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ANNUAL PORCHFEST



ROCKS THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Shown top, the Melted Chapstixs perform at 188 Chestnut Ave. Shown bottom, an audience listens to Never Better perform at the garden grotto at 29 Robinwood Ave.

JPNC members criticize new plans for Arborway garage, refer to city yard as a 'dump'

BY GAZETTE STAFF

The Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC) held its regular monthly meeting this past Tuesday evening. Chair Renee Stacey Welch and fellow members Michael Reiskind, Bernie Doherty, Sarah Freeman, Gert Thorn, Peg Preble, Leah Simmons, Peter DeCotis, Dave Baron, Purple Reign, Willie Mitchell, Katherine O'Shea, and Luke Mathew, were on hand for the session.

Also attending the meeting were State Rep. Sam Montano; Melissa Beltran, the JP liaison from Mayor Michelle Wu's office; and Michael Giordano from the

office of State Rep. Bill MacGregor.

The council initially took up the matter of filling a seat on the council that still remained open after the council's recent election in June. After Welch informed the members that there was a vacancy in Area A, the council voted to elect Esther Beillard to take the vacant spot.

The main discussion of the evening centered on the MBTA's proposed Arborway bus project in order to house a significant portion of its coming electric bus fleet. The project has been in the works since 2001 -- long before

Continued on page 8

BPDA Board approves Rockwood Street project

BY MICHAEL COUGHLIN JR.

The Boston Planning and Development Agency's (BPDA) Board of Directors approved a project at 96-100 Rockwood Street in Jamaica Plain during a meeting on Thursday, August 17.

At this meeting, Christopher Tracy, a consultant on the project team and a Vice President at O'Neill and Associates, indicated that different plans concerning this project date back to 2018.

"A letter of intent came into the BPDA on this site — in this current plan — in July of '21. So throughout the pandemic, we had numerous meetings both hosted by the BPDA and both on our own," said Tracy.

Tracy also mentioned that the project team had met with the Jamaica Hills Association multiple times and even hosted them and others from the impact advisory group and the BPDA at the site.

Continued on page 9

Senator Miranda's initial budget session successes

BY GAZETTE STAFF

Senator Liz Miranda (2nd Suffolk District) is pleased with what she has been able to achieve in the Commonwealth's FY2024 budget, recently signed by the Governor. Over \$2.4 million will

directly impact the 2nd Suffolk district, its businesses and residents.

Maternal health equity, an area of focus for Senator Miranda's for some time, will be benefited through funding for the new freestanding Neighborhood

Birth Center in Nubian Square in Roxbury, serving five neighborhoods in the District. Such centers are being established to help mitigate the significant racial inequality in maternal health, by providing high quali-

Continued on page 15

JPNC raises questions about Arborway bus facility development

BY ADAM SWIFT

Jamaica Plain residents still have plenty of concerns about plans for the Arborway bus yard.

Last week, the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council's Arborway subcommittee held an on-line meeting on plans for the long-awaited bus yard.

Specifically, the JPNC meeting focused on two issues, the city's public works salt yard and the commitment to eight acres of land to be transferred to the city for future development.

A host of city officials from the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) updated the subcommittee on the status of the Arborway plans, although several noted throughout the meeting that the future of the bus yard and surrounding area is dependent on decisions being made by the MBTA.

The debate over the future of the bus yard and the public land stretches back to the turn of the century.

The MBTA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Boston in 2001 (then-Boston Mayor Tom Menino was the signatory on be-

half of the city) which promised a number of mitigation measures to benefit the Jamaica Plain community, including the set-aside of a minimum of eight acres on the site that would be dedicated for community development purposes such as housing and retail development.

However, that original MOU assumed that the city's so-called pole yard, a 1.5 acre lot that is adjacent to the MBTA property, no longer would be used by the city. However, the city since that time has determined that it will likely hold onto that 1.5 acres for use by the DPW, which has resulted in a reduction of the area to be given by the T for community development from the original eight acres to 6.5 acres.

The purpose of the new garage is to house the T's anticipated electric bus fleet that will serve Jamaica Plain and the adjacent areas. The MBTA has similar electric-bus garages slated for Quincy and Cambridge, though they too, are falling behind schedule. The electric-bus garage projects are crucial to the T's goal of having an all-electric bus fleet by 2040.

At the JPNC subcommittee meeting on August 16, subcom-

mittee member Susan Cibulski said the main goals of the subcommittee are to advocate for funding and construction of a new bus yard, to advocate for the full eight acres set aside for use in the MOU to be turned over for development, and to support bus transit.

"The subcommittee requested information from the city a while back as to why the public works site on Forest Hill Street and the Arborway was not included in the land for the MBTA's bus facility at the Arborway yard," said Cibulski. "It had long been our expectation, and the city agreed to include that site, which has recently been used for salt and other public works purposes."

Cibulski said it was a significant issue if the acre and a half was not included in the project as outlined in the 2001 MOU, since it would shift the location of the bus facility on the site and reduce the amount of acreage on the site dedicated to community development.

"We have heard a strong request from members of the community to honor the eight acres of community use land that was outlined in the 2001 memorandum of understanding, the first signifi-

cant document we have related to this site and how it will be used," said Jascha Franklin-Hodge, the city's chief of streets. "However, how we get there is not specifically resolved. We are exploring how we can reduce the size of or relocate some or all of the public works site in a way that fulfills operational needs. We are also looking at other potential changes to the facility design of the layout of the site."

The exact shape of the future development of the parcel, whatever size it comes in at, won't begin until the MBTA garage is completed, according to Diana Fernandez, the BPDA deputy director of design. She said the goal is to reduce the size of the DPW yard and increase the area of land for development. Using the current area zoning guidelines, she noted that a 6.5 acre site has the potential for 980 housing units,

85,000 acres of retail space, and three acres of green space.

Recent emphasis for the development of the site has been geared toward affordable housing as well as larger retail such as a grocery store.

During the public speaking portion of the subcommittee meeting, several JPNC members and area residents said they would like to see the salt yard removed from the area, both to increase the potential for development and to remove a blight from the neighborhood.

The MBTA plans for the Arborway bus facility are currently at 15 percent, according to Franklin-Hodge, and that planning has not started for the development parcel. The planning will shift to the development of the site when the land is transferred to city after the garage is built, he added.

Bosede A. Opetubo wallpaper at the Jamaica Plain Branch Library

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

The Jamaica Plain Branch Library is pleased to continue their rotating art program, supported by The Friends of the Jamaica Plain Branch of the Boston Public Library in partnership with Uforge. For the fall, we present a selection of works by Boston-based artist Bosede A. Opetubo.

A self-taught artist working in photography, installation, collage, and digital media, Opetubo's practice explores the lives of women and what she sees as "the small choices that come to define us." The library will display her recent digital collage series titled "Wallpaper," inspired by her own experiences with pregnancy and motherhood, as well as themes of domesticity and identity. The project began as a paper sculpture installation in the artist's home, and expanded into drawings and digital illustrations, with imagery that veers into abstraction merging human silhouettes with expanses of crumbled-up multicolored papers, at times resembling mountain ranges and at others, fallen leaves. Opetubo invites viewers of the project to "join me on this overwhelming, necessary, and maddening journey that, as a parent, I try to find

beauty and purpose in."

Bosede A. Opetubo: Wallpaper is on view from August 31 - November 1, 2023, with a reception to be held on August 31, 2023, 5:30-7:30 PM. The library is open Monday-Wednesday 10-6, Thursday 12-8, and Friday 9-5, and Saturday 9-2 (closed Sundays). The exhibition space is located on the lower level.

