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GAZETTE PICK-UP LOCATIONS, PAGE 13

Vol. 33 No. 16



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Egleston Square Peace Garden begins new chapter as a city park

BY ADAM SWIFT

One of the Boston Parks Department's newest properties has a long history as a focal point of the Egleston Square neighborhood.

In June, the city officially acquired the Egleston Square Peace Garden from Clear Channel Outdoors to renovate and redesign the property for the use of residents in perpetuity.

It was the culmination of a long road for the Friends of the Egleston Square Peace Garden, neighbors, and JP residents.

The Egleston Square Peace Garden originally began in the 1990s, when the community

organized to address youth violence, disinvestment and neglect in the neighborhood.

Clear Channel Outdoor owned the property and operated a billboard there for decades, back from when the elevated T ran through Egleston. Around 1998, youth from Greater Egleston High School and neighbors organized to clean up their littered vacant lot and transform it into a garden. People involved in these early efforts included Will Morales, Beatriz Zapater, Roberto Chao, Robert Pulster, Alvin Shiggs, and newly elected District 6 City Councilor Kendra

Continued on page 4

JP artist Ryan Horton uses collage to explore racial identity in upcoming exhibit

BY DAN MURPHY

With 'Ego & Insecurities' – his first exhibition which opens on Friday, Aug. 23, at the Piano Craft Gallery in the South End – visual artist Ryan Horton will use collage as the medium to explore his identity as a Black man living in the U.S., as well as to juxtapose his personal experience against prevailing stereotypes surrounding race in society.

"[My exhibit] focuses on the internal struggle of balancing one's ego and insecurities," Horton, a 31-year-old Jamaica Plain resident, wrote ahead of the exhibit opening. "Through the medium of digital collage, I explore how personal dilemmas of self-worth, self-appreciation, and self-image create an internal tension that impacts my percep-

Continued on page 5



BOSTON WOMEN'S MARKET

CELEBRATES 7TH YEAR

DEREK KOUYOUJIAN
PHOTOS

Shoppers browse the many tables run by women-owned businesses offering a wide variety of goods.

Shown left, Boston-area musician Peryle performs. She recently released her first album titled eight on music platforms.



Women vendors offer a wide variety of goods reflecting their talents and creative energy.

NEWS BRIEFS

GET READY FOR JP PORCHFEST AT JAMAICA POND BOATHOUSE AUG. 24

The JP Porchfest has been a cornerstone of the Jamaica Plain community since 2014, showcasing music, dance, theatre, and more on porches throughout the area. This year, the Emerald Necklace Conservancy is partnering with Dunamis Boston to host performances at the Jamaica Pond Boathouse from 12 PM to 6 PM.

Performer Lineup:

- 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM: Daisy Quartet – Classical, Folk, and more
- 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM: SXR GRIPP – Rapper
- 2:00 PM – 2:30 PM: Naveah – R&B/Soul, Singer-Songwriter
- 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM: Community Hour – Cultural Agora/ Mi Salsa – Salsa Lesson with DJ Rozey

4:00 PM – 4:30 PM: Zion Rodman – Singer-Songwriter
 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM: Honk – Brass Band

All performances are free and open to the public for all ages. The Jamaica Pond Boathouse is located at 507 Jamaicaway. Join the fun and enjoy a day of entertainment!

SUMNER TUNNEL CLOSED THIS WEEKEND

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is announcing construction operations for the Sumner Tunnel Restoration Project will continue this weekend in Boston. The work will require the closure of the Sumner Tunnel, which facilitates travel in one direction from Logan Airport and Route 1A in East Boston, from 11:00 p.m. on Friday, August 9, through 5:00 a.m. on Monday, August 12.

This weekend closure is part of the ongoing Sumner Tunnel project that began in April of 2022 and includes work on the tunnel ceiling, roadway, walls, lighting, and additional improvements which will increase safety and climate resiliency.

Traveling to and from Logan Airport

The Sumner Tunnel carries traffic southbound, from East Boston/Logan Airport to Downtown Boston, and the Callahan Tunnel carries traffic northbound, from

DOMINICAN PARADE SET FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 18

The annual Dominican Parade will be held on Sunday August 18 and will form at Hyde Square and proceed along the traditional route: leaving Perkins Street, straight on to Centre Street, left on to Columbus Avenue right on Walnut Avenue, and ending at Franklin Park. The floats in the parade, at the intersection of Columbus Avenue and Walnut Avenue, will continue straight onto Seaver Street to disperse.

The Parade will start at noon and last until 10 pm. Parking restrictions will be in place on the following streets:

- Perkins Street, Both sides, from South Huntington Avenue to Centre Street
- Barbara Street, Both sides, from South Huntington Avenue to Centre Street
- Centre Street, Both sides, from South Huntington Avenue to Columbus Avenue
- Columbus Avenue, Both sides, from Centre Street to Walnut Avenue
- Walnut Avenue, Both sides, from Seaver Street to School Street
- Seaver Street, Both sides, from Walnut Avenue to Harold Street

LOW NUMBER PLATE LOTTERY APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN THROUGH AUGUST 16

The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) is reminding the public that eligible vehicle owners have two weeks

left to submit applications for the 2024 Low Number Plate Lottery at myRMV Online Service Center.

Applications will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 16.

The Low Plate Lottery will be held on Tuesday, September 10 – details of the event will be announced soon. Winners will be notified by mail if selected for a low number plate.

This year, there are 298 plates available through the low plate lottery. Some of the available low plates include 34, 255,

1912, 2X, 33V, B8, and Z88. Applicants should note that there is no fee to apply for the lottery. However, should the applicant be selected as a winner, there is a special plate fee that will be required, as well as a standard registration fee. In addition, lottery plate applicants will be sent a notification from the RMV to the email address they provided with lottery event details including the livestream link and location of the event. The lottery results will be posted after the drawing on the RMV's website, Mass.Gov/RMV.

Roslindale man charged with shooting near Jackson Square T station

BY GAZETTE STAFF

A Roslindale man is facing charges following a shooting in Jamaica Plain on Monday, July 29.

Christian Coloma, 25, was arraigned in Roxbury District Court last week on charges of unlawful possession of a firearm, unlawful possession of ammunition, and refusal to submit to a police officer.

At a dangerousness hearing last Friday, Coloma was found dangerous, but released on \$1,500 bail with GPS monitoring and home confinement except for legal and medical appointments. He was also ordered to stay away from the area of Union and Green streets, according to

the Suffolk County District Attorney's office. Coloma is due in court again on September 30 for a pre-trial hearing.

