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# Jamaica Plain GAZETTE

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SEPTEMBER 8, 2023

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Mary Vartanian (seated) celebrates her 109th birthday with staff and residents of the Armenian Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

## Jamaica Plain resident Mary Vartanian celebrates her 109th birthday!

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Staff and residents at the Armenian Nursing and Rehabilitation Center recently joined together to celebrate a huge milestone: Mary Vartanian's 109th birthday! Amidst a rousing rendition of "Happy Birthday" and the well-wishes of every person in attendance, Mary gave a big "thumbs up" when presented with her cake. Mary has been a resident of the Armenian Center for the past six years and is beloved by residents and staff alike.

"Mary is such a pleasant, friendly individual," said Salpy Yeterian, Activities Director at

the Armenian Nursing Center. "She is very appreciative, throwing kisses to the staff each time they greet her. Moreover, she is just a joy to be around."

Living to 109 is a remarkable accomplishment and one that Mary does not take for granted. She attributes her longevity to her faith – she prays daily – and hard work. Although not a fan of exercise, she could often be found cleaning, cooking, and helping her family. Mary reflected on her life by saying, "I lived a simple life, taking care of my family. I also went to church and volunteered at the functions. That's what I most enjoyed."

Mary was born in Aintab in 1914, just before the outbreak of World War I. She moved several times to different countries before ending up in the United States. Mary was introduced by her doctor cousin to Hovhannes Vartanian, also born in Aintab (in 1905). They married in 1935. Hovhannes was a violinist as well as a composer and performed for the Armenian Radio of Aleppo, receiving the Syrian National Medal of Recognition for his talent.

Together Mary and Hovhannes had four sons and two daughters.

*Continued on page 2*

## Voters will head to polls in District 6 on Tuesday

By MICHAEL COUGHLIN JR.

The day of reckoning is coming for one of the three contenders in the race for District 6 City Councilor as residents will cast their votes in the Preliminary Municipal Election on Tuesday, September 12, to determine which two candidates will move on to the Municipal Election in November.

In just a few days, residents in District 6 will be tasked with whittling the field of incumbent Boston City Councilor Kendra Lara, Ben Weber, and William King down to two.

Lara, elected to the City Council in 2021, is coming off a term

in which she has accomplished quite a few things. Over the last two years, Lara's office secured \$94 million in new investments for District 6.

This money includes \$22 million for a new library in Egleston Square and \$6 million for the expansion of the city's youth jobs program. Also, in her role as the Council's Chair of the Committee on Housing and Community Development, she helped push for strengthening the city's Inclusionary Development Policy and more.

Yet, with all this work done,

*Continued on page 15*

## JP Music Festival set for tomorrow

By MICHAEL COUGHLIN JR.

In what has become a staple in the neighborhood, the 11th anniversary of the Jamaica Plain Music Festival will take place tomorrow, September 9, from 12:00 PM to 7:00 PM at Pinebank Field at Jamaica Pond and will feature fun for everyone.

The festival — which is free to attend — will feature performances from a total of 21 bands, all of which, in some way or another, have a connection to Jamaica Plain. Each of these bands will have the opportunity to play about a 20-minute set in front of the thousands of festival goers who come and go over the course of the day.

Additionally, the festival will feature activities for children as well as food trucks from Across the Border, Bon Me, Daddy's Bonetown Burgers, Mela's Modern Indian Cuisine, Papi's Stuffed Sopapillas, Revelry and Work Hard Eat Good, per the festival's website.

Further, a local dispensary, Seed, a sponsor of the event, will have free pedicabs, giving people rides to and from the festival and to restaurants and bars in the area.

For Rick Berlin and Shamus Moynihan, two individuals who are part of a larger team that organizes the festival every year,

*Continued on page 3*

# Vartanian

Continued from page 1

Sadly, Hovhannes passed away in 1969 when Mary was only 55 years old. She never remarried. One of their sons, Zaven, emigrated to the United States and settled in Watertown, MA. Mary, along with another son, joined them in 1972. Mary was a resident of Watertown for 45 years. Always active, she lived by herself until she was 101. After a fall, she decided to move into the Armenian Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

Salpy noted that Mary is generous and giving. "When

her family brings in snacks or food, Mary immediately wants to share her bounty with the residents and staff. "She is always looking out for the staff." Salpy further explains. "I brought back to her room after a BBQ this summer," recalled Salpy. "Mary looked at me and said, 'Thank you, but you must be tired too. Go and sit down!'"

At a young 109, Mary walks about the Center, participates in meals, and enjoys art projects. She is very observant and frequently comments on what's going on in the community and the world. As Yeterian puts it, "Mary Vartanian is truly an inspiration to us all!"

# City of Boston issues reminders ahead of preliminary municipal election

The Boston Election Department is reminding voters that the Preliminary Municipal Election will be held on Tuesday, September 12, 2023 in City Council Districts 3, 5, 6, and 7.

The Preliminary Municipal Election will determine the field of candidates whose names will appear on the official ballot at the Municipal Election on November 7.

### In-person Early Voting

In-person Early Voting began Saturday, September 2nd and runs through Friday, September 8th. Early Voting provides the flexibility to vote at a location that is convenient for voters. All ballot styles will be available at every early voting location.

All early voting locations are accessible to voters with disabilities. Every location will also have AutoMark machines for voters who need help marking their ballots. More information about in-person early voting is available here.

### Vote-by-mail

Voters who requested vote-by-mail ballots or absentee ballots must have their signed ballot returned to the Boston Election Department by 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 12, 2023 in order to be counted. Ballots cannot be delivered to a polling location on Election Day.

Voters may return their voted ballot using one of 21 drop boxes located throughout the city. All drop boxes will remain open until 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. For a list of drop box locations click here: in-person at the Boston Election Department located at City Hall Room 241, or via U.S. Mail using the postage paid return.

Voters can track the status of requests for vote-by-mail ballots here. If there is no movement indicated in the "Track My Ballot" system, voters should plan to vote in-person on Election Day.

### Accessible Voting

The Accessible Electronic Voting System allows voters who are unable to independently read, write, hold, or physically manipulate or mark ballots to submit

### Polling Location Changes

Ward and Precinct	Previous Location	New Location
Ward 4 Precinct 7	Fenway Center 77 Saint Stephen Street	Morville House 100 Norway St.
Ward 19 Precinct 10	Washington Irving School 105 Cummins Highway	Roslindale Community Center 6 Cummins Highway
Ward 19 Precinct 13	Washington Irving School 105 Cummins Highway	Roslindale Community Center 6 Cummins Highway

their ballot via a secure electronic delivery system. Voter's who qualify for an Accessible Electronic Ballot may apply here.

Please note: To get access to the electronic ballot, voters will need to provide their email address.

### Voting on Election Day

Polling locations open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. A list of polling locations in Districts 3, 5, 6 and 7 can be found here. If a voter has moved, changed their name, or forgot to fill out Boston's Annual Residential Listing, they may need to update their voting status.

As a reminder, voters should check their registration status via the Secretary of the Commonwealth's website. Printed ballots will be available in English and Spanish. Chinese and Vietnamese ballots will be available where required. Language interpreters will also be available upon request. All voting locations are ADA accessible and are equipped with AutoMark Voter Assist Terminal for voters with visual or hearing impairment.

### Unofficial Results

After polls close at 8:00 p.m., the Election Department will receive and upload unofficial results of ballots counted at polling places as they are returned from each precinct.

### Media Guidelines Where to Stand

Members of the press must remain behind the guardrail. While many polling places are not equipped with a physical guardrail, the area within the "guardrail" encompasses the check-in table, the voting booths, and the ballot box. Only poll workers and voters should be

within this area.

### Interacting with Voters and Poll Workers

Members of the press, like all other observers in the polling place, may not interact with voters while they are in the polling place. Further, observers who have questions about where they should stand and what they are allowed to do while observing should ask to speak to the warden. The warden may provide members of the press with information regarding their rights as observers.

### Photography

Photography of the voting process in the polling place is permitted, though marked ballots may not be photographed. Photographers are allowed inside the polling place to photograph the area from outside the guardrail. The warden may instruct the photographer not to take photos of any marked ballots.

### Video & Audio Recording

As with photography of the polling place, video recording of the polling place is allowed. Audio recording of the polling place is not permitted under state law. Anyone recording in the polling place must have the ability to record without capturing audio and should be instructed to do so by the warden. Those who are using electronic equipment may not use the electricity in the polling place to power their equipment.

### Exit Polling

Exit polling and interviews of voters are permitted outside the polling place, even within 150 feet of the entrance to the polling place, but only those voters who are leaving the polling place should be stopped. Voter access to the polling place should not be impeded in any way.

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1	2-Bedroom	860	\$1,232	50%	1
1	1-Bedroom	676	\$1,559	70%	-
1	2-Bedroom	1,022	\$1,766	70%	-

Minimum Incomes (set by owner + based on # of bedrooms + Area Median Income (AMI))			Maximum Incomes (set by BPDA + based on household size + Area Median Income (AMI))		
# of bedrooms	Minimum Income 50% AMI	Minimum Income 70% AMI	Household size	Maximum Income 50% AMI	Maximum Income 70% AMI
1	\$35,349	\$50,512	1	\$51,950	\$72,730
			2	\$59,400	\$83,160
			3	\$66,800	\$93,520
2	\$39,917	\$57,219	4	\$74,200	\$103,800
			5	\$80,150	\$112,210
			6	\$86,100	\$120,540

\*\*\*Minimum incomes do not apply to households receiving housing assistance such as Section 8, MRVP, or VASH.

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50% AMI	70% AMI
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Does not include retirement. Does include Real Estate.

