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JP MUSIC FEST



The Lemonshiners on stage during the JP Music Fest on September 9, at Pineback Field hosted the Festival with over 20 bands performing.



Buttercup drummer Rikki Bates. See pages 17-19 for more photos.



Bekka Eöwind on violin, performing with Lemonshiners.



Angela Hartt and Patricia Sheehan had their own off-stage performance going on.

Weber and King moving on to Municipal election

By MICHAEL COUGHLIN JR.

District 6 City Council candidates Ben Weber and William King reigned supreme in the September 12 Preliminary Municipal election, beating out incumbent Boston City Councilor Kendra Lara to advance to the Municipal election slated for November 7th.

According to unofficial election results on the city's website, Weber came out on top in the preliminary race with 4,951 votes (42.25%), followed by King with

4,384 votes (37.42%) and Lara with 2,351 votes (20.06%).

Weber, a 15-year Jamaica Plain resident and workers' rights attorney, and King, a resident of West Roxbury and IT Director for a local conservation non-profit, seemed happy with the result.

"I'm happy to be here," said Weber. "It's great to have made it this far... I'm not taking anything for granted; I feel confident now

Continued on page 4

JPA to seek meeting with new head of DCR

STAFF REPORT

The Jamaica Pond Association (JPA) held its regular monthly meeting on September 11, via Zoom. Chair Kay Mathew and fellow members Jasmine Crafts, Tony Dreyfus, Peter Steiger, Peter Elmuts, Michael Reiskind, Nancy Mazonson, Kevin Moloney, Franklyn Salimbene, and Martin Thomson were in attendance, as were a number of residents of the Jamaica Plain community.

The group addressed a number of issues, the most significant being the JPA's ongoing request to meet directly with Brian Arrigo, the former mayor of Revere who is the new Commissioner of the Dept. of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), regarding the

DCR's controversial redesign of the Murray and Kelley rotaries on the Arborway/Jamaicaway.

The JPA, among other community groups, has raised questions about the DCR's proposal to signalize those intersections, a plan that is a carry-over from the administration of former Gov. Charlie Baker's administration. However, there are many in the community who are in favor of the signalization of the rotaries, which they say will create a much-safer roadway for pedestrians, motorists, and bicyclists.

Michael Giordano from State Rep. William McGregor's office, Brett Hoffmann from State Senator Mike Rush's office, and Carlos Rios from State Rep. Sam Monta-

Continued on page 2

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JPA

Continued from page 1

no's office were on hand for the meeting and said their offices are working to schedule a meeting with Arrigo.

"We want to stress that we very much want to meet with the DCR directly and with the new commissioner," said Mathew.

Hoffmann reported that the state budget includes funding for the Footlight Club at the Eliot School and that legislation was passed so that Boston now will have a seat on the MBTA Board of Directors.

In other business, the members heard an update regarding another controversial matter, the dog run that was installed in July in the historic graveyard of the First Church at the corner of Centre and Eliot Sts. The graveyard, which is in the rear of the church, is adjacent to homes on Holbrook and Eliot Sts. Some of those residents, as well as members of the parish and the greater JP community, have expressed their strong opposition to allowing an unsightly dog run to be placed in the historic burial ground.

Bonnie McBride and Dennis O'Brien from the First Church brought the members up-to-date on the status of the dog run since its opening. McBride said the

fencing was put up in July, but said that the lack of use of the dog run has been surprising, noting that she seldom has seen more than two or three dogs at a time.

O'Brien spoke of the protocols for use of the dog run and noted that the lack of its use thus far may be attributable to the paperwork, training, fees, and registration required for prospective users of the dog run.

O'Brien noted that the church has taken a "hands-off policy" and has left the administration and operation of the dog run up to the dog owners themselves to enforce the rules and standards of the dog run.

"We continue to seek to keep this at a level that is not disruptive to the neighborhood and it has been working out thus far," said O'Brien, who noted that the present dog run set-up is only on a temporary, experimental basis. Whether the dog run will become a permanent fixture in the historic graveyard is subject to a final determination by the Mass. Historical Association and a final vote of the church's congregation.

"This has been a contentious issue, as you all know," concluded O'Brien.

Pam (who did not give her last name), a representative from the Churchyard Hound Group, the group of dog owners who utilize the dog run and who are responsible for policing its users, thanked the church "for letting

us have this opportunity."

Tarek Hassan and Simon Rees from 31 Pondview Ave. and their lawyer, Larry DiCara, appeared before the association to seek approval for their proposal to construct a 248 sq. ft. second-story addition over the existing first-floor structure of their home. Although the addition will not enlarge the footprint of the home, it constitutes a technical violation of the side yard requirements pursuant to the city's zoning ordinances. DiCara noted that the home was built in 1926, long before the present zoning ordinances for side yard setback requirements were in effect.

DiCara said that the owners now have a second child and they need more living space in their single-family home. "They are looking forward to staying in the city and raising their family here," said DiCara, who presented letters of support for the project from neighbors.

"This will be a thoughtfully-planned and great addition to the neighborhood," said JPA member Peter Steiger, who lives in the neighborhood on Moraine St.

Michael Cohen, a neighbor, also supported the project. "They have the enthusiastic and strong support of my wife and me. Their project respects the historical nature of their home," said Cohen.

There were no opponents to the application and the JPA approved it unanimously. The homeowners now must go before the Zoning Committee of the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council and then ultimately before the

city's Zoning Board of Appeals in order to have their project approved.

JPA member Tony Dreyfus of the Parks, Parkways, and Open Spaces Committee presented an update on the issues pertaining to Jamaica Pond and Olmsted Park. "I'm hoping we can bring new attention, because it has been suffering from neglect," said Dreyfus, who noted that the area was upgraded by the DCR five years ago, but there has been a lack of regular maintenance.

"There is overgrown vegetation between the path and the pond, blocking the view," said Dreyfus, "as well as concerns about how the water runoff is being handled and upkeep of the trees and bushes. These needs are pressing."

Peter Steiger of the IDEA Committee discussed new language for the JPA's website, which he suggested that all of the JPA members study in order to be able to take a vote on it at the next meeting.

"The goal of the new language is aspirational to help make the JPA more accessible and more inclusive of our community," said Steiger.

"We need to focus on diversifying the board's make-up itself," said Mathew. "I ask that board members read through it so that we can have a discussion about it at our October meeting."

"I don't disagree with what it says, but there is an issue with the tone," noted Reiskind. "Some of the sentences seem to be more about us than the community."

Boston Police Officer Patricia Darosa from District 13 present-

ed the Community Safety Report. "The only thing to report on in your area is that at 687 Centre St., there was an arrest for a person trying to cash a fraudulent check for \$20,000," said Darosa, who also noted that the arrestee was charged with assault & battery upon a police officer in addition to the charges for trying to cash a fraudulent check and identity theft.

Darosa noted that this was a case of check-washing (in which criminals use chemicals to wash-out the writing on the check and then write in their name as payee with a different amount). Darosa warned the community that residents should not leave their bill payments in their mailboxes for pick-ups by a Postal worker. Darosa said that Postal employees are being robbed of their mailbox keys to get access to the mailboxes. She said everyone should try either to pay their bills on-line or bring their bill payments directly to the Post Office.

Darosa also noted that there was a recent arrest for a breaking and entering during the day in a nearby neighborhood of Jamaica Plain on the Arborway in which the homeowner was able to see the B & E in progress through his security system and alerted the police.

"Most burglaries are committed during the daytime when the criminals know that the residents are not home," she said.

Salimbene asked whether District 13 is focusing on traffic safety, particularly speeding, red light violations, and crosswalk violations. Darosa responded that there is an awareness of the problem and officers are enforcing the laws to the extent they are able to do so.

"If it were up to me, I would put a speed bump on every street in the city," said Darosa. "No one drives 25 miles per hour in this city. It's out of control -- society is getting out of control and there is lawlessness with the way people drive," she said, noting that the American Legion Highway in particular is unsafe.

JPA Treasurer Thomson reported that there is \$4400.82 in the JPA's account, which includes a recent, generous donation by Barbara Zegarra in the memory of the late Karen Wep-sic, a long-time JP resident who was active in the community for decades.

The next meeting of the JPA is set for Monday, October 2.

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Community leader Vanessa Calderon Rosado will receive Governor's Award in Humanities

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Mass Humanities will present one of its Governor's Awards in the Humanities to Vanessa Calderon-Rosado, CEO of Inquilinos Boricuas en Accion, Boston, at an awards ceremony Sept. 28 at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston.

Calderon Rosado has had a long and multifaceted career demonstrating a commitment to the humanities within education, community development, and philanthropy in Boston and across the state. Calderon-Rosado is being honored for her work that actively promotes Latinx culture and builds community through the arts in Boston's South End and for her contributions to shaping a more equitable philanthropic ecosystem in Massachusetts.