Colomoa was arrested by Boston police near the area of the Jackson Square MBTA station on July 29.

Police stated that officers saw an adult male suffering from a gunshot wound, and immediately began providing medical aid. Boston EMS arrived on scene and transported the victim to a local hospital with life-threatening injuries.

The victim's condition improved and authorities on last week said the victim is expected to survive. He suffered a gunshot

Continued on page 3

JP CHILDREN'S SOCCER

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

Early registration ends on August 30th 2024

Fall season runs from Weds, Sept. 11th through Sun, Nov. 10th 2024
 Registration costs \$25 - discounts are available.

The Fall season is 8 weeks long, every week we hold one 45 minute practice for each team, with available sessions on Wednesdays at 4pm, Saturday at 9, 10am and Sunday at 10am.

Volunteer Activity leaders (aka "coaches") are needed to support every team - no experience needed! See our website for more details or contact us directly at: contact@jpchilrensoccer.org

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

El temprano registro de la temporada regular finaliza el 30 de Agosto de 2024

La temporada de otoño se extiende desde el Miércoles el 11 de Septiembre hasta el Domingo 10 de Noviembre 2024. La inscripción cuesta \$25.00 — hay descuentos disponibles.

La temporada de otoño tiene una duración de 8 semanas, cada semana realizamos una práctica de 45 minutos para cada equipo, con sesiones disponibles los Miércoles a las 4 p.m., los Sábados a las 9, 10 a.m., o los Domingos a las 10 a.m.

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



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Rodent Control Pilot is helping the neighborhood and may help others

BY MICHAEL COUGHLIN JR.

A rodent control pilot using rat fertility control products is being conducted on Cranston and Sheridan Streets by WISDOM Good Works, a non-profit group focused on humane animal population control, and has yielded results that could lead to this strategy potentially helping other areas in the future.

After a group of residents on Cranston Street gathered together to solve their rodent problem through pest management services and even a different fertility control product, to no avail, they contacted WISDOM Good Works, specifically Doctors Loretta Mayer and Cheryl Dyer.

WISDOM Good Works Director of Operations Alaina Gonzalez-White told the Jamaica Plain Gazette that Mayer and Dyer are responsible for creating WISDOM Good Bites, “which is a solid feed fertility control pellet,”

she said.

“It’s a nutraceutical for rats. It basically is a rodent feed with an added ingredient that inhibits their reproductive capacity.”

Fortunately for residents, the organization wanted to field-test the product, and after some coordination, WISDOM Good Works started its pilot last summer.

As part of the pilot, 31 households out of around 50 in the area have participated. “Because of the feeding range of a rat, not every house has to participate for the whole neighborhood to reap the benefits,” said Gonzalez-White.

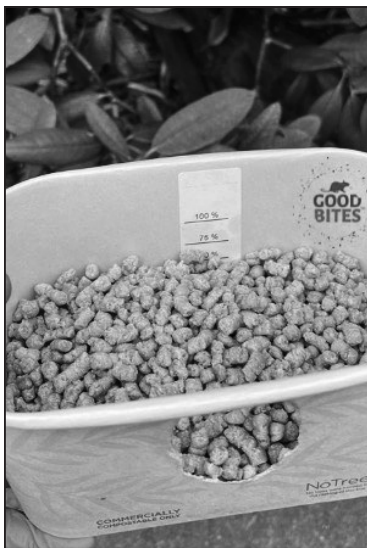
“In fact, it probably extends the range of infertility outside of those two blocks, but we really were focusing on just those two.”

Through the pilot, tamper-resistant bait stations, also called feeding stations, are used on participating properties.

The stations on the ground have tunnels that rats can easily

get into, and a container with a measuring stick is placed inside to measure consumption.

For the last seven months, Gonzalez-White indicated there has been a sustained population reduction of between 50% and 60%.



An inside look at the feeders used by WISDOM Good Works

“With this reduced population, most of the residents you’d ask say no, I haven’t seen rats, no we don’t have rats, and I know differently because, you know, I’m watching very closely and measuring,” said Gonzalez-White.

“But what I hear when I’m told that is that we no longer have a rat problem.”

As mentioned, residents had previously tried another fertility control product with no success. However, Gonzalez-White indicated that the WISDOM Good Works product differs in terms of its active ingredient and delivery.

“Our active ingredients and our pellets are completely natural. They’re plant derivatives, they are human-grade food ingredients, so there’s nothing that poses a danger or a risk to our environment,” she said.

In terms of the delivery of the product, Gonzalez-White explained that the fertility control product previously used by the residents was a liquid in that, in the cold, it froze and, in the heat, coagulated.

With this particular strategy having positively impacted part of the neighborhood, it could potentially have a larger impact.

Specifically, Gonzalez-White was of the mindset that it has cross-application potential for citywide use, especially on city-owned or operated properties.

“I think this has been a great stepping stone to citywide appli-

cation,” she said.

Further, Gonzalez-White highlighted the need for cities to look at other means of pest management due to the increased difficulty in using and getting second-generation rodenticides (poison) and their danger to children and other animals like birds of prey and pets.

She also noted, “If we find that a city government wants to pick it up, we are ready to scale at a moment’s notice.”

Not only has the pilot demonstrated the potential for citywide application, but the work being done is also helping WISDOM Good Works fine-tune its strategies and learn more about the area.

For example, the organization is working on modifying its feeders to hold larger amounts of product, limiting the frequency at which they have to be filled, and designing feeders that are less attractive to secondary species so the product gets to the rats specifically.

Another significant revelation was that the Good Bites product’s attractiveness allows it to move rodent populations.

Continued on page 7



COURTESY PHOTOS

An outside view of the feeders used by WISDOM Good Works.



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Shooting

Continued from page 2

wound to the chest, according to prosecutor Brittney Hernandez.

The suspect, later identified as Coloma, fled towards Columbus Avenue, and while canvassing the area saw him riding a scooter on Amory Street. Officers then followed him towards Union Avenue and Rockvale Circle, according to police.

“The suspect abandoned his scooter and began to run from of-

ficers,” police said. “A foot pursuit ensued, and officers were able to stop the suspect on Rockvale Circle.”

Police recovered a firearm they said Coloma discarded while fleeing from them.

Boston Police are also continuing to investigate a deadly stabbing that happened early Monday morning at 10 Armory Place.

Police found a man suffering stab wounds, and was taken to a local hospital where he later died. Anyone with information about the incident is asked to contact homicide detectives at (617) 343-4470.

Peace Garden

Continued from page 1

Hicks.

