavioral health parity implementation and enforcement: This legislation tackles the

disparity by health plans to reimburse mental health services at lower rates than other forms of health care by providing the Commonwealth additional tools to enforce existing parity laws and promote compliance.

This legislation enhances oversight of parity compliance by:

- Requiring carriers to comply with annual reporting requirements
- Directing the Division of Insurance (DOI) to review and ensure insurer compliance with parity laws

• Authorizing the Office of Patient Protection (OPP) to identify and refer potential parity violations that arise during OPP grievance reviews to the DOI and

the AG's office

"An Act addressing barriers to care for mental health" (H.4879) passed the House of Representatives 155-0 after a similar version of this legislation passed in the Massachusetts State Senate. The legislation moves back to the Senate for further consideration.





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Wu announces results of the 2022 homelessness census

STAFF REPORT

Mayor Michelle Wu on June 22 announced the results of the 42nd annual homeless census. On the night of February 23, Mayor Wu led a group of volunteers, including City and federal officials, homeless service providers, and public health and safety first responders in conducting the City of Boston's 42nd annual homeless census. During the annual census, the City of Boston collects data on individuals spending the night unsheltered on the street, and individuals and families staying in emergency shelter, transitional housing, or domestic violence shelter programs. This point-in-time count is a national requirement for cities who are receiving funds from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

"This year's census data helps us better shape Boston's work to support our unhoused residents, coordinate effectively with our state and federal partners, and move closer to ensuring everyone has a safe, healthy home," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "As we continue our work to tackle housing across all of our neighborhoods, these results will guide our efforts to serve all of our residents

and end homelessness in our city."

Overall, the number of individuals experiencing homelessness in Boston on the night of the census decreased by 2.4 percent, from 1,659 individuals in 2021 to 1,545 individuals in 2022. This reduction builds on a decrease of 24.7 percent from 2020 to 2021 which was due in part to a coordinated effort by city agencies and homeless service providers to create alternative housing, shelter and healthcare options during the first wave of the pandemic. It also reflects sustained and successful efforts in housing individuals experiencing homelessness and at-risk individuals and diverting individuals from emergency shelter to safe alternatives when possible.

The number of unsheltered persons staying on the street on the night of the census decreased by 30 percent, or 51 individuals, from 170 individuals in 2021 to 119 individuals in 2022. There were no unsheltered families on the streets of Boston on the night of the census, as has been true for more than the past decade. After two years of increased unsheltered homelessness, this year's street count is slightly lower than the total of 121 in 2019.

The number of veterans experiencing homelessness decreased by 15.5%, from 213 veterans in 2021 to 180 veterans in 2022.

"The homeless census is an important tool in understanding the status of unsheltered veterans," said Andrew McCawley, president of the New England Center and Home for Veterans. "As an organization deeply engaged in efforts to end homelessness among veterans, this data provides us with a further understanding of the trends in our community so that we can plan for and deliver services. Even with this decrease, ONE unsheltered veteran is too many. We appreciate the City's work to conduct this census and its collaboration with our organization to move forward a coordinated strategy to end veteran homelessness in the City of Boston."

In 2021, the Mayor's Office of Housing, Mayor's Office of Recovery Services, Boston Housing Authority and a collaborative of homeless services and housing providers launched the Street-to-Home (S2H) Initiative focused on placing persons experiencing long-term unsheltered homelessness in permanent housing with wrap-around services. Participants were identified from a city-wide list of unsheltered individuals with a particular focus on the area centered at Massachusetts Ave. and Melnea Cass Blvd. By the night of the unsheltered count in late February, 150 individuals had been housed. The Street-to-Home Initiative is an ongoing part of a larger effort by the Mayor's Office of Housing to invest Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG-CV) funding from the CARES Act to provide housing assistance and stabilization services. As a result of this funding, an additional 215 adult individuals experiencing homelessness were housed through ESG-CV rapid rehousing (RRH) programs over the 12 months prior to the 2022 census.