Applications are available for 15 days, from Tuesday, September 5, 2023 - Tuesday, September 19, 2023

To request an application online visit: [www.211GreenStreetLottery.com](http://www.211GreenStreetLottery.com)

To have a hard copy of the application mailed to your mailing address, please call (617) 639-3064 Ext 795 | US Relay 711

Applications are available in person on the following days, dates, and times in the following place(s)			
Day	Date	Time	Location
Thursday	September 7, 2023	3 PM - 7 PM	Boston Public Library Jamaica Plain Branch 30 South Street Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
Saturday	September 9, 2023	10 AM - 2 PM	
Thursday	September 14, 2023	3 PM - 7 PM	
Saturday	September 16, 2023	10 AM - 2 PM	

DEADLINE: Applications must be submitted online or postmarked no later than **September 19, 2023**  
Mailed to: Maloney Properties, Inc., ATTN: 211 Green Street Lottery, Wellesley, MA 02481

- Selection by lottery. Asset & Use Restrictions apply.
- Preference for Boston Residents.
- Preference for Households with at least one person per bedroom.
- Preference for Households with Mobility Impairments and/or that are Deaf/Hard of Hearing for accessible units.

For more information, language assistance, or reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities please call (617) 639-3064 Ext 795 | US Relay 711 or email [211Green@MaloneyProperties.com](mailto:211Green@MaloneyProperties.com)

For more on BPDA program eligibility, please visit <http://www.bostonplans.org/housing/faqs>



# Music Fest

*Continued from page 1*

allowing these local bands to play in front of large crowds is something great to see.

“It’s wonderful if you haven’t gotten your nose even out of the water as a successful musician. To be able to play on a stage that might have anywhere from 3,500 to 6,000 people out there on the field all giving a damn that you’re playing your stuff,” said Berlin, who is a musician himself.

Moynihan echoed this sentiment, even indicating that giving these local bands a spotlight was one of the main reasons the festival was started in the first place.

“You have these amazing, amazing bands playing to, you know, 35 people at the Midway on a Wednesday night, and it’s just like you guys should be on a big stage, and so it gives these bands an opportunity to play in front of thousands of people,” said Moynihan.

However, the support for these local bands continues beyond there as the bands are also paid for their performances, which is remarkable considering the festival is actually a non-profit organization.

Moreover, Moynihan mentioned that the band’s merchandise is also sold at a booth at the festival, and they receive 100% of the proceeds.

The festival, which has become well-known in the neighborhood since its inception, had humble beginnings, and the idea spawned from a conversation between Berlin and Moynihan.

Berlin explained that when he was playing a show, someone had asked him why there was not a JP Music Festival. “That’s when the lightbulb went off,” he said.

Then, after posing that same question to Moynihan in a laundromat a week later, the ball got rolling on the event that is now celebrating its 11th anniversary.

In talking about those humble beginnings, Berlin said, “The first year was really wonderful because so many things went

wrong that became funny later.” For example, he explained that in the first year, a lot of the equipment was donated from Guitar Center and broke.

However, Moynihan explained that after the second festival, they really found their footing. “After the second festival, we decided our formula of how we do things works, and we don’t want to change that because it’s really successful,” he said.

Although the festival nowadays seems to be firing on all cylinders, that does not mean it does not take a massive amount of work and a lot of different people to put on successfully year after year.

“Rick and I get most of the credit, and we get most of the face time, but it takes a small army of people to put this thing on,” said Moynihan.

He mentioned different facets of making sure the show runs, like bringing the two professional stages in, putting the sound system in, listening to all the bands and picking a lineup, doing the permitting with the city,

and more.

Moreover, Berlin spoke about the volunteer staff and all the work they have to do, like putting up banners and advertising on the stages and picking up trash. “Our volunteer staff is just amazing,” he said.

“It takes six to nine months worth of work to see a seven-hour show, and I don’t think a lot of people realize how much work that is and how many people put the effort in to make that thing happen,” said Moynihan.

Not only does this festival take a lot of work to produce, but it also takes a lot of money. Moynihan had mentioned that he thought the cost of last year’s was around \$42,000.

That said, although the festival is free to attend, donations will be accepted at tables during the festival, and you could also make a donation at [gofundme.com/f/the-2023-jamaica-plain-music-festival](http://gofundme.com/f/the-2023-jamaica-plain-music-festival).

Donations not only go toward supporting the festival itself so it can continue to be put on but also go toward paying the bands

who perform.

Both Berlin and Moynihan encouraged those who are looking for a good time to come on out tomorrow and experience the fun that is the Jamaica Plain Music Festival.

“Come on down because it’s a great day in the neighborhood, it’s a fun event in the park, it’s free. If you have kids, you can bring your kids; if you have a dog, you can bring your dog,” said Moynihan.

“In this world where everything costs a million dollars to do anything — you can come out and have a free day of fun in the park,” he added.

“It’s free, and it’s happy — we’ve never had bad weather except the last part of the show one year, so it’s just great,” said Berlin.

“It’s not to be missed,” he added.

To view a program about the festival and even a playlist consisting of the different bands slated to perform, you can visit <http://www.jpmusicfestival.com/>.

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- A project has been created to change the name of the road between these two parks to Olmsted Way. Other projects will be created, such as better bike lanes. These are two important initiatives that need our attention.

*“We must protect the trees & keep the water clean”*

Photo by: Gene Chambers  
Portrayed by: Gerry Wright

*E. Gene Chambers*  
PHOTOGRAPHY

## JP OBSERVER

# Establish age limits for president? Forget it, for many reasons!

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 president 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.

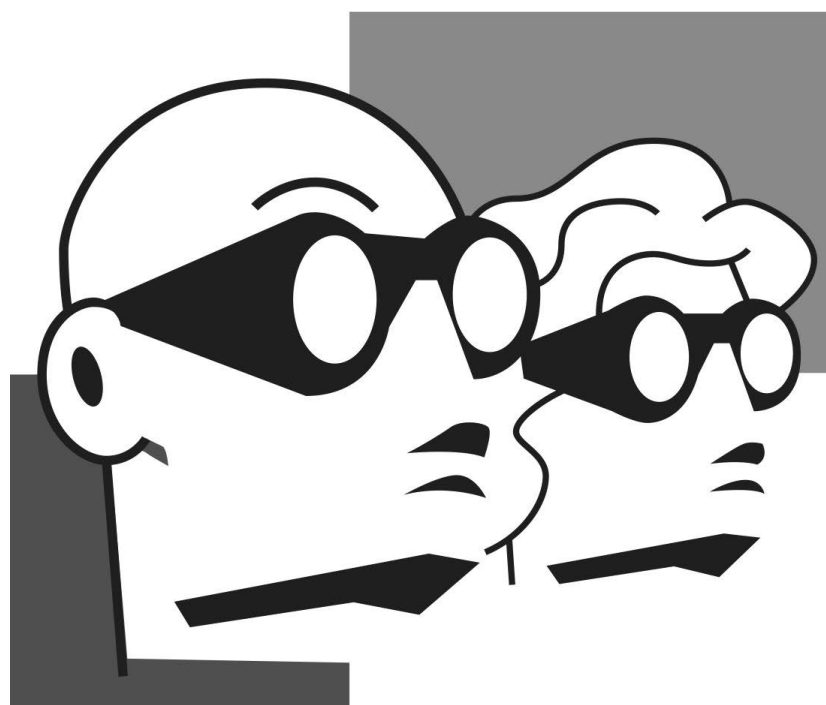
Old people tend to be more resilient than young people, of course. What may upset and stymie a young person is often just another problem to be solved for an older, more experienced senior. Studies show seniors are pretty happy, too, compared to middle-aged people. That helps with seniors' cognition 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 6*

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## Observer

*Continued from page 4*

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 de-

mocracy. 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 general, 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.*

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# Fall garden maintenance tips

By VALERIE SMITH

As the autumn season approaches, it's an excellent time for homeowners to examine their gardens and prepare them for the cooler temperatures to come. Although you may think of gardening only during the summer months, caring for your garden during the fall can help it survive the winter season and produce a healthy crop next year.

Whether you're growing a vegetable garden, flower bed or even trees and shrubs, these fall garden maintenance tips will ensure your entire landscape is ready for temperatures to drop.

## 1. Clean Up Vegetable/Herb Gardens

If you're not sure where to begin on your fall garden maintenance checklist, the best place to start is by removing all dried plants and weeds in your garden bed. Keeping such plants in your garden over the winter could lead to pests and disease, thus preventing a healthy garden next year. For this reason, be on the lookout for any spent crops, as well as plants that are infested with disease. Tilling your garden is an excellent way to expose any dried plants or weeds. It will also reveal any pests hiding in your garden, including fall armyworms, which are most active during the fall.

As you remove plant debris from your garden, now is also an excellent time for removing gardening supplies. Items such as stakes, cages and labels should be gathered and put away to be used again next spring.

## 2. Prepare Your Perennial Garden for Winter

Although the gardening season may be coming to a close, your perennial plants will continue growing until they go dormant in late fall. To prepare them for the colder temperatures, be sure to remove all weeds and any parts of the plant infested with disease or pests. If you're planning on adding more plants to your garden, consider planting spring-blooming bulbs this fall while the soil is still warm.

Don't forget to continue watering your perennials at least once a week until the ground freezes. Once the ground does freeze, cover the crown of your newly planted perennials with a 4 to 5-inch layer of bark mulch. This mulch may also be used to cover perennials that are sensitive to frost.

## 3. Care for Trees and Shrubs

For those who have trees and shrubs, autumn is the perfect season to check on your shrubbery and prepare them for winter. One way to care for your trees this fall is to cover the soil around them with mulch. Adding a fresh layer of mulch around the base of your tree will protect the roots from harsh winter conditions. Avoid covering the trunk with mulch, however, as this could cause rot and other diseases. In addition to mulching, fall is also an ideal time to prune your shrubs once dormancy has started.

If you're looking to establish more trees and shrubs on your lawn, fall is the best time to plant while the ground is still workable. Generally, the ideal time to plant new trees is six weeks before the first sign of hard frost. Planting anytime between Sep-



PHOTO COURTESY SOD SOLUTIONS

A fall garden can still add some pop of color to your yard this season.

tember through November will allow your new trees to establish their roots before winter sets in.

