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Jamaica Plain GAZETTE



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LuMeNet saw an increase in business owners looking to network with others and develop stronger strategies for growth. See pages 4 and 5 for more photos.

JP CENTRE SOUTH MAIN STREETS HOLD LuMeNet EVENT



JP Centre South Main Streets held their LUNch for MEntoring NETworking event, LuMeNet, in The Francis and Elizabeth Moloney Lecture Hall at the Boston Public Library's Jamaica Plain Branch.

PHOTOS BY DEREK KOUYOUNJIAN



Above, Delhia Emanuel, realtor with Caldwell Baker in Brookline.

Right, Brie Pullum, owner of VX at 668 Centre Street, fashion boutique.

JPNC holds monthly meeting, seeks to fill three vacancies

STAFF REPORT

The Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC) held its regular monthly meeting last Tuesday, February 27, via Zoom. The meeting consisted principally of reports from the JPNC's committees.

Chair Renee Stacey Welch, vice-chair Bernard Doherty, and fellow council members Purple Reign, Willie Mitchell, Dave Baron, Michael Reiskind, Gert Thorn, Peter DeCotis, Esther Beillard, Sarah Freeman,

Peg Preble, Lorenzo Bartoloni, Nicholas Chaves, Leah Simmons, and Katherine O'Shea were in attendance.

Jordan Frias from the office of new District 6 City Councilor Ben Weber (a former member of the JPNC) also was on hand for the meeting.

The council heard from its various committees. First up was the Public Service Committee report presented by Reiskind. He said the committee discussed the new police procedures per the new

Continued on page 2

JPA discusses plans for annual meeting

BY MICHAEL COUGHLIN JR.

During its monthly meeting earlier this week, the Jamaica Pond Association (JPA) had an in-depth conversation concerning several facets of its annual meeting, which is slated to take place in June.

To begin the conversation, Kay Mathew, the Board's Chair, invited Martin Thomson, the Board's Treasurer, to speak. He emphasized the importance of sending a letter to the membership notifying them about the meeting date — June 3rd, per this week's meeting agenda.

"The important thing is to get the date out on people's calendars and get them thinking about membership," said Thom-

son.

Shortly after that, the JPA discussed the creation of a nominating committee, which would nominate Board Members and Officers for election at the annual meeting, according to the association's by-laws on the JPA website.

Per the JPA by-laws, the nominating committee comprises at least five Board members and must be appointed 60 days before the annual meeting.

During this conversation, Mathew thought there should be a push to get new Board members.

"We really do need to think, and think kind of creatively

Continued on page 3

JPNC

Continued from page 2

union contract, which will allow civilian flaggers to perform detail work under certain circumstances. He said the group also discussed SHARPS containers (which are used for the collection and disposal of used hypodermic syringes) which are located in various locations in the city.

Reiskind said that the Public Service Committee nominated DeCotis for the position of vice-chair and the full JPNC approved DeCotis's selection to that post. The next meeting of the committee is set for Tuesday evening, at 7:00 on March 5. The new and proposed bike lanes will be on the agenda. There also will be a guest from the City Transportation Dept. regarding the coming improvements to the Route 39 bus corridor, which is among the top-five most-used bus lines in the city.

Baron presented the Zoning Committee's report. He said the

committee met twice in February. He said that the committee recommended four requests for variances for which he was seeking a favorable vote from the full council:

- The addition of several dormers in order to add a bedroom and a bathroom at 18 Pond Circle. The Jamaica Hills Assoc. did not oppose the project;
- The owner of the lot at 27 Hopkins Rd. (who also owns the adjacent single-family home) wishes to construct a new house on the vacant lot;
- At 3510 Washington St., a one-story business block, the owner of one of the businesses, JP Kitchens restaurant, wishes to add two residential floors above his storefront. Baron said a rear neighbor was concerned about using the rear for parking for tenants, but the applicant agreed to put up a six-foot fence to block headlight glare; and
- The owner of 104 Charles St. is seeking to expand the existing structure, including the addition of a second floor. The neighbors

mostly approved of the project, but a rear neighbor raised questions about the addition of a rear patio. The applicant agreed to put up a low, transparent fence to address the neighbor's concerns.

The full JPNC voted unanimously to approve all four of the Zoning Committee's recommendations. The owners still must go before the city's Zoning Board of Appeals in order to obtain their variances.

Baron said the next meeting of the Zoning Committee is set for March 6 at which the project at 305 Chestnut Ave. will be taken up. The home, which has historical significance, at one point had been condemned, but the new owner-developer is proposing to expand the building in the rear and to preserve the historical facade. The expanded property will contain seven residential units.

Purple Reign presented the report of the Housing and Development Committee. She noted that the discussion at the committee's February meeting centered around affordable housing and loan programs for first-time, income-qualified home buyers. There also was an update of the Arborway Garage project. The next meeting of the committee is set for March 19.

Chaves presented the Parks

Committee's report. He updated the full committee on some upcoming events, noting that April 20 is the date for the annual Muddy River Cleanup for which volunteers are being sought.

On March 20, there will be a Hike Boston event in Franklin Park at 10:30 in which city park rangers will lead participants in a guided hike around the park grounds. On March 14, there will be two meetings. The Boston Tree Alliance, which seeks to preserve and protect trees around the city, will meet at 1:00. Then at 6:00 in the evening, the city's Bear Den design committee will meet.

DeCotis said the goal of the design committee is to make the area safe for dogs and walkers. The Bear Dens are an abandoned portion of the Franklin Park Zoo that held the zoo's bear exhibit up through the early 1950s. Members discussed the Bear Den issue and offered many ideas about the future direction of the area. One newer resident of JP suggested that the area could be an off-leash dog park. Chaves informed the council that the city's Parks and Rec. Dept. has yet to respond to a letter sent by the committee regarding the committee's request that the city provide lighting at local parks and playgrounds after dark.

O'Shea presented the update

of the Outreach Committee in which she asked for a favorable vote for the production and distribution of flyers and business cards that she said will be aimed at reaching out to residents in order to encourage them to become involved with the JPNC and its committees. The full council approved O'Shea's motion. The next meeting of the Outreach Committee is set for March 12.

Katie Janvier, the new assistant director of the Community and Collaborative Engagement Unit for the Boston Police Dept., introduced herself to the council members. She briefly explained her role in the department and the goals of her unit within the department.

Under new business, Welch announced that there are three open seats on the JPNC and urged local residents to consider joining the council.

