



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL BLANCHARD AND MELISSA OSTROW

Guests at a recent event raise their bidding paddles amidst a vibrant display of hats and floral arrangements during the Party in the Park on May 14 at Pinebank Field in Jamaica Pond Park. Proceeds raised at the event go to the Emerald Necklace and its efforts in taking care of and supporting the parks in Boston. See more photos on Pages 8 and 9.

SNA approves 14 Meehan St. project with conditions

BY GAZETTE STAFF

The Stonybrook Neighborhood Association (SNA) held a Special Meeting last Tuesday, June 17, to review the proposed plans for renovating the property at 14 Meehan Street. According to the SNA’s agenda, the plans call for “the addition of one livable unit in place of the former office space on the first floor; upgrades to front facade; upgrades to three parking spaces; and upgrades of landscape/green space.”

The agenda further stated that the purpose of the meeting was for the developer, Jose Hartnett, to:

- “Update landscape plan to show existing trees and provide written confirmation about preserving the two existing trees on the southwestern portion of the property along Meehan Street;
- “Consider adding shade trees in the front left area and rear of the property instead of only arborvitae;
- “Evaluate reducing hardscaping in front of the building where not needed for parking or access;
- “Ensure the parking space layout doesn’t interfere with the fire sprinkler access on the left side of the building;
- “Review window design for the garage door replacement area, considering larger panes to better fit the opening size; and

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Local residents sworn in as CASAs to support children who have experienced abuse or neglect

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

On June 24, seven local residents were officially sworn in as Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) by the Honorable Brian P. Frame, First Justice of Middlesex Juvenile Court. The full cohort of 15 volunteers have completed intensive training and are now legally authorized to advocate in court for children who have experienced abuse or neglect. The remaining volunteers will be sworn-in virtually

on June 30th by the Honorable Terry Craven of Suffolk Juvenile Court.

CASAs are community volunteers appointed by a judge to serve as dedicated advocates for a child’s best interests throughout their involvement in the child welfare system. They gather information from families, professionals, and service providers

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PHOTO COURTESY BOSTON CASA

Pictured left to right – Ashley Anderson of Boston, Kellsey Forest of Dorchester, Nikolas Reeder of Boston, Kaitlyn Drenckpohl of Boston, Yooni Park of Cambridge, Primrose Chareka of Somerville, Lydia Morrison of Jamaica Plain.

Registry of Motor Vehicle's Low Plate Lottery returns for 2025

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) is announcing applications for the 2025 Low Number Plate Lottery will be available online at myRMV Online Service Center beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, June 16, 2025. To be eligible, applicants must apply for this year's lottery by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 15, 2025. Winners will be notified by mail if selected for a low number plate.

This year, there are 283 plates available through the low plate lottery. Some of the available low plates include 42, 108, 1997, 12K, X8 and A78.

Applicants should note that there is no fee to apply for the lottery. However, should the applicant be selected as a winner, there is a special plate fee that will be required, as well as a standard registration fee.

Customers are encouraged to visit the RMV's website or follow @MassRMV on X (formerly Twitter) for details about the lottery plate drawing to be announced later this summer, including the date, time, livestream link, and location of the event.

In addition, lottery plate applicants will be sent a notification from the RMV to the email address they provided with lottery event details.

The lottery results will be posted after the drawing on the RMV website.

Lottery Rules and Eligibility Requirements

Only one entry per applicant will be accepted, regardless of the number of active registrations the applicant has.

An applicant must be a Massachusetts resident with a Massachusetts driver's license or ID card in good standing and a

currently active, registered, and insured passenger vehicle.

Companies/corporations may not apply.

MassDOT (Registry of Motor Vehicles, Highway, Mass Transit, and Aeronautics) employees, including contract employees, and their immediate family members are not eligible. "Immediate family member" refers to one's parents, spouse, children, and brothers and sisters. Individuals involved in the management of MassDOT divisions are also ineligible.

Requests for specific plate numbers will not be honored. Eligible applicants will be considered for all plates listed. Plates will be awarded in the order in which they are listed on Mass.Gov/lowplatelottery

An applicant's registration, Massachusetts driver's license, or ID card cannot be in a non-renewal, suspended, or revoked

status at the time of entry, the time of the drawing, or the time of the plate swap. As such, an applicant must not have any outstanding excise taxes, parking tickets, child support, warrants, or unpaid E-Z Pass/Pay by Plate violations.

