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THE ENCHANTED TROLLEY TOUR IN JP

PHOTO BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN



The Enchanted Trolley Tour made a stop in Jamaica Plain at the JP Monument. Boston Mayor Michelle Wu joined Santa and Mrs Claus in bringing the holiday spirit to JP and lighting up the holiday tree. Shown above are Beata, Coloyan, and Florence with Santa and Mrs Claus. See Pages 16 and 17 for more photos.

Jamaica Pond Assoc. hears of efforts to clean up the Muddy

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

The Board of Directors of the Jamaica Pond Association (JPA) held its regular monthly meeting on, December 2, via Zoom. Chair Kay Mathew presided over the session that included fellow members of the board as well

as interested members of the community.

Police Officer Patricia Darosa, Sgt. Ryan Cunningham, and Rita Alphonso Colon from the Parking and Traffic Dept., all from Boston Police District E-13, were on hand for the meeting.

Darosa presented the Commu-

nity Safety Report. Although she said there was nothing to report in the immediate JPA neighborhood. Darosa did mention that there has been an uptick in drug use in the Forest Hills neighborhood and the police have been

Continued on page 3

Happy Birthday, Beatrice Busby

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Sherrill House, a not-for-profit skilled nursing and rehabilitation center, on Nov. 27 hosted a birthday celebration for long-term care resident and native Bostonian Beatrice Busby, who turned 109 years old. Beatrice spent her career as a secretary and worked three jobs as a single mother to her son, putting him through college. At 80 years old, she reconnected with a friend, fell in love and married him, sharing almost 20 years together before he passed away from cancer. She is an avid church member at People's Baptist Church in Boston where she was first baptized a 100 years ago at nine years old. Her birthday was celebrated with cake and singing with family and friends.

Among those officials attending included Emily Shea, Commissioner of the Age Strong Commission, City of Boston, State Rep. Samantha Montaño, Mayor Michelle Wu, Patrick J. Stapleton, CEO, Sherrill House as well as Sherrill House residents and staff.

Located in the Jamaica Plain neighborhood of Boston, Sherrill House is a 182-bed, not-for-profit skilled nursing and rehabilitation facility that provides high-quality short-term rehabilitation, traditional long-term care, and specialized care for individuals with Alzheimer's disease and dementia. It also owns and operates Longwood Hospice in Brookline. For more information, visit www.sherrillhouse.org.



Beatrice Busby celebrated her 109th birthday at the Sherrill House located in Jamaica Plain.



City of Boston receives \$9.8 million to build a climate-ready workforce

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Mayor Michelle Wu joined Senator Ed Markey, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) officials, state officials and local partners to announce that the City of Boston has been awarded \$9.8 million from the Inflation Reduction Act to develop the workforce needed to enhance climate and coastal resilience across Boston neighborhoods. The grant will assist City departments in developing training programs that build in-demand and emerging climate resilience skills, offer wraparound services to ensure workers' success, and place workers in good jobs and career pathways. The Office of Workforce Development (OWD), under the leadership of the Worker Empowerment Cabinet (WE) and in collaboration with the Environment, Energy, and Open Space Cabinet (EEOS), Green New Deal Office, and the Office of Green Infrastructure applied for the grant.

"Boston is the economic engine of New England. We are the national leader in education, healthcare and biotechnology. If we want to continue being the best home for innovators, entrepreneurs and working families, we need to not only invest in creating more jobs but protecting our coast and our residents from the effects of climate change," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "This nearly \$10 million dollars in funding from NOAA is going to help us do all of that in partnership with dozens of community partners across labor, academia, non-profit and the private sector. This Alliance will create a pipeline of highly skilled workers ready to fill the good paying jobs it'll take to protect our communities from higher tides and stronger storms. Thank you to all of our partners across industries who are forging this alliance with us and to NOAA for helping execute on our responsibility as a city to keep our community safe with a once in a generation opportunity for Boston's workforce."

This funding comes from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Climate-Ready Workforce initiative. This represents a \$60 million investment to support sectoral partnerships that will develop and implement job train-



Mayor Michelle Wu with City and State officials and leaders, celebrating the award.

ing programs to help train and place people in jobs that advance a climate-ready workforce for coastal and Great Lakes states, Tribes, and Territories as part of President Biden's Investing in America agenda under the Inflation Reduction Act. The City of Boston received the largest grant among the nine projects selected for funding through a competitive process. Modeled after the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration's successful Good Jobs Challenge, the Climate-Ready Workforce initiative is uniquely focused on preparing and placing people in good jobs that will advance climate resilience nationwide, ensuring coastal communities are prepared for the worst impacts of climate change. The program will also assist employers in developing a 21st-century workforce that is climate literate and skilled at addressing climate challenges.

"Thanks to this grant funding, Boston's Office of Workforce Development is uniquely positioned to implement climate resilience plans for the City of Boston," said Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and Deputy NOAA Administrator, Jainey Bavishi. "The cohort they will be a part of highlights the importance of regional public and private partnerships in cli-

mate careers, and will ultimately strengthen efforts to build a community that is more ready, resilient, and responsive to the impacts of climate change."

Boston is uniquely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. According to the 2016 Climate Ready Boston Report, by the 2070s annualized losses from coastal and riverine flooding could amount to \$1.4 billion. To reach our climate goals, the public, private, and institutional sectors must make unprecedented investments that will require a larger, more diverse workforce. Boston has become a leader in coastal resilience planning and implementation. Since the 2016 Climate Ready Boston report, the City of Boston has worked with community partners to complete coastal resilience solutions plans for all 47 miles of Boston's coastline, presenting district-scale and nature-based solutions to reduce coastal flood risk while simultaneously improving connectivity along and access to the waterfront, enhancing public open space and recreation, and restoring natural ecosystems.

In addition, Mayor Michelle Wu established the Green New Deal as a framework for tackling the climate crisis in Boston — with policies that address economic, social, and racial ineq-

uities, while advancing health, livability, and justice throughout our neighborhoods for all Boston residents. Through a series of ambitious policies and city-wide investments, Boston has been steadily advancing towards its climate and equity objectives, striving to achieve carbon neutrality in our built environment, promote economic vitality, and enhance climate resilience across the city for all our residents.

"Building climate resilience is not just about infrastructure and innovation — it's about people. This funding from NOAA enables Boston to lead in creating a workforce that is both climate-ready and equity-driven," said Oliver Sellers-Garcia, Environment Commissioner and Green New Deal Director. "By investing in training programs and job opportunities that prepare individuals for high-demand resilience roles, we're not only fortifying our city against climate impacts but also breaking down barriers to economic opportunity for historically underserved communities. The Greater Boston Climate and Coastal Resilience Workforce Alliance is a testament to our commitment to a just, inclusive, and sustainable future."

Boston cannot have a climate-ready city without a climate-ready workforce. The fund-

ing announced today creates the Greater Boston Climate and Coastal Resilience Workforce Alliance, an equity-based initiative that will advance new sectoral workforce development systems aligned with achieving the objectives of a green economy and growth. By creating workforce development programs centered on equity and engaged employers, this generational green investment can address age-old inequalities in the city. The Alliance brings together 30+ key stakeholders, including employers, training providers, community engagement partners, climate policy practitioners, adult basic education programs, and wraparound service agencies to develop and implement training pathways aimed at filling over 1,200 committed jobs in coastal and climate resilience occupations over four years. Workers trained through the grant will be placed in jobs that help advance coastal resiliency strategies, especially in the municipal and public sector including:

- Installation of green infrastructure and other nature-based solutions which are key strategies for flood protection and water quality.