The last piece of business involved a discussion of the MBTA's Arborway Yard garage project. Sue Cibulski from the Housing and Development Committee's Arborway Garage subcommittee updated the full JPNC about the progress of the project.

The main thrust of the discussion centered on the MBTA's decision to locate a 150-car parking lot for its employees within the eight acres of land that have been designated for community development purposes, a commitment that dates back to the original Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the city and the MBTA in 2001.

Some members of the JPNC have voiced their opposition to the parking lot because it reduces the effective use of the eight-acres for community development purposes, especially for potential housing. The JPNC sent a letter to the T in January regarding the issue of the 150-car parking lot, but has not received a response.

The next meeting of the JPNC is set for Tuesday, March 26.



JP CHILDREN'S SOCCER

For kids 3.5-6.5. Online Registration is NOW OPEN

Volunteers needed to assure our ability to hold a Spring 2024! See details on our website at <https://bit.ly/jpcsoccer>

Regular season registration ends on April 12, 2024

The Spring season runs from Wednesday, April 24th through Sunday, June 23rd, 2024

Registration costs \$25.00 — discounts are available.

The spring season is 8 weeks long, every week we hold one 45 min practice for each team, with available sessions on Wednesdays at 4pm, Saturdays at 9, 10 or 11am or Sunday at 10am.

Volunteer Activity Leaders are needed to support every team - no experience needed! See our Website for more details or contact us directly at: contact@jpchildrensoccer.org.

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

El registro de la temporada regular finaliza el 12 de abril de 2024


La temporada de primavera se extiende desde el miércoles el 24 de Abril hasta domingo el 23 de Junio de 2024.

La inscripción cuesta \$25.00 — hay descuentos disponibles.

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

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





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Brendan Behan Pub

378A Centre Street
Jamaica Plain

JPA

Continued from page 1

about bringing on new members to the Board of Directors. Last time around — the last annual meeting — last June, we had no new people nominated for the Board,” said Mathew.

“I really would like to see several people — two, three, four people — but that requires, kind of, working collectively to reach out to folks,” she added.

Following Mathew’s remarks, enough members in attendance volunteered for the nominating committee.

Later in the meeting, the nomination process was discussed even more to ensure it is completed by a certain date—at least 30 days before the annual meeting, per the by-laws. Additionally, it was revealed that there will be some openings as eight Board members’ terms expire this year.

As the meeting progressed, members then made suggestions for the venue and a guest speaker. For example, Franklyn Salimbene thought the Loring Greenough House would be a good spot, as it was previously successful as a meeting place.

“It’s a nice setting for the meeting because it’s an attractive house, and people know about it, and a lot of people just want to come in and see what it

looks like,” said Salimbene.

Salimbene’s suggestion for the venue was well-received, and a JPA Board member is being tasked with trying to confirm the Loring Greenough House.

In addition to his suggestion for a meeting place, Salimbene also thought of a choice for a guest speaker, the city’s Chief of Streets, Jascha Franklin-Hodge.

“I don’t know whether he’d want to expose himself to a meeting of the Pond Association, the annual meeting, but it might be a service to the community,” he said.

While several folks in attendance thought having Franklin-Hodge was a good idea, there was another suggestion for the guest speaker from Michael Reiskind.

Reiskind thought Ryan Woods,

the city’s Commissioner of Parks and Recreation, could be a good choice for a guest speaker.

“We can talk about the trees on the Emerald Necklace that we discussed at length last month and then the maintenance around Jamaica Pond,” said Reiskind.

Ultimately, Reiskind’s recommendation was favorable for those in attendance, and the JPA will work on confirming a speaker.

Finally, the Board voted to move the annual meeting date to June because the by-laws have the meeting set for February.

Overall, the JPA seemed to have a very productive conversation and has taken significant steps to finalize 2024’s annual meeting. The next JPA meeting is scheduled for April 1st.

Boston voters support Biden and Trump in Super Tuesday primary

BY DAN MURPHY

As was the case throughout the Commonwealth, President Joe Biden and former president Donald Trump topped the ballot with Boston voters during the Super Tuesday presidential primary on Tuesday, March 5.

According to the city’s unofficial election results, President Biden was the top vote-getter on the Democratic side, garnering around 77 percent of the ballot (40,141 votes cast). ‘No Preference’ accounted for nearly 14 percent of the ballot (7,288 ballots cast), while Minnesota Congressman Dean Phillips and author

Marianne Williamson garnered more than 4 percent (2,238 votes) and nearly 3 percent of the ballot (1,492 votes), respectively.

On the Republican side, Trump garnered more than 51 percent of the ballot (9,428 votes). Former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, who was expected to suspend her campaign yesterday in the wake of unencouraging Super Tuesday primary outcomes nationwide, trailed Trump with nearly 45 percent of the ballot (8,195 votes). Other Republican candidates, including ‘No Preference’ and write-ins, accounted for the remaining less than 4 percent of the ballot.



© iStockphoto.com/Kayann Legg

Play Ball!



Jamaica Plain Regan Youth League 2024 Spring Registration
All players must register ON-LINE at
www.reganyouthleague.org
Registration closes March 30th

The JP Regan Youth League offers baseball to children living in Jamaica Plain and surrounding Boston neighborhoods in the following divisions and age groups:

TEE BALL: 5-6 years old **FARM:** 7-8 years old
JUNIOR: 9-10 years old **SENIOR:** 11-12 years old **PONY:** 13-16 years old
PLEASE NOTE: AGES REFER TO CHILD’S AGE AS OF AUGUST 31, 2024

2024 Skills Assessment Schedule

All players (except Tee Ball) will participate in a brief series of drills to evaluate their skills in order to ensure balanced teams. Everyone who registers will be placed on a team.

Players **must** attend 1 session.

DATES: Skills Assessments will occur on Sat., March 23rd and Sat., March 30th.