This exhibition is supported in part by The Friends of the Jamaica Plain Branch of the Boston Public Library, a non-profit dedicated to planning and sponsoring free educational and cultural programs for all who visit the JP Library and by a grant from the Boston Cultural Council, a local agency which is funded by the Mass Cultural Council and administered by the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture.



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ANNUAL PORCHFEST RETURNS TO JAMAICA PLAIN

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS

Since 2014, JP Porchfest has showcased the musical talent of

the Boston neighborhood as well as inviting the public to explore the vibrant community. Music of all types enticed visitors on Aug. 19.



At 526 Centre Street Harley Spring and Colin McLevy perform original songs.



West Cork Auto at 600 Centre Street was a Porchfest venue with Cassidy Tang aka "Junior Rail Transit" performing.



Emma Chinman performed at JP Licks.



Never Better performed 90s songs in the garden grotto at 29 Robinwood Ave.



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SOAR believes we can be most effective when we practice diversity, equity and inclusion through our organization. We seek to recruit a diverse applicant pool to reflect this commitment.

ANNUAL PORCHFEST RETURNS TO JAMAICA PLAIN



Kiana Elliot dances with dad Courtney to the performance of Never Better at the garden grotto at 29 Robinwood Ave.



Friends Noa Fisher, Zoe Druker, and Lyra Yassa were selling cookies and lemonade for the charities Refuge Women's Alliance and Global First Generation.



Neighbors around 29 Robinwood Ave listen to Never Better perform.



Neighbors around 29 Robinwood Ave listen to Never Better perform.



On Spring Park Ave Slow Train, All Dylan All The Time perform.

Ben Weber
FOR BOSTON CITY COUNCIL, DISTRICT 6

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This is too important to leave things to "business as usual".

On September 12, I respectfully ask for your vote.

Thanks,
Ben



Ben Weber
FOR BOSTON CITY COUNCIL, DISTRICT 6

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ANNUAL PORCHFEST RETURNS TO JAMAICA PLAIN

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



Hitesh and Sonali with kids Meera and Rohan.



On Spring Park Ave Slow Train, All Dylan All The Time perform.



At 18 Burr Street Alex and Lucas Schulte, Gordon Jr and Sr, and Montana Breidenbach with their four-legged friend Bernie.



At 79 Spring Park Elias Levinson and Cam Yeomans keep the spirit of Porchfest alive and well with their friend Tessa O'Rourke listening.



Miranda Lai, Tony Poon, Franton Lin, and Victoria Suha enjoying the performance at 18 Burr Street.



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Registration costs \$25.00 — discounts are available.

The Fall season is 8 weeks long, every week we hold one 45 min practice for each team, with available sessions on Wednesdays at 4pm, Saturdays at 9, 10 or 11am or Sunday at 10am. Volunteer Activity Leaders are needed to support every team - no experience needed! See our Website for more details or contact us directly at: contact@jpchildrensoccer.org.

Para niños 3.5-6.5. El registro en línea ya está abierto en <https://bit.ly/jpcsoccer>

El registro de la temporada regular finaliza el 1 de septiembre de 2023

La temporada de otoño se extiende desde el miércoles el 13 de septiembre hasta el domingo 12 de noviembre. La inscripción cuesta \$25.00 — hay descuentos disponibles.

La temporada de primavera tiene una duración de 8 semanas, cada semana realizamos una práctica de 45 minutos para cada equipo, con sesiones disponibles los miércoles a las 4 p.m., los sábados a las 9, 10 & 11 a.m., o los domingos a las 10 a.m.

Necesitamos líderes voluntarios para apoyar a cada equipo, ¡no se necesita experiencia! Visite nuestro sitio web para obtener más detalles o contáctenos directamente en: contact@jpchildrensoccer.org.



Scott Kepnes of Slow Train, All Dylan All The Time performs on the harmonica.



Dan Sullivan of Slow Train, All Dylan All The Time.

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Wu appoints Lima Barbosa to finish Lopera's term on Boston School Committee

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Mayor Michelle Wu announced the appointment of Chantal Lima Barbosa to the Boston School Committee. Lima Barbosa will serve the remainder of the term ending on January 1, 2024 that was created by the resignation of Lorena Lopera. She is a Boston Public Schools (BPS) alum and will be the first Cabo Verdean woman to serve on the Boston School Committee. Cabo Verdean Creole is spoken by seven percent of BPS families at home and is the third

most common home language for BPS families after English and Spanish. The Boston School Committee is the governing body of BPS.

"I'm delighted to announce the appointment of Chantal Lima-Barbosa to the Boston School Committee," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "Chantal is a dedicated public servant whose education background, experience as a BPS alum from an immigrant family, and love for BPS communities will benefit all BPS families, educators, and staff."



Chantal Lima Barbosa.

"I look forward to serving with Chantal," said Boston School Committee Chairperson Jeri Robinson. "The Boston

School Committee has a lot to accomplish as we work with the Boston Public Schools and the City of Boston to make BPS a better, more equitable place for our young people. Through her work, I know that Chantal will be an excellent colleague on this committee and an unwavering ally for Boston's school communities."

"Chantal is a BPS graduate, a dedicated public servant, and a tireless advocate for public education," said Superintendent Mary Skipper. "Through her work both for the City of Boston

and for nonprofits, Chantal has devoted her career to improving the lives of Boston's young people. I could not be more excited to begin working with her and I would like to enthusiastically welcome her to the Boston School Committee."

Chantal Naomi Lima Barbosa is a daughter of Cabo Verdean immigrants. She was born in Boston and raised in Praia, Cabo Verde. In 2010 Lima Barbosa returned to Boston, attending the Jeremiah E. Burke High

Continued on page 8

JPNC

Continued from page 1

electric buses were imaginable. The city at that time signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (on which former Mayor Thomas Menino was the signatory) with the T that promised mitigation measures to the JP community in return for the construction of a new bus garage.

The city also stated in the MOU that it would be relinquishing its so-called pole yard adjacent to the garage. Per the original MOU, that acreage would be used to create an eight-acre site on the parcel for community development purposes, including affordable housing and retail space.

Carolyn Royce of the JPNC's Arborway Yard Committee updated the council on the project and reported on a recent meeting with city officials.

"The key takeaway is that the city will be significantly involved with the project," said Royce.

She noted however, that the city officials who attended the meeting said that changes in circumstances since the original MOU was signed in 2001 have necessitated changes to the original project, the most significant of which is that the city intends to retain the so-called pole-yard acreage in order to accommodate the DPW's needs for salt storage and recycling.

That will mean that the eight acres that had been designated for community development now will be reduced to 6.8 acres. She said that the city envisions constructing 980 units of affordable housing on the 6.8 acre parcel, in

addition to retail space.

However, the veteran members of the council who were on hand at the time of the original 2001 MOU vigorously objected to the city's change in position regarding the pole-yard site, as well as the T's changes to the garage itself.

Doherty noted the increase in size of the new garage, compared to the 2001 original design, and warned of the potential dangers of such a large structure housing volatile electric batteries.

Thorn also questioned the enormous increase in the size of the garage compared to the original design, while Freeman suggested that given the increase in the number of buses at the new facility, there should be additional mitigation measures for the community.

Reiskind emphasized that the original design was much different from what is being proposed today. He said the original goal for the garage was for it to fit in with an urban-oriented neighborhood, but the new design has taken on the appearance of a suburban-looking facility.

The discussion culminated with members referring to the city's plans for a DPW yard essentially as a "dump" for recycling that will include hazardous materials, along with the storage of mulch and road salt, which overall will be a detriment to the community.

Prior to the discussion of the garage project, the council heard reports from the chairs of its subcommittees.

