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SENIOR LIFE SPECIAL SECTION — PAGES 10 + 11

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JP CENTRE SOUTH MAIN STREETS HOLD ANNUAL MEETING



DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS

Shown above, the Centre South Main Streets Executive Board pictured at their annual meeting on Feb. 26. Shown to the right, Board member and Economic Vitality Committee Chair Brad Brown details plans for Centre South Main Streets to offer an emergency loan for small businesses. He also announced the establishment of a community trust to be managed by Centre South Main Streets providing opportunities for incubators, pop-up, and commercial rent control. See more photos on Pages 4A.



Summer brings unique options for local children

STAFF REPORT

Even though the official start of spring doesn't arrive for another two weeks, it's already time for parents to look past the current school year and begin considering summer alternatives for their children. Boston-area kids can choose from a range of different offerings this year, but enrollment for these unique programs is limited.

Registration is now open for the Advent School's Explore De-

sign at Advent, its vibrant STEM program for kids aged 5-12.

Design at Advent is based out of 99 West Cedar St. on Beacon Hill.

Session 1 focuses on 'Theater Engineering' and runs from June 16 to June 27. Session 2, which explores 'Urban Agriculture,' runs from July 7 through July 18. Session 3, called the 'Cardboard Carnival,' runs from July 21 through Aug. 1.

"What makes The Advent School's summer program so

special is that we utilize Greater Boston as an outdoor classroom, visiting iconic places such as The USS Constitution, City Hall, George's Island, and the Puppet Library," said Advent's Director of Enrichment Stephanie Foland. "We also invite guest presenters -- artists, landscape architects, and more -- so kids can see what it's really like to work in these fields."

Continued on Page 14

JPNC approves votes of Zoning Committee

BY GAZETTE STAFF

The Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC) held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 25, via Zoom. Chair Renee Stacey Welch presided over the session. JPNC members in attendance included at-large members Purple Reign, Sarah Freeman, Michael Reiskind, and David Baron; Area A members Willie Mitchell and Peter DeCotis; Area B members Leah Dzintars and Lorenzo Bartoloni; and Area C members Katherine O'Shea, Nick Chaves, and Carla-Lisa Caliga.

Also on hand were Caroline Peters, the liaison to Jamaica Plain from Mayor Michelle Wu's office; District 6 City Councilor Ben Weber; State Representa-

tive Sam Montano; State Senator Liz Miranda; Willie Gomez, the coordinator from the city's Latin Quarter and Hyde Sq. Task Force (who noted that signage has been placed on Centre St. identifying the area as Boston's Latin Quarter); and Todd Washburn, the Chief of Staff and Director of Administration for the Arnold Arboretum.

Washburn digressed at the start of the meeting to express the Arboretum's concern about the impending development at the former Sisters of Poor Clare Monastery at 920 Centre St. because of the potential impact on the public view corridor from the Arboretum and on the health of the trees themselves because of

Continued on Page 4

ESNA discusses Squares + Streets

BY MICHAEL COUGHLIN JR.

Last week, during the Eggleston Square Neighborhood Association's (ESNA) monthly meeting, Laurie Radwin, Coordinator at the Roslindale Coalition, presented thoughts on the Squares + Streets process, which is wrapping up in Roslindale Square and may be slated for Jamaica Plain in the future.

Squares + Streets, as defined on the Planning Department's website, is a "planning and zoning initiative focused on adding, supporting, and improving housing, public space, small businesses, and arts and culture in transit-accessible neighborhood centers and along main streets."

As part of this Squares + Streets process in Roslindale Square, the Planning Department developed a small area plan that "sets a framework for targeted housing and small business policies to support a thriving neighborhood center, opportunities to incorporate more public art and cultural activities, and strategies to expand the public realm and improve transportation safety," per the Planning Department's website.

It also "guides future development in the central business area and major connecting streets through a Land Use and

Continued on Page 2

ESNA

Continued from page 1

Design Framework.”

The Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) Board adopted this small area plan in February. The day after its adoption, the Planning Department released proposed zoning updates for Roslindale Square, which seek to implement the plan’s recommendations.

These proposed zoning updates would “map new Squares + Streets zoning districts in and around Roslindale Square,” according to the Planning Department’s website.

Radwin’s presentation began with an overview of the Squares + Streets zoning districts. The six districts, ranging from S0 to S5, have different regulations regarding use, building scale, and more.

She then shifted the conversation to housing goals. “One of the things that comes up a fair amount in Squares + Streets is how many units do you actually want to create in this new zoning that is designed to build more dense housing in transit-rich areas,” said Radwin.

Radwin thought that the city had not been forthcoming with specifics regarding how many

units they wanted to build.

“So we went to the Mayor’s Office of Housing site, and we looked at Sheila Dillon’s (Boston’s Chief of Housing) goals up through 2025 that she proposed to HUD (Housing and Urban Development) in the HUD funding,” said Radwin. “We took the proportion of units that would be based on Roslindale’s population density, and with the approval—not the building—but the actual approval of 250 more residential units by the end of this year, we will have met our contribution.”

She discussed housing production further and asserted that commonly stated ideas, such as the more housing you build, the cheaper the units will be, and that housing production relies solely on zoning and supply and demand do not necessarily tell the whole story.

“If you really look at the research and the case studies, there are a lot of factors that affect housing production,” she said.

For example, Radwin’s slideshow presentation cited a report from Richard Heyman, who has a Ph.D. in urban geography from the University of Washington, which forecasted the impacts of an initiative in Austin, Texas, that proposed to loosen zoning and land use regulations.

Radwin’s presentation highlight-

ed that research like the above report illustrates the need to consider market preferences, demographic changes, demand-side pressures, and location specificity when discussing housing production.

Later, Radwin argued that Squares + Streets zoning was “form-based” zoning, something she says can exacerbate social inequity and lead to displacement, citing a paper in the Journal of Affordable Housing & Community Development Law.

“This up-zoning is particularly harmful to people who are in naturally occurring affordable housing and also in small businesses because once you get as-of-right, there’s limited participation in decision making,” she said.

Eventually, Radwin pivoted to discussing the Squares + Streets process itself. She discussed some of the community engagement strategies employed by the Planning Department, such as pop-ups, tabling, and more.

“You can have a really great process of lots of pop-ups and lots of tabling, but unless you reach the people you’re aiming to reach and measure that and adjust your processes, you’re not going to get the outcome you desire.”

For example, she presented data that indicated populations of color and renters participated at a

lower rate in Squares + Streets events than whites and owners and that it was not nearly representative of Roslindale’s overall demographics.

While the engagement story map for the Roslindale Square process on the Planning Department website seems to support the data, it also notes that the Department “conducted numerous pop-ups, coffee hours, and focus groups at various times of day and days of the week/weekend to engage more diverse groups,” and demographic data was not collected at these events. Radwin also presented other data from the Roslindale Coalition’s work. In August and September, a straw poll of 61 Spanish speakers indicated that 54 had not heard about Squares + Streets, and seven had not heard enough about it.

Then, data from two Roslindale Food pantries that Coalition members visited in October revealed that out of about 120 residents, almost all had not heard about Squares + Streets.

While Radwin thanked the Planning Department and the administration for meeting with the Coalition and members of different communities, she said proposed follow-ups after these meetings never occurred.

Radwin also argued that other areas, such as Hyde Park and Fields Corner, were given extra time multiple times and had workshops that Roslindale Square did not.

Further, she took issue with the draft small area plan in Roslindale, which was released in December, just weeks before school vacations and holidays and when many people travel.

“We asked them, could you start the comment period clock after the holidays, and we were de-

nied,” said Radwin, who indicated the comment period ended on January 31st after 50 days.

As Radwin’s presentation continued, she discussed equitable practices, the zoning proposed for Roslindale Square, fears that the rezoning could displace residents and small businesses in the area, and more.

For example, Radwin mentioned that the proposed zoning map for Roslindale Square includes S4 and S5 districts, which allows up to seven stories in the former district and up to 145 feet in the latter district.

Ultimately, Radwin called for attendees to make this a campaign issue and ask their city councilors what they would have done if Roslindale had been in their district. She also requested that residents sign petitions to prevent displacement and that the city council hold a hearing on Squares + Streets.

As noted, this Squares + Streets process may come to Jamaica Plain, as areas in the neighborhood are listed as eligible locations on the Planning Department’s website.

However, it should be noted that Caroline Peters, Jamaica Plain’s Liaison, indicated that there is no current timeline for when it might come to the neighborhood.

To view the previously mentioned petitions, visit <https://www.change.org/p/the-boston-city-council-should-review-the-planning-department-s-squares-and-streets> and https://www.change.org/p/prevent-displacement-of-our-boston-neighbors-and-businesses?recruiter=1332951917&recruited_by_id=6f3be2d0-7601-11e7-8513-4f829460d268&utm_source=share_petition&utm_campaign=petition_dashboard&utm_medium=copylink.



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Planning Department staff talks Squares + Streets with JPNC Zoning Committee

BY MICHAEL COUGHLIN JR.

The Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC) Zoning Committee hosted members of the Planning Department to discuss Squares + Streets at its meeting last week.

According to the Planning Department's website, Squares + Streets is a "planning and zoning initiative focused on adding, supporting, and improving housing, public space, small businesses, and arts and culture in transit-accessible neighborhood centers and along main streets."

Eileen Michaud, a member of the Planning Department, explained that Roslindale Square was one of the first Squares + Streets processes that launched alongside Cleary Square in Hyde Park.

Michaud indicated that the process has two parts and first discussed small area plans. She described them as "the planning documents we produce as part of the process that contain recommendations for physical improvements such as transportation and open space investments in the study area, small business supports."

She also added that they "[identify] housing development opportunities and areas that would benefit from more ground-floor activity, more housing density, different public amenities, and those recommendations are also contained in the plan in what we refer to as a land use and design framework."

Michaud then noted that the small area plans mentioned above inform the second part of this process, a zoning map amendment, which looks to implement the plan's recommendations.

Moreover, Michaud explained that Squares + Streets has its own districts used in the planning process. These districts would be mapped in appropriate places within the area being studied.

Specifically, there are six Squares + Streets zoning districts—S0 to S5—each with different guidelines for building scale, allowed uses, and more.

Following Michaud's brief description of the zoning districts, Dave Baron, the chair of the JPNC Zoning Committee,

asked about Roslindale Square's process and if areas are being rezoned only with the new Squares + Streets districts or whether some of the areas include older existing zoning districts, like 3F-5,000.

In response, Michaud, in part, said, "The direction of the Planning Department as far as rezoning is mapping districts that have a city-wide applicability rather than zoning districts that only exist in a neighborhood article."

She also mentioned that, for the most part, the only districts they mapped were the Squares

+ Streets districts.

There was also a discussion about the fact that none of the Squares + Streets zoning districts require parking. However, Kathleen Onufer of the Planning Department noted that these districts were mapped in Mattapan last year, and new buildings are being proposed with a 1:1 parking ratio.

This conversation evolved into Baron stating that they had heard from developers who proposed projects for which the Planning Department advocated trimming parking.

He wondered how this would

work in Squares + Streets districts and if the amount of parking would solely be up to the developer or if the Planning Department would have a hand in the decision.

Onufer indicated that it would be determined by whether a project is subject to Article 80 review because Article 80 projects are subject to a complete transportation analysis.

Michaud also indicated that the Planning Department uses the Boston Transportation Department's parking maximums as a guide for small Article 80 projects and that those max-

imums are a requirement for projects over 50,000 square feet.

Later, Michaud and Onufer offered their perspective on the Roslindale Square process.

Michaud spoke about how the process from the beginning to the adoption of the small area plan lasted longer (over a year) than the anticipated nine-month timeline.

She explained that traditional engagement strategies, such as meetings at night during the week, were not reaching a wide audience, which included small

Continued on Page 5

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JPNC

Continued from page 1

shadows that will be cast by the proposed new building.

The project calls for 38 senior citizen apartments in the former monastery building itself and a new, 85-unit condo building behind it. Washburn said the Boston Planning and Development Agency has scheduled a virtual public meeting this Monday, March 3, from 6:00-7:30 p.m.

The council heard the reports from its various committees.

First up was Baron, who presented the report of the Zoning Committee, of which he is the chair. He said the committee met on February 5 and took up four matters for which the property owners were seeking variances.

The first matter was the request of a new restaurant, Viva Mi Arepa, a Venezuelan restaurant where Il Panino used to be at 268-274 Centre Street, for a special permit for takeout service.

Baron noted that there had been problems with parking with the previous establishment because it is located on the corner at Lamartine St. He said the Zoning Committee members asked the owners to address that issue.

The second matter was a request from the condo owners at 36-38 Wyvern Street to frame two

new dormers and a finished attic, adding a master bedroom, a full bathroom, and a utility closet, for which variances were needed for building height; excessive stories; insufficient rear yard; and insufficient front yard.

Baron said the other condo owner in the building enthusiastically endorsed the project. "The feeling of the Zoning Committee was that this was a de minimis request," said Baron, who noted that there was a brief discussion about the new dormer adding shade onto the adjacent property.