FARM - Daisy Field 9-11am

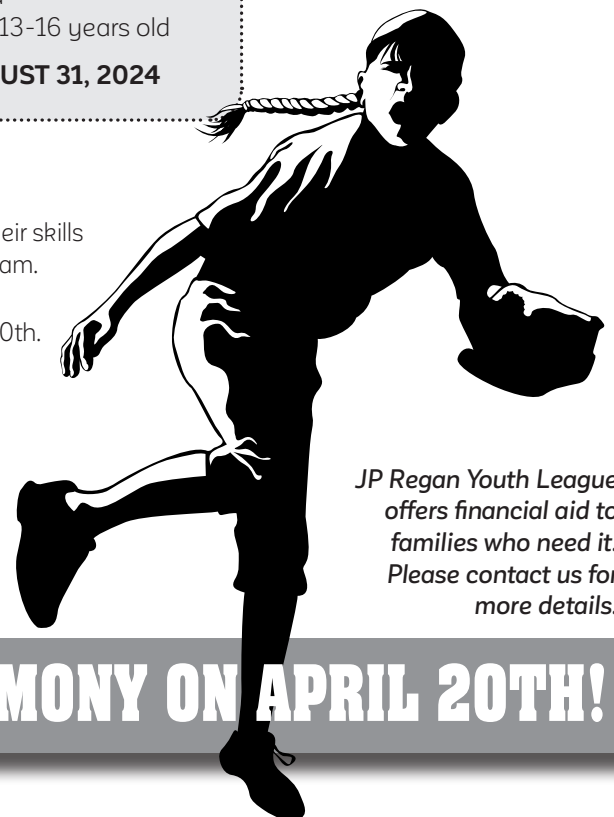
JUNIOR - Daisy Field 11-1pm

SENIOR - Daisy Field 1-3pm

Daisy Field is located off the Jamaicaway at Bynner Street.

PONY - Murphy Field 10-Noon

Murphy Field is on Child Street behind the Margarita Muñiz High School.



JP Regan Youth League offers financial aid to families who need it. Please contact us for more details.

OPENING DAY PARADE AND CEREMONY ON APRIL 20TH!

FOR MORE INFORMATION: mail@reganyouthleague.org

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@Jamaica-PlainGazette.com. Please include address and telephone number for verification purposes.

Anonymous letters will not be published. More information: 617-524-7662

JP CENTRE SOUTH MAIN STREETS HOLD LuMeNet EVENT

PHOTOS BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

JP Centre South Main Streets held their LUNch for MENToring NETworking event, LuMeNet, in The Francis and Elizabeth Moloney Lecture Hall at the Boston Public Library's Jamaica Plain Branch. Here businesses owned by black women could connect with each other and learn about resources and strategies to grow. The event has been held every 2 months since 2018 except for the break brought on by the Pandemic.



JP Centre South Main Streets Executive Director Ginger Brown.



Payton Renfroe with Center For Women In Enterprise, Eastern Mass.



LuMeNet saw an increase in business owners looking to network with others and develop stronger strategies for growth.



CDFI Dorchester Bay Lending and Outreach Officer Cesar Camacho offered information on navigating the realty market, attracting investors, and strategies for growth.

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-Brenda Lormil-Raymond
Nurse Practitioner

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For more information on screening, visit: boston.gov/cancer

JP CENTRE SOUTH MAIN STREETS HOLD LuMeNet EVENT

PHOTOS BY DEREK KOUYOUNJIAN



JP Centre South Main Streets Board President Michael Reiskind.



Business Banking Officer at Brookline Bank Farah Ali urged attendees to do better research in banks while keeping credit score, revenues, and, filing taxes on time in mind.



Tamyka Sanford owner of MaJor.



Brookline Bank Branch Manager Alicia Diamond urged attendees to be open about their needs when selecting products and services from the bank.



Kaitlin Ingram volunteered with JP Centre Main Streets to help business owners develop social media strategies.



LuMeNet saw an increase in business owners looking to network with others and develop stronger strategies for growth.



Shary Browne, owner of Shea Butter Smoothies recalls her experiences with establishing her insurance and navigating the banking system, did not get her loan for 617 Centre Street smoothies, in spite of challenges "putting out fires. In order to be an entrepreneur, you need to want to do it."

Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll



BANDIT

Bandit is a handsome 8 year old who is house trained, crate trained, and knows tricks like sit and paw. This easy going guy will make an easy transition into a new home, where he will be ready to shower you with love!

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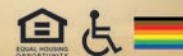
Mount Pleasant Home is now managed by HumanGood one of the nation's largest and most reputable non-profit operators of senior living communities.

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PLEASE RECYCLE

March is Massachusetts Maple Month

To celebrate a new agricultural season in Massachusetts, Governor Maura Healey is declaring March as Massachusetts Maple Month. Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) Commissioner Ashley Randle joined state and local officials and representatives from the Massachusetts Maple Producers Association today at Severance Maple Products in Northfield to raise awareness of the state's maple sugar industry and to encourage residents to visit their local sugar house and purchase locally made maple products.

In a recent visit to Severance Maple Products included a tour of their operations and retail store, along with a reading of a Governor's Proclamation and ceremonial tapping of a maple tree to commemorate the official start of the sugaring season. Owners Milt and Robin Severance have been sugaring since 1976. Their first year yielded a couple of gallons of maple syrup, but today, they produce a couple thousand gallons annually. All of their products are produced locally in Northfield at their sugarhouse kitchen, with availability online, in local stores, and at craft and agricultural fairs in the area.

Massachusetts is one of the top maple-producing states in the country, home to over 300 maple producers that produce more than 70,000 gallons per year. The sector employs over a thousand people, contributing over \$15 million to the local economy. Maple sugaring profits allow many Massachusetts farms to stay in business year-round by diversifying their offerings, serving as a supplemental source of income to their other crops.

"We are tapping into this maple month with more support and appreciation for our sugarmakers than ever. The maple industry is not only economically, culturally, and historically important for the region but also plays a vital role in our environmental and climate resilience efforts," said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper. "The industry maintains and preserves more than 15,000 acres of land and is working to modernize equipment and install renewable energy sources. We are proud to see this the sector transition to one of the state's most energy efficient and sustainable in agriculture."

Since 2018, MDAR has awarded over half a million dollars in

Climate Smart Agriculture Program Grants to maple producers throughout the state. These grants have been used to offset the costs of installing updated, environmentally friendly equipment, including high-efficiency evaporators, heat recovery and reverse osmosis equipment, and photovoltaic solar arrays, lowering carbon footprints and environmental impacts.

"Our farming community had an enormously challenging year in 2023, so it's with great optimism that we usher in a new growing season and celebrate our maple producers with the first agricultural crop of the year," said MDAR Commissioner Ashley Randle. "While the maple sugaring season may be brief in Massachusetts, our maple producers work hard year-round to bring us this naturally sweet and nutritionally dense crop that is versatile and universally enjoyed by all. We're proud to support them, and I can't wait to enjoy a pancake breakfast topped with fresh maple syrup at a local sugarhouse this month."

