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SEE FY25 CITY BUDGET INVESTMENTS, PAGE 7

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Jamaica Plain GAZETTE

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MARGARITA MUNIZ ACADEMY GRADUATES THE CLASS OF 2024



PATRICK E. O'CONNOR PHOTOS

Shortly before 2 p.m. on June 12, the graduates strolled from the school on Child Street to the side lawn of the Loring-Greenough estate on South Street the graduation ceremony. Welcoming all and introducing speakers was head of school Dania Vazquez. Diplomas were presented to 56 graduates.

Shown above, Valedictorian Adrian Brea-McGovern and co-salutatorians Yariel Cordero Sanchez and Mergid Abreu Ramirez.

Shown left, Franklin Medal award winners are Yonarvi Batista Suero and Wilmayris Arias Sanz.

JPNC holds monthly meeting

BY GAZETTE STAFF

The Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC) held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 28, via Zoom. Chair Renee Stacey Welch presided over the session that was attended by State Rep. Sam Montano and Caroline Peters, the liaison to Jamaica Plain from the mayor's office.

JPNC members in attendance were vice-chair Bernard Doherty, at-large members Purple Reign, Sarah Freeman, Michael Reiskind, and David Baron; Area A

members Willie Mitchell, Peter DeCotis, Esther Beillard, and Danielle Sommer-Kieta; Area B member Lorenzo Bartoloni; and Area C members Peg Preble, Katherine O'Shea, and Gert Thorn.

Preble shared at the start of the meeting that she is stepping down from her position on the council, though she would be staying on as a Community Member of the Zoning Committee.

Doherty also stated at the outset that he was "happy to see"

Continued on page 3

MAYOR'S COFFEE HOUR AT MOTZART PARK



MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTO BY MIKE MEJIA

Mayor Michelle Wu's Coffee Hour Series stopped by Jamaica Plain in May. See more photos from the event on Pages 8-9.

ESNA gets update on local crime

BY ADAM SWIFT

At last week's Egleston Square Neighborhood Association meeting, police officers from Jamaica Plain's E13 district updated members on several crimes that happened over the previous month.

ESNA members also raised concerns about the warming summer months and an increase of people loitering in the square. Officer Orlando Cepeda said there was a stabbing at 380 Washington St. on May 10 where the victim walked into Brigham and Women's Hospital. Cepeda

said the stabbing was the result of the attempted theft of the victim's cellphone. Cepeda said the suspect was later stopped near the Egleston House of Pizza and identified by the suspect. The man was charged

Continued on page 2

MGH medical assistant from JP charged with indecent assault and battery

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

A Mass General Hospital medical assistant from Jamaica Plain has been charged with indecent assault and battery after conducting an unauthorized exam on a patient, according to Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden.

Leonardo Hernandez, 29, was arraigned Monday in Boston Municipal Court Central on one count of indecent assault and battery on a person over 14. Hernandez was released on personal recognizance and ordered to stay away from the location of offense. He is due back in court July 24 for a pre-trial hearing.

Boston police on April 12 took a report regarding an incident that occurred at Mass General Dermatology. The victim said she had gone to the unit several weeks prior to seek medical attention. When her physician exited the room there was a knock on the door accompanied by a man's voice.

A man then entered the ex-

amination room, according to the Suffolk County District Attorney's office. The victim recognized the man from previous appointments.

According to the DA's office, the man, later identified as Hernandez, asked the victim if she would like to have a skin examination due to a possible condition on her foot. The victim said if the exam was necessary then she would like to have it. She hadn't been informed of an additional exam but assumed the doctor had requested it.

According to the DA's office, Hernandez provided the victim with a hospital gown and left the room closing the door behind him. Hernandez then quickly re-entered the room before the victim had the opportunity to remove her clothes. Hernandez remained in the room as the victim removed her jeans and began examining her.

The victim said Hernandez went down to the floor and started touching her right leg, running the tips of his fingers up

her leg. Hernandez then raised her undergarment exposing her buttocks and repeated this on the left side. Hernandez advised the victim he was conducting a normal exam and that he would need to check her abdomen with both hands.

Hernandez then requested to see the victim's breast. The victim declined. Hernandez requested approximately four times to see the victim's breast before attempting to pull down the victim's hospital gown. Upon the victim's repeated refusals Hernandez left the examination room, according to the district attorney.

The following day, the victim contacted her doctor to ask if she had ordered any follow-up exams. The doctor told the victim that she hadn't, and that this type of exam is not within Hernandez's job description.

"I commend this victim for speaking up when she determined that this situation was

Continued on page 3

Crime

Continued from page 1

with assault with a knife, assault and battery with injuries, and several other charges, according to Cepeda.

On May 22, Cepeda said there was an incident that started involving a shooting in Roxbury where the suspects were later arrested in Jamaica Plain.

The most recent event highlighted by Cepeda occurred on Saturday, June 1, where a person was stabbed in the fish market

parking lot during an attempted robbery of a scooter.

"The police arrived and helped the victim to the hospital right away," said Cepeda.

As of the ESNA meeting, Cepeda said that incident was still under investigation.

ESNA chair Carolyn Royce noted that members were concerned about an increase of people loitering at the wall in Eggleston Square.

"There's basically a core group of people who stay the same, and it seems like now there are more people and new people and more activity," said Royce.

Cepeda said the department has kept a cruiser in the square to help increase visibility.

There were also concerns raised about an increase of loitering and suspicious activity around the St. Mary of the Angels church. Police officials said they would look into adding more directed patrols in the area to help ease the issues. They also stated that the police work with other local agencies to help direct people to the proper help they may need if they are homeless or have substance abuse or mental health issues.

Barbara Rhodes

August 8, 1956—May 21, 2024



Barbara Rhodes, a Children's Librarian for the Boston Public Libraries for over 40 years, who brought a love of books and stories to innumerable children and their families during her tenure, passed away on May 21.

The beloved Children's Librarian at Boston Public Library's busy Jamaica Plain branch for more than 30 years, she also served at the Field's Corner, East Boston, and Central branches inspiring a deep love of reading and literacy in a community comprising thousands of young scholars. Barbara impacted many lives through her work, her generosity, and her unwavering curiosity about the world. Creating a children's component for nearly every library event, she brought a broad selection of speakers, storytellers, artists and performers to the library. She dedicated her time to building personal relationships with all of the children and parents who entered the children's room.

Barbara was an Advisory Board member of JP Reads, a community-building initiative to explore an individual book through a range of programming, including readings and book groups. She enlisted the other librarians at her branch to join JP Reads and created all the children's programming, providing creative input at every step and single-handedly elevated the quality of the overall project.