A third item was a request from the owner of 62 Patten Street for a basement renovation that will add a bathroom, walls, sheetrock and plastering, move the washer and dryer, and install a French drain with a sump pump.

There will be no bedrooms in the new basement space, which will be used for an office. A variance was needed because of excessive floor area ratio (FAR).

Baron said the Zoning Committee voted in favor of all three matters and the full JPNC unanimously supported the Zoning Committee's actions. The applicants still must go before the Boston ZBA to obtain their variances.

Baron said that the Zoning Committee addressed a fourth matter regarding 561-579 Centre Street, which was a former gas station, where the developer

is seeking to construct a new, four-story, mixed-use building with twelve (12) residential units and one ground-floor commercial space with eight (8) off-street parking spaces. The existing structures will be demolished.

Variances are needed for: Forbidden Use: Retail; Zoning Violations: Conformity with Building Alignment; Floor Area Ratio Excessive; Building Height Excessive (Feet and Stories); Rear Yard Insufficient; Front Yard Insufficient; Usable Open Space Insufficient; Lot Area Insufficient; and Off-Street Parking Insufficient

Baron said there was a lot of resistance from neighbors, particularly from residents of Lakeview St. Baron said the Zoning Committee continued the matter to allow the developer and neighbors to continue talking.

Katherine O'Shea presented the report of the Outreach Committee, of which she is the chair. She noted that the committee discussed preparations for the JPNC's upcoming biennial election in June. She said that the date for the election needs to be chosen, with Saturday, June 21, as the preferred possible date, with the committee also discussing whether the JPNC should remain an elected board, a topic that was discussed at length by the full JPNC later in the meeting (see below).

She also noted that a community advocate spoke to the committee about the efforts to reopen the Hennigan Pool. District 6 Councillor Weber said he has been aware of this issue and that there seems to be a problem with the pool's filtration system. He also noted that the pool has been transferred to the school department and there will be a meeting coming up to discuss the issue.

"This pool has been closed for way too long and needs to be a resource for the community," said Weber.

Reiskind from the Public Service Committee said that the committee voted to support three requests of Ula Café at 284 Amory Street for a beer and wine license, for a takeout license, and for a live entertainment license. The full JPNC voted unanimously in support of granting the three licenses.

Reiskind said that the committee also discussed traffic issues in JP and made note of the five new liquor licenses in JP pursuant to recent state legislation that created more licenses in the city of Boston.

Purple Reign presented the report of the Housing and Development Committee from its last meeting at which the members discussed the proposed redevelopment of Rogerson House. Her report was as follows:

-- The discussion was led by Emilee Regan from Dot Joyce Consulting. The plan for the project includes 67 new affordable senior housing units and upgrades to the existing memory care facility, addressing significant wait lists in Boston.

-- Regan emphasized the urgent demand for affordable senior housing, noting a wait list of 140 persons for just one property.

-- Sarah Freeman raised issues at the meeting about the potential loss of mature trees, while Juliet Davison expressed frustration with the developers' lack of responsiveness to community feedback.

-- Jeff Wiesner questioned the validity of the traffic studies presented, prompting Regan to acknowledge the need for a new analysis for the project's second phase.

-- Other residents who spoke included Paul Drolet and Bernie Doherty, who advocated for increased resident participation in the development process, and Carolyn Royce, who voiced strong support for Rogerson Communities, citing their positive reputation.

The Arborway Yard Subcommittee presented an update, with

Royce reporting on the stalled design process because of MBTA funding issues. (Earlier in the meeting, both Senator Miranda and Rep. Montano told the JPNC that there is no funding for the garage project in the state budget, as was reported in the Gazette two weeks ago.)

Chaves presented the report of the Parks Committee. He presented recent updates that included the collaboration of the Parks Comm. with the Jamaica Pond Assoc. regarding ongoing pond maintenance and the designation of a portion of Perkins St. between Chestnut St. and the Jamaicaaway as Frederick Olmsted Way.

He also noted that the 10th annual Love Your Block cleanup is set for March 3 and volunteers are being sought.

The members then discussed plans for the JPNC's upcoming bi-annual election and whether the JPNC should continue as an elected body.

DeCotis noted that similar organizations do not hold elections and that the election process discourages many individuals from taking part in the council.

"There are some challenges to doing this because of the need to change our by-laws," said DeCotis, "but it also might result in us having more people join the council."

However, Baron said that the elections "bring a lot of visibility to the JPNC" and serve to encourage others to join.

O'Shea suggested that modifying the requirements to run for a seat on the JPNC, such as reducing the number of signatures needed for nomination papers, could encourage participation.

Freeman noted that the elective nature of the JPNC sets it apart from other volunteer organizations. "It feels like this gives us legitimacy," Freeman said.

"The election is a great way to do outreach to make JP residents aware of the JPNC," added Chaves.

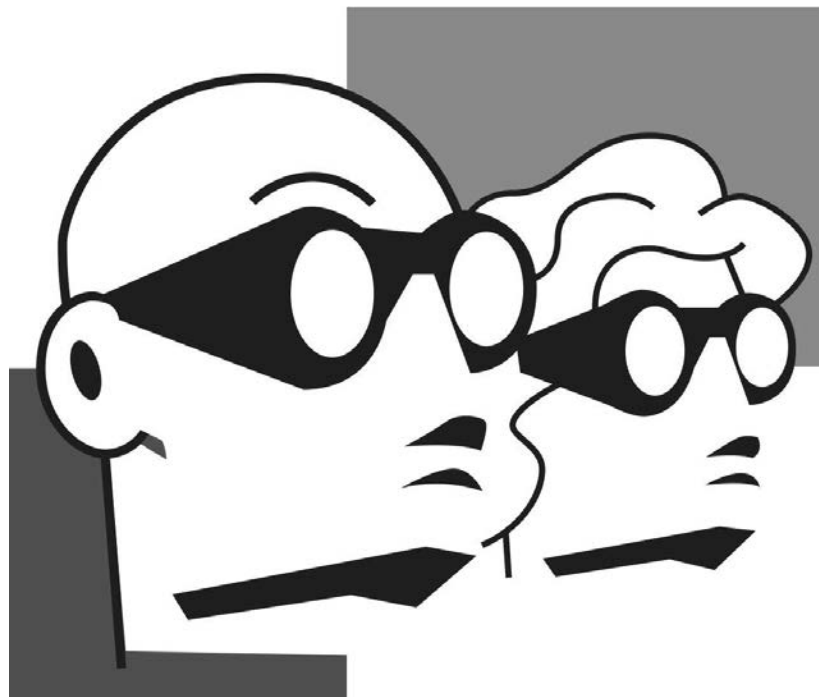
Peters noted that most other neighborhood councils in the city are not elected, but are selected by the mayor, and that the JPNC is among the most-respected neighborhood councils in Boston.

"To be on the council, you have to earn it," added Mitchell. "It's something you have to be proud of and stand for it."

The meeting concluded with the group agreeing to leave the status quo, but will discuss modifying the nomination process at a future meeting in order to encourage more candidates to step forward.

The next meeting of the JPNC is set for Tuesday, March 25.

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CITY PAWS

License Your Dog

BY PENNY & ED CHERUBINO

We have reminders on our calendar to license our dog in March. Typically, we receive email and snail mail reminders from the City of Boston. Massachusetts law requires all dogs to be licensed with their city or town by April 1st of each year.

There are many good reasons to license your dog. In addition to being a legal requirement, licensing dogs is a form of advocacy. Adding your residence to the list of homes with dogs supports organizations fighting for services for those who share their lives with companion animals.

It's easy for politicians to ignore the wishes of dog owners when setting funds for recreational space and services when the official number of dogs is vastly decreased by those who don't get a license. In addition, dog walkers, kennels, dog parks, and some residential buildings require licensing.

Finally, the lack of a license says something about you should you ever face a legal situation regarding your dog. Something that might result in a warning could escalate to a fine when an enforcement official sees you as a scofflaw. In the case of a law-

suit or an insurance issue, your lack of a license could undermine your credibility.

Rabies Vaccination Required

You must have proof of a current

Continued on Page 6



We received our license at the well-organized Animal Rescue League Clinic last year.

Planning Dept.

Continued from page 3

businesses and Spanish speaking populations, among others.

"We were not seeing those populations although they have a strong presence in Roslindale Square and the larger neighborhood," said Michaud, who added that the Planning Department pivoted its engagement strategy with events like pop-ups, which added time to the process.

"I will say that in the way it will inform future planning efforts is really thinking about—well ahead of any planning process starting—really identifying those stakeholders who traditionally don't show up to night meetings or virtual meetings... and thinking of ways to reach those folks in more creative ways," said Michaud.

Onufer discussed collaborating with local elected officials to reach small business owners, especially Spanish speaking small business owners.

She also commented that

the neighborhood was split up: More than half of the participants think that planning has not gone far enough, and under half are not fans of the proposed scale in the area.

As the conversation continued, there was a discussion about displacement, which neighborhood groups like the Roslindale Coalition think could occur with the proposed zoning changes.

Michaud emphasized the need to protect existing tenants and that multiple city departments are working on an anti-displacement action plan that will be released this month.

She also said a report from the Planning Advisory Council, which identifies existing tools for addressing displacement concerns, has already been released in advance of the anti-displacement action plan.

"That report also does the job of identifying gaps in the services that we already provide in providing protections to tenants and businesses," said Michaud.

Later in the meeting, attendees like Bernie Doherty voiced concerns about this process

and how it may impact traffic, working-class individuals, and seniors.

Renee Stacey Welch also addressed traffic and concerns about the lack of parking requirements in the Squares + Streets zoning districts. She indicated that residents' car needs must be considered in these planning processes, and she feared that this process would be another way to gentrify neighborhoods.

As the meeting ended, others commented, and more conversations centered around parking and other topics.

It should be noted that areas in Jamaica Plain are among the locations listed on the Planning Department's website that are eligible for the Squares + Streets process. However, Onufer stated that there are no plans to launch anything in Jamaica Plain this year except for neighborhood housing, which is already happening.

For more information about Squares + Streets, visit <https://www.bostonplans.org/planning-zoning/planning-initiatives/squares-streets>.



JP



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For kids 3.5-6.5. Online Registration is NOW OPEN

Volunteers needed to assure our ability to hold a Spring 2025! See details on our website at <https://bit.ly/jpcsoccer>

Regular season registration ends on April 18, 2025

The Spring season runs from Wednesday April 30th through Sunday June 29th, 2025

Registration costs \$25.00 — discounts are available.

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Volunteer Activity Leaders are needed to support every team - no experience needed! See our Website for more details or contact us directly at: contact@jpchildrensoccer.org.

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El registro de la temporada regular finaliza el 18 de Abril de 2025

La temporada de primavera se extiende desde el miércoles el 30 de Abril hasta domingo el 29 de Junio de 2025.

La inscripción cuesta \$25.00 — hay descuentos disponibles.

La temporada de primavera 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 & 11 a.m., o los domingos a las 10 a.m.

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City Paws

Continued from page 5

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- Boston residents over the age of 70: \$2
- Non-residents: \$10

2025 Clinic Dates and Locations

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- SOUTH END | APRIL 5. An-

imal Rescue League of Boston | 10 Chandler St.

- Jamaica Plain | May 3. BCYF Curtis Hall Community Center | 20 South St.
- East Boston | March 29. BCYF Pino Community Center | 86 Boardman St.
- Charlestown | April 12. BCYF Charlestown Community Center | 255 Medford St.
- Roxbury | May 31. BCYF Condon Community Center | 200 D St.
- South Boston | May 17. BCYF Condon Community Center | 200 D St.

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

Plans for 920 Centre Street development presented at meeting

By MICHAEL COUGHLIN JR.

Last week, the Planning Department hosted a meeting in which the proponents of a project at 920 Centre Street described their plans to build senior rental units and new condominiums on the site.

As part of the proposal brought forth by Sixteen Penny Company, Inc., which is owned by John Holland, who has been an architect for 30 years in Massachusetts and Vermont, a four-story L-shaped building would be constructed behind the existing Poor Clare Nuns Monastery at the site, which is slated to be preserved and reused.

Additionally, the project proposes to create 123 units—38 of which would be senior rental units in the monastery as part of the adaptive reuse, and the remaining 85 would be for-sale condos. There are also plans to include 118 parking spaces.

Moreover, 25 of the 38 senior rental units would be income-restricted. Seventeen of these units would be offered at 60% AMI (area median income), and eight would be offered at a combination of 80% and 100% AMI.

As part of the presentation given to those in attendance, David Hacin of Hacin + Associates, the design architect, outlined how the proposal has changed.

Hacin explained that previous designs for the site included a building at five stories. However, he said, "In conversations with the city and with some of our neighbors, we decided to revisit that and came up with what we're going to show you tonight, which is a four-story scheme."

He also explained that there were plans to add dormers and accessible entrances to the monastery and that a central courtyard would be created between the back of the monastery and the new building.

Hacin also mentioned that the existing site wall would be retained and that the new building's massing would be broken up by spaces resembling a "series of brick pavilions."

Hacin also discussed the proposal related to the Arnold Arbo-

retum, which is adjacent to the project site.