In November 2021, Mayor Wu brought in a special advisor, Dr. Monica Bharel, M.D. to accelerate efforts to mitigate the growing encampment crisis in the Newmarket triangle area at Mass Ave. and Melnea Cass Blvd. The Boston Public Health Commission, Mayor's Office of Recovery Services, and numerous public health, behavioral health and health care agencies worked

with the Mayor's Office of Housing to support six low-threshold sites providing interim housing, access to much needed medical and substance-use disorder care and ongoing housing navigation. This effort resulted in placement opportunities for more than 150 individuals who had been living in unsafe and dangerous encampments in the depth of winter. By focusing on public health, substance-use and trauma-informed approaches, persons suffering from substance use disorder and other challenging life struggles were able to transition to safety and begin to navigate treatment, safe shelter, family reunification and housing pathways. Both the Boston Street-to-Home initiative and the low-threshold housing sites continue to work to assist and stabilize clients as they transition to treatment and supportive housing, helping break the cycle of homelessness for vulnerable unsheltered individuals.

"This census data is a valuable tool in devising strategies to solve homelessness in Boston," said Lyndia Downie, president and executive director of Pine Street Inn. "We are pleased to see a decrease in Boston's numbers, especially given the national picture, where street homelessness is at 39%. We know we still have work to do, and we look forward to continuing our partnership with Mayor Wu and the Mayor's Office of Housing to scale up permanent supportive housing. Moving individuals off the street and out of shelter into the safety and stability of housing is the solution and will benefit not only those experiencing homelessness, but all residents and businesses in the city."

With insights gained from addressing the intersecting crises of unsheltered homelessness and the substance use epidemic during the last two pandemic years, the Wu administration will invest new resources and strengthen partnerships to address low-threshold shelter access, substance use treatment access and permanent supportive housing strategies to improve unmet needs for outreach, engagement, and intervention. In the coming year, the Mayor's Office of Housing, the Mayor's Office of Recovery Services, Boston Police Street Outreach Unit, Boston EMS, Fire and Public Works and Parks will work with

a newly appointed Coordinated Response Director, Tania Del Rio, and her team to ensure a continued coordinated response to street homelessness and the successful implementation of the plan developed over the last six months by former Senior Adviser Dr. Monica Bharel. The Mayor's Office of Housing will invest up to \$1 million in funding to work with Pine Street Inn, Eliot Community Health Services and other street outreach providers to strengthen diversion and housing navigation for unsheltered individuals, and to enhance housing stabilization for individuals who transition into permanent supportive housing. Additional funds will be dedicated to ensure ongoing client engagement, behavioral health and substance use treatment access, housing navigation and rehousing for participants in the six low-threshold sites set up to mitigate last year's encampment crisis.

The number of homeless families increased slightly this year, from 843 to 929, and Mayor Wu, the Boston City Council and a number of dedicated family homelessness providers, people with lived experience of family homelessness, and advocacy agencies have joined a Commission on Ending Family Homelessness to explore strategies and develop a plan to address the housing, childcare, education and family support needs of homeless children and adults in families.

The census helps inform the City of Boston's policy development and allocation of resources. The information gained through the census is shared with other homeless service providers to aid in the coordination among the Continuum of Care members. Boston has one of the lowest percentages of unsheltered people living on the street of any major city conducting a census, with under 4 percent of Boston's homeless population sleeping on the street in 2021, the most recent year for which HUD has published national data. HUD did not publish national data for the total number of homeless persons who were unsheltered in 2021, because many Continua of Care waived their unsheltered count due to COVID-19. In 2020, 39 percent of all homeless persons were unsheltered nationwide.

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CITY PAWS

Jamaica Pond Dog Walk

BY PENNY & ED CHERUBINO

We recently met up with a friend for a walk around Jamaica Pond and thoroughly enjoyed our outing. The pond is an excellent destination for a dog walk offering beautiful scenery, amenities, birdwatching, turtle spotting, fishing, exercise stations, boating, accessibility, and a rich history to discover and enjoy.

History

According to the state wildlife division, this is the largest body of fresh water in Boston. It was once the city's reservoir. In the late 1800s, it served as a significant source of ice in winter. The 53-foot-deep kettle pond

was formed by a glacier and fed by natural springs. Jamaica Pond is the source of the Muddy River, which empties into the Charles River.

Part of the Emerald Necklace

Jamaica Pond is part of Frederick Law Olmsted's Emerald Necklace. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1971.

The Cultural Landscape Foundation reported on Olmsted's approach to Jamaica Pond. "In an 1882 report, Olmsted described the feature as 'a natural sheet of water, with quiet graceful shores, rear banks of varied elevation and contour,

Continued on page 19



A windblown Poppy enjoyed a bit of shelter on Jamaica Pond's famous u-shaped bench.

MSPCA Angell

Continued from page 1

According to MSPCA-Angell, the CCU comprises two floors and thousands of square feet. In a video on its YouTube channel, Angell said that the CCU provides round-the-clock care for dogs, cats, and exotic animals. Dogs and cats are able to be separated, while exotic pets also

have their own space.