- Working to ensure our water and wastewater systems are

Continued on page 4

JPA

Continued from page 1

addressing that problem.

"The Drug Control Unit did an extraordinary job there in the past few months, but the number of reported incidents of drug use seem to have dropped off recently," said JPA member Michael Reiskind, who also noted that a Forest Hills Neighborhood Assoc. has been addressing that issue.

Darosa then explained that six officers who have been assigned to Eggleston Sq. and other high-crime areas also have been patrolling in Forest Hills, which might explain the drop-off in reported incidents.

Sgt. Ryan Cunningham from District E-13 informed the group that a pilot program called the Community Interaction Team is engaging with JP residents to address citizens' complaints and quality-of-life concerns. He said the Police Dept. is looking to expand the program to other neighborhoods in the city.

District 6 City Councillor Ben Weber briefly told the group of the efforts he is making to address the problem of long-term vacant retail spaces in the outlying neighborhoods of the city, including Jamaica Plain.

"We're trying to compile a database to identify those empty storefront spaces and then get in touch with the landlords in order to get them to fill the spaces," said Weber, adding that a "vacancy tax" could be one tool to spur landlords to rent the store-

fronts. He noted that other big cities, including San Francisco, have been able to address this issue successfully.

Weber also expressed his goal of providing a full-time maintenance person from the city's Parks Dept. for Jamaica Pond. However, he noted that the Parks Dept. has had difficulty hiring new employees similar to other city departments because of low pay.

JPA member Franklyn Salimbene mentioned that there are still three locations near Perkins St. that need painted logos to designate the paths for bicycles and pedestrians and Weber said he will try to have that issue addressed.

Caroline Peters, the liaison for Jamaica Plain from Mayor Wu's office, also was on hand for the meeting. Peters told the group of the city-wide trolley tour with Santa and Mayor Wu that will make stops on Saturday in Hyde Square at 2:00 and at the monument at 3:00.

Josh Ageloff from Senator Mike Rush's office also was on hand for the meeting.

The guest speaker for the evening was Lisa Kumpf, the River Science Program Manager for the Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA), who had been invited to the meeting by Tony Dreyfus, who is the chair of the JPA's Parks, Parkways and Open Spaces Committee.

Kumpf presented the CRWA's Muddy River Vision Plan. She noted that the Muddy River (whose watershed includes Jamaica, Wards, Willow, and Levrett ponds) is the most polluted

tributary of the Charles River watershed, which comprises 300 sq. miles and encompasses 35 cities and towns. The Muddy, which comprises six square miles, mostly in Brookline, flows into the Charles River at its basin.

"Our goal is to develop a community-driven process," said Kumpf, who noted that the CRWA is working with the Emerald Necklace Conservancy and the Consensus Building Institute, as well as with a number of other partners (one of which is the JPA) to develop an overall plan to improve water quality.

She noted that the Muddy River historically was a tidal channel, but when the Back Bay was filled in, the Muddy essentially was used as a conduit for disposing of sewage. The Army Corps of Engineers successfully has undertaken projects recently to reduce damage from flooding, improve aquatic habitat, and rehabilitate historic landscape. However, the efforts have fallen short in achieving the goals of improving water quality and implementing best management practices.

Kumpf said that stormwater runoff from streets and roadways is a significant contributor to

the Muddy's pollution problem, but there also is so-called "dry weather" pollution emanating from a combination of aging and leaking wastewater pipes and illegal direct connections from homes and businesses.

Kumpf briefly discussed the various solutions being considered to address these problems and pointed out that the water quality of the Charles River Basin went from a D to an A- over a 25-year period, an outcome that the CRWA is hopeful can be achieved for the Muddy.

Kumpf then took questions from those in attendance, one of which elicited the fact that about 50% of the pollution in the Muddy is attributable to the Village Brook, an underground waterway that begins in Newton and traverses through Brookline before discharging into the Muddy.

Dreyfus also briefly spoke of a meeting he attended with city officials to discuss possible improvements to Jamaica Pond by encouraging the Boston Parks Dept. to develop a plan for maintenance. However, he said there presently are two problems facing the Parks Dept.: There are 40 vacant positions out of 180 total positions in the Parks

Dept. (an issue that Councillor Weber had noted) and the city presently is cash-strapped because of the steep decline since COVID in commercial property tax revenue.

Dreyfus suggested that in view of the city's shortcomings, perhaps private fundraising can be undertaken to pay for maintenance and capital projects.

Reiskind presented the reports from the JP Neighborhood Council (JPNC) and the JP Business and Professional Association (JPBPA).

He said that the JPBPA voiced its approval for a beer and wine license for the new bb.q Chicken restaurant that is planning to move into the space of the former Cafe Beirut (which closed last January) at 654 Centre Street. The JP location for bb.q Chicken, which features Korean barbecued chicken, will join other outlets of the chain in downtown Boston, Allston, Kenmore Square, Cambridge's Central Square, Lowell, and Quincy.

Reiskind also noted that this Saturday (December 7) at 4:30, there will be the debut of a new holiday light show at the Baptist Church.

The next meeting of the JPA is set for January 6, 2025.

PLEASE WRITE...

The Gazette welcomes letters to the editor. Word limit: 500. Deadline: Friday at 5 p.m. one week before publication.

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Please include address and telephone number for verification purposes.

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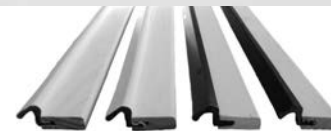


GABRIELLE HENDERSON PHOTO

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RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY

The Margarita Muñiz Academy on Child Street in Jamaica Plain celebrated the opening of 826 Boston's newest Writers' Room on November 20. The Muñiz Academy is Boston's first

bilingual high school Writers' Room, serving students during and after the school day with individualized attention that improves writing skills and fosters creative self-expression. Since

2007, 826 Boston's center in Eggleston Square has offered free writing, tutoring, and publishing services to students from kindergarten through high school.



Shown (left to right) Are Jay Enciso, Bilingual In-Schools Program Director of 826 Boston, Marilu Alvarado-Hernandez, Spanish Humanities Teacher of Margarita Muñiz Academy, Carmen Ethan, and Des, students of Margarita Muñiz Academy, Luna Rodriguez, Muñiz Writers' Room Manager of 826 Boston, Dania Vazquez, and Headmaster Margarita Muñiz Academy.



PHOTOS COURTESY LEAH ABRAHAM/826 BOSTON

Some of the 826 Boston and Muniz Academy leadership along with state and city reps are (left to right) Corey Yarbrough, Executive Director of 826 Boston, Melissa Beltran, Director of Constituent Services, Boston City Councilor Ben Weber, Dania Vazquez, Headmaster of Margarita Muñiz Academy, State Representative Samantha Montañó, and Bonnie Delaune, Chief of Staff for Boston City Councilor Ben Weber.