Reiskind, the chair of the Public Service Committee, reported that the committee set its goals for the next two years in

the areas of transportation, safety, and public works. He noted that bicycle safety and requesting additional police officers to patrol the business district were new priorities.

O'Shea, representing the Outreach Committee, asked the full council to approve the new roster of the committee, which received the unanimous support of the full council. She also noted that the subcommittee's priorities included updating the council's web site and social media and looking into establishing the

council as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, primarily to raise funds.

However, Reiskind and Doherty noted that the council has rejected that idea in the past. They cautioned that establishing the council as a charitable organization would raise questions about the independence of the JPNC if it were to accept donations either from the city or private organizations.

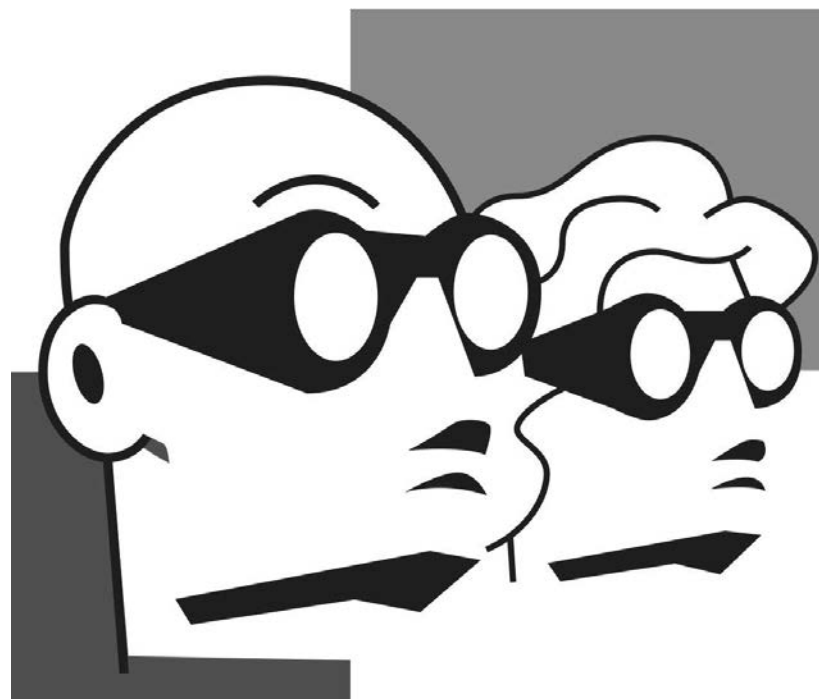
O' Shea said that the next meeting of the committee on September 12 will focus on educat-

ing both new council members and members of the community about how the JPNC functions.

Welch reported that the Housing and Development Committee discussed the proposed development at the Shattuck Hospital site. She also noted that Danielle Sommer-Kieta was nominated as the new chair of the committee and Purple Reign as the new vice-chair, both of which will be voted upon at the committee's next meeting.

The next meeting of the JPNC is set for September 19.

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Lima Barbosa

Continued from page 7

School where she graduated as valedictorian in 2012. She went on to graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Political Science in 2016 and a Masters of Higher Education and Administration in 2018 from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Lima Barbosa began her career in public service in February

2020, when she was appointed by Mayor Walsh to serve as the liaison to the Dorchester and the Cabo Verdean communities in the Office of Neighborhood Services. She was a critical resource for residents learning to navigate City services throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. She also served as the liaison to the City Council in the Office of Intergovernmental Relations.

In June of 2023, she reconnected with her passion for education and started a new role at

Duet, a higher education coaching non-profit. She currently serves as one of Duet's directors of recruitment.

"I am honored to be serving as the newest member of the Boston School Committee. I still remember my first day at the Burke as if it was yesterday and I'm humbled to now be sitting at such a critical table amplifying the experiences and voices of so many students, advocates, and families just like mine. This is a huge responsibility that I do

not take lightly," said Chantal Lima Barbosa. "I am so excited to play a role in shaping the development and success of young people in the City of Boston."

The School Committee is responsible for:

- Defining the vision, mission, and goals of the Boston Public Schools;
- Establishing and monitoring the annual operating budget;
- Hiring, managing, and evaluating the Superintendent; and
- Setting and reviewing dis-

trict policies and practices to support student achievement.

The School Committee meets approximately twice per month during the school year to adopt, review and modify policies and practices that support teaching, learning and improved student achievement. With the exception of executive sessions, Committee meetings are open to the public, feature public comment periods and are broadcast on Boston City TV.

JAMAICA PLAIN GAZETTE PAPER LOCATIONS

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JPNC's Housing and Development Committee discusses Shattuck

BY MICHAEL COUGHLIN JR.

The redevelopment of the Lemuel Shattuck Hospital Campus has been a hot topic recently in Jamaica Plain and other surrounding neighborhoods, and the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council's (JPNC) Housing and Development Committee shared its thoughts on the proposal during its meeting on August 15.

Back in June, the state provisionally designated Boston Medical Center and its partners (BMC Team) for the redevelopment of the campus on Morton Street. Since then, the proposal has been presented at community meetings, most recently on August 15.

The site's plans, outlined in a presentation from last week's meeting, can be found on a website dedicated to the redevelopment.

A statement on the website describes that the redevelopment intends to "offer an innovative model of clinical treatment and housing aimed at curbing the interlocking public health crises of mental illness, addiction, and homelessness."

According to the aforementioned presentation, the proposal

would offer 446 total beds and 405 units of supportive housing while increasing the amount of green space and providing clinical and emergency housing services.

When it became time to speak about the Shattuck, the feelings about the project from those at the JPNC's Housing and Development Committee meeting were certainly mixed in what has been a very polarizing subject.

On one hand, some of those in attendance at last week's meeting did not seem convinced the proposal would be a good idea for a number of reasons.

One resident cited concerns with drug paraphernalia, like needles, popping up in Franklin Park and how that is seemingly already a significant issue.

This resident spoke about a website developed by another resident — <http://bostonheatmap.com/> — which documents needle and drug paraphernalia pickups.

"Right about the time that the temporary housing was put in the Shattuck... the needles just skyrocketed to 200-250 a month," said the resident.

The resident indicated that the data and the conviction from

the person who developed that website have convinced them that the proposal is "risky" and "conceptual."

Also, a member of the JPNC in attendance said they opposed the proposal "100 percent," citing a lack of control of those dealing with things like substance use issues and indicating they were not convinced a project at this scale would work.

"The problem becomes that nobody really has control. When they bring these people in, there is no mandate that they have to take advantage of the services that are being provided for them — nobody can force them to do that, nobody's saying to them you have to," said the JPNC member.

"I just don't see it. I've checked the West Coast, looked all up and around the areas out there, and they've tried these in smaller versions, and it hasn't worked," they also said, speaking about the feasibility of a proposal like this having success.

Others in the meeting seemed to be a bit more forgiving about the proposal. One community member of the JPNC's Housing and Development Committee spoke in detail about how the

number of beds proposed — not including the supportive housing — is actually fewer than the number at the Shattuck currently.

They also spoke about how the uses of the 446 proposed beds are split into clinical beds for things like detox and in-patient psychiatric care and emergency beds for emergency housing and outpatient addiction treatment.

Additionally, the committee member spoke about the proposed 405 units of supportive housing — 205 of which are family-supportive housing — and how it would be done in two phases.

"My 10-year-old went to the Shattuck Child Care Center, the Shattuck, on the campus for two, three years — no problems," said the committee member.

"I just want to make sure that people are not fearmongering — these are our neighbors," they added.