Humbled by the honor

Asked about being recognized by Mass Humanities with the prestigious Governor's Award, Calderon Rosado said, "This is a very unexpected honor, so I am extremely thrilled, happy, delighted, and humbled by this award, especially because it's centered in the humanities. It may seem a little bit unusual or out of the blue for the kind of work that I do. However, I feel an intersectionality between my work and the humanities, so I'm really excited and thrilled."

A Puerto Rican-born civic leader who received her doctorate in public policy from UMASS Boston and a Honoris Causa Doctorate from Cambridge College, Calderon-Rosado has been highly acclaimed for her outstanding, exemplary administration of Inquilinos Boricuas en Accion (IBA), a community development corporation dedicated to empowering and engaging individuals and families to improve their lives through high-quality affordable housing, education and arts programs. Under her leadership since 2003, IBA has become the largest Latino-led nonprofit organization in Eastern Massachusetts, with over \$250 million in assets and a portfolio of 667 affordable housing units in its South End Villa Victoria development in Roxbury and Mattapan.



Vanessa Calderon-Rosado.

Empowering individuals to improve their lives

Calderon-Rosado said that Inquilinos Boricuas En Accion (which translates to Puerto Rican Tenants in Action) was founded in 1968 by a group of Puerto Rican activists that fought for the revitalization of neighborhoods and the development of affordable housing and community programs.

"As we pass forward 55 years later, we continue with that legacy and IBA's mission is to empower individuals and families to improve their lives and achieve social and economic mobility through our high-quality affordable housing units, our education, financial empowerment, and arts programs.

Inspired by her family to give back

Calderon-Rosado was born and raised in Puerto Rico and moved to Boston in 1992 to pursue her Ph.D in Public Policy.

"I had every intention of going back to Puerto Rico, but here I am 31 years later," said Calderon-Rosado. "All my family still lives in Puerto Rico, so I go often."

Calderon-Rosado said her family instilled in her "the important values of giving back and paying it forward."

"Both my mother and father were very politically involved, so I grew up in an environment that was extremely physically engaged, and my family had these important values around equity and justice," said Calderon-Rosado. "That inspired me to dedicate the rest of my life to work in community development and toward a more just society

and to provide voices to the community and the people who are not represented at the table. And when it comes to philanthropy, it applies to everything – how all these important societal institutions can lift up that power and support these communities to attain equity as well."

Calderon-Rosado said her doctoral training in public policy has helped her "have a good understanding of what policy-making looks like."

"My doctoral training been very helpful in not only understanding the process of building coalitions and alliances that lead to the passage of policy that promotes equity and social and economic justice, but also how to analyze the impact of current public policy and proposed public policies," said Calderon-Rosado.

As an undergraduate student in college in Puerto Rico, she majored in education and took a position as a third grade teacher at a public school in San Juan.

But she eventually moved on to IBA and "It's truly been the honor of my life to work for

this organization for the past 20 years."

Building a winning team at IBA

Calderon said that IBA faced some challenges when she first joined the organization.

"But I was able to put together a team of people and a board of directors that have worked collaboratively to build an organization that developed programs that were researched and evidence-based and reached the community that needed the services the most. We were also able to build our funding and revenue stream - and we were able to grow and expand. One person cannot do all that without a village, and I've been fortunate and blessed to have a great team working alongside me to make IBA what it is today," said Calderon-Rosado.

Vanessa lives in Milton with her husband, Miguel, and is the proud mom of Carlos and Antonio.

The other Governor's Award recipients are Margaret Burn-

ham of Boston, distinguished Professor of Law at Northeastern and an internationally recognized expert on civil and human rights, comparative constitutional rights, and international criminal law; Kumble Subbaswamy, of Amherst, the retiring Chancellor of UMass Amherst and a committed public education advocate; and Elizabeth Bacon of Worcester, coordinator of the Clemente Course in Humanities, Worcester.

Said Governor Healey about the award recipients, "Massachusetts is home to a thriving humanities sector that makes our state more enlightened, innovative and inclusive. I'm proud to present the Governor's Awards to these four leaders in the Humanities in recognition of the exceptional contributions they have made in education, history, community development, philanthropy, civil rights and more. I'm also grateful to the Mass Humanities Board for their partnership and the incredible work they do to expand opportunities across our state."



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Election

Continued from page 1

that if I can reach enough voters before the final, I'll have a significant amount of support," he later added.

Speaking about his and his team's reaction to the results, King said, "We're super excited, and we're energized and pumped up, and we're ready to work hard all the way through election day."

"At the end of the day, I think it'll be a close race, but we think we have a positive message that will resonate with the voters of District 6," he said.

With the Municipal Election rapidly approaching, both King and Weber made it clear that they will continue to work just as hard to receive enough support to earn the title of District 6 City Councillor.

"We're going to do everything that we can to interact with as many voters as we possibly can and tell them about our message for the District," said King.

"I know we have a lot of work to do. I will be knocking on doors, trying to meet as many people as I can in the District before the final in November," said Weber.

Although Weber topped King in the preliminary, it was a close-



COURTESY PHOTO

Ben Weber.

ly contested battle for the top spot, and both candidates acknowledged that this race would be a close one.

In what could be a barn burner of a race, every vote will count. With that in mind, both candidates spoke about why they should get votes from residents.

Weber talked about his background of living in Jamaica Plain with his wife, raising his two kids who are in Boston Public Schools (BPS), and working as an attorney for 18 years fighting for workers' rights as aspects that would help him as District 6 City Councillor.

"I think both my working experience and my experiences as a parent here would help me be an effective councillor representing the District," said Weber.

Weber also explained that he has shown through his work as



COURTESY PHOTO

William King.

an attorney, being a BPS dad, and a youth soccer coach that he would fight for things like housing affordability, schools that work for everyone in the city, and fight against climate change.

Similarly, King also spoke about his background and lived experiences being something that would resonate with voters.

For example, he talked about understanding things those in the city have faced, such as financial struggles, the effects of violence, and trauma caused by addiction. King also spoke about how he was a BPS kid and has felt the impact of education system challenges like limited resources and overcrowded classrooms.

"I think it's about lived experiences and how I have those lived experiences, and I think that's really going to resonate

with voters because the issues that they face are issues that I have faced or continue to face to this day," said King.

While these two candidates will be in a battle to achieve victory, there is at least one thing they are in lockstep about — urging residents to get out and vote.

"I urge people to get out and vote, especially for City Council elections, because City Councilors directly interact with the residents and can improve quality of life for so many residents," said King.

"The City Council plays an important role in how our community works. So I urge everyone to

follow the race and make their voices heard November 7th," said Weber.

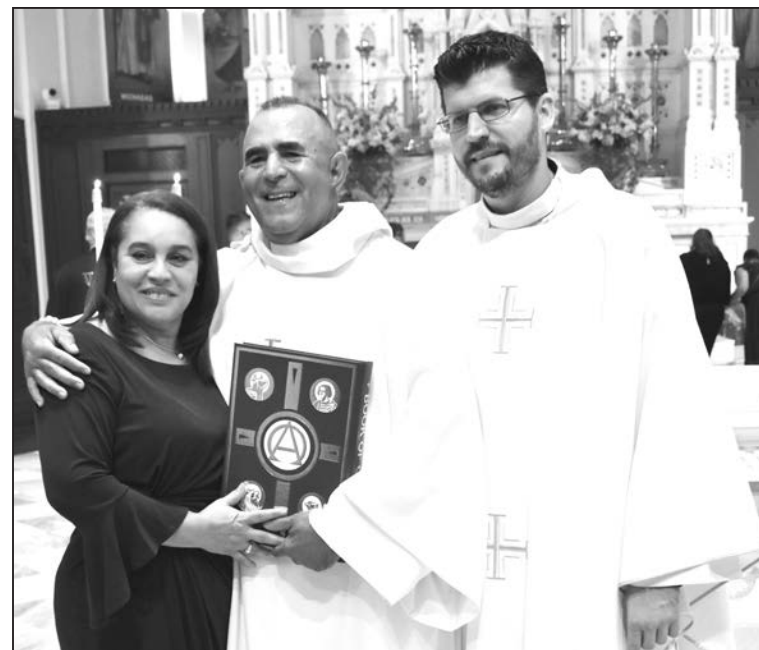
To learn more about the background of each candidate and the platforms they are running on, you can visit their websites below.

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

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

Also, for all information pertaining to elections, you can visit the city's election webpage at <https://www.boston.gov/departments/election>.

ORDAINED A DEACON



Rafael Bautista (center) is shown with his wife Paula and Father Andrea S. Povero at Holy Cross Cathedral on Saturday, September 9 after being ordained a deacon by Cardinal Sean O'Malley. A long time and active parishioner at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, he was among a class of ten men ordained as deacons. He will continue to assist with the Spanish community at Our Lady of Lourdes parish, St. Thomas Aquinas Parish and St. Mary of the Angels. A luncheon with his family followed the happy occasion at Our Lady of Lourdes parish center.

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Arborway Yard subcommittee continues bus facility discussions

By MICHAEL COUGHLIN JR.

Earlier this week, the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council's (JPNC) Arborway Yard subcommittee met to discuss a number of topics relating to the plans for the proposed Arborway Bus Maintenance Facility.