Expanding the Library's programming to engage with BIPOC and LGBTQ+ youth, she brought the Boston-based social justice group Wee the People, among others, to the library. She created special programming for her weekly Preschool Story times, Kids Club, and the JP homeschooling community.

Additionally, during COVID closures, Barbara put together "crafts-to-go" kits and individualized book packs for neighborhood children so that they could have books to read and activities to do at home while they couldn't come to the library in person. In 2023, she was the recipient of a much-deserved Shattuck Public Service Award for her four de-

acades of inspiring young readers in Boston.

Barbara loved being outside in nature — kayaking, hiking, biking or walking along beaches in Wellfleet/Truro, Maine, and Barbados. Her muffins, blueberry crisp, and rhubarb pie are legendary.

She leaves her husband, Wayne Rhodes and daughter, Emma Rhodes, along with myriad family, neighbors, friends, colleagues, and community members who will sorely miss her vibrant and loving spirit. She brought joy into the lives of everyone who knew her.

Contributions in her memory can be made to the Barbara Rhodes Children's Collection Endowment Fund at www.bplfund.org/give. (Please check the box that says I would like to dedicate this gift and add Barbara Rhodes' name)

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Assault

Continued from page 2

just not right," Hayden said. "All patients are entitled to safe and ethical treatment during their medical appointments. Anyone

jeopardizing a patient's safety or abusing and exceeding their professional responsibilities will be held accountable."

A spokesperson from Mass General Hospital stated that the hospital was deeply troubled by the allegations and thankful to the patient for coming forward

to ensure that the individual's alleged misconduct was exposed. Hernandez was terminated by MGH and the hospital spokesperson said the hospital is cooperating with the investigation. The victims of any crime, including domestic or sexual violence, should call 911 in an

emergency. SafeLink, a state-wide DV hotline, can be reached at 877-785-2020. SafeLink is answered by trained advocates 24/7 in English, Spanish and Portuguese, as well as TTY at 877-521-2601. It also has the capacity to provide multilingual translation in more than 140

languages. RAINN, the nation's largest anti-sexual violence organization in partnership with more than 1,000 local sexual assault service providers across the country, can be reached at 800-656-4673.

JPNC

Continued from page 1

that a recent loud music party was broken up promptly by the Boston Police Dept. and that seven persons were arrested.

The council heard from its various committees. Reiskind presented the report of the Public Service Committee's meeting on May 7. He said the committee discussed the proposed changes to the city's zoning ordinances, which Reiskind termed as "fairly innocuous," regarding cannabis dispensaries.

Reiskind also reported that the JP business community is seeking to find a new tenant for the large space at 716 Centre St., where the longstanding Boomerangs second-hand clothing & furniture store that benefits AIDS treatment & prevention is closing. He said that among the suggestions for the re-use of the space is a marketplace-style format with multiple vendors.

Baron presented the report of the Zoning Committee. He said that the committee took up four applications for variances at its meeting on May 15. He said that three of the matters were non-controversial and were approved unanimously by the Zoning Committee. However, the application for a variance from the rear-yard setback requirements at 23 Gay Head St., where the owner is seeking to add a shed dormer and a rear addition as part of a comprehensive renovation of a Queen Ann Victorian to convert the house from a one-family to a two-family, met with some opposition from neighbors.

Baron characterized the opposition from neighbors as "all over the place," with some suggesting that the addition will bring more vehicles and others stating that they did not like the look of the addition. However, a majority of the Zoning Committee approved the application by

a vote of 7-4-1.

One of the neighbors spoke to the JPNC to express her opposition, noting that the rear addition will alter the architectural integrity of the neighborhood, which she said has remained essentially unchanged since 1895, and will interfere with the views of many neighbors. She also said that the addition will require that three trees be removed.

After some discussion, the members approved the recommendations of the Zoning Committee regarding all four properties. The owners still must go before the City of Boston Zoning Board of Appeals in order to obtain their variances.

O'Shea presented the report of the Outreach Committee. She said the principal discussion at its May meeting centered around establishing the JPNC as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. However, she noted that the onerous requirements under the

law may preclude the JPNC from moving forward on that issue.

Sommer-Kieta raised the question of whether rodent control problems in the neighborhood should come within the purview of the Outreach Committee, specifically with regard to conducting a survey of residents about the problem.

Sommer-Kieta presented the report of the Housing and Development Committee. She said the group heard from the developer of a new project at 140 Wachusett St. near Forest Hills. The project will entail removing a single family home, which sits on a large parcel, on which the developer hopes to construct a 28-unit building consisting principally of studio and one-bedroom units. She said the committee urged the developer to provide more housing for families (2 and 3-bedroom units) and that the project provide 18 percent affordable housing units,

which would be more than the 13 percent threshold that the city presently requires (that percentage will increase to 17 percent in the fall).

Nick Chaves, the co-chair of the Parks and Open Space Committee, sent an email regarding a recent meeting with city officials regarding the controversial White Stadium project. The city is proposing that the long-forgotten and decaying stadium be renovated in order for the coming Boston women's professional soccer team to be able to use it as its home field.

Sue Cibulski from the Arborway Garage Sub-Committee provided an update on the work of the sub-committee. She noted that the MBTA has not yet responded to a letter from the JPNC regarding the JPNC's opposition to the T locating a 150-car parking lot for T employees within the eight acres of land that has been designat-

ed for community development purposes since 2001 pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding. Cibulski requested that the JPNC send a follow-up letter.

However, she also noted that the present state budget does not provide full funding for the new Arborway garage, which could further delay its construction beyond the hoped-for completion date of 2029. The new garage is an essential component of the T's planned electrification of its entire bus fleet, which has been ordered by the legislature to be accomplished by 2040. The new garage will house about 200 electric buses.

The final piece of business for the meeting was the election of Caliga to fill one of the four open seats on the JPNC.

Reiskind added a final note to inform the community that the city has approved grants of up to \$700 for residents to hold Block Parties in their neighborhoods.



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BISHOP BARBOSA ADMINISTERS CONFIRMATION AT ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CHURCH



Boston's new Auxiliary Bishop, Cristiano Barbosa visited St. Thomas Aquinas Church on Saturday, June 1 to celebrate the 4 p.m. Mass and administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to 14 youngsters and three adults.