Climate

Continued from page 2

reliable.

- Building critical flood and coastal protection infrastructure.
- Strengthening the City's emergency preparedness and response capabilities.
- Climate and coastal resilience community education and outreach.

"To create a climate resilient city for all, we must create a trained, well-paid, diverse talent pool to tackle these pressing issues with a focus on equity and engaged employers," said Trinh Nguyen, Chief of Worker Empowerment. "We are incredibly grateful to NOAA for providing this funding to create the Greater Boston Climate and Coastal Resilience Workforce Alliance that will allow us to address critical workforce development needs to support Boston's coastal climate and coastal resilience goals."

"Developing a workforce with climate-informed skills is essential for building statewide capacity for advancing climate adaptation and resilience," said Rebecca Tepper, Massachusetts Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary. "The City of Boston's leadership on equitable workforce development for regional climate resilience is commendable, and this collaboration among municipal,

state, and private sector partners underscores the City's and the state's dedication to creating climate career and education pathways for people from underrepresented populations. We are proud to support this initiative through positions at the Department of Conservation and Recreation, and we deeply appreciate NOAA's support."

The Alliance is employer-driven with employer engagement in the curriculum, assessment, pre-hiring, and support services for graduates. Unlike other employer-driven approaches, this initiative is unique in that the City of Boston is leading the way as a model employer. In addition, the Alliance will benefit individuals from historically underrepresented communities and incorporate wrap-around services like childcare, career coaching, and training stipends to ensure their success.

"Parterre Ecological Services is proud to partner with the City of Boston to help prepare our company and our city for the ever-advancing impacts of climate change," said Jason Harris, Owner of Parterre Ecological Services. "The Alliance will assist us greatly in finding the people we need to grow and rise to this challenge. As an employer, this presents us with a rare chance to add skills and talent to our base while working closely with local government and non-profits to impact our local communities while improving our business prospects."

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SCENES FROM THE ENGLISH-LATIN FOOTBALL GAME ON THANKSGIVING DAY

In the 137th clash of the English-Latin Thanksgiving Day rivalry that began in 1887, English won this year by a score of 22-12. Putting in a great effort towards the win were seniors Dasani Avlaro, Kamren DePeiza (2 touchdowns) and Ajhani Graham. English led 16-0 before Latin got on the board. The rain picked up as the game progressed and fan turnout was down due to the weather. The win for English is the 3rd in the last four years but Boston Latin holds a commanding lead in the rivalry at 84-40-13.



PATRICK O'CONNOR PHOTOS

Boston Latin cheerleaders get together for a group pic at Harvard Stadium.



English High cheerleaders get together for a team photo.



English High football players make peace with the Wolfpack (Boston Latin) at the end of the game.

Gene Bolinger named Interim President of the Friends of the Public Garden

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Ahead of President Liz Vizza's imminent retirement, Gene Bolinger has been named Interim President of the Friends of the Public Garden.

Bolinger was appointed to the Boston Parks Commission in 2023, and he has served as a volunteer on the Friends Common Committee and Council, becoming Council Co-chair this year. As a former Vice President and head of the landscape architecture practice at the Boston

firm, Weston & Sampson, for decades, he most recently participated in completing the Master Plan for Boston Common.

Bolinger will work alongside Vizza as she prepares to part with the organization on Dec. 31.



COURTESY OF THE FRIENDS OF THE PUBLIC GARDEN

Gene Bolinger, new Interim President of the Friends of the Public Garden.

Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll



SKYLAR

Skylar is a beautiful 7 year old gal who was adopted years ago and then found herself back at the shelter because her family was gone long hours daily. She is a big girl and so sweet! She is hoping her new family will come along soon, as she is used to being a family pet!



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Hatoff's expansion proposal deferred at ZBA hearing

BY MICHAEL COUGHLIN JR.

A proposal to expand Hatoff's Gas Station was slated to be heard and ruled on during the Zoning Board of Appeal's (ZBA) hearing at the end of November; however, at the request of an attorney representing the proponent, the item was deferred until the end of January.

Per the ZBA's agenda for the abovementioned meeting, the project, listed with an address of 2-14 Kenton Road, entails constructing a covered gas pump island along with site improvements and landscaping. The agenda also notes that a build-

ing at the rear of the property is proposed to be razed on a separate permit.

Attorney Timothy Fraser of Dain, Torpy, Le Ray, Wiest & Garner, P.C., who indicated he was newly added council, sought the deferral, citing "additional work to do with some abutters in the community."

The project has received push-back from the community in that the Stonybrook Neighborhood Association (SNA) unanimously voted to oppose the proposal, and the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council's (JPNC) Zoning Committee was also unanimously in opposition to the proposal, ac-

ording to an email from SNA's Steering Committee.

As for why the SNA opposed the project, the abovementioned email cites concerns about the potential for an up to 66% increase in traffic, an increase in trash, an increase in noise and air pollution, light pollution, health and environmental impacts, and more.

Additionally, the email provided a statement from direct abutters who voiced concerns about the proposal, describing Hatoff's as a "neglectful and disrespectful" neighbor, citing issues with trash, traffic, noise, and more.

It should also be noted that the Hatoff's expansion proposal has been a big topic of discussion in relation to another project undergoing Article 80 review that would bring two new buildings and several units at 3430 and 3440 Washington Street.

Specifically, members of the Impact Advisory Group (IAG) for the Article 80 project questioned how an expansion of Hatoff's and the future construction of a residential building on the same property meshed at an IAG meeting in October covered by the Jamaica Plain Gazette — <https://jamaicaplaingazette.com/2024/10/25/3430-3440->

washington-street-project-presented-at-iag-meeting/#google_vignette.

It should be noted that a representative from the Planning Department and the developer at the October IAG meeting said the two projects were separate.

As for when the Hatoff's expansion proposal is slated to be heard, the ZBA voted unanimously to defer the item until the January 28th hearing.

For more information about the ZBA and to view upcoming meeting agendas, visit <https://www.boston.gov/departments/inspectional-services/zoning-board-appeal>.

Rose Kennedy Greenway announces the return of Hatchlings winter lights

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

The Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy is excited to announce that Hatchlings by interdisciplinary design team Studio HHH have returned in November. Hatchlings, which debuted on The Greenway last winter, provide a playful reference to one of Boston's most iconic landmarks, the Hatch Shell on the Esplanade, while envisioning a brighter and more environmentally sustainable future.

Selected as the winning design from the Greenway Conservancy's 2023 Request for Proposals for a Winter Lights Program, Hatchlings was inspired by a whimsical question posed by Studio HHH: What if the Hatch Shell on the Esplanade hatched a cluster of baby "shells" that wandered off down the Charles River Esplanade through The Greenway like adventurous ducklings? "We loved studying the intri-

cate Art Deco architecture of the Hatch Shell pavilion," said Vanessa Till Hooper, founder and creative director at Studio HHH. "Through the process of working to echo its arches and angles, we discovered many layers of thoughtful design and mathematical elegance. It's a perfect structure, and we are delighted by the opportunity to draw new attention to this beautiful and historic Boston landmark."

