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ANNUAL DOMINICAN PARADE



The Dominican Parade honored the heritage of the Caribbean nation and its contribution to the social fabric of our city. Above Members of Banilejos Unidos en el Exterior show off the agricultural bounty of the Dominican Republic. Right Lorrna and Gia Ortiz are members of the Hyde Sq Task Force. Below Mayor Michelle Wu leads The Dominican Parade as it marches down Centre Street from Hyde Square. See Pages 4-5, 10-11, and 16-17 for more photos.



PHOTOS BY DEREK KOUYOUJIAN

Weber going to bat for those disappointed and frustrated with Forest Hills Cemetery

BY MICHAEL COUGHLIN JR.

Forest Hills Cemetery has drawn criticism from residents over the last several years due to the discontinuation of beloved events, changed policies, removal of trees, lack of communication, and more, but for those yearning for an explanation, there might be one on the horizon.

Ben Weber, District 6 City Councilor, who had residents reach out to his office about these issues, told the Jamaica Plain Gazette he had contacted cemetery leadership.

Specifically, Weber, who called Forest Hills Cemetery one of Boston's jewels, noted that the cemetery's leadership has offered to take him and his office on a tour.

"After hearing from a lot of neighbors of the cemetery concerned about trees being cut

down and restrictions on public access, my office reached out, and the cemetery leadership offered to take us on a tour. I hope that next week I will be able to meet with the president and get a concrete sense of what they are doing," wrote Weber in a text message Wednesday morning.

"My understanding is that the cemetery was created by a land swap between the city (then the City of Roxbury) and a non-profit entity on the condition that there would be public access to the grounds. We need to make sure that promise is kept."

The cemetery was founded in 1848 by Roxbury's Mayor at the time, Henry A.S. Dearborn, the first President of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society and, according to the National Park

Continued on page 7



COURTESY PHOTO

The front gate of Forest Hills Cemetery.

JP OBSERVER

Project 2025 is even worse than I first thought

By SANDRA STOREY / SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Two-and-a-half months ago, I decided to do this month's column on "Project 2025 Presidential Transition Project" ("Project 2025," for short) back when the 922-page set of dozens of different documents and four "Pillars" published in 2023 wasn't getting that much public attention. Four hundred scholars put together 30 chapters, after all—a lot to take in.

The politics of the right-wing guide to dismantling our government by Donald Trump when—in Republicans imaginations, he becomes a newly reelected president—has been talked about more and more as the election grows closer.

I realize I can't describe Project 2025 accurately without resorting to what sounds like negative hyperbole. Trump, J.D. Vance and their core Republican MAGA supporters have already used far too many nasty, false descriptions of their Democratic opponents for any civilized election.

Nevertheless, after reading various Project 2025 provisions, and especially introductory and other right-wing commentary, I realize I have to tell a very negative truth myself: Trump and Vance are not just "weird," like Kamala Harris's running mate Tim Walz first said.

This massive mess of right-wing restrictions on freedom

with instructions for the Trump administration in how to dismantle our republic during his imagined coming presidency is completely bizarre.

All of us need to become aware and alert friends and family, especially those who say they plan to vote for either Trump, a third-party candidate, or not vote at all this fall. Those choices would be equal to voting for a radical conservative take-over of our federal government operations themselves, not just policies.

Every vote not cast for Harris/Walz might as well be for Trump/Vance. And every vote not cast for the Democratic nominees is a vote for Project 2025, a plan for a strong-president form of authoritarian, right-wing government to go into effect beginning in January.

Since so many people who learned about its contents recently have reacted negatively, Trump has tried to claim that he isn't familiar with the plan and doesn't support it, but reporters from U.K. caught a leader involved in creating Project 2025 saying on tape that Trump likes it.

And 141 former advisors and staff from his presidency before, including lots of 2020 election insurrection supporters, put it together. Chalk Trump's denial up to just another lie among

hundreds he has told just recently. American voters this fall weren't born yesterday or after Jan. 6, 2021.

Project 2025 is full of links to scary action recommendations for creating a narrow authoritarian regime by, for and of elites in the right-wing crowd composed of people not close to being in the majority in this country.

Go to Project 2025.org. Read "About Project 2025." Click on any heading. You will be shocked and appalled by most everything you find. Also depressed. It's view of the future is truly dystopian.

If the founders of this country could read the documents, they would probably shout in alarm that Project 2025 is treasonous. The actions it supports are plainly antithetical to what the drafters of the Declaration of Independence and then the Constitution of this country had in mind. Those historic figures were adamant that the position of president not be strong authoritarian one.

It is a strange shame, then, that a well-known conservative organization that calls itself "The Heritage Foundation," along with 100 other conservative groups, would fund and oversee this project to give the president much more power and control over the federal government and the country itself than at present. But it did.

The introduction to Project 2025 lays out its purpose quite frankly. The goal is to organize the take-over and remaking of the federal government by the right. Why they think that's a good idea, it doesn't say, strangely enough. Their point is, apparently, for the right to just create a climate where it can score more wins—a national championship, so to speak.

"...defeat the American left," head of the Heritage Foundation, Kevin D. Roberts, "PhD" commands in the locker-room speech, er, no, in the "Foreword" to the dense Project 2025 document.

It's as if the openings of the Declaration and Constitution said the goal was to overthrow the British and have a govern-

ment by colonists—without giving any other purposes or reasons for their recommendations.

Project 2025 never says how the country and its people would be better off if and when it's implemented during their longed-for time when "conservatives" take over. (Could it be that their unconscious knows and therefore shows by omission that it won't be?)

What happened to "ensure[ing] the general welfare?" What about "all men [sic] are created equal" and other lofty ideals expressed by the founders. The Heritage Foundation and its comrades don't have any of those kinds of goals. Their focus is on plain conservative power, and they say so.

Talk about bizarre! Project 2025 is a supposedly serious document proposing huge changes in our government, but it reads like it was put together by a high school athletic department. Go Elephants (conservatives, i.e. us)! Beat the Donkeys (liberals, i.e. them)! Why? Because it's their place/family/tradition versus another one, I guess. The authors and their organizations apparently think—immersed in privilege as many of them are—they don't need to say any more. It's a very long, cynical set of statements.

The right-wing drafters call their nefarious plans for the first 180 days "the playbook" of the imaginary Trump presidency and describe the first plays that need to be run after a Trump inauguration. After I wrote the previous sentence, I saw that what they call this "fourth Pillar" is actually illustrated in the document with a pen-and-ink drawing with x's and o's of a football play that might be found in a locker room. They're not even embarrassed.

The header of the shallow introduction to the whole thing says, more coach-like than Walz, who actually was a coach at one time: "Building now for a conservative victory through policy, personnel, and training."

Prescriptions for more specific policy changes, the first Pillar of Project 2025, takes up 887 pages. Below in italics are some

of the hundreds of them—the few it chooses to highlight in the introduction—followed by my "translations" based on reading them and descriptions of them elsewhere. For other policy topics, check the website. Warning: Some are hidden under chapter headings only vaguely related to them. Reading reliable sources about them is a good idea, too.

- Secure the border, finish building the wall, and deport illegal aliens Trump killed a bipartisan bill that would have done the former, and now he says he will organize the biggest deportation ever seen in this country. What to do about all the immigrants whose labor we need? None of the Republicans, including Project 2025, say.

- De-weaponize the Federal Government by increasing accountability and oversight of the FBI and DOJ. Put those agencies under direct control of the president. Don't let them prosecute Republicans or anyone else the Republican president doesn't want prosecuted. Do let them prosecute those the president wants prosecuted. "Issue guidance to ensure that litigation decisions are consistent with the President's agenda and the rule of law," the document orders.