For example, he detailed a shadow study and said, "Most of the shadows are cast on our property."

He later added, "There are, however, two periods of time that there's some shadow impact into the arboretum at the end of the day roughly from 4:30 to 6:00 at the end of the day in certain periods late in summer."

Eventually, Hacin turned the floor over to Bryan Chou of Mickyong Kim Design, the project's landscape designer.

Chou walked through some of the landscape and public realm plans, such as bus stop improvements, plans for 19 blue bikes, garden areas, flexible gathering and amenity spaces, and more.

He also discussed the site's tree plans, which include adding 172 trees. However, according to the presentation, 30 are slated to be removed.

"Knowing that we are adjacent to the Arnold Arboretum, we wanted to fit within that context of the arboretum and extend a similar plant language through our site," said Chou, who indicated that proposed plantings would contain evergreen trees and magnolia.

Eventually, the presentation ended, and attendees were free to comment and ask questions. One of the main topics attendees raised at the meeting was how the proposal would impact the Arnold Arboretum.

Specifically, William (Ned) Friedman, director of the Arnold Arboretum, made a statement. "John Holland and his team have been in communication with us; they have shared their data with us, they have been thoroughly professional and respectful and transparent with us. It will just come out that we see the impacts of this proposed project differently," he said.

Friedman outlined that the arboretum has concerns with any project abutting it regarding how development could impact public views and the health of its approximately 16,000 trees.

Continued on Page 7

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MBTA gears up for South Boston's annual St. Patrick's Day Parade

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

The MBTA is preparing for the annual St. Patrick's Day parade and festivities in South Boston on Sunday, March 16, 2025. With nearly a million people expected to attend the parade, the MBTA is implementing several measures to accommodate the increased ridership and to remind the riding public what everyone can do to help maintain a safe and family-friendly environment. Riders are encouraged to check out the MBTA's St. Patrick's Day Guide for information on taking the T to the parade, how to pay fares, and more at mbta.com/StPatricksDay.

"The safety of our customers and employees is our top priority," said Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbits-Nutt. "We encourage everyone to celebrate the holiday responsibly and remain vigilant—if you see something, say something. We want everyone to enjoy the Saint Patrick's Day festivities while being mindful of fellow travelers and lending a helping hand to those needing directions or assistance."

"The MBTA takes great pride as we continue to improve daily service and increase service options every year so everyone can enjoy St. Patrick's Day and all the festivities," said MBTA General Manager and CEO Phillip Eng. "Public transit services are essential, allowing everyone alternative ways to safely travel and celebrate. I thank our dedicated employees who ensure

that our riders get to their destinations every day. Leave the driving to us and use caution when traversing the system as we all celebrate St. Patrick's Day together."

Additional Service and Bus Route Detours

To manage anticipated peak ridership and minimize platform congestion, the MBTA will strategically position additional personnel throughout the system to manage crowding, assist with passenger flow, and ensure a safe environment. The MBTA encourages all riders to be mindful while using escalators and navigating stairs during periods of heavy foot traffic. Service information is available at mbta.com/StPatricksDay.

Shuttle Bus: The MBTA will provide free shuttle bus service from South Station to South Boston between 9:30 AM and 5 PM on the day of the parade.

Red Line: The Red Line will operate rush hour service from 10 AM to 6 PM. Trains may bypass Broadway during certain times due to heavy crowds.

Bus Detours: Routes 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, and 47 will be detoured around the parade area. Buses will not stop at Broadway beginning at 9:45 AM or Andrew beginning at 10:15 AM.

Commuter Rail: Commuter Rail trains will run with additional cars to accommodate parade attendees. Additional customer service and management staff will be available at South Station to answer questions

and assist customers. More information about Commuter Rail service on the day of the parade will be available soon on mbta.com/StPatricksDay.

\$10 Weekend Passes are valid for unlimited travel on all Commuter Rail lines in all zones on Saturday and Sunday. Riders are encouraged to buy them in advance with the mTicket app.

"Our MBTA has seen so many improvements over the past year. Let's all enjoy the service, and the City, by celebrating responsibly and discouraging behavior that could damage our property or disrupt the transit system," said Chief Operating Officer Ryan Coholan. "By working together and respecting our shared public spaces, we can ensure a safe and enjoyable holiday for all."

"For the St. Patrick's Day parade, our top priority at Keolis is to get passengers to and from the festivities safely and reliably," said Abdellah Chajai, CEO and General Manager of Keolis Commuter Services. "We expect high ridership and encourage our riders to plan ahead and expect longer boarding lines, especially at South Station. I'd like to thank our crews for their hard work and dedication to delivering for our passengers on March 16 and every day."

Enhanced Security Measures & Safety Tips for Riders

The MBTA Transit Police Department, under the leadership of Chief Kenneth Green, will

significantly increase uniformed officer presence throughout the system to deter crime and to respond swiftly to any incidents.

"We will be working closely with our law enforcement partners to ensure a secure environment for everyone who uses our public transit system," said Chief Green. "We want everyone to remember, St. Patrick's Day is a time for celebration, and it's essential to prioritize safety and responsible behavior."

The MBTA urges riders to celebrate responsibly, leave their vehicles at home, take public transportation to festivities, and follow these safety tips:

- Alcohol consumption and/or unruly behavior will not be tolerated on the MBTA.
- Secure personal belongings, especially in crowded areas. If wearing a backpack, remove it and hold it at your side or set it between your feet. Leave large items like coolers at home.
- Let riders off the trains before you board.
- Travel on the T without bikes. Bikes (including folding bikes) are not allowed on the MBTA at any time the day of the parade.
- Report any suspicious activity or individuals in distress to the nearest police officer, call the Transit Police at 617-222-1212, or dial 911.
- Download the MBTA See Say App to quickly and discreetly report suspicious activity to Transit Police. Using this app, riders can send Transit Police pictures, text messages, and lo-

cations of suspicious activity.

- Follow the instructions of MBTA Transit Police officers and staff who are there to ensure everyone's safety.

- Take care of yourself and others. Seek medical attention when necessary.

The MBTA is stressing the importance of celebrating responsibly on public transit. Vandalism and disorderly conduct can create safety hazards, delays, and additional cleaning costs, which can divert valuable resources away from essential maintenance services and improvements that benefit all riders.

For more information, visit mbta.com/StPatricksDay or connect with the T on X @MBTA and @MBTA_CR, Facebook /TheMBTA, Instagram @theMBTA, Threads @thembta, or TikTok @thembta.

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) opened America's first subway tunnel in 1897, pioneering public transportation in the United States. Today, the MBTA is one of the largest public transit systems in the country, operating an extensive network of subway, bus, Commuter Rail, ferry, and paratransit services across 176 cities and towns. The MBTA is undergoing a transformative period, focusing on cultivating a culture of safety and excellence, modernizing infrastructure, and improving reliability and accessibility.

920 Centre St.

Continued from page 6

He noted that on the southern side of the project, part of the proposed development would be set back only 18 feet from the arboretum property line when zoning regulations require a 50-foot setback. However, it should be mentioned that Hacin indicated that only 25% of the rear portion of the proposal would have that 18-foot setback.

"This is something that will loom over our living collections," said Friedman. He also raised concerns about trees behind the building being removed and said

that out of the 172 new trees proposed by the project, only eight would be behind the proposed structure.

Friedman also indicated that they have hired a consulting firm to examine shadows and are concerned about potential new shadows being cast on plants the arboretum is trying to grow.

After further discussing the arboretum's concerns, Friedman hoped for a design solution that would consider massing alternatives to address problems related to public views and tree health.

In response, Hacin mentioned that they understood the concerns and were committed to working with the arboretum to address them while achieving

the project's goals.

It should also be noted that another arboretum representative, Todd Washburn, chief of staff and director of administration, requested that the public comment period, which was slated to close on March 12th, be extended so that they could conduct their own analysis of view sheds and shadows.

He also emphasized, "We are not as the arboretum reflexively opposed to development along our perimeter, and we would not object to a proposal that didn't cast new shadows or was mostly invisible from what is, as Ned said, really the arboretum's most popular and expansive view shed."

As the discussion continued with attendees, many residents raised concerns about traffic and safety. The site borders Centre Street and the Murray Circle Arborway intersection, which could see changes as part of the Department of Conservation and Recreation's Arborway Parkways improvement project.

In terms of the projected impact on traffic, an analysis of traffic in the presentation indicated that the proposal would generate 30 morning peak hour vehicle trips and 34 evening peak hour vehicle trips and that the level of service or a measure of average vehicle delay at intersections in the project area would not change.

Additionally, some attendees commented that they would like to see the proposed building be shorter, and others raised concerns about the number of units, considering it exceeds the maximum units per acre under zoning.

While a vast majority of attendees raised concerns, a few voiced their support for the proposal, citing, among other things, their liking of the design and contribution of housing.

To learn more about this project, visit <https://www.bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/920-centre-street>. The site also includes a recording and presentation from this and other meetings.

WHERE TO FIND THE GAZETTE?

Post Office Centre St	Happy Market 128 South St	Citizens Bank 696 Centre St	Bank Of America 677 Centre St	Tropical Market 371 Centre St
JP Licks 659 Centre St	Tikki Masala 3706 Washington St	True Value 698 Centre St	Dunkin' Centre St	CVS Centre St
On Centre 676 Centre St	Blanchards 741 Centre St	City Feed and Supply 672 Centre St	Latino Restaurant 304 Centre St	Laundromat 270 Centre St
JP Realty 7 Harris St	Dunkin' 755 Centre St	East Boston Bank 687 Centre St	Freddy Market 302 Centre St	Camillo Liquor 280 Centre St
Cooperative Bank Washington St	Bank of America 677 Centre St	CVS 407 Centre St	Kappy's Pizza 304 Centre St	Check Cash 282 Centre St
JP Seafood 730 Centre St	Eastern Bank 687 Centre St	Whole Food Centre St	Square Market 331 Centre St	JP Laundry Center 410 Centre St
The Real Deal 732 Centre St	CVS 704 Centre St	MSPCA 350 S Huntington St	Rizzo's Pizza 347 Centre St	Zesto's Pizza & Grill 460 Centre St
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The Sherrill House continues to make strides for seniors

STAFF REPORT

The Sherrill House, which has supported older adults in the community for more than 100 years, is enhancing its care through new and upcoming amenities.

The “not-for-profit skilled nursing and rehabilitation center” is located on South Huntington Avenue and cares for about 170 older adults daily through several services.

The facility provides long-term skilled nursing care, short-term rehabilitation, and memory care, has recently added to its services to better assist its patients and residents.

Sherrill House opened a brand-new dialysis center last June, an amenity that will not only make treatment more accessible but also help quell the

healthcare crisis induced by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Patients in need of dialysis treatment required transportation by ambulance to hospitals multiple times per week. Now DaVita Kidney Care at Sherrill House has six treatment chairs and operates three days a week for patients and residents who need hemodialysis treatment.

The new center enables patients to avoid spending long periods in lobbies and waiting rooms of hospitals before and after treatment.

Sherrill House also has other plans for the years ahead, specifically, fundraising.

In 2024, Sherrill House held a fundraising gala in November that helped close out a \$1M capital campaign to relocate and enhance their rehabilitation gym. Plans call for the existing gym to

be renovated and relocated from the ground floor to the fifth floor penthouse. The new gym will be larger, have updated state-of-the-art equipment, and feature incredible views of the Emerald Necklace and Jamaica Pond.

Plans are also underway to build a new staff cafeteria and wellness center.

A 2025 gala is being planned.

For those interested in supporting Sherrill House’s fundraising efforts, email Bethany Allen, Sherrill House’s Director of Development, at ballen@sherrillhouse.org.

Additionally, for those who would like more information about the facility’s admission process or want a tour, call 617-735-1775 or email admissions@sherrillhouse.org.



(C) PAPERKITES / ISTOCK VIA GETTY IMAGES PLUS

Older adults can prevent slips, trips and falls with these doctors’ tips

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

(StatePoint) Among older Americans, falls are the number one cause of injuries and death from injury, according to the Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention. Not only are seniors more at risk for falls, but when they do fall, they are at a greater risk for injuries, hospitalization and complications. Medical

Continued on page 11

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ABOUT SHERRILL HOUSE

Sherrill House is a not-for-profit skilled nursing and rehabilitation facility. We care for older adults who are rehabilitating from surgery or complex injuries, have Alzheimer’s disease or other forms of dementia, or are unable to live independently and need skilled nursing care.

We have 182 beds and offer the following:

- Short-Term Care in our Rehabilitation Program
- Two floors of Traditional Long-Term Care
- One Memory Care floor
- DaVita Kidney Care at Sherrill House



“My dad was a long-term resident on the 2nd floor. The staff was wonderful, supportive, and kept me updated the whole time. It’s always hard to place a loved one in a facility, but I couldn’t have picked a better one. The staff eased my fears and lessened the guilt. Thank you”

– L.Y., Family Member of Resident

COMING SOON!

We are relocating our rehabilitation gym to our 5th floor penthouse. The new gym will enhance the experience for rehab patients.

Dialysis Center Now Open!

In June 2024, we opened DaVita Kidney Care at Sherrill House, a six-chair hemodialysis center.

