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JP PETS SPECIAL SECTION, PAGES 8-10

Vol. 33 No. 13
20 Pages • Free Delivery



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Jamaica Plain GAZETTE

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JUNE 28, 2024

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ENGLISH HIGH BOYS BASEBALL HONORED AT CITY HALL AS DIVISION 5 CHAMPS



MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTO BY
ISABEL LEON

In a ceremony at City Hall on June 26, Mayor Michelle Wu greeted players, coaches and families of the English High School Baseball team that won the Division 5 State Championship, as well as presented the students with Certificates of Recognition on behalf of the City of Boston.



JPNC Housing Comm. hears from Forbes residents about loss of parking spaces

BY GAZETTE STAFF

The Housing and Development Committee of the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC) held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 18. On hand for the session were chair Danielle Sommer-Kieta, vice-chair Purple Reign, Willie Mitchell, Bernard Doherty, Gert Thorn, Aiden Foley, Esther Beillard, Sarah Horseley, Pam Bender, Carolyn Royce, and Lorenzo Bartoloni. Also in attendance were Michael Kane, a long-time affordable housing advocate who is the founder and Executive Director of the tenant-run Mass Alliance of HUD Tenants, and a number of tenants of the Forbes Building, including Erica Johnson and Mary Lundergan of the Forbes Tenants Association.

The main discussion of the

evening focused on a presentation from residents of the Forbes, which is located at 545 Centre St. and which has been a source of controversy for the past few years. The Forbes was the last of a 1970s-era state government housing program that gave subsidies to developers in order to provide affordable housing for low-income tenants, particularly senior citizens and the disabled. However, the program had a 40-year life, after which the buildings reverted back to the owners without any affordable-housing restrictions. The restrictions on the owner of the Forbes ended a few years ago, allowing the owner to convert the building to market-rate rents, thereby jeopardizing the housing of the long-time senior citizens

Continued on page 6

Sumner Tunnel to close on July 5, to open Aug. 5

BY MICHAEL COUGHLIN JR.

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) recently hosted two public meetings to provide information on the upcoming closure of the Sumner Tunnel, which is slated to begin on July 5 and run to August 5.

The Sumner Tunnel, which was closed for two months last summer, has been undergoing work for the last couple of years as part of a design-build project

that had its bid awarded in 2021.

According to Michael Drew, a Project Manager in MassDOT's Highway Division, work completed so far includes removing and replacing the tunnel's ceiling and overhead arch, repairing the tunnel walls, installing fireproof panels and new lights, and upgrading the tunnel's CCTV and fire alarms.

Drew indicated that the focus of the work anticipated for this summer is on the tunnel's deck and roadway surface.

"The deck is a structural concrete deck with steel floor beams that we're going to be doing a rehabilitation of the structural deck and then repaving the surface for a smooth riding surface," said Drew.

Other work anticipated for this summer includes installing new utility conduits and cables and replacing the drainage pumps, known as midriver

Continued on page 2



GSEMA honors local volunteer

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts (GSEMA), the largest girl serving organization in Massachusetts, recently celebrated the dedication and skills of its 4,000 active volunteers at its annual Volunteer and Donor Recognition Celebration, which took place on May 19. The 2024 class of GSEMA Volunteer Recognition Honorees included over 130 volunteers.

GSUSA and GSEMA recognition honors are awarded based on an individual or group's exemplary service in support of delivery of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience through nominations that are reviewed by GSEMA's Volunteer Recognition Committee and approved by the Board of Directors. The following local Girl Scout Volunteers were awarded at the event:

Barbara Fortier, of Jamaica Plain, was awarded with the GSEMA Helen Storrow Heritage Award.

Karen Edlund, of Jamaica Plain, was awarded with the GSEMA Helen Storrow Heritage Award.

For more information on Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts, please visit their website, www.gsema.org, or follow their social media channels, Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn, for the latest updates on the organization.

Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts (GSEMA) is 30,000 strong, with 20,000 girls and 10,000 adult members in 178 communities in eastern Massachusetts, building Girl Scouts of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. GSEMA is the largest girl serving organization in Massachusetts and the 10th largest Girl Scout council in the United States. Girl Scouts is the preeminent leadership development organization for girls. To volunteer, reconnect, donate, join, or learn more, visit gsema.org.

Tunnel Closure

Continued from page 1

pumps, in the middle of the tunnel.

It should also be noted that after the one-month closure, Drew said, "Based off the remaining work, we're going to determine what additional weekend closures may be needed during the end of the summer and fall, eventually finishing the contract in December of this year."

As the meeting progressed, managing impacts became a significant topic of discussion. "We fully understand the impacts that are going to be incurred, particularly with traffic during this closure," said Drew.

In referencing the impacts that occurred with last summer's extended closure, Drew said, "We're really trying to stress to the public to anticipate that type of impact again and be able to plan for it."

Similarly to last year, working groups have been used to help plan for the closure and reduce impacts. These working groups include Public Safety and Traffic, Transit Issues/Users/Mobility, Communication and Outreach, and Business, which report to a principals group.

"It's a structure that worked very, very well for last summer's closure, and we've been implementing and working together with these working groups for a number of weeks and months leading up to this closure," said Drew.

An important aspect of managing impacts will be coordination with construction projects in the area. For example, Drew talked about limiting maintenance activity to emergency work or scheduling them during off-peak hours.

Moreover, Drew indicated a command center would be set up to monitor the closure and surrounding areas in case adjustments are needed.

Further, impact management includes plans for real-time traffic monitoring. Drew emphasized that the project contract includes incentives and disincentives to comply with the project timeline.

Concerning public safety, which Drew described as "one of the most critical aspects of the closure," plans are in place for increased ambulatory service through extra ambulances and shifts. Response times are also slated to be monitored.

Also, a Sumner Tunnel Con-

tingency plan has been developed, so there are actions in place in case of issues.

Regarding managing travel impacts, officials are once again urging folks to ditch the drive and use other means of transportation. There will be discounts for alternative travel options for those who can get out of their cars.

"It should also be noted that after the one-month closure, Drew said, "Based off the remaining work, we're going to determine what additional weekend closures may be needed during the end of the summer and fall..."

For those traveling to or from East Boston and the North End, the Blue Line, which no longer has slow zones, will be free throughout the closure. Parking in Blue Line lots and garages will be reduced to \$2 daily. There will also be additional free parking near Wood Island Station, and an additional train will be added to the Blue Line midday.

Further, fare-free service will be available for those on key Chelsea Bus lines: routes 111, 112, 114, 116, 117, and Silver Line 3. The East Boston Ferry will also be free.

For those traveling to or from the North Shore, there are also some incentives to get out of your car. For example, Lynn Ferry riders can use a Zone 1A fare—\$2.40—and free parking will be at the city-owned lot near Blossom Street Pier.

Also, the MBTA will be operating Winthrop Ferry Service, which is \$2.40 for a one-way trip.

Travelers to or from Logan Airport can ride on Logan Express at a 25% discount if they order a ticket online or for free for riders under 17 years old.

Moreover, a Logan Airport stop will be added to the Winthrop Ferry, and those who take water transportation can skip to the front of the checkpoint screening line.

Finally, suppose someone is unable to take alternative transportation. In that case, there will be discounted tolls on the Tobin Bridge and in the Ted

Williams Tunnel for those in the resident discount program. Also, <https://www.mass511.com/> will provide historical and real-time data during the closure to provide travel time information.