- Unleash American energy production to reduce energy prices, "Drill, baby, drill." The heck with the environment. Note: Also, in a murder/suicide advocacy move, climate is to be ignored in policy nationally with effects here and around the world, according to the Republican platform.

- Make federal bureaucrats more accountable to the democratically elected President and Congress. Get rid of the what Republicans call the "deep state," that is, thousands of skilled, experienced, knowledgeable federal administration employees, and replace them with political appointees answerable to the president. And Congress? They mention it maybe until the right manages to completely discredit the legislative branch and/or lets it only investigate non-Republicans and not really consider



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Chelsea man arrested in connection with bank robberies in JP and Hyde Park

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

A Chelsea man was arrested last week in connection with the armed robberies of banks in Weymouth, Jamaica Plain and Hyde Park. Keywan Kelly, 29, was charged with three counts of armed bank robbery.

According to the charging documents from the U.S. Attorney's Office, at approximately 11:52 a.m. on July 1, 2024, a male – later allegedly identified as Kelly – entered a Bank of America branch in Weymouth wearing gloves and a medical mask. Kelly allegedly approached a teller window and pushed a handwritten note towards the teller demanding \$20,000 and threatened that he would “kill

you all,” while pointing a firearm at the teller.

It is alleged that the teller then handed Kelly \$15,000, after which Kelly demanded more and the teller gave him additional cash of approximately \$4,000 to \$5,000 before leaving the bank. During the robbery, Kelly allegedly made verbal threats such as, “Run that s**t before I blow this place up” and “I’ll kill all of you.”

Similarly, at approximately 1:41 p.m. on July 16, 2024, a male – later allegedly identified as Kelly – entered the Rockland Trust Bank in Jamaica Plain wearing a black balaclava style mask, black clothing and white latex gloves. Kelly allegedly approached the teller window and

handed the teller a note that read, “I need 20K no DyPacks I have 4 bombs I’ll Kill everyone make quick,” while brandishing a firearm. Kelly allegedly fled the bank on foot after receiving approximately \$2,480 in cash from the teller.

It is further alleged that, at approximately 10:09 a.m. on July 26, 2024, a male – later allegedly identified as Kelly – entered another Rockland Trust Bank branch in Hyde Park, again wearing a black balaclava style mask and gloves. There, Kelly allegedly handed the teller a handwritten note that included words to the effect of, “you’re being robbed give me cash,” before pointing a firearm at the teller. It is alleged that Kelly verbally

threatened to “shoot” and demanded \$20,000. Upon receiving approximately \$3,000 in cash, Kelly took back the demand note and fled the bank.

A subsequent investigation allegedly identified Kelly on the Weymouth bank’s video surveillance and identified Kelly’s fingerprints on the vehicle used as a getaway car following the Weymouth robbery. The inves-

tigation also allegedly revealed connections between Kelly and vehicles that were identified as being in the vicinity of the Jamaica Plain and Hyde Park banks at the time of the robberies. Cell phone location data allegedly revealed that Kelly’s cell phone was present in the vicinity of each of the banks near the time of the robberies, according to the U.S. Attorney’s Office.

Observer

Continued from page 2

much legislation. See Project 2029 (just kidding, for now, at least) for the fate of an elected Congress.

- Improve education by moving control and funding of education from DC bureaucrats directly to parents and state and local governments. Get rid of the Education Department and all national supports for education at all levels.

- Ban biological males from competing in women’s sports. I told you Project 2025 is written fundamentally from a sports values and management perspective.

“Want to be considered for positions in a presidential Administration? Submit your resume today to be included in the personnel database.” This is the introductory header of second Pillar of Project 2025. They are offering a questionnaire to fill out and a Plum book describing jobs in the imaginary future Trump administration. They continue with the sports values metaphor: “With the right conservative policy recommendations and properly vetted and trained personnel to implement them, we will take back our government.”

Training at the “Presidential Administration Academy” is the third Pillar, called “Preparing Political Appointees to be Ready on Day One.” Currently offered

online, Project 2025 says, “... get credentialed, and BE PREPARED to serve the next President and the American people by advancing conservative policy at the federal level.”

Language is critically important when it comes to political come-ons like Project 2025.

It’s no accident that Project 2025 always capitalizes “President” even when it’s not used as someone’s title. The Constitution itself and most things written in correct English don’t normally do that.

Please note the phrase “the next President and the American people” often used by the authors to describe the key entities in the right-wing notion of government. Congress, courts and the administration are not mentioned much or positively for a reason. Three equal branches offering checks and balances that are key to our republic’s functioning aren’t mentioned, that I could find.

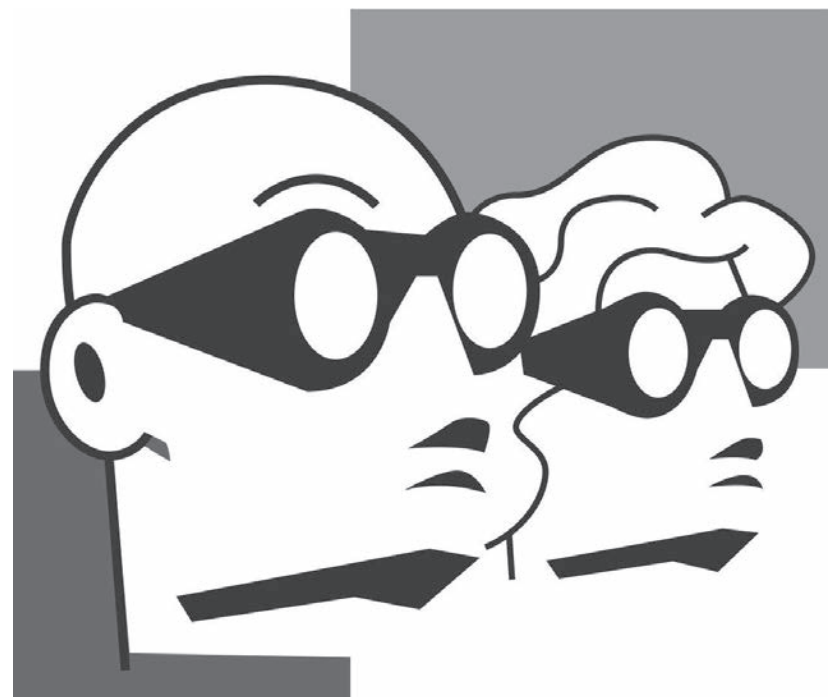
Also note that they say the Project 2025 goal is “advancing conservative policy at the federal level” under a single conservative leader.

Thousands of recycling bins and more trash cans on people’s desktops (along with some college libraries, probably), may well be the final resting places for the garbage that is Project 2025 this coming winter. During the next two months, people who do not want to see Project 2025 enacted need to take action to help make sure it and its would-be political beneficiaries fail to take control of this country.

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JAMAICA PLAIN HOLDS ANNUAL DOMINICAN PARADE

PHOTOS BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN



Parade revelry on Centre Street.

The Dominican Parade honored the heritage of the Caribbean nation and its contribution to the social fabric of our city. The Parade started in Hyde Square and made its way to Franklin Park where a festival was held to celebrate the many residents of Boston from the Dominican Republic and their rich, vibrant culture.



Roselyn Díaz is the Queen of the Mango.



Juan Manuel in a Carnival costume.



Raydeli Castillo, Queen of the Dominican Festival.



Young Lucas takes in the many sights of the Dominican Parade.

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JAMAICA PLAIN HOLDS ANNUAL DOMINICAN PARADE

PHOTOS BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN



Parade spectators line up on Centre Street by Mozart Park.