The proposed bus facility in the neighborhood would house a fleet of MBTA electric buses as part of an effort to have a fully electric bus fleet in 2040.

One of the big discussion points during the meeting surrounded design priorities for the proposed facility.

Carolyn Royce, a member of the JPNC's Housing Committee, explained that previously, the subcommittee had come up with design priorities and that now would be the time to go

into more detail and make other suggestions.

With the discussion open, one of the first big design priorities suggested is having a facility that is in scale.

"It's got to relate to human scale and neighborhood scale; all the other things come secondary. It has to be a building that's broken down in terms of the mass, and it has to relate to the people on the street," said Gert Thorn, a member of the JPNC.

There was also a recommendation made by an attendee about engaging parks with the new facility, which connected with previous priority suggestions.

Specifically, the past priorities mentioned engaging with the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and incorporating the Southwest Corridor

extension and pedestrian access into discussions with the MBTA.

Moreover, Sarah Freeman, a member of the JPNC's Parks Committee, made two suggestions; one was from a resident who could not attend. That resident had the idea to landscape in a way that would make the facility appear smaller.

"If we're in an area where we're not used to 60-foot windowless walls, what if the land came up halfway or a third of the way? I'm not an architect, but that's one way to reduce the perception without actually reducing the size of the structure," said Freeman.

Freeman also thought it was prudent to think about access and egress at the facility. "Maybe it's not our problem to solve, but I think we should be thinking about it."

In addition to the discussion about design priorities, a few updates were given during the meeting.

One significant update was concerning the acres promised to the neighborhood for commu-

nity use from a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the MBTA and the City of Boston signed over 20 years ago.

Per the MOU, the MBTA would transfer "no less" than eight acres of land on the Arborway Yard site to the city for community use. At the same time, the city-owned "pole yard" would be implemented into the Arborway Yard plan.

In recent plans, that pole yard has not been included in the Arborway Yard plan, meaning that the bus facility's location would have to be adjusted, thus leaving less than eight acres for the community.

However, Allan Ihrer, in an update to the subcommittee, spoke about a conversation he had with State Representative Sam Montañó. Ihrer, who has been working on the Arborway Yard since 1998, said it sounded like there was a commitment to the eight acres. Though, he followed that up by saying, "I'll believe it when I see it."

In terms of other updates, Susan Cibulsky, who is help-

ing organize the subcommittee, mentioned that she reached out to the city's Chief of Streets, Jascha Franklin-Hodge, Diana Fernandez, the Boston Planning and Development Agency's Deputy Chief of Urban Design and Chris Osgood, a Senior Advisor for Infrastructure for Mayor Michelle Wu.

Through her correspondence, Cibulsky learned that an update for the subcommittee in early October is in the works. "The expectation is that they will come to our next meeting," she said.

Cibulsky also mentioned that she had reached out to Alexandra Markiewicz, Deputy Director of Bus Modernization at the MBTA, about a potential update, but there were no significant updates.

If you would like to learn more about this whole process and connect with other members of the community, you can join a recently created Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/710491541120111/>.

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Jamaica Plain residents to participate in Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk

Residents from Jamaica Plain will participate in the Boston Marathon® Jimmy Fund Walk presented by Hyundai on Sunday, October 1.

Steven Penella, Chelsea Heneghan, Dong-Woo Kang, Awilda Pena, Liz Attanasio, William Cyr, Hadley Bloomhardt, Minh Do, Jimmy Kearney, Joanne Wolfe, and three Jamaica Plain residents along with thousands of other walkers, will participate in the iconic annual event that will unite the community to raise funds to support all forms of adult and pediatric care and cancer research at the nation's premier cancer center, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The Jimmy Fund Walk has raised more than \$167 million for Dana-Farber Cancer in its 34-year history, raising a record-breaking more than \$8.8 million in 2022.

"Throughout the past 34 years, the Jimmy Fund Walk has continuously supported life-saving research and cancer care at Dana-Farber. The 2023 Walk will be held during the Jimmy Fund's 75th anniversary year and will aim to raise \$9 million in the effort to prevent, treat, and defy cancer," said Zack Blackburn, Director of the Jimmy Fund Walk. "This year also marks the 35th annual Jimmy Fund Walk. We are eager to get out on the course and see all our outstanding walkers and teams come together to support this great cause."

The Jimmy Fund Walk is the only

organized walk permitted on the famed Boston Marathon® course, and participants have the flexibility to choose from four distance options: 5K walk (from Dana-Farber Cancer Institute's Longwood Medical Campus), 10K walk (from Newton), Half Marathon walk (from Wellesley), and Marathon walk (from Hopkinton).

Whatever route walkers choose, participants will be treated to 10 refueling stations as well as poster-sized photographs of patients – Jimmy Fund Walk Heroes – displayed at each mile and half-mile marker as inspiration. All four routes of the Jimmy Fund Walk will culminate at the Jimmy Fund Walk Finish Line Powered by Schneider Electric. Due to construction in Copley Square, the Jimmy Fund Walk Finish Line location has been moved to the Fenway neighborhood for 2023. Walkers should know that distances may be slightly shorter as we finish the walk in front of Fenway Park. The finish line will include a celebration complete with food, music, and a speaking program.

To register to walk or volunteer (#JimmyFundWalk) or to support a walker, visit www.JimmyFundWalk.org or call (866) 531-9255. Registrants can enter the promo code NEWS for \$5 off the registration fee. All registered walkers will receive a bib, medal, and a Jimmy Fund Walk T-shirt.



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MBTA Plans Critical Track Work Between JFK/UMass and Ashmont Stations and on the Mattapan Line

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PHOTO BY TODD DIONNE

Alison Croney Moses.

Local artist to exhibit at the Abigail Ogilvy Gallery

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

The Eliot School of Fine and Applied Arts that is located on Eliot Street in Jamaica Plain, is excited to share that our Associate Director, Alison Croney Moses, will be exhibiting her first solo show, *The Habits of Reframing*, at the Abigail Ogilvy Gallery, in Boston, through October 22.

While Alison has been on leave this summer to prepare for her first solo gallery show, she will return to the Eliot School the week of September 11. Upon her return, she will support Abigail Norman, Executive Director, with special projects through the end of the year. (As announced earlier, Abigail will be leaving the Eliot School in December after 17 years managing its extraordinary growth and change.) Due to increasing artistic opportunity as a result of the recognition for Alison's own artistic talent and vision, she has made the decision to step down as the School's Associate Director at the end of 2023 so she can devote more time to her art and craft.

Alison says, "This is a truly special organization and I look forward to continuing to support the Eliot School in different capacities. I am grateful to have spent ten years working alongside such dedicated and creative colleagues and am proud that we have created spaces for thousands of young people and adults to engage with their creativity and craft throughout Boston."

Alison joined the Eliot School a decade ago, first as a teacher, then as School Partnership Pro-

gram Director, eventually becoming Associate Director, collaborating on organizational strategy and vision. During her time here, she founded the Teen Bridge and Artist in Residence programs to help cultivate the current and next generation of artists and leaders in art and craft. She also started our newest program, Career Pathways in Carpentry and Craft, which is entering its second year this fall. Alison has also co-lead the national Racial Equity in Craft Working Group, which was launched in 2020 by the Society of Arts + Crafts.

Alison's sculpture is in the collections of the Museum of Fine Arts Boston and the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum. She is a recipient of the 2022 US Artists Fellowship in Craft and has been featured in *American Craft Magazine*, *Yankee Magazine*, *The Boston Globe*, and elsewhere.

With all of her accomplishments and commitment to her art, it is no wonder that Alison is being recognized far and wide. The Eliot School has been fortunate to have this talented artist and administrator on staff. Alison has consistently nurtured art and craft in herself and others and has created pathways for other artists to expand and achieve their goals. Perhaps even more importantly, she has opened opportunities for people who may never have thought about pursuing the arts and craft as a career. Both at the Eliot School and elsewhere, she has furthered important conversations supporting racial equity

Continued on page 16

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1973



PATRICK O'CONNOR PHOTO

Graduates of the St. Thomas Aquinas High School Class of 1973 get together for a group photo at their 50th reunion luncheon on Saturday, September 9. Twenty-three attended and had a great time catching up with each other. The parish high school closed in 1975.