For more information or to schedule a tour, please contact Admissions at 617-735-1775.

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BHV, Cindy Sullivan Fitness team up to offer annual 'Spring into Aging' Free Fitness Week

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Spring is almost here, and so is Fitness Week for our active agers! Each year, Beacon Hill Village (BHV) and Cindy Sullivan of Cindy Sullivan Fitness partner to offer a full week of free fitness classes in March for Boston's older adults. This year marks the 9th time this program is being offered to adults aged 50 and over in Boston. Three of the classes will be virtual and two will be offered in person. The dates for this year's fitness week are March 17-21, 2025.

Spring is a great time to jump into or strengthen your fitness routine. Exercise is a cornerstone of healthy aging, and fitting physical activity into one's day can improve life in many ways. Regular exercise can

improve strength and balance, boost mood and improve memory, and help manage or lessen the impact of chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, and osteoporosis.

"Running our Spring into Aging Fitness Week program for the ninth year fills me with immense excitement and pride," said Cindy Sullivan, Certified In-Home Personal Trainer and Midlife/Senior Fitness Specialist. "It's not just about the years we've been at it, but the countless lives we've positively impacted. This program is about fostering community, promoting vitality, and celebrating the incredible resilience of our senior participants!"

This year's class lineup includes:

MONDAY, 3/17, 9:30 AM – STRETCH AND FLOW (Zoom):



Participants in the 2024 Spring into Aging Fitness Week.

This NO FLOOR stretch class is designed to increase flexibility and range of movement to improve activities of daily living. There is a combo of dynamic or flow stretching, with static stretching throughout class. At the end we will add deep breathing and final relaxation exercises to promote stress reduction and relaxation. Suitable for all fitness levels.

TUESDAY, 3/18, 10:30 AM – BETTER BALANCE (In Person at Beacon House): Exercises and tips on the importance of staying strong and preventing falls. Balance is the cooperation between the brain, nervous system, muscle and bones, and the class will focus on improving that connection. Suitable for all fitness levels.

WEDNESDAY, 3/19, 10:30 AM – TOTAL BODY WORKOUT

(Zoom): Join us for our traditional weekly workout for Active Agers. This class combines a little bit of everything including low impact cardio, strength training, balance and flexibility to target the entire body. Hand weights (or alternative), a chair and 10 minutes of mat work will be included. Can be modified for many levels.

THURSDAY, 3/20, 10:30 AM – STRENGTH & CONDITIONING (Zoom): Learn the most important exercises to stay strong and independent. We will incorporate light hand weights (or alternatives such as canned goods), resistance bands (or towels), and body weight exercises into this fun class! Help to improve overall strength and balance and increase bone density. Can be modified for many levels.

FRIDAY, 3/21, 10:30 AM – FUNCTIONAL FITNESS OVER

50 (In Person at the Community Room at The Hub on Causeway): This workout will improve your "activities of daily living" – functional exercises that support four fitness goals for older adults: endurance, strength, balance, and flexibility. Can be modified for many fitness levels.

For this special week only, the class fee will be waived for all participants. Advance registration is required for all classes.

To register for one or any number of "Spring into Aging" classes and discover new and fun ways to incorporate physical activity into your day, call the BHV office at 617-723-9713 or visit the website at www.beaconhillvillage.org/events. For questions on class descriptions or more event details email cindy-sullivanfitness@gmail.com. Don't delay, classes are filling up fast.

Doctor's tips

Continued from page 10

experts say that for people of all ages, a ground-up approach to fall prevention starts with healthy feet.

"Painful foot conditions, such as osteoarthritis, calluses, bunions, hammertoes and diabetes complications, can make it difficult to maintain balance and coordination when walking or standing," says Bryn J. Laubacher, DPM, FACFAS, a board-certified foot and ankle surgeon and Fellow Member of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgery (ACFAS). "Compounding the issue is that when you are suffering from a painful foot condition, it can be

more difficult to engage in the strength and balance exercises that ultimately reduce fall risk."

Experts say that eliminating foot pain can lessen one's chances of experiencing a life-altering fall. That's why the foot and ankle surgeons of ACFAS offer these steps for keeping feet and ankles strong and healthy:

Don't ignore pain: Foot pain is not just a normal consequence of aging, so don't ignore aching and suffering or resign yourself to it. You likely have a treatable condition. See a foot and ankle surgeon when you experience pain for proper diagnosis and treatment.

Examine your feet: Regularly inspect your feet. If you no-

Continued on page 12

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CENTRE SOUTH MAIN STREETS HOLD ANNUAL MEETING

PHOTOS BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

The Centre South Main Streets organization held its annual meeting. Achievements and events from 2024 were reviewed and plans for 2025 were discussed. One of the items discussed was for Centre South Main Streets to offer a \$5000 max emergency loan for small businesses. The interest charged will be used to enlarge the fund.

Another goal was the establishment of a community trust to provide opportunities for incubators, pop-up businesses, and commercial rent control.

Sponsors included The Cooperative Bank, BBQ Chicken who donated food, Blue Frog Bakery, and City Feed.



The second featured speaker was Maya Mukhopadhaya, the owner of Centre Street daytime coffee shop/evening wine bar *Jadu Boston*. She bought *Express Yourself* in 2024 and it was time she owned a business. Centre South Main Streets helped her learn the necessary business procedures and connected her to the community.



Executive Director Ginger Brown delivered her report with a video presentation detailing the resources that Centre South Main Streets offers to businesses and the community.



Centre South Main Streets Executive Director Ginger Brown with Boston City Councilor Benjamin Weber

Doctor's tips

Continued from page 11

tice any bumps, lumps or other changes, make an appointment with your foot and ankle surgeon for evaluation.

Exercise: Simple stretching exercises can help you maintain strength and mobility in your feet and ankles, as well as provide pain relief. Talk to your physician about appropriate exercises for you.

Protect: Wear cushioned insoles or any special footwear you are prescribed, along with comfortable, well-fitting and supportive shoes, every day – even around the house.

Consider advanced options: Know that at times, surgery is the most appropriate treatment for a given condition. Fortunately, many surgical techniques today can be performed on an outpatient basis. There are also more options than ever before.

According to Dr. Laubacher, new medical technologies and ground-breaking surgical interventions, such as bioengineered scaffolding for reconstructive surgery, minimally invasive techniques and stem cell regeneration, are helping patients restore functionality and get back to normal faster than ever before,

For more ways to keep feet and ankles healthy and prevent falls, and to find a foot and ankle surgeon near you, visit FootHealthFacts.org, the AC-FAS patient education website. Foot and ankle surgeons are experts in providing both conservative care as well as surgical approaches to foot and ankle healthcare.

“Remember, just one fall can have a major impact on a person’s independence and quality of life. That’s why it’s so important to prevent falls by taking care of your feet and ankles,” says Dr. Laubacher.



Returning Board member Paul Stamos/



Board member and Design Committee Chair Michael Epp reviews 2024 activity and plans for 2025.



Board member and Promotions Committee Chair Peter McCoubrey details events held throughout 2024 that brought attention to Centre South Main Streets.



Centre South Main Streets Board member Pete McCoubrey and Brianne DiBiase with Rockland Trust.



Myles McDonough and Murray Hershkovirz.

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CENTRE SOUTH MAIN STREETS HOLD ANNUAL MEETING



Peter Brown, Florrid Reddish, volunteer Angel Kleer (back), Gayle Epp, and Diane Pacitto.



Returning Board member Paul Stamatatos listens to the speakers.



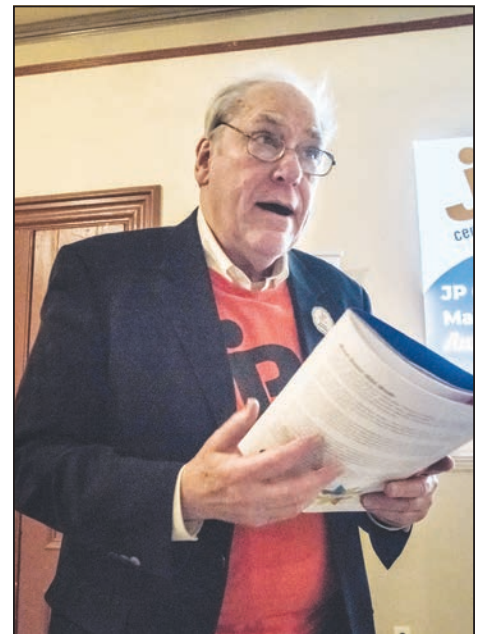
New Board member Rosannna Báez.



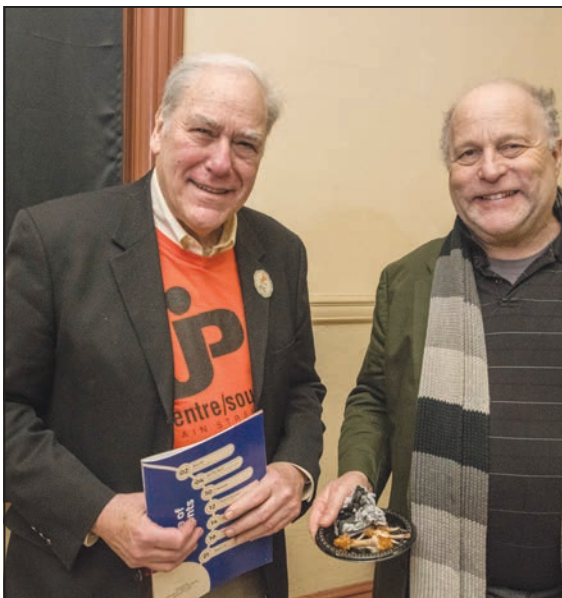
The first featured speaker was Lucy Orloski, the owner of the South Street jewelry store Elleyo. She described her experience setting up her store and business space as well as collaborating with Center South Main Streets..



JP Centre South Main Streets Executive Director Ginger Brown and husband and Board member Brad Brown.



Centre South Main Streets Board President Michael Reiskind.



Centre South Main Streets Board President Michael Reiskind with realtor Andrew Brilliant.



Centre South Main Streets Executive Director Ginger Brown with JP resident Luisa Harris.

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2025 Summer in the City

Summer in the City

Continued from page 1

Also, 'Hiking Adventures,' in partnership with Guinea-fowl Adventure Company, offers kids on a variety of day hikes to the mountains, hills, and waters of Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire. 'Art on the Trails,' also offered in partnership with Guineafow, is a two-week program that runs from July 7-18. Kids will take day hikes in Massachusetts and Southern Hampshire and create art based on their observations.

Visit adventschool.org/summer for more information.

BC High, based at 150 Morrissey Blvd. in Boston, is offering a wide range of Summer Camps and Programs.

For boys and girls ages 5 to 10, Eagle Day Camp provides a full-day camp experience for two to eight weeks. Campers, ages 5 to 7, can take part in myri-

ad activities, such as arts and crafts, organized sports, scavenger hunts, LEGO sets, water games, painting, and tie-dyeing, among other offerings. Half-day option available for ages 5-7 while campers ages 8-10 can customize their schedules to suit their personal interests.

Additionally, the Adventures in Boston! program will offer a new field trip each day while the Inspirit AI class will teach middle and high school students in separate sessions about the fundamentals of AI and how to use it responsibly.

"I believe what sets our camps and programs apart from the rest is our dedicated staff and our beautiful campus which provides a safe oasis for kids to learn, grow and have some summer fun," said Sara Feloney, BC High's director of summer camps and programs and external events.

Other offerings will include Sports Camps, including soccer, baseball, basketball, football,

and flag football for Grades 4-12; High School Academics, with courses including Inspirit AI, Chemistry, Intro to Chemistry, Intro to Algebra, ACT/SAT Prep, Spanish Language and Culture, High School Writing, and The Common Application and The College Essay; Middle School Academics, with courses including Intro to Algebra, Math Fundamentals, English Fundamentals, and Study Skills; and Middle School Specialty Programs: including Inspirit AI, Art, Coding and Robotics, Minecraft, Theatre, Roblox Mission to Mars!, Dungeons & Dragons, and The Art of Cooking.

Visit www.bchigh.edu/summer-camps or call 617-474-5181 for more information.

The Boston Children's School Summer-Fun-Program will begin its 43rd year on July 7 and continue for six weeks, ending Aug. 15, at 8 Whittier Place in the West End.

The program, designed for children between the ages of 3 and 8, is located at Charles River Park in the West End. The Boston Children's School has its own private playground, which allows children to play safely outdoors, away from the noise, congestion, and traffic. Inside, the facility is fully air condi-

tioned.

The program is organized by age, and each group is taught and nurtured by state certified teachers with the help of teacher interns from local area colleges and universities. All activities are designed to be developmentally appropriate for each age group.

Besides daily play activities, children can use the swimming pools on a daily basis at The Clubs at Charles River Park. The program also offers children science, music appreciation, and field trips.

Visit BostonChildrensSchool.Org for more information. Early registration is encouraged because space is limited.

If you have any questions about the BCS Summer-Fun-Program, please call Judy Langer, Program Director, at 617-367-6239 or 617-BCS-KIDS.