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu cuts the ribbon with the Dominican Parade dignitaries to officially start the parade in Hyde Square.



Residents on Centre Street show their Dominican spirit.

See more photos on Pages 10-11 and 16-17

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Forest Hills

Continued from page 1

Service's website, an individual mainly responsible for the design of Mount Auburn Cemetery between Cambridge and Watertown. However, Forest Hills was not designed to be any old cemetery.

Not only was the cemetery a place for the community to bury their lost loved ones, but the cemetery's website, which outlines its history, says Dearborn "intended to create a place which urban dwellers could visit to connect with nature, refresh the spirit, and take delight in beauty." Adding that Dearborn essentially "created Boston's first public park."

According to the cemetery's website, the concept is associated with the 19th-century rural garden cemetery movement, which it later describes, indicating, "It reflects changing attitudes about death and a cultural shift away from the severe style of the burial grounds of colonial New England," and "It offers a gentler concept of death as eternal rest, and is rooted in a romantic vision of spiritual renewal through unity with nature."

With this concept, in the past, Forest Hills Cemetery had been a significant amenity for the community, where residents could thoughtfully and respectfully walk with their dogs, run, bike, attend community events, and more.

"When we moved here, one of the reasons that we chose to live on this street, which is, you know, it's a pretty densely populated city street, was that we were going to have access to this park at the end of the street essentially," said Amy Light, who has lived a few doors down from the cemetery's Tower Street pedestrian gate for 13 years.

"I spent, with my toddler and my dog — every day we went there basically."

Sarah Buermann, who has lived in the area for a long time, said, "For a while, the cemetery was just a marvelous, affirming, appropriate, thoughtful, reverent place to be," and referenced some past art exhibitions held at the site.

Further, several residents like Steve Dudley and Caterina Scaramelli — to name a few — shared memories with the Jamaica Plain Gazette of go-

ing on walks and bike rides in the cemetery. Dudley, who has lived on Weld Hill Street since 1981, even talked about bringing friends there to have picnics.

Moreover, many residents shared memories of one of the cemetery's most notable past events: its Lantern Festival.

According to the Forest Hills Educational Trust's (FHET)—the entity which was responsible for putting on programming at the cemetery — website, the festival is inspired by the Japanese Bon Festival, which was described as "a celebration each year when a door opens to the world of their ancestors, allowing loved ones to send messages to the other side."

However, more recently, Forest Hills Cemetery has been a source of frustration and disappointment for the same residents with fond memories of what it used to be.

For example, the Jamaica Plain Gazette published a story in July 2014 that noted the cancellation of beloved events like the Lantern Festival.

In the abovementioned story, Jonathan Clark, referred to as FHET's last employee, was interviewed and attributed the cancellation of these programs — under the leadership of George Milley (the current cemetery president) — to their lack of profitability.

Moreover, the cemetery has received backlash for its policies introduced in May 2020, which barred dog-walking, biking, and jogging.

"These regulations have been put into place to ensure that the Cemetery grounds and atmosphere are conducive to peaceful reflection and respect for the families and friends who visit their loved ones," reads the cemetery's website.

Most recently, residents have been concerned about trees being removed within the cemetery. For example, videos have been posted on Facebook Community pages of trees being taken down, and many wonder why it's happening.

Additionally, in the last couple of days, a video taken by a resident was posted on Facebook that depicts a person with gloves, a mask, and a full-body protective suit spraying a liquid on cemetery grounds. While it is unclear what the substance is, the resident who posted the video noted that it made their eyes water and nostrils burn.

Many residents shared their dismay with the changes at the cemetery, but there was a common theme among each's thoughts — the desire to have an open dialogue with cemetery leadership.

"Right now, the cemetery acts like a gated community that became more and more hostile, using the pandemic as an excuse," wrote Rosa Herrero in an email.

Herrero, who says she used to take long walks at the cemetery, added, "We as neighbors cherish the cemetery and would love for them to reconsider their position and rules around bikes, dogs and running there...I wish they opened up to us instead of being an island."

Adam Roberts, another resident, indicated he spent a lot of time in cemeteries due to his father's work as a stone carver thought Forest Hills Cemetery had strayed from its garden cemetery roots through these abovementioned changes.

"What could be a beautiful partnership has instead become contentious and cold. It's a bummer. I'd love to see either a change in leadership style and vision or an actual change in leadership, and for the city to use whatever leverage it has to keep it a more active and accessible part of the "Emerald Necklace." (Right now it feels increasingly walled off...)," wrote Roberts in an email.

"This is a really special cemetery! I really wish the current leadership would treat it more as the commons it was created to be, instead of further enclosing it."

Other residents echoed Roberts' point. "I just think it's a huge loss for the neighborhood and isn't really in the spirit of how Forest Hills Cemetery was

founded," said Tina Cincotti.

"Everything about the cemetery's history points to the fact that it was intended to act as a park for its community," wrote Amy Collier in an email.

"Henry A.S. Dearborn designed Forest Hills Cemetery to function as a public park. Up until recent years, Forest Hills Cemetery respected this history and tradition."

Finally, another resident who wished to remain anonymous spoke about their concerns about tree removal contributing to increased water runoff, flooding, and property damage, lack of community connection, issues with community gates not being open, and more,

"The question I would love to see answered is, do you see yourself as a garden cemetery open to the community anymore, yes or no," they said.

With all of this pent-up frustration and sheer bewilderment at the changes, residents are again mobilizing to at least talk with cemetery leadership.

In June 2020, the Jamaica Plain Gazette reported on a community movement to remove the restrictions, which involved a petition created by Matt Shuman that amassed more than 1,700 signatures and involvement from now-former City Councilor Matt O'Malley.

Now, Light has created a Facebook group called the Community for the Preservation of Forest Hills Cemetery — <https://www.facebook.com/share/g/Dn-TiB3mdVUpXCQxm/?mibextid=IOuIew> — to help organize another movement to bring back the Forest Hills Cemetery that was praised.

"We would just love him [Milley] to be more engaged and a better neighbor to our commu-

nity," said Light.

Moreover, it should be noted that residents are aware that the site is an active cemetery and indicated that activities and visits in the past were done with respect.

"I think it was not only respectful, you know, it kind of lifted up the purpose of the cemetery," said Cincotti.

Residents involved with this group, as noted, reached out to Weber, and it looks like wheels are in motion to at least get some answers for the community.

"Going forward, I want to have a working relationship with cemetery leadership so that the needs of both neighbors seeking access to the space and families mourning their loved ones are being met, and any issues can be resolved before the community feels like they are simply being ignored. I hope to set up a community meeting after I have sat down with the president," wrote Weber.

It should be noted that a representative from the Forest Hills Cemetery told the Jamaica Plain Gazette over the phone that they had received our emailed request for an interview with cemetery leadership — preferably Milley — to address resident concerns about trees being taken down, the new policies, removal of events, its non-profit status, issues with the Tower Street gate, if leadership felt it was honoring the vision of a garden cemetery, and its willingness to have an open dialogue with the community.

Specifically, the representative over the phone thanked us for the interview offer but indicated they had talked about it with Milley and did not have any comments.