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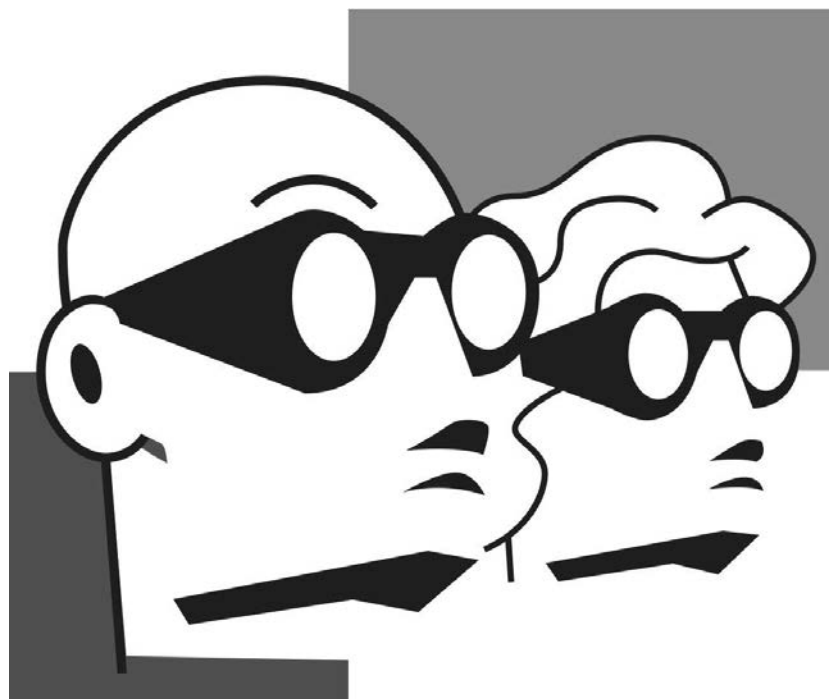
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REAL ESTATE TODAY

Despite higher rates, Jamaica Plain housing market is strong

By STEPHEN QUIGLEY

Although the current high mortgage rate environment has proven discouraging for both buyers, who are facing much higher monthly payments, and sellers, who are not eager to leave their current low interest rate mortgage, the overall residential real estate market in Jamaica Plain remains strong, according to local realtors.

“These rates are not the highest that we have seen over the years,” said Constance Cervone of Cervone, Deegan + Associates. “However, during Covid, interest rates were way down,” she added.

Andrew Maxfield of Maxfield and Company Real Estate added. “Many buyers who were pre-approved for say, a \$700,000 mortgage when rates were low, now are finding that with higher rates, that pre-approval number could be at \$500,000 or \$600,000.”



However, even with the higher mortgage rates, the market is proving resilient and anything but slow, according to Paula Callaghan of Insight Realty. “There were two properties that came on the market last weekend and we have offers on both,” she added.

Callaghan noted that the fall market is psychologically different going from September into

Thanksgiving, when prospective buyers are seeing yards that are getting ready for winter hibernation, as opposed to the spring and summer months when landscaping is bursting with colors and plantings.

Ellen Grubert of Ellen + Janis Team at Compass noted that the low inventory has made Jamaica Plain real estate more stable than some neighborhoods. “We had a new listing over the weekend and received five offers, with the property now under agreement,” Grubert said. “One reason for the low inventory is that people are not ready to make the move to sell their current home if the mortgage rates that they are now paying are in many cases at the two or three percent mark,” she said.

“Inventory is down across the Board,” said BJ Ray of the Boston Home Team of Unlimited Southby’s International Realty. “Specifically in JP, single-family list-

ings and sales are down about 20% from last year. The condo inventory drop has been even more dramatic, with a reduction of 30% in the number of properties listed and closed sales. However, the drop in price and value haven’t been so dramatic. Single families are averaging about 10% less than this time last year and condo sale prices are down around 5%. Anecdotally, I can say that open house traffic is a lot quieter. Instead of 25 groups at every listing, it can often be under 10 groups.

“But of the folks who are still out there looking, they appear to be of a more serious caliber in terms of their resolve to buy,” he added.

When asked about the effect of the looming large-scale developments in JP, Cervone said, “They are not going to affect us.” She pointed out that many units in these developments will be rentals. Ray noted that “with the population growing, it will take

years to eliminate the tight inventory market.”

As for the commercial real estate market, Maxfield noted, “With vacancies up, commercial real estate is struggling.” He also pointed out that some office space can only be used for certain types of business uses, such as medical. Cervone said that there are conversations about converting Class B zoning buildings into residential units. She noted that in her building on Boylston Street, there are three vacancies, which has never happened before.

However, despite the headwinds of higher interest rates and a slowing commercial market, “Overall, the JP residential market is still strong and pretty safe,” summed up Maxfield, adding that public transportation, restaurants, the feel of the neighborhood, and proximity to Longwood keep JP a neighborhood where people want to live and raise a family.

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REAL ESTATE TODAY

Jamaica Plain Real Estate Market Q and A with Ken Sazama of Sazama Real Estate

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Q: What are the most important things to know if you're considering buying a home right now?

A: The best time to get into the market is now. Some new buyers overthink the process and focus

too much on the timing. While of course it's a good idea to pay attention to market trends, property values in Boston have gone up consistently over time, so it is always a good time to buy.

Q: Ok, interesting. But shouldn't we wait until interest

rates come down to buy?

A: That is a question I hear a ton. Obviously interest rates are high relative to recent years and I understand the concern, but in the long term, this isn't something that should hold people back from purchasing a home.

If you buy at a higher rate,

your interest payments will be higher for a period of time, but when rates come down you will be able to refinance. Additionally, when rates come down, other buyers who share this concern, will be more likely to join in the market and make the things more competitive.

In short, your next home doesn't have to be your forever or dream home. It is better to err on the sooner side, build equity, and position yourself for the future.

Q: What are the most important things to know if you're considering selling a home right now?

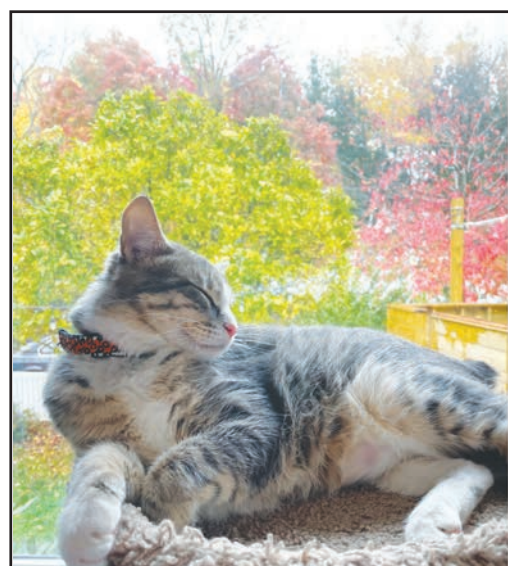
A: This is the most understandable mistake in the world, but some sellers fall victim to emotional thinking that clouds their judgment. Over the years, owners (understandably) build up strong connections to their

homes, and when it comes time to sell they sometimes think their home is more valuable than it is. Or, conversely, because an owner lived with a particular shortcoming, they think the future owners won't mind doing so too.

The takeaway for me is that limiting emotion during the selling process can help you see things more clearly and make the right decision for your family.

Q: What is the most common question you get asked as an agent?

A: The most common thing I'm asked is, "How's the market doing?" Generally when people ask me this question they are responding to news about interest rates or recent sales, and are curious about the value of their home, or their ability to buy a home they have their eye on.



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COMPASS

Budget-friendly outdoor projects for any DIYer



STATE POINT PHOTO

There are times when tape will work.

(StatePoint) Want to transform your outdoor space while saving money? There are plenty of hands-on projects you can do yourself to eliminate expensive labor costs. The following ideas can be tailored to your budget and personal preferences:

Install a Party Pad

Make your backyard more fun and functional with a low-maintenance patio for entertaining and relaxing. Based on your budget and experience level, there are a variety of styles and materials to choose from, such as brick, concrete and stone. You'll also

need gravel to create a sturdy foundation.

If you're building on an existing lawn, clear out the grass and dirt first and dig an area deep enough, so the new surface will be even with the ground. Once you've prepped the ground and poured the gravel, use sand to hold the blocks in place and fill any gaps between the blocks once the layout is complete. Search online for step-by-step installation instructions and use a project calculator to determine the cost.

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Continued on page 13

REAL ESTATE TODAY

DIY

Continued from page 12

Increase Seating Capacity

A built-in seating wall near a fire pit, pool or patio offers more places to lounge and adds depth to the space. There are plenty of DIY-friendly materials to build with, including interlocking concrete blocks, which won't need to be recut and are heavy enough to stay in place without cement, or larger, flat stones that look more natural and can be laid in various ways.

If you use concrete blocks, add capstones as top piece to give the design a finished look. Watch tutorials online before starting the project for inspiration and to ensure you complete all the necessary steps.

Repair Over Replace

Fix up something old to make it new. If you have an above-ground pool or spa with a slow leak, easily repair it with the highly-rated T-Rex Waterproof Tape. The tape has a waterproof backing enhanced with R-Flex Technology for greater durability. It's also UV-resistant, can stretch up to 700% of its original length and is strong enough to be used underwater.

Locate the leak and then measure and cut a piece of tape with scissors (this tape is too tough to tear by hand). Remove the liner from the back and apply it to the crack to form a leak-proof seal.

Press down firmly and smooth any creases by hand.

Hide Outdoor Eyesores

A privacy screen is an easy project for beginner DIYers and will hide unsightly air conditioning units, garbage bins and utility boxes. You'll need weather-resistant wood slats, like cedar wood, fence posts, a drill, screws and paint or stain.