Online entries must be completed by August 15, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

By law, lottery winners must be announced by September 15, 2025. Lottery results will be available on the RMV website: Mass.Gov/lowplatelottery

All winners will be notified by the RMV in writing with instructions on how to transfer their current registration to their new lottery plate. Winners will have until December 31, 2025 to swap their plates. Plates will be registered to the winning applicant only. Unclaimed plates will be forfeited after December 31 and awarded to the alternate winners.

ners.

All plates remain the property of the RMV even after registration.

All information received, including names of all applicants and the list of winners, is subject to release in accordance with the Massachusetts Public Records law.



Scan this QR code to see the full list of available plates in this year's Low Plate Lottery.

Explore the outdoors this summer with the 2025 Park Passport Challenge for children and families at parks across state

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) today announced the launch of the 2025 Park Passport Challenge, an initiative aimed at bringing a new gener-

ation of outdoor explorers into the state park system by inviting visitors to collect unique stamps at 12 participating DCR parks and watersheds across the state. The challenge kicks off on Saturday, June 21, and individuals who collect all 12 stamps by the

program's Sunday, November 30 end date, will receive a Park Passport water bottle sticker and will be entered to win a grand prize.

"Our DCR parklands are more than just beautiful landscapes – they enrich the lives of

residents and families all across our state, providing them with spaces to explore, reflect and recreate," said DCR Commissioner Brian Arrigo. "We hope our new Park Passport Challenge serves as a fun and interactive way for visitors from all backgrounds

and of all ages – especially children – to experience and learn about the natural world around them and our incredible state park system."

The initiative is focused on bringing more families and children, especially those from environmental justice populations, into the outdoors to experience Massachusetts's natural and recreational resources.

Park passports are available at each participating location that has a visitor center and can also be printed out from DCR's Park Passport webpage along with coloring pages for participating parks. Passport stamps are held in yellow stamp boxes for increased visibility and are installed in ways that make them easy to reach for visitors of all abilities. Combinations to each stamp box can be found on each Park Passport stamp sheet. The exact location and code for each stamp box and additional information on the challenge are listed on DCR's Park Passport Challenge webpage. All written materials for the initiative are available in the 10 most common spoken languages in Massachusetts.

Participants looking to delve a deeper into the park experience

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Continued on page 3

DCR

Continued from page 2

are invited to take part in optional location-specific bonus activities available in a worksheet on the webpage. Activities include an observant hike, nature scavenger and history hunts, and more.

After stamping their passport, participants should close and relock the stamp boxes. Once you collect all 12 stamps, fill out the redemption form on the Park Passport Challenge webpage by November 30, 2025, to redeem a water bottle sticker and be entered to win a grand prize. Grand prizes include free Boston Harbor Island ferry tickets, a complimentary DCR ParksPass, and a reservation for DCR's annual Learn to Camp program. Participants are also encouraged to share your adventure by tagging us on social media @ MassDCR. Stamps are located at the following participating state parks:

- Boston Region**
- Blue Hills Reservation, Milton
 - Castle Island, South Boston

- North Region**
- Walden Pond State Reservation, Concord
 - Halibut Point State Park, Rockport

- South Region**
- Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, East Falmouth
 - Fall River Heritage State Park, Fall River

- Central Region**
- Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park, Uxbridge
 - Wachusett Mountain State Reservation, Princeton

- West Region**
- Mount Greylock State Reservation, Lanesboro
 - Great Falls Discovery Center, Montague


- Water Supply**
- Quabbin Reservoir, Belcher-

town

- Wachusett Reservoir, Clinton


DCR also launched the MA250 Challenge to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution and the role DCR parks and properties played in the Revolution. The MA250 Challenge will run through 2025 and 2026, and participants can earn a sticker and be entered to win prizes by completing any two of the following activities:

- visiting two DCR properties
 - taking five pictures at DCR properties and tagging @ MassDCR on social media
 - completing five miles of hiking, walking, swimming, running, or biking at DCR properties
 - or leaving zero trace of activity at any visited DCR property.
- For more information or questions regarding the Park Passport Challenge, email dcppassport@mass.gov or visit: www.mass.gov/info-details/dcr-park-passport-challenge.


MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

Park Passport Challenge

Explore 12 amazing DCR parks, collect cool stamps, and discover the wonders of nature and history. Each stamp marks a new adventure. How many can you collect?