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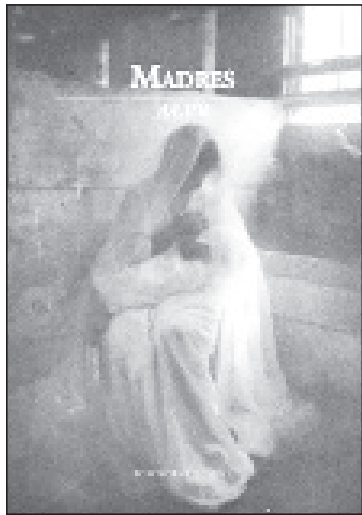
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NEWS BRIEFS

SHORT STORY RECITAL SEPT. 9

The author, illustrator and editor Juan Carlos de Sancho (Canary Islands, Spain), will give a recital of his short stories and will present his recent edition of *Madres*, a collection of 12 texts on the mother of each writer, on September 9, 6:30 PM, in The Little Crepe Cafe, 102 Oxford Street, Cambridge. He will be introduced by Alan Smith Soto, a resident of Jamaica Plain, who will also read his translation of one of the author's short stories. Event in Spanish (with some English translation).

El escritor, ilustrador y antólogo canario, Juan Carlos de Sancho, dará un recital de su obra en prosa y presentará la



edición reciente del libro *Madres*, antologado por él, una colección de 12 textos sobre las madres de 12 escritores de Islas Canarias, el 9 de septiembre, a las 6:30 de la tarde, en The Little Crepe Cafe, 102 Oxford Street, Cam-

bridge. Será presentado por Alan Smith Soto, vecino de Jamaica Plain, quien también leerá su traducción de uno de los cuentos del autor canario.

BIKES NOT BOMBS HOSTS 37TH ANNUAL BIKE-A-THON

Bikes Not Bombs will hold its 37th annual Bike-A-Thon on September 8, a community fundraiser to promote environmental sustainability and social justice.

The Bike-A-Thon, the organization's largest fundraiser, is a social change benefit ride offering five route options: 10, 35, 50, 63, and 105 miles. Each route takes cyclists through some of greater Boston's most scenic

roads, with regular rest stops staffed with bike mechanics, medics, and plentiful healthy, energy-packed snacks to support riders on their journey. All routes begin and end at Stony Brook field in Jamaica Plain with breakfast beforehand and a delicious lunch, bike expo, and after-party when riders return.

For 40 years, Bikes Not Bombs has used the bicycle as a vehicle for powerful social change. The organization reclaims thousands of bikes each year, using them for International Partnerships in the Global South and in its innovative youth development programs. The youth development programs aim to provide youth in under-resourced neighborhoods opportunities to connect, learn, work, and discover their poten-

tial. This impact is made thanks to riders from the Boston area who participate and fundraise for the Bike-A-Thon. All of the proceeds from the event support Bikes Not Bombs' personnel (youth and adult) and fund the bike recycling operations that make their initiatives possible.

Sign up to ride or volunteer at the event!

<https://bikesnotbombs.org/bike-a-thon/>

For more information regarding Bikes Not Bombs and the 37th Annual Bike-A-Thon event, please contact Maura Holt-Ling, Development Associate at maura@bikesnotbombs.org. You can also visit bikesnotbombs.org to learn more about the organization and its affiliated programs.

Over 250 schools and playgrounds near gas leaks in Boston area

In order to protect our children and ensure all schools and playgrounds are safe from methane gas leaks, Mothers Out Front, Conservation Law Foundation (CLF), Boston Parks Advocates, GreenRoots, and eight individuals have announced plans to sue National Grid for both federal and state law violations on gas leaks and tree protections.

"Dangerous and potentially explosive gas is actively leaking near 258 schools and playgrounds in Boston and Chelsea," shared Tania Castro-Daunais. Castro-Daunais is a Mothers Out Front Member Leader who lives in East Boston, where active leaks are occurring near Excel Academy Charter School and eight parks and playgrounds. "We cannot continue to put our children and communities at

risk. National Grid can't continue putting Band-Aids on its aging pipelines. They must take action to protect our kids and invest in electric energy, an energy source that is cleaner and safer for our kids and communities."

As of June 30, 2024, 46 of the 195 schools in Boston and Chelsea were within 350 feet of gas leaks. Additionally, 212 of 537 parks and playgrounds in Boston were within 350 feet of a gas leak, and one park in Chelsea was also within this distance of a gas leak. "Utility companies advise people to move at least 350 feet away from any suspected gas leak, so it is unconscionable to see this many gas leaks near places where our children spend so much time," said Sonja Tengblad, an East Boston mom whose 6-year-old son often

plays at six of the eight East Boston parks near gas leaks. Tengblad is also the Founder and Co-Coordinator of Mothers Out Front's East Boston Team. "By allowing gas to continue leaking this close to where our children learn and play, National Grid is creating unnecessary risks to our community's health, safety and well-being. We all need and deserve cleaner energy in our communities."

"Mothers Out Front was founded in Massachusetts on the conviction that there is no more powerful force for change than mothers mobilizing to protect their children," said Beth Shipp, Executive Director of Mothers Out Front. "Our moms have been fighting gas leaks in the Boston-area since 2015. It is time for National Grid to join us and commit to no longer exposing children to toxic and explosive fumes."

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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@jpchildrensoccer.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@jpchildrensoccer.org.

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Wu announces grants available to support community-based sports organizations

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Human Services Cabinet announced applications are now open for the Community Sports Grant, a grant program totaling \$300,000 to support volunteer-led youth sports organizations that provide high-quality, engaging athletics programming for Boston youth ages 8-18. The goal of this grant is to increase the variety of youth sports programming in the City and provide a positive outlet for youth when they're not in school. Applications will be open until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 13, 2024. This initiative is aligned with the Mayor's Connect, Learn, Ex-

plore program, her commitment to Boston's youth by ensuring every child is empowered to explore and find their passions.

"Part of our responsibility for keeping Boston's young people healthy and happy is ensuring each of them has access to enriching experiences outside of the classroom," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "It is a joy to partner with youth sports programs across the City to keep our kids in motion."

Neighborhood sports leagues are often the place where the city's youngest athletes are first exposed to sports. As the foundation of youth sports programming in the City of Boston, volunteer-led sports organizations involve a diverse range of young

people in their community, providing them with the opportunity to stay active, bond with friends, and develop character.

"We look forward to continuing our partnership with neighborhood-based sports organizations," said Chief of Human Services José F. Massó. "As a youth basketball coach, I know these programs are a labor of love for the many volunteers that keep them going and I'm glad that we're able to offer this infusion of resources to make their work easier."

The Human Services Cabinet will distribute grants of up to \$10,000 to support increasing access to sports opportunities for Boston youth. Applicants must intend to use funds to (1) reduce

the registration fee, (2) purchase new equipment or uniforms, and/or (3) cover rental space costs. The grant funding will support fall, winter, and spring sports and must be used by June 30, 2025.

"Access to quality youth sports experiences that eliminate barriers to participation is critical for the health and wellness of our young people," said David Shapiro, CEO of YMCA of Greater Boston. "It offers them the opportunity for meaningful relationships, development, discovery, teamwork, and joy."

Creating easier access to athletic opportunities is a part of Connect, Learn, Explore, Mayor Wu's initiative to ensure Boston's youth are empowered to find and

pursue their passions. In May, the Mayor announced the launch of the Boston Youth Sports Hub, a one-stop website that offers a directory of Boston's neighborhood sports leagues for families, links to city-run programs, and stories of athletic achievements by Boston youth sports teams. In addition to providing grant support to youth sports providers, the Youth Sports Initiative aims to increase participation of youth who have been historically underrepresented in youth sports, improve the quality of coaching in the city, and enhance the variety and quality of sports offered by city departments.

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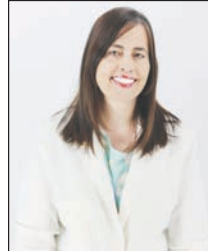
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JAMAICA PLAIN HOLDS ANNUAL DOMINICAN PARADE

PHOTOS BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN



Merlyn Gonzalez and Willa Rodriguez with Riccy and Roccy Almanzar.