Blue Cross unveils 100 Proud Bluebikes

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

In celebration of Pride Month this June, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts ("Blue Cross") is launching 100 rainbow-themed Bluebikes into Greater Boston's bikeshare system to help drive

awareness for LGBTQIA+ equality. The "Proud Bikes," available in both pedal and ebike formats, will be accessible throughout the system's 13 municipalities and will be showcased in the Boston Pride Parade on Saturday, June 8. Blue Cross is the title sponsor

of Bluebikes, which is owned by the municipalities and operated by Lyft.

To reinforce its support for the LGBTQIA+ community, Blue Cross will donate \$1 to Fenway

Continued on page 5

ESNA raises some questions on White Stadium redevelopment

By ADAM SWIFT

The members of the Egleston Square Neighborhood Association had an informal discussion on the White Stadium renovation plans at their monthly meeting last week.

During the meeting, members agreed to send a list of questions and concerns to the project team, as well as to invite a member of the White Stadium Impact Advisory Group (IAG) to their July meeting to get more information and details on the latest changes to the plans.

"Overall, I am very supportive of the project," said ESNA member Dasha Mikic.

However, Mikic said she was concerned that the latest iteration of the plans no longer show tennis courts near the stadium. She said the original plans called for replacing the basketball and tennis courts behind the stadium, but that the latest renderings showed only the basketball courts.

"I think the White Stadium team has done a really great job advocating for everyone's enjoyment of the park and that (activities) will be increased and better and things won't be lost," said Mikic. "I'm feeling personally that (the removal of the tennis courts) will be a loss for me."

The redevelopment of White Stadium is a public-private partnership between the city and Boston Unity Soccer Partners. The private group is aiming to bring a women's professional soccer team to the revamped stadium in 2026. The city has touted that the redeveloped sta-

dium will be a greater asset for Boston Public Schools athletics as well as the public that uses Franklin Park.

ESNA Chair Carolyn Royce said she has been pleasantly surprised by how much response to concerns there has been from the project team and the city.

"They have responded to a lot of things over time and actually made changes," she said.

Other members of the ESNA said they would like to see cleared documents showing how the renovated stadium will compare in size to the current stadium. There were also concerns raised that there would be a huge impact on parking for people who want to visit Franklin Park to take part in passive recreation.

ESNA member Susan Pranger said she was also curious to see if there has been any input from Egleston Square business owners about the impact the stadium renovation will have on their businesses.

"I think it is really critical that the merchants give this some thought and provide feedback," she said.

Royce summarized that some of the concerns and questions raised by the ESNA about the project included the size of the stadium proposal compared to the current stadium, information on the number of trees that will be removed, community benefits, and any possible tree signage and infrastructure work for the business district.

"I hope it all gets worked out, because I want to see that stadium get rebuilt," said Royce.



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Bluebikes

Continued from page 4

their solidarity and support for the LGBTQIA+ community by hopping on a 'Proud Bike' during this celebratory month."

Blue Cross has served as Bluebikes' title sponsor since May 2018 and remains committed to supporting and extending public bike sharing in Greater Boston as a safe, sustainable and accessible public transportation option through its partnership with the municipal owners of Bluebikes and Lyft. In the six years of Blue Cross' sponsorship, the system has doubled in size, adding more than 200 stations, 400 pedal bikes and, most recently, 750 next-generation ebikes to its fleet. Last December, Blue Cross announced its title sponsorship extension through 2031.

*Blue Cross will donate \$1 up to \$10,000 for every ride taken on a Blue Cross "Proud Bike" from June 1 - June 30, 2024.

Bluebikes is public transportation by bike. The system is municipally owned by thirteen cities and towns in eastern Massachusetts, jointly managed by the Cities of Boston, Cambridge, Everett, and Somerville and the Town of Brookline, and operated under contract by Lyft. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts is the system's title sponsor. Riders can find approximately 475 stations and 4,000 bikes, including ebikes, across the thirteen municipalities: Arlington, Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Medford, Malden, Newton, Revere, Salem, Somerville, and Watertown. Since 2011, riders have taken more than 22 million trips on Bluebikes. For more information about Bluebikes, visit bluebikes.com.

Health for every ride taken on a Pride-themed pedal or ebike in June*. Fenway Health, a longtime partner of Blue Cross, is dedicated to enhancing the health and wellbeing of the LGBTQIA+ community and all diverse communities through innovative, equitable, and accessible health care, supportive services, and transformative research and education.

"Blue Cross is deeply committed to building a health care ecosystem centered on diversity and inclusivity," stated Jeff Bellows, vice president of corporate citizenship and public affairs at Blue Cross. "As we reintroduce our 'Proud Bikes' into the Bluebikes system for the fifth year in a row, we are thrilled to support communities coming together to champion LGBTQIA+ rights. This initiative enhances the visibility of this important movement and actively contributes to Fenway Health's crucial work in ensuring equitable health care access and gender affirming care."

"We are grateful for Blue Cross' steadfast commitment to the health and prosperity of the LGBTQIA+ community in Boston," said Adrianna Boulton, Fenway Health Director of Racial Equity, Social Justice & Community Engagement. "Blue Cross remains a pivotal supporter of our essential healthcare, educational, and advocacy efforts. As we commemorate Pride Month, we hope everyone will demonstrate

NATIVITY PREP SCHOOL GRADUATES NINE



Nativity Prep, an all boys school for Grades 5-8 near Jackson Square held graduation for the Class of 2024 on Sunday, June 9 at Boston College High School. Diplomas were presented to nine boys: Jorge G. Arias, Angel B. Brea, Daniel Erhunmwunse, Mettis C. Jacobs, Christ R. Louis, Luis A. Menjivar, Josiah A. Philips, Malik C. Smith, Adonay G. Tesfaye.

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CITY PAWS

Hot Town, Summer in the City

BY PENNY & ED CHERUBINO

We may be in the Northeast, but summers in Greater Boston are growing hotter by the year. As pet guardians, we must be aware of the dangers to our critters when the temperatures rise.

“Walkin’ On The Sidewalk, Hotter Than a Match Head”

Anyone who has walked barefoot to a car in a beach parking lot can attest to just how hot asphalt can be. Think of this when you’re walking your dog. Put your hand palm down on the surface and decide if it’s safe

for your dog. Also, consider how close a small dog’s body is to that heat source. And be sure to check paws for burns if your dog is licking or limping this time of year.

“Cool Town, Evening in The City”

Some dogs need a lot of exercise, even in the heat. If you have one of these athletes on the end of your leash, take those long walks or runs early in the morning or after dark. Mid-day heat may be too much for even a healthy dog. Canine companions can push themselves into the



Dogs with flat faces, like this Frenchie, are in greater danger in the heat due to their respiratory structure.