Similar to last year's installation, many of the Hatchlings will be powered either entirely through solar power or through a combination of grid and solar power. "Maintaining consistent solar energy throughout the darkest months of the year was a design challenge we were excited to meet, something that our studio felt was critical to advancing the conversation about sustainability in Boston," said Teresita Cochran, solar specialist at Studio HHH.



PHOTO COURTESY CHRIS RUCINSKI

A look at the Hatchlings winter lights from last year.

In total, nine Hatchlings dot The Greenway, each featuring vibrant arches in colorful animated lights. The Hatchlings appear in a variety of sizes, with the largest standing at 8.5 feet tall and the smallest at 2.5 feet tall. Throughout the winter months, the pavilions will serve as sites for informal gatherings, photo backdrops, and other activations.

We welcome you to join us in celebrating the re-opening of the Hatchlings at The Greenway's Winter Warmer on Saturday, December 21 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm at Rings Fountain. Come celebrate the Winter Solstice with FREE programming including a hot chocolate bar, holiday toy workshop, bubble house, photo booth, with live music and an instrument petting zoo by Boston Music Project. Visit rosekennedygreenway.org/hatchlings to find the exact locations of the Hatchlings and to download an interactive walking tour. For more information on upcoming events in connection with the Hatchlings, please check the Greenway Conservancy's events calendar: rosekennedygreenway.org/calendar.

Follow the Hatchlings' winter fun on social media (@rosekennedygreenway) and share your own posts using the hashtag #HatchlingsOnTheGreenway

The Greenway Winter Lights Program is exclusively funded through private sources. Hatchlings by Studio HHH (2023–2024) was made possible through the generous support of Meet Boston.

Studio HHH is an interdisciplinary design studio specializing in creative interventions within the built environment and public realm, led by found-

er/creative director Vanessa Till Hooper and art production manager Emily Castro. The studio team of all-women designers and artists, including sustainability specialist Teresita Cochran, develops meaningful and engaging experiences at the intersection of art, architecture, and technology. Studio HHH was founded in 2018 in Somerville, MA. They currently operate in Boston, The Berkshires in western MA, and Brooklyn, NY.

The Greenway is a contemporary public park in the heart of Boston. The Greenway welcomes millions of visitors annually to gather, play, unwind, and explore. The Greenway Conservancy is the non-profit responsible for the management and care of The Greenway. The majority of the public park's annual budget is generously provided by private sources.

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Old North Church undergoing paint conservation and restoration project

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

An interior revolution is underway at Boston's Old North Church and Historic Site. On Sept 30, a 6-month paint conservation and restoration project began to uncover 18th-century painted angels hidden beneath layers of white overpaint on the balcony arches in the church's sanctuary. I invite you to join renowned paintings and murals conservator Gianfranco Pocobene for the multi-step process that has begun at Old North Church in Boston's North End and will continue through late March.

The angels at the center of this work were painted by John Gibbs, an accomplished decorative painter and congregation member, who completed Old North Church's first major interior decoration, including the painting of 16 angels, between 1727 and the 1730s. The angels are depicted as cherubs, with round childlike faces and wings.

While Old North Church once boasted a colorful interior filled with intricate and ornate designs, all of this artwork – including Gibbs's angels – was painted over with white paint in 1912. However, a paint study conducted in 2017 revealed that the lost cherubs still exist. Expert craftspeople painstakingly removed layers of white paint to partially uncover one of the angels painted in 1727. Old North's team nicknamed this angel "Howard" in honor of a beloved advocate and supporter of the church.

The 2024-2025 paint restoration project is restoring more of Gibbs's work: the rest of the angels and decorative festoons between them. In order to uncover the angels, lead conservator Gianfranco Pocobene and his team apply a solvent gel similar to a paint stripper that softens the layers of white paint, manually remove the overpaint with a plastic scraper, and then do additional cleaning with a cotton swab covered in solvents. An exciting discovery has been that Gibbs's angels do not have identical faces; each one was designed to be unique. Watch this video interview with Gianfranco to learn more.

"The timing of this project is particularly exciting. As we approach the 250th anniversary of Old North's signal lanterns and



A worker painstakingly removes layers of white paint to partially uncover one of the angels painted in 1727.

Paul Revere's midnight ride in April 2025, visitors to the church will get a glimpse of the sanctuary as Revere knew it," said Nikki Stewart, Executive Director of Old North Illuminated.

This project will be done in two phases:

- Phase 1 (through Dec.): Gianfranco and his team will work on scaffolding in the rear of the church while they conduct the work and test solvent mixtures on small areas of paint. The winning solution will be used on the surface to swell and dissolve an estimated three to four layers of paint, which will be delicately stripped away to reveal 8 of the hidden angels. The project will then pause as scaffolding will come down for holiday services in the church.

- Phase 2 (mid-Jan. through late March): Scaffolding will go back up in the front of the church to continue the stripping process. Eight more angels will be revealed. In early 2025, visitors will see half of the work complete and the other half in progress, making it an ideal time for media coverage. The grand reveal, when all 16 angels will be uncovered, will be in April.

"The step-by-step uncovering of the angels at Old North Church is revealing fascinating aspects of John Gibbs's paint-

ing technique," said Gianfranco. "Even more intriguing and exciting is the opportunity to conserve and restore some of the earliest paint decorations in America and make them accessible to the public and scholars alike."

Born in Italy and raised in Canada, Gianfranco received his Master of Arts in Conservation from Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario in 1984. He first came to Boston in the 1980s to earn a Certificate of Advanced Training from the Center for Conservation and Technical Studies at Harvard Art Muse-



The angels are depicted as cherubs, with round childlike faces and wings.

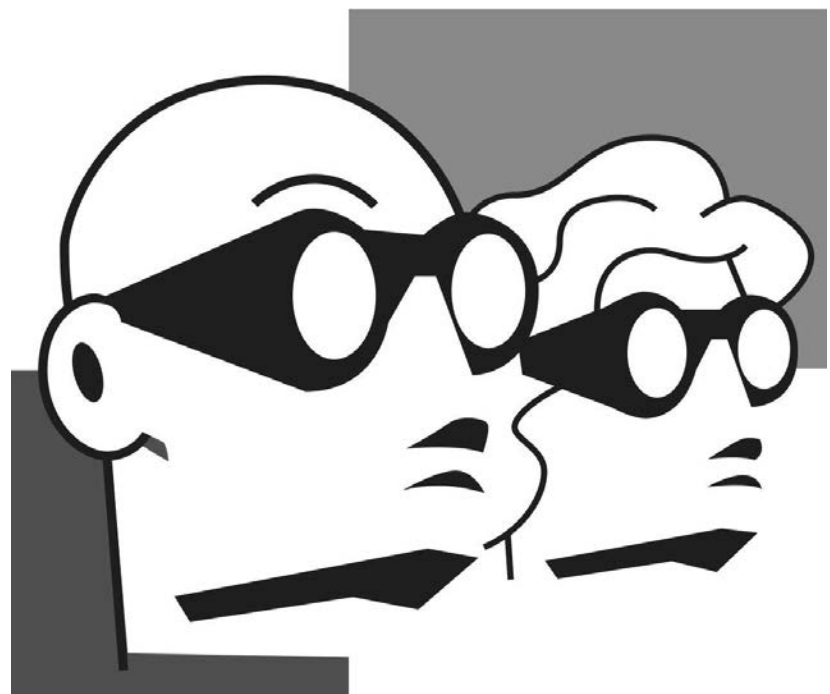
ums. He then spent the next 15 years working for the Straus Center for Conservation, Harvard Art Museums where he oversaw the restoration of mural cycles at the Boston Public Library by Puvis de Chavannes, Edwin Austin Abbey, and John Singer Sargent. In 2004, he was appointed Chief Conservator at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum where he carried out treatments and technical studies on the paintings collection. Early this year he left the Gardner

Museum to focus exclusively on his private practice, Gianfranco Pocobene Studio which was established in 1991. Some of the Studio's significant mural projects include the restoration of the John LaFarge murals at Trinity Church, Boston, the Women's Gallery mural at Vilna Shul, Beacon Hill, Puvis de Chavannes' Philosophy mural at the Boston Public Library, and Benjamin Constant's mural at the Ames-Webster Mansion, Boston.