Following the presentation, attendees were given time to ask questions. One attendee asked if MassDOT had contacted employers and asked them to allow employees to work from home during the closure.

Drew indicated they are doing outreach to those in the immediate area of the tunnel and regionally so employees or employers could potentially make adjustments.

Another attendee asked if MassDOT has looked at options for travelers going from the North to the South Shore, as they felt that public transportation was more expensive and took longer.

In response, Drew said, "As far as the scope of this project, what we've really been trying to concentrate on is alleviating the congestion that's going to occur from the North Shore and the local vicinity of East Boston, Winthrop, Revere, et cetera, getting into Downtown Boston."

"So we've been concentrating on basically those lengths with the Blue Line, the Commuter Rail, and that type of thing that will be affected."

An attendee also asked about the recent uptick in trucks getting stuck at the Sumner Tunnel. Drew assured those in attendance that the clearance remains the same. He also indicated that additional signage would be added, and overheight detectors are being added to Route 1A.

Finally, an attendee asked about the exit off Route 1A heading to Route 145 sometimes being closed and did not understand why it was being done.

Drew indicated that it is part of the State Police's procedure to flush traffic out from Logan Airport and that they are trying to improve communication so that travelers can be notified via its virtual message signs when it happens.

To learn more about the closure, visit the project webpage at <http://www.mass.gov/sumner-tunnel#sumner-tunnel-restoration>. To ask questions, email Sumner100@dot.state.ma.us or call the project hotline at (508)-510-2920.

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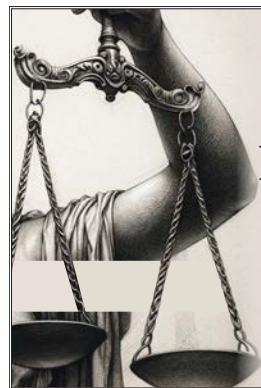
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JP Neighborhood Council still has three openings

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

The Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC) held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 25, via Zoom. Chair Renee Stacey Welch presided over the session that was attended by Caroline Peters, the liaison to Jamaica Plain from the mayor's office, and Jordan Frias, the Director of Policy and Communications for District 6 City Councilor Ben Weber'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 members Lorenzo Bartoloni and Caliga; and Area C members Katherine O'Shea and Gert Thorn.

Upcoming community events noted were the JP Open Streets that is set for July 21 and the BAMS Festival at Franklin Park's Playstead Field, set for this weekend, June 29 and 30, that will feature two days of R&B, funk, soul, hip hop, house, and more performed by nationally-acclaimed artists and home-grown talent.

Reiskind presented the report of the Public Service Committee. He asked for a vote to support the request of Rafael E. Veras, doing business as Latino Restaurant at 302 Centre Street, to amend his 7-Day Common Victualler Beer & Wine Beverage License to a Beer and Wine with Liqueurs License and for a change in the

closing hour from 12 midnight to 1:00 am. Reiskind noted that the upgrade to a liqueurs license is a means of serving after-dinner cordials such as Sambuca without obtaining a full liquor license, which can cost as much as \$500,000 on the open market. The city has an official list of cordials that are not deemed spirits.

The members unanimously approved the request.

Reiskind also presented an update on the status of the Centre South Streetscape project, a longstanding project by the city that has been ongoing since 2009, extending from Jackson Sq. to Forest Hills. The goal of the project is to provide a pedestrian-friendly urban landscape with bump-outs and wider sidewalks to accommodate tables and chairs for restaurants. The portion of the project from Jackson Square to Hyde Square has been completed.

Reiskind said the second portion of the project met with community opposition about 10 years ago and was put on hold. However, Reiskind reported that the issues finally have been resolved and the city now is ready to move forward to complete the project starting in the fall.

Baron presented the report of the Zoning Committee of which he is the chair. He said that his committee took up three matters at its recent June meeting. The first pertained to 6 Slocum Rd., involving a rear addition to a single family house. He noted that the Jamaica Hills Assoc. had heard the application and

was not opposed. He also said that emails had been submitted in favor of the project by neighbors. Baron said the Zoning Committee gave its approval to the project and asked the full JPNC to affirm the Zoning Committee's recommendation.

Baron said the second matter was an application by Viva Taco, the former Across the Border, at 378A Centre St., for a take-out food license. Baron noted that the adjacent Brendan Behan bar is in favor of the new restaurant's application. He said that though the lack of parking and double parking have been problems for businesses in the area, there was no opposition to the application.

The full JPNC approved both matters unanimously. The applicants now must go before the city's Zoning Board of Appeals to obtain their variances and licenses.

Baron said the third matter involved the construction of eight residential units and a ground-floor retail space at 3336-3338 Washington St., the former Canto 6 location. However, the matter was not resolved at the June meeting and will require a further hearing before the Zoning Committee to allow various community groups to meet with the developer.

The next committee report came from O'Shea, the chair of the Outreach Committee. She said the discussion at its meeting centered around the city's grants (up to \$750) for neighborhood block parties. She said Outreach Committee members

are offering to assist residents with the application process. She said the deadline to apply for a grant is July 31 with a 30-day review period by the city. O'Shea also noted that she has applied for a table for the JPNC at the upcoming Open Streets festival.

Chair Sommer-Kieta presented the report of the Housing and Development Comm. She said that tenants from the Forbes Building were invited to attend. Sommer-Kieta noted that all of the 147 units in the building will be affordable.

She said one of the concerns raised by the tenants was the reduction of parking spaces in order to increase green space on the property. In addition, the tenants expressed dismay with the lack of process of the decision to reduce the parking area, which means that a number of tenants will be forced to park on the street. There are 180 residents in the Forbes Building, but now there will be only 15 total parking spaces.

"The issue that really got me about this is that there was no notice to the residents, of whom 78 own cars, of the changes that were voted on by the BPDA (Boston Planning & Development Agency). Where is the rationale for this? Is pushing them out to the street the best way to handle it?" said Doherty, who is a member of the Housing and Development Committee.

"Why was the city acting without talking to the residents and notifying them of what was going to happen?" added Thorn, another member of the committee.

Sommer-Kieta said the Hous-

ing Committee will be sending a letter to city officials seeking an answer as to why the parking has been reduced so drastically.


During the time allotted for the presentation of the Parks and Open Space Committee, JPNC members discussed the ongoing problem of bicyclists using the footpath around Jamaica Pond, which makes the pathway dangerous for pedestrians.

Sue Cibulski presented the report of the Arborway Yard Subcommittee. She said the committee discussed the MBTA's budget, which includes funding for the design of the new Arborway bus garage. However, the budget being considered by the legislature includes no funding for the actual construction of the garage.

She said that the subcommittee will be seeking to have a table at the upcoming Open Streets event to inform JP residents of the issues surrounding the construction of the new garage that will house 200 of the T's anticipated electric bus fleet.

Regarding the controversial issue of the use of a portion of the promised eight-acres of com-

Continued on page 5



Brendan Behan Pub
378A Centre Street
Jamaica Plain

BOSTON POPS JULY 4TH SPECTACULAR SET TO RETURN TO HATCH SHELL

The Boston Pops July 4th Spectacular will return to the Hatch Memorial Shell on the Esplanade starting at 8 p.m.