## 4. Plant a Cover Crop

A cover crop may be spread over your garden to prevent erosion and weed growth. It may consist of mustard, clover, peas

or even a combination of cover crops. Once spring arrives, the cover crop may be turned over to add nutrients to the soil.

## 5. Plant Fall Crops

While the summer growing season may be over, there are still many plants you can grow

over the winter. The most common frost-tolerant crops for fall planting include broccoli, cauliflower, kale, lettuce, parsnips, garlic, cabbage, collards and spinach. Many of these crops

*Continued on page 11*

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# Boston Public Library announces 'Book it Around Boston' event

The Boston Public Library (BPL) last week announced Book it Around Boston 2023, a fun run/walk/bike event designed to reintroduce residents to BPL branches across the city while incentivizing movement across Boston's neighborhoods.

BPL has partnered with Heartbreak Hill Running Company to offer guided routes kicking off and concluding at the Roxbury branch. As part of the event, participants will walk, run, or bike to other BPL branches.

The family-friendly event is the kickoff of this year's BPL Passport initiative, which will roll out in September during Li-

brary Card Signup Month.

"We are thrilled to partner again with Heartbreak Hill Running Company for Book it Around Boston," said Michael Colford, BPL Director of Library Services. "We appreciate their support for the Passport program during Library Card Signup Month and beyond."

"This event provides a fantastic opportunity for residents to get out and visit the diverse neighborhoods of Boston and their local branches, which are the heart of our community. We hope Bostonians will get out, explore, and sign up for a library card if they don't already have

one!"

Book it Around Boston will take place on September 23, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. Participants can choose one of five routes starting and ending at the Roxbury branch, depending on how far they would like to walk, run, or bike. These include:

- Route 1 (3.5 miles): start at Roxbury Branch, visit South End Branch, Parker Hill Branch, end at Roxbury Branch
- Route 2 (5.9 miles): start at Roxbury Branch, visit Egleston Branch, Jamaica Plain Branch, Connolly Branch, Parker Hill Branch, end at Roxbury Branch
- Route 3 (8 miles): start at

Roxbury Branch, visit Fields Corner Branch, Adams Street Branch, Codman Square Branch, end at Roxbury Branch

• Route 4 (10 miles): start at Roxbury Branch, visit Parker Hill Branch, South End Branch, West End Branch, North End Branch, South Boston Branch, end at Roxbury Branch

• Bike Route (20 miles): start at Roxbury Branch, visit South Boston Branch, Fields Corner Branch, Adams Street Branch, Lower Mills Branch, Mattapan Branch, Roslindale Branch, Jamaica Plain Branch, Connolly Branch, Parker Hill Branch, end at Roxbury Branch

There will be a reception at 10:30 a.m. at the Roxbury branch, the final stop on all the Book it Around Boston routes. There will be light snacks and refreshments and closing remarks. The first 200 participants to register for the event will also receive a free Book it Around Boston lapel pin.

"We're so excited to celebrate cross-community movement using our world-class library system," said Dan Fitzgerald, co-founder of Heartbreak Hill Running Company. "This is the second annual Passport run, so we're delighted and grateful to build on the momentum from last year. BPL exists in every corner of our city offering free, democratic access to information and education. Running, for us, is always an opportunity to unite people and communities of all background in sport. I can't wait to bring both together on September 23rd!"

All participants will receive a BPL Passport: a new booklet outlining routes to walk, run, or bike between each of the BPL's 26 locations, encouraging residents to get out and explore the city. For each branch participants visit, they will receive a branch stamp in their BPL Passport.

The BPL Passport program is open to everyone. Visit a local BPL branch to pick up a Passport, then use the routes outlined in the booklet to visit branches across the city and collect stamps. Exclusive swag is available to participants for visiting specific numbers of branches; visit [bpl.org/passport/](http://bpl.org/passport/) to learn more.

To register for Book it Around Boston, visit: [bplrun.splashthat.com](http://bplrun.splashthat.com). For a complete list of BPL branches, visit: [bpl.bibliocommons.com/locations](http://bpl.bibliocommons.com/locations).

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# Adnani Johari, CPA, CGMA, MBA, elected to Massachusetts Society of CPAs Board of Directors

The Massachusetts Society of Certified Public Accountants (MassCPAs) announced that Adnani Johari, CPA, CGMA, MBA, was elected to serve a third year on its Board of Directors for its 2023-2024 fiscal year, which began May 1.

Johari, a Jamaica Plain resident, is a director and vice president at Brighthouse Investment Advisers, LLC, a member of the Brighthouse Investment Advisers Valuation Committee and an assistant treasurer of Brighthouse Funds. Brighthouse Investment Advisers, LLC is a registered investment adviser that provides investment management services to the Bright-



Adnani Johari.

house Funds. Brighthouse Financial, Inc. is one of the largest

providers of annuities and life insurance in the United States.

MassCPAs Board of Directors is a group of 19 elected members that sets policies, manages programs and oversees activities that benefit the 11,500-member organization and accounting profession in Massachusetts.

“MassCPAs Board of Directors is an exceptional and diverse group of individuals that will have a profound impact on defining the Society’s priorities and propelling the accounting profession forward in Massachusetts,” said Amy Pitter, MassCPAs president and CEO. “I am thrilled to have Adnani on the board and know that her valu-

able contributions and leadership will benefit the Society, our community and the profession in the coming year.”

Since 2018, Johari has been an active member of the Brighthouse Financial, Inc. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Council. Before joining Brighthouse Financial, Inc., he served as a vice president and financial reporting senior manager in the fund administration division at Brown Brothers Harriman (BBH). In this role, he held various responsibilities, including overseeing financial reporting, compliance and regulatory matters for the firm’s mutual fund complexes. Additionally, Johari

brings valuable experience as an audit senior manager at Deloitte LLP in Boston where he worked prior to joining BBH.

The Massachusetts Society of Certified Public Accountants, Inc. is the state professional association of certified public accountants, representing over 11,500 members in public accounting practice, industry and business, government and education. The Society works to develop and maintain high professional standards and offers a wide array of legislative, technical and referral services to its members.

## Boston Children’s Chorus announces rehearsal locations in neighborhoods

Boston Children’s Chorus (BCC) announced the six locations across the city at which the organization will host choir rehearsals for their 21st season. BCC will provide access to high-quality chorus programs in neighborhoods including the South End, Dorchester, Jamaica Plain, and Roxbury during the upcoming season.

The organization will continue their relationship with First Parish Dorchester, and ZUMIX, East Boston while moving into four new locations: United South End Settlements, Footlight Club, Union Church Boston, and Roxbury Community College. Please find additional information on choir locations below.

“We are excited for the opportunity to be located within communities, increasing access to culturally responsive music programs for children by being right in the neighborhoods they reside,” said BCC Executive Director Andrés Holder. “The new rehearsal locations will allow Boston Children’s Chorus to better serve its community of students and families through improved accessibility, helping our organization to harness the power of music to connect our city’s diverse communities, cultivate empathy, and inspire social inquiry.”

In keeping with its mission, BCC is entering partnerships with organizations that represent a vibrant cross-section of locations and organizations that are important to the cultural

fabric of Boston.

For example, in the South End, BCC is partnering with United South End Settlements, a historic institution that has provided services for immigrant communities and communities of color for more than 130 years, dating back to the original settlement house in Boston. BCC programming will take place at its Rutland Street headquarters.

BCC will also be hosting rehearsals at Union Church in the South End, a historically Black faith community with a 200-year commitment to love and social justice. In Jamaica Plain, they will host rehearsals at Footlight Club, America’s oldest communi-

ty theater, which has produced performances every year since 1877.

Please find additional information on choir locations below:

### Footlight Club

Address: 7 Eliot Street A, Jamaica Plain 02130

Neighborhood: Jamaica Plain  
Choirs: Jamaica Plain Training Choir

### Union Church Boston

Address: 485 Columbus Avenue, Boston, MA 02118

Neighborhood: South End  
Choirs: Premier Choir, Concert Choir, & Central Training Choir

### United South End Settlements (USES) Art Center & Basement

Address: 48 Rutland Street, Boston, MA 02118

Neighborhood: South End  
Choirs: South End Training Choir

### ZUMIX

Address: 260 Sumner Street, East Boston, MA 02128

Neighborhood: East Boston  
Choirs: East Boston Training Choir

Rehearsals start September 11, 2023. Those interested in learning more can contact BCC at [info@bostonchildrenschorus.org](mailto:info@bostonchildrenschorus.org) or visit [bostonchildrenschorus.org](http://bostonchildrenschorus.org).

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# Historic 30th Jamaica Plain Open Studios to feature 30 installations

The Boston arts community eagerly anticipates the 30th year of Jamaica Plain Open Studios (JPOS), a free, annual event where the public can meet artists, experience their studios, and enjoy and purchase artwork directly. This year's event will feature a unique series of 30 temporary public art installations, in addition to more than 180 individual artists showcasing a range of media and styles around the neighborhood.

Organized by the Jamaica Plain Arts Council, this lively community-centered weekend celebrates the arts in Jamaica Plain (JP), a vibrant neighborhood where artistic connections and history abound. On Sept. 23-24, 2023, from 11am-6 pm (Saturday) and 11am-4pm (Sunday), this year's event will showcase artwork at over 60 sites across the neighborhood—inside artists' studio spaces, a new group site at Curtis Hall Community Center, a new group site for 2023. This is Nyman's first JPOS, and she says she's "excited to be there with so many great artists and makers, and to meet people that I wouldn't necessarily interact with otherwise." Because her art studio is in Somerville, JPOS is a "way to connect with a newer audience in a neighborhood where so many people appreciate the arts."