All month long, maple sugarhouses around the state will open their doors to host visitors with fun, family-friendly interactive



MDAR Commissioner Ashley Randle with state and local officials alongside Milt and Robin Severance (far right), owners of Severance Maple Products in Northfield.

activities, as well as serving stacks of pancakes, waffles, and French toast covered in local maple syrup. Maple sugaring is one of the few agritourism activities available during the early months of the year. Over 60,000 visitors spend more than \$2 million during the sugaring season. Farms, restaurants, bed and breakfasts, country inns, and other tourist businesses share in this income, which primarily flows into small towns and farm communities.

"Sugarhouses and local farms across Massachusetts provide memorable and immersive experiences for visitors of all ages," said Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism Executive Director Kate Fox. "We encourage visitors and residents alike to check out Massachusetts sugarhouses during Maple Month, where they can experience a behind-the-scenes tour, sample delicious treats, and purchase local

maple syrup and maple products from these unique small businesses."

"I'm so thankful to kick off maple season here in the Second Franklin District," said Representative Susannah Whipp (I - Athol). "This brief sweet period of time is a sign that spring is coming and a reminder of the importance of this industry to our economy, tourism and food system."

"I am delighted to join Governor Healey, EEA Secretary Tepper, MDAR Commissioner Randle, the MA Maple Producers Association, and many others in celebrating March as Massachusetts Maple Month," said Senator Jo Comerford (D-Northampton). "I am tremendously proud to represent many outstanding maple producers who are living and working in the Hampshire, Franklin, Worcester district."

"We expect a great maple syr-

Continued on page 7

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Six long-term care myths that could impact your retirement

(StatePoint) When it comes to planning their retirement, most people will rely upon their savings, 401(k)s and other forms of income to provide the security they will need for that phase of life.

However, many don't consider a crucial need for their later years: long-term care insurance.

In fact, a recent Forbes study revealed only about one-quarter of adults nearing retirement have seriously considered getting long-term care insurance or a savings account dedicated to long-term care expenses.

Further, many consumers mistakenly think their health insurance or Medicaid will cover

various aspects of long-term care services when that might not be the case. In a LIMRA study, 29% of respondents said they believe they own some form of stand-alone long-term care insurance coverage or combination life/long-term care insurance coverage. The data shows long-term care ownership is closer to 3.1%.

So why are Americans neglecting this aspect of financial planning? For many, common misconceptions are preventing them from being prepared. Here are six myths about long-term care and the truth you might not know from Bankers Life, a national life and health insurance brand.

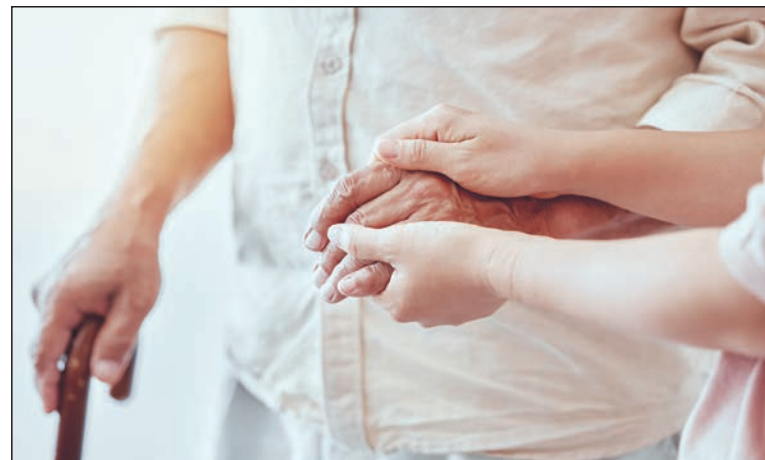
Myth #1: I won't need long-

term care.

Reality: Needing help with such daily activities as eating, bathing, dressing, toileting and continence, among others, may seem like an unlikely scenario. However, about 70% of people aged 65 and older will need some type of long-term care during their lifetime, according to the Department of Health and Human Services.

Myth #2: My family will take care of me.

Reality: Physical, financial and geographical limitations prevent many people from caring for their aging relatives, even if they intended to. That's why it's important to be prepared to pay for



(c) PeopleImages / iStock via Getty Images Plus

the long-term care you may need some day.

Myth #3: Medicare will cover my long-term care.

Reality: Medicare is designed to cover acute care, or the care you need when you're sick and will eventually recover from an illness. It doesn't cover ongoing Activities of Daily Living services when those are the only care you need.

Long-term care insurance is designed to help cover ongoing custodial care services, which includes assistance with dressing,

bathing, eating or other Activities of Daily Living.

Myth #4: I'll use my Social Security benefits to pay for long-term care.

Reality: Long-term care is expensive, with homemaker services costing \$163 per day on average and a semi-private room in a nursing home costing \$260 per day on average, according to SeniorLiving.org. Even the maximum monthly Social Security benefit of \$3,627.50 won't cover

Continued on page 9

Maple Month

Continued from page 6

up harvest this spring as many sugarmakers across the state are off to an early start," said Massachusetts Maple Producers Association Coordinator Missy Leab. "As the sweet steam rises from our local sugarhouses this spring, we encourage everyone to take the opportunity and visit one or more of the 300+ Massachusetts maple producers where you can talk with a sugarmaker, ask all your maple questions, and see, smell, and taste spring! Watch the fascinating process of turning fresh maple sap into pure maple

syrup. Don't forget to bring home a jug of Massachusetts sweetest crop: pure maple syrup!"

Maple syrup has been produced and consumed for centuries in North America. Its initial availability during the tail end of the winter season signals the start of the agricultural awakening in Massachusetts and is a sure sign that spring is around the corner. Tree tapping in Massachusetts can start as early as late January and continue through April, though March is officially Maple Month. Most importantly, the temperatures must be below freezing at night and above freezing during the days for the tree sap to flow. Furthermore, weather, soil, and genetics of the

tree can affect maple syrup flavor.

Please visit the Massachusetts Maple Producers Association (MMPA) to learn more about the maple sugaring process. For a complete listing of maple sugar houses in the Commonwealth, visit the MassGrown website.

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The Sherrill House continues to make strides for seniors

By MICHAEL COUGHLIN JR.

The Sherrill House, which has supported older adults in the community for over 100 years, is enhancing its care through new and upcoming amenities.