Report SSOs

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danger zone to please us. Dogs are stoic and may not show distress until it’s too late.

“Doesn’t Seem to Be a Shadow in The City”

A park bench under a shady tree is the perfect place to take a break on your daily walk. After sitting in the shade and drinking water, you’ll hear a difference in your dog’s panting. Our Westie, Poppy, is now a senior dog. In summer, this may call for shorter walks and longer rests. She still needs daily exercise, but we must ensure she does not become overheated.

Overheated Danger Signs!

The MSPCA experts list the signs you can use to determine if a dog or cat is in danger from heat, such as heavy panting, rapid breathing, staggering, and weakness. They remind us that “A heat-stricken animal can die in minutes, but proper care may save its life.”

They outline what to do for first aid, “Immediately bring the animal to a shady spot. Cool the animal by dousing them completely with water or placing them in cool water. Take the distressed pet to a veterinarian as soon as possible. Treatment for dehydration and other serious problems will be necessary.”

Other Warnings!

A stop for a quick errand could result in a dog in trouble. Or, you could find your car window broken by a first responder

or good Samaritan trying to save your pup.

Massachusetts law “Enables animal control officers, firefighters, and law enforcement to remove animals kept in vehicles in a manner reasonably expected to threaten the health of the animal due to extreme heat or cold.” It also “... allows individuals to remove an animal when in immediate danger in a vehicle and no other options exist.”

Meanwhile, the ASPCA warned about animals, especially cats, falling from windows this time of year. “Keep all un-screened windows or doors in your home closed and make sure adjustable screens are tightly

secured.” Safety grates designed for children’s rooms might work to protect your pet.

“Take It Easy!”

Summer is a time to take it easy. Bring a book, some water, and snacks for the two of you, and try a quiet, relaxing afternoon enjoying the slower pace of summer in the city. Pick a spot in a beautiful park, or drive to a favorite beach or rural destination. Learning to relax and remain quiet can be good for both of you.

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

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Council invests in city services, community safety, housing in operating budget

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata joined her colleagues in voting for an omnibus amendment package on the FY 25 Operating budget. Following the Council's first of two votes on the amended budget, it goes to Mayor Michelle Wu for acceptance, rejection, or amendments. The Council will then vote again later in the month on a final FY25 Operating budget which will commence July 1, 2024. Additionally, the Council may only reject or pass the Boston Public Schools and the Capital budget without amendment power.

"With broad consensus, the Boston City Council has maximized its new budgetary authority, diligently and in a fiscally responsible manner, by only utilizing unspent funding sources. We have spent countless meetings analyzing every dollar of taxpayer money. The resulting amendments invest in basic city services and quality of life issues, community safety, housing, youth career and college readiness, and more," said Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata. "I stand by the prudent process put forth by the Chair of the Ways and Means. The Council is utilizing its newfound authority to provide an independent check on the Mayor and invest directly in Bostonians."

"These amendments invest in top city departments and ensure there will be no personnel cuts to

community safety. The Council maintained the collective bargaining reserve hike while also calling attention to the numerous job vacancies across the city. Hundreds of job vacancies across City departments provide hundreds of millions of dollars to reallocate without any anticipated job or service losses."

A portion of the Council's amended FY25 budget omnibus package includes:

- \$200,000 within the Inspectional Services Department (Personnel Services) to increase overtime for pest control inspections
- \$65,000 within the Inspectional Services Department (Personnel Services) to increase Building Inspectors by 1 FTE to proactively prevent building collapses and hold short-term rentals accountable
- \$700,000 within Boston Police Department (Personnel Services) to the Boston Police Crime Lab to increase the number of lab techs and to fill the director vacancy
- \$300,000 within Boston Police Department (Equipment) to Boston Police Crime Lab to purchase new sexual assault testing equipment
- \$230,000 within the Inspectional Services Department (Personnel Services) to increase Plans Examiners by 2 FTE to relieve a backlog of plans.
- \$100,000 increase for trash containerization for rodent mitigation in Inspectional Services

Department's Supplies & Materials

- \$50,000 increase for youth programming in district one Boston Centers for Youth & Families
- \$125,000 increase for 2 additional housing crisis coordinator positions in Mayor's Office of Housing
- \$300,000 increase to support ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) parent classes across the city in Office of Immigrant Advancement Contractual Services
- \$100,000 increase for route optimization - street sweepers in the Department of Innovation & Technology Equipment
- \$9,999 increase for clean water pilot in East Boston and Mattapan in the Office of Food Justice Contractual Services
- \$750,000 increase for Community Land Trust in the Mayor's Office of Housing Special Appropriations
- \$1,500,000 increase for City Housing Vouchers in the Mayor's Office of Housing Special Appropriations
- \$100,000 increase to provide seed money to create an emergency relief fund for residents impacted by disasters in Mayor's Office of Housing Spe-

cial Appropriation

- \$500,000, within Boston Public Health Commission (Special Appropriation) to the Family Justice Center to support survivors of sexual assault
- \$500,000 increase for Right to Counsel in the Fair Housing & Equity's Contractual Services
- \$75,000 increase for a Parks Administrator at the Christopher Columbus Park in the Parks & Recreation Department's Contractual Services
- \$50,000 increase for landmarks personnel in the Office of Historic Preservation Personnel Services
- \$1,500,000 increase for Down Payment Assistance in the Mayor's Office of Housing Special Appropriations
- \$75,000 increase for a neighborhood traffic study in Office of Streets Contractual Services
- \$200,000 increase to support workforce language training programs in the Office of Workforce Development Contractual Services
- \$50,000 increase to create hybrid meeting locations throughout the city in the Department of Innovation & Technology Equipment