"The Critical Care Unit is the capstone of the MSPCA-Angell centennial campaign, which raised over \$20 million to fund revolutionary veterinary care for our beloved pets, and it's the most important milestone in veterinary medicine in generations," the video states.

"The Critical Care Unit enables treatment for even the most fragile patients, as well as those recovering from com-

plex surgeries or suffering from acute illness, chronic disease, or life-threatening injury."

In the video, Bracker explains that Angell's emergency department sees around 35,000 cases a year, and "this new space allows us to operate at the highest level we can."

The spacious facility features natural light, soundproof glass, and "bathing and comfort stations" to keep the pets as comfortable as possible. It also fea-

tures two private visiting rooms for clients to visit with their pets while they are being treated, as well as areas for mechanical ventilation and dialysis.

Bracker told the Gazette that this facility was under construction for about two years, and opened to serve patients on May 26. He said that the new space is "much more user-friendly and comfortable than that prior, cramped space was," and allows doctors to better serve the ani-

mals in their care.

"It's exciting for all of us—our staff, donors, and Angell clients—to realize that once again, Angell Animal Medical Center is defining the future of emergency veterinary medicine," Neal Litvack, MSPCA-Angell President, said in the video. "I'm grateful to every donor who supported the creation of this amazing space, and I hope you're as proud as I am to see it finally open to patients."

Cuidados Críticos

Continued from page 1

espaciosa instalación cuenta con luz natural, vidrio insonorizado y "estaciones de baño y comodidad" para mantener a las mascotas lo más cómodas posible.

También cuenta con dos salas privadas para que los clientes visiten a sus mascotas en tratamiento, y áreas de ventilación mecánica y diálisis.

Kiko Bracker, veterinario de Angell, le dijo a Gazette que la UCI anterior era "vieja y demasiado pequeña" y no atendía a los animales de manera eficiente. Dijo que el nuevo espacio es "mucho más fácil de usar y cómodo que el espacio anterior" y permite a los médicos atender mejor a los animales bajo su cuidado.


La CCU fue producto de la campaña del centenario de MSPCA-Angell, que recaudó más de \$20 millones para mejorar sus

instalaciones. Marca un hito en la medicina veterinaria.

"La CCU permite el tratamiento incluso para los pacientes más frágiles, así como para aquellos que se recuperan de cirugías complejas o que padecen enfermedades agudas, enfermedades crónicas o lesiones que amenazan la vida", afirma un

video en el sitio web de Angell.


"Una vez más, Angell está definiendo el futuro de la medicina veterinaria de emergencia", dijo el presidente Neal Litvack en el video. "Estoy agradecido con todos los donantes, y espero que estén tan orgullosos como yo de verlo finalmente abierto a los pacientes".



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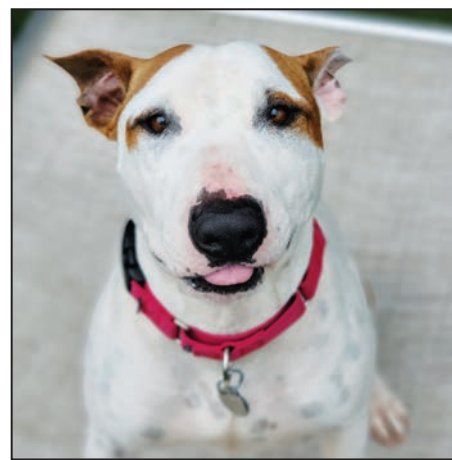
Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll



'LEMON'

Lemon is a happy and energetic 2 year old who loves



attention. He enjoys doing zoomies and would love a fenced yard. He's adventurous and would be the perfect companion for hiking or long walks. After a good workout, Lemon is ready to have downtime and snuggle on a couch.



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Tails Boston ready to become part of your dog or cat's family

BY LAUREN BENNETT

Tails Boston is a one-stop shop for many pet needs, such as doggy daycare and boarding, full service grooming for cats and dogs, as well as feline in-home services like feeding, playtime, and litter changing.

Tails Boston will be celebrating its 10th anniversary in Jamaica Plain this coming October.

"We are a much smaller facility," said owner Yessy Feliz. She said the fact that Tails accepts fewer dogs for boarding means that they are provided with extra care and attention. Staff members are trained in CPR and first aid for dogs, and "spend quite a bit of time teaching dogs behavior and body language so that we'll know how a dog may react."