Halibut Point State Park <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 80px; width: 100%; position: relative;"> <div style="position: absolute; left: -20px; top: 50%; transform: translateY(-50%);">STAMP HERE</div> <div style="position: absolute; bottom: 10px; right: 10px;">Lock Combo: 0210</div> </div>	Fall River Heritage State Park <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 80px; width: 100%; position: relative;"> <div style="position: absolute; left: -20px; top: 50%; transform: translateY(-50%);">STAMP HERE</div> <div style="position: absolute; bottom: 10px; right: 10px;">Lock Combo: 0103</div> </div>	Mt. Greylock State Reservation <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 80px; width: 100%; position: relative;"> <div style="position: absolute; left: -20px; top: 50%; transform: translateY(-50%);">STAMP HERE</div> <div style="position: absolute; bottom: 10px; right: 10px;">Lock Combo: 0073</div> </div>
Walden Pond State Reservation <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 80px; width: 100%; position: relative;"> <div style="position: absolute; left: -20px; top: 50%; transform: translateY(-50%);">STAMP HERE</div> <div style="position: absolute; bottom: 10px; right: 10px;">Lock Combo: 0210</div> </div>	Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 80px; width: 100%; position: relative;"> <div style="position: absolute; left: -20px; top: 50%; transform: translateY(-50%);">STAMP HERE</div> <div style="position: absolute; bottom: 10px; right: 10px;">Lock Combo: 0103</div> </div>	Great Falls Discovery Center <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 80px; width: 100%; position: relative;"> <div style="position: absolute; left: -20px; top: 50%; transform: translateY(-50%);">STAMP HERE</div> <div style="position: absolute; bottom: 10px; right: 10px;">Lock Combo: 0073</div> </div>
Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 80px; width: 100%; position: relative;"> <div style="position: absolute; left: -20px; top: 50%; transform: translateY(-50%);">STAMP HERE</div> <div style="position: absolute; bottom: 10px; right: 10px;">Lock Combo: 0612</div> </div>	Blue Hills Reservation <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 80px; width: 100%; position: relative;"> <div style="position: absolute; left: -20px; top: 50%; transform: translateY(-50%);">STAMP HERE</div> <div style="position: absolute; bottom: 10px; right: 10px;">Lock Combo: 0810</div> </div>	Quabbin Reservoir <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 80px; width: 100%; position: relative;"> <div style="position: absolute; left: -20px; top: 50%; transform: translateY(-50%);">STAMP HERE</div> <div style="position: absolute; bottom: 10px; right: 10px;">Lock Combo: 0612</div> </div>
Wachusett Mountain State Reservation <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 80px; width: 100%; position: relative;"> <div style="position: absolute; left: -20px; top: 50%; transform: translateY(-50%);">STAMP HERE</div> <div style="position: absolute; bottom: 10px; right: 10px;">Lock Combo: 0612</div> </div>	Castle Island <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 80px; width: 100%; position: relative;"> <div style="position: absolute; left: -20px; top: 50%; transform: translateY(-50%);">STAMP HERE</div> <div style="position: absolute; bottom: 10px; right: 10px;">Lock Combo: 0810</div> </div>	Wachusett Reservoir <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 80px; width: 100%; position: relative;"> <div style="position: absolute; left: -20px; top: 50%; transform: translateY(-50%);">STAMP HERE</div> <div style="position: absolute; bottom: 10px; right: 10px;">Lock Combo: 0612</div> </div>

Passport stamps created by Alicia Archer.

Scan the QR Code above to download and print this passport stampsheet at home. There's also Park coloring pages available for children.

SNA

Continued from page 1

"Review the previously approved site plan for 14 Meehan Street sent by Patty to evaluate potential changes to parking and landscape layout."

Alcortis Clark chaired the meeting which was attended by SNA members Jennifer Uhrhane, Jonathan McCurdy, Tulin Dada-li, Roye Abel, Jenny Nathans, Jonathan Abrams, Rory Coiffey, Ari SingerFreeman, Sue Zobel, Patty Yehle, and Caliga.

This was the third meeting with Hartnett, who was represented by attorney Lorene Schettino. Schettino explained that the project is seeking to eliminate the commercial office space and expand the residential use to three units. She said the project needed zoning relief for lack of parking, an insufficient lot area for three residential

units, excessive floor area ratio (FAR), insufficient front yard, and insufficient open space.

Schettino presented architectural drawings for the project, including the outdoor space, and added that the developer will plant shade trees and a landscaped bed with hydrangeas. She also added that new windows will match the style of the existing windows as much as possible.

Jen Nathan, who lives across the street, noted that work was already being done on the building and asked Schettino to clarify what she was seeking the SNA to approve. Schettino reiterated the aspects of the project that need zoning relief and noted that a three-unit residential use is permitted in the neighborhood's

zoning district.