Further, a member of the JPNC pointed out that the proposal would not only attempt to support those with substance use issues but also provide much-needed services for those with mental health issues or

those experiencing homelessness.

"I know that people are worried about needles and about safety and about drug paraphernalia, but there are multiple types of services that are being provided in this proposal. Of course, substance use disorder is one of the things that is being addressed, but chronic homelessness is another, and it's not necessarily tied to substance use," said the JPNC member.

"The services that are being proposed are just so, so, badly needed," they added.

As the meeting progressed, multiple attendees gave their thoughts about the project and commented on the overarching process.

To learn more about the proposal, you can find a recording of the August 15 meeting and the presentation at <https://www.mortonstreetredevelopment.org/>.

There are also plans for an in-person community open house about the proposal at the Lena Park Community Center in Dorchester on September 19 at 5:30 p.m.

BPDA

Continued from page 1

"The process was very robust. We feel the project has matured in a very good way," he said.

During last week's Board meeting, Caitlin Coppinger of the BPDA outlined the project that would construct 13 separate residential structures and renovate an existing farmhouse on the site to provide a total of 36 residential units with a mix of two and three-bedroom condominium units.

Additionally, Coppinger indicated that the project would contain 36 parking spaces for cars and a minimum of 36 interior residential bike spaces.

Donald Wiest, permitting counsel for the project, also gave some other specifics about the development, including that the new structures — in a contemporary way — would share ele-

ments like a strong gable form to coincide with the existing stone farmhouse.

He also mentioned that the design team has made "great efforts" to respect the terrain and topography of the site. "There will be minimal cut and fill — much of that is used to bring the access roads through, but in general, this project will sit lightly on its site," said Wiest.

Moreover, the project is also committed to employing mitigation strategies and other community benefits, such as adding more greenery, making a voluntary payment of over \$1.9 million to the City's Inclusionary Development Policy (IDP) fund, and a total of \$50,000 in voluntary payments to Jamaica Plain organizations, \$20,000 to the Eliot School, \$15,000 to Bikes not Bombs and \$15,000 to the Hyde Square Task Force.

The project team will also bring some transportation commitments, which include provid-

ing the design and funding for a sidewalk the length of Avon Street and a portion of Rockwood Street.

A pedestrian path from Rockwood Street to Avon Street along a private way and the installation of speed humps on portions of Rockwood and Avon would also be provided, among other things.

When the project team wrapped up its presentation, the BPDA Board unanimously approved the project without questions.

To learn more about the project, you can visit its webpage on the BPDA's website at <https://www.bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/96-100-rockwood-street>.

Also, if you would like to watch the BPDA Board meeting and the project presentation in its entirety, you can view it at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Z_aKfme28U&ab_channel=BostonCityT.

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BY SANDRA STOREY / SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Lots of people, including rafts of journalists and tons of Americans polled recently, say they want to put an upper age limit on who can be president of the United States. More than 70 percent of respondents—Democrats, Republicans and independents alike—said in a 2022 poll conducted by CBS News that they want such a limit. (Ironically, fewer than the other age groups, 68 percent of people ages 18-29 wanted limits.)

More recent polls show more than 50 percent of people want age restrictions. Former President Jimmy Carter and Elon Musk have joined countless pundits and pollsters to support an imaginary old age barrier this year.

Questions and answers like this feed the Republicans' anti-Biden desires perfectly, of course. For those who like simplicity, this kind of numerical thinking, combined with lack of knowledge about aging itself, automatically puts incumbent President and Democrat Joe Biden, age 80, three years "behind" former Republican presi-

dent Donald Trump, 77.

Fortunately for all of us, an upper age restriction is unlikely to be enacted soon or ever. Establishing an age limit would require a constitutional amendment, which involves a lengthy, complex process, plus a fundamental change in our laws.

"Whatever we think of the wisdom or merits of imposing age maximums for politicians, it would be extremely, extremely difficult to implement at the federal level," Northeastern University Professor of Law Jeremy Paul was quoted as saying in Northeastern Global News this week.

Age restrictions in employment have been against federal and most state laws since 1967. People over 40 are a "protected class" in our great country, just like women, people of color and others. Old people cannot be forced to retire due only to their age except in a few professions related to skill and safety, like air traffic controllers.

Very few countries have upper age limits for their leaders. The Netherlands is notable for

having mandatory retirement for mayors at age 69. Some offices in the U.S. and around the world are said to have term limits instead.

To be truly helpful during the 2024 election season, the poll question shouldn't be: "Should there be an age limit on people holding the presidency?" It should be: "Why are supposedly reasonable people even asking and answering such a ludicrous question?"

Answer 1: Journalists are often trying to stir up trouble because if it bleeds, it leads, i.e. it gets them attention, which gets them advertisers which gets them money. Many are getting away with bringing up the simplistic yes-no maximum age question without providing enough information to people to give a thoughtful response.

Answer 2: The topic of aging and competence is complex and scientific. Ordinary people are being asked to voice a political opinion based mostly on myths, personal experiences and prejudices, because as of yet they are given little objective information about the rapidly changing topic of aging. Polls based on feelings and hunches rather than information should be ignored.

Asking if an older person should be allowed to be president is like asking if a woman, with special biological and life conditions that might affect her, should be allowed to be chief executive. Media and others dared say or imply in public that women weren't fit to serve

in the White House only decades ago. Some people may still be thinking that or even saying it informally, but they would never propose banning women as public policy these days.

Media and policy people would be wise at this point to hold some forums, publish some books, etc., on age and politics, offering expert commentary on the possible real effects of age on job performance and skills. When lots of people are familiar with facts about both aging and our laws, maybe they can then be asked their opinions about age maximums, and their opinions are more likely to make sense.

I am loathe to repeat current mistaken ideas many people have about aging, for fear of reinforcing them. We've all heard some. But I am happy to point out some verified scientific facts instead, starting with information about the small portion of older people who may actually not be qualified to be president:

"In the first nationally representative study of cognitive impairment prevalence in more than 20 years, Columbia University researchers have found almost 10 percent of U.S. adults ages 65 and older have dementia, while another 22 percent have mild cognitive impairment," according to the Columbia University Irving Medical Center, October, 2022 newsletter.

"Rates of dementia and mild cognitive impairment rose sharply with age" to over 30 percent for people in their 90s.

The Columbia study of 3,500

individuals around the country done 2016-2017 was based on a comprehensive set of neuropsychological tests and in-depth interviews as well as interviews with relatives or close personal contacts.

Asking candidates and office-holders over age 65 to produce an objective medical statement saying that their mental capacity has been thoroughly medically tested and shows no signs of significant impairment would be appropriate. If the person running declines to do that, don't vote for him or her. Or maybe political parties shouldn't allow those candidates in their primaries.

Fortunately, the majority of seniors have lots of mental abilities that don't automatically decline significantly. In addition, various studies have recently found some mental abilities of people over 65 tend to be better than younger people's, and for many years into old age.

People tend to be better at acquiring and understanding vocabulary every year they age until their 90s. Seniors are also better at ignoring distractions if they want to concentrate on something.

Old people tend to be more resilient than young people, of course. What may upset and stymie a young person is often just another problem to be solved for an older, more experienced senior. Studies show seniors are pretty happy, too, compared to middle-aged people. That helps with seniors' cognition and problem solving.

A more mysterious tool many older people are said to possess is called "insight." Scientists at Oxford University describe the insight skill which ordinary seniors were able to use to understand how they themselves were coping with the pandemic and taking care of themselves. In this example, they used the insight to help younger people figure out how to cope and take care of their own health.

OK, mental acuity is one thing. What about physical health and the presidency? In

Continued on page 11

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Continued from page 10

case of death or incapacity, we have the 25th amendment and the vice president.