The “not-for-profit skilled nursing and rehabilitation center”—as described by the facility’s website—is located on South Huntington Avenue and cares for about 170 older adults daily through several services.

The facility, which has different floors that provide long-term care, short-term rehabilitation, and memory care, has recently added to its services to better assist its patients and residents.

For example, this past fall, the Sherrill House completed the construction of 16 new private rooms and one semi-private room.

Furthermore, a new sensory room in the memory care unit has been built, which anyone in the facility can use. Although the sensory unit has some more equipment slated to come in, it is currently in use and helping patients and residents.

Moreover, back in 2022, Sherrill House launched Longwood Hospice, which provides hospice care through an in-house team. Longwood Hospice allows those being cared for and their families to be familiar and comfortable with a full on-site staff instead of an outside agency.

In addition to the recently added services mentioned above, Sherrill House is looking to provide more in the future.

Over the next few weeks, the construction of a brand-new dialysis den will be complete, an amenity that will not only make treatment more accessible but also help quell the healthcare crisis induced by the COVID pandemic.

Patients in need of dialysis treatment often need to be transported by ambulance to hospitals multiple times over the course of a day and week.

Due to the impacts of COVID on the healthcare industry, Sherrill House had observed a challenge in that it was becoming increasingly difficult to pre-schedule the ambulance rides.

Essentially, the challenge

caused patients to sit around and wait for ambulance rides without drop-off or pick-up times.

The new den will allow patients to avoid spending long periods in lobbies and waiting rooms before and after treatment while escaping the ambulance wait times. It will also increase access to dialysis care, which will, in turn, open up more beds in hospitals.

The dialysis den, which was made possible through fundraising and a partnership with DaVita Kidney Care, is slated to begin taking patients in May.

While the dialysis den is slated to be added to the facility soon, Sherrill House also has other plans for the years ahead.

Specifically, fundraising is underway for the construction of a new rehab gym. While Sherrill House currently has a gym on

its ground floor, a new gym on the fifth floor, which would be larger, have updated state-of-the-art equipment, and feature incredible views of the Emerald Necklace and Jamaica Pond, is in the works.

Also, after the new rehab gym, which is projected to be completed in 2025, plans are to build a new staff cafeteria and wellness center.

For those interested in supporting Sherrill House’s fundraising efforts, email Bethany Allen, Sherrill House’s Director of Development, at ballen@sherrillhouse.org.

Additionally, for those who would like more information about the facility’s admission process or want a tour, call 617-735-1775 or email admissions@sherrillhouse.org.

In addition to the recently added services, Sherrill House is looking to provide more in the future.



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Sherrill House also provides long-term care, Alzheimer's and Dementia Care with an on-site Sensory Room, Longwood Hospice, a Dialysis Den coming Spring 2024 and a new Rehab Gym coming in 2025!

“I’ve been to other facilities and Sherrill House is the best. I’ve been here three times and will only come here when I need it. The rooms are big and clean, the food is great, and the staff truly care.”
- Clare, Rehab Patient



BLAST FROM THE PAST

Mount Pleasant Home hosts senior prom

A popular event at Mount Pleasant Home in Jamaica Plain is the "Senior" Prom for its residents. The June 2023 prom saw The Home decked out to the nines for the "Diamonds are Forever"

theme. Donations of gowns, jewelry, and tuxes were graciously provided by the JP community for the residents to wear. Corsages, boutonnieres, music, dancing, food, and drink were followed

by a formal catered meal. The event was a shining example of the compassionate care Mount Pleasant Home provides to their 60 residents. The photos are from the June 2023 Senior Prom.



Residents Barbara Castellano, Deb Shea, Bill Sheehan and Karen Tedesco.



Director of Resident Services Will Smalley and Executive Director Kathy Seaman.



Residents Bob Kingston-Parrott, Wilbur Kingston-Parrot and Alice Craffey.



Residents Deahdra Butler-Henderson, Athanasia Vrubel, Delory Williams, Josephina Lopez, Cheryl Saunders.

**Wishing All
Our Seniors
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FROM
LIZ MALIA
A JP RESIDENT

PLEASE RECYCLE

Retirement

Continued from page 7

these amounts.

Myth #5: Nursing homes are the only option.

Reality: When you hear "long-term care," you may immediately think "nursing home," but today there are a wide variety of services available that you may receive at a facility, in the community or in the comfort of your own home.

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Myth #6: I will get long-term care insurance later, when I need

it.

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For more information on long-term care insurance, reach out to a Bankers Life agent, or visit bankerslife.com.

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To learn more please visit

www.MountPleasantHome.org

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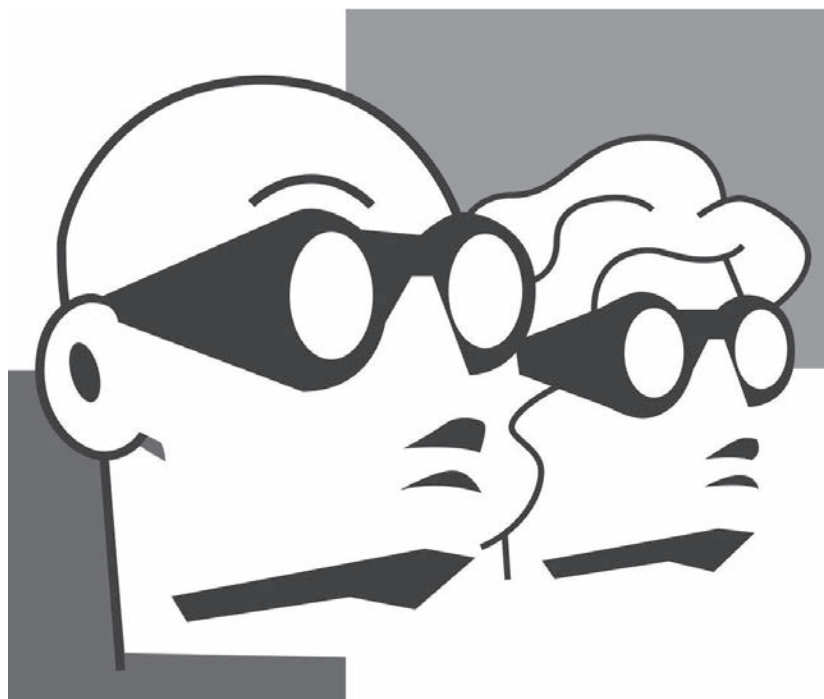
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Joint Committee on Ways and Means to hold budget hearing in Gloucester

The Joint Committee on Ways and Means will hold a hearing on Governor Maura Healey's FY2025 budget proposal, covering the topics of economic development, housing, and labor. State Representative Ann-Margaret Ferrante (D-Gloucester) and State Senator Lydia Edwards (D-Boston) will co-chair

the hearing. The hearing will be open to the public for viewing; testimony is by invitation only.