Kelli Nyman, a Cambridge-based paper artist who makes wall sculptures using origami techniques, will exhibit at Curtis Hall Community Center, a new group site for 2023. This is Nyman's first JPOS, and she says she's "excited to be there with so many great artists and makers, and to meet people that I wouldn't necessarily interact with otherwise." Because her art studio is in Somerville, JPOS is a "way to connect with a newer audience in a neighborhood where so many people appreciate the arts."

exchange, a wall of quilts, a flower-based display, and a "tiny art" show.

In 2023, JPOS will feature the work of ironworkers, jewelers, painters, ceramicists, printmakers, textile and paper artists, sculptors, clothing designers, woodcarvers, photographers, and more, highlighting the broad range of artistic media on display in a single weekend. Participating artists represent a diverse group of creatives at all stages of their careers. Several local businesses, such as Tonino restaurant, the consignment shop Diversity, and Ula Café, not only sponsor the JPOS event, but will also host artists' work in their spaces.

Gail Bos, a JP-based sculptor and painter and longtime member of the Jamaica Plain Arts Council board of directors, spearheaded the "30 for 30" project. She thinks of the project as a way to thank the JP community for supporting artists and JPOS

for three decades. The planned installations range from whimsical to reflective and will add new spontaneity to JPOS this year. "The installations will give you a smile and show how active the art community is in JP," Bos said.



CRISTINA HAJOSY PHOTOS  
Emma Ellis at Eliot School of Applied and Fine Arts.



Employees at City Feed.



Matt Hogan at JP Seafood.

## Fall Garden

*Continued from page 7*

not only grow well during the fall, but they taste better after a light frost. Be sure to cover your plants as soon as any frost is forecasted to ensure your garden survives the winter.

### 6. Apply Fall Pre-Emergents

Pre-emergent weed killers are used for controlling weeds before they appear above the ground. To promote a weed-free garden next year, consider applying fall pre-emergents to your garden once all plant debris is removed.

### 7. Apply Fall Fertilizer

Similar to fall lawn care, many gardens and trees can benefit from fertilizer before winter sets

in. Fall fertilizer is best applied in late fall before the first frost, as it will help plants endure the approaching cold temperatures.

The Lawnifi® Fall Fertilizer Box, in particular, has three separate bottles of liquid fertilizer in it that help your garden recover from the hot summer temperatures it just endured as well as prepare for the colder temperatures ahead. This product is a great fall fertilizer for lawns and gardens.

If you prefer traditional, granular fertilizers, Lawnifi Foundation is a slow-release granular fertilizer option that comes in a 25-pound bag and lasts for three months. With a 29-0-5 NPK formulation, Lawnifi Foundation is the perfect granular fertilizer for lawns and gardens. The two

percent iron included in Lawnifi Foundation's mixture helps plants carry oxygen throughout the leaves, roots and other parts of the plants to promote a green, healthy yard.

Following these simple fall garden maintenance tips will help your plants survive the cold temperatures of winter. Whether you plan on growing a cool season crop, or you simply want to protect your garden, this fall garden checklist will ensure a healthy, thriving garden next spring.

Want to learn more about achieving a great lawn? Check out more Sod University tips here and subscribe to our weekly newsletter.

*This article was written by Sod Solutions Content Strategist, Valerie Smith.*

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# Two Jamaica Plain authors named in annual Massachusetts Book Awards announcement

Massachusetts Center for the Book (MCB) is pleased to announce the Award and Honors titles in the 23rd Annual Massachusetts Book Awards program. The Awards represent achievements in fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and young people's literature

published in 2022 by Massachusetts writers and illustrators. For the first time, an award is being presented in translated literature.

By Hands Now Known: Jim Crow's Legal Executioners (W.W. Norton) by Margaret A.



Margaret A. Burnham.

Burnham of Jamaica Plain has been named Honors in Nonfiction. The book has been heralded as a paradigm-shifting investigation of little-known violence in the South during the 20th century. Sanctuary (Candlewick) by Christine McDonnell of Jamaica Plain and illustrated by Victoria Tentler-Krylov, earned Honors in Picture Books and Early Readers as an inspirational children's book about the vision and humanity of social activist Kip Tiernan's foundation of Rosie's Place in Boston.

"These books reflect the remarkable talent and depth of the literary community in Massachusetts," said Courtney Andree, Executive Director of the

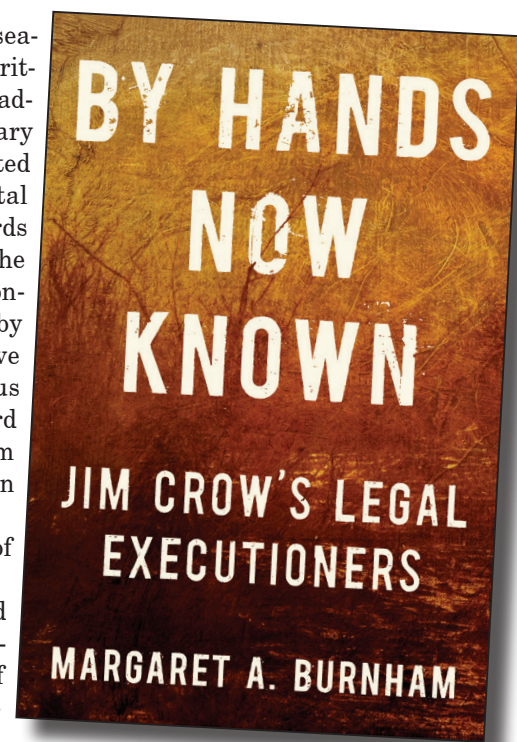
Center. "Debut and seasoned authors have written powerful stories addressing contemporary issues and complicated personal and societal history. These awards are a reminder that the culture of the Commonwealth is enriched by the authors who live and work among us and we look forward to celebrating them at the State House in October."

The complete list of awards is:

The Fiction Award winner is The Miraculous True History of Nomi Ali (Deep Vellum) by Uzma Aslam Khan of Belchertown. This story of siblings is set in the Andaman Islands during World War II as the British and Japanese empires collide.

Fiction Honors are awarded to Horse (Viking) by Geraldine Brooks of Martha's Vineyard and Our Missing Hearts (Penguin Press) by Celeste Ng of Cambridge.

The Nonfiction Award is How to Raise an Antiracist (One World) by Ibram X. Kendi of Boston. Personal and scholarly advice is provided in this book



for parents, teachers, and caregivers with the goal of raising antiracist thinkers.

Nonfiction Honors was also awarded to The Third Person (Drawn & Quarterly) by Emma Grove of Springfield.

The Poetry Award winner is Hyperphantasia (Rescue Press) by Sara Deniz Akant of Cambridge. This imaginative collection features dreams, open tabs

*Continued on page 13*

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# Book Awards

*Continued from page 12*

and an AI BFF that trolls the reader.

Honors Poetry collections are Headstone (Passager Books) by Mark Elber of Fall River and Sleeping in the Dead Girl's Room (Lily Poetry Review) by Cynthia Bargar of Provincetown.

The Middle Grade/Young Adult Literature Award winner is A Scatter of Light (Dutton Books for Young Readers) by Malinda Lo of Arlington. A coming-of-age story about art and self-revelation, it is set against the first Supreme Court decisions legalizing gay marriage.

Honors titles in Middle Grade/Young Adult Literature are Gold Mountain (Carolrhoda Lab) by Betty G. Yee of Medford and Hidden Powers (Atheneum Books for Young Readers) by Jeannine Atkins of Whately.

The Award winner in the Picture Book/Early Reader category is I'll Go and Come Back (Candlewick) by Rajani LaRocca of Concord, illustrated by Sara Palacios, a tender story about the deep love and bonds between a young girl in America and her grandmother in India.

Honors in Picture Books and Early Readers also includes Sunday Pancakes (Dial Books for Young Readers) by Maya Tatsu-kawa of Arlington.

The Award winner in the new category of Translated Literature is An Audible Blue (White Pine Press) by Klaus Merz, translated

by Marc Vincenz of Cheshire. Vincenz selected poems from the award-winning poet's lifetime of work.

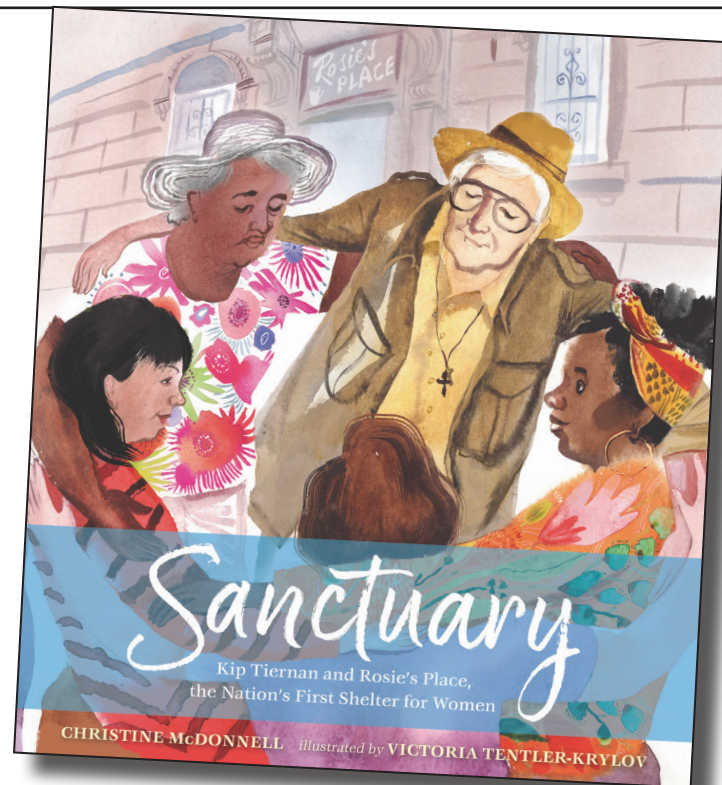
MCB is grateful to the following judges in the 23rd Annual Awards Program: Karen Ball (Wilbraham Public Library); Jennifer Bruneau (Northborough Free Library); Devon Evans (Brewster Ladies' Library); Brett French (CWMARS Worcester); Kelly Gates (Somerville Public Library); Jennifer Jones (Mattapoisett Free Public Library); Dory Klein (Boston Public Library); Melissa MacLeod (Carver Public Library); Tegan Mannino (Clapp Memorial Library, Belchertown); Alene Moroni (Forbes Library, Northampton); Sara Rottger (Wilmington Memorial Library); Emily Souza (Rockport Public Library); Melanie Terrill (West Bridgewater Public Library); Jennifer Usovich (Peabody Institute Library, Peabody); Lexi Wright (High Five Books, Florence); and staff/consultants of Massachusetts Center for the Book..