She said that Tails staff is "very committed to our dogs. Every dog stays part of the Tails family forever. We get to know the dogs and the parents on all levels."

Feliz said that in order for a dog to be boarded at Tails, owners must submit an application, which is then analyzed by staff to determine if the dog is a good

Tails

fit for boarding.

Once it is determined that a dog is a good fit, it will come in for a "temperament test," said Feliz. "We look for any sign of aggression, stress," and also signs of not being able to get along with other dogs in a group setting, she said.

Once dogs are accepted for boarding, they are separated by size and weight, as well as temperament.

"We take into account how dogs will react in a group environment," Feliz said. "If dogs are anxious or overwhelmed, we do not put them together."

"The dogs love it," she said, and "get very involved with the staff." She said that any feedback, both positive and negative, is extremely helpful for staff so they know what they are doing well and what they can do better. She said that negative feedback helps to make the dogs' environment a lot safer and a lot better."

More information about Tails Boston and its services can be found at tailsboston.com. Tails is located at 385 Centre St.

"We're ready to care for your pup," Feliz said. Anyone who wants to try out Tails' services, "we're more than happy to welcome them to the Tails family."

Wu announces completed audit of city-owned land

Priority placed on developing underutilized lot on Forest Hills Street

BY JOHN LYNDIS

Last Wednesday, Mayor Michelle Wu announced the completion of the Public Land for Public Good: Citywide Land Audit report. Wu said the report is the culmination of an effort to comprehensively inventory all city-owned property, identify vacant and underutilized properties, and set in motion accelerated efforts to best utilize this property to serve Boston's communities, particularly through the development of affordable housing.

At the press conference, May-

or Wu said there will be a priority to redevelop the underutilized former Public Works (BPW) yard on Forest Hills Street.

The parcel, located at 327 Forest Hills Street in Jamaica Plain is a former BPW pole yard and currently is used to support City winter operations and recycling. This parcel is immediately adjacent to a large MBTA parcel.

According to Wu, a full build-out of the combined sites has been contemplated as part of PLAN: JP/Rox for some time now.

"In a city as dense and already developed as Boston, these parcels identified in the land audit represent rare opportunities to utilize public space for the public good," said Wu. "Parking lots and vacant spaces across our City have the potential to be

transformed into providing crucially needed affordable housing, green space, and community services. I look forward to a robust engagement process to ensure our planning process reflects the needs of our residents."

The Jamaica Plain lot was among the 1,238 City parcels identified in the audit as vacant or underutilized, most of which are modestly sized.

The report identified the lot on Forest Hills Street as a "high opportunity site" and has been prioritized for community planning efforts.

"This audit presents us with real opportunities to address our city's housing needs and build affordable housing across Bos-

Continued on page 20



Last Wednesday Mayor Michelle Wu announced the completion of Boston's audit of city-owned land. At the press conference Wu said a priority will be placed on developing the underutilized former BPW yard on Forest Hills Street in Jamaica Plain.



City Paws

Continued from page 17

for the most part shaded by a fine natural forest-growth.' In contrast with other parks in the Emerald Necklace, little was done on-site; there was no significant regrading or reshaping of the land required; while a simple system of walkways that encircle the pond provide for a 1.5-mile scenic loop. For the additional 60 land acres, Olmsted retained many of the existing trees, in addition to the Pinebank house designed in 1870 (demolished in 2007)."

Getting There

If you visit by car, you will find limited parking along the Perkins Street side of the pond. There are two handicapped spaces next to a ramp leading to the pond's flat circular walkway. Some parking is available on the

adjacent streets. The MBTA's # 39 bus route can drop you about a quarter of a mile from the pond. The Green Street Station on the Orange Line is about half a mile away.

For the Humans!

There are restrooms during the hours when the Boathouse is open. The regular season runs from May 15th to October 31st. There was also a porta-potty available the day we visited.

We'll bring a picnic lunch on our next visit. Centre Street is a great place to order takeout for your picnic on the way to the pond. Be sure to bring plenty of drinking water for you and your dog. Always check for posted alerts that something like blue-green algae could make the pond water harmful to humans and canines.

While there is an abundance of benches along the walkway, we suggest you walk up the stairs

to the Pinebank Promontory for wide-open space to spread a blanket and enjoy a meal. The mansion that once stood there is memorialized with a granite outline. What's more, to get to the spot you climb a set of historic steps once traversed by John Hancock. An article in the Jamaica Plain Gazette reported, "... the steps were brought to the pond in 1864 after Hancock's mansion was demolished on Beacon Hill."