Use your "eyesore" to determine how tall to make the screen. Then, anchor fence posts into the ground and drill your first slat about an inch above the ground. Continue adding boards all the way up. For air conditioning units, leave space between each slat to ensure proper air circulation. Add a finish—dark for a modern style or clear for a natural look—and enjoy.

Give it a Glow

Use lighting to give your backyard a bistro-like atmosphere. Rather than using a drill to hang solar or string lights, use transparent, double-sided T-Rex Clear Mounting Tape to permanently and discreetly decorate.

Whether placing the lights across wooden beams or on brick or vinyl fencing, make sure the surface is clean and dry before applying the tape. Stick one side to the surface and the other to mount the lights. The adhesive will build over time, achieving full strength after a 24-hour period.

Once you tackle these budget-friendly DIY projects, you'll be ready to relax in your outdoor oasis.

What homeowners need to know before and after a hurricane

(StatePoint) The official Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1 through November 30, and the National Weather Service is predicting between 12 to 17 total named storms. The best advice for homeowners who want to be better prepared? Proactively think about what can be done ahead of time -- as well as after the fact -- so that you and your family are able to withstand severe weather and quickly recover from it.

"Every day, our team speaks with homeowners needing guidance on their insurance and ways to help keep their family and property safe. Customers typically ask our loss consultation team about water damage, deductibles and what might be covered under their insurance policies," said Jim Wucherpennig, vice president of Property Claim at Travelers, a property casualty insurer that assists homeowners in planning for and recovering from hurricanes. "Knowing policy terms and conditions can help alleviate some of a homeowner's anxiety that accompanies a storm."

Wucherpennig suggests tak-



Photo Source: (c) Image Source / iStock via Getty Images Plus

ing the following steps to be ready for severe weather:

Before a storm:

- Review your policy: Know your insurance coverage limits and check to see that your coverage amounts will allow you to repair or rebuild your property based on current costs.
- Keep good records: Store your policies and insurance contact information in a safe place should your property be damaged and

you want to make a claim.

- Create an inventory of personal belongings: Capture video or write a list of items and store it with any important photos in a fireproof safe or safe deposit box. Consider purchasing extra coverage for computers, jewelry, art and other expensive items that could be damaged or destroyed in a storm.

Continued on page 14



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REAL ESTATE TODAY

New research uncovers the biggest challenges for first-time movers

(StatePoint) From broken belongings to going over budget, moving comes with its fair share of challenges and stresses.

Recent research completed by Duck brand uncovers insights about first time movers -- who they are, what their biggest challenges are and what could potentially make the process easier.

Making the Move: The survey finds that people deciding to leave the nest for the first time are typically young adults, between the ages of 18 to 25, who plan to move to a nearby apartment (56%) or house (37%).

Biggest Road Blocks: Fifty-one percent of survey respondents agreed that the biggest challenge of their first move was not knowing where to begin. Other challenges included not knowing how to properly pack (32%) and not knowing what to buy (27%).

With an understanding of first-time movers top challenges, the experts at Duck brand are sharing their top tips to complete any move with ease.

1. **Have Help:** Only 5% of first-time movers opted to use a professional moving service, with most citing budget constraints

as the reason they didn't do so. If you're not sure where to begin but you know you'll be one of the 95% of first-time movers making a DIY move, start by enlisting help from family and friends. Forty-three percent of first-time movers rely on help from family and friends and 32% depend on their significant other. Only 32% say they moved on their own without help.

2. **Pack Properly:** Aside from making the down payment on their new place, 36% of first-time movers say their largest expense was "buying new furniture/home items," but that can easily be avoided by properly packing existing essentials.

The research finds that 42% of first-time movers damaged their glassware, such as plates and bowls, and 33% broke décor, like mirrors and picture frames, during the transition. These fragile items should be wrapped securely in products like Bubble Wrap Cushioning from Duck brand to ensure they arrive at



STATE POINT PHOTO

Always have help when moving. Especially for first time movers.

the new location in one piece. In fact, 54% of survey participants say they would not move again without protective packaging.

3. **Buy the Basics:** Not sure what to buy for the first move? More than half (55%) of survey respondents say the single most essential moving supply is boxes. Although 62% of people used old cardboard boxes for their first move, 73% say they would

purchase new boxes for future moves.

To learn more about the Duck brand products that make moving easier, visit <https://www.duckbrand.com/products/moving-storage>.

While moving for the first time can seem intimidating, having the right tools and strategies can ensure the process is less stressful.

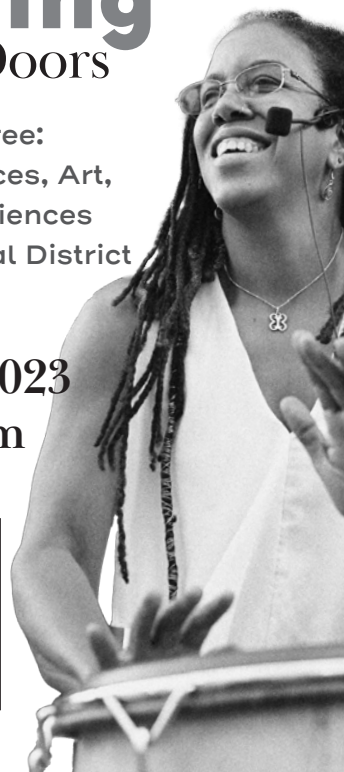
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Hurricane

Continued from page 13

- Consider purchasing flood insurance: This is a separate policy

and can cover water damage due to flooding resulting from tropical storms and hurricanes.

After a storm:

- Make temporary repairs:

Consider hiring a vendor to board up windows, tarp the roof, clean up hazardous spills and debris or take other steps to reduce the possibility of additional property damage.

- Separate and inventory damaged personal property: Create a list of any damaged contents and include a description of each item with details such as the name of the brand and manufacturer; age, place and date of purchase, and other pertinent facts. Be sure to include photographs, video, or personal property inventories you may already have available.

- Maintain accurate records: Keep detailed notes of your expenses and save bills and receipts from your temporary repairs.

For more information on how to get your home and your finances ready for severe weather, visit Travelers.com.

While no one likes to think about worst-case scenarios, being prepared before a storm, and having a plan for its aftermath, can help your family get back on its feet faster.



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Fiesta en la Plaza opening full of rhythm and Latinx talent

Fiesta en la Plaza, the series of events to celebrate Latinx Heritage Month in Boston, kicked off last Sunday with a varied musical program that had the audience dancing to Boston's City Hall Plaza for hours.

The Welcome Fiesta began with a colorful and lively troupe by the Puerto Rican theater group Agua, Sol y Sereno, to the rhythm of the bomba and plena by Jorge Arce and Raíz de Plena. During the opening, organizers paid tribute to the announcer and leader of the Latino community in Boston, José Massó.

Massó, the host of the radio program Con Salsa (WBUR), was surprised with a "cabezudo," a paper sculpture created by the plastic artist Pedro Adorno Irizarry, with which Agua, Sol y Sereno distinguishes the work of influential figures in Puerto Rican culture.

"We want to honor with a 'cabezudo' a beloved figure who has been on the airwaves of Boston's Latino community for 48 years. A community leader, a teacher of thousands of young people, a public servant of excellence, activist, and godfather of the Puerto Rican community in Boston, a complete human being, loving husband and father," said Elsa Mosquera, organizer of Fiesta en la Plaza along with the City of Boston Office of Arts and Culture.

During a seven-hour day, the audience enjoyed the Latin Jazz of Grammy- and Emmy-winner Claudio Ragazzi and his quartet. The afternoon continued with free salsa classes from the renowned MetaMovements Latin Dance Company. The dance class was followed by the infectious rhythm of Manolo Mairena and his Pura Vida orchestra. The virtuoso percussionist Eguie Castrillo and his big band, whose musical force resonated throughout the City Hall Plaza, led the closing show of the Welcome Fiesta.

"It has been a dream come true to achieve this incredible programming to unite the entire community and celebrate the cultural wealth that exists in Boston," said Billy Dean Thomas, City Hall Plaza Engagement Manager.



The Claudio Ragazzi Quartet.

PHOTO BY IVIS NEGRÓN

The Fiesta continues this weekend

Free events for the Boston community will continue this weekend. On Friday, at 7:00 p.m., the Puerto Rican Cuatrista Fabiola Méndez and the poet and writer Yara Liceaga will perform at the Civic Pavilion. Together, they will share sublime expressions of Afro-Antillean culture. On Saturday, September 23, music returns to City Hall Plaza with a night of Salsa, performed by *Clave & Blues* and the dance group *El Bonche* in Boston.

Events in celebration of Latinx Heritage Month will continue through October 14.

You can reserve your space and follow the entire Fiesta en la Plaza programming at: <https://www.culturalagora.com/fiesta-en-la-plaza>.