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CITY PAWS

Suddenly, your dog is a senior!

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

The ASPCA says, "Most dogs enter their golden years between seven and 10 years of age, with large/giant breeds becoming seniors earlier than small breeds." The signs of aging are subtle and usually include a bit of a slow-down. Your dog may be sleeping more and showing signs of stiffness when moving.

Our Westie Poppy is now twelve. At this point, she shows no signs of loss of vision, hearing, energy, muscle tone, skin elasticity, hair, immunity, arthritis, or other joint problems.

And Poppy's mental acuity is excellent. She quickly learns new things, remembers her favorite people and places, responds to the same words, and reacts to the same things. You and your veterinary team can use this checklist to communicate how your dog is aging.

Maybe It's Not Old Age

Some things we consider old age can also be signs of pain. Changes in appetite, routine, getting up slowly, heavy panting, grumbling, and being a bit grumpy can happen as pets age, but these are all signs of pain as

well. If a dog changes her sleeping position, has more accidents in the house, doesn't want to play, or avoids jumping up on a chair or sofa, you should note the behavior and report it to your vet.

Most veterinary practices suggest twice-yearly checkups for seniors. Discuss weight, exercise, feeding, supplements, and medications at these sessions. Weight control is even more critical in seniors. It takes teamwork to help a dog lose weight. Make

Continued on page 9



New sights and sounds can stimulate an older dog's brain. Try walking in new places with new paths, smells, sights, and sounds.

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City Paws

Continued from page 8

sure you have every member of your household on the team. Discuss your specific guidelines for feeding, restricting extra calories, and exercising to anyone who will be pet sitting, providing daycare, or boarding your senior dog.

Improvements in veterinary

science, nutrition, and pet guardian education are helping our dogs and cats live longer, healthier lives. After treatment for something other than old age, that old dog may bring you a leash or a favorite toy.

Keep up the Exercise

We all understand that daily exercise is essential for dogs' physical conditioning and weight control. However, more and more research tells us that exercising

the brain is important to prevent dementia and improve dogs' quality of life. In dogs, dementia is called canine cognitive dysfunction (CCD). Many lifestyle habits that help human brain health also apply to dogs.

Think about how tired highly-activated brain cells make you when you take a class, learn a new skill, read up on a new topic, or spend time in a new setting or with new people. It can be exhausting. Remember

this when deciding on the proper brain workout for your dog.

New sights and sounds may stimulate an older dog's brain. You can try walking in new places, training new behaviors, and playing games appropriate to a dog's age and physical abilities. Old dogs might enjoy a food puzzle toy that rewards their efforts to get at the food with a steady flow of treats. (Ensure those treats are healthy and part of your dog's daily food intake.)

Knowing your dog is vital. A devoted sniffer may love a good game of find-the-snack. More time with other dogs and people may stimulate a social butterfly. A shy or anxious dog may prefer to sit back and watch or play a quiet game of "push that ball to me."

Do you have a question or topic for City Paws? Email Penny@BostonZest.com with your request.

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HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE AT STONYBROOK METAL ARTS

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS

Stonybrook Metal Arts at 24 Porter Street in JP held a Holi-

day Open House. The event featured the work of resident artists as well as classes in welding, casting, jewelry making, and

more. Visitors could purchase gifts for the holidays or even learn how to make them.



Artist Lois Cremmins is surrounded by her many paintings in her upstairs studio.



Artist Chris Burke shows visitors his many examples of his work including a complete chess set. Inset: A chess set queen fashioned as the Greek mythological character Medusa by metal artist Chris Burke.

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

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

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

**All delays in service begin on Wednesday 12/25*

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE AT STONYBROOK METAL ARTS



Molten aluminum is poured into molds.



The audience, kept a safe distance back from the activity, is captivated by the metalworking demonstration.



Taking a break from a visit with their son living in JP, Honi Kawut and Mark Landsberg work on making molds.



Artist Danilo Vega-Micci shows off his candelabra piece.



Artist Kalamu Kieta with his piece *Sculptural Land Camera*, a repurposed professional video camera from the 1970s.



Jewelery artist Kylie Weinzierl shows some of her impressive work.



Metalworking artist Eve Schauer conducts a class on making molds for aluminum pieces.



Anne Sasser, co-owner of Stonybrook Metal Arts, stands with David, made by the other co-owner Morris Norvin.

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JP CENTRE SOUTH MAIN STREETS CELEBRATES WITH JP HOLIDAY LIGHT SHOW

JP Centre South Main Streets celebrated the 5th year of its JP Holiday Light Show with an opening party on the grounds of the First Baptist Church. A presentation of images is laser projected onto the church steeple

throughout the holiday season. This is the 2nd year Mexican artist Diego Delmar has contributed his artistic vision. Viewers can also use their smart devices to listen to music as well as dialog on English and Spanish.



Katie and Meera Estabrook are enjoying the light show.



The presentation was created by Mexican artist Diego Delmar from artist group Holiday Light Magic.



Stephanie Moss with Loretta and her baby.



Jude and Tyler Moss are transfixed by the instillation.



Riley Brown is overcome with enthusiasm seeing the vibrant images displayed.



Images created by artist Diego Delmar are projected onto the steeple of the First Baptist Church as he tests the presentation sequence.



Lifelong JP residents and best friends Leela, Nadine, Gia, Mila, and Alyssa.



Kate Mysak with Effie and Tasos Giannoulis.



PHOTOS BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

Images created by artist Diego Delmar are projected onto the steeple of the First Baptist Church as he tests the presentation sequence.



The Christalin Family takes in the presentation.

New tools to assist residents in building Accessory Dwelling Units

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

The City of Boston has announced a new program to support Boston homeowners in building Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) on their property. This initiative, administered by the Boston Home Center (BHC), a division of the Mayor's Office of Housing, offers a new bank loan option alongside grants and other financial assistance to help cover costs related to designing, permitting, and building an ADU. Additionally, the Planning Department is releasing an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Guidebook, an illustrated manual that will help property owners in Boston who may want to build an ADU on their property. This book is available online, and in all Boston Public Library branches. Building on the Mayor's leadership to make Boston a home for everyone, these steps are important to increasing the City's multi-

generational housing stock, keeping families together and building wealth.