Clear Channel leased the land for free to ESAC Boston from 2003-2018 before allowing the lease to expire.

From 2021-2022, Friends of the Egleston Square Peace Garden continued to meet, advocate, and organize for the Peace Garden property to be transferred to the City of Boston. A petition circulated by Egleston Square Neighborhood Association accumulated over 500 signatures.

In Mayor Michelle Wu's State of the City address last year, it was good news for the friends of the peace garden as she said, "We worked alongside residents in Egleston Square and business partners to secure a Community Peace Garden on Washington Street."

Pulster said the Peace Garden has been sustained by community groups for over 20 years after Clear Channel leased the



Volunteers who assisted in the cleaning of the murals at the JP Brewery on June 26th.

property for \$1 to the community nonprofit ESAC. He said the garden became a focal point for activities and events in the neighborhood for many years and became a beloved park in Egleston Square.

"When the news came that the city and the mayor had an interest in acquiring the land, it was just a big deal for us and we

were very excited," said Pulster. "The thing for us was that Clear Channel decided they didn't want to redo the lease, so they put a fence around it. Then, the community activated and began to work advocating for the city to acquire the land."

Now that the city has acquired the peace garden, Pulster said the Friends of the Egleston

Square Peace Garden will be working with the city to help make the park the best asset possible for the neighborhood.

"There are many examples of friends of city parks in the city of Boston; one of them is for (Christopher) Columbus Park," he said. "We are exploring our options now to become a more formal entity and looking at models of other community organizations that became non-profits."

Pulster said he expects the city and the friends group to complement each other when it comes to how the park is used and maintained.

One of the major activities regarding the peace garden over recently has been the restoration and future of the six panel Peace Throughout History Mural which was originally attached to the Carlyle Engineering building abutting the park more than 20 years ago.

"We had these very large pan-

els, a six-panel mural on the building, that were painted by youth from the Greater Egleston area under the direction of Roberto Chao, who is a local mural artist," said Pulster. "They graced the park for nearly two decades."

At the same time the future of the Egleston Square Peace Garden was in transition, Pulster said the building that was home to the mural went up for sale.

"We knew the murals were going to have to be taken down at some point when the building was sold," he said.

After the sale of the building, Pulster said the community got in touch with the contractor working on the building to make sure the murals were safely down. The contractor, Global Power and Construction, was able to remove the murals and store them until the friends group was able to find another location to store the panels.

"The construction company really did us a favor because they could have been easily tossed aside at that point," said Pulster.

The Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation gave the Friends a space where it could store the mural panels as it works to restore them.

Pulster said it has been an exciting process with a number of community volunteers working to help restore the mural.

"People see some value in the murals, and as we did, that there is some artistry there and some history that is worth preserving," said Pulster.

Now, the group is looking for homes for the mural panels so they can be adopted and cared for in a community space, he added.

"We are in the process now of reaching out to potential homes to see if they would be interested in taking the murals and being a custodian of the murals so we can keep them in the community," Pulster said. "We are pretty far along now in the plans to find homes for the murals."

Looking ahead, Pulster said the parks department has an excellent history of keeping and maintaining parks for the communities.

"We're happy to be a part of that network right now, and we see this as a beautiful green space that is available for community members to enjoy some shade in an otherwise sunny area," he said.

Pulster said the community will work with the city to make sure that the theme of peace at the Peace Garden continues to be part of the park narrative.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROBERT PULSTER

Roberto Chao, Artist for 'Peace Throughout History' and Robert Pulster of the Friends of the Egleston Square Peace Garden leading efforts to restore the murals.

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Horton

Continued from page 1

tion of self.”

A native of Lilburn, Ga. Horton earned a master’s in architecture from Northeastern University, as well as a bachelor’s of fine arts from Savannah (Ga.) College of Art & Design.

“That’s where I learned to appreciate aesthetic and presentation,” Horton said of the education he received at Savannah. “From there, it helped with my understanding of how to communicate different ideas, which I think is pivotal to having a successful career and in communicating with people.”

Horton made the leap from graphic designer to full-time artist about a year and a half ago, and in addition to his upcoming solo show, his work has also been on display in numerous other group exhibitions, including at the African American Museum of Dallas, Boston City Hall, and MIT’s Koch Institute Public Gallery, among others. Horton’s work has also been featured in art publications including Artist Talk, New Visionary Magazine, and Create! Magazine.

For ‘Ego & Insecurities,’ Horton will offer 20-plus pieces, ranging in size from 12-by-12 inches to 48-by-60 inches, along with three, 3-D installation pieces, which all spill out over their respective canvases and extend into other spaces. The installation pieces, he said, are meant to convey moments in his life where he felt uncomfortable or insecure, despite being in seemingly comfortable situations.

“Through the overlay and manipulation of images in my collages, I create surreal and jarring compositions that channel and challenge my identity and expressions as a Black man in America and the stereotypes that come with it,” Horton wrote. “By doing so, I aim to combat the pressures to conform and the tendency to compare myself to who I am supposed to be, in hopes to allow myself to embrace both the ego and insecurities that make me. I aim to combat the pressures to conform and the tendency to compare myself to who I am supposed to be, in hopes to allow myself to embrace both the ego and insecurities that make me who I am.”

Meanwhile, Horton started working in the collage medium in 2021. He credits a ‘great friend,’ Joyce Saiete, a New York graphic artist, for encouraging him to ex-

plore new mediums in his art, including collage.

Horton also said he draws inspiration from the work of Troy Browne, a mixed-design artist based in the United Kingdom.

Prior to embracing collage as his primary medium, Horton said his main interests were sketching and ‘sequential design.’ He said he had a “deep appreciation” for comic book art then and sometimes drew comic book characters, although he never composed a full storyline, or assembled a true narrative in comic-book form.

Horton was interested in photography then, too, he said, though he said he was often just dabbling. As he began making collage art for himself, however, Horton began to use his own photography to create self-portraits.

“As I cut and stitched together photos I realized the flexibility of the medium and the strength



COURTESY PHOTO

Ryan Horton’s work, ‘Ancestral Bond.’

of expression I was able to create,” Horton wrote. “As I continue to mature as an artist, I want to make sure I keep up with skill sets I’ve developed across mediums.”

To this end, a close look at Horton’s collage work reveals what he describes as “signature single-line contours throughout the pieces to complement the work.”

Ryan Horton’s ‘Ego & Insecurities’ will be on exhibit Aug. 23 through Sept. 8 at the Piano Craft Gallery at 793 Tremont St. in the South End.