Conductor Keith Lockhart will lead a program featuring the Boston Pops orchestra with Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and R&B/soul singer Darlene Love, along with headliner Broadway star Kelli O'Hara, as well as the Americana group The Mavericks. Special guests also include the Singing Sergeants from the United States Air Force Band. The concert is expected to end at 10:30 p.m., with a fireworks display from 10:30-11 p.m. (subject to change).

The fireworks will be launched from barges docked in the middle of the river near the Hatch Shell. But to be able to actually see the concert, you need to be within the Oval - the grassy area in front of the Hatch Shell.

Meanwhile, a number of agencies and organizations will be closed in observance of the holiday, including Federal offices; Federal courts; post offices; state offices and courts; municipal offices: the RMV; public libraries; banks; and the stock market. Retail stores, including supermarkets and liquor stores, will be open.

The MBTA is open but will be running on a holiday schedule.

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JP OBSERVER

What happened to the major memorial for Emily Greene Balch? We still don't have one!

By SANDRA STOREY / SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Jane Addams Memorial Park, 4.31 acres in size, is located near the Navy Pier in Chicago, Illinois, the city and state where she spent much of her adult life. A six-piece sculptural group honoring Addams resides in the Chicago Women's Park and Gardens.

Illinois renamed its Northwest Tollway in 2007 the "Jane Addams Memorial Tollway." The residence at Hull House, a settlement house she founded, and another building in Chicago now serve as a museum and monument to Addams. Even a plaque on a pedestal in New York's City Hall Park, of all places, celebrates her.

Educational institutions have named colleges, programs, centers, high schools and residence halls for Addams, and she has received many awards over the years, even since her death in 1935. Addams was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1931.

Meanwhile, Emily Greene Balch from here in Jamaica Plain, Boston, Massachusetts—and Addams' ally in the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)—was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize

in 1946.

In high contrast to the similar stories so far, no major memorial here or anywhere else provided by city, state or organization bears only Balch's name.

Theories have been put forward about why that is, even by academics as long ago as the mid-1990s. Amazing and incredibly sad, the disappointment and speculation about that neglect continue.

The influential peacemaker certainly deserves at least one prominent tribute to her. So does this neighborhood and area of the country that tends to share her humanistic values.

Balch, born on Prince Street in 1867, would fit in very well in JP today. She lived her life in every way as what we now would call "progressive." She worked for women's suffrage, workers' and immigrants' rights, and racial justice.

Our Nobel Peace Prize laureate, who lived to age 94, wrote at least 11 books about sociology and economics, one of which was *Conditions of City Life* focused on Boston.

She and her family were

members of First Church Unitarian Universalist of JP at the Monument. She was also an active member for years in the then-women-only Tuesday Club that came to save the historic Loring Greenough House across from the street from being torn down.

Cooperating at times with Addams, Balch championed services for poor people. She was a social worker in Boston for a while, helping to found a settlement house. She later traveled the world advocating for peace.

Balch, an ardent pacifist, was a founder of WILPF in 1915. She shared the peace prize that year with a leader of the YMCA.

Balch has been credited by some sources, including WILPF, for having coined the wonderful adage about advocacy strategy many peace and justice-loving people have repeated ever since: "There is no way to peace; peace is the way."

The Bryn Mawr graduate taught economics and sociology at Wellesley College beginning in 1896. But in 1919, when she asked to take a leave to concentrate on what were called

"reform" activities, the Wellesley board—said to be embarrassed by her pacifism and outspoken socialism—refused to renew her contract.

The Nobel Peace Prize award statement praised Balch's persistence: "She has taught us that the reality we seek must be earned by hard and unrelenting toil in the world in which we live..."

The fact that Balch hasn't received a bigger, more lasting memorial isn't for lack of trying by people in the community.

Quite a few people here have persistently said they would like to see a bigger, better memorial to Balch than what we have. A small marker rests near where her home used to be. And what president of the JP Historical Society (JPHS) Gretchen Grozier called a "wee" bronze plaque sits beside a bench that faces Jamaica Pond on the south side.

"Yes, I do think there should be something" created that is a more significant memorial, like a street name as an example, she wrote in reply to an email from me.

JP Forum, the JP Historical Society and the Boston branch of WILPF hosted a talk by Balch biographer Kristen Gwinn at First Church in December 2017. There's a stained glass window in the church that was donated by Balch's family.

Chuck Collins and other forum organizers proposed seeking funding then to endow an Emily Greene Balch lecture by a national figure every year. After the 10-year-old forum "didn't really weather the pandemic" Collins said, that never came to fruition.

Where Balch's house used to be is the first stop on the Jamaica Plain Women's History Trail, thanks to local historian Mary Smoyer's design, with a great deal of assistance from the Jamaica Plain Historical Society, local residents and friends in 1992. Two JPHS summer tours go there as well.

Smoyer and other board members from the Boston Women's Heritage Trail have advocated renaming Boston Public Schools, especially those with generic names, after women, in-

cluding Balch.

Then City Councilor Matt O'Malley joined JPHS's Grozier at First Church on Jan. 8, 2017 (the laureate's birthday) to celebrate Emily Greene Balch Day. Kristen Gwinn-Becker, who gave a speech at the birthday event, is the author of *Emily Greene Balch: The Long Road to Internationalism*.

They all expressed hope that the date would be officially named for the Nobel Laureate every year, but that has not happened.

JP resident Stephen Pepper, docent, and Dorothy Clark, board member, wrote "The Misses Balch" about Balch and her sister Anne in relation to the Tuesday Club and the Loring-Greenough House on the website <https://loring-greenough.org/the-misses-balch/>.

Calling her a "neglected hero," Pepper wrote in an email to me, "Though she became a global citizen and traveled the world, EGB never forgot her roots in JP. Naming a street for her would bring her spirit home."

The late JP resident Sandra White Stone, a Boston Public Schools teacher, wrote a letter to the editor published in the Gazette in 2010 advocating that everyone in the neighborhood, especially girls and young women, be educated about Balch. She also suggested that Jamaica Pond should be renamed Emily Balch Pond.

Others have proposed that the Jamaica Pond boathouse and various streets be named after her over the years to no avail.

Some academics have theorized that conservative social and political attitudes have played a role in the relative lack of respect that has been shown to our Nobel Peace Prize Laureate compared to Addams and others.

Letter to the editor writer Mary Jo Deegan agreed in 1996 with an article previously published in *The Journal of Women's History* of Johns Hopkins University Press by Harriet Hyman Alonso in 1995.

Deegan and Alonso both suggested the two Nobel Peace Prize winners have "very different public reputations and honors in the United States."

Continued on page 5

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FROG POND OPENS FOR THE SEASON



MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTOS BY JEREMIAH ROBINSON

On Tuesday, June 25, Mayor Michelle Wu visited the Frog Pond for the opening of the season, just in time for the summer heat. Shown above, Mayor Michelle Wu with Frog Pond Freddie, and State Rep. Jay Livingstone. Shown right, Mayor Michelle Wu high-fives a child enjoying some splashing and fun in the spray pool.



JPNC

Continued from page 3

munity development land at the garage site for a parking area for 150 employees, Cibulski said the discussion centered around the possibility of underground parking to preserve as much of the promised eight acres for community development as possible.

However, Thorn said that the possibility that underground parking will become a reality is minimal because of the cost.

Toward the end of the meeting, Peters discussed the issue of rat control and noted that the city is becoming more proactive about controlling the proliferation of rats in the city. Although some members noted the brazenness of the rat population, even during the day, Peters pointed out that JP is "not in

the top-10 areas for rats in the city." However, Peters noted that for any rat control program to be effective, it requires the cooperation of all residents in order to be effective. If only one resident is careless with their trash, their dog waste, or bird seed, it can affect an area within a wide radius.