The Massachusetts Center for the Book, chartered as the Commonwealth Affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, is a public-private partnership charged with developing, supporting and promoting cultural programming that advances the cause of books and reading and enhances the outreach potential of Massachusetts



Christine McDonnell.

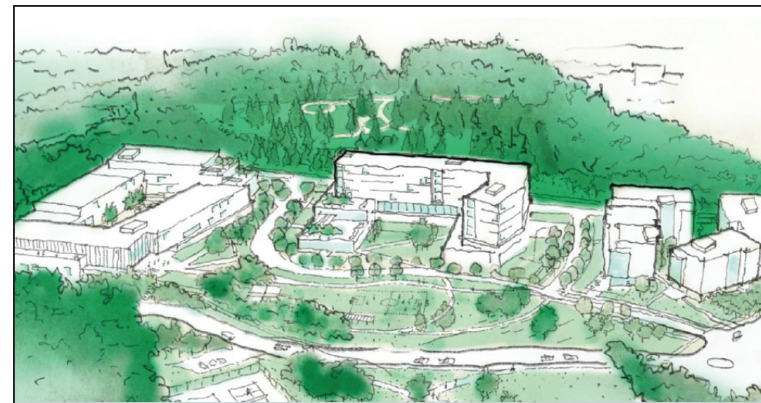
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Please join the Coalition of community-based organizations led by Boston Medical Center for an open house where the Coalition will share information and gain more community feedback on their proposal and redevelopment vision for the Shattuck Hospital Campus, now the Morton Street Campus.

In addition to the in-person Open House, the Coalition will host a series of (virtual) topic-specific community meetings this fall; topics include Clinical and Supportive Housing Services, Health and Safety, Open Space, and more. To learn more, visit [www.mortonstreetredevelopment.org](http://www.mortonstreetredevelopment.org)



## Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll



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## 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](mailto:letters@JamaicaPlainGazette.com). Please include address and telephone number for verification purposes.

Anonymous letters will not be published.

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## LOCAL STUDENT EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

### CURRY COLLEGE SPRING 2023 DEAN'S LIST

Curry College congratulates roughly 900 students who were named to the Spring 2023 Dean's List. Local students are:

Elizabeth Bench 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-

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# District 6

*Continued from page 1*



COURTESY PHOTO  
**City Councilor Kendra Lara.**

Lara finds herself in what she described in an interview with the Gazette as a tough race.

This race is toughened by controversy stemming from an accident back in June when Lara reportedly crashed a vehicle into a house on Centre Street with a suspended license and her young son in the car.

Initially, reports indicated that Lara was driving an uninsured car and was estimated to be traveling at 53 MPH in a 25 MPH zone. However, Lara refutes both these claims, indicating the car she was driving was a friend's and was insured and hoped the allegation regarding her speed would be corrected in court proceedings.

In speaking about the incident, Lara said, "I don't believe that I am above the law, and I know that grace is a lot to ask for right now, and like I said before, the seriousness of the matter is not lost on me."

"I hope that my worst moment doesn't overshadow two years of reliable, progressive voting record and policies that have centered on working people," she added.

While Lara might face a tough battle to remain in her seat, she says that she and her team are hard at work knocking on doors to make it past the preliminary election and that people are responding well.

In addition to speaking about the controversy that has been over her for most of the summer, Lara also talked about some things she would like to focus on if she were re-elected.

These priorities included continuing to work to protect renters from displacement, potentially drafting a renter's Bill of Rights in Boston, and targeting poverty and combating it by creating a basic income pilot for the city.

While Lara indicated that all these different priorities are important in their own ways, she believes the climate crisis is the "issue of our generation."

"If there's not a planet left for us, we're not going to be able to fight for all of those other policies, and marginalized communities are going to be most directly impacted by climate change," said Lara.

As for what Lara believes sets her apart from the two other

candidates? It comes down to experience.

"When I say experience, I don't just mean my last two years on the Council. I mean my personal experience, my professional experience fighting for policy changes all across the city," said Lara.

"Whether it be at the Boston Public Health Commission, whether it be doing violence prevention intervention work, as a youth worker, as a non-profit executive, I have been organizing in this district for longer than either of my opponents have even lived here," she added.

Another candidate looking to earn your vote is Weber, a workers' rights attorney and youth soccer coach who has been a resident of Jamaica Plain for 15 years.

As to why Weber is running for the position, he said, "I've been a workers' rights attorney for 18 years, and I represent large groups of people who don't have a voice, and I wanted to put my skills to work for people in District 6 and fight for my friends and neighbors here."

He also explained that a specific event led to him running: the closure of the Mission Hill School, where both his kids went.

"Rather than help us deal with issues in the school, BPS (Boston Public Schools) made it impossible for us to fix the problems in the school for a whole year and then closed the school," said Weber.

He went on to mention how that event made him want to use the skills he has sharpened in his work representing low-wage workers across the country and make a difference.

In terms of specific issues, Weber spoke about wanting everyone in BPS who needs special services to be able to get them and wanting to allow families to access information through the city and to be able to learn how to challenge IEP decisions and get



COURTESY PHOTO  
**Ben Weber.**

the resources they need.

He also stated that he would support the right to counsel for those being evicted or with other housing-related problems. Other priorities Weber is running on that are mentioned on his website include protecting workers' rights, expanding youth sports, park facilities, and more.

Specifically, Weber spoke to the point that in his time as a youth soccer coach, he had seen how much individuals have had to fill gaps at athletic facilities by fixing spaces or paying for lights at fields and wants the city to give its kids the same resources in this area as kids in the suburbs have.

Moreover, Weber indicated that the number one thing for him was having a City Council that is working for its constit-



COURTESY PHOTO  
**William King.**

uents.

"Regardless of what the issue was, I think the City Council can do a lot better job working for people and making people feel like they have a representative on the council who's fighting for them effectively," said Weber.

As for what Weber believes sets him apart from his political competitors, he pointed to his 18 years of legal experience working to help people in complex situations and getting them results, along with the fact that he has raised two kids in the city and has dealt with things other residents have like BPS and their response to the Mission Hill School.

He also mentioned his background in journalism, covering sports and city issues at the New York Post. Weber says if

elected, he would use as many ways to engage with constituents as he could, like publishing a newsletter in the paper to let residents know what the critical issues are and what the council is dealing with.

Weber indicated he felt that he has enough support to make it to the Municipal Election in November, and it's just a matter of getting the voter turnout come next week.

"I want to help my friends and neighbors and community members live in a place that measures up to all of its potential," said Weber.

King, who was born and raised in Boston and currently resides in West Roxbury, is tossing his hat in the ring for the District 6 race after running at-large in 2017 and 2019.

King, who works as an IT Director for a local conservation non-profit, explained that he is running because he did not feel that the district was being "adequately represented."

"Talking to people on the doors and just the people in the community in both JP and West Roxbury, you know, they felt like their Councilor wasn't active and present in the district and con-

*Continued on page 16*



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## District 6

*Continued from page 15*

stituent services were lacking,” said King.

In speaking about some of his priorities, King mentioned the need to stabilize rent in the city. “We’re pricing out a lot of hardworking families and individuals who want to stay, but at the same time, those who want to come can’t afford to come to the city,” he said.

King also mentioned the need to create more pathways to homeownership and spoke about how to do that by expanding on existing programs the city has and increasing eligibility.

While his website lays out several priorities, like public safety, climate justice, and transportation, King explained that education was important considering the number of families in the district who have youth in or are preparing to go to BPS.

“I’d say second to affordability when it comes to people leaving the city; it’s because of our education system that families decide to leave the city,” said King.

“We need to make sure that we’re investing in our youth’s future, better preparing kids for college. So many kids, when they

graduate BPS, they have to go into remedial math and english classes when they enter college,” he added.

King also thought that the city needed to expand its vo-tech, trade, and agricultural programs in high school to give kids more options coming out of school.

In terms of what he thought sets him apart from his opponents, King mentioned quite a few things, such as the fact that he has been in the race since December and has been putting in the work.

He also spoke about how he is from the city and a BPS graduate. “I’ve seen the history of this city. I’ve seen where we have been, what we’ve come from, and where we want to go,” said King.

Moreover, King talked about bringing his lived experience with him on the job and how he looks at issues on a case-by-case basis, is willing to work with everyone regardless of personal beliefs or ideology, and will work for constituents while being active in the community.

As election day draws near, King said he is feeling very confident that he will make it to the November election and urged residents to vote and make their voices heard.

“We like the response that

we’re getting from voters across the district — I’m overwhelmed with support. We have people who are volunteering on a regular basis and out there helping,” said King.

“We’re seeing the support, we’re feeling confident — I would just ask everybody to get out and vote and let their voices be heard,” he added.

Although it is coming down to crunch time regarding the preliminary election, candidates are still finding time to discuss significant issues in the district with their constituents.

For example, on Wednesday, all three candidates joined a forum hosted by the Coalition for Region-wide Services beyond Franklin Park (CORES) to give their thoughts on a hot topic: the redevelopment of the Lemuel Shattuck Hospital Campus.