Sorry, subjective thinkers, age worriers, and Biden bashers: A slow, careful gait, tripping, and misspeaking from time to time alone are not enough to indicate general cognitive incompetence.

And, there's good news about life expectancy right now. I looked it up: Biden's current life expectancy is age 87, and Trump's is 90. The next presidential term, the last possible for either current frontrunner, ends in 2029—well before then.

So, what should we be focused on with candidates for president, if not numerical age? The answer is both simple and complex and applies to candidates of any age: We should be concerned about their characters, behavior, qualifications and experience and their stands on the issues we care about. If we don't like what we see and hear, we shouldn't support the person for office. If we do, we should. Regardless of their age.

Just proposing age as an important candidate quality can actually be dangerous to our democracy. Emphasizing age limits tends to distract and even block people from considering the many more important qualities of presidential candidates named above.

Questioning candidates' qualifications based simply on a number not only poisons people's minds about the capacity of older politicians; it also unjustly lowers regard for decisions and actions of older people in gener-

al, including family, friends and neighbors.

Promoting upper age restrictions creates doubt about the competency of the 17 percent of Americans who are over 65. It pumps up existing prejudices and fans the embers of old, false beliefs about aging to everyone's detriment.

Politically speaking and maybe worst of all, it appears that the age restriction suggestion is likely to drive down voter turnout in the '24 election, especially among Democrats. A young person interviewed on the street on TV said he favors Biden, but he might not vote at all in 2024 because Biden's too old to be president. I am afraid to guess how many people are thinking like that these days or will in November, 2024, thanks to lack of knowledge combined with all the negative age talk.

Benjamin Franklin was a key contributor to the Declaration of Independence at the age of 70 and to the creation of the U.S. Constitution when he was 81. A champion of the First Amendment, he also came up with the idea of two houses in the legislature. He kept on offering sage political advice and witty remarks to those who sought him out until his death at 84.

Sandee Storey is Publisher Emerita of the Jamaica Plain Gazette.

Local composer releasing album Sept. 15

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Pianist/composer Olivia Pérez-Collellmir has announced the Sept. 15 release of her debut full-length album OLIVIA (Adhyâropa Records). Pérez-Collellmir lives in Jamaica Plain and teaches at Berklee School of Music.

A wonderfully nuanced and diverse collection of music spanning many of Olivia's own musical interests, this extraordinary recording explores the marriage of flamenco music and Latin jazz with Spanish folk traditions and classical music, creating a universal sound with no musical boundaries. Hailed as a "Spanish virtuoso" who adds "a flamenco touch to chamber jazz" (The Arts Fuse), Olivia captures the indigenous Catalan sounds of her hometown of Barcelona, Spain.

Growing up amongst the sounds of flamenco, along with her studying classical piano, Olivia has always held a life-long passion for the fusion of musical styles, including jazz. According to composer Osvaldo Golijov, her music "is a striking and gorgeous distillation of profound lyricism and rhythms that are ferocious and elegant at the same time." Olivia puts her captivating technique and artistry on full



Olivia Pérez-Collellmir's debut album.

display on her new recording. With OLIVIA the pianist stays true to the Spanish influences that have shaped her artistic sound and identity as a musician; the recording also makes some exotic escapes to India and the Middle East.

Produced by Grammy nominee Gonzalo Grau and recorded in 2021-22, the selections being released include a handful of

Continued on page 13

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by Sarah Carroll



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Spontaneous Celebrations receives \$25,500 TernSOLAR Challenge Grant

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

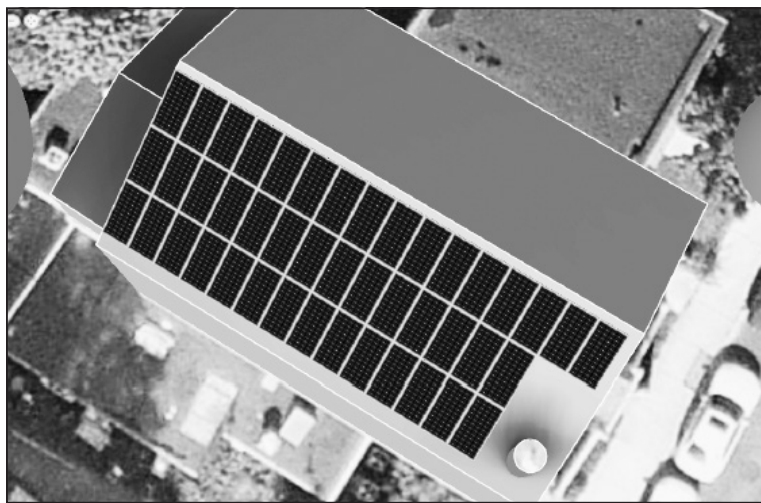
Spontaneous Celebrations, a community arts center in Jamaica Plain, MA, is the recipient of a \$25,500 TernSOLAR challenge grant from Tern Foundation, based in Massachusetts. The funds will support the addition of solar panels on the roof of the community center, to be installed by Resonant Energy. To match the grant, Spontaneous Celebrations needs to raise an additional \$25,500 from the community. The remaining cost of the project will take advantage of the 'Direct Pay' 30% reimbursement provision of the newly implemented federal Inflation Reduction Act, supporting nonprofit organization's ability to invest in solar installation.

The proposed array is 44 panels, totaling 18.9kw, and covers the entire southwest-facing portion of the building's sloped roof. The array's production will cover roughly 87% of the build-

ing's electricity usage. Over its twenty-five-year life, the array's CO2-equivalent reduction will be comparable to preserving 19 acres of forest.

The roots of Spontaneous Celebrations are in the Stop the Highway movement and the annual Wake Up The Earth Festival. "We have always been working to protect the environment and mitigate climate change. Installing solar panels and generating clean renewable energy locally is an essential next step for our organization and community," says Jennifer Jones, a neighbor and volunteer who is helping manage the project.

Community members who want to help Spontaneous Celebrations meet the TernSOLAR grant's challenge can donate at spontaneouscelebrations.org or mail their contributions to Spontaneous Celebrations 45 Danforth St. Jamaica Plain, MA 02130, or attend the Sol Fest Fundraiser Party on Friday August 11th at 6pm to 11pm at 45



Spontaneous Celebrations ariel view with solar panel design scheme.

Danforth St.

The mission of Spontaneous Celebrations is to create and sustain a community cultural life that unites and empowers people for positive change through the arts; to produce seasonal celebrations in the Jamaica Plain and Roxbury neighborhoods; and to maintain a Community Cultural center for all.

They produce the Wake Up

The Earth Parade and Festival in Jamaica Plain every May and the Lantern Parade around Jamaica Pond in October. These festivals and the workshops to prepare for them inspire, entertain, and educate the community. They also have Friday night pot-lucks and special events throughout the year open to everyone. Their building at 45 Danforth St is available at affordable rent for

diverse and multicultural artists and community groups.

Tern Foundation's TernSOLAR challenge grant program is designed to expand renewable energy use in Massachusetts communities, making solar technology more accessible to nonprofit organizations. Grants are offered to dynamic nonprofits whose leaders engage creatively with their communities, and consider future generations and the natural environment in their strategic priorities and sustainability planning. Since 2010 Tern Foundation has funded 21 solar projects and associated environmental education initiatives.

Resonant Energy is a Boston-based solar provider with a mission to build wealth in Environmental Justice communities through solar power. Resonant develops projects for nonprofits, houses of worship, affordable housing providers, and low-income homeowners in Massachusetts.