Doherty noted that in his neighborhood near the Arboretum, feral cats, which have been "adopted" by residents, have proven useful in keeping down the rat population. However, a resident attending the meeting noted that the downside to feral cats is that they are hugely detrimental to wild bird populations.

The meeting concluded with Welch reminding residents that there are three open seats (two in Area B and one in Area C) on the JPNC and urged anyone interested in joining the council to apply for the openings.

Observer

Continued from page 4

But Deegan somewhat disagreed with some of Alonso's theories about why. Deegan indicted that Addams' work in social settlements and her lack of criticism for capitalism didn't bother the establishment as much as Balch's peace work, open declarations for socialism and support of groups not favored politically did.

On top of those differences, Alonso pointed out that Addams

received the Nobel Peace Prize during a time of relative peace; Balch got hers near the beginning of the Cold War.

Deegan wrote that Addams and Balch were "lifelong allies, friends and leaders in the WILPF and were both "in an international spotlight." She pointed out that both also "shared the philosophy of pragmatic feminism."

In 1955, Balch wrote a poem addressed to "Dear People of China" that could be directed to most of the world today, including JP. The last stanza reads:

"Let us be patient with one

another/And even patient with ourselves/We have a long, long way to go/So let us hasten along the road/The road of human tenderness and generosity/Groping, we may find one another's hands in the dark."

I will just add a post script

here: "And find a way for the public to create a memorial to pay tribute to Emily Green Balch and all her good work for us and the world."

Note: A small amount of content in this column appeared in a JP Observer column in 2012

that also advocated creation of a significant Emily Green Balch memorial to honor our Nobel Peace Prize winner.

Sandra Storey is Publisher Emerita of the Jamaica Plain Gazette.

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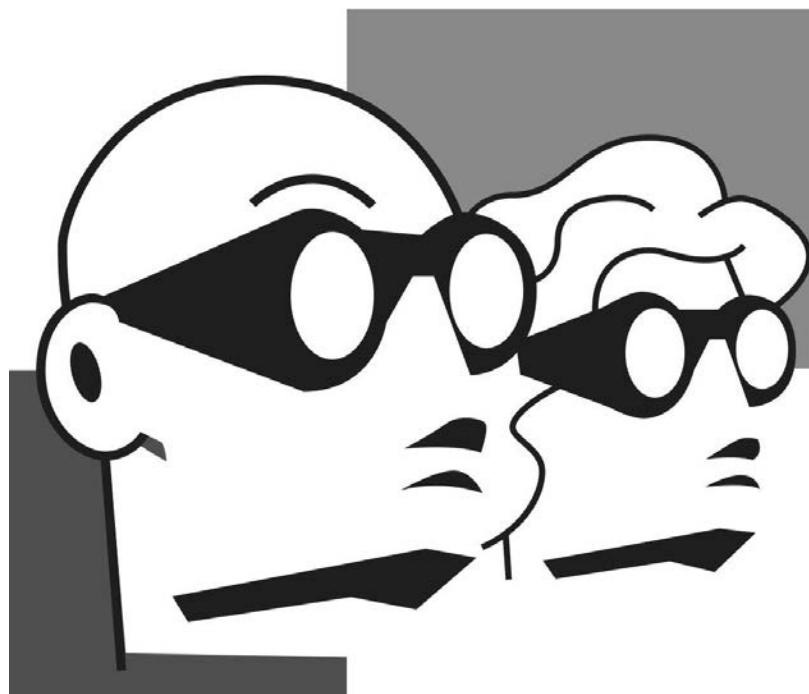
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Forbes

Continued from page 1

and disabled tenants who live there.

After almost three years of negotiations among the owner, the tenants, and state and city agencies, an agreement was reached by which the state and city will provide funds to the owner for a capital improvement program in order to undertake major renovations of both the interior and exterior of building (including new windows, new exterior cladding, and a new roof with a rooftop garden) plus new landscaping. The apartments (which had not been renovated in 40 years) will have new floors, new kitchens, and new baths. In addition, there will be rental subsidies for the tenants' that will maintain the Forbes as affordable housing for the next 40 years.

Although the tenants and housing advocates generally have applauded the agreement, a sticking point has been the landscaping aspect of the plan. The owner will be adding shrubbery and green space that will result in a reduction of parking from 27 to 15 spaces. The plan provides spaces for rideshare vehicles and electric bicycles.

"By reducing the on-site parking spaces to 15, this will force

many people to park in the street or to give up their cars," said Kane, who noted that the BPDA voted to approve the parking reduction plan without any notice to the residents.

"This feels like the classic rubber stamp by the BPDA of a developer's proposal without community input," Kane added, who noted that 78 residents presently own cars with more than half parking on the street, which includes some current market-rate tenants. Kane said that when the building becomes fully affordable-housing and the market rate tenants (and their cars) leave the building, it will improve the situation, but there still will be many current residents who will lose their parking spaces.

"This is totally unnecessary," said Doherty. "To have the BPDA vote on this in a backroom deal is another way of spreading a bad impression of their organization." Doherty also suggested that those who are senior citizens and who are residents of the building should organize to put pressure on politicians.

"This is a significant change not only for the residents, but also for the members of the Jamaica Plain community," said Thorn.

"This is very unfair for seniors who use walkers and canes who have to park off-site," said

Johnson. "They should be able to park at the building. There are 147 apartments and if you eliminate what we currently have, it's just unfortunate."

"By reducing the on-site parking spaces to 15, this will force many people to park in the street or to give up their cars," said Kane, who noted that the BPDA voted to approve the parking reduction plan without any notice to the residents.

"I don't agree with the trade-off of green space for parking spaces because of the hardship it will put people through," said Lundergan. "It seems that you just have to agree with everything if you want housing. It feels like, 'Just be quiet and allow the people in power to negotiate.' We don't know anything and then they just tell us what they've done."

"Given the number of seniors and disabled who live in the

building who depend on cars, this seems like a Fair Housing issue," said Kathy Brown, a long-time housing advocate who was in attendance at the meeting.

"There also is a problem with the process. How could the BPDA do this without notice to the community?" added Bender.

"Taking away parking that already is there makes no sense, especially for seniors and persons with disabilities, for whom parking off-site can be unsafe," said Reign.

However, two committee members suggested that the landscaping changes will have benefits. Royce said the addition of green space and parking spaces for rideshare vehicles are welcome from an environmental perspective. Foley noted that a lot of the design elements, including the rideshares and e-bikes, may have been required by the city's and the state's new building codes for green requirements and that the committee should hear from the designers before taking any action.

Thorn made a motion that the committee write a letter to the BPDA and city officials expressing their disappointment with the reduction in parking and asking for an explanation, and also noting the lack of process and lack of notice to the tenants.

Kane suggested that any letter from the committee

should acknowledge the owner's commitment to maintaining the property permanently affordable, which represents a substantial positive step for the residents.

After Thorn and Doherty emphasized that the purpose of the letter should be to focus on the lack of notice to the community, resulting in their lack of involvement in the process, the committee members voted 11-0-1 to approve the drafting of a letter to be sent to the city and the BPDA, with Sommer-Kieta and Doherty taking on the task of drawing up the draft. The draft letter will be presented to the committee at the July meeting, and in turn will be presented to the JPNC.