"As co-chair of this critical hearing on the FY2025 state budget, I'm honored to provide a platform for public engagement in our budgetary process. This hearing isn't just about numbers; it's about the future we're

collectively shaping. By opening the doors to transparency and accountability, we empower our constituents to actively participate in decisions that impact their lives," said Senator Lydia Edwards (D-Boston).

The Joint Committee on Ways and Means hearing on the FY2025 state budget is on Fri-

day, March 8, at 10:30 a.m. at the Gloucester City Hall – Kyrouz Auditorium, 9 Dale Avenue.

Involved are Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Office of the Attorney General, Executive Office of Economic Development, Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation, Dept. of Business Development, Execu-

tive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, Dept. of Housing and Community Development, Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, Board of Library Commissioners, Mass. Cultural Council, Commission on the Status of Women, Cannabis Control Commission.



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FRESH AND LOCAL

Switch it up!

BY PENNY & ED CHERUBINO

Those of us who cook have a roster of dishes we make more often than others. When you dine in or have takeout from a favorite restaurant, you probably have a few dishes you usually order. If you or your eaters find the love for a long-time favorite fading, it may be time to switch it up.

Salad Revision

We often add a favorite arugula and grilled shrimp salad to our order at Piattini on Newbury Street. Penny has made it at home several times, but it has yet to measure up to the original. She just can't duplicate the restaurant's great balsamic salad dressing. However, she made an excellent replacement salad by switching things up.

Penny replaced the shrimp with grilled sweet chili salmon, the dried cranberries with unsweetened dried cherries, and candied pecans with roasted pecans. Finally, she created a salad dressing from the remains of the sweet chili glaze from the salmon.

It was not just delicious but seasonal with winter fruits and nuts. It was healthier, with less sugar and higher omega-3 fatty acids. It was not as expensive since it used less costly fish and pantry ingredients. We're already talking about switching up this salad for spring, summer, and fall using seasonal ingredients and seafood from farmers' markets.

Another way to change a salad like this is to take your inspiration from a different culture or food preference. It could become Asian and vegan with grilled tofu, shiitake mushrooms, crispy shallots, and a ginger sesame vinaigrette.

How Restaurants Do It

Some items stay, without change, on restaurant menus forever and are sorely missed when they disappear, such as the legendary Hamersley's roast chicken. However, many chefs find ways to freshen their menus with seasonal flourishes.

For example, one of our neighborhood hangouts, Little Whale,

keeps Ed's favorites, swordfish, and haddock, on the menu. However, as the seasons change, the sauces and sides offered with these standbys are adapted to use seasonal ingredients. This winter, a side of marble potatoes and roasted fennel, sauced with a country mustard beurre blanc, has Penny ordering swordfish and wishing that side was offered by itself.

Another option for home cooks and restaurant chefs is to change their regular menu to include seasonal ingredients intentionally. The local asparagus season is so short that we will incorporate it into our meals many times a week. We might roast it along with some chicken on a sheet pan. Sometimes, we peel it into ribbons to create a fennel and asparagus salad that we only eat in spring. In winter, we surround that chicken with roasted root vegetables.

Change something as routine as "Taco Tuesday" by brain-



Our spicy grilled salmon, dried cherry, and pecan version of an arugula salad is a favorite busy-day meal.

storming for other fillings. The taco is just the carrier for the meal. You could choose an Italian sausage, pepper, and onion taco or a pizza taco. Consider ordering from a different taco shop if your tacos are take-out. There are dozens of discussions online about the best of any food category in the area.

Photos Are Reminders

One good thing about taking photos of our food is that we can check back at what we ate at home and when dining out this time of year. A glance at your pictures from the fall and winter could remind you of a great truffle ravioli you had in the past.

Check your photos for meals you've enjoyed. Look at current restaurant menus that use local food well and be inspired to try a new take on an old favorite.

Do you have a question or topic for Fresh & Local? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.

Jamaica Plain/Mission Hill Gazette

2024 Publishing Calendar

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EDITORIAL

Fire, fire everywhere

The fires that have been burning out of control this past week in Texas and Oklahoma -- and which are continuing to rage as this is being written -- are yet another harbinger of what awaits us thanks to the ever-increasing rate of climate change that is affecting every corner of the earth.

The fires in Texas, which have killed two persons, destroyed 500 homes, and caused entire towns to be evacuated, come on the heels of the recent fires in Chile, which destroyed entire communities and claimed 131 lives, more than the tragic fire a few months back that occurred in Hawaii.

Fire in other parts of the globe in recent years have charred millions of acres of land and wiped out entire communities, from Australia, to California, to Canada, and the Siberian tundra.

The out-of-control wildfire fires not only have caused loss of life and brought economic devastation to communities and individuals, but they also have sent acrid smoke that enveloped large swathes of neighboring countries, as happened in the Midwest and East Coast last summer when the fires in eastern Canada raised our air quality to extremely unhealthy levels for days at a time.

But these fires are only part of the equation of climate change. Ocean temperatures reached record highs this year, threatening coral reefs and marine life across the globe. What had seemed as inconceivable -- that the world's oceans could turn into dead zones -- no longer is in the realm of science fiction. It's a reality that could occur within a few short years.

In addition, with the hot oceans providing the fuel for tropical storms, hurricanes promise to be ever-stronger and more devastating.

Air temperatures have set records month-after-month and year-after-year for the past five years, with each successive year exceeding the one before. The record warmth in the continental U.S. this winter has resulted in the least snow cover on record and has prevented the usual lakes from freezing. Glaciers are disappearing everywhere, from the polar regions, to Greenland, to the Alps in Europe.

In short, everything that is climate related is off-the-charts -- and not in a good way. If what climate scientists tell us is true -- that we are in a race against time to change our ways and that we must stop burning fossil fuels in order to save the environment as we know it -- then it is becoming increasingly clear that our feet are stuck in the mud.

Please: No public drinking on St. Patrick's Day

With the St. Patrick's Day holiday and traditional South Boston parade approaching on Sunday, March 17, we urge our public safety officials to plan for enforcing the laws which prohibit drinking in public, especially by underage drinkers.