An opening reception for the exhibit will be held Friday, Aug. 23, from 6 to 8 p.m., at the gallery while a closing reception will take place there on Sunday Sept. 8, from 3 to 5 p.m.

An Artist Talk with Horton, moderated by fellow local artist Jamaal Eversley, will also be held on Sunday, Aug. 25, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the gallery.

Visit <https://pianocraft-gallery.com/piano-craft-gallery-2022-23/ryan-horton-ego-amp-insecurities> for more information on the exhibit.



ALI HORWITZ PHOTO

JP visual artist, Ryan Horton, seen alongside some of his work.

ton-ego-amp-insecurities for more information on the exhibit.

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E-Bikes discount program launched to boost sustainable transportation in Boston

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Mayor Michelle Wu announced the launch of the Boston E-Bikes Incentive Program. This pilot initiative will provide discount vouchers to eligible residents who wish to purchase an e-bike for personal use. The goals of Boston's E-Bikes Incentive Program are to address historic inequities in transportation access, accelerate mode shift to sustainable modes of transpor-

tation, and improve mobility options for residents. The City plans to provide approximately 1,000 vouchers ranging from \$800 to \$2,400 to help reduce the costs of purchasing an e-bike. Each recipient will also receive \$150 toward the purchase of bicycle safety equipment. The first round of applications opened today.

"Boston is a city always on the move, and we want to ensure that all of our residents

have transportation options that are convenient, affordable, and sustainable for their individual needs," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "This e-bike voucher program will help reduce emissions and expand transportation options for traditionally vulnerable residents."

To qualify for the Boston E-Bikes Incentive Program, a person must be a Boston resident over 18 years old who fits at least one of the criteria: income-eligible adult (at or below 40% AMI), a senior over 60 years of age, or an adult with a chronic or permanent disability. Qualified applicants will be randomly selected to receive a voucher that can be used within 90 days in person at one of the participating bike shops.

"E-bikes and adaptive e-bikes make active mobility an option for older adults and some people with disabilities," said Jascha Franklin-Hodge, Chief of Streets. "Affordable access to a reliable, active form of transportation can help people stay healthy, be more connected to their community, and meet their transportation



A commuter makes his way through Boston on an electric bike.

needs."

The pilot program is funded by \$1.5 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding and is designed for residents who can most benefit from the advantages of an e-bike, and communities disproportionately impacted by the COVID pandemic. This investment will help support those choosing smaller, more environmentally friendly mobility devices.

E-bikes eligible for the program discount have a safety-certified rechargeable battery and a pedal assist that provides a more

effortless riding experience. They can give access to biking for people with mobility challenges, or residents who need to travel long distances or up hilly terrain. Cargo e-bikes, which can also be purchased through the program, have additional storage and passenger-carrying capacity. In addition to traditional e-bikes, the program will provide support toward the purchase of powered handcycle wheelchair attachments and adaptive e-bikes that can be modified to meet the needs

Rodents

Continued from page 3

"If we relocate the feeders, we can redirect them away from houses and buildings," said Gonzalez-White.

Moreover, regarding larger-scale impact, WISDOM Good Works plans to scale for commercial sale in the future.

Currently, people cannot buy the product, but that is slated to change so that people may be able to buy it and apply it themselves.

"We are aiming for this to be accessible to anybody that wants to use it, and we want it to be available at a price that is not exorbitant," she said.

Not only would the product be available to the public, but Gonzalez-White indicated that there would be support for those who get the product due to the importance of monitoring.

"You can't just put it out and say, okay, problem solved, I'm moving on with my life; you have to watch the amount of consumption because that's how you're able to correlate a population,"

said Gonzalez-White.

She described how WISDOM Good Works uses a data portal to analyze progress, where information such as consumption, time and date of services, temperature, and more is reported.

"We plan to make the data portal a part of all application of product, and we, of course, will be there to support any end users," said Gonzalez-White.

Although residents are now unable to opt into the pilot, and this product will not be available to consumers for at least a little while, Gonzalez-White provided some tips to fend off rodents.

"The first line of defense and an absolute must is you got to control the trash," she said. "If there's no food available, you're not going to have a rat problem there."

Specifically, she urged residents to secure trash cans, not leave dog feces around yards, limit entry points into homes by sealing cracks in their foundations, and more.

Overall, Gonzalez-White called her work with residents through the pilot rewarding and described how wonderful it is to see residents work together to move toward a less harmful pest mitigation strategy.

"Watching them try and move away from a non-long-term solution into innovation and demonstrating what is possible has been 100% worth every visit to the neighborhood," she said.

For more information about WISDOM Good Works, visit its website at <https://wisdomgoodworks.org/>.

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BOSTON WOMEN'S MARKET RETURNS FOR SEVENTH YEAR

PHOTOS BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

The Boston Women's Market held at the Loring Greenough House in July from its rain date in June. Since 2017 it has served as a resource for women owned businesses to showcase their work and services. With 40 vendors from the Metro Boston area, visitors can support local passions rather than spend money at corporate chain stores.



Eliana Costa gets "Mermaid Hair" from stylist Kristen Reilly.



Organizers of the Boston Women's Market/ Chloe Denelsbeck, Cara Loffredo, and Africa Rubio Pastor.



Artist Sarah Gessop (center) with friends Ashley Winning and Hannah Carliner.



The Loring Greenough House was the location of the first Boston Women's Market 7 years ago.

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Ella Upton of Besito Store, an online store for products made by women in Mexico from recycled plastic. Sold in US proceeds return to ladies.



Human friends Jodi and Naomi with dog friends Bailey and Geneva (Gigi).



Jewelry available at the Nubian Violet Creations table.



Kiona Flowerdew of Flowerdew Bakery, her bakery out of her home in Belmont, shows off her cupcakes.



BOSTON WOMEN'S MARKET RETURNS FOR SEVENTH YEAR



Shown above, Judy Kilgore of Boston-based Judy's Creations Boston. Shown right, some of her quilts and other fabric work.



The artwork of Sarah Gessop calls out to passerby to bring home.



Some of the jewelry offered at the Shea Shine table.



Nubian Violet Creations owner Chioma Njoku offers many enticing items.



Hailey and Beth Rosa filling in for Jennifer Hofman at Jennifer's Handmade Soap, Hailey and Beth Rosa fill in for Jennifer Hofmancraft. Beth and Jennifer have been friends through their crafts for over 13 years.



Krista DeMichele with Kristini's Teas.



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140 Wachusett Street project has its first public meeting

BY MICHAEL COUGHLIN JR.