"Accessory Dwelling Units are a powerful tool in our efforts to address the housing crisis in Boston," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "By creating more flexible and affordable living options, ADUs allow homeowners to maximize their property while contributing to the availability of housing in our neighborhoods. This initiative not only supports families looking to generate extra income or house loved ones but also strengthens our communities with more diverse and accessible housing choices."

Through the loan programs, the BHC provides income-eligible owners of 1-3 unit homes who plan to add an ADU with a Technical Assistant Grant of up to \$7,500. This grant provides eligible homeowners with targeted funding and staff guidance throughout the pre-construction phases of researching, designing, and per-

mitting their ADU. Additionally, homeowners can apply for an ADU Loan from the City of up to \$50,000 to support construction costs. The ADU Loan carries 0% interest and is deferred, meaning there are no monthly payments. Homeowners approved for this program are paired with a BHC Construction Specialist who monitors progress throughout the building process. Eligible homeowners who receive an ADU Loan may also explore additional financing opportunities with participating lenders. To qualify for the program, applicants must meet specific income and asset limits.

"Accessory Dwelling Units are an important part of our strategy to expand housing options in Boston," said Sheila A. Dillon, Chief of Housing. "ADUs give homeowners a way to create additional living spaces that can serve as a source of income, provide housing for family members, and help address the city's housing

needs. By making it easier to build ADUs, we are supporting residents, increasing housing supply, and strengthening neighborhoods."

As part of this effort, the City is also piloting a new ADU Bank Loan in partnership with local banks, Leader Bank, Dedham/Southshore Bank, Needham Bank, and the Cooperative Bank. Recognizing the challenges posed by construction expenses, the Boston Home Center and the Mayor's Office of New Urban Mechanics initiated a collaboration with Harvard's Laboratory for Values in the Built Environment and local lending institutions to develop innovative solutions that ensure low- and moderate-income homeowners can access the unique benefits ADUs provide. This resulting loan fills a gap in the market, providing affordable financing to cover construction costs associated with building ADUs.

"Our research shows that

homeowners need new loan products to meet the unique opportunity that rental ADUs can offer homeowners, and provide equitable access to ADU financing," said Charu Singh, Research Associate at the Laboratory for Values in the Built Environment at Harvard GSD. "I'm proud of the groundbreaking work our group has done to equitably expand the lending toolbox, especially during this time when Boston is struggling with too few housing options and high costs."

Building on Mayor Wu's commitment to remove barriers to building ADUs across Boston's neighborhoods, the ADU Guidebook is designed to provide homeowners with practical guidance and inspiration for adding an ADU to their property, whether it is for additional living space, rental income, or housing fam-

Continued on page 18

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LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT CITATION GIVING NOTICE AND ORDER OF PETITION FOR RESIGNATION OF A GUARDIAN OF AN INCAPACITATED PERSON Docket No. SU20P1443GD

In the interests Of: Calvin Watkins Of: Jamaica Plain, MA To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Department of Mental Health of Westborough, MA in the above captioned matter requesting that the court: Remove the Guardian of the respondent. The petition asks the court to make a determination that the Guardian and/or Conservator should be allowed to resign; or should be removed for good cause; or that the Guardianship and/or Conservatorship is no longer necessary and therefore should be terminated. 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 12/19/2024. 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: November 25, 2024 Stephanie L. Everett

Register of Probate 12/13/24 JP

LEGAL NOTICE

CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR REMOVAL OF A GUARDIAN OF AN INCAPACITATED PERSON Docket No. SU16P1576GD

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Suffolk Probate and Family Court 24 New Chardon Street Boston MA, 02114 In the interests of: Dean Deangelis Of: Jamaica Plain, MA RESPONDENT Incapacitated Person/Protected Person To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Dept. of Mental Health of Westborough, MA in the above captioned matter requesting that the court: Remove the Guardian of the respondent. The petition asks the court to make a determination that the Guardian and/or Conservator should be allowed to resign; or should be removed for good cause;

or that the Guardianship and/or Conservatorship is no longer necessary and therefore should be terminated. The original petition is on file with the court. You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 AM on the return date of 12/12/2024. 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: November 19, 2024 Stephanie Everett, Register of Probate 12/13/24 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 **DIVORCE SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING** Docket No. SU24D0863DR Nuro Mohamed Plaintiff vs. Qadar Saeed Defendant To the Defendant: The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown. The Complaint is on file at the Court. An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered

in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411. You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon: Nuro Mohamed (Restricted Information) your answer, if any, or or before 02/05/2025. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: December 04, 2024 Stephanie L. Everett Register of Probate 12/13/24 JP

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT

TO G.L. C. 190B, ss5-304 Docket No. SU24P2579GD Suffolk Probate and Family Court 24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300 In the matter of: Romel Abraham Of: Jamaica Plain, MA RESPONDENT Alleged Incapacitated Person To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Lemuel Shattuck Hospital of Jamaica Plain, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Romel Abraham is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Rev. John Odams of Weymouth, 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 12/26/2024. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date. **IMPORTANT NOTICE** The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: December 02, 2024 Stephanie L. Everett Register of Probate 12/13/24 JP

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640 Centre St. | Brookside Community
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Holidays in Jamaica Plain

Wu announces expansion of the City's annual toy drive

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Mayor Michelle Wu announced that the City of Boston is expanding its annual toy drive, and will be distributing more than 1,800 toys to children and families in need. This year, the toy drive is led by the City's Community Engagement Cabinet, Boston Centers for Youth and Families (BCYF), and the Boston Housing Authority (BHA) with support from partners Amazon, The Toy Foundation, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), and Greater Boston Building Trades Unions. Over the course of six days, Mayor Wu will join City leadership and staff, union partners, community volunteers, and The Toy Foundation to distribute toys to children ages 0-17 living in BHA housing or neighborhoods surrounding BCYF centers.

"Every single child deserves to experience the joys of the holiday season," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "We are blessed to have the opportunity to partner with so many businesses and community organizations to bring the holiday spirit and some fun toys to families across our city."

"When you give a child a toy, you are giving hope and joy.

We're grateful for our partners within the City of Boston, Amazon, and our toy distribution partner, World Vision, who are helping us place toys into the hands of thousands of children who need them most," said Pam Mastrota, Executive Director of The Toy Foundation.

"Delivering smiles is at the core of what Amazon strives to do, which is why we are delighted to support the City of Boston's expanded holiday toy drive," said Jerome Smith, Head of Community Engagement for New England at Amazon. "We're proud to join with the City once again to not just distribute toys, but to deliver hope, happiness, and smiles to families throughout Boston this holiday season."

The first toy giveaway led by the Community Engagement Cabinet, BCYF, and BHA was held at the Bunker Hill Housing Redevelopment in Charlestown on December 5. Mayor Wu will distribute toys directly to residents in Roslindale on Thursday, December 12 at the BCYF Menino Community Center alongside City staff and partners. The toy giveaways are open to Boston residents who live in Boston Housing Authority sites and in neighborhoods surrounding BCYF centers.