As part of this meeting, elected officials and candidates running for these positions were given time to answer three questions concerning a redevelopment proposal for the site from the Boston Medical Center and its partners.

A website dedicated to the redevelopment — <https://www.mortonstreetredevelopment.org> — states that the proposal 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.”

Specifically, according to a presentation from an August 15 community meeting, the redevelopment proposes 446 total beds and 405 units of supportive housing while increasing the amount of green space and providing clinical and emergency housing services.

The three aforementioned questions posed to candidates and elected officials were: What is your understanding of the BMC’s proposal, and do you support the current proposal? How would you address your constituent’s concerns regarding safety and management of the campus as well as in the surrounding park and communities? Would you be open to working with

CORES to halt the proposal and restart a new, transparent CAB process that would include all impacted neighborhoods?

The first District 6 Candidate to provide comments and answers to these questions was King, who opposed the current plans.

“I believe this plan, in its current form, would do little to actually solve the problem we are seeing on Mass and Cass and would instead simply relocate it to Franklin Park, and in my opinion, that’s just unacceptable,” said King.

Though King acknowledged the need for increasing access to recovery services and finding more affordable housing options for those struggling with substance use issues, he felt the plan places an “unfair burden” on the surrounding communities.

Moreover, he spoke about how the substance use issue is a statewide problem and that a statewide solution is needed. Further, he discussed the need for enforcement concerning illegal activity and mentioned that he is open to working with CORES.

Weber was next to address the Shattuck and spoke about how this directly impacts him as his kids play sports at Franklin Park and how he found the proposal to be a bit confusing.

In terms of supporting or opposing the proposal, Weber said, “I do support housing first; I think we need to help the people both in the South End having to deal with this and the people on Mass and Cass who need treatment, and I do support a plan that would create supportive housing for those people.”

However, he added, “I would need to hear more from DCAMM (Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance) to make sure they’re doing everything they could to mitigate the effects on the neighborhood — I haven’t heard that yet. I also haven’t heard about the benefits to this large group of people to be housed in the same place, so I’d want to learn more about that.”

Weber also thought the com-

munity needed more assurances that the area would not turn into the next Mass and Cass. He wants to see a regional solution and said he would be willing to work with CORES to ensure there is a regional solution and the community is protected.

Finally, Lara joined the discussion and talked about how polarizing the subject has been, citing “mixed reviews” from those in support, those in opposition, and those in between.

In her comments, Lara did not seem to voice her support or opposition to the proposal and spoke about wanting to hear from her constituents.

“The state is in the process, and so am I in the process of listening to people’s concerns and reactions to this particular proposal and fighting to make changes and be responsive to the proposal based on that feedback to hopefully end up with something that works for all of us,” said Lara.

Lara also talked about how having conversations with elected officials and those at the state level about the proposal was essential and supported slowing down the process. She also mentioned that as the Chair of the Parks Committee on the City Council, a primary focus for her when reviewing this proposal is the park.

“Our parks are really a gem to everybody in our community, and we want to make sure that they’re up to standards for our families and individuals so that people feel safe and they can walk and explore without fear,” said Lara.

Overall, it is clear that as the preliminary election approaches, all three candidates are doing their best to stay alive and move on to November’s election.

To learn more about each candidate, you can visit the links below.

Lara: <https://linktr.ee/llrken-dralara>

Weber: <https://www.weberforboston.com/>

King: <https://www.kingforboston.com/>

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# Guide to Jamaica Plain

SPECIAL SECTION OF THE JAMAICA PLAIN GAZETTE

SEPTEMBER 8, 2023

4 PAGES

## A brief history of JP

Once referred to as “the Eden of America,” Jamaica Plain is a unique section of the City of Boston. It was part of the Town of Roxbury until 1848. It was then part of West Roxbury, until it finally became Jamaica Plain.

Legend has it that the name Jamaica Plain came from the fondness of the residents for Jamaica rum and that they pre-

ferred it “plain.” More likely, the neighborhood got its name from Kutchamaiken, chief of an Indian tribe at Jamaica Pond more than two centuries ago.

Jamaica Pond, the only extensive natural body of fresh water in Boston, covers an area of nearly 70 acres and is as deep as 70 feet. Until the introduction of Cochituate reservoir water

into Boston in 1848, the pond supplied the city with water by an underground aqueduct.

During the 19th century, the population increased rapidly. As breweries and factories located here, the fine estates, lush gardens and farms of the original well-to-do residents gave way to more modest and affordable houses. The growth and

crowding of the city led to the expansion of the livable Boston neighborhood of Jamaica Plain.

For more information and publications about Jamaica

Plain history, as well as membership information, see the Jamaica Plain Historical Society website at [jphs.org](http://jphs.org).

*Gazette Staff*

## What Makes Jamaica Plain Unique

JP boasts a diverse population of about 40,000. JP has a large gay and lesbian population and is home to several prominent LGBT rights activists.

Once called “The Eden of America” by a visitor, according to an 1800s chronicle, Jamaica Plain is nearly surrounded on the west, south and east sides by green space: Arnold Arboretum, Forest Hills Cemetery, Franklin Park, Jamaica Pond Park and Olmsted Park.

While boasting a wide array of businesses, JP is especially known across the city for its variety of prominent restaurants. Bella Luna on Amory Street, El Oriental de Cuba in Hyde Square, Star Fish Market in Eggleston Square and Ten Tables in central JP are just a few of the longtime landmark dining spots.

JP has a rich arts and cultural scene that includes such major annual festivals as Wake Up the Earth, the Jamaica Plain Music Festival and the Jamaica Pond Lantern Parade.

JP has housing stock as diverse as the population, with three-deckers, ranch houses, Victorians, colonials, Capes, condos and more.

JP has a rich history and several historic landmarks, with many from Colonial times clustered around the Civil War Soldier’s Monument where South and Centre streets intersect.

JP is home to Boston’s Latin Quarter, centered in Hyde/Jackson Squares.

JP is the base for a phenomenal number of nonprofit organizations—more than 250.

JP has been the subject of several books, including: “A Home in the Heart of a City” by JP resident Kathleen Hirsch; “Local Attachments” by Alexander von Hoffman; and “Images of America: Jamaica Plain” and “Jamaica Plain: Then & Now” by Anthony Mitchell Sammarco. It also recently served as the setting for the hard-boiled crime novel “Ja-



maica Plain” by Colin Campbell.

The phone numbers of many longtime JP businesses and residents—including the Gazette—begin with “522” or “524.” The “52” comes from the letters “JA” on the telephone dial, which is short for “Jamaica.” In the early days of telephones, cities and neighborhoods had phone numbers that began with an abbreviation of the place name. Decades ago, people calling here would tell an operator, for example: “Jamaica 4-2626.”

*Gazette Staff*

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# Take advantage of the green space in Jamaica Plain

Though Jamaica Plain is part of the city of Boston, the parks, urban wilds, playgrounds and community gardens, many supported by the city and state, allow an escape from an overdose of urban life. JP is bordered on three sides by green space, including several jewels of the Emerald Necklace, designed by Frederick Law Olmsted. With hundreds of acres of parks, squares and gardens, JP has

plenty of places to spend the day. Here are some favorites:

**Arnold Arboretum** at 225 Arborway: This beautifully landscaped, 265-acre botanical garden contains over 14,000 woody plants, flowers and trees. The Arboretum is now a national historic landmark administered by Harvard University and the Boston Parks Department. It is free and open to the public. The Arboretum offers classes, exhibits, walks

and other activities. Info: 617-524-1718 or [arboretum.harvard.edu](http://arboretum.harvard.edu).

**Boston Nature Center**, owned and managed by the Massachusetts Audubon Society, is at 500 Walk Hill St., on the JP/Mattapan/Roslindale border. The 67 acres of the former Boston State Hospital Property have been converted into a wildlife sanctuary and outdoor classroom. The site features 30 acres of freshwater wetlands, the largest community gardens in Boston, and such wildlife as red-tailed hawks, deer, pheasants and wild turkeys. Low-cost environmental and science programs are offered year-round for adults, children and families. More than two miles of trails and boardwalks. Info: 617-983-8500 or [massaudubon.org](http://massaudubon.org).

**Jamaica Pond Park** lies between Perkins Street, Park Drive and Prince Street along the Jamaica way. This natural “kettle hole” pond once hosted

a reservoir and commercial ice-cutting, and its banks held the country estates of prominent Bostonians. Today this is one of Boston’s most popular parks for strolling, running, biking and to see and be seen. Rowboats and sailboats are available to rent at the boat-house in season.

**Forest Hills Cemetery** at 95 Forest Hills Ave. is considered to be one of the most beautiful spots in Boston, with sculpture by famous artists. It was designed after a European burial park, with an artificial lake. Interesting and famous people laid to rest there include Boston Celtics star Reggie Lewis, poet E.E. Cummings, abolitionists and some Massachusetts governors. Tours are sponsored by the Forest Hills Educational Trust. Info: 617-524-0128 or [foresthillscemetery.com](http://foresthillscemetery.com).

**Franklin Park and Zoo**. The park extends south from Seaver and Walnut Streets to Forest Hills and is the largest

gem in the Emerald Necklace. The 527-acre park offers hiking, picnicking and an 18-hole public golf course. Info: Franklin Park Zoo, 617-541-5466 or [zoonewengland.org](http://zoonewengland.org); Franklin Park Coalition, 617-442-4141 or [franklinparkcoalition.org](http://franklinparkcoalition.org).

**Olmsted Park** extends along the Jamaica way between Huntington Avenue and Perkins Street. It includes Leverett Pond and Daisy Field. It is also a part of the Emerald Necklace.

**Southwest Corridor Park** is a linear park from downtown Boston to Forest Hills running alongside the MBTA’s Orange Line. Twenty-seven out of the 52 acres that make up this park are found in Jamaica Plain. There are basketball courts, bike paths, tennis courts and tot lots. The temporary home of Kelly ice skating rink is near Stony Brook T Station.