However, the members did not focus on the zoning requests so much as they raised issues relating to the landscaping. Sue Zobel led off that discussion, raising the members' various concerns, which led to questions about the amount of hardscape vs. grass, treescape, and garden beds.

"Generally, the neighborhood welcomes new housing, especially if there is a property like this switching over from commercial to housing," said McCurdy, summing up the general feeling of the members.

McCurdy also added requests that the exterior lighting be dark-sky compliant and that the basement shall not be a living space. He further suggested that


the changes being proposed by the neighbors be placed in writing by the developer.

In the end, the members unanimously voted 11-0 to approve the project, subject to the following conditions: that one or more shade trees (as opposed to arborvitae) be planted on the northwest corner of the property, that the developer retain the two big trees currently standing on the property; that the exterior lighting be dark-sky compliant; that the basement shall not be used as a living space; and that the developer should reduce or

eliminate hard-scape pavers.

"I appreciate your advice and your time and will do my best to meet all of the requirements you are suggesting," said Hartnett, who was slated to go before the Zoning Committee of the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC) the following night (last Wednesday).

The Zoning Committee's recommendation then will go before the full JPNC after which Hartnett then must go before the Boston Zoning Board of Appeals in order to obtain his variances.



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JP PETS

Turn your outdoor living area into a worry-free haven for you and your pets

(STATEPOINT)

Enjoying the warm weather and your home's outdoor living areas is one of the best parts of the year, especially when these areas are well-maintained. Now that warm weather is here, check out these hassle-free ways to refresh your patio, deck, and garden for maximum fun and relaxation for you and your furry friends:

Prep for Entertaining

Take some time to create the right atmosphere for entertaining guests and making picture-perfect memories. Hang string lights above decks and patios for a touch of ambiance and to boost visibility after nightfall. Pathways and perimeters should also be well-lit to ensure guests can easily navigate your outdoor spaces.

Consider creating a central

gathering spot for cooler evenings with the installation of a fire pit or outdoor fireplace to make nights under the stars that much better.

Don't forget to check that all fencing and gates are secure—this ensures your pets are protected while you entertain.

Create Comfort

Take steps to ensure everyone's comfort, including your pets. Incorporate outdoor-grade throw pillows, cushions and area rugs for a touch of luxury. Create shady areas with awnings and umbrellas for more pleasant temperatures and a safe haven for people and pets to escape the sun. Don't forget to keep an outside water bowl full for your pet to stay hydrated on hot days.

Tackle Weeds

While spring brings blossom-

ing plants and flowers, it also brings weeds. Keeping them under control is a simple way to give your home a cleaner, more polished look. Tackle overgrown weeds in walkways and mulch beds with a worry-free weed and grass killer that you can trust, like Spruce Weed & Grass Killer.

Containing only nine simple ingredients, Spruce is safe for use around people and pets when used as directed, and is even Parent Tested Parent Approved.

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Spruce is also partners with animal welfare organizations including Best Friends Animal Society so pet parents can feel good about this option.

"Spruce starts to tackle weeds



on contact, cutting them off from their water supply and causing them to dehydrate. What's reassuring about the product is that pets can get back to enjoying the outdoors as soon as it's dry," says veterinarian and founder of Fear Free Pets, Dr. Marty Becker. "For these reasons, it's a great

choice for most families."

With a few simple steps, you can turn your outdoor space into an oasis, and focus more on making memories, worry-free. Whether it's lazy afternoons or lively get-togethers, a little TLC sets you up for a summer of effortless outdoor fun.

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JP PETS

CITY PAWS

Surgical Caregiving

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

When your dog or cat faces a surgical procedure, you must prepare to follow both pre-surgical and post-surgical instructions to ensure a safe and speedy recovery. Our dog Poppy recently had dental surgery with some teeth removed.

Instructions from her veterinary hospital included calming medication and feeding instructions before surgery, as well as pain and anti-inflammatory medication and feeding instructions after we took her home. Since Poppy has a heart murmur, we also followed the advice to have an echocardiogram performed before surgery to enable them to make the safest decisions.

Understand and Follow Instructions

Most veterinary practices will give you written instructions in person or via email. Read those carefully and ask as many questions as you have beforehand. There are no “dumb questions” when it comes to taking care of your best buddy.

You may find differences from what you have done in the past. Different veterinarians may have varying guidelines, or research has revealed a more effective approach. For example, this was the first time a surgical procedure did not require us to withhold water.