Llena de color, ritmo y talento latino la apertura de Fiesta en la Plaza

El Welcome Fiesta honró al locutor y líder latino José Massó

Fiesta en la Plaza, la serie de eventos para celebrar el Mes de la Herencia Latina en Boston, arrancó el pasado domingo con una variada programación musical

que hizo bailar durante horas a la audiencia que acudió hasta el City Hall Plaza de Boston.

El Welcome Fiesta inició con una colorida y animada comparsa a cargo del grupo teatral puertorriqueño Agua, Sol y Sereno, al ritmo de la bomba y plena de Jorge Arce y Raíz de Plena. Durante la apertura, los organizadores rindieron homenaje al locutor y líder de la comunidad latina en Boston, José Massó.

Massó, presentador del programa radial *Con Salsa* (WBUR), fue sorprendido con un "cabezudo", una escultura en papel creación del artista Pedro Adorno Irizarry, quien con la compañía teatral de Agua, Sol y Sereno distingue la labor de figuras influyentes en la cultura puertorriqueña.

"Queremos honrar con un



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cabezudo a una figura queridísima que ha estado en las ondas radiales de la comunidad latina de Boston durante 48 años. Un líder comunitario, un maestro de miles de jóvenes, un servidor público de excelencia, activista y padrino de la comunidad boricua en Boston, un ser humano cabal, esposo y padre amoroso", expresó Elsa Mosquera, organizadora de Fiesta en la Plaza junto a la Oficina de Arte y Cultura de la Ciudad de Boston.

Durante una jornada de siete horas, el público disfrutó del jazz

latino del ganador de Grammy y Emmy Claudio Ragazzi y su cuarteto. Además, no paró de bailar desde que llegó el grupo de baile de MetaMovements. Le siguió el ritmo contagioso de Manolo Mairena y su orquesta Pura Vida. El cierre del Welcome Fiesta estuvo a cargo del virtuoso percusionista Eguie Castrillo y su big band, cuya fuerza musical retumbó por todo el City Hall Plaza.

"Ha sido un sueño hecho realidad poder lograr esta maravillosa programación para unir a toda la comunidad y celebrar la riqueza cultural que convive en Boston", dijo, por su parte, Billy Dean Thomas, City Hall Plaza Engagement Manager.

La Fiesta continúa este fin de semana

Los eventos gratuitos para la comunidad de Boston continuarán este fin de semana. El viernes, a las 7:00 pm, en el Civic Pavilion se presentará la cuatrista puertorriqueña Fabiola Méndez junto a la poeta y escritora Yara Liceaga. Juntas compartirán expresiones sublimes de la cultura afro-antillana. El sábado, 23 de septiembre, la música regresa al City Hall Plaza, con una noche de Salsa a cargo de *Clave & Blues* y el grupo de baile *El Bonche* in Boston.

Los eventos en celebración del Latinx Heritage Month continuarán hasta el 14 de octubre.

Puede reservar su espacio y seguir toda la programación de Fiesta en la Plaza en: <https://www.culturalagora.com/fiesta-en-la-plaza>.



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Exhibit

Continued from page 8

initiatives in the field of craft education. The ongoing success of our School Partnerships, Teen Bridge, and Artist in Residence

programs, in particular, are a testament to her vision.

Abigail Norman says, “The Eliot School and Boston are forever changed by Alison’s work here over the years, the relationships she has nurtured, and the students and artists she has encouraged and supported. She has

been core to shaping the School’s strategy, scope, and vision. I have loved working together with her side by side. Now I am thrilled to see her gain well-deserved recognition for her art and be able to move forward as an artist on a national stage.”

In her artist’s statement for

the Abigail Ogilvy Gallery show, Alison says, “I strive to create situations and objects where people are compelled to interact, to express, and therefore challenge themselves to heal, to stand taller, to build community, and to work toward a more just future.”

We are proud that Alison’s

artistic vision and skill are being recognized and shared with a wider audience. We encourage you to visit her show and attend one of the special events to thank her in person:

- Artist Talk: Oct. 5, 6 pm at Abigail Ogilvy Gallery, 450 Harrison Avenue #29, Boston.

JAMAICA PLAIN GAZETTE PAPER LOCATIONS

JP Licks 659 Center St.	True Value 698 Center St.	Rizzos Pizza 347 Center St.	564 Center St.	Papis Market 3145 Washington St.
Jamaicaway Books 676 Center St.	City Feed 672 Center St.	Martial Academy 363 Center St.	Smoke Shop 566 Center St.	YMCA 3134 Washington St.
JP Realty 7 Harris St.	East Boston Bank Center St.	Tropical Market 371 Center St.	The Purple Cactus 674 Center St.	10 Store 3122 Washington St.
Apartment Building 45 Burnett St.	CVS Center St.	CVS Center St.	633 Centert St.	Chancy Liquor Washington St.
Cooperative Bank Washington St.	MSPCA 350 S. Huntington St.	Laundromat 270center St.	Polkadog Bakery 44 South St.	Praviana 3093 Washington St.
JP Seafood 730 Center St.	Stop & Shop Center St.	Camillo Liquor 280 Center St.	Fiore Bakery 55 South St.	Egleston Pizza 308 Washington St.
Unlimited Realty 673 Centre St.	Building 11 Perkins St.	Check Cash 282 Center St	Italian Pizza 172 South St.	Santander Bank Columbus & Washington
Happy Market 128 South St.	Bank of America Center St.	Jamaica Laundry 410 Center St.	Metro Mark Apt. 3615 Washington St.	Landromax Washington & Columbus
Blanchards 741 Center St.	Dunkin Donut Center St.	Zestos Pizza 460 Center St.	Metro Mark Apt. 3611 Washington St.	Walgreen Columbus
Dunkin Donuts 755 Center St.	Latino Restaurant 304 Center St.	Evergreen Café 154 Green St.	Rosmore Landry Washington St.	Academy Market 1580 Columbus
BOFA 677 Center St.	Freddy Market 302 Center St.	Clean Getaway 540 Center St.	Bradddock Café 3484 Washington St.	Goddard House 201 Huntington St.
Eastern Bank Center St.	Kappys Pizza 304 Center St.	The Forbes Building 545 Center St.	BMC Market 3390 Washington St.	Mt. Pleasant House 301 Huntington St.
CVS 704 Center St.	Square Market 331 Center St.	Gentle Dental 612 Center St.	Ruggiores Market 3345 Washington St.	House 135 Huntington St.
Ace Hardware 656 Center St.		Health Center 640 Center St.	Brookside Community 3297 Washington St.	
			JP Apts. 3200washington St.	

JP MUSIC FEST

The Saturday, September 9 weather forecast called for rain and thunderstorms but that didn't stop the JP Music Fest from taking advantage of lulls in the storm to safely enjoy the diverse array of music from one of Boston's most artistic neighborhoods. Pineback Field hosted the Festival with over 20 bands performing.



The rainy weather couldn't keep music fans away from Pineback Field and the musical performances held when the rain let up.



PHOTOS BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

Lemonshiners band members Correll on mandolin and Mike Bennett on guitar.



Liana Percoco with kids Michaela and Sterling and family friend Colby.



Drummer Pasha Cohen, vocalist and multi-instrumentalist Mamadou Diop, bassist Erik Bistany, and vocals, keyboardist and percussionist Adam Zampino with enterouge Alissa Eck and Heidi Schauster.



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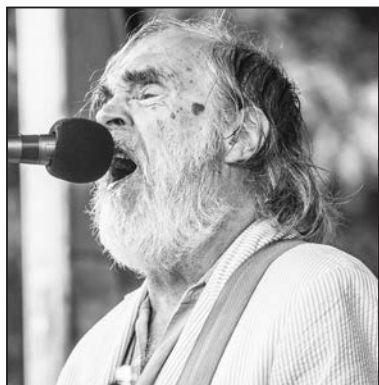


JAMAICA PLAIN HOLDS ANNUAL MUSIC FEST

PHOTOS BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN



Vocalist and guitarist Matt York of Matt York And The Hassle Free Roses rocks the stage.



Buttercup guitarist and vocalist Chandler Travis.



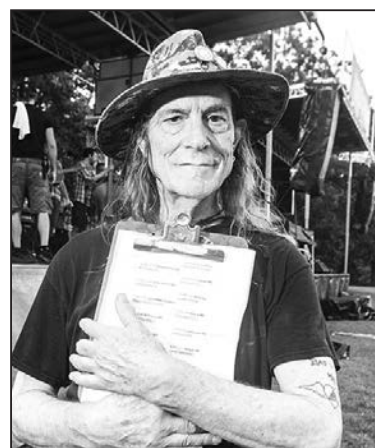
Valerie and Tricia enjoy the concert with decibel safety in mind.



Cal Cahil (center) from Charlestown with some new friends he met in JP.



Visiting from Mexico are Mauricio oen Kalb, Tamara Braverma, Valeria Wallentin, and Orly Bross.



One of the Festival organizers was local music legend Rick Berlin.



Young Isabel enjoys her ice cream with her parents Serena and Aron.

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Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll

'PATTON'

Patton is an energetic and affectionate lady who loves meeting new human friends and will greet them with hugs and kisses! She enjoys playdates with other dogs. She's a housebroken, loving, 3 year old pup.