Parade spectators on Centre Street.

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JAMAICA PLAIN HOLDS ANNUAL DOMINICAN PARADE

PHOTOS BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN



Jose and Frank contribute to the festivities in Jackson Square.



Oscar makes sure that his granddaughter Galani has a good view of the Parade.



Parade spectators on Centre Street.



Crystal Gonzalez with Ailyn and Adalynn check out the Parade going through Jackson Square.



Rodney the Dominican community from Rhodelsland was Rosannna Rodriguez and Emerson Prito, who designed the Dominican costumes.



Deylanis Rodriguez and Emma Cruz



Mr Vidal parties with some friends and a Tesla Cybertruck in the Dominican Parade.

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See more photos on Pages 6-17

Boston wastewater data shows summer spike in covid-19

The average level of SARS-CoV-2 in Boston wastewater has more than doubled in July as compared to the citywide average in May. SARS-CoV-2 wastewater levels are currently classified as “high” or “very high” in the neighborhoods of Roxbury, Mattapan, Allston/Brighton, Back Bay, and Roslindale/West Roxbury. While the average level of SARS-CoV-2 in wastewater was 163% higher in July as compared to May, they are trending downward. BPHC tracks COVID-19, influenza (flu) and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) in wastewater and makes these reports available online twice weekly.

The concentration of SARS-CoV-2 in wastewater approximates community transmission levels and provides a better understanding of the spread

of infection in neighborhoods across the city than currently available testing data. Increases in SARS-CoV-2 concentration in wastewater also precede clinical illness and help predict future hospitalizations. In July, hospitalizations increased by 62% as compared to hospitalizations in May.

“Tracking wastewater is one of the best tools that we have to monitor spread of viral infections, including SARS-CoV-2, in our neighborhoods in Boston,” said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, the Commissioner of Public Health and Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission. “Respiratory viruses continue to be a serious concern, so we suggest that residents monitor their risk, follow recommended precautions and get the updated vaccinations when they are available.”

The BPHC encourages everyone ages six months and older to receive the updated 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccine to protect themselves and their community when it becomes available in the upcoming weeks. Staying up to date on vaccines is important for everyone. Furthermore, we suggest that everyone six months and older receive an annual influenza (flu) vaccination. For RSV vaccination, we suggest that people 75 or older, or between 60-74 with heart or lung disease or living in a nursing home, get the single dose of RSV vaccine if they have not received it previously. Parents and pregnant people should speak to their healthcare provider regarding RSV prevention in infants, young children, and during pregnancy.

To help protect yourself and

others the Boston Public Health Commission recommends the following:

- If you develop symptoms of respiratory viral illness like fever, chills, cough, sore throat, stuffy or runny nose, stay home and away from others.

- Wear a mask if you must leave the house while sick.

- Continue masking for 5 days after your symptoms have improved and have no fever for 24 hours.

- Wear a mask If you are at high risk of severe illness.

- Have COVID-19 rapid test kits available at home to test if you have symptoms of COVID-19. Pharmacies are currently the best place to purchase COVID-19 rapid test kits.

- Seek treatment from a trusted healthcare provider if you test positive for COVID-19 or flu

and are at high risk for severe disease and/or illness.

- Practicing good hygiene by covering coughs and sneezes, washing or sanitizing hands often.

- Regularly disinfect and clean high-touch surfaces.

- Increase indoor ventilation and air circulation; even cracking open a window helps increase airflow.

These precautions are especially important to protect those most at risk for severe illness, including those over 65 and people with weakened immune systems

For more information on upcoming COVID and flu vaccines, residents are encouraged to contact their healthcare provider, visit a local pharmacy, or visit the CDC’s Vaccine Finder to find an accessible vaccine clinic.

Bay Staters warned to brace for rodent surge following heatwaves, expert says

BY SMITH’S PEST MANAGEMENT

Bay Staters have had to grapple with heatwaves this summer, and while these extreme

weather patterns have obvious consequences, such as water shortages and increased wildfire risk, there’s another, less visible threat lurking in the shadows: a

surge in rodent activity.

Zachary Smith, of Smith’s Pest Management, warns that “the summer heatwaves we’ve experienced have created the perfect storm for a surge in rodent activity. When the environment becomes too hostile for rodents in the wild, they turn to our homes for food and shelter. Unfortunately, that means an invasion is likely.”

Here, he breaks down the details:

Why Drought Leads to Increased Rodent Activity

“When droughts hit, the landscape undergoes significant changes,” explains Smith. “Vegetation withers, water sources dry up, and ecosystems become stressed. These conditions drive rodents to seek out new environments where they can find the resources they need to survive—namely, food and water. Your home, with its reliable water supply and food sources, becomes an attractive target.” Rodents, particularly rats and mice, are incredibly resourceful. “In times of scarcity, they will invade homes, garages, and outbuildings, searching for sustenance,” Smith adds. “The lack of natural food sources and diminishing populations of predators, such as birds of prey, exacerbate the problem, allowing rodent populations to grow unchecked.”

Signs of a Rodent Infestation

It’s important to be vigilant and recognize the early signs of a rodent infestation. Smith notes, “The sooner you identify a rodent problem, the easier it is to handle it before it becomes a full-blown infestation.” Here are some common indicators:

- Droppings: Rodent droppings are a telltale sign of an infestation. These are often found near food sources, in cupboards, or along baseboards.

- Gnaw Marks: Rats and mice constantly gnaw on objects to keep their teeth sharp. Look for gnaw marks on food packaging, furniture, and wires.

- Nests: Rodents build nests from shredded paper, fabric, and other soft materials. These nests are usually hidden in dark, secluded areas like attics, basements, or behind appliances.

- Scurrying Sounds: You might hear scratching or scurrying sounds in the walls, especially at night when rodents are most active.

- Footprints: In dusty areas, you may notice small footprints or tail marks.

Protecting Your Home from Rodent Infestations

“Preventing a rodent infestation is always easier than dealing with one after it’s taken hold,” advises Smith. Here are some steps you can take to pro-

tect your home:

- Seal Entry Points: Inspect your home for any gaps or cracks that rodents could use to enter. Pay special attention to areas around doors, windows, and pipes. Even a small opening can be an entryway for mice or rats.

- Remove Food Sources: Store food in airtight containers, clean up spills immediately, and ensure that garbage is properly sealed and disposed of regularly.

- Eliminate Water Sources: Fix leaky pipes, dripping faucets, and remove standing water where rodents could drink.

- Trim Vegetation: Keep shrubs, trees, and other vegetation trimmed back from your home. This reduces the number of hiding places for rodents near your house.

- Use Rodent Traps: Set traps in areas where you’ve noticed rodent activity. This can help to control populations before they become unmanageable.

“The combination of heatwaves and drought is likely to lead to a rise in rodent activity across the country. By taking proactive steps now, you can reduce the risk of an infestation and protect your home,” adds Smith. “Don’t wait until it’s too late. The time to act is now.”

This article is courtesy of Smith Pest management. smithspestmanagement.com.

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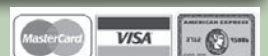
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Fiesta en la Plaza returns to celebrate Latinx Heritage Month

Fiesta en la Plaza will return to City Hall Plaza this September to offer a diverse lineup of free, festive cultural events as part of the City of Boston's celebration of Latinx Heritage Month, announced Ágora Cultural Architects.

This second edition of Fiesta en la Plaza will showcase the rich diversity of our Latin American communities in Boston. Talented artists from various Latin American countries, who now call Boston home, will share their cultural roots through a variety of music, dance, and Afro-Latin films, explained Elsa Mosquera, co-leader of the event's curator and producer, Ágora Cultural Architects.