For a Longer Walk

One final suggestion, you might choose to do one lap of the pond and extend your walk into the surrounding area. You can cross Perkins Street and stroll the trails of Wards Pond and on along the Emerald Necklace. Or, wander into the neighborhood where you'll pass beautiful historic homes built at a time when the cool breezes off the pond made this a place where wealthy Bostonians built summer resi-

dences.

Do you have a question or topic for City Paws? Send an email

to Penny@BostonZest.com with your request.

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ROSLINDALE HIGH CLAS OF 1972 HOLDS 50TH REUNION



PHOTO BY PATRICK O'CONNOR

Members of the Roslindale High School Class of 1972 got together for a 50th reunion on Saturday, June 18 at the WR Elks Club and had a good time catching up and remembering their days at "Rossi" as the school was affectionately known.

File of Life document considered a lifesaver for older adults

STAFF REPORT

Recently, a resident of a senior housing apartment building was having a health emergency. And when such emergencies happen, the primary information first responders ask for are medications and the individual's

medical history. However, in this case, it got complicated when the prescription bottles were in Chinese and the resident did not speak English. The spouse was understandably stressed trying to communicate information to the emergency team. The Mystic Valley Elder Services Resident

Service Coordinator who works at the apartment complex immediately went to the refrigerator and was thrilled to find both of the tenants' File of Life folders, each with their own Chinese character on it. Through visual signals, the spouse was able to indicate which one belonged to her husband in distress. The town's Fire Lieutenant stated, "These are lifesavers!"

The File of Life is a red, magnetic packet that contains important medical information about the individual as well as list contact information for their doctor, family members, insurance information and any other special circumstances that

rescue personnel should know. It is designed to help the local fire department, paramedics, and emergency rooms obtain the necessary medical history and emergency contact information in an emergency. It is kept in plain sight, usually on a refrigerator.

It should include:

- Existing conditions or chronic illnesses
- Current medications (including over-the-counter medications taken regularly) with dosages and schedules
- Allergies to any medications and food sensitivities
- Regular healthcare providers (names and phone numbers), including the primary care physician

and any specialists, along with the specific conditions each specialist is addressing

- Special dietary considerations, such as low sodium, gluten-free, kosher, vegetarian
- Communication issues, such as confusion, speech or hearing impairments, language preferences
- Emergency contact information for trusted family members or friends

To attain a File of Life folder, visit or call your local Fire Department or call Mystic Valley Elder Services at 781-324-7705 or email info@mves.org to have one mailed to you.

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Land audit

Continued from page 19

ton," said Chief of Housing Sheila Dillon. "With this information and transformative investments from the American Rescue Plan, we look forward to significant, community focused affordable housing investments in Boston."

At the press conference Wu said in the coming months, the BPDA and the Mayor's Office of Housing will use both the report and the ongoing PLAN: JP/Rox neighborhood planning process to accelerate community visioning for the Jamaica Plain site. Wu said the process will analyze

the opportunities to build transit-oriented affordable housing and meet other neighborhood needs identified by the neighborhood and stakeholders in PLAN: JP/Rox.

All sites located in active planning studies will have a separate dedicated public process as a follow-up to visioning completed through a neighborhood planning study.

Under city government guidelines all BPDA and City-owned parcels in Boston will include the process of sending out Request for Proposal (RFP). These RFPs released for public land will be required to respond to the BPDA's Diversity and Inclusion evaluation requirements, and

outline commitments to include Minority and Women-owned business enterprises (M/WBEs) in all aspects of their development. The criteria is weighted at 25 percent of the total evaluation of each proposal.

"This work offers a great starting point to accelerate the use of underutilized public land for public good," said Chief of Planning Arthur Jemison. "We look forward to a robust community process to ensure that the development of any of the sites identified is responsive to the neighborhood's needs, while creating new opportunities for mixed-income rental, homeownership, and open space in our communities."

What you need to know about long-COVID

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

According to the CDC some individuals who were infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 can experience long-term effects from their infection, known as post-COVID conditions (PCC) or long COVID. Some people, especially those who had severe COVID-19, may experience multiorgan effects or autoimmune conditions with symptoms lasting weeks or months after COVID-19 illness. Multiorgan effects can involve many body systems, including the heart, lung, kidney, skin and brain. As a result of these effects, people who have had COVID-19 may be more likely to develop new health con-

ditions such as diabetes, heart conditions, or neurological conditions compared to people who have not had COVID-19.