"Gazette Pet of the Week" is sponsored by
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Liz Zobel is not going to let a little rain ruin her local musical experience.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS PAPER

JAMAICA PLAIN HOLDS ANNUAL MUSIC FEST

PHOTOS BY DEREK KOUYUMJIAN



Mark (Maak) Pelliter is a music fan.



Guitarist Jim Hill of Matt York And The Hassle Free Roses.



Jason Frangos on bass, performing with Lemonshiners.



Billy Squire and Ray Liriano are musicians from The Alchemists who performed earlier.



Bassist Beth York from Matt York And The Hassle Free Roses.



Maura O'Malley with her son Rocky, and Brian Engler.



Joe Anderson with Mazzy enjoy the Festival together.



A cappella foursome Crooked Mowth: James Gerke, Haley Fisher, Jennie O'Brien, and Jim Henderson



Maggie Stone and Partrick Murphy.

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NEWS BRIEFS

MAN FACING CHARGES IN JP WIRELESS ARMED ROBBERY

A local man was charged in federal court in Boston last week in connection with the March 20, 2023 armed robbery of the JP Wireless store in Jamaica Plain.

Royal Benjamin, 63, was charged with one count of Hobbs Act robbery. Benjamin currently is in state custody on related charges and will appear in federal court in Boston at a later date.

According to charging documents, on the evening of March 20, a Black male approximately six feet in height, wearing a black ski mask, grey hooded sweatshirt, light blue jeans

and black-and-white sneakers entered the JP Wireless Store in Jamaica Plain brandishing a black revolver. The suspect allegedly removed the cash register drawer with his bare hands, but dropped the drawer on the floor before fleeing the scene. It is alleged that Benjamin was identified as a positive match for fingerprints retrieved from the cash register drawer.

The charge of Hobbs Act robbery provides for a sentence of up to 20 years in prison, three years of supervised release and a fine of up to \$250,000. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines

and statutes which govern the determination of a sentence in a criminal case.

PASSENGERS URGED TO PLAN AHEAD AS DETOURS EXPECTED AT LOGAN

Due to ongoing roadway work that will impact passengers using Terminals B, C and E roadways, the Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) is urging departing passengers to plan for extra time if driving to the airport and/or utilize the various transit modes to get to and from Logan. Terminals B and C are Boston Logan's busiest terminals - B serves

American, United, Air Canada, Spirit, Southwest, Boutique and Alaska, while C serves JetBlue, Aer Lingus, Cape Air and TAP Air Portugal. Ongoing roadway construction will revamp the current terminal roadway system to eliminate backups, enhance the passenger pickup and drop off process, and get passengers to and from the terminals faster, improving the overall customer experience at Boston Logan.

During the 11-day period through September 25 (weather permitting), the roadway construction will require detours. Terminals C and E Departures traffic will be detoured to alternative roadways. Terminal C

Departures level traffic will be re-routed to the Arrivals level roadway to the Terminal C Ride App area in Central Parking. Terminal E Departures level traffic will be detoured through Terminal B Departures. For one day on September 16, Terminal C and E Arrivals traffic will be detoured through Terminal B Arrivals. Additional signage is being installed and State Police and Massport Ground Transportation staff will be on site to assist drivers.

For more information on the various ways to get to and from Boston Logan, please go to www.massport.com/logan-airport/to-from-logan/.

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Flynn and Worrell hold hearing on ordinance to study the trafficking of illegal firearms

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Boston City Council President Ed Flynn and Councilor Brian Worrell held a hearing on Monday, September 18, at 10 a.m. to discuss the ordinance that they sponsored to have a study and annual report with data on the flow of firearms and informa-

tion on illegal firearms recovered in the City. The hearing was chaired by Councilor Ricardo Arroyo in the Committee on Government Operations, and was attended by officials from the Boston Police Department and numerous City Councilors. The ordinance and hearing follows the unanimous adoption of a City

Council Resolution declaring gun violence as a public health emergency in October 2022.

Gun trafficking and the illegal flow of firearms is a major contributor to gun violence, with the Boston Police recovering close to 900 firearms in 2022. Since 2015, there have been over 1,700 shootings recorded in the City

of Boston, with more than 170 shootings in 2022. According to the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network, only 10 percent of the firearms recovered at crime scenes that were traced were purchased in Massachusetts, while the rest were brought into Massachusetts from 18 other states. Having a com-

prehensive study and review of the flow of firearms into the City of Boston would help law enforcement and policymakers better understand the impact of illegal gun trafficking, and help us develop strategies on gun violence prevention.

Continued on page 23



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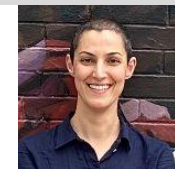


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The Gazette welcomes letters to the editor. Word limit: 500.

Deadline: Friday at 5 p.m. one week before publication. Letters may be emailed to

letters@JamaicaPlainGazette.com. Please include address and telephone number for verification purposes. Anonymous letters will not be published. More information: 617-524-7662

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EDITORIAL

Get your COVID-19 booster shots

While we would all love to leave COVID-19 in the rearview mirror, the stark reality is that the virus is still circulating among us, with the elderly and persons with compromised immune systems the most vulnerable to becoming seriously ill and dying from the virus.

Even otherwise healthy individuals, especially if they are overweight, run the risk of becoming seriously ill from the disease in the short-term and potentially suffering the lingering and debilitating effects of long-COVID, which has been well-documented, though it remains poorly understood.

Fortunately however, the CDC has approved the updated COVID booster vaccine that has been proven to be an effective and safe preventative measure against both catching the disease in the first place and, if infected, mitigating its most harmful effects.

The reasons we need an updated booster are three-fold: First, the effectiveness of the vaccine diminishes over time. Thus, the shots we received last year are significantly less protective today than they were 12 months ago. Second, the virus has mutated in the past year and the updated vaccines will provide protection against this ever-changing virus. Third, as we enter the fall and winter months, families will be gathering, with many having traveled in airplanes and returning from school, which are breeding grounds for the virus, and therefore looming as potential threats for parents and grandparents. We would note that from January to July of this year, 88 percent of deaths from COVID-19 were among people who were 65 years or older.

We urge all of our readers, regardless of age, to get the latest COVID-19 booster as soon as possible, both for our own health and that of our friends, co-workers, and family members.

Mitt could have been a great President

The announcement this week by Utah Senator Mitt Romney that he will not seek re-election in 2024 leaves a void not only in the Republican party, but on our national political scene.

When Mitt Romney was our governor, he showed that a person of integrity and dedication to office can get things done for the benefit of all citizens. His willingness to work with the Democrats to pass the landmark health care bill that guarantees health insurance for all Massachusetts residents served as a model for the historic Obamacare legislation a few years later at the national level.

In addition, Romney did not play politics (in contrast to governors both before and after)

with his government and judicial appointments. Mitt Romney was a straight shooter who held to the simple belief that excellence in government is attainable.

Unfortunately, Romney sold his proverbial soul to the devil when he entered national politics, changing his previously-held views on a woman's right to choose and even disavowing his own creation, dubbed Romneycare, despite its success in Massachusetts, in order to cater to the archconservatives of the modern Republican party.

However, after his unsuccessful run for president in 2012 in which he was defeated by Barack Obama, Mitt Romney became the de facto leader of the opposition to the ultra-Republicans whose modus operandi can only be described as anarchy.

"A very large portion of my party," said Romney, "really doesn't believe in the Constitution."

Even though we disagree with Mitt Romney on just about every issue, we nonetheless believe that he is one of the few politicians who would have made a great President. His departure from the U.S. Senate will leave a void that few, if any, will dare to fill.



OP-ED

My thoughts on Boston Public School meals

By MAYOR MICHELLE WU

I'll never forget that moment of wondrous epiphany years ago, when, still new to Boston, I tried my first apple picked from the tree at a local orchard. The pucker of tangy sweetness and juicy crispness flooded my senses with delight, then shock. How could I have lived for so many years thinking those other apples were as good as it gets?

The apples of my childhood were textbook Red Delicious picked from big piles at the grocery store and coated in that waxy film that didn't quite wash off—slightly squishy, slightly sweet, consistently deep red and bland.

When I was pregnant for the first time, poor dad-to-be drove through torrential rains to the orchard to satisfy my craving for farm-fresh apples. In the years after, it's become a treasured family tradition to visit the orchard and load up for the fall.

This year, apple-picking season and back-to-school are directly connected: for the first time, all apples served in Boston Public Schools lunches will be fresh and locally grown.

For many of our students, school meals are providing up to half of their daily calories. Guaranteeing universal free school meals ensures a reliable source of nutrition, destigmatiz-

es free lunch, and saves families cost and stress. We've also made strides in ensuring culturally appropriate foods, including kosher and halal options, and a range of options that reflects the rich cultural diversity of our school communities.