Last week, the city's Planning Department hosted a public meeting about the small project review application for a proposal that would bring a multitude of units to 140 Wachusett Street.

According to Attorney Jeff Drago, the proponent, DND Homes is proposing to raze the existing structure on the site to erect a new four-story residential building with 38 units and 17 below-grade parking spaces at the site bordered by Patten, Wachusett, and Walk Hill Streets.

Regarding the unit mix, the building would contain three studios, 22 one-bedrooms, five two-bedrooms, and eight three-bedrooms.

Additionally, the project includes an affordability component, and 22% of the units—eight three-bedroom units—will be affordable and offered at varying AMI (area median income) levels.

"We really wanted to concentrate on affordability. We heard that at the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC) subcommittee on housing that it was very important to have a high number of affordable units," said Drago.

Regarding the zoning information for the proposal, the project, which sits in the 1F-4,000 subdistrict, would require variances for aspects such as FAR (floor area ratio), height, and parking, among others.

As the presentation progressed, the project architect, Michael McKay of McKay Architects, reviewed the design of the proposal, which he acknowledged had evolved over the months.

For example, he talked about using the existing puddingstone at the site and limiting its removal, incorporating an outdoor space into the stone, and more.

After McKay walked through floor plans, elevations, and more, he spoke about the landscape architecture, saying that some trees on the property would be removed but noted they would be replaced.

Following the brief presentation, residents were able to provide comments and ask questions for the remainder of the meeting.

One resident had asked about the location of the parking garage entrance. McKay noted that in a previous design, the entrance was off of Wachusett Street, but after the team received feedback, it has since been moved to Walk

Hill Street.

Another topic of discussion was how the project changed. A resident pointed out that the project was described as having 28 units and 20 parking spaces online.

However, Drago noted that changes arose after receiving feedback from the JPNC's housing subcommittee.

"We heard from a lot of folks that they would like to see more family-sized units and more affordability," said Drago.

"There were a number of comments that we were okay with height because of the ledge of this area; we're really at three stories in a majority of the building, not four, that we were okay adding an additional fourth floor, so we did that."

As the discussion continued, several residents raised various concerns about the project. One concern mentioned was the removal of trees and fears of native trees being removed.

"We are planning on removing the existing trees to get this foundation in and supplementing it with new trees," responded McKay, who noted that the replacement trees would be native.

An abutter had several concerns, including insufficient

parking, the building being too big, rock removal potentially damaging surrounding structures and polluting the air, and more.

Regarding parking, Drago said, "We know it's always an issue, but [from] the city, there is a push to find other modes of transportation; that's why we have things like a dedicated bike room on the site as well."

He also indicated that the project had been redesigned to limit the amount of rock that would be removed.

Later, another resident questioned when rock removal would be done, especially considering a school is close to the site.

Drago indicated that this would not be a "blasting situation" and that a construction plan, when developed, would work around the school schedule.

Similarly, another resident who has a fourth grader at the Boston Teachers Union School shared concerns about noise, dust, and safety during construction, describing Patten, Wachusett, and Walk Hill Streets as nightmares during pick-up and drop-off times.

Drago said these concerns would be addressed in a construction management plan. They would be required to have police details, and they would work with the school to determine the best times for work.

While several residents raised concerns about the topics above and more, a few attendees at the meeting spoke in support of the proposal.

For example, one resident spoke about knowing of more than 100 residents willing to sign a letter supporting the project.

While this resident acknowledged the raised concerns, they said, "There are a lot of folks in

this neighborhood who are very supportive and excited about this."

"I recognize that the overwhelming sentiment from folks who've talked tonight is not reflective of that, but I can assure you, we're here, we are a part of the community, we live here, we have kids here, and we plan to stay here and we're excited that there's going to be more housing and more affordable housing here."

State Representative Samantha Montañó was also present at the meeting and spoke about residents being displaced in the neighborhood, the state's housing crisis, and the importance of building more units.

"As a State Representative for this district, I understand that there are community concerns that need to be addressed, but I would also like to encourage us to look at this housing as a great opportunity," she said.

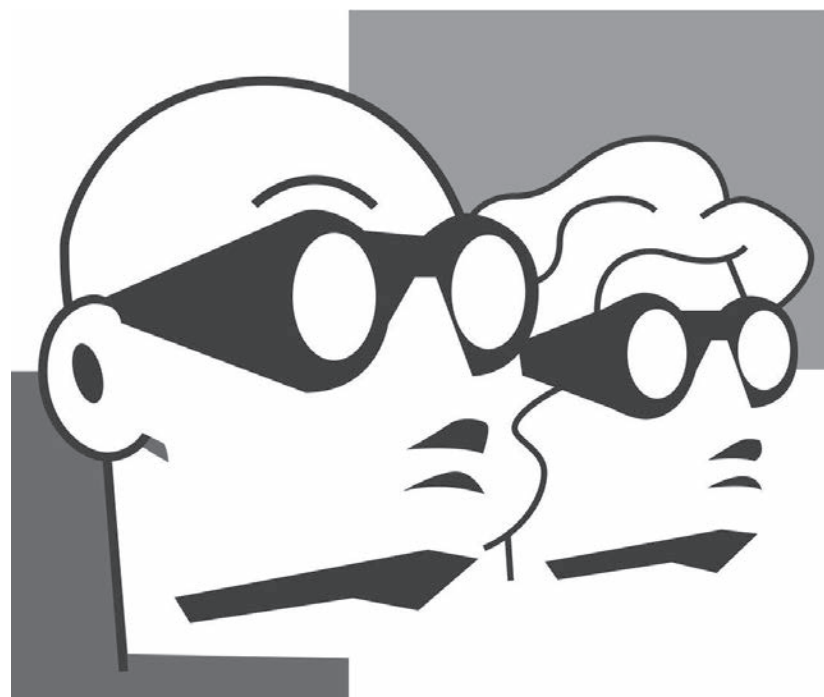
Overall, by the end of the meeting, it was clear that there was more work to be done, which staff from the Planning Department acknowledged.

"We do have a lot of work to do. We appreciate [it] — this was good feedback — I know Jeff and his team appreciate it as well," said Daniel Polanco, a Project Manager at the Planning Department.

"This is the first public meeting of the project — we will keep working on this."

To learn more about the project and watch the meeting recording, visit <https://www.bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/140-wachusett-street>. Polanco indicated that the next meeting would be planned for sometime in either August or early September.