*Gazette Staff*



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## NEWS BRIEFS

### BIKES NOT BOMBS

Join the Bikes Not Bombs Community on a bike ride for social change on Sunday, September 10. With 10, 35, 50, 63 and 105 mile routes, there’s a ride for everyone. Riders depart from Jamaica Plain in Boston.

The celebration continues with a post-ride festival featuring live music and a delicious catered lunch.

Visit [bikesnotbombs.org](http://bikesnotbombs.org) to register individually or as a team - or find volunteer opportunities at the event. Your support helps

Bikes Not Bombs use the bicycle as a vehicle for social change in Boston and throughout the Global South. Through its youth programming young people learn how to build and maintain bicycles they will keep as their own, provide meaningful jobs, ship thousands of bicycles to communities in the Global South, and reclaim thousands of donated bikes in the Greater Boston area.

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# Wu announces 2023 Mayor's Garden Contest winners

Mayor Michelle Wu recently announced the winners of the 27th annual Mayor's Garden Contest with a grand prize provided by JetBlue, prize packages donated by Mahoney's Garden Centers, and additional support from in-kind sponsor Polar Beverages.

The Mayor's Garden Contest recognizes gardeners who have landscaped, planted flowers, trees, shrubs, and, in the process, helped beautify Boston's neighborhoods.

First place winners received the coveted "Golden Trowel" award from Mayor Wu in a ceremony held August 21 in the Boston Public Garden while second and third place winners were awarded certificates.

Gardeners who have won three or more times in the last ten years were automatically entered into the Hall of Fame. These distinguished Hall-of-Famers are no longer eligible to enter as contestants but are invited to return as judges.

First place winners were also entered into a drawing for a Jet-Blue Grand Prize consisting of roundtrip flights for two to any nonstop destination from Boston. In addition, Mahoney's Garden Centers provided gardener's gift certificates to the top three winners in each category, as well as gift certificates for the 2023 Hall of Fame winners and judges.

Local winners include:

### Small Yard Garden

1. Julia Fairclough - Roslindale

2. Blair Campbell - Dorchester
3. John Carroll - Jamaica Plain

### Medium Yard Garden

1. Sandra Jordan and Robert Monahan - Jamaica Plain
2. Jessica von Ammon - Roxbury
3. Matthew Delisle - Charlestown

### Large Yard Garden

1. Rick Malkasian - Fenway-Kenmore
2. Kevin McKenna - Roslindale
3. Joe Fallon & Whit Hendon - Dorchester

### Storefront, Organization, or Main Street District Garden

1. Gardening Enthusiasts at Primus - Beacon Hill
2. Hancock Garden Club (under the leadership of Anne Sheetz and Gillian Gattie) - Beacon Hill
3. Comfort Kitchen (Chitz Regmi) - Dorchester

### Porch Balcony or Container Garden Category

1. Salil Sharma - South End
2. Alex & Stephanie Tsalagas - South End
3. Kolea Zimmerman - Charlestown

### Community Garden

1. Joe and Dolores Fazio - Fenway-Kenmore Victory Gardens
2. Kristen L. Corman - Fenway-Kenmore Victory Gardens
3. Laura Poulin & Brian Harty - Fenway-Kenmore Victory Gardens



Medium Yard Garden: Sandra Jordan and Robert Monahan - Jamaica Plain.



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# City of Boston announces gender equity updates to marriage licenses

Building on Mayor Wu's vision of an inclusive City that serves all residents, the City of Boston today announced that it has updated its marriage licenses by no longer requiring sex or gender identification on the licenses. This change is the first the City has made based on new

gender-aware guidelines for City resources and the collection of gender-identity data throughout government processes. These guidelines will support City staff who design and operate services, programs, and policies in the City of Boston and are intended to provide more dignified experi-

ences for all residents, including those whose gender and sexual identities have historically not been recognized or supported by government agencies. This effort was led by the Department of Innovation and Technology (DoIT), the Mayor's Office of LGBTQ+ Advancement, and the City's

Registry Department. Boston residents who wish to have an updated marriage license issued without sex or gender identification can contact the City Registry for a new copy.

"Our fundamental charge in public service is ensuring that our services and opportunities

reach everyone, and that starts with affirming and supporting constituents of all identities," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "Boston must continue to work to dismantle the historic inequities and injustices that persist. This

*Continued on page 21*

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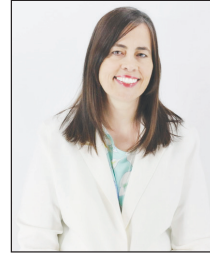
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# Gender

*Continued from page 20*

update to Boston marriage licenses is a huge step in building a City that is truly inclusive, and I'm excited to see how these critical changes for accessibility at City Hall serve Bostonians."

Data can be a powerful tool to understand disparities and to drive equitable outcomes. However, embedding the collection of data into government programs can often have negative consequences for the people those services and programs were intended to help in the first place. The consequences can be magnified when data collection is mandatory or tied to other personally identifying information. As these are complex issues that involve trade-offs, the City expects these standards and guidelines to evolve.

Collecting the right amount of data in the right way will ensure that the City delivers services equitably and effectively to people of all gender identities while protecting privacy and safety to the best of its ability. Building on the Gender Inclusion ordinance filed by then-Councilor Wu and Councilor Liz Breadon and the amendment to the ordinance filed by Councilor Gabriela Coletta and feedback received regarding various constituent experiences, the City has created this new set of standards and guidelines that will support City workers in determining when and how they should collect gender identity information. To achieve this purpose, these guidelines and standards have four goals:

1. Define key terms City staff should understand related to gender identity
2. Help City departments determine when it is necessary and appropriate to ask constituents

about their gender identity

3. Provide standard language that City departments should use when they have determined they need to ask constituents about their gender identity

4. Align the standards in the guidelines with state, federal, or other data systems that have limitations in how they record this data

"We're committed to ensuring that all City employees and departments get the proper support to embed gender inclusive language and practices into the way they engage with residents and ask for personal information," said Julia Gutierrez, Chief Digital Officer. "Just as the language for talking about gender is dynamic and changes over time, we expect to regularly review and continuously improve these standards and guidelines in response to the feedback we receive."

The LGBTQ+ community across the country continues to

face marginalization, discrimination, and violence - particularly Black and Brown trans and gender non-conforming community members. A person's gender and sexual identity can be tremendously important to their overall identity. These guidelines and standards seek to balance the right to be affirmed against risks and constraints. Government agencies create harm by not allowing people to affirm their identities, especially if information is collected that misrepresents who they are. At the same time, collecting information increases risks for vulnerable groups and creates barriers to participation.

"Good government is responsive to an evolving world where everyone has access to city services in a way that feels equitable, safe and inclusive" said Mariangely Solis Cervera, Chief of Equity and Inclusion. "Massachusetts was the first state to

legally recognize marriage equality, but we know that the work of creating a more just world is ongoing. I am proud to be part of the City of Boston's trajectory as a continued leader in equity, inclusion, and justice."

"The City is proud to implement these new important standards," said Paul Chong, City Registrar. "We believe that all constituents should have equitable access to City services."

This announcement builds on Mayor Wu's work to ensure that Boston is an inclusive and equitable city for residents of all gender identities. In 2020, the Boston City Council unanimously passed an ordinance authored by then-City Councilor Wu and Councilor Liz Breadon to ensure gender inclusivity on all City-issued forms, documents, and certificates. In March 2022, Mayor Wu announced the creation of the Office of LGBTQ+ Advancement.

## LEGAL NOTICES

### LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT CITATION ON PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT

TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304 Suffolk Probate And Family Court 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 Docket No. SU23P1811GD In the matter of: Brian Manson Of: Jamaica Plain, MA RESPONDENT Alleged Incapacitated Person 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 alleging that Brian Manson is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Andrew Poirier of Asheville, NC (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond. The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition

is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority. You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 09/19/2023. 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: August 22, 2023 Vincent Procopio, Register of Probate

09/08/23 JP

### 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. SU23P1840EA Estate of: Marion B. Zahlawy Date of Death: 07/03/2023 To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by George R. Jabour of Dedham, 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: George R. Jabour of Dedham, MA and Robert M. Laham of Clinton, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration. **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 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 28, 2023 Vincent Procopio,

Register of Probate 9/08/23 JP

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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 10/03/2023. 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 (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 23, 2023 Vincent Procopio Register of Probate 09/08/23 JP

### 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. SU23P1804EA Estate of: William L. Huppeler Date of Death: 11/19/2022 To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Ronalee Brosterman of Claremont, CA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Ronalee Brosterman of Claremont, CA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration. **IMPORTANT NOTICE** You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the

Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/04/2023. 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 23, 2023 Vincent Procopio, Register of Probate 09/08/23 JP

## EDITORIAL

### Guns are now the leading killer of America's children

It used to be that accidents, primarily car accidents, were the leading cause of death of America's children between the ages of 1 and 18.

But last year for the first time, guns were the #1 cause of death of American children. A total of 3597 children died from guns (including suicides), representing 19% of all deaths in that age group, with accidents coming in at 18%. (Cancer is third at 8% and drug overdoses are fourth at 7%.)

To put that number in perspective, 2603 people perished in the attack on the World Trade Center on 9/11 -- which means that guns now kill far more American children, each and every year, than were killed by the terrorists on that terrible day.

In addition, another 15,000 children annually are wounded by gunfire, often leaving them with lifelong, debilitating physical injuries as well as psychological trauma.

The 2022 figures represent a dramatic increase of 50% since 2019 and a doubling since 2013. The child firearm mortality rate in 2013 was 1.8 deaths per 100,000, but now is close to 4.0 deaths per 100,000.