But focusing on food justice

means taking it beyond affordable and accessible. Good food should be nutritious, delicious, local, and sustainable too. As a City Councilor, I worked with a big coalition to draft and pass Boston's Good Food Purchasing

Continued on page 23

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

Jamaica Plain GAZETTE

Published 26 times a year in Jamaica Plain by Independent Newspaper Group

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LEGAL NOTICE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Probate
And Family Court
24 New Chardon St.
Boston, MA 02114
(617)788-8300
CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
CHANGE OF NAME
Docket No.
SU23C0465CA
In the matter of:
Lashaunna Zvanda
Santos
A Petition to Change Name
of Adult has been filed
by Lashaunna Zvanda
Santos of Roslindale, MA
requesting that the court
enter a Decree changing
their name to:
Lashaunna Zvanda San-

tos-Perkins
IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear
for purposes of objecting
to the petition by filing
an appearance at: Suffolk
Probate and Family Court
before 10:00 a.m. on the
return day of 10/05/2023.
This is NOT a hearing date,
but a deadline by which
you must file a written
appearance if you object to
this proceeding.
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J.
Dunn, First Justice of this
Court.
Date: September 08, 2023
Vincent Procopio,
Register of Probate

9/22/23
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.
SU23P1918EA
Estate of:
Jean S. Bamforth
Also known as:
Jean Bamforth,
Jean Stacey Bamforth
Date of Death:
07/27/2023
To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal
Probate of Will with
Appointment of Personal
Representative has been
filed by James L. Oslin of

Milton, MA and Patricia
M. Annino of Boston, 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: Patricia M. Annino of
Boston and James L. Oslin
of Milton, MA be appointed
as Personal Representa-
tive(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
10/19/2023.

This is NOT a hearing date,
but a deadline by which you
must file a written appear-
ance 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 ADMIN-
ISTRATION UNDER THE
MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM
PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative
appointed under the MUPC
in an unsupervised ad-
ministration 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: September 07, 2023
Vincent Procopio,
Register of Probate

9/22/23
JP

LEGAL NOTICE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Probate
and Family Court
24 New Chardon St.
Boston, MA 02114
(617)788-8300

CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
SALE OF REAL
ESTATE BY A
PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE
Docket No.
SU23P0093EA
Estate of:
Anne C. Burns
Date of Death:
12/05/2022
To all interested
persons:
A Petition for Sale of Real
Estate has been filed by:
Jonathan M. Spirn, Esq. of
Waltham, MA requesting
that the Court authorize the
Personal Representative
to sell the decedent's real
estate at a private sale.
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 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 (30) days of
the return date, action may
be taken without further
notice to you.
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J.
Dunn, First Justice of this
Court.
Date: August 30, 2023
Vincent Procopio,
Register of Probate

9/22/23
JP

Trafficking

Continued from page 21

At the hearing, Councilors spoke of the importance of curbing gun violence, the trauma brought on by gun violence in the community, as well as the concerning uses of 3D-printed “ghost guns” and modifiers such as switches. The Boston Police Department’s Regional Intelligence Center is responsible for collecting and tracking data on firearm recoveries, while overall number of shootings and shooting victims are trending downward, possession of firearms still remains a big concern. So far the Boston Police recovered 602 guns in 2023, 415 were crime guns, including 59 “ghost guns”. Most of the data requested in the

ordinance are already collected, and the Boston Police expressed willingness to collaborate on this ordinance.

“Data on the flow of firearms will help our law enforcement and policymakers better understand the impact of illegal gun trafficking, and allow us to develop more effective strategies to reduce gun violence,” said Council President Flynn. “I want to thank the Boston Police Department for the work that they do in keeping our communities safe, and Councilor Worrell and my colleagues for their partnership on this issue. I look forward to continuing collaborating with our Boston Police, and passing this ordinance so that we can work together to stop the illegal flow of firearms into our neighborhoods.”

Op-Ed

Continued from page 22

Ordinance, which requires any City spending on food to prioritize nutrition, local production, fair labor, animal welfare, environmental sustainability, and equitable purchasing. Now fully implemented and integrated with Boston Public Schools food purchasing contracts, Good Food Purchasing is delivering real impact this school year.

This year’s BPS menus will include more than 20 local products grown in New England, representing more than 10% of our food budget as we move quickly to reach our goal of 30% local spend.

For these meals, all 353,875 pounds of apples served in BPS schools will be New England grown, from eight different farms or farm collectives. More than half of the 1,320,000 whole apples in school meals will come from Pine Hill Orchards in Colrain, Massachusetts, with the rest grown from JP Sullivan growers collective, Mountain Orchard, and Blue Hills Orchard. And another 1,875 pounds of sliced apples will come from Plain View Farm, Farm Fresh, Three River Farmers Alliance, and Lyman Orchards.

Buying local means flexing our spending power to reshape food supply chains and strengthen

farmers following healthy growing practices right in our region. Cutting down the shipping distance by buying local also attacks emissions from one of the most harmful industries for climate change.

Right now, 86 of our 125 BPS schools are cooking healthy and fresh meals from scratch, compared to just 30 schools cooking last year. By November, that number will be up to 108 schools as we ramp up staffing. The other schools that don’t yet have kitchens are served by our wonderful local food partner, a Black-owned, employee cooperative business based right in Roxbury, City Fresh Foods, who also

provide the after-school snacks and other food options at some of the scratch-cooking schools as well.

By keeping all our dollars as local as possible, we’re prioritizing nutrition, supporting our local economy, and building wealth directly in our communities.

Our office of food justice has an ambitious agenda to expand access, opportunity, and connection through food. We’ll keep growing these efforts throughout Boston, from neighborhood farmers markets and restaurants, to BPS schools and the local farms in our good food purchasing ecosystem.

Michelle Wu is the Mayor of Boston.

CLASSIFIEDS

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David at kNURD on Kall:com can help with PC computers, networks, audio/video/multimedia, phone solutions. \$Reasonable\$. House calls. 617-676-5676.

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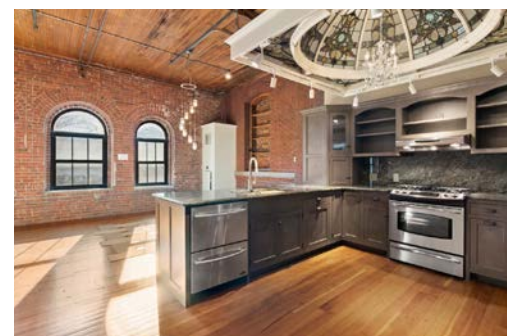
HOME IS THE HEART OF OUR BUSINESS



73 Sheridan Street #C-2 - JP
Offered at \$1,159,000
3 Bed, 2 Bath, 1330 Sq.Ft.
Susan Zutrau, 617.240.0912
Jay Balaban, 617.293.8932



90 Whitcomb Avenue - JP
Offered at \$1,089,000
4 Bed, 1.5 Bath, 1630 Sq.Ft.
The Boston Home Team,
617.249.4237



251 Heath Street #225 - JP
Offered at \$825,000
1 Bed, 1.5 Bath, 1319 Sq.Ft.
Anne Sasser, 617.799.3644



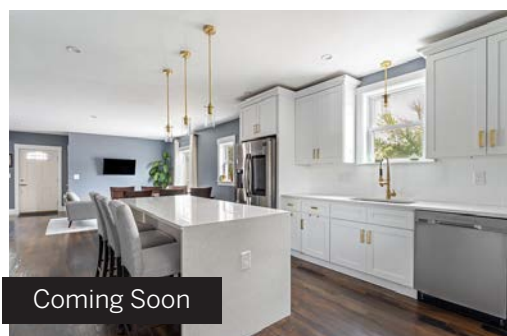
241 Perkins St #A502 - JP
Offered at \$774,900
2 Bed, 2 Bath, 1506 Sq.Ft.
Margie Kern, 617.939.7800
Igor Burlak, 347.683.8798



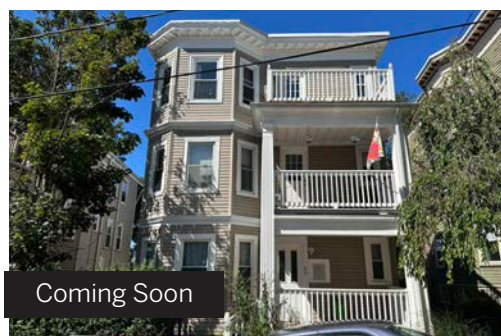
145-147 Chestnut Avenue #2 - JP
Offered at \$425,000
1 Bed, 1 Bath, 508 Sq.Ft.
The Boston Home Team,
617.249.4237



246 S Huntington Avenue #5 - JP
Offered at \$419,000
1 Bed, 1 Bath, 580 Sq.Ft.
Trisha Solio, 617.293.8070



9 Harrison St #1 - Roslindale
Coming to Market in October
2 Bed, 2 Bath, 1074 Sq.Ft.
Good Boston Living team,
617.971.7080



24 Rowell St #3 - Dorchester
Coming to Market Sept. 26th
2 Bed, 1 Bath, 900 Sq.Ft.
Good Boston Living team,
617.971.7080