Pérez-Collellmir

Continued from page 11

original songs by Olivia, and arrangements of pieces by Maurice Ravel (1875-1937) and Frederic Mompou (1893-1987), one of the most universal Catalan composers. The album's emotional centerpiece, Barcelona, is a tribute to the composer's hometown. Classical music arrangements are performed here by a small chamber ensemble laced with the rhythms of traditional flamenco music, vocals, and handclapping.

Olivia's work has allowed her to branch out to musicians all over the world. 18 of today's finest international artists can be heard collaborating in the material she chose to record on OLIVIA. Musicians include instrumentalists: Barcelonian Aleix Tobias (percussion), Boston-based John Lockwood (bass) and Bertram Lehmann (drums), Miami-born José Moreno (cajón), Palestinian Naseem Alatrash (cello), Israeli Amir Milstein (flute), Argentine Fernando Huergo (electric bass), French-Mexican Leon-

ardo Prakash (guitar), Indian Giri Subramaniam (tabla), Turkish-born Bengisu Gokce (violin), UK-born Helen Sherrah-Davies (violin), Boston-based Josh Wareham (viola), and Australian James Heazlewood Dale (acoustic bass); vocalists Judit Neddermann, Loreto de Diego, and Shradha Ganesh; and Spanish flamenco artists Ismael Fernández and Sonia Olla.

Olivia Pérez Collellmir will celebrate the album's release in New York City at DROM Oct. 4, and in Boston, MA, at David Friend Recital Hall Mar. 12.

Olivia Pérez-Collellmir is a solo pianist, composer and music director from Barcelona, Spain. Her musical and creative life as a pianist and composer are dedicated to the celebration and contemporary transformation of her Spanish - and more specifically, Catalan roots.

Olivia started playing piano at the age of four and began studying under Núria Bonells, a disciple of Alicia de Larrocha, and entered The Superior Conservatory of Music in Barcelona at the age of eight. As a young scholar pianist, Olivia toured performing Faure's Nocturnes

and Bach's Partitas and also recorded for the National Radio of Spain. In addition, she was selected to play at the Centre de Musique Hindemith in Switzerland on the international performance piano stage. After receiving bachelor's degrees in classical performance from the Conservatori Superior de Música de Barcelona and philosophy from the University of Barcelona, Olivia became a head of music for the Department of Education of Catalonia where she conducted, recorded, toured, and performed.

An honors graduate of Berklee College of Music in Boston with a dual major in Performance and Professional Music, Olivia is the composer and performer of the award-winning compositions "Barcelona" and "Together," which she premiered at the Berklee Performance Center. She is a winner of the Berklee Piano Department's prestigious Chair Award, as well as a Piano Achievement Award. Currently, Olivia is a member of the faculty in the Berklee piano department. As a tribute to her heritage, she incentivized the formation of the first Berklee Contemporary Spanish Music and Flamenco

Jazz Ensemble, that culminated its work with artists in residence, renowned dancer Sonia Olla and singer Ismael Fernández, at the Berklee Performance Center in January 2020.

As a performer, Olivia has performance residencies at The Beehive, the Beat Hotel, La Fábrica Central and performs at

many other venues in the US and internationally: El Gran Teatre del Liceu and Teatre Nacional de Catalunya in Barcelona; SOB's in New York City; Regattabar, Ryles, Museum of Fine Arts, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum and the Agganis Arena in Boston, among others. For more info, visit OliviaPerezCollellmir.com.

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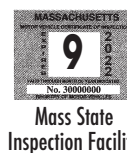
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SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

On Sunday, September 10, Bikes Not Bombs will host the 36th annual Bike-A-Thon, bringing together cycling enthusiasts, families, and advocates for social change.

The Bike-A-Thon offers di-

verse route options to cater to everyone's preferences and fitness levels with 10, 35, 50, 63 and 105 mile routes.

Riders can expect well-marked routes, rest stops stocked with hydration and snacks, as well as on-site bike mechanics and medical professionals for

repair or first-aid needs.

The celebration continues with a post-ride festival featuring live music and a delicious catered lunch (including vegetarian and vegan options).

- Rides start between 7:30 and 11:30am, based on route length; after-party runs until

4:30pm

The ride will start at Stony Brook Field (directly across the street from the Stony Brook MBTA station), Jamaica Plain, Boston, MA

Secure your spot and register with a team or individually here: [https://bikesnotbombs.org/bike-](https://bikesnotbombs.org/bike-a-thon/)

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Not a rider? No problem! Find volunteer opportunities here: <https://bikesnotbombs.org/bike-a-thon/volunteerbat/>

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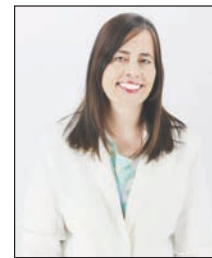
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Gov. Maura Healey signs FY24 Budget

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

On August 9, Governor Healey signed a \$55.98 billion state budget for FY24. This fiscal year's budget included monumental investments in education, workforce development, health and other key areas. Aiming at making Massachusetts more affordable, this is the first budget delivered by the Healey-Driscoll administration.

Filed by Senator Liz Miranda, over \$2.4 million dollars of the FY24 state budget directly benefits the 2nd Suffolk district and its businesses, including, but not limited to those in the below chart.

The \$1 Million fund allocated in the FY24 budget for a Maternal Health Fund aims to support the creation and infrastructure of non-profit freestanding birth centers, health care facilities that provide midwife-led care for pregnancy, birth, and postpartum care. This investment is a critical first step to addressing the current and severe racial disparities of birthing options in Massachusetts.

FY24 State Budget Highlights:

- Black Economic Council of

Public Housing Youth Centers	\$75,000
One Love Sports Academy Inc. - Youth Violence Prevention	\$30,000
Maternal Health Equity Fund	\$1M
Mission Hill Playshed	\$30,000
We Are Better Together Warren Daniel Project	\$50,000
Mattapan Food & Fitness	\$30,000
New Beginnings Re-Entry Services Inc.	\$90,000
Franklin Park Coalition	\$50,000
Score4More - Youth Violence Prevention	\$20,000
Propa City Community Outreach - Maternal Health CBO	\$25,000
Playshed for Hunt/Almont Park	\$30,000
Boston Plan for Excellence Teacher Diversity Program	\$40,000
Independent Vocational Technical School Financial Assistance for Diverse Candidates in the Clean Energy Economy	\$500,000

Massachusetts - \$500,000

- Metco, Inc. - \$29,400,000
- Community Servings - \$100,000

Other important files directly impacting the 2nd Suffolk include No Cost Calls, LGBTQ+ Senior Housing, and the Student Opportunity Plan. No Cost Calls maximizes phone calls and enables access to video calls and tablets for our incarcerated constituents and their families. The Healey-Driscoll administration supported extending the implementation date by five months to make sure the policy can be implemented in FY24. LGBTQ+ Senior Housing funds aim to facilitate access to welcoming, safe, and affordable

housing for low-income LGBTQ seniors through the development of affordable housing; including housing services and programming that addresses the needs of LGBTQ seniors. The Student Opportunity Plan includes in-state tuition for all residents regardless of immigration status, free community college for students and nursing students over the age of 25 and makes universal free school meals permanent.

Senator Miranda, along with Senator Crighton (D-Lynn), is proud to have filed and advocated for in-state tuition for residents regardless of immigration status.

Miranda

Continued from page 1

ty maternal health care, including comprehensive midwife care through pregnancy, birthing and so critically through post partum. Funding for the Birth Center has been sourced through complementary public funding, spearheaded by Senator Miranda, as well as through private not-for-profit outreach.