BCS is also registering students for 2025 academic year, and applications are available online (BostonChildrensSchool.Org).

Buckingham, Browne & Nichols School, a pre-K-12 private school in Cambridge, provides a valuable and enjoyable, ACA-accredited summer camp experience for campers from 4 years old through rising 10th grade every

summer. This year's program runs from June 16 through Aug. 8.

Summer@BB&N offers specialty camps (such as Chess, Outdoor Explorers, Parkour, and Codemoji); sports camps (i.e. Soccer, Basketball, Golf, Fishing, and Ultimate Games), and its Classic Camp for pre-K through Grade 10, which provides rotating activities each day, like arts and crafts, sports, theater, hands-on fun, water play, and archery. The Teen Camp also offers more time for activities, as well as off-site trips. Each camp offering has a variety of weeks to choose from and is grade specific.

"Summer@BB&N is unique because it combines the warmth of a close-knit community with the excitement of hands-on exploring, offering campers the opportunity to explore their passions while developing valuable skills in an environment that fosters both creativity, personal growth, and community," said Emma O'Loughlin, Director of Summer@BB&N.

Visit <https://bbnsummer.com> for more information on the Summer@BB&N program.

This summer, Essem Art Studio, located at 15 Tufts., third floor, in Charlestown is offering five-day Minicamps designed for kids who love to create.

With exciting themes like Furry Friends, Deep Blue Sea, and COLOR!, young artists will dive into painting, mixed media, and design, building skills, confidence, and endless creativity along the way. Minicamp hours run from 9 a.m. to noon, with an option to extend to 2 p.m.

"We provide a boutique art camp experience in our sunny studio. We get to know each young artist while providing instruction and support so they can have a joyful and magical experience while growing as individual artists," said Sophia Moon, the studio's founder.

For more information, visit essemartstudio.com.

French Library, located at 53 Marlborough St. in the Back Bay, offers 'Summer in French for Kids' (with classes for ages 3-5; ages 6-8; and ages 9-12, respectively) and 'Summer in the French for Teens.'

For Kids, participants can



ARE YOU A CITY KID?

ARE YOU READY FOR MORE?

80% of Newman students take public transport!
Use the city as your campus, connect to the world through Back Bay!

NEWMANBOSTON.ORG/ADMISSIONS
admissions@newmanboston.org

GRADES 7-12
CITY AS YOUR CLASSROOM
NOW ENROLLING FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL

At the corner of Marlborough Street and the world.

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WALNUT HILL
SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS

SUMMER OF THE ARTS

Immersion Programs in Chamber Music, Voice, Jazz, Theater, Dance, Visual Art, Fashion, Photography, and Game Design!

12 Highland St
Natick, MA 01760
walnuthillarts.org/summer
508-650-5020

Learn More

Continued on page 15

2025 Summer in the City

Summer in the City

Continued from page 14

participate in half-day (from 9 a.m. to noon) or full-day programming (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.) The first week of five-day programming kicks off Monday June 23, with 'Robots and Advanced Technologies.' The 10th and final week begins Monday, Aug. 25, with a focus on 'Magic and Fantastical World.'

Teens can choose from three options, including a one-week, half-day program with a specific theme, which is offered once in July, once at the end of July/early August, and once in August; a one week, morning-only option at the end of August, which is a perfect refresher before going back to school; or afternoon workshops.

Visit frenchlibrary.org/summer-in-french/ for more information, or email youthprograms@frenchlibrary.org with any questions.

The Newman School, located at 247 Marlborough St. in Boston's Back Bay, offers educational programming via its renowned International Baccalaureate curriculum, including small classes, and individualized attention.

As Boston's only day and boarding all-gender 7-12 independent School, Newman's student body holds passports from 40 different nations while the faculty hails from 10 countries.

Additionally Newman offers more than 25 clubs and activities, as well as a range of sports for first-time participants through D1 recruited-collegiate athletes.

Visit newmanboston.org for more information.

North End Music & Performing Arts Center (NEMPAC) will be offering programs at the Charlestown Working Theater this summer, including a range of full-week-long summer workshops for youth and teens in Charlestown, as well as one-off workshops and class sessions.

'Act! Sing! Dance!' - a series of week-long musical theatre workshop for ages 5-9 where students will work on a short production presented at the end of the week, including '101 Dalmatians,' 'The Jungle Book,' and 'Where the Wilds Things Are.'

'Broadway Bootcamp Jr.' for ages 10-13 is a week-long program which allows participants

to learn, rehearse, and perform selections of songs, dances and scenes from some favorite musicals and plays.

'Broadway Bootcamp' is a week-long program for ages 12 - 15, which allows participants to learn, rehearse, and perform selections of songs, dances and scenes from some favorite musicals and plays.

"NEMPAC is so excited to be expanding our summer programming into Charlestown to further engage with the many amazing families this neighborhood has," said Shannon Fitzgerald, NEMPAC's Charlestown outreach and engagement coordinator. "Our popular Music Theatre Production Workshops, Broadway Bootcamp, and PlayLab: Create, Produce, Perform, will now be hosted on site at the Charlestown Working Theater, with early drop off and extended day, to make our programming even more accessible to Charlestown families. With programs open to ages 5 - 15, in theatre, music, and dance, there's something for everyone! Enrolling your student in a performing arts program will build their confidence, communication skills, creativity, and collaboration skills."

Visit nempacboston.org for more information.

School of Fashion Design, located at 31 St. James Ave, second floor, offers two sessions of its

Teen Program in Fashion Design this summer.

This program will provide an introduction to the fashion design process, from conception to sketch to garment completion, with no prior experience necessary. The curriculum, which offers a taste of SFD's adult Certificate in Fashion Design program, is taught by the school's expert faculty.

"Our high school program in fashion design is a great experience for students who want to explore fashion design as a career option, boost their college application profile, or just explore a new creative outlet," said Executive Director Jennifer Leclerc. "Students in our program have access to the same expert faculty and tools as our adult students, and will leave SFD with a fashion mood board, a garment of their own making, and hopefully some new fashion friends."

Projects will include creating a fashion garment from a pattern, as well as creating a mood board of inspiration and fashion-plate illustrations of an original garment collection.

Visit <https://www.school-offashiondesign.org/pre-college-program> for more information.

Walnut Hill School for the Arts in Natick offers a range of summer programs taught by the

school's own world-class faculty and featuring special guests artists.

Programs include the String Quartet Intensive for ages 11-18; Summer Voice Intensive for ages 12-16; a range of dance classes, including the Children's Ballet Program for ages 4 to 7, and Boston Ballet Summer Intensive for ages 9-12; a Jazz Intensive for ages 13-17; Theater Intensive for ages 13-17; Fashion Immersion for ages 12-16; Visual Art for ages 13-17; Cameraless Photography for ages 13-17; and Game Design: Crafting Interactive Stories for ages 13-17, among other offerings. All programs include excursions into Boston to enhance the curriculum, such as

visits to museums, exhibits, and concerts.

"The true magic of our programs lies in the sense of camaraderie that develops as students learn and grow together," said Michelle Rush, associate director of auxiliary programs and admissions. "Time and again, we hear students say, 'Wow, there are kids like me here!' This feeling of belonging, of finding their tribe, is what makes the Walnut Hill experience so special."

Day and boarding options are available for some programs, with boarders getting a taste of college life residing in air-conditioned dormitories.

Visit www.walnuthillarts.org for more information.



Kids 5-12 can design, explore, and build at Advent's unique STEM camps in the heart of Boston!

Theater Engineering, Urban Agriculture, Cardboard Carnival & more

adventschool.org/summer



Best summer ever!




Summer Starts Here!

BC HIGH

summer camps & PROGRAMS

CO-ED - AGES 5 & UP

NEW! Eagle Day Camp for Kids
Eagle Day Camp for Juniors
Adventures in Boston
Inspirit AI

PLUS, sports camps, theatre, academic programs, enrichment, and more!




LEARN MORE & REGISTER!

www.bchigh.edu/summer-camps

2025 Summer in the City

THE ADVENT SCHOOL

Design at Advent
15 Brimmer St. Boston, MA 02108
adventschool.org

The Advent School Design at Advent summer program offers four unique STEAM-based two-week sessions for children ages 5 through 12.

Summer 2025 Themes
Theater Engineering: 6/16 - 6/27 (There is no session on 6/19 as the school is closed during Juneteenth.)

Urban Agriculture: 7/7-7/18
Art on the Trails: 7/7-7/18
Cardboard Carnival: 7/21-8/1
Each child learns proper tool use, engages in the design process,



Summer artmaking fun at Advent.

and builds prototypes out of recycled materials. Designers explore Boston daily, play games, and gather inspiration. The designers share their creations with friends and family on the last Friday of each session at the Design Expo. Find out more at <https://www.adventschool.org/summer>.

BOSTON CHILDREN'S SCHOOL

Summer Fun Program
8 Whittier Place, Boston, MA 02114
617-367-6239 | 617-BCS-KIDS
BostonChildrensSchool.org

The Boston Children's School Summer Fun Program celebrates its 43rd year of providing exceptional summertime experiences and academic enrichment to children between the ages of 3 and 8 years old.

The Summer Fun Program at The Boston Children's School is conveniently located at Charles River Park, in the historic West End section of Boston. Our location is fully air-conditioned. The school has its own private playground, which allows children to safely play outdoors away from the noise, congestion and traffic of the city streets. Our location also allows children to explore

the cultural richness of the City of Boston through field trips to museums, theaters, libraries and historic sites. The Summer Fun program is organized by age. Each age group is supervised, taught and nurtured by certified teachers, along with teacher interns from local area colleges. All activities are designed to be developmentally appropriate for each age group. Children can use the pool areas, on a daily basis, at The Clubs at Charles River Park. The Summer Fun Program also offers children yoga, music appreciation, science, arts and crafts, and interactive storytelling. Parent involvement and participation are always a part of the program, which begins July 7, 2025 and ends Aug. 15, 2025.

If you would like your child to become part of the 2025 Summer Fun Program at the Boston Children's School, please call Judy Langer,

Program Director, at 617-367-6239 or 617-BCS-KIDS, or email: BostonChildrensSchool@aol.com

We are also now taking enrollment applications for the September 2025 Academic year for: pre-school, kindergarten and grades 1-3.

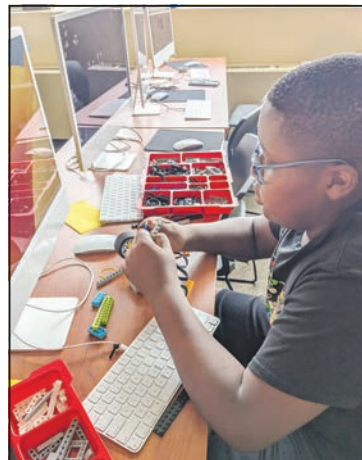
Applications are available on the B.C.S. website, BostonChildrensSchool.Org.

BOSTON COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

Summer Camps & Programs
Boston, MA | 617-474-5181
bchigh.edu/summer-camps

BC High has something for every child this summer. The goal of all its programs is to provide children the space to develop their independence, make

friends, and have some summer fun. Eagle Day Camp provides boys and girls ages 5-10 with a full-day camp experience from 2 to 8 weeks. Campers ages 5-7 will enjoy a variety of activities, such as arts and crafts, organized sports, scavenger hunts, LEGO sets, water games, painting, tie-dye, and more. Half day option available for ages 5-7. Campers ages 8-10 can customize their schedule to match their interests. Lunch is available for purchase in the dining hall. Schedules will provide



Summer robotics at BC High.

both outdoor and air-conditioned indoor activities.

Adventures in Boston! program will provide a new field trip each day while our Inspirit AI class will teach middle and high school students in separate sessions the fundamentals of AI and how to use it responsibly.

Additional offerings include: Sports Camps: Soccer, baseball, basketball, football and flag football are available for grades 4-12.

High School Academics: Courses include Inspirit AI, Chemistry, Intro to Chemistry, Intro to Algebra, ACT/SAT Prep, Spanish Language and Culture, High School Writing, and The Common Application and The

College Essay.

Middle School Academics: Courses include Intro to Algebra, Math Fundamentals, English Fundamentals, and Study Skills.

Middle School Specialty Programs: Programs include Inspirit AI, Art, Coding and Robotics, Minecraft, Theatre, Roblox Mission to Mars!, Dungeons & Dragons, and The Art of Cooking.

BUCKINGHAM, BROWNE & NICHOLS SCHOOL - BB&N

80 Gerrys Landing Rd,
Cambridge, MA
bbns.org

BB&N provides a valuable and enjoyable summer camp experience for campers from 4 years old through rising 12th grade every summer. The program runs for 8 weeks starting June 17th through August 9th. We have a variety of programming from classic camp to speciality/sports camps, there is a little something for everyone! Classic camp is a Traditional summer day camp experience with rotating activities each day like arts and crafts, sports, hands-on fun, archery, and more.