The committee heard briefly from Royce of the committee's Arborway Yard subcommittee regarding the subcommittee's most recent meeting. She mentioned that there were discussions about the lack of capital funding in the state budget for the construction of the new MBTA garage at the site. She also said that the possibility of constructing a parking garage underground for the T employees at the site came up, which would address a significant bone of contention between the T and the committee. The T's plans for the site call for locating a 150-space parking area for its employees within the eight acres of the community development land that had been part of the original 2001 memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the city and the T. The subcommittee has been adamantly opposed to locating the parking lot within the eight acres and has called for the original MOU to be adhered to.



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How to keep dogs safe this summer

Hot weather tips from the Animal Legal Defense Fund

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Leaving an animal in a car for any amount of time is dangerous. Cracking a window doesn't eliminate the risk of heatstroke or death, and in some states negligent owners can face up to one year imprisonment.

If you have your dog with you:

- Plan to visit animal-friendly restaurants and shops.
- Bring a friend who can stay with your dog while you run into a store.
- Leave your dog at home where he is safe and comfortable in the air conditioning.

2. If you see an animal in distress, call 911.

Calling 911 is the first step to saving that animal's life. Most states allow a public safety officer to break into the car and rescue an animal if his life is threatened.

3. Know your rights.

Social media posts have circulated across the country urging people to break a window if they

Continued on page 10

By Land or By Sea

BY PENNY & ED CHERUBINO

As you plan your summer fun, remember that many services and transportation options are pet-friendly. Day trips, weekends away, more extended vacations, and a meal on a patio can often include your dog. There are also some options for traveling with cats.

Tours

A recent social media post brought this topic to mind. The couple visited Boston with their dog and raved about how dog-friendly the city was. They were happy they could bring the pup on a tour of the Freedom Trail. It makes sense since that popular route happens in public spaces. The tour site mentions that "Dogs are not permitted in the historic burying grounds or the historic sites' buildings."

Ferries

These visitors and their dog also took a harbor tour. We know that Bay State Cruise Company is one we have enjoyed with Poppy. They say, "Yes, we love dogs and they are allowed aboard at no additional charge. They are required, however, to have a leash."

You'll find that ferry services, used by residents to reach their homes, are the most pet-friendly. These include the Provincetown Ferries, The Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard Steamship Authority, Casco Bay Lines in Portland, Maine, and the Block Island Ferry in Rhode Island.

Check the specific regulations for any boat you plan to take. Each may have particular rules. For example, The Casco Bay Line charges for dogs unless they are service dogs or in a carrier.

These services generally ask that you keep your animal on a leash or in a carrier. Pets are often not allowed in food service areas. In many instances, they may not sit on passenger seats or at dining tables. All ask that the animal be well-behaved and not bother other passengers or their animals.



ARIANA KAMINSKI PHOTO

A lifejacket is essential if you bring a dog onto a dock or a boat. We also recommend a leash to help get a dog back to safety once in the water.

We add two pieces of advice if you bring your dog on a dock or ferry. For safety, the animal should wear a well-fitting

Continued on page 10

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.

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City Paws

Continued from page 8

lifejacket and always be on a leash. The ferry services have life jackets for humans but not for animals. Sadly, we know of a dog that drowned at our yacht club because it could not get back onto the dock after diving into the water.

MBTA and Amtrak

The MBTA is a bit pet-friendly. They say, "Service animals are allowed on the T at all times. Non-service dogs are not allowed on the T during peak hours: 7

AM – 10 AM and 4 PM – 7 PM on weekdays."

Amtrak says you may bring a small dog or cat (up to 20 lbs including carrier) aboard some lines for a fee of \$29 or \$39. Check the Amtrak site for specifics.

Patio Dining with Dogs

For years, we were able to dine with our dogs in Provincetown. Now, many other municipalities have set up restaurant systems to allow legal dining with dogs on patios. We hope this trend continues and widens.

As with all the exceptions to the old rules that once said, "PETS NOT ALLOWED," it's up

to those of us who advocate to spend our recreational time with our animals to give the haters no arguments to use against us.

We love it when we walk away from a "dogs allowed" patio and have other patrons say, "We didn't know you had a dog with you." We protect the gradual loosening of municipal rules with good behavior and with support for the political friends of our right to enjoy time with our pets in public spaces.

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

Pet Safety

Continued from page 8

see a dog trapped inside a hot car, but you should know your local laws.

- Only 12 states — Arizona, California, Colorado, Indiana, Kansas, Massachusetts, Wisconsin, Florida, Ohio, Vermont, Oregon, and Tennessee — allow "good Samaritans" to break a car window to save an animal.

- Almost all of those states require "good Samaritans" to contact law enforcement before

breaking into the car.

- In 14 states, only public officials such as law enforcement and humane officers can legally break into a car to rescue an animal (Delaware, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Virginia, and Washington).

- In New Jersey and West Virginia, although it is illegal to confine an animal in a hot car, no one has the statutory authority to break into a vehicle to save the animal, not even law enforcement.

4. Let people know it's not okay to leave an animal unattended in a car.

If you see someone leave their animal in a parked car, consider politely approaching them and letting them know that even if it's a pleasant day outside, the temperature inside the car can skyrocket fast. The Animal Legal Defense Fund has created a printable flyer you can download at aldf.org/hotcars.

For more information on keeping dogs safe this summer visit aldf.org/hotcars.

Ensuring your pets are included in emergency plans

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

The Animal Rescue League of Boston (ARL) wants to remind the public that pets need to be included as a part of planning for any emergency. When it comes to pets, it starts with having a sturdy and comfortable crate at the ready, should the need to transport your animal arise. Additionally, your pets need a go-bag to make sure they're taken care of. The bag should be waterproof, and contain necessities for your animals including:

- Extra leashes
- Grooming items
- Medications and medical records stored in a waterproof bag
- Toys and treats
- Bedding
- Several days' worth of food and water
- Portable food and water bowls
- A manual can opener and utensils
- Kitty litter and disposable litter boxes, newspaper, potty pads
- Trash bags, paper towels and other pet sanitation needs
- Pet first-aid kit
- Collar with ID tags

Preparing this kit is also an opportunity to ensure that your pet's microchip information is correct and up-to-date. Additionally, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) suggests carrying a picture of you with your pet, just in case you become separated.

For 125 years, The Animal Rescue League of Boston (ARL) has responded to the needs of animals and the people who care about them.

With over 1,200 dedicated volunteers and 100 staff members, ARL lends unwavering support to local animals, families, and neighborhoods. We provide outstanding veterinary care, adoption, and field services. They also confront the root causes of animal cruelty and neglect through special police investigation and advocacy aimed at strengthening the laws that protect animals.

ARL does not receive government grants or public funding and relies on the generosity of our supporters to help animals in need. They ask all those who share our goals to reaffirm a commitment to the future we all hope to achieve.



A sample pet emergency kit.

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Melo's Market

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282 Centre St.

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Metro Mark Apt.

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Wu announces Roundhead Brewing and Fresh Food Generation Beer Garden to travel to various Boston parks

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department have announced a partnership with Roundhead Brewing Company and Fresh Food Generation to bring Alianza, a first-of-its-kind traveling beer garden series, to seven of Boston's parks throughout the summer with food and beverages for all ages. The first activation launched in South Boston at A Street Park on June 19.