While the number of COVID-19 cases is lower compared to this time last year, numbers are again on the rise. According to Mass.gov, Massachusetts is one of the nation's highest COVID-19 case rates per capita over the past several weeks at approximately 5,000 confirmed cases. Other hotspots include states in the Northeast, including Rhode Island, New Jersey and New York.

Now is not the time to let our guard down. Rapid tests and PCR tests continue to play a critical role in the fight against



A pharmacist at Bravo Pharmacy shows some of the rapid antigen tests. COVID-19. Family-owned Bravo

Pharmacy uses rapid antigen testing for patients who are sick with symptoms or have been exposed to someone who recently tested positive. The best practice is to wait at least four or more days from the time you were exposed before your test. If you are traveling or having surgery, you may need a PCR test which is a more accurate test to determine if you are carrying the virus.

"Bravo Pharmacy has been working tirelessly to help as many people as possible in as many ways as we can over the past two years. Offering COVID-19 testing is another ser-

vice we hope will be helpful as we monitor the continued evolution of this virus." – Dmitry Linkov, owner of Bravo Pharmacy

Currently, Massachusetts has 80% of the population fully vaccinated, but there are still things we can all do to help reduce the spread of this most recent surge. Getting tested if you are showing symptoms, wearing a mask, maintaining social distancing – all are proven and effective ways of protecting yourself.

Mass. Gaming Commission releases May gross gaming revenue for casinos

STAFF REPORT

The Massachusetts Gaming Commission reported today that the month of May 2022 at Plainridge Park Casino (PPC), MGM Springfield and Encore Boston Harbor generated approximately \$91 million in Gross Gaming Revenue (GGR).

PPC, a category 2 slots facility, is taxed on 49% of GGR. Of that total taxed amount, 82% is paid to Local Aid and 18% is allotted to the Race Horse Development Fund. MGM Springfield and Encore Boston Harbor, category 1 resort-casinos, are taxed

on 25% of GGR; those monies are allocated to several specific state funds as determined by the gaming statute.

To date, the Commonwealth has collected approximately \$1.101 billion in total taxes and assessments from PPC, MGM and Encore since the respective openings of each gaming facility.

View comprehensive revenue reports for each gaming licensee at <https://massgaming.com/regulations/revenue/>. MGC issues monthly revenue reports on the 15th of each month or next business day.

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REVENUE REPORT			
MAY 2022	GROSS GAMING REVENUE		TAXES
MGM SPRINGFIELD SUBJECT TO 25% TAXES	TABLE	\$4,039,067.85	
	SLOTS	\$17,113,181.60	
	TOTAL	\$21,152,249.45	\$5,288,062.36
ENCORE BOSTON HARBOR SUBJECT TO 25% TAXES	TABLE	\$25,408,848.58	
	SLOTS	\$32,624,183.92	
	TOTAL	\$58,033,032.50	\$14,508,258.13
PLAINRIDGE PARK CASINO SUBJECT TO 49% TAXES	SLOTS	\$11,731,163.49	
	TOTAL	\$11,731,163.49	\$5,748,270.11
TOTAL TAXES	\$25,544,590.60		

EDITORIAL

America is in a maelstrom with no way out

America and the world are in a bad place, with no easy way out. Although the worst of the coronavirus is behind us, the unprecedented economic after-effects of the pandemic continue to afflict every aspect of our lives.

The Great Resignation has disrupted supply chains for goods of all kinds and made air travel, which formerly used to be a pleasure, a fraught experience, with thousands of flights cancelled every week because of a shortage of pilots and crew.

All of us are griping about the high cost of energy, but with oil refining capacity at an all-time low relative to demand, it is all but certain that gasoline prices will remain at record levels for the foreseeable future.

Electric cars are still a long way off from becoming practical for most Americans for a host of reasons.

The war in Ukraine, the largest in the world since WWII, is exacerbating shortages of commodities of all kinds, especially food.

Avian flu, the worst on record, continues to devastate both domesticated and wild bird populations.

Our health care system, which proved so inadequate during the pandemic, is completely incapable of handling the coming influx of aging Baby Boomers -- just visit any ER, anywhere and everywhere.

Our public educational system not only has fallen far behind because of the pandemic, but the looming teacher shortage means that catching up will be all but impossible.

Drug overdose deaths are at their highest rate ever, with no solution in sight.