The United States has by far the highest rate of children who die from firearms among wealthy nations -- and it's not even close. Deaths by firearms do not rank in the top four for causes of death for children, let alone the number one cause, anywhere else in the developed world.

Moreover, there is no place in America that is safe for our children from gun violence. Even the states with the most gun safety laws, which have lower rates of child firearm deaths than states with few gun safety laws, have rates much higher than what other countries similar to ours experience.

Given that guns and mass shootings continue to proliferate throughout our country -- and Republicans at all levels of government refuse to enact even common-sense gun safety measures -- the number of deaths by firearms for our nation's children only will continue to rise.

### Sports betting on phones: 21st century high tech crack

A general rule of thumb is that when a slew of celebrity pitchmen start endorsing anything that has to do with money, it's a good bet (no pun intended in the context of this editorial) that the public is being conned.

We saw that with the recent cryptocurrency promotions by famous people such as Matt Damon, Tom Brady, and Giselle Bundschen, who now are being sued by those who lost large sums when the cryptocurrency exchange FTX collapsed. (Brady himself reportedly lost \$30 million.)

We are seeing the same dynamic with the new sports betting apps, with stars from Hollywood and the sports world telling us how much "fun" we can have by placing a bet.

However, these sports betting apps are not your grandparents' bookies -- they are far worse. Not only can someone place a bet anywhere and at any time with a few taps on their phone, but they also can bet in real time on just about everything in a particular game with options to bet in-game on every quarter, player, and event.

These gambling companies are publicly-traded corporations and often are partnered with professional sports, thereby making sports betting "acceptable."

However, there are more than six million Americans with sports-gambling addiction problems, and that number only will climb given the spread of sports gaming on cell phones. The individual stories of those who have lost thousands of dollars over their phones on sports gambling are growing exponentially day-by-day -- and the only ones getting rich are the shareholders of these companies and the billionaires who own professional sports teams.



## LETTERS

### You owe your readers an apology

To the Editor,

As a faithful "Gazette" reader, I was stunned into disbelief by your editorial, "Trump and Biden: Worst candidates ever?"

Putting Trump and Biden into equal boxes because both are old, insults your readers who treasure democracy and abhor Trump's vilification of our Black, Latino and Asian-American community members.

The right to choose our leaders in free elections, and to get together without fear of violence or threats and try again if our preferred candidate doesn't win, is fundamental to democracy, as are a free press and freedoms of speech and assembly. It's this feature of the USA that, despite our country's profound flaws, beckons to the world. The Chinese activists who in 1989 erected a "Goddess of Democracy" statue in Tiananmen Square, were massacred for demanding these rights. Russian protesters who in 2011-2013, 2021 and 2022 demanded these rights from Putin's regime, were imprisoned for years and decades.

Donald Trump tried to violently take these rights away from us. He incited a deadly mob to overthrow our system of peaceful transition of power in January 2021. He is currently indicted for 17 felonies around his attempts to invalidate the 2020 election

results. If Donald Trump is elected in 2024, his first agenda item is to abolish our democracy: our freedom of the press, freedom to peaceably assemble to express our demands, and peaceful transition of power. The clear awareness of his autocratic intentions

is why millions of voters in red states voted against him in 2020 and against his favored candidates in the 2022 midterms.

On policies, the two presumed

*Continued on page 23*

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

## Jamaica Plain GAZETTE

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## OP-ED

# Barker, Buffett, Richardson and extraordinary lives

BY DR. GLENN MOLLETTE

Jimmy Buffett, Bob Barker and Bill Richardson all died recently. They all had one thing in common. They lived extraordinary lives.

Buffett had become a billionaire. He had amassed his fortune by capitalizing on his song, "Margitaville." His hotels, restaurants, resorts and even retirement communities were hugely successful. In his later years, he continued to build new hotels and resorts that were beautiful and hugely successful.

Sadly, Buffett passed from Merkel cell skin cancer. He had been receiving treatment for over four years at was still doing concerts even as late as early July in Rhode Island. There was nothing stopping Buffett, except the skin cancer that took his life even when he had so much he still wanted to do. Yet, few people will ever live the life of Jimmy Buffett

Bill Richardson had spent his last few years helping people internationally. He was very

successful in politics serving as a U.S. Congressman, Governor of New Mexico and as an Ambassador to the United Nations. He may best be remembered for his diplomatic work in negotiating the releases of journalist Danny Fenster from a Myanmar prison in 2021 and most recently Britney Griner from a Russian prison, among others. Richardson lived an amazing life.

Bob Barker gets the longevity prize. It's hard to top 99, unless you make it to 100. Barker lived a full life of entertaining us on television. For fifty years he came into our homes as the host and producer of *The Price is Right* and earlier as the host of *Truth and Consequences*. Many of us show him in the hit comedy *Happy Gilmore*. Many Americans felt like Barker was a member of their families since he was in their homes via television for so many years.

Barker, Buffett, and Richardson were all bigger than life personalities who lived extraordinary lives filled with success and prosperity.

Keep in mind the measure of our lives is not meant to be measured beside the lives of national or global personalities or anyone else. The fulfillment and success of your life may be in taking care of an aged parent, a troubled or disabled child, or seeing your spouse or life partner through life's difficult stages. Or, the great success of your life may be remembered in your kindness to your neighbors and to others you meet along the way. Quite possibly, life's most extraordinary people may not be fully recognized until we are beyond this life.

The best we can do is the best we can do. We should trust God and live our lives in as meaningful a way as possible.

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

## Letter

Continued from page 22

2024 candidates differ profoundly. Biden supports legal abortion, while Trump ensured an end to it with his Supreme Court appointments. Biden passed major climate legislation, the Inflation Reduction Act, while Trump denies the climate crisis that suffocates our cities with wildfire smoke and devastates our farmers with crazy weather. Biden is cutting monopolistic powers (1) of corporations that treat us like ciphers to be maximally milked of our money, including tech, airlines and phone corporations; Trump passed gigantic tax cuts for those same corporations, that blew up our deficit (2, 3). Nearly 1,000 children taken from their parents at the border by the Trump administration have not

yet found their parents despite the efforts of the Biden administration (4).

Corrupt enrichment of multiple Trump family members during and after his presidency was contrasted with Hunter Biden's trading on his father's name, by Time magazine (5). In fact, Hunter Biden's reprehensible apparent use of his father's position to support his lavish lifestyle, is appropriately being addressed by a court of law.

Trump's political career is based in racism (6). He announced his candidacy by calling Mexican immigrants rapists. Biden won with a multiracial coalition with 92% of the Black vote.

I happen to strongly disagree with many of President Biden's policies. But equating him with wannabe dictator Trump is foolish and dangerous. You owe your readers an apology.

(1) <https://www.cnn.com/2021/07/09/biden-to-sign-executive-order-aimed-at-cracking-down-on-big-tech-business-practices.html>

(2) <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/tcja-2-years-later-corporations-not-workers-big-winners/>

(3) <https://www.forbes.com/sites/christianweller/2020/01/29/trumps-wasteful-tax-cuts-lead-to-continued-trillion-dollar-deficits-in-expanding-economy/?sh=475a94e766c4>

(4) <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/close-1000-migrant-children-separated-by-trump-yet-be-reunited-with-parents-2023-02-02/>

(5) <https://time.com/6279053/hunter-biden-trump-children-scandals/>

(6) <https://www.vox.com/2016/7/25/12270880/donald-trump-racist-racism-history>

Julia Koehler

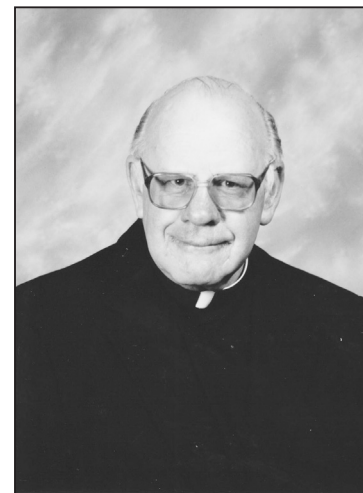
# Funeral Mass held for Msgr. Charles J. Bourque

In the church where Msgr. Charles J. Bourque presided as pastor for 28 years, a funeral Mass was held for the retired pastor on Thursday, August 31, at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Cardinal Sean O'Malley presided in the presence of a large gathering of priests and parishioners. Declining in health, Msgr. Bourque died on August 23. He was 86.

He was born on September 14, 1936, the son of Joseph E. and Mary (Meuse) Bourque and was the oldest of two boys. After graduating from Brockton High School in 1954, he entered St. John Seminary. He was ordained on February 2, 1962 at St. Catherine of Siena Church in Norwood.

His first assignment as parochial vicar was to St. Pius X Parish in Milton. In 1963, he returned to the seminary teaching languages. In 1979, he came to Our Lady of Lourdes parish. He succeeded as pastor on October 28, 1980. Two major events during his pastorate was the 75th anniversary of the parish in 1983 and a fire in the parish center in April, 1985. Thanks to a quick response from the fire department, the building was saved from destruction and repaired within a year. In April, 1998, he was one of 32 priests honored with the title monsignor.

In 2008, the parish celebrated its centennial year with numerous events and a change in pas-



Msgr. Charles J. Bourque.

tors. Msgr. Bourque bid farewell at a Mass of Thanksgiving on Sunday July 13, 2008.

In retirement, Msgr. Bourque kept active helping out with weekend Masses and lived for a time in Canton and at the rectory at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Jamaica Plain. The 50th anniversary of his ordination was a happy time for parishioners as he celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving on Sunday, April 15, 2012. A luncheon in his honor followed in the parish hall. He entered Regina Cleri in 2018.

Following the funeral Mass, Msgr. Bourque was laid to rest with his parents at Calvary Cemetery in Brockton. He is survived by a sister-in-law Gail Bourque and two nephews, Matthew of Chicago, IL and Michael of Brick, NJ. He was predeceased by his brother James who died in 2020.

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