"Our parks and open spaces create opportunities to build community across generations," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "That's why I'm so thrilled for our traveling beer garden to make stops across the city to activate our parks in new ways this summer by bringing people together in partnership with Roundhead Brewing Company and Fresh Food Generation."

"We can't wait to activate our parks with this exciting partnership," said Parks Commissioner Ryan Woods. "Alianza presented by Roundhead and Fresh Food Generation is a unique opportunity for residents to enjoy great local beer, delicious food, and the beauty of their neighborhood parks."

Alianza (Alliance), the name for this beer garden series, speaks to the local business partnership, and invites attendees to travel and build community across neighborhoods. At each location, Alianza will operate from Wednesday to Sunday during the hours of 2:00 - 9:00 p.m. for two consecutive weeks before traveling to the next City of Boston park.

"Roundhead is excited to bring people together across Boston's neighborhoods," said Luis Espinoza, co-owner of Roundhead Brewing Company. "I am

very proud to combine our cultures, and be a part of something that can only happen here in Boston."

"Every two weeks, not only will the location change, but we will be featuring a new menu item in honor of each neighborhood," said Cassandra Campbell, CEO of Fresh Food Generation, a Boston native. "We're excited to take our restaurant services on the road and create experiences in neighborhood parks as another place for people to connect."

The schedule is as follows and can also be found at roundheadbrewing.com/alianza-park-series:

- Forsyth Park - Fenway
July 3-July 14
- LoPresti Park - East Boston
July 17- July 28
- Marcella Playground - Roxbury
July 31- August 4

- Jamaica Pond Pine Bank - Jamaica Plain
August 14 - August 25
 - Franklin Park (Giraffe Entrance) - Dorchester
August 28 - September 8
 - Brighton Common- Allston-Brighton
September 11 - September 22
- 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.

BLO expands creative space with Midway Artist Studios

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Boston Lyric Opera (BLO), in collaboration with Midway Artist Studios, will establish a new artmaking and community space for Boston's cultural communities. The company has signed a multi-year lease for a 14,000-square-foot signature location at Midway Artist Studios in Boston's Fort Point neighborhood, expanding from its existing 2,000-square-foot studio. BLO's "Opera & Community Studios" will anchor the nearly 50-year-old company's artistic work with rehearsal and production space, and will further grow the vibrant Fort Point neighborhood with a place where artists and cultural organizations across disciplines can thrive.

In addition to being BLO's administrative hub, the Opera & Community Studios will accommodate a full range of artistic and creative activities, including music and staging rehearsals, public programs, education and community events, and producing operations. The Studios will welcome artists and cultural organizations from Midway, Fort

Point and across Greater Boston, fostering a collaborative environment and hosting convenings that strengthen the performing arts community. BLO will continue to present its mainstage shows at venues throughout the city.

"This new space marks a milestone for BLO, for Boston, and for the broader arts community," says Bradley Vernatter, BLO Stanford Calderwood General Director & CEO. "It's impossible to overstate the importance of access to appropriate, dedicated arts and cultural space in Boston, especially space for artistic preparation and rehearsal for the performing arts," he says. "The new studios will become a dependable place for individual artists and arts companies to collaborate and create."

The Opera & Community Studios are situated within Midway Artist Studios, a 200,000-plus square foot, artist-owned non-profit building that provides work-live space for 89 artists in all artistic mediums. The space will be used in its current multi-level, open-format state over the next year, with a new,

dedicated \$10.5 million fundraising initiative to support the expansion and a potential build-out of additional studios, support spaces, and amenities aimed for completion by the start of the 2026/27 Season, which is BLO's 50th anniversary season.

In addition to housing BLO's rehearsals and artistic operations, the space will accommodate other performing arts and non-profit organizations for a variety of uses. For example, it recently hosted an event for the projection-based digital art festival Illuminus; the non-profit journal Boston Art Review held a launch event for its May issue; and Commonwealth Shakespeare Company will use the space for rehearsals of its free-to-the-public summer production, "The Winter's Tale."

"Opera is a cross-disciplinary art form that elevates all art forms," says Raber Umphenour, President of Midway Artist Collective. "So Midway, with its wide variety of work-live artists, is a natural home for Boston Lyric Opera. The fulfillment of this

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Continued on page 13

EDITORIAL

Three years ago this week, racial hatred came to our area

It was three years ago this week when an unspeakable act of violence, motivated by racial hatred, befell the peaceful seaside community of Winthrop.

The tranquility of a typical, early-summer Saturday afternoon was shattered when a 28 year-old white man, a native of Wareham who had been living in Winthrop for a short time with his wife, shot two Black persons, 60 year-old Ramona Cooper, a retired Air Force veteran who only recently had moved to Winthrop, and 68 year-old David Green, a Winthrop native and retired State Trooper who was beloved in the Winthrop community, in cold blood when their paths crossed on Shirley St. near Cross St.

Thanks to the quick response of Winthrop police and the heroism of Sgt. Nicholas Bettano, the suspect was shot in the street when he refused to put down his weapons (he was armed with two handguns). It is believed that the shooter, whose belongings later were found to contain white supremacist and anti-Semitic literature, was en route to the nearby local temple and synagogue with the intent of perpetrating a mass shooting incident before he was stopped by Sgt. Bettano.

To be sure, both Ramona Cooper and David Green happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. However, given that the shooter did not fire his weapon at white passers-by, his intent to shoot Cooper and Green solely because they were Black is undeniable.

Those of us who live in the Boston area like to think that we are immune from the sort of bigotry-inspired acts of violence that make the headlines in other states where gun laws are non-existent. However, the Anti-Defamation League recently reported that acts of anti-Semitism have spiked in Massachusetts in the past three years, more than doubling from 2020 to 2022 and then increasing a whopping 189 percent in 2023 from 2022. The sad fact is that no place in America today is immune from the virus of prejudice.

For those of us who have called this area our home for many years, we still shudder whenever we visit Winthrop and drive down Shirley St. toward Cross St. -- the events of June 26, 2021, are just too terrible to contemplate.

However, the best way that we can honor the memories of Ramona Cooper and David Green is never to forget that tragic and horrible day and resolve to do whatever we can to end the evils of racism and all other forms of prejudice that are far too prevalent throughout our society.

No end in sight for housing crisis

Everyone on all sides of the political and economic spectrums are in agreement that there is a drastic shortage of housing in this country. But similar to the adage about the weather, though everyone is talking about it, no one is doing anything about it.

The spike in interest rates to tame inflation over the past few years has been seen as one of the chief causes of the housing shortfall. Higher interest rates lessen the demand for some goods (such as automobiles) and services, but they also serve to put a lid on the supply of both new homes (because high interest rates impact home builders) and older homes (because existing owners cannot afford to give up the low rates on their current homes).

With fewer homes on the market at a time of surging demand because of the coming of age of Millennials and the influx of immigrants, the prices for new homes and rents are continuing to increase even in the face of higher interest rates. Zillow reports that the median home price in Massachusetts is \$629,000, an increase of 8.8% in the past year -- with the median price of a home in the Boston area now almost \$1 million, an increase of 10.9% in the past year.

It is estimated that given our larger population, the U.S. has failed to meet the demand for housing of all types, both single-family homes and multi-family rentals, by more than two million units per year ever since the Great Recession, thus creating the housing crisis we have today. But with interest rates still at their highest levels in decades, new home construction will continue to fall far short of demand for the foreseeable future. Higher interest rates also will continue to have the ripple effect of keeping Baby Boomers and Gen Xers in their current homes (where they have low interest rates), thereby further decreasing the inventory of homes on the market for younger home-buyers.