Mass shootings are a routine occurrence with politicians too-cowed by the gun lobby to take even the simplest, most common-sense action.

Climate change continues unchecked and unabated. Life on the planet as we know it never will be the same.

And last but not least, it is apparent that a large percentage of Americans are committed to overthrowing our democracy. What happened on 1/6 is just a prelude to what is to come in the 2022 and 2024 elections.

Yes, the present is tough going -- but the future is even bleaker.

Boating and drinking don't mix

A national news headline caught our attention recently: "Five people, including four from the same family, died in a boating collision on Saturday along a river popular with boaters outside Savannah, Ga., the authorities said. Four other people were injured, including one who was charged with operating a boat while under the influence."

This story, coming at the start of the summer season, should serve as a sober reminder (pun intended) that alcohol consumption on a boat is never a good idea.

For far too many boaters and their guests, heavy drinking and boating go hand-in-hand. Unfortunately however, the proverbial "booze cruise" all too often ends up with tragic consequences.

Boating under the influence -- BUI -- is every bit as dangerous as DUI (driving under the influence) and also is a criminal offense.

We urge all of our readers who are either boat owners or their guests to ensure that someone on board will be a designated "sober sailor" in order to avoid becoming another sad, grim statistic.

LETTER

Regarding the proposal to change the destination of the #39 bus

Dear Editor,

The Gazette reported on June 11 that the Jamaica Pond Association (JPA) at its June meeting discussed the MBTA's proposal to change the destination of the #39 bus from Back Bay to Porter Square, Cambridge. At that meeting, I indicated that the change in destination raised questions relating to service reliability and ridership, among others. At its May meeting, The Arborway Committee for Public Transit, Inc. (ACPT) identified those questions and indicated that it was seeking answers from the MBTA. The questions raised were:

1) what are the ridership projections in making the change? Will overall ridership rise or fall? Has the T data that show a ridership increase?

2) in view of traffic through the Longwood medical area and Brookline Ave in particular, is there data that confirm that projected headways of 15 minutes are realistic? Are there any plans for bus lanes along Brookline Avenue?

3) will dispatchers be assigned at both destinations and actually "dispatch?" There is a history at Forest Hills and Back Bay of little or no adherence to scheduled departure times for the #39.

4) will signal priority for the #39 be implemented in Boston, Somerville, and Cambridge to expedite bus movement through an arguably circuitous and tortured dog-leg routing?

5) in view of the loss of the

one-seat ride to Back Bay for many JP commuters, especially at heavily patronized stops in the Hyde/Canary Square area at Perkins and Bynner streets, is the change in the routing of the #39 to be coupled with an extension of the Green Line to Hyde/Canary Square in order to continue the one-seat ride for these commuters?

These in addition to other likely questions need answers before any considered response to the MBTA's proposal can be given. We await those answers and will report on any responses we receive.

Franklyn P. Salimbene,
Chair
The Arborway Committee
for Public Transit, Inc.
Jamaica Plain

JPNC Zoning Committee approves work at 18 Malcolm Rd.

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC) Zoning Committee approved a proposal at 18 Malcolm Rd. to create an addition and add living space in the basement at its June 22 meeting.

either in favor or against this proposal. The committee voted to approve the project as submitted

Architect Anat Beck-Nachtigal explained that the addition would be created on the second floor above the existing sunroom in the rear of the building. The deck would be removed to create a master bedroom. The basement will also be renovated, without changing the foot-print, to include a bathroom, a rec room, and a "man cave" space. She said that the basement area is about 730 square feet of space, and about 140 square feet will be added to the second floor for the addition.

Part of the basement area will also be kept as storage, Beck-Nachtiga said.

No neighbors came to speak

Do You need to run a legal? Don't forget to check at the court to see if you qualify for a fee-waiver!

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

Jamaica Plain GAZETTE

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JamaicaPlainGazette.com

Rollins selected as Vice-Chair of national Advisory Subcommittee on Civil Rights

STAFF REPORT

United States Attorney Rachael S. Rollins for the District of Massachusetts has been selected to serve as Vice-Chair of the Civil Rights Subcommittee for the Attorney General's Advisory Committee (AGAC).

"I am honored to have been asked to serve as Vice-Chair of the Civil Rights Subcommittee. It is my sincere hope that we

seize this moment in history to facilitate meaningful dialogue and action to combat the uptick in hate-based violence. Civil rights are at the forefront of so many of the issues dividing our nation today. Under the leadership of U.S. Attorney Brown, we will provide guidance to the Department of Justice. Our goal is to fulfill the promise of equality for everyone," said U.S. Attorney Rollins.