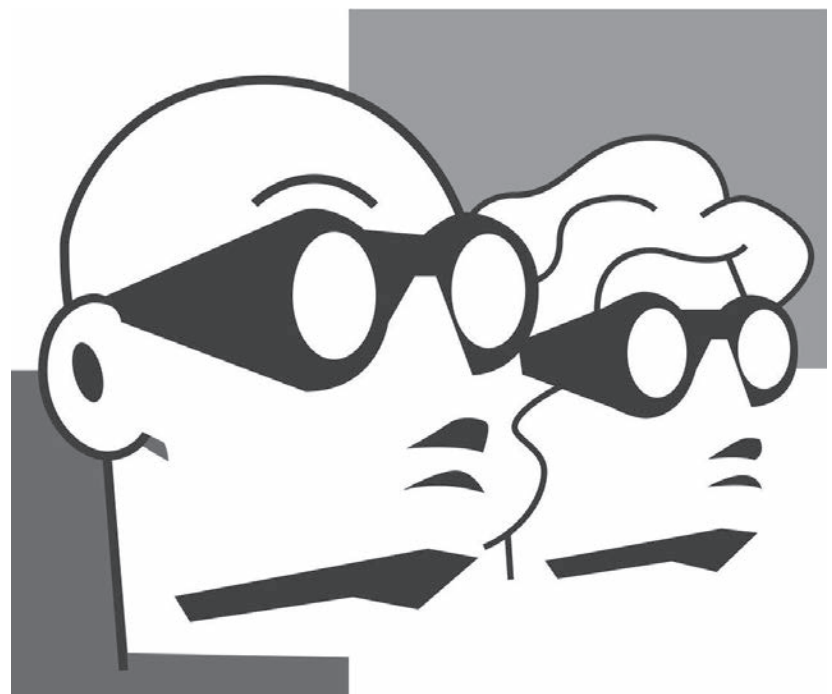
• \$100,000 increase for small business mini-grants in the Office of Economic Opportunity & Inclusion Contractual Services

- \$200,000 increase to support workforce training nonprofits for newcomers in the Office of Workforce Development Contractual Services
- \$150,000 increase to support burial services for homicide victims in the Parks & Recreation Department Contractual Services

The Boston City Council commenced its budget hearings on April 22, 2024, and all hearings were led by Councilor Brian Worrel (D4), chair of the Committee on Ways and Means. This cycle is the third time the Boston City Council can reject, reduce, pass, or amend line items (i.e., accounts such as personnel, contracted services, equipment, etc.) in the City's Operating Budget.

To prepare for the budget cycle, Coletta Zapata hosted a round of listening sessions and budget town halls across the district to gather feedback from residents about their priorities for the fiscal year operating and capital budget.

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MAYOR MICHELLE WU'S NEIGHBORHOOD COFFEE HOUR SERIES COMES TO JP



Members of the Boston Music Project provided the music for the event with their stringed instruments.



Mayor Wu talks with residents.



The City of Boston table provided access to information on and sign-ups for services throughout the City.

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department recently hosted a 2024 Neighborhood Coffee Hour Series in partnership with Dunkin'® at Mozart Street Playground in Jamaica Plain for residents.

Mayor Wu's Neighborhood Coffee Hours offered Jamaica Plain residents a unique opportunity to speak directly with the Mayor and staff from City departments about open space and their neighborhoods.

"Every neighborhood and every resident has their own diverse set of concerns that deserve to not only be heard, but to be acknowledged and addressed," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I am excited for all of the conversations and connection that came from Neighborhood Coffee Hours."

"Coffee Hours with the Mayor is an intentional effort to meet community members in the heart of their neighborhoods," said Brianna Millor, Chief of the Community Engagement Cabinet. "I encourage residents, including our youth, seniors, civic organizations, business owners, and local leaders to attend this neighborhood-centered event. Boston 311 will be present to connect residents to essential city services."

Dunkin' was on-site with freshly brewed Iced Coffee and MUNCHKINS® donut hole treats. Dunkin' will have lawn games and gift card giveaways. Residents at each event will also be eligible to win a raffle prize from Dunkin'. Individuals in attendance will receive a free flowering plant provided by the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, while supplies last. Fresh fruit will be provided by Star Market.

"Mayor Wu's Neighborhood Coffee Hours are vital for community engagement, allowing residents to share their thoughts directly. We're grateful for their participation," noted Ryan Woods, Commissioner of the Parks and Recreation Department. "These events not only foster dialogue but also mark the kickoff for our exciting summer calendar of events. From outdoor concerts to movies to arts and crafts workshops for kids, our programming breathes life into our parks, fulfilling our core mission of creating vibrant spaces for all to enjoy."

Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll



BRAD

Brad is an adorable pup who loves the company of his favorite people (but not everyone is his favorite!) He enjoys being carried around and cuddling on the couch. He's fine around other dogs for walks but doesn't like to share a home. Brad is about 2 years old and weighs 17 lbs.



"Gazette Pet of the Week" is sponsored by

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MAYOR MICHELLE WU'S NEIGHBORHOOD COFFEE HOUR SERIES COMES TO JP



Above and below, residents take a break from the mingling to stop for a photo.



MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTOS BY MIKE MEJIA

Mozart Park was brimming with activity during the Coffee Hour.

JUNETEENTH TRASH & RECYCLING COLLECTION SCHEDULE



Delayed pick-up service begins on Wednesday 6/19.

Neighborhoods on a **Regular** Pick-Up Schedule:

- Back Bay
- Bay Village
- Beacon Hill
- Charlestown
- Chinatown
- Downtown Boston
- Fenway-Kenmore
- Mission Hill
- Wharf District
- North End
- Roxbury
- South End
- West End

Neighborhoods on a **Delayed** Pick-Up Schedule:

- Allston
- Brighton
- Dorchester
- East Boston
- Hyde Park
- Jamaica Plain
- Mattapan
- Roslindale
- South Boston
- West Roxbury

Please note that all neighborhoods will run on a regular collection schedule on Monday & Tuesday.



Mayor's Cup Softball Tournament begins June 19

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department are excited to announce the 2024 Mayor's Cup Softball Tournament. The tournament will kick off on Wednesday, June 19, with the championship games concluding on Saturday, June 22. For more information and to register, visit boston.gov/sports.

This year will be the 27th Annual Mayor's Cup Softball

Tournament. Teams from across the city will be battling on the diamond for the title of "Boston's Best" in divisions 10U, 12U, 14U, 18U.

"Our community sports are a wonderful opportunity for residents across Boston to engage in friendly competition and foster community spirit," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I am looking forward to seeing everyone come together for the Mayor's Cup and enjoying our parks this summer."

The Mayor's Cup Kick-Off Festival will be held on Wednesday, June 19, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Clemente Field in the Back Bay Fens, located at 100 Park Drive, Fenway. The festival will feature family fun activities, food trucks, and more. Tournament games will continue in neighborhood parks on Thursday and Friday nights, with the final championship games returning to the Fens on June 22.

In addition to games and activities, information regarding

upcoming summer programs offered by the City of Boston will be available to families and residents. This tournament is sponsored by P&G Gillette and the Red Sox Foundation.

"The Mayor's Cup Softball Tournament is a cherished tradition in our community, highlighting the talent and sportsmanship of our young athletes," said Parks Commissioner Ryan Woods. "We are proud to host the 27th annual tournament and look forward to another year of

exciting games and memorable moments."