Continued on page 17



SCHOOL OF FASHION DESIGN SUMMER HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM



MONDAYS & WEDNESDAY
9:00AM - 3:30PM

SESSION I: JULY 7 - JULY 28

SESSION II: JULY 30 - AUGUST 20

31 St. James Avenue, Boston, MA 02116 | admissions@sfdboston.org | (617) 536-9343



For more information:
www.frenchlibrary.org/summer-in-french/

SUMMER IN FRENCH PROGRAM

TEENS CLASSES
(ages 13+)
start on July 7



KIDS CLASSES
(ages 3-12)
start on June 23



Give your child or teen a full immersion experience of summer fun and learning!

Our program is the perfect way to improve their skills and confidence in French, thanks to our team of engaging teachers.

Registrations are open, and you can benefit from an early bird discount until March 28. Weekly enrollments focus on a theme with special activities each week.

2025 Summer in the City

Teen Camp offers off-site trips. In addition, we offer our LIT 1 and 2 programs for campers in grades 8-10. Specialty Camps are dedicated to a niche activity for a week of focused learning, play, and exploration for the inquisitive camper. Sports Camps we offer sports such as Crew, Soccer, Basketball, Volleyball, Fishing, Flag Football and Ultimate Games. Each camp week is dedicated to each sport with practice drills, skills, and scrimmages through the week. We hope you choose Summer@BB&N, please visit our website to register.

ESSEM STUDIO

15 Tufts St 3rd Floor,
Charlestown, MA 02129
Essemartstudio.com

A Boutique Art Minicamp in the Heart of Charlestown!

Essem Art Studio invites young artists to our vibrant, sunlit studio for a five-day creative adventure. Designed for kids who love to create, our boutique Minicamps offer hands-on exploration of various mediums, processes, and art concepts through instructor-led projects.

With personalized guidance, campers will build artistic skills, boost creative confidence, and bring their ideas to life in a supportive, inspiring space. Let's make magic together!

Visit essemartstudio.com for more information.

FRENCH LIBRARY

Summer in French for Youths
53 Marlborough St., Boston, MA
frenchlibrary.org

The French Library offers immersive "Summer in French" programs for children and teens, providing age-appropriate language learning and cultural experiences.

Summer 2025 Programs:
Summer in French for Kids
(Ages 3-5, 6-8, 9-12):

Half-day (9 a.m. to noon) or full-day (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.) options available.

Ten weeks of themed programming, starting June 23rd with "Robots and Advanced Technologies" and concluding August 25th with "Magic and Fantastical World."

Summer in French for Teens:
One-week, half-day thematic

programs offered in July and August.

One-week, morning-only refresher course at the end of August.

Afternoon workshops.

Children will participate in a variety of activities to enhance their French language skills and cultural understanding.

For more information, visit frenchlibrary.org/summer-in-french/

NORTH END MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS (NEMPAC)

Summer Programs
Charlestown Working Theater
442 Bunker Hill Street
Charlestown, MA 02129
nempacboston.org

NEMPAC Offers a wide variety of full-week-long summer workshops for youth and teens, as well as one-off workshops and class sessions! From Musical Theatre Troupe themed musical weeks, to Broadway Bootcamp, to Dance – we have it all!

MUSICAL THEATRE WORKSHOP (ages 5-9)

Act! Sing! Dance! In this week-long program, students will work on a short production presented at the end of the week

July 14 – 18: 101 Dalmatians

July 21 – 25: The Jungle Book

July 28 – August 1: Where the Wilds Things Are

BROADWAY BOOTCAMP JR (ages 10-13)

In this week-long program, tweens ages 10 – 13 will have the chance to learn, rehearse and perform selections of songs, dances and scenes from some of your favorite musicals and plays



NEMPAC Summer Theater programs at the Charlestown Working Theater.

June 30th - July 3rd
BROADWAY BOOTCAMP
(ages 12-15)

In this week-long program, teens ages 12 – 15 will have the chance to learn, rehearse and perform selections of songs, dances and scenes from some of your favorite musicals and plays

August 11 - 15
Visit nempacboston.org for more information and to register

THE NEWMAN SCHOOL

247 Marlborough St,
Boston, MA 02116
newmanboston.org

Boston's only day and boarding all-gender 7-12 independent school!

Located on Marlborough St., The Newman School offers an exceptional education through the renowned International Baccalaureate curriculum, small classes, and individualized attention. With 40 passports in the student body and faculty from ten countries, we provide a global education fostering intellectual growth, personal responsibility, and engaged dialogue. Newman offers over 25 clubs and activities and an array of sports for first-time participants through D1 recruited-collegiate athletes. At Newman, no one is anonymous, each is unique, and everyone belongs, we embrace our founding motto: "Cor ad Cor Loquitur/Heart Speaks to Heart".

Visit us in action!

design, this is the place to be this summer! Our program provides an introduction to the fashion design process, from conception to sketch to garment completion with no prior experience necessary. The curriculum is a taste of SFD's adult Certificate in Fashion Design program and is taught by our expert faculty. Whether you're a fashionista or aspire to a career in fashion, this is the course for you!

SCHOOL OF FASHION DESIGN

Teen Program in Fashion Design
31 St. James Ave, 2nd fl,
Boston, MA 02116
schooloffashiondesign.org

Spend your summer in style at the School of Fashion Design! If you are interested in fashion and sewing as a hobby or considering majoring in fashion



Summer for aspiring teen designers at the School of fashion design.

WALNUT HILL SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS

12 Highland St. Natick, MA 01760
walnuthillarts.org

Unlock your artistic potential this summer at Walnut Hill School for the Arts! Nestled on an idyllic campus just outside of Boston, we offer immersive one to four-week intensives designed for aspiring artists aged 12-18. With boarding and day options, students immerse themselves in intense rehearsals and skill-building workshops, all while forging lifelong friendships with like-minded peers from around the globe. All programs include excursions into the city that enhance programming, such as visits to museums, exhibits and concerts. Under the guidance of world-class faculty, students can delve into a variety of disciplines, including chamber music, voice, jazz, theater, dance, visual art, fashion design, photography, and game design. <https://www.walnuthillarts.org/summer> Apply Now!



Summer@BB&N

CLASSIC CAMP

Traditional summer day camp experience with rotating activities each day like arts and crafts, sports, hands-on fun, archery, and more. Teen Camp offers off-site trips. In addition, we offer our LIT 1 and 2 programs for campers in grades 8-10



SPECIALTY CAMPS

Specialty Camps are dedicated to a niche activity for a week of focused learning, play, and exploration for the inquisitive camper



SPORTS CAMPS

We offer sports such as Crew, Soccer, Basketball, Volleyball, Fishing, Flag Football and Ultimate Games. Each camp week is dedicated to each sport with practice drills, skills, and scrimmages through the week.



ALL CAMP ACTIVITIES

Campers come together as a camp community for spirit days and all camp activities like lip sync battles, scavenger hunts, and more!



Registration for Summer is now open!
Check out our Website to learn more!

bbsummer.com



THE SUMMER FUN PROGRAM

July 7 - Aug. 16, 2025

Register now!
Ages 3-8

THE BOSTON CHILDREN'S SCHOOL

Celebrating 43 years of Summer Fun!!

8 Whittier Place Boston
617-367-6239
bostonchildrensschool.org

Jamaica Plain/Mission Hill Gazette

2025 Publishing Calendar

Tel. 617-524-7662 • FAX 781-485-1403 • 7 Harris Ave., Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 • JamaicaPlainGazette.com

JANUARY

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Mission Hill Gazette
 Jamaica Plain Gazette



Celebrate Youth Voices

Mass Poetry's Teen Spoken Word Festival returns for second year

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Mass Poetry is thrilled to announce its second annual Teen Spoken Word Festival “Write Here | Write Now | Speak Loud!”, set to take place on March 15-16, 2025, at Emerson College. This groundbreaking event will draw teens from across the Commonwealth, while providing a unique platform for them to share their stories, insights, and creativity through poetry.

With the theme of “Sweet Resistance,” this year’s Teen Spoken Word Festival will feature workshops, poetry slam competitions, performances, and a multitude of activities tailored to inspire and engage teen participants. By providing a welcoming and inclusive environment, Mass Poetry aims to encourage young poets to express themselves freely and interact with like-minded peers. The festival will draw teens from Boston, Lowell, Worcester, and beyond.

“Our aim is to engage and empower the next generation of poets, sparking creativity and fostering a community that values diverse voices,” said Daniel Johnson, Executive Director of Mass Poetry. “This event is more than just a competition; it’s a platform where young people can confidently express themselves, break down barriers, and engage meaningfully with others.”

Throughout the weekend, attendees will have the chance to participate in a series of enriching workshops, engage in open mic sessions, and listen to inspiring performances from both established and emerging voices in the spoken word community. The festival is designed not only to showcase young talent but also to nurture it, offering guidance and mentorship from Boston’s most experienced poets and educators—something the city sees worthy of investment.

“Boston is an incubator for artistic talent, including the literary arts, and we’re thrilled to welcome teen poets from across the state to our City for the Teen Spoken Word Festival,” said Kenny Mascary, Boston’s Interim Chief of Arts and Culture. “By nurturing young poets’ creativity, the Teen Spoken Word Festival will strengthen our community and inspire the next

generation to become thoughtful, passionate leaders and storytellers. Thank you, Mass Poetry, for uplifting youth voices by bringing this festival to Boston.”

The Teen Spoken Word Festival boasts an impressive lineup of special guests, including both local and nationally-recognized poets such as Porsha Olayiwola, Boston’s former Poet Laureate and Emerson College professor, who will be a liaison between Emerson College and Mass Poetry. Crystal Valentine, Mass Poetry’s Director of Programming and a former Youth Poet Laureate, alongside Anthony Febo, Mass Poetry’s Lead Youth Spoken Word Coordinator and cofounder of FreeVerse!, Lowell’s youth poetry slam, will also be present to guide and inspire the participants. Headlining the festival are Hanif Abdurraqib, a 2021 MacArthur Fellow, and Safia Elhillo, a National Book Award longlist nominee, both of whom are former slam poets and will bring a wealth of experience and accolades to this celebration of youth voices. Participants of the Festival include Parker-Vincent Alva, the current Boston Youth Poet Laureate and a Mass Poetry SW@MP member.

“I want my poetry to get across to the world that you aren’t who you are, until you try to be yourself,” shared Parker Vincent-Alva. “Last year’s festival offered a supportive space to share our stories, and I’m grateful for the friendships and inspiration it fostered.”

A highlight of the Teen Spoken Word Festival is the Individual Slam Finals on Sunday, March 16th. To earn a spot in the finals, participants must compete in one of three preliminary bouts held across Massachusetts in February and March. These Individual Slam Competitions serve as a qualifying event for the Mass Poetry Youth Slam team, where selected poets will engage in writing, performance, and slam competitions throughout the summer. Mass Poetry will also send the team to Brave New Voices (BNV), an national youth poetry slam festival, and is actively seeking funding to make this opportunity possible.

Former team member, Ma-

Continued on page 20



Taste and sniff to adjust a recipe to make it your own.

FRESH & LOCAL

Dial it in!

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Recipes are not infallible. If you spend a lot of time cooking from or brainstorming with recipes, you’ll find a few reliable sources and many that are not as trustworthy. However, even recipe developers who produce well-measured, fully-explained, and reliable recipes can’t consider a few essential factors.

Where to Start Adapting

As a cook, you should dial in a recipe, accounting for allergies, aversions, taste, and even what you have on hand. A recipe is a starting point or a guideline. You’ll find variations in different recipes for the same dish. Read through a few and choose to begin with the one most appealing to you.

More experienced cooks may adjust the ingredients or measurements immediately. We usually reduce the added salt depending on the other salty ingredients called for in the original. We are a no-mayo household. When an interesting recipe calls for mayo, Penny begins by considering whether yogurt, crème fraîche, sour cream, or a vinaigrette can substitute. Ed has a mango allergy; therefore, another tropical fruit will replace mango in a dish.

If you’re cooking for someone

gluten-free, vegetarian, or vegan or with a special medical diet or cultural restrictions, we suggest you begin with recipes designed for those needs. Today, we are fortunate that special foods are widely available, making accommodating these diets easier.

Taste and Adjust

When ingredients like raw proteins are safe to taste, begin working with your tasting spoon. There are sanitary ways to do this. You can keep a cup of tasting spoons nearby and use a new one each time. You can use the cooking spoon to drip some of the food onto your tasting spoon. As your skills grow, you can drip a bit on the back of your hand and taste it.

Be as mindful as possible as you taste, and consider the primary flavors and their balance. We’ve learned much about this balance from cooking and eating Thai food, where chefs work to harmonize salty, sweet, sour, spicy, and creamy flavors. We add umami to that grouping.

If you find one flavor note dominating or missing, put some food in a small bowl and experiment. If sour is dominant, add a dash of sweet. If you want a creamier texture, add a thickener or more of any creamy ingredient, such as coconut milk. Once you’re happy with the flavor,

adjust the rest.

Use all your senses to make the food pleasing to your palate. Remember, flavor is a combination of aroma and taste. Chefs often pull the steam above a pot closer to their noses with an open hand to test the aroma.

Texture is also a factor in food enjoyment. A typical example in our culture is the vegetable okra, which is a bit slimy when cooked in specific ways. Some people love it, and others say, “No thanks.”