"We are happy to welcome Fiesta en la Plaza to City Hall for the second year in a row and to join in celebration with our Latin American communities. Each artist and each event is an opportunity to continue learning about the cultural diversity of our City while having a great time. Estamos listos para bailar y celebrar con todos!" said Kara Elliott-Ortega, Chief of Arts and Culture for the City of Boston.

The Fiesta will begin on Sunday, September 15, featuring Puerto Rican virtuoso cuatrista and singer Fabiola Méndez and her trio, award-winning

saxophonist Edmar Colón with Alain Mallet, and the band of creative Colombian artist Manuela Sánchez Goubert. The audience will be able to dance to different rhythms accompanied by the MetaMovements dance group.

Fiesta en la Plaza activities will continue on September 19 at the Civic Pavillion, with film presentations inspired by the Afro-Latin theme and a dialogue between Afro-Latin artists from the City, hosted by cultural journalist Cristela Guerra. Fiesta en la Plaza will close on September 27 at the Civic Pavilion with the fiery Cuban salsa, this time led by the Clave & Blues Band. The audience will be able to learn new dance steps alongside the renowned dancers of El Bonche in Boston.

This program is funded by the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture (MOAC). "We thank the MOAC for providing meeting spaces to admire the multiple artistic expressions representing Latin American cultures. We are honored to bring to our neighbors in Boston the cultural beauty that distinguishes our people," said Mosquera, who, through Ágora Cultural Architects, develops initiatives to make Latin American arts visible.

You can register to participate in Fiesta en la Plaza's program-

ming at culturalagora.com/fiesta-en-la-plaza and stay informed through Ágora's social networks.

Events:
FIESTA WELCOME
 SEPT. 15TH 1 PM - 7 PM
 Edmar Colón Dúo - Fabiola Méndez Trio - Meta Movements - Manuela Sánchez Goubert
CINE AFRO LATINO
 SEPT. 19TH 5 PM - 9:30 PM
 Afro-Latinx film screening & Panel

Documentaries:
 • Santiago de las Mujeres (1:03 hr)
 • ART21: Daniel Lind-Ramos (13 min)
SALSA NIGHT
 SEPT. 27TH 6 PM - 9:00 PM
 Clave & Blues Band - El Bonche in Boston

The Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture in the City of Boston enhances the quality of life, the economy, and the design of the City through the arts. The role of the arts in all aspects of life in Boston is reinforced via equitable access to arts and culture in every community, its public institutions, and public places. Key areas of work include support to the cultural sector through grants and programs and the production and permitting of art in public places. Learn more about the office at boston.gov/arts

Ágora Cultural Architects is a cultural undertaking founded and led by women to aid in the development and visibility of Latino arts and culture. Its objective is to create, empower, and promote the sustainability of the movers and shakers of Latin American culture in the United States and Puerto Rico. Ágora provides solutions and optimize tools so creators and organizations can reach their objectives. We support them in developing audiences, producing events, creating audiovisual and literary projects, identifying funds, and supporting professional development.

Fiesta en la Plaza regresa para celebrar el Mes de la Herencia Latinx en la Ciudad de Boston

Fiesta en la Plaza regresará este mes de septiembre al City Hall Plaza para ofrecer una variada programación de eventos culturales festivos y gratuitos, como parte de las actividades

del celebración del Mes de la Herencia Latina, anunció Ágora Cultural Architects..

Esta segunda edición de Fiesta en la Plaza mostrará la rica diversidad de nuestras comunidades latinoamericanas en Boston. Talentosos artistas de varios países latinoamericanos, que ahora tienen a Boston como su hogar, compartirán sus raíces culturales a través de una variedad de música, danza y películas afrolatinas, explicó Elsa Mosquera, codirectora de Ágora, productora y comisaria del evento.

"Nos alegra, una vez más, celebrar junto a nuestras comunidades latinoamericanas esta Fiesta en la Plaza. Cada artista y cada evento serán una oportunidad para seguir aprendiendo de la diversidad cultural que tanto enriquece a esta ciudad, al tiempo que pasamos un buen rato de confraternización", dijo la alcaldesa Michelle Wu.

La Fiesta comenzará el domingo 15 de septiembre y contará en tarima con la virtuosa cuatrista y cantante puertorriqueña Fabiola Méndez junto a su trío, el premiado saxofonista Edmar Colón con Alain Mallet y la banda de la creativa artista colombiana Manuela Sánchez Goubert. El público tendrá ocasión de bailar distintos ritmos acompañados del grupo de baile Metamovements.

Las actividades de Fiesta en la Plaza continuarán el 19 de septiembre en el Civic Pavillion, con presentaciones filmicas inspiradas en la temática afrolatina, y un diálogo entre artistas afrolatinos de la ciudad moderado por la periodista cultural Cristela Guerra. El cierre de Fiesta en la Plaza será el 27 de septiembre, con la fogosidad que caracteriza a la salsa cubana, esta vez liderada por la orquesta Clave & Blues. La audiencia podrá aprender nuevos pasos de baile junto a los reconocidos bailarines de El Bonche en Boston.

Este programa está financiado por la Oficina de Arte y Cultura de la Ciudad de Boston (MOAC, por sus siglas en inglés). "Agradecemos a la MOAC por propiciar espacios de encuentro para admirar las múltiples expresiones artísticas que representan a las culturas latinoamericanas. Estamos honradas de traerle a nuestros vecinos de Boston la belleza cultural que distingue a

nuestros pueblos", comentó Mosquera, quien a través de Ágora Cultural Architects desarrolla iniciativas para visibilizar las artes latinoamericanas.

Puede registrarse para participar de la programación de Fiesta en la Plaza en culturalagora.com/fiesta-en-la-plaza y mantenerse informado a través de las redes sociales de Ágora.

EVENTOS:
FIESTA WELCOME
 SEPT. 15TH 1 PM - 7 PM
 Edmar Colón Duo - Fabiola Méndez Trio - Meta Movements - Manuela Sánchez Goubert
CINE AFRO LATINO
 SEPT. 19TH 5 PM - 9:30 PM
 Afro-Latinx film screening & Panel

Documentaries:
 • Santiago de las Mujeres (1:03 hr)
 • ART21: Daniel Lind-Ramos (13 min)
SALSA NIGHT
 SEPT. 27TH 6 PM - 9:00 PM
 Clave & Blues Band - El Bonche in Boston

La Oficina de Arte y Cultura de la Ciudad de Boston mejora la calidad de vida, la economía y el diseño de la Ciudad a través de las artes. El papel de las artes en todos los aspectos de la vida en Boston se refuerza a través del acceso equitativo a las artes y la cultura en cada comunidad, sus instituciones públicas y lugares públicos. Las áreas clave de trabajo incluyen el apoyo al sector cultural a través de subvenciones y programas, así como la producción y autorización de obras de arte en lugares públicos. Obtenga más información sobre la oficina en boston.gov/arts.

Ágora Cultural Architects es una empresa cultural fundada y dirigida por mujeres para contribuir al desarrollo y la visibilidad de las artes y la cultura latinas. Su objetivo es crear, potenciar y promover la sostenibilidad de los impulsores de la cultura latinoamericana en Estados Unidos y Puerto Rico. Ágora proporciona soluciones y optimiza las herramientas para que creadores y organizaciones puedan alcanzar sus objetivos. Los apoyamos en el desarrollo de audiencias, la producción de eventos, la creación de proyectos audiovisuales y literarios, la identificación de fondos y el apoyo al desarrollo profesional.