"It's wonderful to have so

many partners come together to make the holidays a little brighter for BHA families," said Boston Housing Authority Administrator Kenzie Bok. "By delivering toys to children in our communities, we're not only spreading joy and hope but also creating cherished memories that will last a lifetime."

The upcoming 2024 holiday toy giveaway dates are as follows:

Wednesday, December 18
Franklin Field Housing

100 Ames Street, Dorchester

Thursday, December 19

BCYF Gallivan Community Center

61 Woodruff Way, Mattapan

Friday, December 20

BCYF Johnson

68 Annunciation Road, Mission Hill

Saturday, December 21

Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building

2300 Washington St, Roxbury

"AFSCME Council 93 leaders and members feel fortunate to have the opportunity to work with Mayor Wu to make the holiday season brighter for Archdale Families," said Council 93 Executive Director Mark Bernard. "Given the work that the Mayor, her team and the AFSCME Boston leadership has accomplished together to improve the lives of

our members, it's nice to work with her directly on something good for our community as a whole."

"Bringing holiday cheer to children and families directly to neighborhoods is essential to continuing to meet constituents where they are," said Community Engagement Cabinet Chief Brianna Millor. "BCYF and BHA have always been a place of gathering for residents. We are grateful for their partnership to help spread joy this season."

"The Mayor's Toy Drive is truly a community event, and we're thrilled to be part of it," said Boston Centers for Youth and Families Commissioner Marta Rivera. "We're especially grateful to the donors who join with us in making sure all families can bring joy to children this holiday season."

In an effort to ensure all residents who do not live in BHA housing or close to a BCYF community center will have toys for

their children during the holidays, the City of Boston's Equity and Inclusion Cabinet will host a Boston Give Back event on Saturday, December 21 in Roxbury at the Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building. Free toys will be distributed to children in the community. This event is supported by partners Fidelity Investments, Boston Public School Custodians, Artists Initiative for Revolution (AIR), Russell Paulding, Ocean State Job Lot, and TD Garden / Delaware North / Boston Bruins.

"The holidays can be a beautiful and complex season for many of our residents, and at the City of Boston we are aware of this reality because many of us have lived it, too. That is why we close the season of giving with an event called Boston Gives Back, a day filled with holiday magic, food, and toys," said Equity and Inclusion Cabinet Chief Mariangely Solis Cervera.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS EVERYONE!!



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Tips for readying outdoor power equipment for winter

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

After your lawn gets its last cut before winter, it will be time to put away spring and summer outdoor power equipment, like lawn mowers, leaf blowers, and trimmers. It's also important to ready snow throwers, generators and other small engine equipment for winter use. How and when you prepare your equipment for seasonal changes can save you time and money later, says the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI).

"Readying your equipment for winter needs is important as the weather changes," says Kris Kiser, President and CEO of OPEI. "It's also important to put your fall equipment away correctly. What you do now when

you put away your equipment, sets you up for an easier start in the spring."

Here are seven tips from OPEI

to ensure snow throwers will be ready when the flakes fly and

Continued on page 19

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
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Holidays in Jamaica Plain

PHOTOS BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN



LGBTQIA2S + Advancement Deputy Director and community activist Daunasias Yancey with Boston Mayor Michelle Wu.

THE ENCHANTED TROLLEY TOUR IN JAMAICA PLAIN

The Enchanted Trolley Tour made a stop in Jamaica Plain at the JP Monument. Boston Mayor Michelle Wu joined Santa and Mrs Claus in bringing the holiday spirit to JP and lighting up the holiday tree. It was fun for kids young and old.



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu speaks with constituents.

Happy Holidays to Everyone!

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2024

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Christmas Eve
4:00 pm Family Service
w/candlelight

7:00 pm Choral Prelude
7:50 pm Festival Eucharistw/
Choir and Candlelight

Christmas Tree Sale
@Loring Greenough House
Saturdays and Sundays
10:00 am - 6:00 pm
(while supplies last)

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Holidays in Jamaica Plain

THE ENCHANTED TROLLEY TOUR IN JAMAICA PLAIN

PHOTOS BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, City Councilor Benjamin Weber, Massachusetts State Rep McGregor, Ben, Caterina, and Danit Scarameli, and Caroline Peters

JP Honk provided some holiday music for the event.

Holiday Hours

- M - 10 to 6
- T - 10 to 6
- W - 10 to 6
- Th - 10 to 7
- F - 10 to 7
- Sa - 10 to 7
- Su - 10 to 5



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EDITORIAL

Domestic violence: The scourge without end

When we heard the news last Friday morning that a 32 year-old woman had been shot and killed in broad daylight on a busy Chelsea street, the first thought that immediately crossed our mind was: The husband or boyfriend did it. Just a few hours later, police announced that they had arrested a suspect, the victim's 31 year-old estranged husband who, according to news reports, had called police to turn himself in.

We've been in the news business for longer than we care to remember and the world has changed in ways that were unimaginable when we began our career in journalism more than 50 years ago. But despite the changes in technology and societal attitudes regarding countless issues, the one constant that has remained is the pathology of domestic violence.

It still is the case today, just as it always has been, that a woman is more likely to suffer violence by a partner than from any other source. The statistics tell the tragic story: Nearly half of all women murdered in the United States are killed by a current or former intimate partner; 1 in 4 women will experience physical violence from an intimate partner in their lifetime; 1 in 3 women will experience some form of sexual violence from an intimate partner in their lifetime; and 1 in 6 women will experience stalking from an intimate partner in their lifetime.

It also has remained true that the most dangerous time for a woman in a relationship is the period when she first decides to leave her partner. The victim in the shooting this past week had been married to the suspect for 10 years, but they had become estranged only within the past two weeks.

In addition, an article in this week's New York Times has highlighted another dangerous time period for women: According to the Times, the second-leading cause of death (other than from the pregnancy itself) for women who are pregnant or recently postpartum is domestic violence.

What also was not surprising about Friday's tragic event is that a gun was used by the perpetrator. The mere presence of a firearm in a domestic violence situation increases the risk of homicide by 500% and more than half of intimate partner homicides are by firearm.

Fortunately, the U.S. Supreme Court recently let stand laws that exist in every state that require a person with a domestic violence restraining order to turn in his guns. However, there had not been a restraining order between the parties involved in Friday's tragedy.

Domestic violence cuts across all racial and economic lines. Just the week before Friday's incident (in which the victim and the suspect, both of whom are Haitian immigrants and are Black), it was announced that the Cohasset man who allegedly murdered and dismembered his wife -- both of whom are white -- at Christmas time two years ago will stand trial next year. We also would note that today's Massachusetts domestic violence laws stem from the 1970s after an incident in that wealthy suburb of Cohasset in which the husband shot and killed his wife and then shot and wounded his children before turning the gun on himself.

We generally conclude our editorials by offering our view on what lawmakers or individuals can do in order to bring about societal change. However, when it comes to domestic violence, we have no ready solution to this long-standing problem. We can only recommend to women and anyone who is in an abusive relationship to end it immediately and seek help from law enforcement, the courts, and the many services available to victims of domestic violence in our communities. (In Chelsea, HarborCOV offers services for victims of domestic violence. Its 24 hour hotline number is 617-884-9909.)