For more information about Boston's parks please visit Boston.gov/parks. Stay updated with news, events, and design and construction work in Boston parks by signing up for our email list at bit.ly/Get-Parks-Emails and following our social channels @bostonparksdept on X, Facebook, and Instagram.

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Coletta Zapata holds second hearing on proposed legislation regarding property tax classification

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Boston City Councilor Gabriella Coletta Zapata (District 1) chaired a Government Operations committee hearing last Thursday to discuss a petition for a special law regarding property tax classification in the City of Boston. This Home Rule Petition was sponsored by Mayor Michelle Wu and is a temporary tool seeking to protect residents from property tax increases to mitigate potential revenue shortfalls from declining commercial valuations.

The proposal comes following recent reports highlighting a potential nationwide decline in commercial property valuations due to slow economic growth following the pandemic and shifting dynamics in downtown cores. The legislation would go into effect for five years and ensure that homeowners and residential property owner's taxes would not

increase by upwards of 30 to 40% in one fiscal quarter.

During the hearing, councilors once again shared concerns about the success of the proposal, potential unintended consequences and asked for additional information and data on the tax assessment for Boston.

"I foresee the main beneficiaries of this proposal being individuals that own properties that are house rich, cash poor like many of our seniors and tenants renting small properties in Boston," said Councilor Coletta Zapata. "However, I'm still concerned that increases in commercial property taxes, particularly on smaller commercial property owners and small businesses, will unintentionally stifle unnecessary economic growth in Boston and hurt our small businesses. We must consider the long term impacts of our changing economy and impacts the pandemic has had

on workplace vacancies and tenancies. Boston must prioritize additional sources of revenue as part of a suite of solutions for a long term plan."

In an effort to protect small businesses against any unintended consequences due to this proposal, Councilor Coletta Zapata has filed an ordinance to adopt the small commercial tax exemption as a local option in the City of Boston. This ordinance would provide financial relief for small businesses, valued under a million dollars or with 10 employees or less, that cannot afford the increased costs of operating in Boston.

The hearing began with public testimony from Boston residents. Councilors also heard from representatives of labor unions, Massachusetts Affordable Housing Alliance, Urban Edge and representatives of the Boston Municipal Research Bureau, Chamber of Commerce,

Ryan, LLC, Back Bay Association, and Eastern Bank.

Members of the administration present included:

- Ashley Groffenberger, CFO of the City of Boston
 - Nicholas Ariniello, Commissioner of the City of Boston Assessing Department
- Councilors in attendance

included Councilors At-Large Ruthzee Louijeune, Erin Murphy, Henry Santana, Julia Mejia and District Councilors Ben Weber (District 6), John Fitzgerald (District 3), Brian Worrell (District 4), Ed Flynn (District 2), Liz Breadon (District 9), Enrique Pepen (District 5) and Tania Fernandes Anderson (District 7).

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LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate And Family Court 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 (617)788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME Docket No. SU24C0136CA In the matter of: Sophia Yi Livingston Samdperil

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Sophia Yi Livingston Samdperil of Boston, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Kai Hli Pearl

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 06/19/2024. 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: May 15, 2024
Stephanie L. Everett,
Register of Probate

6-15
JP

LEGAL NOTICE

CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION TO EXPAND THE POWERS OF A GUARDIAN Docket No. SU18P0445GD Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Suffolk Probate and Family Court 24 New Chardon Street Boston MA, 02114

In the interests of: Marques Thigpen of: Jamaica Plain, MA RESPONDENT Incapacitated Person/Protected Person

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by the DMH c/o Office of General Counsel of Westborough, MA in the above captioned

matter requesting that the court: Expand the powers of a Guardian of the Respondent.

The petition asks the court to make a determination that the powers of the Guardian and/or Conservator should be expanded, modified, or limited since the time of the appointment. The original petition is on file with the court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 AM on the return date of 6/20/2024. 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: May 23, 2024
Stephanie Everett
Register of Probate

6/14/24
JP

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT CITATION ON PETITION FOR ALLOWANCE OF ACCOUNT

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

Docket No. SU22P2228EA

In the matter of:

Bernadette Corey

Date of Death:

06/29/2022

To all interested

Persons:

A Petition has been filed by Denzil D. McKenzie Of Boston, MA requesting allowance of the First and Final of Special Personal Rep account(s) as Personal Representative and any other relief as requested in the Petition.

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 06/27/2024.

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 date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.

Date: May 16, 2024
Stephanie L. Everett,
Esq.

Register of Probate
6/14/24
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LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Division 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Docket No. SU24P1013EA Estate of:

Maria Rebecca Smith

Also Known as: Maria R. Smith, Maria Smith

Date of Death: 03/21/2024

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal

Representative has been filed by Alice Megna of Woburn, 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: Alice Megna of Woburn, 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 06/27/2024. 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 days (30) days of the return date, 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: May 17, 2024
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate

06/14/24
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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 FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Docket No. SU24P120EA

Estate of: Leilani J. Linden

Date of Death: 04/02/2024

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will has been filed by Joan F. Linden of Roslindale, 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: Joan F. Linden of Roslindale, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve 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 07/23/2024. 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 days (30) days of the return date, 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: June 11, 2024
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate

6/14
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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 TO CHANGE NAME Docket No. SU24C0234CA

In the matter of: Tyron Edward Hollins, Jr. A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Tyron Edward Hollins, Jr. of Jamaica Plain, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Tyron Edward Clarke

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 06/20/2024. 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: May 22, 2024
Stephanie L. Everett,
Register of Probate

6-15
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 TO EXPAND THE POWERS OF A GUARDIAN Docket No. SU23P0808GD

In the Interests of: Carlos Marrero Of: Jamaica Plain, MA RESPONDENT Incapacitated Person/Protected Person To the named Respon-

dent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Lemuel Shattuck Hospital of Jamaica Plain, MA in the above captioned matter requesting that the court: Expand the powers of a Guardian

The petition asks the court to make a determination that the powers of the Guardian and/or Conservator should be expanded, modified, or limited since the time of the appointment. The original petition is on file with the court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 06/25/2024. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you.

In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer.

Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.

Date: May 28, 2024
Stephanie L. Everett
Register of Probate

6/14/24
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 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. SU24P1084PM

In the matter of: Nixon Morales

Of: Jamaica Plain, MA RESPONDENT (Person to be Protected/Minor)

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Gladis Garcia of Revere, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Nixon Morales is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that Gladis Garcia of Revere, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve Without 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 06/25/2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you.

In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer.

Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If

the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.