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CITY PAWS

Benefits of massage

BY PENNY & ED CHERUBINO

Massage Calms

We used massage when we were doing a lot of fostering. Dogs entering foster homes are frightened and unsure of what will happen next. They must try to fit into a new routine in a new setting with strange people and other animals.

Over the years, we've used Tellington TTouch massage on our dogs and with some of the skittish rescue pups we've fostered. Mardi Richmond described the classic TTouch massage in an article in Whole Dog Journal, explaining that "... your fingers are slightly curved, and you use the pads of your fingers to create the circles." She has found this "particularly useful for anxious dogs."

How well does it work? Our vet was concerned because Poppy's heart rate was so low on the exam table. We had a quick explanation. While we waited for our appointment, Poppy was on Penny's lap getting a half-hour massage.

When to Apply Touch Therapy

A reassuring touch in a scary setting like a veterinary office may help calm an anxious animal. However, this will only work for critters who are receptive to it. Trained experts in TTouch may be able to work

Ah, there is nothing more relaxing than a great massage! If the massage is gentle and loving, your dog or cat might agree. What's more, if petting your animals is relaxing for you, massaging might even be a better way to spend time together and improve your bond.

Getting to Know You!

Writing on the Modern Dog website, Lola Michelin provides an excellent description of a 10-minute maintenance massage: "Use a flat palm to slowly touch all the parts of your dog's body. Really focus on what you are feeling and pay attention to all the layers, from hair through skin, fat, muscle, and down to bone."

She explains how this lets you know your dog or cat's body and "...to notice any differences in surface temperature, sensitivity to touch, localized swelling or muscle tension, poor coat quality or tight skin."

Once you know what's expected, you can spot what has changed and will be better able to communicate to your veterinarian what you want them to check.



Petting, massage, or touch therapy are all good ideas if you and your animal both enjoy the experience

with reluctant and highly agitated dogs, but most of us have to choose which dogs we massage with foresight and knowledge of their personalities.

How do you tell if the dog is willing? Start with a few gentle rubs. If the pup settles in and seems to enjoy it, continue. Some dogs will lean into anyone willing to give them some pats. That's another sign that they are okay with some gentle massage.

Once you've established that

massage is welcome, consider using it for anxious situations like thunderstorms or fireworks.

Medicinal Massage

If your animal has an injury or chronic condition like arthritis, your veterinarian may recommend physical therapy. As you discuss this option, which may be an excellent one, ask if you can supplement the treatment with at-home massage and ask them to show you how to do it safely

and effectively.

Finally, for those who share their home with more than one animal, a regular schedule of one-on-one massage moments could be the perfect way to ensure that your whole furry family gets solo attention.

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

State health officials announce season's second human case of West Nile Virus

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) announced the second human case of West Nile virus (WNV) in Massachusetts this year. The person is a male in his 70s who was exposed in Middlesex County in an area known to be at moderate risk.

The first WNV-positive mosquitoes in Massachusetts this year were announced on July 2 from mosquito samples collected in Quincy. There has been a total of 145 positive mosquito samples so far this year detected from Barnstable, Berkshire, Bristol, Dukes, Essex, Hampden, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk, and Worcester counties. The risk of human infection with WNV is moderate in the Greater Boston area (Middlesex, Nor-

folk, and Suffolk counties) and in parts of Barnstable, Bristol, Essex, Hampden, Plymouth, and Worcester counties.

"Many parts of the country, including Massachusetts, are experiencing increasing WNV activity," said Public Health Commissioner Robbie Goldstein, MD, PhD. "We are in the peak time of the year when most people are exposed to West Nile virus in Massachusetts. Residents should continue to take precautions to avoid mosquito bites."

WNV is usually transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito. There were six human cases of WNV in 2023. The first WNV human case this year was announced on August 6 and was exposed in Hampden County. No animal cases of WNV

have been detected so far this year.

"It is still summertime and the risk from WNV is going to be elevated for some time," said State Epidemiologist Dr. Catherine M. Brown. "People should use mosquito repellent with an EPA-registered active ingredient, clothing to reduce exposed skin, and consider rescheduling outdoor activities that occur during the evening or early morning."

People have an important role to play in protecting themselves and their loved ones from illnesses caused by mosquitoes.

Avoid Mosquito Bites

Apply Insect Repellent when Outdoors. Use a repellent with an EPA-registered ingredient, such as DEET (N,N-diethyl-m-tolu-

amide), permethrin, picaridin (KBR 3023), or oil of lemon eucalyptus (p-menthane-3,8-diol (PMD) or IR3535) according to the instructions on the product label. DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age and should be used in concentrations of 30 percent or less on older children. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under three years of age.

Be Aware of Peak Mosquito Hours. The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. Consider rescheduling outdoor activities that occur during evening or early morning in areas of high risk.

Clothing Can Help Reduce Mosquito Bites. Wearing long sleeves, long pants and socks

when outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.

Mosquito-Proof Your Home

Drain Standing Water. Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Limit the number of places around your home for mosquitoes to breed by draining or discarding items that hold water. Check rain gutters and drains. Empty unused flowerpots and wading pools and change the water in birdbaths frequently.

Install or Repair Screens. Keep mosquitoes outside by having tightly fitting screens on all windows and doors.

Protect Your Animals

Animal owners should reduce

Continued on page 19

JAMAICA PLAIN HOLDS ANNUAL DOMINICAN PARADE

PHOTOS BY DEREK KOUYOUJIAN



Hermania Pepain, Joseline Aria, and Merarda Martinez.



Yeya and Taty with their lizard friend Rainbow.



The Estrellas Tropicales dance troupe performs on the Dominican Parade.



Fracisco and Evelyn Gonzalez with Luis Capabello



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JAMAICA PLAIN HOLDS ANNUAL DOMINICAN PARADE

PHOTOS BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN



Parade spectators line up on Centre Street.



Members of the Casa De La Cultura Dominicana En Boston march with a massive Dominican Republic flag.



The Estrellas Tropicales dance troupe performs on the Dominican Parade.

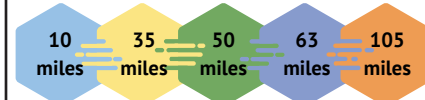


Boston Mayor Michelle Wu poses with members of the Hyde Square Task Force.



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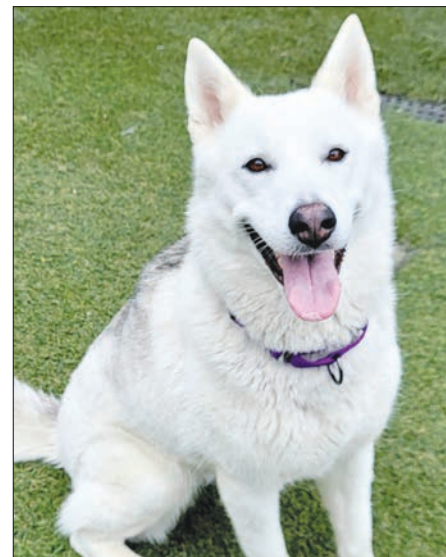
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Gazette Pet of the Week
by Sarah Carroll

ASPEN
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Boston City Councilor At-Large Henry Santana marches in the Parade not just for being a part of the city government but also his Dominican heritage.



Jasmy, and Kiana are excited to see the parade.

EDITORIAL

Thank you, Attorney General Campbell

We'd like to express our congratulations, and thanks, to Mass. Attorney General Andrea Campbell for her efforts in securing the recent landmark \$600 million settlement with the major tobacco product companies. In addition to the \$600 payment this year, the agreement calls for the companies to make annual payments in the years ahead.