Last year in the aftermath of the South Boston parade, we found ourselves in the unfortunate position of riding the Red Line to the South Shore. The trains were packed with highly-inebriated, rowdy, under-age drinkers who were drinking openly on the trains and then flinging their empties around the train cars, striking other passengers. The platforms resembled war zones, with large-scale fights and scores of youths who were passed out left-and-right.

We realize that everyone wants to relax and have a good time on St. Patrick's Day, but that is no excuse for our public safety officials to turn a blind eye to underage drinking and drinking in public. In addition, for those of us of Irish descent, the perception that being "Irish for a day" means drinking heavily is highly-insulting.

It is inevitable that with the high degree of public intoxication that is tacitly permitted by our public safety officials, there will be a tragedy. We urge our public officials to take steps ahead of time to stop this annual reign of dangerous mass chaos.

When you change your clocks, check your alarms this weekend

With daylight saving time beginning on March 10, Massachusetts fire officials are reminding residents to check their smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms when they change their clocks.

"We've seen too many tragedies in homes without working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms," said State Fire Marshal Davine. "Most fires and CO incidents take place at home, and these alarms are your first line of defense. As we spring forward this weekend, remember to check your alarms when you change your clocks. Be sure they're present on every level of your home. And unless you have newer alarms with sealed, long-life batteries, this is a great time to replace the alkaline batteries in all your alarms."

Most Fatal Fires Occur in One- and Two-Family Homes

Of 45 fire deaths in Massachusetts last year, 31 -- nearly 70% -- took place at home. Nearly 75% of these residential fire deaths took place in one- and two-family homes. Investigators found working smoke alarms at just one-third of those dwellings.

Replace Expired Alarms

"Smoke and CO alarms are like any other appliance -- they don't last forever," said Hyannis Fire Chief Peter Burke, president of the Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts. "An alarm's manufacturing date is printed on the back of the device. Smoke alarms need to be replaced after 10 years, and carbon monoxide alarms need to be replaced after 5, 7, or 10 years, depending on the make and model. If your alarm is out of date, or if there's no date at all, it's time to replace it."

Replacing an out-of-date alarm? The Massachusetts Comprehensive Fire Safety Code requires replacement battery-operated smoke alarms in older one- and two-family homes to be photoelectric and have sealed, long-life batteries and a hush feature. These alarms are easier to maintain and less likely to be disabled while cooking or by someone using the batteries for other household appliances.

"Disabling a smoke alarm puts you and everyone in your building at risk," said Chief Burke.



"Test your alarms once a month to be sure you and the people you care for are protected."

Fire officials recommend that you choose alarms from a well-known, national brand. Look for the mark of an independent testing laboratory such as UL or Intertek. Many Massachusetts fire departments have found alarms purchased on Amazon and other online retailers that do not meet the Fire Code -- and may not perform when they're needed most.

"If the price seems too good to be true, then it probably is," said State Fire Marshal Davine.

Create & Practice a Home Escape Plan

"We have less time than ever before to escape a fire at home," said State Fire Marshal Davine. "You could have three minutes to escape safely. Creating and practicing a home escape plan that includes two routes out will help you make the most of that precious time to get outside before poisonous gases and heat make escape impossible."

"Working smoke alarms and a practiced home escape plan are among the most fundamental

and important tools for surviving a fire," said Chief Burke. "Be sure everyone in the home knows what to do and where to go when the alarm sounds, including young children, older adults, and people with disabilities. Always keep doorways, stairways, and windows clear of furniture and other obstructions so you can leave quickly and safely."

Older Adults at Greatest Risk

More than half of last year's fire deaths involved adults aged 65 and older. In FY23, the Department of Fire Services' Senior SAFE grant program awarded more than \$575,000 to hundreds of fire departments across Massachusetts to support assistance with alarm installation and testing. Older adults who need help testing, maintaining, or replacing smoke alarms should contact their local fire department, council on aging, or senior center for assistance.

Carbon Monoxide Hazards

Heating equipment is the leading source of carbon monoxide at home, State Fire Marshal Davine said, but winter isn't over yet and CO remains a hazard even in warmer weather. While many carbon monoxide incidents involve furnaces and other heating appliances, CO is also produced by stoves, grills, and vehicles, as well as generators put into use during a power outage.

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

Jamaica Plain GAZETTE

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Goldberg announces latest release of unclaimed property listings

Massachusetts State Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg has announced the latest grouping of names added to the state's list of unclaimed property owners. Over 50,000 new properties worth millions of dollars are owed to individuals and businesses throughout the Commonwealth.

"Did you know there is \$3.4 billion in unclaimed property here in Massachusetts? 1 in 10 people in this state are owed money and one of them could be you," said Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg. "So check the list, go online, or call our office to search for your name and begin the process today."

Unclaimed property includes

forgotten savings and checking accounts, un-cashed checks, insurance policy proceeds, stocks, dividends, and the contents of unattended safe deposit boxes. Most accounts are considered abandoned and are turned over to the state after three years of inactivity. Last year, Treasury processed over 145,000 claims and returned \$185 million in property to its rightful owners.

This newly released list includes only individuals and businesses with unclaimed property over \$100. Treasurer Goldberg urges all citizens to check the comprehensive list for all amounts at www.findmassmoney.gov or

call our live call center at 1-888-344-MASS (6277).

The full list of the new individuals and businesses added to the unclaimed property list will be published in the Boston Globe on March 3rd and in the Boston Herald on March 10th. In addition, the list of names will be published in over 30 regional and local papers in following weeks.

The Treasury releases an updated list of unclaimed property assets every six months as the new accounts are turned over to the Commonwealth. There is no time limit for a person to claim this property and, in many cases, claimants will receive interest.