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Mayor Wu announces a vibrant season of free festivals

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Mayor's Offices of Arts and Culture announced a vibrant lineup of free arts and cultural events coming to City Hall Plaza. These events will highlight Boston's diverse artistic community, offer essential support and performance spaces for local artists, and enhance City Hall Plaza as a vibrant and inclusive gathering spot for all residents.

"Our vision is for City Hall Plaza to be a bustling center for the arts," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "The Plaza was designed to be filled with residents from all over the City, and these arts and cultural events are a wonderful opportunity to see the space in

full bloom. I encourage all residents to come and engage with your fellow Bostonians, and celebrate our artistic community at the Plaza in the coming months."

The season features a diverse array of events, from a dynamic hip-hop festival to an interactive light art installation, and a night of salsa.

"Our goal for City Hall Plaza activations this year is to take up space both literally and metaphorically," said Billy Dean Thomas, City Hall Plaza Engagement Director. "We will be focusing on placemaking and have more recurring programs to build stronger community partnerships beyond a single event."

In addition to curating these programs, the Mayor's Office of

Arts and Culture has provided \$461,500 in grants to artists and organizations, enabling them to produce over 25 distinct events.

The lineup includes:

GLD FSTVL - August 10

This annual festival celebrates hip-hop culture with live music performances, DJ sets, and dance by both regional and national artists, promoting inclusivity and celebrating Black culture through music, art, and food.

5 Days of Chess: August 11

A free, all-ages series offering workshops led by Boston-based chess masters and an unrated chess tournament open to the public.

"if you can Feel it, you can Speak it": August 11, September 15, October 13

An open mic series dedicated to the voices of LGBTQIA2+ communities of color and allies, featuring performances, free food, and music.

Fiesta en la Plaza: September 15, 19, and 27

A three-day series of events celebrating Latinx heritage organized by Ágora Cultural Architects. The Fiesta kicks off with music and dancing with Puerto Rican singer Fabiola Méndez and her trio, the band of Columbian artist Manuela Sánchez Goubert, and the MetaMovements dance group. The second event

features Afro-Latin film and a dialogue with Afro-Latino artists in Boston. The series will close with Cuban salsa led by the Clave & Blues Band and instruction by the dancers of El Bonche.

Commonwealth Fest: October 12

Pioneered by Dorchester's Cousin Stizz, this hip-hop festival celebrates both local and national artists, reflecting Boston's diverse cultural tapestry and providing a platform for local talent. More than just an event, it's a cultural movement that connects Boston's distinct cultural identity with a broader

Continued on page 16

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BOSTON LANDMARKS ORCHESTRA SUMMER CONCERTS AT HATCH SHELL



A Landmarks Orchestra member performs on the harp.



Bria and Christian are captivated by the music.



The Boston Landmarks Orchestra performing one of their free concerts at the Hatch Shell.



Berklee students Kassidy Collins and Jesse Niswanger find a cozy spot on the Esplanade to watch the performance.

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS

Landmarks Orchestra performs concerts for free at the Hatch Shell throughout the

Summer. This performance was Brahms & Dvorák: Songs Without Words this past Saturday night.

WILLIAM RAVEIS



GABRIELLE BARON

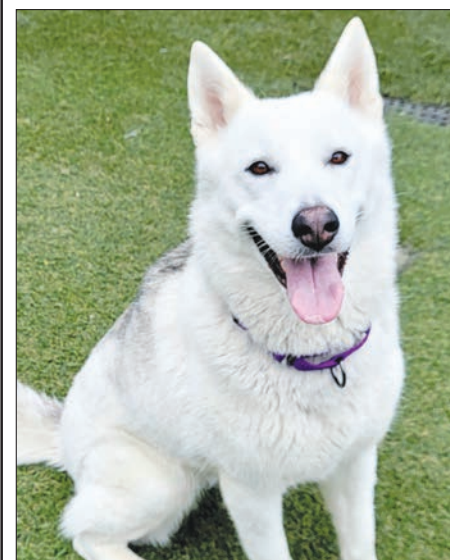
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Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll



ASPEN

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Celloist Aron Zelkowitz performs "Self-Portrait with Gebirtig."



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Mission Hill Gazette

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EDITORIAL

Noah Lyles' — and our — Olympic moment

The quadrennial Summer Olympics turns even the least of sports fans among us into active, if not rabid, rooters of the athletes who captivate our hearts and imaginations, both in sports with which we are familiar (basketball, soccer, gymnastics) and those that we get to see only once-every-four-years (pole vaulting).

The Olympics are the ultimate shared experience for people of all ages. The shots of the jubilant young gymnasts who gathered in their home gyms to root on Simone Biles and the U.S. team reminded us of our youth, when we sat in our living rooms with our parents and siblings to watch seemingly every minute of Olympics coverage (in those days, the Olympics took on greater meaning thanks in large part to the atmosphere of the Cold War-era when the competition between the U.S. and the Soviet bloc was a proxy for world politics at the time), and then doing the same with our own children decades later.

Those memories of past Olympics cascade in our mind's eye, with one memory leading to a host of others:

-- The 1968 Mexico Olympics, when Tommy Smith and John Carlos raised their fists in the Black Power salute on the medals podium, and when the long jump of Bob Beamon, which was almost two feet further than the then-world record, led Beamon to completely break down in sobbing when his result finally was posted (it took almost half-an-hour because his jump so far exceeded the measuring equipment at the time that the judges finally had to resort to using a tape measure);

-- The tragedy of the 1972 Munich Olympics when Palestinian terrorists kidnapped and murdered Israeli athletes, which overshadowed Russian Olga Korbut's historic gymnastics beam performance and swimmer Mark Spitz's seven gold medals (and his iconic photo);

-- Bruce Jenner's decathlon gold in 1976 in Montreal, which also featured Romania's Nadia Comaneci's first-ever perfect 10 in gymnastics;

-- Carl Lewis's track feats in the 1980s;

-- Michael Johnson's amazing feat of winning gold in the 200 and 400 in the Atlanta Olympics in 1996 (which also included a tragic bombing that killed one person and injured more than 100);

-- Michael Phelps winning eight golds in 2008;

-- The incomparable Usain Bolt winning the 100 and 200 dashes in 2012 and 2016 that turned all of us into Jamaican track fans;

-- And of course, the Winter Olympics of 1980, when Winthrop's Mike Eruzione captained the U.S. hockey team to a gold medal at Lake Placid over a heavily-favored Soviet team -- all of us can remember where we were that Friday afternoon when Mike scored the winning goal, and then two days later when the Americans beat the Finns to win the gold medal (we missed that game because we were playing in the Chelsea YMHA's Wild Animal basketball league on Sunday mornings).