Another funding success that Senator Miranda is particularly excited about focuses on education, and in particular technical vocational education designed to serve the fast-growing clean energy economy. \$500,000 was included in the budget for Independent Vocational Technical School assistance for diverse candidates in this emerging field. Supported by the local unions and PowerCorpsBos, the City of Boston's education initiative for the green sector, as well as from for profit corporations, this scholarship program will be important to the 2nd District, in conjunction with the move to Harrison Avenue in Roxbury of the Benjamin Franklin Cum-

mings Institute of Technology, now known as Franklin Cummings Tech. Among the Institute's academic areas, fresh initiatives such as Building Energy Management programs are now offered. The institution's move to the neighborhood, combined with the financial assistance, should provide a much-needed high quality and relevant educational resource for 2nd District constituents.

Despite Senator Miranda's FY 2024 budget successes, she is already focused on the next year's budget, where not only will she be trying to ensure multi-year support for current initiatives, but also working on additional programs to benefit her District.



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LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate And Family Court 24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114 (617)788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU23P1797EA

Estate of: Takouhi Baboudjian Date of Death: 05/17/2009

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Hagop Baboujian of Wellesley, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Hagop Baboujian of Wellesley, MA be appointed

as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve With Corporate Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration. IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/02/2023. 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 days (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you. UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC

in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: August 21, 2023

Vincent Procopio Register of Probate

8/25 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. SU23CO392CA In the matter of: Joseph Michael Ashmanski

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Joseph Michael Ashmanski of Jamaica Plain, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: Joseph Michael Ashe 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 08/31/2023. 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: August 03, 2023 Vincent Procopio, Register of Probate

8/25/23 JP

DO YOU NEED TO RUN A LEGAL?
DON'T FORGET TO CHECK AT THE COURT TO SEE IF YOU QUALIFY FOR A FEE-WAIVER!

Murphy announces new consumer service for Suffolk County

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Suffolk Register of Deeds Stephen J. Murphy announces a new Consumer Service available on Suffolkdeeds.com

The Consumer Notification Service alerts a homeowner by email when a document is recorded at the Suffolk Registry of Deeds in their name or at their address.

Click on the link Consumer Notification Service appearing in the banner at the top of the Suffolkdeeds.com website to create an account and register up to 3 separate properties in Suffolk County (Boston, Chelsea, Revere and Winthrop) about which you want to be notified.

Our free notification service, like the paid subscription ser-

vices you see advertised on TV and radio, does not prevent a document from being recorded. If a document is recorded in the name or address of a Consumer Notification Service account holder – an email will be sent to the account holder notifying them of the document’s recording.

If you receive an email, please review the document at Suffolkdeeds.com by clicking on Document Search and searching your name and address. After you review the document, if you have any concerns or believe you are a victim of fraud, please call (617) 788-6221 and ask to speak with an Assistant Register of Deeds.

All victims of fraud should contact local law enforcement authorities.

FESTIVAL DOMINICANO DE BOSTON

PHOTOS BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

The Festival Dominicano de Boston is a parade that starts

in Hyde Square Jamaica Plain and ends at a festival at Clifford Playground in Dorchester. Music dancing, vibrant costumes, food,

and more helped over 10000 participants celebrate the culture of the Dominican Republic on Aug. 20.



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu and Parade officials march down Centre Street from Hyde Square to Jackson Square.



Emerson Brito vibrantly carries the Dominican flag and colors.



Mr. Columbia USA and Omar Encapia bring Latin American support to celebrate Dominican culture.



Jerry Wright, who portrays Frederick Olmstead, loves Big Papi and celebrating Dominican culture.



Pedro Gonzales in his 1957 Cheverolet BelAir.

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FESTIVAL DOMINICANO DE BOSTON



Edie and Nini Garerro.



Members of Estrellas Tropicales troupe from Boston, celebrating 50 years of movement for the youth, proceed down Centre Street towards Jackson Square.



Hermanas mirabal: Mahia Peguero, Albaner Melenciano Fructuoso, and Angel Lara incorporate movement and butterfly in their Parade contribution.



A presentation from the City Hall of La Vega, a municipality in the Dominican Republic.



The Parade procession was an impressive, energetic, and vibrant celebration of the culture of the Dominican Republic.

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EDITORIAL

Trump and Biden: Worst candidates ever?

As it becomes increasingly apparent that the candidates for President in 2024 will be Joe Biden and Donald Trump in a rematch of their 2020 campaign, it is understandable why Americans are so pessimistic about the future direction of the country.

Both men by far will be the oldest presidential candidates ever in our history, with Biden clocking in at 82 and Trump at 78. (Ronald Reagan was 69 when he first ran for President). And please, don't tell us that we're being ageist. The job of President of the United States is 24/7/365 and requires stamina and energy, traits that both men are sorely lacking.

Both are barely able to put together a complete sentence, let alone two (just read the transcripts of any of their interviews or speeches without a teleprompter) and Biden's mental faculties are diminishing almost on a daily basis. Biden has barely held any press conferences and when he does, he only responds to questions that mostly have been submitted in advance, a sign that his handlers know fully well that his mental acuity is severely diminished.

However, even more troubling than their advanced age are the scandals and legal troubles that will become the focus of their upcoming campaigns. We do not need to go into Trump's well-known myriad of legal problems, but Biden's issues with his son Hunter have become front-and-center in recent weeks.

What is most troubling about the Hunter Biden matter is Joe Biden's insistence, "My son has done nothing wrong," the President said on MSNBC in May. "I trust him. I have faith in him, and it impacts my Presidency by making me feel proud of him." (Whatever that's supposed to mean.) However, Hunter Biden was willing to plead guilty to income tax charges, acknowledge his guilt in obtaining a handgun in violation of the law, AND wanted to be cleared of other possible crimes in a plea bargain deal that ultimately fell apart -- yet Joe Biden insists his "son has done nothing wrong?"

Even more significant and troubling are the many shady business deals by which Hunter Biden enriched himself based solely on his father's position. For example, when Hunter Biden flew with his father, who was then the vice-president, to China, he met with his "business associates" and 10 days later made a deal that netted him millions of dollars.

Although the majority of Americans would like to move on from both Biden and Trump, it would appear that we're stuck with them -- creating a campaign that will feature the most unpopular, and arguably the worst, candidates in American history -- one of whom is running to keep himself out of jail and the other to keep his son out of jail.

Our Age of Anxiety

The Wall St. Journal this past week featured a front page story entitled, "The Booming Business of American Anxiety." The issue of New York Magazine two weeks ago touched on the same subject with the cover story, "Trauma: America's Favorite Diagnosis."

Just this week, CNBC released a survey that reveals that confidence in the future of business conditions by small business owners is at an all-time low.

Statistics suggest that American society is coming apart, both mentally and physically. Our life expectancy has been declining for the past few years -- the pandemic had a lot to do with that -- but the opioid crisis, and gun violence also are factors playing a huge role in our collective demise.

In addition, 40 percent of Americans are considered obese and another 32 percent are overweight -- which means that almost 3/4 of Americans have lifestyles that will lead to a future of diseases (diabetes, cancer, etc.) and physical limitations that will create a lifetime of anxiety and depression.

Our unhealthy food -- i.e., high in saturated fat, salt, and sugar -- is addictive, no less so than opioids. Just as the Sacklers gave us Oxycontin, the fast-food industry has given us triple-bacon-cheeseburgers with fries and super-size soft drinks -- the more we eat, the more we crave them.

It is not a coincidence that the average American male today weighs 30 pounds more than the average male in 1960 and the average female today weighs the same as that man in 1960 -- and in those same 60 years, the number of fast food franchises has grown exponentially. (In 1960, there were about 400 McDonald's and Burger King franchises in the U.S. and today there are about 20,000).