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LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Probate & Family
Court
SUFFOLK, SS.
Docket No.
SU24E001PP

To Patrice A. Flesch of Boston, MA, and to all other persons interested.
A Petition has been presented to said Court by Courtney Zenz of McLean, VA and Kimberly Zenz of Berlin, Germany in the County of Suffolk representing that each hold 16.665% share as tenant in common undivided part or share of certain land lying in Boston, MA in said County, and briefly described as follows:

A certain parcel of land with the buildings thereon, situated in that part of Boston, Suffolk County, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, formerly West Roxbury, on the northerly side of McBride Street, and being shown as Lot No. 5 on a plan drawn by William H. Garbett, dated March 19, 1860, and recorded with Norfolk Deeds at the end of Book 285 and being bounded and described as follows:

SOUTHERLY by McBride Street, forty-seven (47) feet; EASTERLY by Lot No. 6 as shown on said plan, ninety-nine and 39/100 (99.39) feet; NORTHERLY by land now or formerly of D.S. Greenough, Trustee, forty-seven and 17/100 (47.17) feet; and WESTERLY by Lot No. 4 as shown on said plan, ninety-five and 3/10 (95.3) feet. Containing 4,575 square feet of land and said premises are conveyed subject to and with the benefit of restrictions and easements of record in so far as the same are in force and applicable. setting forth that the petitioners desire that all the following

described part of said land may be sold at private sale for not less than \$1,400,000.00 dollars.
And praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided at either private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof.

If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court in Boston before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the 12th day of March 2024, the return day of this citation.

Witness, Brian J. Dunn, Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this 30th day of January 2024.

Stephanie L. Everett Register
02/09/2024, 02/23/2024,
03/08/2024 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
CITATION GIVING
NOTICE OF
PETITION FOR
APPOINTMENT OF
CONSERVATOR OR
OTHER PROTECTIVE
ORDER PURSUANT
TO G.L. c. 190B,
§ 5-304 & § 5-405
Docket No.
SU24P0419PM
In the matter of:
Kamla Tahsir

Of: Jamaica Plain, MA
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Lutheran Home Of Jamaica Plain of Jamaica Plain, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Kamla Tahsir is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that Randy Brinson, Jr. of Boston, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve With Personal Surety on the bond. The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 03/26/2024. This 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: February 27, 2024
Stephanie Everett,
Register of Probate
03/08/24 JP

LEGAL NOTICE Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court

CITATION GIVING
NOTICE OF
PETITION FOR
APPOINTMENT OF
GUARDIAN FOR
INCAPACITATED
PERSON PURSUANT
TO G.L. c. 190B,
§5-304
Docket No.
SU24P0418GD
Suffolk Probate and
Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300
In the matter of:

Kamla Tahsir
Of: Jamaica Plain, MA
RESPONDENT Alleged Incapacitated Person
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Lutheran Home Of Jamaica Plain of Jamaica Plain, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Kamla Tahsir is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Randy Brinson, Jr. of Boston, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond. The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and 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 03/26/2024. 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 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: February 27, 2024
Stephanie L. Everett
Register of Probate
03/08/24 JP

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

Suffolk Probate
and Family Court
24 New Chardon St.
Boston, MA 02114
(617)788-8300
CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
FORMAL
ADJUDICATION
Docket No.
SU23P2776EA
Estate of:
Lisa Ann Gens
Date of Death
09/07/2023
To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Francis R. Gens of Lexington, 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: Francis R. Gens of Lexington, 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 03/28/2024.

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: February 21, 2024
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate
3/8/24 JP

LEGAL NOTICE CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT

TO G.L. c. 190B,
Section 5-304
Docket No.
SU24P0360GD
Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Suffolk Probate
and Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
Boston MA, 02114
In the matter of: Tara Bass of:
Jamaica Plain, MA
RESPONDENT Alleged Incapacitated Person
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Mass. Dept. Of Mental Health of Westborough, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Tara Bass is in need of a Guardian and requesting that (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to

serve 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 AM on the return date of 3/26/2024. 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: February 20, 2024
Stephanie Everett, Register of Probate
3/8/24 JP

CITY PAWS

The Name Game

By PENNY & ED CHERUBINO

Would you like an excellent conversation starter for the people you meet on dog walks? Asking the dog’s name seems to come naturally. For a great conversation, ask how they came to choose that name. We often find a fascinating tale behind a dog’s name.

One of the rescued Westies we placed in a local home came with the name Rad. His new family (we soon learned they were truly fun and funny people) renamed him Swiffer. Why not?

His sometimes long and shaggy coat did a great job of dusting their hardwood floors.

A friend’s Ragdoll cat was called Max, but his full name was Maximilien De Whisker, a take on Maximilien de Winter, hero of Daphne du Maurier’s book “Rebecca.” One Back Bay couple adopted a mixed breed dog and named him Del. They explain it’s short for Delano because he now had a “New Deal.”

We knew a dog named Kepler, after the German mathematician, astronomer, and astrologer Johannes Kepler. That’s a very

Bostonian approach to naming a dog. Of course, naming a dog after someone or something related to sports is also very Boston.

Tips for Name Selection

The Seeing Eye is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to breed, train, and place guide dogs for the blind, and they name about 500 puppies a year. Since these dogs must respond to that name for the rest of their lives, they must choose well. They offer the following tips for the rest of us.

First, count the syllables in the name. They try to stick to names with one or two syllables because shorter names are faster when communicating with the dog. Avoid names that sound like a command and might confuse the animal. Here are their examples, “‘Mo’ can sound like ‘No’ and ‘Kit’ sounds like ‘Sit.’” Finally, avoid names with embarrassing or negative connotations. You may find yourself shouting the name in public one day.

We’d add that you should skip names that sound like those of other pets or family. And remind you that, in the dog show world, each animal has a full registered



Poppy’s full name is “Duchess Poppy Whitehead.” “Duchess Poppy” comes from an E.F. Benson book character and our love for the pop of Champagne corks!

name and a shorter call name. Moreover, most dogs answer to nickname variations of their official one.

Popular Names

Each year, groups like the American Kennel Club, dog walking services, and pet insurance companies publish lists of

the most popular dog names—The Wildest website reported on these listings last November.

They wrote that the top ten male dog names for 2024 were Charlie, Max, Cooper, Milo, Buddy, Teddy, Rocky, Bear, Leo, and Duke. The female dog list included Luna, Bella, Daisy, Lucy, Lily, Lola, Zoe, Sadie, Stella, and Bailey.

People Names

Would you be insulted if someone named their dog after you? Penny is always happy to meet a dog who shares her name.

We’ve heard of family feuds from using a name someone felt was their exclusive property. That doesn’t seem to happen with dogs. No one cares if there are three dogs named Fenway in the neighborhood. Dog people just add the breed when talking about them.

One final tip: take your time christening a new pet. Kitty or puppy work fine until you get to know one another. The perfect name may come to you, or you may notice that certain sounds or words get a response from your new family member. The dog or cat may give you a clue to their favorite name.

Do you have a question or topic for City Paws? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your request.



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