Another dictator bites the dust

The demise of the dictatorship in Syria this weekend that brought to an end 50 years of brutal rule by the Assad family -- Bashir al-Assad had succeeded his father, Hafez al-Assad -- was startling to most observers. The Assad regime had successfully fought off a rebel army more than a decade ago, and though Syria had been divided into areas of control by various rebel groups and the government, the Assad regime, bolstered by the Russians and the Iranians, seemed secure.

However, the denigration of Iran's military capabilities by Israel this past year and Russia's weakened position because of its war in Ukraine left the Assad regime vulnerable to the rebel factions who never had gone away over the past decade.

What caught everyone by surprise, including Bashir al-Assad himself, was the rapidity of the rebels' advance from their stronghold in a tiny portion of northwestern Syria in the city of Idlib to the capital of Damascus, hundreds of miles away.

The images of Syrians rejoicing in the streets amidst the toppled statues of Hafez al-Assad were reminiscent of what happened in the immediate aftermath of the fall of so many other Middle East dictators, including Saddam Hussein in Iraq and Muammar al-Gaddafi in Libya.

The quick end to the al-Assad regime brought to mind a phrase by a character in the novel, *The Sun Also Rises* by Ernest Hemingway, about how bankruptcy befalls someone: "Gradually and then suddenly."

We join with the Syrian people in their joy and pray that their future, whatever path it may take, will be peaceful.

Tools

Continued from page 13

ily members. The ADU Guidebook features realistic, buildable designs tailored to Boston's neighborhoods. Although the designs will still require permits and may need review by the Zoning Board of Appeal, they offer a clear starting point to help residents more easily move forward with their ADU. It will be available online and at all Boston Public Library branches.

"This Guidebook is a fantastic starting point for anyone looking to add another unit to their home, and we hope it will inspire people to see ADUs as an expedient and unique way to add to our housing stock," said Chief of Planning Kairos Shen. "I look forward to working with the community on new complementary zoning that will make the process of adding an ADU more flexible and affordable."

These initiatives align with the City's broader zoning reform efforts to enable more housing options across Boston. By updating zoning regulations, the City aims to break down barriers and foster flexible housing solutions. ADUs not only help increase the hous-

ing stock but also offer residents opportunities to age in place, provide extra space for growing families, or generate rental income. ADUs can help residents stay in their neighborhoods, adapt their homes, and address their evolving needs. By allowing various forms of ADUs, the City aims to help homeowners fully utilize their properties, create more space, or unlock new income opportunities.

Founded in 2010 as one of the first municipal innovation offices in the world, the Mayor's Office of New Urban Mechanics serves as the City's civic research and design team, building partnerships between internal and external agencies to pilot projects that increase the quality of life for all of Boston's residents and visitors.

The City of Boston's Planning Department shapes growth that serves Boston's residents and centers their needs. Our mission is to address our City's greatest challenges: resilience, affordability, and equity, and to take real estate actions and prioritize planning, development, and urban design solutions that further these priorities. We seek to build trust with communities through transparent processes that embrace predictable growth and shape a more inclusive city for all.

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

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CRWA releases statement on Muddy River oil spill

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

According to a statement from the Charles River Watershed Association: "This Sunday (Dec. 8), an oil spill in the Muddy River prompted an emergency response from MassDEP, Brookline, and Boston officials, as the spill dumped heating oil into the Charles River tributary and left birds and animals in the area covered in a layer of oil.

"A longtime effort of the Charles River Watershed Association has been restoring the Muddy River, which requires addressing the root challenges of urban drainage, including wet weather pollution, due to stormwater runoff, and dry weather

pollution, including illicit discharges such as this oil spill.

"As a nonprofit dedicated to the protection and restoration of the Charles River and its tributaries, we at CRWA are heartbroken by this terrible news and the impact this spill has had on both the river and the local wildlife.

"The spill is still being investigated by MassDEP, and we are eager to see appropriate corrective action taken to prevent anything like this from happening again.

"This oil spill will continue to have numerous negative effects on the Muddy River, as oil contains toxic chemicals that can last in the environment for decades, adhering to the soil.

"To protect the Muddy River and the Charles River as a whole from water pollution, we need to adopt a watershed approach. CRWA is working on a community vision plan to improve water quality in the Muddy River by looking at sources throughout the six square mile watershed, and producing a prioritized list of projects that, once implemented, can enhance water quality in the Muddy River. These projects include widely adopting green stormwater infrastructure like rain gardens and bioswales, and reimagining our parkland landscapes to both filter water and restore ecosystems."

Tips

Continued from page 15

chainsaws, generators and other equipment are ready for winter storms. Also, your lawn mower and other spring equipment will be available and ready for use when warmer temperatures return.

#1 - Review owner's manuals. Re-familiarize yourself with how to handle equipment safely. Lost manuals can be found online. Save a copy on your computer if possible, so it can be consulted when needed. Be familiar with your equipment, and all its features, including how to turn it off quickly and safely.

#2 - Service all equipment. Before storing spring and summer equipment, clean and service it or take it to a small engine repair shop. Change engine oil and safely dispose of the old oil. Service the air filter, and do other maintenance as directed by the owner's manual. Check winter equipment and see if any maintenance and repairs are required.

#3 - Handle fuel properly. Unused fuel left in gas tanks over the winter can go stale and even damage equipment. Before storing equipment, add fuel stabilizer to the gas tank, then run the equipment to distribute it. Turn the engine off, allow the machine

to cool, then restart and run until the gas tank is empty. For winter equipment, buy the recommended type of fuel no more than 30 days before use. Use fuel with no more than 10% ethanol in outdoor power equipment. Use a fuel stabilizer if recommended by the manufacturer. Get more information on safe fueling for outdoor power equipment at LookBeforeYouPump.com.

#4 - Charge batteries. Remove and fully charge batteries before storing. Don't store batteries on metal shelves or allow them to touch metal objects. Store them on a plastic or wood shelf in a climate-controlled structure.

#5 - Shelter equipment from winter weather. Store spring and summer equipment in a clean and dry place such as a garage, barn or shed. Winter equipment should be kept away from the elements, but be easily available for use.

#6 - Prepare, prepare, prepare. Make space in the garage or basement before the weather changes, so there is room to store larger yard items. Remove sticks, debris, dog and kid's toys and other items from your yard that can damage or destroy equipment. Clear the paths used regularly, especially during the winter when snow can "hide" things.

#7 - Have the right weather appropriate extension cord

for your generator. Keep heavy duty outdoor-rated extension cords on hand. Ensure the cord is the right length to operate the generator a safe distance from the building. Never operate a generator indoors, in a garage, breezeway or under an open window or near any air intake for a building.

OPEI is an international trade association representing manufacturers and suppliers of power equipment, small engines, battery power systems, portable generators, utility and personal transport vehicles, and golf cars. OPEI is the advocacy voice of the industry, and a recognized Standards Development Organization for the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and active internationally through the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) in the development of safety and performance standards. OPEI owns Equip Exposition, the international landscape, outdoor living and equipment exposition, and administers the TurfMutt Foundation, which directs the environmental education program, TurfMutt. OPEI-Canada represents members on a host of issues, including recycling, emissions and other regulatory developments across the Canadian provinces.

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