This settlement comes on the heels of a comprehensive agreement Campbell's office reached last year with JUUL, the e-cigarette manufacturer, whose products have proven attractive to our nation's youth to such an extent that an estimated two million middle school and high school students used those highly-addictive nicotine devices in 2023 alone.

These and previous agreements seek to hold the tobacco manufacturers accountable for their marketing practices that directly have targeted our nation's youth for decades (remember the infamous Joe Camel ads from the late 1980s?) with the express goal of churning out successive new generations of nicotine addicts.

The direct harm caused by tobacco products, whether they be cigarettes, cigars, e-cigarettes, tobacco leaves, or chewing tobacco, have long made them the greatest single source of public health problems in our country for generations, including lung cancer, throat cancer, emphysema, high-blood pressure, and cardiovascular disease. In fact, despite all of the progress we have made in reducing tobacco use in our country, lung cancer remains the leading cause of cancer deaths among both men and women in the United States and tobacco use is linked to 400,000 deaths in the U.S. each year.

Tobacco use also has a hidden and even more pernicious effect: Contrary to popular belief that existed for decades that marijuana was a "gateway" drug leading to stronger drug use, studies conducted both in England and in this country (by the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health) have shown that it is cigarette smoking at a young age that is most-predictive of a person's risk of using illegal drugs later in life.

For our part, we take great satisfaction in the sea-change in the way that society views the use of tobacco products. Our newspapers won awards in the early and mid-1990s from the New England Press Assoc. and the Mass. Press Assoc. for our investigative stories and editorials regarding the ways in which local boards of health thwarted public health initiatives regarding tobacco use in public places. We also were honored by the Mass. Cancer Society in two successive years for our advocacy urging federal, state, and local leaders to recognize the need to regulate tobacco use in our society.

We applaud Attorney General Campbell for her efforts in bringing the tobacco companies to heel for the damage they have done to so many families in our country. Although the hundreds of millions of dollars from these settlements will not bring back any of our loved ones who suffered and died prematurely because of their tobacco use, hopefully the funds will educate future generations to prevent them from becoming addicted to tobacco products of any kind.

A great summer for the garden

Thanks to our mild winter, this past spring season was the most glorious in many years in our area. The early profusion of daffodils and tulips was followed by a gorgeous display of flowering crabapple trees, magnolias, and dogwoods, as well as our azaleas and rhododendrons, which bloomed fully and profusely.

This also was the best season we can remember for our hydrangeas, which benefited from the lack of winter cold-snaps that can prove lethal for the vulnerable tips of the plant that are the blossom. (We use an anti-desiccant spray on ours in order to provide some protection from winter's chill, but even that does not shield them when temperatures plunge into the single digits, which we avoided this past winter.)

However, the best part of our gardening efforts have come with the bounteous harvest of our tomatoes and other vegetables over the past six weeks. We planted our seedlings the weekend before Memorial Day, with the cherry tomatoes ripening in the first week of July. These days we only have a small patio in front of our condo, so we plant all of our veggies in large containers (which have the added benefit of keeping them out of the reach of the rabbits), but we have had more tomatoes, both cherries and the big ones, as well as cucumbers and summer squash, than we ever have had in our decades of growing vegetables.

So yes, climate change, which is bringing us warmer ocean and air temperatures and milder winters, is not a good thing. But we have to admit that our delicious tomatoes, which taste just so much better when they come fresh from the garden than anything you can buy in a store and which benefit from our record-setting hot and humid summers, bring us a simple yet profound joy each and every day.



City of Boston announces 24th annual Gospel Fest

Mayor Michelle Wu announced the lineup for the 24th annual Gospel Fest. This year's event, which showcases both national and local gospel talent, will take place on Sunday, August 25 at 5:00 p.m. at the Leader Bank Pavilion.

"It is a joy to announce this year's Gospel Fest," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "This event is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate music and community. I applaud the Office of Tourism, Sports, and Entertainment and community partners for organizing this tremen-

dous show."

Gospel Fest will feature performances by Latice Crawford, a top three finalist on BET's "Sunday Best" and headliner Micah Stampley, renowned for his energetic style throughout his nearly two decade career.

"I am really excited about this year's lineup," said John Borders IV, Director of Tourism, Sports, and Entertainment for the City of Boston. "I think we

Continued on page 19

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

Jamaica Plain GAZETTE

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West Nile

Continued from page 15

potential mosquito breeding sites on their property by eliminating standing water from containers such as buckets, tires, and wading pools – especially after heavy rains. Water troughs provide excellent mosquito breeding habitats and should be flushed out at least once a week during the summer months to reduce mosquitoes near paddock areas. Horse owners should keep horses in indoor stalls at night to reduce their risk of exposure to mosquitoes. Owners should also speak with their veterinarian

about mosquito repellents approved for use in animals and vaccinations to prevent West Nile virus (WNV) and EEE. If an animal is suspected of having WNV or EEE, owners are required to report to the Department of Agricultural Resources, Division of Animal Health by calling 617-626-1795, and to the Department of Public Health by calling 617-983-6800.

More information, including all WNV and EEE positive results, can be found on the Arbovirus Surveillance Information web page at Mosquito-borne Diseases | Mass.gov, which is updated daily, or by calling the DPH Division of Epidemiology at 617-983-6800.

Gospel Fest

Continued from page 18

have a little bit of the old with a little bit of the new—there is something for everyone. The City looks forward to bringing the community together to celebrate the tradition of gospel music.”

“I am thrilled for this year’s 24th annual Gospel Fest,” said Will Dickerson, Faith-Based Community Liaison. “This event is a staple for the community and always brings together young people, older residents, and families in fellowship. I encourage folks to join us later this month

to build community, enjoy gospel music and end the summer strong.”

Doors will open at 4:00 p.m. and the show starts at 5:00 p.m. Pre-registration is not required. Concession stands will be open and the Boston Water and Sewer Commission water truck will be onsite for attendees. For more information about the 24th Gospel Fest, please visit boston.gov/gospel-fest.

Building on creating a vibrant summer, the Office of Tourism, Sports, and Entertainment is also hosting the Friday Afternoon Concert Series and the Summer Dance Party Series.

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LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court

CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. C. 190B, §5-304

Docket No. SU24P1157GD
Suffolk Probate and Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300

In the matter of: Catherine Hrdy Of: Jamaica Plain, MA
RESPONDENT Alleged Incapacitated Person
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Brigham & Women’s Hospital of Boston, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Catherine Hrdy is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Albertina Cerveira-Hajjar of Brookline, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 09/04/2024. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person’s right to make decisions about personal

affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
Date: August 08, 2024
Stephanie L. Everett
Register of Probate

08/23/24
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. SU24P1691EA
Estate of: Judith Kolligian
Date of Death: 02/06/2024

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Tanya K DeFrancesco of Waltham, 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: Tanya K DeFrancesco of Waltham, MA and Mark Kolligian of Franklin, 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 09/24/2024. 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 ad ministration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
Date: August 13, 2024
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate

08/23/24
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LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Division
24 New Chardon St.
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Docket No. SU24P1274EA
Estate of: Roy James Mccorkel, Jr.
Date of Death: 02/03/2024

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Hunter R. Mccorkel of Philadelphia, PA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: Hunter R. Mccorkel of Philadelphia, PA 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 09/06/2024. 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 ad ministration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
Date: July 26, 2024
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate

08/23/24
JP

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

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

CITATION ON PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Docket No. SU24C0332CA
In the matter of: Zachary R. Weishar

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Zachary R. Weishar of Boston, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: Zachary R. Minoat-Weishar

IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Suffolk Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/05/2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
Date: August 05, 2024
Stephanie L. Everett,
Register of Probate

08/23/2024
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