Date: May 28, 2024
Stephanie Everett,
Register of Probate

6_14
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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 ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT Docket No. SU22P2228EA

Estate of: Bernadette Corey

Date of

Death: 06/29/2022

A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by Denzil D. McKenzie of Boston, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account. First and Final and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before:

10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/27/2024.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have 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

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EDITORIAL

June is a month of freedom

June marks the first month of the summer season, the period on the calendar when we take vacations from school and work to travel and enjoy the company of our friends and family members. It's our personal time, that sweet spot each year when we take a break from the humdrum of our daily schedules and we have the freedom to do whatever we want. But June also uniquely celebrates a number of events that brought true freedom to Americans who had been unable to experience the promise of America -- "all men are created equal" -- that we take for granted today. June 12 is known as Loving Day. It was on that day in 1967 that the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a Virginia law that forbade interracial marriage and made it a criminal offense to do so. The Lovings, an interracial couple, were convicted under that Virginia law and, to avoid jail, they agreed to leave the state. Similar laws existed throughout all of the Southern states until the Supreme Court's ruling.

June is observed as Pride Month by the LGBTQIA+ community to mark the date of June 28, 1969, when gays protested arrests at the Stonewall Inn (a gay bar in New York City's Greenwich Village) at a time when police routinely arrested of gay men on phony morals charges. The riots lasted for a number of days and are widely-recognized as the beginning of the modern gay rights movement that culminated more than 50 years later with the Supreme Court decision of Obergefell v. Hodges in 2015 that struck down state laws forbidding same-sex marriage.

June 14 is Flag Day, marking the adoption of the flag of the United States on June 14, 1777, by resolution of the Second Continental Congress, which read as follows: "Resolved, That the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation." In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation that officially established June 14 as Flag Day and in 1949, National Flag Day was established by an Act of Congress. Ever since its inception in 1777, the American flag has been universally recognized as a symbol of freedom around the world.

Finally, Juneteenth, which is now a national holiday, marks the day when the Union army entered the city of Galveston, Texas on June 19, 1865, and freed the slaves in Texas pursuant to President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, which had gone into effect more than two years earlier on January 1, 1863. Texas had been the last state to be occupied by Union forces and where slavery still existed.

Near the water? Watch your children!

We recently were shocked to learn of two statistics that were noted at a recent meeting of the Revere Board of Health.

The first is that about 4500 Americans die from drowning each year. To put that into perspective, that figure is about 50 percent greater than the total number of victims who died on 9/11.

The second number, which was even more surprising -- and even sadder -- is that drowning is the leading cause of unintentional injury-related death among children ages 1-4.

What is stunning to us about that statistic is that we cannot imagine that whenever a parent is with a small child near the water -- whether it be the bathtub in their home or at the beach -- the parent is not watching over their child like a hawk without even a second's worth of distraction, including texting on a cell phone.

Young children are especially susceptible to drowning because of their small lung capacity, which means that once they slip under, their tiny lungs can fill with water almost instantly.

Even if a child is saved from death by drowning, the lack of oxygen to the brain can result in a serious brain injury that will have lifelong implications.

The bottom line is that a young child never should be left unattended for even a moment when near the water. And it goes without saying that every parent should be 100% sober whenever they are near water with their child, whether on a boat, at the beach, at a pool, or in their home.

A father's guiding hand...



Wu appoints former State Rep. Byron Rushing to city's Reparations Task Force

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Mayor Michelle Wu and the City of Boston Reparations Task Force recently announced the appointment of former State Representative Byron Rushing to the Reparations Task Force. With this appointment, the task force members will continue to build and convene around Boston's work regarding research and community engagement around reparative solutions for the descendants of enslaved persons.

"Byron Rushing is a groundbreaking leader and legendary advocate for justice whose work has moved our city forward," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "Throughout his life, he has always fought for voices who have gone unheard and uplifted communities across the state. I'm grateful for Byron's service on the Reparations Task Force and know that he will be an invaluable member guiding this critical work."

Rushing's appointment adds a range of experience and strong understanding of Boston's communities that will build on the task force's composition and current work. The Reparations Task Force consists of community leaders in law, academia, community organizing, and education and represents diversity in age, gender, and discipline to fully encompass the Black experience in Boston. The task force is currently working with two

teams of research partners who are studying and documenting the City's role in the transatlantic slave trade.

"As the Boston Reparations Task Force conducts our examination of the historical and present impacts of slavery in the City of Boston, we are pleased to welcome State Representative. Byron Rushing (Ret.)," said Joseph D. Feaster, Jr., Chair of the Reparations Task Force. "We thank Mayor Wu for her leadership in appointing Representative Rushing. I am delighted with his ap-

pointment because of the thoughtful deliberations he will bring as we, in collaboration with the community, work towards presenting recommendations for a reparations plan for Boston."

Former State Representative Byron Rushing has served as a vital advocate for

Black communities across Boston and Massachusetts. During his time in the State House, Rushing represented the 9th Suffolk District in the Massachusetts House of Representatives from

Continued on page 15

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

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Dog attacks on Postal Service workers on the rise

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Incidents involving dog attacks on Postal Service employees rose to more than 5,800 cases last year. As part of the USPS 2024 National Dog Bite Awareness Campaign, the organization is offering crucial information on how dog owners can be good stewards for safe mail delivery and ensure the safety of our employees.

“Letter carriers are exposed to potential hazards every day, none more prevalent than a canine encounter. All it takes is one interaction for a letter carrier to possibly suffer an injury,” said Leeann Theriault, USPS Manager, Employee Safety and Health Awareness. “The U.S. Postal Service consistently encourages responsible pet ownership. The national dog bite campaign is an effort to promote dog bite awareness to keep our customers, their dogs, and letter carriers safe while delivering the mail.”

Dog Owners Can Help With Safe Mail Delivery

Letter carriers know all dogs can bite, even those perceived as nonaggressive. Dogs are generally protective of their turf and dog owners have an important responsibility to control them to ensure safe mail delivery.

Most people know the approximate time their letter carrier arrives every day. Securing your

dog before the carrier approaches your property will minimize any potentially dangerous interactions.

When a letter carrier comes to your home, keep dogs:

- Inside the house or behind a fence;
- Away from the door or in another room; or
- On a leash.

Pet owners also should remind children not to take mail directly from a letter carrier as the dog may view the carrier as a threat to the child.

Stay Informed, See the Mail Before It Arrives

By using Informed Delivery, a free USPS service, customers can digitally preview incoming mail and packages from a computer, tablet or mobile device. More than 52 million customers have enrolled since the service was launched in 2017. Sign up is at informedelivery.usps.com. This service can help dog owners anticipate when their carrier will arrive.