One of the final adjustments Penny will make to any dish is adding a bit of an acid. Consider what a squeeze of lemon will do for a piece of fish or a teaspoon of vinegar for a cabbage dish.

Family Recipes

Many families have recipes passed down through generations, which are now meaningful traditions. However, Grandma and Aunt Sally may make slightly different versions. You can decide which you like and then make it your own. Your version may become the favorite, causing the next generation to continue the tradition.

Do you have a question or topic for Fresh & Local? Email Penny@BostonZest.com with your suggestion.

The Chestnuts

Community and Conversation for women over 50

STORY & PHOTOS BY MARIANNE SALZA

Committing oneself to pause and savor a cup of coffee is a practice of self-care. Cobblestones owner, Jennifer Gallagher, starts each day with the intention of adhering to this morning ritual: drinking coffee prepared hot with oat milk and sugar, and served in a white cup and saucer for charm. Inevitably, Gallagher becomes distracted by tasks after her first sip; but arranging a breakfast spread of fresh parfaits and quiche is one expression of love that she is always devoted to.

On February 11, Gallagher invited The Chestnuts Group – a non-profit, social organization for Boston women over 50 -- to her Beacon Hill eatery to share a meal with new friends. The ladies have bonded over the past three years since Gallagher opened her café, where The Chestnuts often meet for their Community Coffees, a morning or early afternoon event held once or twice a month at a local coffee shop. Members individually purchase their own coffee or tea, and The Chestnuts Group provides pastries.

"I love the activities that they do in the city, together. I was always curious about them. I was very happy to be accepted into membership," said Gallagher, who begrudgingly admitted that she met the age requirement to qualify. "It's a fun, low-key group of women who are out for good, clean fun. It's special."

The Back Bay resident revealed that she has not developed friends like The Chestnuts since college, and that the club is a unique opportunity in an urban

setting. As society continues to evolve, Gallagher considers The Chestnuts Group as a remarkable, safe space.

"It's a wonderful addition in our world," expressed Gallagher.

Nellie King, who became a Chestnut this past fall, regularly attends Community Coffees. Formerly from San Diego, California, King joined in hopes of making more friends to enjoy life and experience Boston with.

"A lot of people later in life move to the city, and when they do that, all of the friends that they had get left behind. I think women – especially at our age – are looking for new connections. They've raised their kids and are ready to start a new phase," explained King, a Back Bay resident. "It's great. Everybody is super friendly. It's easy to talk to people."

Also new to Massachusetts is Donna Hellman, who has been a Chestnut for three years. A friend of hers from back home in New York, moved to Boston, and suggested she join the community. Now the Back Bay resident enjoys participating in the wide range of activities, from cultural tours to canasta.

"A lot of our members are people who have raised their children in the suburbs and have moved back to Boston," noted Hellman. It's a nice, eclectic group of women. We're interested in friendship and bonding."

Hellman describes The Chestnuts as a group of like-minded women who are enthusiastic, interested, and engaged, which is precisely what she was in search of and found.

On February 14, Hellman organized the second meeting of a new Chestnut event, a Document-



Karen Fiorile, Maura Harty, Kristen Pluntze, Tina Truedson, Jennifer Gallagher, Nellie King, Judy Newton, Cynthia Kelly, Paige Lescuré, and Lisa Purcell.

tary Film Group, which began in January with a discussion about Martha Stewart. Each month, members can screen a documentary that is chosen by consensus, and viewed at their leisure before the meeting. The Documentary Film Group then gathers for a thoughtful exchange about the movie.

"The conversation develops organically," said Hellman, who facilitated the conversation held at the Capitol One Café. "We're really excited because one is on human rights, and one is on medical care. These are both relevant topics today."

The ladies viewed two works by documentary filmmaker and new Chestnuts member, Lorie Conway.

"Forgotten: Ellis Island," which has a companion book, expands on the immigration hospital located on Ellis Island, New York. The massive 22-building facility was constructed during a time when there were no antibiotics created to fight the exotic diseases infecting those arriving to the immigration station.

"It's about the lost chapter in immigration history," said Conway. "Ellis Island was the largest port of entry for European immigration during the turn of the 20th century. Many of them were sick. The saying was, 'If you weren't sick when you got on the

steamship, and you landed in New York Harbor three weeks later, you might be sick.'"

Conway is one of the 40% of Americans today who can trace their lineage to the immigrants who entered the United States through Ellis Island. She finds it impressive that only 1% of the 12 million immigrants were deported from Ellis Island for medical reasons.



The Chestnuts Group member and documentary filmmaker, Lorie Conway, describing her projects: "Forgotten: Ellis Island," and "Beatrice"

"These doctors and nurses on Ellis Island were faced with thousands of patients. They knew they could get sick themselves; and yet, they were there day after day, taking care of these patients with compassion,"

Conway emphasized. "In spite of nativism, which we are experiencing today, there was a prevailing attitude that the immigrants were good for us. The debate continues: do we take them in or do we not? I think we're a better nation with immigrants."

The second documentary illustrates the life and work of Beatrice Mtetwa, a civil rights lawyer in Zimbabwe, a country of desperate starvation and conditions.

"In a country where courage can get you killed, the dramatic series, 'Beatrice,' tells the story about one of the bravest women in the world," Conway exclaimed. "This is a story that is near and dear to my heart. Nothing has changed in Zimbabwe. The system is dysfunctional and remains a corrupt country. A huge diaspora has left the country; and only those without the means to leave remain there if they're not the ruling elite."

Conway believes that the documentaries about Ellis Island and Beatrice Mtetwa are relevant topics today.

"Being a filmmaker of these kinds of stories elevates their voices because they're strong and passionate about what they do," said Conway, who enjoyed sharing her experiences with fellow Chestnuts.

Poetry

Continued from page 19

ria Zaki said "I joined Spoken Word at Mass Poetry (SW@MP) just over a year ago and immediately was greeted with community. Throughout SW@MP and the Teen Spoken Word Festival, Mass Poetry creates and nurtures connections through poetry by holding

space for youth voices. At SW@MP I not only found ways to express myself but also grow with others through examining the world around us and how we can change it. I was honored to join the Mass Poetry team of youth poets going to Brave New Voices! This entailed weeks of practices and coaching that truly shaped me as an individual.

After BNV I went off to college but the experiences never left me. I went on to host open

mics and lead a few workshops out of state. I saw how writing brings relief and revolution to any space and though I have much to learn, Mass Poetry gave me the knowledge I now bring everywhere I go. I am excited to return for the 2025 Teen Festival!"

The Teen Spoken Word Festival held at Emerson College is open to all teens to participate, ages 13 – 19, with a passion for poetry. Additionally, all ages are

welcome to attend as audience members to cheer on the youth in their Festival events. Mass Poetry invites young poets and their supporters to join this vibrant celebration of youth creativity and expression.

For more information and to register for the Write Here | Write Now | Speak Loud! Teen Spoken Word Festival, visit masspoetry.org/teen-spoken-word-festival.

Launched with the 2008

Massachusetts Poetry Festival, Mass Poetry envisions a world where poetry catalyzes connection and understanding. From our in-school poetry residencies to innovative community programs, we aim to build a vibrant, inclusive community that lifts all voices. Mass Poetry now serves as an arts-partner-in-residence at GrubStreet's Center for Creative Writing.

Boston Parks and Recreation to host Duck Boat Pull to benefit youth sports programming

SPECIAL TO GAZETTE

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department's first annual Duck Boat Pull is set to take place on Saturday, April 12, at Boston Common.

This one-of-a-kind fundraiser, hosted in partnership with Boston Duck Tours, will challenge teams of 10 to race against the clock as they pull a 21,000-pound duck boat across a designated course on Boston Common—all in support of Boston's free youth sports and fitness programs.

"This first-of-its-kind event is a great opportunity for community to come together and par-

ticipate in a competition that's so uniquely Boston," Mayor Michelle Wu said in a press release. "We're grateful to our amazing Parks and Recreation team and partners for constantly innovating in creating family-friendly, engaging activities for our residents."

Teams of 10 participants ages 16 and up will compete to pull one of Boston's iconic duck boats across the finish line in the fastest time. In order to participate, each team is required to make a \$1,000 donation, \$100 per person, which will go directly toward funding Boston Parks and Recreation's free youth sports

programs. These programs include leagues, tournaments, and fitness initiatives that foster healthy lifestyles and provide opportunities for young people to stay active. In 2024, these free programs served over 20,000 young people in Boston.

"We're excited to bring the community together for our first ever Duck Boat Pull," said Interim Boston Parks and Recreation Commissioner. "Not only will participants have a blast competing in this unforgettable experience, but every pull directly supports vital youth sports programs that keep our kids healthy, active, and engaged in

their communities."

Award-winning WCVB Channel 5 sports reporter and producer Alexis Beckett will emcee the Duck Boat Pull, bringing her energy and expertise to the event. Residents can get involved by forming a team, becoming a sponsor, or joining the festivities on April 12 to cheer on the competitors and be part of the excitement.

To register your team, select a Team Captain and visit boston.gov/duck-boat-pull. The registration deadline is March 26, and teams are encouraged to sign up early to guarantee their spot.

Businesses and organizations

can also get involved by sponsoring the event. Sponsors who sign up by March 21 will have their logos prominently displayed in event materials and signage. For more information or sponsorship inquiries, contact Tiffany Clark at Tiffany.Clark@boston.gov or (617) 233-2305.

To stay up to date with news, events, and improvements in Boston parks, visit Boston.gov/Parks, join its email list, and follow its social channels @bostonparksdept on X, Facebook, Instagram, and now Bluesky.

Wu announces expansion of Swim Safe Program

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Mayor Michelle Wu, the City of Boston's Human Services Cabinet, and Boston Centers for Youth & Families (BCYF) announced applications are now open for the latest round of Swim Safe Boston grants to support non-profit organizations in Boston that provide free swim lessons for youth. The \$250,000 in grant funding continues the City's commitment to ensuring families have access to affordable, beginner-level swim lessons for kids. In 2024, Swim Safe provided lessons to over 6,000 youth, and since its launch under Mayor Wu in summer of 2023 has provided lessons to 8,100 kids. Swim Safe is part of Mayor Wu's Connect, Learn, Explore: Commitment to Youth, a commitment to giving Boston youth an opportunity to explore and discover their passions. The funding to support swim instruction builds off the Mayor's commitment to ensure all Boston youth learn to swim and can safely enjoy our City's coastline and pools.

"Swimming is a great summertime activity in the City of Boston and a critical skill year-

round. We're continuing our commitment to affordable swimming lessons through the Swim Safe Program, ensuring that our families have the skills they need to safely enjoy our City's pools and coastline," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I encourage all of our aquatic partners to apply for a Swim Safe grant to continue our dedication to safe summer fun."

Interested Swim Safe grant applicants should carefully review the application materials and fill out this application to be considered for a Swim Safe grant. The application is available through the city's Swim Safe website: boston.gov/swim-safe. Awardees must be non-profit organizations that either operate aquatics facilities or have a partnership with an aquatics facility that is located in the City of Boston. The grant application will close at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, March 31, 2025.

"This latest round of grant funding will help us ramp up availability of free lessons going into the summer months when demand is highest," said Human Services Chief José F. Massó. "Through these lessons and the ones offered by BCYF we are making sure that a whole gener-

ation of youth are learning how to be safe around water."

As a coastal city with numerous pools and natural bodies of water, Boston families have an array of opportunities to enjoy water recreation. Swim Safe is focused on removing barriers to water access and increasing safety among Boston residents. Nationally, fatal drowning is the leading cause of death for children ages 1-4 years old and the second leading cause of injury death for children ages 5-14 (CDC). Black and Latino youth are less likely to know how to swim and are at higher risk of drowning (CDC).

The City of Boston is seeking to remedy this disparity by investing in swim lessons, repairing the City's public pools, and recruiting and training lifeguards to staff the city's pools. In summer 2024, Boston Centers for Youth & Families successfully recruited 74 seasonal lifeguards, ensuring that all city pools were able to remain open and safely operated throughout the summer. The grant program announced today will be available to organizations that operate pools in Boston and have experience offering swim lesson

programming to the public.

The past fall's grantees included the YMCA of Greater Boston and Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston, among others. Other grantees included a group of Boston Public Schools, including Josiah Quincy Elementary School, the Rafael Hernandez K-8 School, and the Hurley K-8 School, all of which are offering lessons either during the school day or as part of after school programming.

"The Swim Safe Grant has allowed the Hurley School to offer free, high-quality swimming lessons to students who might not otherwise have access. Many of the swimmers in our program are new to the water and all are in the early stages of learning water safety and basic strokes," said Emily Pierce, Executive Director of Equitable School Partnerships of Boston. "Confidence in the water should be a right not a privilege but many families struggle to find and pay for swimming lessons in the city. The Swim Safe Grant helps school-based swimming programs remove those barriers."

"In collaboration with our dedicated aquatics partners,

Boston Centers for Youth & Families is directing funding to ensure equitable access to swimming and water activities throughout the city," said Marta E. Rivera, Commissioner of Boston Centers for Youth & Families. "This partnership strengthens our ability to reach every neighborhood, providing free and inclusive aquatics programming that reflects the diversity of Boston's families."