United States Attorney Nick Brown for the Western District of Washington has been selected to serve as Chair the Civil Rights Subcommittee. The Subcommittee will play an important role in advising the AGAC on civil rights matters of importance to the Department of Justice and United States Attorney's Offices across the country.

"I am gratified that my colleagues and Attorney General

Garland selected me for this important role," said U.S. Attorney Brown. "The Department of Justice came into being to protect civil rights, and I look forward to helping shape our focus. There are a number of important issues for the Department to address, including the rise in hate crimes, ensuring voting rights, and developing strategies to ensure accountability and trust between law enforcement officers

and the communities they serve."

The Attorney General's Advisory Committee was established nearly 50 years ago by Attorney General Elliott Richardson. The Committee's purpose is to give United States Attorneys a voice in Department policies and to advise the Attorney General of the United States.

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS SUFFOLK, SS. DOCKET NUMBER: 21P1572

To all persons interested in the matter of: Anne C Burns of Jamaica Plain (Boston MA), in said County of Suffolk a person under conservatorship. A petition has been presented to said Court, for license to sell a private sale certain real estate of Anne C. Burns of Jamaica Plain (Boston MA) < I n the County of Suffolk for maintenance and praying that the petitioner Johnathan M Spirn Esq. may be licensed to sell convey the same of said real estate. The land with the buildings and improvements t hereon now known as and numbered 69 Hampstead Road, Jamaica Plain, MA, containing 6,514 square feet of land, more or less, and more particularly d escribed in Deed recorded with the Suffolk County Registry of Deeds, Book 8552, Page 724 (hereinafter the "Premises"). If you desire to object there to you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at Boston before or on the 8th day of July 2022, the return day of this citation. Witness, BRIAN J. DUNN, Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this 27th day of May 2022. Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate Court 6/24/22 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
TO CHANGE NAME
Docket No.
SU22C0139CA

In the matter of: Renee Stacey Zeita Welch A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Renee Stacey Zeita Welch of Boston, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: Renee Stacey Zeita Welch-Depeiza IMPORTANT NOTICE 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 07/07/2022. 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: June 22, 2022 Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate 6/24 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
GENERAL PROBATE
PETITION
Docket No.
SU19P1564EA
Estate of:
Marie J.
Hilbrunner
Date of Death:
06/05/2019

To all interested persons: A Petition has been filed by: Ronald J. Hilbrunner of Sanbornton, NH requesting 1. Approve the Inventory and First and Final Account 2. Order distributions to be beneficiaries as per the approved first and final account 3. Order termination of the trust as provided by the terms of the trust or as determined by the account. 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 08/10/2022. 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 date, action may be taken without further notice to you. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: June 15, 2022 Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate 6/24/22 JP

LEGAL NOTICE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND
FAMILY COURT
CITATION GIVING
NOTICE OF
PETITION TO
EXPAND THE
POWERS OF A
GUARDIAN
Docket No.
SU21P0015GD
In the interests

of: Joseph Rivard of: Jamaica Plain, MA To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Lemuel Shattuck Hospital of Jamaica Plain, MA in the above captioned matter requesting that the court: Expand the powers of a Guardian of the Respondent. The petition asks the court to make a determination that the powers of the Guardian and/or Conservator should be expanded, modified, or limited since the time of the appointment. The original petition is on file with the court. 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 07/07/2022. 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: May 25, 2022
Felix Arroyo,
Register of Probate
6/24/22 JP

LEGAL NOTICE
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND
FAMILY COURT
Suffolk Division
24 New Chardon St.
Boston, MA 02114
(617)788-8300
CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
ORDER OF
COMPLETE
SETTLEMENT
Docket No.
SU13P2714EA
Estate of:
Jane Dexter
Greenspan
Date of Death:
09/06/2013

A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by Richard L. Greenspan of Newton Center, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account, and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition. 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 07/08/2022. 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 date, action may be taken without further notice to you. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: June 16, 2022 Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate 6/24/22 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
CHANGE OF NAME
Docket No.
SU22C0125CA

In the matter of: Donald Forest Truax A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Donald Forest Truax of Jamaica Plain, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Dasmin Ali Mee
IMPORTANT NOTICE
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 07/07/2022. 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: June 14, 2022 Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate 6/24/22 JP

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