In addition to high interest rates, a host of other factors -- restrictive zoning laws, supply chain issues, a shortage of construction and trade workers, and the conversion of single-family homes to short-term rentals such as Airbnb -- also are contributing to our housing shortage.

The lack of housing has two other significant impacts: The first is that it affects our economy because it reduces the mobility of the nation's workforce. Individuals no longer can just pull up stakes and leave for greener pastures (and new job opportunities) when home prices are out of reach everywhere.

The housing shortage also affects our national mood. Ever since our founding, America has been a land of opportunity. But with the American Dream now out of reach for most American families, pessimism about the future has replaced the optimism that prevailed for every previous younger generation in our society.

In short, what it comes down to is this: Our society is failing to meet the demand for shelter -- which is among the most basic of all human needs -- and no one has a solution to this ever-worsening problem.

Have a safe, happy Fourth of July: leave fireworks to the professionals

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Every year in Massachusetts, illegal fireworks cause fires, explosions, property damage, and serious injuries. As we enter the weeks around July 4th, when more than 60% of these incidents occur, State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine is reminding residents and visitors to leave fireworks to the professionals.

"Fireworks are inherently dangerous," said State Fire Marshal Davine. "Possessing or using them in Massachusetts requires licensing and certification. They are illegal for personal use here even if purchased legally in another state. These laws work: the rate of fireworks injuries in Massachusetts is about one-fifth the national average."

Over the past five years, fireworks have caused 532 fires and explosions, about \$1.5 million in property damage, and more than 200 serious injuries that required treatment in a hospital emergency department. The following incidents were reported last year alone:

- On May 21, 2023, a Kingston man who was allegedly manufacturing destructive devices for use as homemade fireworks suffered life-altering injuries to his hands, chest, and face. He was MedFlighted to Brigham and Women's Hospital. Additional devices found at the scene were secured and rendered safe by the State Police Bomb Squad.

- On July 3, 2023, commercial-grade fireworks caused a fire on the second-floor porch of a multi-family home in Chelsea. State Police fire investigators assigned to the State Fire Marshal's office and Chelsea officials determined that commercial-grade aerial fireworks being discharged in front of a nearby masonry business struck the rear porch and ignited combustible materials. Additional fireworks were found nearby and seized.

- On July 4, 2023, a West Yarmouth man was badly injured after attempting to discharge illegal fireworks. He was transported first to Cape Cod Hospital and then to Brigham and Women's Hospital with severe injuries to his right hand and thigh.

- On July 5, 2023, a teenage boy lost part of his hand and a teenage girl suffered burn injuries after igniting illegal fireworks in Hyde Park. Both were transported to the hospital for their injuries.

- On July 7, 2023, a residential structure fire in Danvers displaced four residents. State Police and Danvers fire investigators determined that it was caused by the unsafe use of sparklers in the home's basement during an Independence Day party. This was the second

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

Jamaica Plain GAZETTE

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

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BLO

Continued from page 11

shared vision is the culmination of a decades-long effort to find a creative collaborator for this unique space. Together, Midway Artist Studios and Boston Lyric Opera will contribute to a strengthening of the performing arts throughout the City of Boston as we continue to grow the cultural presence in Fort Point.”

Fort Point is one of New England’s largest artists’ communities, with three dedicated artist buildings and cultural organizations like Artists for Humanity and the Boston Children’s Museum, and institutions like GrubStreet and the Institute for Contemporary Art nearby. “Since joining Midway, its residents and leadership have welcomed us openly, along with the entire neighborhood whose residents have worked for decades to create and maintain artist housing and work spaces,” Vernatter says. “We are proud to contribute to this community – by uplifting Fort Point’s artistic history and expanding its cultural footprint through new opportunities.”

While the Opera & Community Studios space is a leap forward in satisfying many needs for artistic preparation and operations for BLO and others, Vernatter says, the company continues to explore collaborative solutions for a dedicated venue for large-scale mainstage performances that meets the needs of modern audiences and artists across disciplines. “One of Boston’s greatest unrealized opportunities is a modern performance venue to harness the artistic ambitions and scale of opera, join communities across different cultural sectors, and support the economic stability of many artists and art forms,” he says. Meanwhile, BLO will continue to present its mainstage shows at various venues throughout the city.



Boston Lyric Opera has added 14,000 square feet of raw brick-and-beam space to its 2,000-square-foot offices at Midway Artist Studios in Boston’s Fort Point neighborhood.

Members of the public will have a chance to tour the Opera & Community Studios space during this fall’s Fort Point Open Studios in October.

Reaction From City Leaders

Mayor’s Office of Arts and Culture Chief Kara Elliott-Ortega highlighted the significance of BLO’s Fort Point expansion: “This is exciting news for one of the city’s largest and most enduring performing arts companies – and the city’s largest artist work-live artist housing project. BLO has been part of the city’s cultural fabric for nearly 50 years; this underscores good things for Midway, BLO and performing artists who will make valuable use of this new cultural space. The creation of more accessible and affordable rehearsal and studio and venue space like this continues to be a priority for the city and our performing arts community.”

City of Boston Chief of Housing and Director of the Mayor’s Office of Housing Sheila A. Dillon applauded the expansion and collaboration. “Congratulations to Midway Artist Studios, Boston Lyric Opera and many other local organizations on the creation of a new cultural space that will benefit not only the Fort Point neighborhood, but all of Boston,” Dillon says. “The unique integration of affordable artist work-live housing with creative cultural performing arts and rehearsal spaces is particularly noteworthy.

The residents of Midway continue to create a welcoming and vibrant community by providing both income restricted artist housing and space for local artists and performing arts. It is rewarding to see the long term investments in artist housing yielding benefits for organizations large and small.”

Reaction From Artistic And Other Leaders

BLO Board Chair Alicia Cooney and Board President Wayne Davis shared enthusiasm for the project as a reflection of the company’s future: “The establishment of this new space is a leap forward for opera and for Boston. It provides a dependable environment for creative work and rehearsals and also reinforces our commitment to enriching the cultural landscape of Boston,” Cooney says. “This wouldn’t have been possible without the extraordinary generosity of the many people who have contributed to making our shared vision a reality. We welcome the broader community to join us in bringing this space to life for the performing arts in Boston.”

BLO Artistic Director Nina Yoshida Nelsen called the project “a new era for opera in Boston.”

“A dedicated studio space to support our artists, opera artists across the Boston area, and the broader cultural sector is a thrilling thing to provide,” Nelsen says. “The studios will enable cross-discipline collaborations and welcome audiences and neighbors

into the artistic and creative process. It is a place for our community to gather and participate in extraordinary artmaking together. This is a new era for opera in Boston.”

Boston Opera Collaborative Executive Director Alexis Peart, who has performed with BLO and is a member of its Emerging Artist cohort, recognizes a benefit in the new space for smaller opera companies. “To have a centralized location where opera artists and other makers can gather to work on creative projects, get inspiration from like-minded artists, and find a place for rehearsals and informal showings of in-process

works will be an incredible asset to the Boston arts scene,” Peart says. “The new space is sure to be a game-changer. I could not be more excited to see its growth and continued development.”