Consequences of a Dog Attack

According to the most recent information available from the Insurance Information Institute, the average cost per insurance claim for a dog bite is \$64,555. When a postal employee suffers an injury, the owner could be responsible for medical bills,

lost wages, uniform replacement costs, and pain and suffering for the employee.

Staying Focused on Delivering

Letter carriers are trained to observe an area where they know dogs may be present. They are taught to be alert for potentially dangerous conditions and to respect a dog’s territory.

Letter carriers are trained to:

- Make a non-threatening noise or rattle a fence to alert a dog if entering a yard;
- Never startle a dog;
- Keep their eyes on any dog;
- Never assume a dog will not bite;
- Never attempt to pet or feed a dog; and
- Place their foot against an outward swinging door to prevent a dog from escaping.

If a dog attacks, carriers are also trained to stand their ground and protect their body by placing something between them and the dog — such as a mail satchel — and to use dog repellent, if necessary.

“Even though a customer’s dog is friendly to most people, it can always have a bad day,” said letter carrier Tara Snyder. “I know, from experience, even when a dog is in the house, customers need to make sure their door is secure so their dog can’t push it open and bite the letter carrier.”



Linthicum Heights, MD, letter carrier T.J. Jackson shows how mail carriers can use their satchel to protect themselves from aggressive dogs.

Letter carriers have tools to alert them to dogs on their routes. A dog alert feature on carriers’ handheld scanners can remind them of a possible dog hazard,

and dog warning cards must be used during mail sorting to alert carriers to addresses where a dog may interfere with delivery.

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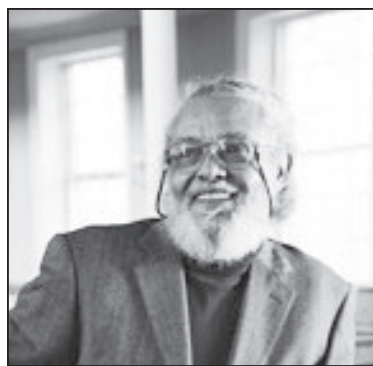
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Rushing

Continued from page 14

1983-2018. Rushing rose to become Assistant Majority Leader, the highest-ranking leadership role ever held by a person of color in the Massachusetts State Legislature.

“The task of determining reparations is one of utmost importance in this moment as Boston and communities across the country take on helping people reconcile, move forward and recover,” said Byron Rushing. “This work will not be easy because it begins with the history of Boston’s involvement with slavery and the slave trade. I’m thankful to Mayor Wu and look forward to working closely with every member of the task force and community to ensure that we center this work on equity and justice and truth.”



Former State Rep. Byron Rushing.

Before his service as a legislator, Rushing participated in the civil rights movement and worked in various capacities for the Congress of Racial Equity (CORE) and the Northern Student Movement before becoming President of Boston’s Museum of African American History. As State Representative, Rushing

worked to pass a groundbreaking law to ban discrimination the basis of sexual orientation, led Massachusetts’ fight against apartheid in South Africa, championed marriage equality, and worked to address racial disparities in our legal system.

In January, Mayor Wu and the City of Boston Reparations Task Force announced the selection of two teams of historians who will research and document the City of Boston’s involvement in and historical connections to the transatlantic slave trade, as well as the institution and aftermaths of slavery. The research teams are in the process of conducting original historical research and a comprehensive review of major themes and findings on the City’s history from 1620 to the present. For more information about the task force, visit boston.gov/reparations.

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Friends of the Public Garden announces Henry Lee Fund for Boston Parks

BY DAN MURPHY

The Friends of the Public Garden announced the creation of a new fund named for its president emeritus, Henry Lee, during a public launch event on Tuesday, June 11, at the Parkman Bandstand on the Boston Common.

The Henry Lee Fund for Boston Parks was established, according to the Friends group, to “provide small grants for tree and sculpture care and support special projects in public greenspaces in neighborhoods throughout Boston,” on an annual basis, with a panel group reviewing all applications.

Leslie Singleton Adam, chair of the Friends of the Public Garden board of directors, said the fund had already raised \$1 million towards its \$2 million goal and thanked those in attendance at the event who had already contributed to the cause.



D. MURPHY PHOTOS
Henry Lee, president emeritus of the Friends of the Public Garden, at the podium.

Adam added that since she had taken on her current role with the Friends about eight years ago, it could be daunting at times, “but the best part was that I knew I’d have time with

Henry Lee.”

Boston Parks Commissioner Ryan Woods pointed to the unique and symbiotic partnership that exists between the city and the Friends group, especially since they entered into a Memorandum of Agreement in January of 2020, which strengthened their then 50-year-old partnership.

Woods also credited Lee for the transformation of the Boston Common (along with the Public Garden and Commonwealth Avenue Mall), since he helped form the Friends group in 1970.

District 8 City Councilor Sharon Durkan, who represents the Public Garden, the Commonwealth Mall, and the Common, presented Lee with an Official Resolution from the Boston City Council in recognition of his support of the city’s parks over the years.

“It is a real honor and a treat to get to be here for the founding of the Henry Lee Fund for Boston Parks,” Councilor Durkan said in part. “I have been a fan of the Friends of the Public Garden, and I’ve been an ally with you and now I’m excited to be an ally with the Henry Lee Fund, which is going to do so much good throughout the city for our parks. Thank you so much for your leadership, and we can’t wait to partner with you for all of Boston’s green spaces.”

Upon taking the podium, Lee, now 99, thanked the group for honoring him with the creation of the new fund and reflected on how the Friends got its start with only \$200 in its coffers, including his donation of \$100.



The Boston Park Rangers, which Henry Lee has long championed, made an appearance. The horse on the left was named after Lee in recognition of his unwavering support of the Park Rangers program over the years.



District 8 City Councilor Sharon Durkan, who presented Henry Lee with an Official Resolution from the City Council in recognition of his support of its parks, is seen flanked by Rep. Jay Livingstone and District 2 City Councilor Ed Flynn (center).

Lee also pointed to the great partnership that now exists between the Friends and the Boston Parks Department, which he said, “today does a splendid job with these parks.”

Likewise, Lee lauded Liz Vizza, the outgoing president of the Friends group, for doing a “marvelous, wonderful job” and said

in jest he loved taking credit for her work.

Meanwhile, Lee urged those in attendance to not just grow complacent with how far the city’s parks have come, and to instead think of the future by committing themselves to continuing to care for these parks with diligence.

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