So it was with a lifetime's worth of Olympic memories that we tuned in to watch the men's 100 meter finals on Sunday afternoon in which America's Noah Lyles was competing in the first of what he hoped would be a Bolt-like 100-200 double.

As we all know, that 100 meter race will forever be etched in Olympic history. Lyles was dead last through the first 40 meters. The NBC commentator (the Australian guy who otherwise does a great job) called it right away for Jamaica's Kishane Thompson -- "Jamaica's going to do it! Kishane Thompson is a gold medalist!!" -- a mistake worthy of the historic "Dewey Beats Truman" newspaper headline.

In the announcer's defense, even Lyles himself thought that Thompson had won. But then the waiting game began -- and for 29 seconds the entire world waited for the official announcement (vs. the 29 minutes it took to measure Bob Beamon's jump). When Lyles was declared the winner by five one thousandths of a second (that's .005), the joy and emotion, epitomized by Lyles's mom almost collapsing in the stands, but then rallying to give her son a big bear hug when he fell into her arms -- was shared by all of us.

Even diehard sports fans such as ourselves learned something new from that race. We always had assumed that the first part of the body to cross the line is what counted. But unlike horse racing (for which the phrase "wins by a nose" is accurate), a human race is determined by the torso, which effectively means the clavicle (commonly called the collarbone) because the runners are leaning forward as they hit the line.

So even though other parts of Thompson's body had crossed the finish line ahead of Lyles's, Noah's clavicle had reached the line ahead of Thompson, and thus he was awarded the gold medal. It was an Olympic moment for the ages -- and one that we and the hundreds of millions of people watching worldwide will never forget.

OP-ED

What could have been: Amendment #105 as changed to Bill H4876

BY CHRIS MARCHI WITH
AIR, INC.

The basic idea is that all Americans have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, right? So it follows that if families living in areas near power plants, chemical factories, or airports get asthma, COPD, or any number of other chronic health problems because of exposure to pollution that comes from those types of facilities, their constitutional rights are being violated. That's what environmental justice, also known as "EJ", is all about.

Very often, polluting facilities end up located away from where wealthy people live, and closer to where working class and lower income people live. Environmental justice laws strive to ensure that families who are living near polluting facilities get equal protection from environmental damage. These families are often non-English speaking people, people with lower educational attainment, and people of color.

Not everybody recognizes this, but living next to a major international airport comes with serious environmental consequences. Most of the East Boston, Chelsea, Winthrop, and Revere area has large environmental justice communities. As a volunteer for Airport Impact Relief, Incorporated (AIR, Inc.) I've worked to achieve environmental justice for 30 years. AIR, Inc.'s work to push for air filtration programs alongside Mothers Out Front and others, our work with the Mary Ellen Welch Greenway and others to extend the East Boston Greenway, etc., is all about achieving environmental justice.

The biggest problem we've faced over AIR, Inc.'s 60+ years of activism has been the lack of environmental accountability at the Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) which

owns and operates Logan Airport. One of the main reasons we've had so much trouble getting Massport to accept accountability for the impacts of Logan's noise and pollution is that it has not been in Massport's job description to worry about the negative environmental consequences of aviation. Massport was established by an act of the state legislature back in 1956, at a time when politicians and planners weren't thinking about environmental damage and people's environmental rights as much as they were trying to support and grow economic benefits of aviation, building highways, and bulldozing urban communities through urban renewal plans.

When our partners at Stop Private Jet Expansion at Hanscom reached out about the effort to improve Massport's enabling language, we saw that there was an opportunity to strengthen the language from just mentioning equity,

to specifically requiring the Port Authority to consider environmental justice in their mission. This language became Amendment #105 to Bill H4876 ("The Climate Bill"), which was formed in the legislative session that closed on July 31.

With the help of Representative Adrian Madaro and many of his colleagues in the Massachusetts House of Representatives, we came up with much stronger language for "The Climate Bill" than what was originally proposed. The new language required that Massport consider "environmental resiliency and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, and incorporating environmental justice principles". After passing to the final stages of the legislative process with enormous support from advocates across Massachusetts, Bill H4876 was declined last week when conference committee negotiations broke down.

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

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Jemison stepping down as city planning chief

BY ADAM SWIFT

Arthur Jemison, the city's Chief of Planning, announced his departure from that position last week.

Jemison, who was appointed by Mayor Michelle Wu two years ago, will be returning to Michigan, where his wife and two children live (a third is at college in Amherst). His last day with the city will be Sept. 13.

"Arthur has been an exceptional leader and partner to accomplish our shared vision for Boston's growth—grounded in affordability, resiliency, and equity," said Wu in a statement. "Under his leadership and vision, we've achieved unprecedented progress through Article 80 Reform, Squares and Streets Plans and Zoning, comprehensive zon-



Arthur Jemison

ing reform, and restoring planning as a core function of city government. I am so grateful for his service to the City of Boston,

and I am confident that the team we've built will ensure that we continue the momentum to make Boston a home for everyone."

Planning Department Deputy Chief Devin Quirk will serve as interim director of the department when Jemison leaves.

"Devin has played a key role setting the strategic direction for our team and I know that he will continue the great work we've done together over the past two years," Jemison stated.

Before taking over the top planning job in Boston, Jemison was the chief of planning, housing, and development for the city of Detroit.

Jemison has had a long career in planning development, having worked for the Boston

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Op-Ed

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We thank Representatives Madaro, Peisch, Cataldo, Gordon, Gentile, Ciccolo, and the numerous other representatives who signed the Climate Bill for their advocacy. We were thrilled with the proposed new language, and we were disappointed to learn that the Climate Bill was abandoned at a late hour on the final legislative workday for the session. We are disappointed that Massport has not yet been given a legislative mandate to work collaboratively with the neighborhoods who support it to reduce environmental impacts. We are worried for our futures,

and for our children's futures. Under the Port Authority's current charter, Massport's staff, board, and leadership has no explicit responsibility to reduce environmental impacts. They see their calling as boosting the economy. The unspoken paradigm is "It's the economy versus the environment" and without the requirement to address environmental costs, Massport has routinely chosen the most environmentally destructive alternatives.