Mayor Wu is acting with urgency to repair and renovate several city-owned pools, many of which were built in the 1970s. Because of a collaboration between Boston Public Schools, Boston Centers for Youth & Families, the Public Facilities Department, and the Property Management Department, investments of City funding, and improved facilities assessment, the City has projects underway at a number of City pools this winter including BCYF Clougherty Pool in Charlestown, BCYF Curtis Hall Community Center Pool in Jamaica Plain, and BCYF Draper Pool in West Roxbury. This fiscal year, Mayor Wu allocated \$54.5 million in the FY25-FY29 capital plan for repairing and renovating the city's pools.

The Gazette welcomes letters to the editor. Word limit: 500.

PLEASE WRITE...

Deadline: Friday at 5 p.m. one week before publication. Letters may be emailed to letters@JamaicaPlainGazette.com. Please include address and telephone number for verification purposes. Anonymous letters will not be published. More information: 617-524-7662

EDITORIAL

Please: No public or underage drinking on St. Patrick's Day

With the St. Patrick's Day holiday and traditional South Boston parade approaching on Sunday, March 16, we urge our public safety officials to plan for enforcing the laws which prohibit drinking in public, especially by underage drinkers.

A couple of years ago in the aftermath of the South Boston parade, we found ourselves in the unfortunate situation of riding the Red Line to the South Shore. The trains were packed with highly-inebriated, rowdy, under-age drinkers who were drinking openly on the trains and then flinging their empties around the train cars, striking other passengers. The platforms resembled war zones, with large-scale fights and scores of youths who were passed out left-and-right.

We realize that everyone wants to relax and have a good time on St. Patrick's Day, but that is no excuse for our public safety officials turning a blind eye to underage drinking and drinking in public. In addition, for those of us of Irish descent, the perception that being "Irish for a day" means drinking heavily is highly-insulting.

It is all-but-inevitable that with the high degree of public intoxication that is tacitly permitted by our public safety officials, there will be a tragedy. We urge our public officials to take steps ahead of time to stop this annual reign of dangerous mass chaos and drunkenness. If officials in many Florida communities have been able to curb the rowdiness of spring-breakers, we can do so here on St. Patrick's Day.

There's an upside to our lousy pro sports teams

When we were younger (from when we were kids through our 40s), the adrenaline rush from watching one of our local sports teams compete in a big game was something we looked forward to.

But now that we're a "bit" older, the thrill of it all has made us wary of getting too excited, as every long-time diehard Sox, Bruins, Pats, and Celtics fan who has had the urge to throw a shoe at the TV screen can attest.

We thought we were unique in our stressed-out sports-mindedness when our teams lost a big game, but we recently read of a study in the American Journal of Cardiology that found an increase in the rates of cardiovascular deaths (and deaths from all causes) in the Los Angeles area when the Rams lost to the Pittsburgh Steelers in the 1980 Super Bowl. The death rates were higher on the day of the Super Bowl and the following two weeks compared with other days.

In a study of the 2006 FIFA World Cup, the incidence of cardiac emergencies in Bavaria was 2.66 times higher on days when the German team played, according to a study in the New England Journal of Medicine. These events were highest in the quarterfinal, when Germany beat Argentina in a penalty shootout.

Most of the cardiac events occurred in the first two hours after the start of matches, though the numbers were higher for several hours before and after the contests. It should be noted that about 47% of those who had heart attacks already had been diagnosed with coronary artery disease -- which means older people are more vulnerable to the effects of a big game. So yes, it's been sad to watch the pathetic play of the Sox and Pats (and now the Bruins) these past few years after their great successes in the era from 2001-2019. But the upside to their string of last-place finishes is that we can watch a game with no hopes and no expectations -- and thus no reason to get stressed-out by the outcome.

To be sure, it is not fun to be on the outside looking in, so to speak, when other teams are competing for world championships. But on the other hand, fewer of us will be taken out on a stretcher to the ER.

LETTER

Representative Pressley earns high marks on Environmental Scorecard

Dear Editor,

On February 26, the League of Conservation Voters (LCV) released the 2024 National Environmental Scorecard, with Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, earning a 91% A rating. Our senators, Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey earned 100% A+ scores. Our nation needs more thoughtful leadership on the federal level, and we are lucky to have these three lawmakers representing our district and state.

For 55 years, the Scorecard has analyzed the environmental records of members of Congress.

Massachusetts' entire congressional delegation earned A or A+ scores, placing it among the highest-ranking delegations in the country.

Massachusetts' delegation remained dedicated to our collective values, voting against cuts to clean energy investments and a House agenda that catered to corporate polluters. Their continued efforts are critical as we face escalating federal challenges to our nation's climate investments and programs. Our communities, economy, and planet are at stake, and I trust that our

delegation will not let up on the fight for a brighter clean energy future.

LCV and its state affiliate, the Environmental League of Massachusetts (ELM) Action Fund, applaud champions like Representative Pressley, Senator Markey, and Senator Warren, for prioritizing urgent climate action and the health of our communities.

The 2024 National Environmental Scorecard is available at <https://scorecard.lcv.org/>.

Sincerely,

Robert Hart

Rep. Lynch virtual town hall discussed current situation of Washington D.C. politics

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Recently, U.S. Congressman Stephen Lynch of District 8 held a virtual town hall via both Zoom and YouTube that provided an opportunity for listeners to submit questions, which Lynch fielded live.

The more than 90-minute event covered how Lynch views the cost cutting activities by the current administration and possible impacts affecting District 8 and more broadly. As a member of the Litigation Working Group, Lynch is involved directly in measures being taken to assess the legality of actions by the Trump administration. Lynch believes that Social Security and Medicare are not likely to be impacted, however it is unclear whether Medicaid will be affected.

Medicaid for Massachusetts residents is currently funded 50/50 between the Federal government and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. If Medicaid is touched, Lynch thinks the result could require the Commonwealth to shoulder a higher percent of the cost, a significant state burden and one not possible as an immediate solution, given the Commonwealth's budgetary process.

Lynch also discussed the impact of tariffs on Canada as the increased cost of lumber will affect our housing costs, which in turn may affect the construction industry.

In response to constituent



U.S. Congressman Stephen Lynch.

questions, Lynch touched on the impact of Federal cost cutting on the US Postal Service, which has already undertaken its own efficiency program cutting more than 100,000 employees since

1980 with increased automation, the various Veterans programs, which are already underfunded, and the loss of aviation oversight funding, another area already short on personnel. In response to concerns about citizens' personal information being assessed by the DOGE employees, Lynch said that initial access given to several young DOGE employees without the proper security clearances has been stopped, hence avoiding a security breach.

Lynch shared that there is a movement underway among

(LYNCH, PG. 19)

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

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Lynch

Continued from page 18

some Democrats to ask all Democrats in the House to arbitrarily vote against every bill introduced by Republicans. He is not sure this is a good idea, as every bill needs to be read carefully and assess whether it is a “good” bill or not for Lynch’s constituents and in general. As examples, two current bills being sponsored by Republicans would actually help add employees in

the Veterans area and another support Federally funded health centers throughout the country.

The bottom line was summed up by Lynch’s replies to a few closing questions. When asked why Elon Musk cannot be stopped in his role as head of DOGE, Lynch explained since Musk has been retained as a Special Employee, much like Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner who were hired in the same status during the first Trump administration, an employee status the president has the prerogative to use. Musk has been empowered to execute

the directive to make the Federal government more efficient, which is not in and of itself illegal. However, Lynch explained that he and others are pushing back on the aggressive approach Musk is taking in every way that they can. When asked if President Trump has yet to do anything that was an impeachable offense, Lynch replied “no, not yet.”

Representative Lynch is planning to hold more Town Halls, both virtual and in person. With District 8 encompassing three cities and eighteen

towns, he hopes to get to as many of these areas in person, as soon as “he has breathing room” from the pace that the current state of play in Washington has required to date. were hired in the same status during the first Trump administration, an employee status the president has the prerogative to use. Musk has been empowered to execute the directive to make the Federal government more efficient, which is not in and of itself illegal. However, Lynch explained that he and others are pushing back on the aggressive approach

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PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY

REAL ESTATE



Karen McCormack & Paula Callaghan
INSIGHT
REALTY GROUP

#617-306-7804 • #857-205-6945

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jamaicplain@gmail.com

INSIGHT
REALTY GROUP

68 South Street JP

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Jamaica Hill Realty

726 Centre Street
Jamaica Plain



Maureen McElroy
Broker Owner

cell: 617.407.3638

fax: 617.524.0390

email: mcelroy55@rcn.com

jamaicahillrealty.com

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Ellen + Janis @ The Denman Group

617.971.8940

ellenandjanisteam@compass.com
ellenandjanisrealestate.com

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617-594-0761

joe.fallon@commonmoves.com

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LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate And Family Court 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU25PO433EA Estate of: Georgia D. Pappas

Also known as: Georgia Despina Pappatriantafillopoulos, Georgia Pappas, Georgia Despina Pappas Date of Death: 01/29/2025 To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Nicholas G. Manolukas of Sarasota, FL requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that:

Nicholas G. Manolukas of Sarasota, FL 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 03/27/2025. This is NOT a hearing date,

but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty days (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you. UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required

to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: February 27, 2025 Stephanie L. Everett, Esq. Register of Probate 03/14/25 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 DIVORCE SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING Docket No. SU25D0331DR Enithe Baptiste vs.

Iltram Severe Jean Caidor 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:

Enithe Baptiste, 68 Iffy Rd. Apt. 6, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 your answer, if any, on or before 04/24/2025. 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 said Court. Date: March 5, 2025 Stephanie L. Everett Register of Probate 03/14/25 JP

Emerald Necklace Conservancy's Party In The Park luncheon to take place May 14 at Pinebank Field in Jamaica Pond Park

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

The Emerald Necklace Conservancy announces that upcoming Party in the Park, the city's beloved annual luncheon to raise awareness and funds for the Emerald Necklace parks, will take place on Wednesday, May 14, 2025 at Pinebank Field in Jamaica Pond Park. All proceeds from the fundraiser support the 1,100-acre park system that serves as a backyard for residents and a destination for more than one million park users each year. The Conservancy stewards the Emerald Necklace through advocacy, maintenance and restoration, education, access improvements, public programs and the promotion of park stewardship through youth education and volunteer programs.

Party in the Park will feature the presentation of the Justine M. Liff Spirit Award to Vivien Li, whose work is legendary. For more than two decades, Vivien Li led The Boston Harbor Association, where her advocacy resulted in enhanced Boston

Harbor beaches and what is now a 43-mile HarborWalk public access system along Boston's six waterfront neighborhoods. As a member of the Spectacle Island Park Advisory Committee, Vivien was a vocal proponent for its transformation from a landfill to a much-used island park, and as a long-time member of the Boston Conservation Commission, Vivien actively worked to protect wetlands, water supplies, flood control, and lands containing fish and shellfish, while promoting public access along the city's waterfront. Named in honor of the late Boston Parks Commissioner Justine Mee Liff, who served from 1996 until her untimely passing in 2002, Emerald Necklace Conservancy continues Liff's legacy of bringing people together to support and champion these vital urban green spaces.

"We are very excited to be bringing Party in the Park back to Pinebank Field and looking forward to working together on this signature event. We welcome all public park supporters

to help raise funds for the vital work the Emerald Necklace Conservancy does to maintain our largest park system in Boston," shared Caroline Balz, Emily Derr and Jennifer Kinsman, Co-Chairs of the 2025 Party in the Park.

"Party in the Park is our signature fundraising event which funds essential tree care and capital projects in 1,100 acres of parks," noted Karen Mauney-Brodek, President of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy. "It also supports our education programs, free public programming, resources for park users, advocacy efforts and special initiatives. We are extremely proud of the work the Conservancy has done for over 25 years to steward and improve the Emerald Necklace, connecting all Bostonians and visitors alike over a dozen neighborhoods stretching from Dorchester to the Back Bay."

Founded in 2003, Party in the Park attracts the area's most generous greenspace supporters and civic leaders for a stylish tented luncheon in the Emerald Necklace. Guests don their finest millinery at this "must-attend" fundraiser to herald the coming of spring to Boston. For the upcoming fundraiser, table sponsorships and purchase of individual tickets are now available. For more information about Party in the Park, please visit www.emeraldnecklace.org/party-in-the-park.

The Emerald Necklace Conservancy is a community-supported non-profit founded in 1998 to steward and champion the Emerald Necklace, Boston's largest park system of seven distinct parks designed by Frederick Law Olmsted to connect over a dozen neighborhoods with 1,100 acres of meadows, woodlands, waterways, paths and parkways. Working with civic and neighborhood partners, the

Conservancy strengthens parks, people and policy by advocating for the Emerald Necklace and advancing access, maintenance and restoration, park stewardship and education through volunteer and youth programs and inclusive public programming.

The parks serve as a healing respite from the city, a valuable commuting connector and a community convener for more than one million residents and tourists each year. www.emeraldnecklace.org



Party in the Park Liff Spirit Awardee Vivian Li.




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