When you add in all of the "big picture" challenges presented by climate change, economic inequality, the conflicts with Russia and China, and the elimination of individual rights by a reactionary Supreme Court, it is not surprising that Americans are feeling more anxious than ever before.

It is not an exaggeration to say that anxiety is our new national disease -- and there is no cure in sight.

LETTERS

JPNDC outlines their efforts

Dear Editor,

With tremendous disappointment, we are writing today to let community members know that despite Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation's best efforts, 21st Century Foods will no longer operate out of JPNDC's Brewery Small Business Complex.

21st Century has been producing tofu and tempeh for more than 40 years, and we wanted them to stay at The Brewery. We gave the owners nearly four years' notice (in 2019) that we would eventually need their space to develop the Center for Equity & Prosperity. Over the past two years, here is what we did:

- Offered a Brewery space 55% larger than their current space, with no rent increase the first year and only modest increases in following years

- Kept the available space vacant nearly two years despite interest from other potential tenants

- Hired an engineering firm and met numerous times with 21st Century to plan a design that would not only meet the precise requirements of their business, but also include

new food preparation, refrigeration, and temperature control equipment -- at JPNDC's expense

- Provided free technical assistance (as we do for any small business) connecting them to two grant opportunities

- Affirmed, in a formal Letter of Intent (LOI) in January 2023, that JPNDC would (1) pay all relocation, tailored build-out, and new equipment costs; and (2) maintain lease payments far below market rate for five years.

Although the owners did not allegedly respond for three months, we rejoiced when 21st Century signed the LOI in April. However, instead of responding to the lease we sent in May, they threatened legal action against JPNDC for "unfair and deceptive business practices."

Few other commercial landlord would offer anything close to the generous, flexible, and patient terms that JPNDC has been extending for nearly two years so that a business' relocation would be as painless as possible.

We will soon begin construction

Continued on page 19

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

Jamaica Plain GAZETTE

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LETTERS

Supports William King for District 6 Councilor

Dear Editor:

As a Boston Public School parent, former city housing official, proud progressive, I am proud to support William King for the District 6 City Council seat. Our city is still reeling from the Trump era of divisiveness.

Our own district seems to be pitted against each other when our shared values should bring us together. Every issue should not come down to JP versus West Roxbury or vice versa. I met and married my husband in JP. I bought my first home in Roslindale and am raising my children in West Roxbury.

Our children go to school in JP. I know the neighborhoods well. All of us want a safe place to live and raise our family. We want clean air and good schools. We are open to new ideas and respectful of how difficult the process of implementing meaningful change can be. District 6 and Boston are better than the recent headlines and controversies that have stifled a once promising city council.

Affordability is the biggest problem facing our city and our district and I know that William's common sense and uncontentious approach to governing will yield positive results for our community. Our city is

governed by the Mayor and the City Council's main role is to vote on the budget and provide stellar constituent services. Rent stabilization has already passed through the City Council. The "Road Diet" is happening and it will be ok.

We do not need to agree with every single position our elected officials have on issues but we do need a Councilor that will listen and respect all sides. Like all of us, William and his wife have made District 6 their home and both are committed to the greater good.

I am certain that if William is elected, he will work with city offices, stakeholders, and most importantly residents across the district to ensure that families and seniors can afford to stay in the district. He will work for all of us and everyone should root for his success. We need a leader that will build bridges, bring incremental change, and always have our back. We need a good neighbor that is committed to helping others. In other words, we need to reject purity tests and go back to the basics of good governing. Let's send a message and vote for William on September 12 and again in November.

Katie Forde

The Center for Equity & Prosperity is just one of the many strategies needed to turn our city's trajectory toward one of racial and economic equity. It will be the beautiful new home for JPNDC's empowering services for people who deserve a chance in our city – including more than 150 BIPOC-owned small businesses each year.

We invite anyone to reach out to us via info@jpndc.org.

Sincerely,
Anne Gelbspan and
Charles Hills,
JPNDC Board Co-Chairs
Teronda Ellis, JPNDC CEO

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: 617-524-7662

PLEASE WRITE...

OP-ED

Flynn organizes trainings on ethics, civility, professionalism

BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT ED FLYNN

During his term in leadership at the Council over the last twenty months, Boston City Council President Ed Flynn has organized a series of training sessions with colleagues and staff aimed at encouraging civility and professionalism, as well as abiding by state ethics laws and other regulations.

Most recently, Council President Flynn hosted a Massachusetts State Ethics Training for over two hours on Tuesday, August 8 which covered conflict of interest law, gift restrictions, code of conduct and related ethics issues. On Thursday, August 10, Council President Flynn held a three hour Working Session regarding an Anti-Bullying Policy for City Councilors, Council staff, and Council Central Staff that he previously introduced in May. The Council has also held seven trainings related to the Open Meeting Law and the Public Records Law, along with annual compliance and Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD) training. He has held multiple working sessions with the City Clerk and colleagues to review the Boston City Council Rules adopted

by the body.

In addition, Council President Flynn is working closely with Boston City Council Central Staff on researching a Code of Ethics policy to be introduced later this year, along with recommendations around best practices on time off for Council staff. Council President Flynn continues to also engage in discussions with the State Legislative Leaders Foundation on potentially hosting a Civility Training later this year.

Moreover, Council President Flynn has focused on several administrative issues that have arisen this term, including implementation of an updated Executive Garage policy. During these challenging times for the management of meetings in municipal government, with anti-vaccine and other protesters, Council President Flynn has also worked in conjunction with City of Boston Property Management on upgraded security infrastructure at the Council, such as installation of panic buttons, putting a stanchion at reception, and requiring key card access at the Piemonte offices side.

Council President Flynn assumed leadership of the body during a particularly difficult time in our city and country;

navigating the Omicron variant and subsequent transition back to in-person work and Council meetings, a new budget process, a contentious redistricting process that was ultimately sent back by a federal judge, as well as a number of ethical and legal lapses from several Council colleagues. Council President Flynn has spoken at length on several occasions, on both the Council floor as well as via memos to colleagues, on the critical need for civility, professionalism and decorum, and to be available in City Hall to address quality of life and constituent service issues from neighbors.

"My goal as Council President, and for the remainder of my term, will be to continue to work on ensuring that the City Council is focused on conducting the people's business, and that we have a professional working environment for all," said Council President Flynn. "While working closely with our dedicated Central Staff, I continue to focus on implementing policies to address the need for civility and respect, and to promote a culture that is inclusive and attracts talent to public service at City Hall, where everyone feels welcome in the workplace without fear of any bullying or harassment."

LOCAL STUDENT EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

CRELLIN-SAZAMA NAMED TO CLARK UNIVERSITY'S SPRING DEAN'S LIST

Adam Crellin-Sazama, of Jamaica Plain, was named to second honors on the Clark University Dean's List. This selection marks outstanding academic achievement during the Spring 2023 semester.

Students must have a GPA of 3.8 or above for first honors or a GPA between 3.50 and 3.79 for second honors.

Founded in 1887, Clark University is a liberal arts-based research university that prepares its students to meet tomorrow's

most daunting challenges and embrace its greatest opportunities. Through 33 undergraduate majors, more than 30 advanced degree programs, and nationally recognized community part-

nerships, Clark fuses rigorous scholarship with authentic world and workplace experiences that empower our students to pursue lives and careers of meaning and consequence.

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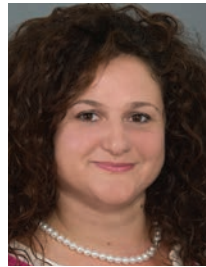
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