Founding Artistic Director of Commonwealth Shakespeare Company (CSC) Steve Maler, who directed BLO & CSC’s co-production of *Romeo & Juliet* in 2022, says “Boston has a severe shortage of affordable and accessible rehearsal spaces and performing arts venues. We’re so thrilled that CSC’s upcoming free production of *“The Winter’s Tale”* will rehearse at this new location and we look forward to using the space for future rehearsals, events and performances.”

Over its nearly 50 years producing opera in Boston, Boston Lyric Opera’s (BLO) mission is to build curiosity, enthusiasm and support for opera through compelling experiences that connect, inspire and reflect our community. With more than 170 performances each year on main stages, in school-based youth performances, and through free public concerts, BLO tells stories that reflect the

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Fourth of July

Continued from page 12

year in a row in which sparklers caused a fire that displaced all residents from a home: in 2022, a similar fire in Dracut went to three alarms.

Massachusetts law requires police to seize any illegal fire-

works they encounter in the course of their duties. People who use or possess them illegally are also subject to a fine, while the illegal sale of fireworks is an arrestable offense that carries potential jail time.

“We want everyone to have a safe, happy Fourth of July,” State Fire Marshal Davine said. “Please don’t risk a fire, injury, or a day in court. There are

dozens of permitted municipal shows across Massachusetts this season, so leave fireworks to the professionals.”

The Department of Fire Services posts a list of permitted fireworks displays and updates it each week through the summer. To view the list – and to learn more about the dangers of illegal fireworks – visit the DFS website.

America's oldest free public high school celebrates 200th graduation

English High of Boston Alumni award record \$13,650 in scholarships

BY STAN HURWITZ, CLASS OF 1967 | SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

The 200th Graduation Ceremony of The English High School of Boston, America's first free public high school, was held on June 7 at the Boston Convention Center. Guests were welcomed by EHS Head of School Caitlin Murphy. The guest speaker was Alex Geourntas, EHS '79, the Boston City Clerk.

Geourntas said, "I want to welcome you as English High's newest Alumni. You are joining a special group of accomplished alumni including Brigadier Gen-

eral Enoch 'Woody' Woodhouse, Class of '44, who served our country as a Tuskegee Airman and practiced law for over 40 years." Woodhouse was mentioned by name by President Biden at the recent 80th anniversary of D-Day in Normandy, France. Geourntas added, "Your Alumni Association is an outstanding resource that can have a lasting positive impact in your life."

Student speakers were (photo - left to right) Annya Vargas who hopes to become a cardiologist; Maleek Haley, who will attend New England College; and Lelo Veillard who plans to attend Sa-

lem State University.

Maleek received one of the three Stella and Emmanuel Mavridis Scholarships. Annya was awarded the first Cullen Family Scholarship. All told, the Class of '24 includes 104 graduates and students have been accepted at 37 colleges and post-secondary opportunities.

The English High School Association, the Alumni group, awarded a total of \$13,650 in scholarships to deserving grads, including five newly established scholarships. These included The Cullen Family Scholarship, The Alice and Harry Eramian Schol-



English High grads are all smiles on graduation day.

arship, The Richard M. Long Esq. Scholarship, The Errol L.C. Brown Memorial Scholarship, and The DeWayne Walker Memorial Scholarship.

For information and/or to

make a tax-deductible donation or establish a new scholarship, contact EHSA President Mike Thomas '67: 781-956-4774 / mthomas@englishhighalumni.org.

LOCAL STUDENT IN THE NEWS

APONTE NAMED TO LASELL UNIVERSITY SPRING 2024 DEAN'S LIST

Leslie Aponte, a Lasell University student from Jamaica Plain, was named to the Dean's List for their academic performance in the Spring 2024 semester.

To be named to the Dean's List, Lasell students must complete at least 12 credits as a full-time student and achieve a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher.

AUSTIN NAMED TO REGIS COLLEGE'S SPRING 2024 DEAN'S LIST

Regis College proudly an-

nounced that Liam Austin of Jamaica Plain was named to the university's Spring 2024 Dean's List recognizing their outstanding academic achievements.

"Being named to the Dean's List is a testament to students' persistent commitment to their academic journey throughout the semester," said Dr. Mary Erina Driscoll, PhD, the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs. "At Regis, we prioritize the development of students' character and confidence, equipping them with the skills they need for a successful career and life of meaning. Recognition on the Dean's List reflects Liam's resolute dedication to academic excellence."

To earn a spot on the Dean's List, Regis sophomores, juniors,

seniors, and professional studies students must have a GPA of 3.5 or higher; first-year students must have a GPA of 3.25 or higher. Additional criteria can be found in Regis' Academic Catalog.

ADLER NAMED TO THE DEAN'S LIST AT BATES COLLEGE

Zak Adler of Jamaica Plain Mass., was named to the Dean's List at Bates College for the winter semester ending in April 2024. This is a distinction earned by students whose grade point average is 3.92 or higher.

Adler is still considering a major at Bates.

Located in Lewiston, Maine, Bates is internationally recognized as a leading liberal arts college, attracting about 2,000 students from across the U.S. and around the world. Since 1855, Bates has been dedicated to educating the whole person through creative and rigorous scholarship in a collaborative residential community. Committed to opportunity and excellence, Bates has always admitted students without regard to gender, race, religion, or national origin. Cultivating intellectual discovery and informed civic action, Bates prepares leaders sustained by a love of learning and zeal for responsible stewardship of the wider world.

Congrats, 2024 Grads!

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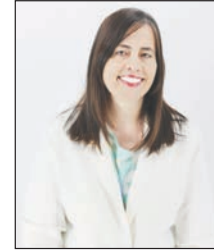
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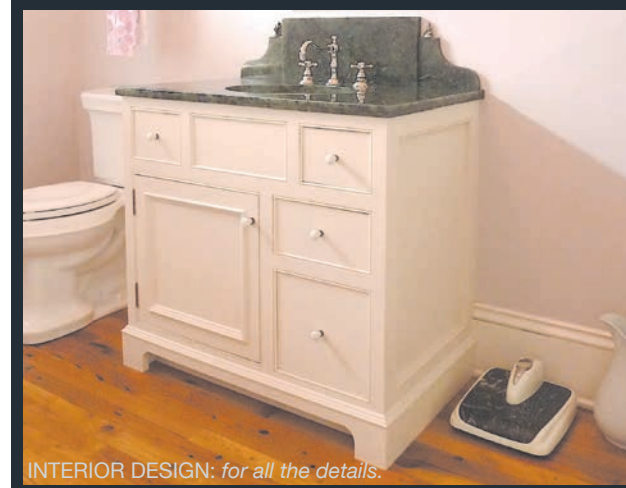
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LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate And Family Court 24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114 (617)788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU24P1087EA Estate of: Miguel Arroyo Also Known as: Michael Arroyo Date of Death

07/05/2023

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Michaela Chavelis Arroyo of Jamaica Plain, 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: Michaela Chavelis Arroyo of Jamaica Plain, 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 07/15/2024. 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 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: June 03, 2024 Stephanie L. Everett, Esq., Register of Probate 06/28/24 JP

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. SU24P1127EA Estate of: Milton Bordwin Date of Death: 05/08/2024

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Andrew J. Bordwin of Hastings-ON-Huds NY, requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the

Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Andrew J. Bordwin of Hastings-ON-Huds NY, 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 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 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: June 11, 2024 Stephanie L. Everett, Esq. Register of Probate 06/28/24 JP

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