Over the past 65 years or so that Massport has been in existence, the "grow first at any and all environmental costs approach" which has prevailed at the Massachusetts Port Authority has resulted in massive and ongoing environmental damage. To grow

Logan, Massport has consumed 1,500 acres of Boston Harbor, 3 harbor islands, and 2 urban parks. Massport and the state have taken hundreds of homes and businesses in East Boston by eminent domain, bulldozed 3 urban neighborhoods. Today, Massport's Logan airport releases 35,000 LBS of EPA criteria air pollution into the air in East Boston every day. We experience hundreds of night time flights which destroy our sleep, and Logan's traffic in the air and ground grows worse by the day. Hanscom residents deal with disproportionate burdens as well. We cannot continue to ask residents in airport impacted communities to fight the Authority for every gain at every turn. With the language in Amendment 105, hopefully we would not have needed to. However, the Massachusetts' legislature has decided yet again to prioritize profits and political posturing over the wellbeing of residents.

Chris Marchi is from Air inc that is an East Boston based environmental group focused on improving the quality of life of all people - especially the most vulnerable: children, elderly, the more susceptible and those with fewer means - living in communities surrounding New England's Logan International Airport, by mitigating the noise, air quality and traffic impacts of our large and growing airport.

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

G.L. c. 210, ? 6 Docket No. SU21A0399AD

In the matter of: Thaddeus Milo Ameus Mukti To:

Audrey Mukti any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth.

A petition has been presented to said court by: Eugenie Meneide and Lorigiana Meneide requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to: Thaddeus Goldman.

If you object to this adoption you are entitled to the appointment of an attorney if you are an indigent person. An indigent person is defined by SJC Rule 3:10. The definition includes but is not limited to persons receiving TAFDC, EACDC, poverty related veteran's benefits, Medicaid, and SSI. The Court will determine if you are indigent. Contact an Assistant Judicial Case Manager or Adoption Clerk of the Court on or before the date listed below to obtain the necessary forms.

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT: Woburn ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 A.M.) ON: 08/16/2024

WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: June 20, 2024 Stephanie L. Everett Register of Probate 7/12/24, 7/26/24, 8/9/24 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 TO EXPAND THE POWERS OF A GUARDIAN Docket No. SU87P0137GR2 In the Interests of: William Kane Of: Jamaica Plain, MA RESPONDENT

Incapacitated Person/ Protected Person

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Brigham & Women's Faulkner 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 08/29/2024. 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: July 30, 2024 Stephanie L. Everett Register of Probate 8/09/24 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. SU24P1272EA Estate of: David Carl Sattely Date of Death: 01/01/2023

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Joshua B. Sattely of New London, NH requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Joshua B. Sattely of New London, NH 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 09/05/2024. 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: July 25, 2024 Stephanie L. Everett, Esq. Register of Probate 08/09/24 JP

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Free Festivals

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audience, providing a stage for local talent to gain wider recognition and acclaim.

To launch the season, the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture hosted 617 Day with WERS Boston, 88.9FM, celebrating Boston's rich music and artistry. The day featured music performances highlighting local artists in Folk, Rock, R&B, and Soul.

Additionally, This is America presents Slam Theatre, took over the Plaza in July, featuring an evening of 10-minute plays, multimedia dance, spoken word, and improvisational jazz exploring themes of love, friendship, and what it means to be an American.

"Visioning Future Fest has been an incredible opportunity to not only transform City Hall Plaza, but also highlight the incredible multimedia work that is being made in our city and beyond," said Maria Finkelmeier, Artist and Creative Director

of FUTURE FEST. "The plaza as a platform to perform and share art is the best sandbox we could ask for, there are so many hidden nooks and stages, we can't wait for you all to be a part of it."

Jha D Amazi, Founder & Co-Host of if you can Feel it, you can Speak it Open Mic, added, "We're hyped to bring the FiSi [Feel it, Speak it] vibes to City Hall Plaza - the location and access allows us to welcome so many more people into our open mic family!"

Like many arts organizations,

if you can Feel it, you can Speak it lost their performance space due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Last summer marked the first season that the newly renovated City Hall Plaza was open to the public for events and programming. The Mayor's Office and Arts and Culture brought over 10,000 people to the plaza in 2023 and hopes to welcome even more this year.

To learn more, visit boston.gov/cityhallplaza.

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Jemison

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Redevelopment Authority and the Boston Housing Authority, as well as a state housing official for former Governor Deval Patrick, previous to serving as the top planning official in Detroit.

During his time in Boston, Jemison helped oversee the transition of the quasi-public Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) into a city-run planning department.

On July 1, Wu marked the first day of the new department, stating that it was the first time in 70 years the city has had a planning department, restoring

planning as a core function of city government. The majority of BPDA staff transitioned into jobs with the city to become employees of the new department. However, the planning process in the city still faces some challenges, as the state legislature recently failed to pass a home-rule petition that would have allied the city to revise the legal structures that created the BPDA (formerly the Boston Redevelopment Authority) decades ago.

In an email to planning staff sent on Thursday, August 1, Jemison stated that it was a difficult decision to leave, because he said he believes deeply in the work the department is doing.

"I believe in growing Boston by leading with planning and elevating design," he wrote. "I believe in reforming the zoning code, modernizing development review, and ensuring public land for public good. Together, we made incredible progress to meet these priorities over the last 2+ years, and today our organization is thriving and set up for success in its next chapter."

Jemison stated that when he arrived to pursue an ambitious agenda, people questioned whether project approvals would stop and staff would keep leaving.

"Now, everyone can see that the new Planning Department is strong," he stated. "Our team has 45 additional staff than when I started. We have retained talent and are hiring bright, young and senior experienced staff who want to grow this City and make it more resilient, equitable, and affordable."

During the past two-plus years, Jemison said the department and the city accomplished all of this while succeeding in every traditional metric – five

large area or neighborhood plans completed, four neighborhood rezonings passed – over 170 projects, 40M GSF of development approved.

"This included approx 11,000 new housing units, including 3,790 income restricted units approved in two years," Jemison stated. "We have also successfully launched Article 80 modernization, Squares + Streets, and are working hard on comprehensive citywide zoning reform. It is important to say that you - our team working together - made these things happen."

Jemison stated that he made the decision to move back to Michigan to be closer to his family. While the intention was for his family to join him in Boston in 2022, he stated that a serious health challenge required his family to remain in Michigan.

"A central goal of mine over the last two years has been establishing a Planning Department in the City of Boston that will improve, elevate, and center planning and zoning in a way that serves this City and its residents," Jemison stated. "With the transition complete and a new school year about to begin, now is a good time for me to step away from this role for my family."

Jemison shared his gratitude to Mayor Wu for giving him the opportunity to head the planning department.

"It has been my honor to serve the residents of Boston as part of her Administration," he stated. "She believes in Boston and its people and is resolute in her commitment to the City's growth. This staff has done an exceptional job implementing her vision for a green and growing City that everyone can call home."

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