“Let her drink,” seemed to be new guidance, as the team members explained that it was easier for them to perform procedures like drawing blood or inserting

a catheter in a well-hydrated animal.

Ask What’s Normal

After a procedure, you should know what’s normal and what symptoms mean you should check in with the professionals. Poppy’s procedure ran long, and we were alerted that she would be very sleepy for a day or so. She could only eat soft food, nothing that would require her to chew.

Urinary leakage, which can occur due to the amount of fluids administered during the procedure, may be normal after surgery. You may not see a bowel movement for up to 48 hours, considering the fasting period before and the medications administered or the type of procedure.

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Our dog Poppy was having a healing snooze after her dental procedure. Puppy pads are great to have on hand when you have a furry patient.

Five facts pet parents need to know about protecting pets from heartworms

(STATEPOINT)

Heartworms are one of the most common and serious health threats faced by pets. According to the American Heartworm Society, more than a million U.S. pets are infected with heartworms, and incidence numbers are rising—even though heartworms are easily prevented. To equip pet parents to provide the protection their four-legged family members need this summer and year-round, the American Heartworm Society is sharing five vital facts about this deadly threat.

1. A single infected mosquito can spread heartworms to multiple pets. Heartworms aren’t spread from one pet to another. Instead, they are transmitted when a mosquito feeds on an infected animal, such as a dog, coyote, fox or wolf, then later feeds on other susceptible animals and pets. Within months, heartworms grow from tiny larvae into foot-long adult worms that live in pets’ hearts, lungs

and blood vessels.

2. Heartworms are found throughout the United States. Warm, humid locales such as the Gulf States and Southeastern U.S. are widely known as hotbeds of heartworm infection, thanks to the presence of mosquitoes that thrive in these conditions. However, heartworms have become increasingly common in regions such as the Southwest, Pacific Northwest, Upper Midwest and New England. One factor

supporting broader transmission is the practice of transporting homeless dogs for adoption from areas of the country where heartworms are extremely common to locales that formerly had few cases. Studies also suggest that mosquitoes prefer feeding on pets with heartworms over pets that don’t harbor them. Finally, mosquitoes are opportunistic pests that require only small amounts of standing water—including puddles or half-full wa-

tering cans—to breed.

3. Heartworms aren’t just going to the dogs. While dogs are highly susceptible to heartworm infection, cats and ferrets get heartworms, too. One thing all three species have in common is that they can become very ill, and even die, if infected with heartworms. That’s why the American Heartworm Society recommends heartworm screening and year-round prevention for all pets.

4. There’s no “season” for heartworms. While the risk of heartworm spread is greatest for pets from spring through fall, experts advise that pets be maintained on heartworm prevention year-round. Estimating when the first and last mosquito of the so-called season will appear is a dangerous guessing game, given the volatility of weather conditions in even the coldest parts of the country. Furthermore, buildings, parking lots and other structures in city and suburban communities can create sheltered “heat islands”

with significantly warmer conditions than surrounding open areas. Mosquitoes also survive and thrive by relocating indoors or taking refuge in garages and crawl spaces when temperatures drop.

5. Prevention beats treatment every time. While heartworms in dogs can be treated, treatment can be expensive and requires multiple veterinary visits and months of activity restriction. Cats and ferrets, meanwhile, have no medications to cure their heartworms, because the treatment used in dogs is not safe for them. Fortunately, heartworms can be prevented with veterinary-prescribed medications that are safe, effective and affordable.

For more information on heartworm prevention and management, visit heartwormsociety.org.

Heartworms pose huge health risks for pets. Fortunately, protecting them from infection is simple.



(C) EYEEM MOBILE GMBH / ISTOCK VIA GETTY IMAGES PLUS

JPA holds successful annual meeting, hears from head of Arboretum

BY GAZETTE STAFF

The Jamaica Pond Association (JPA) held its annual meeting at historic Loring Greenough House this past Monday evening.

A crowd of 35 attendees, both JPA members and neighbors, welcomed guest speaker Professor Ned Friedman, the Director

of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University.

Prof. Friedman gave a wide-ranging and engaging talk regarding the history and purpose of the Arboretum, as well as its role in present-day efforts to protect the Arboretum from abutting development that, if successful, could serve as a

warning for future development of properties along Olmsted's Emerald Necklace.

Prof. Friedman lists in his bio two fundamental priorities that dominate the Arboretum's current focus: Environmental justice and combating human-induced global climate change and extinction. In a slide show, Prof.

Friedman displayed major projects that are being undertaken at the Arboretum in support of these priorities.

Following Prof. Friedman's talk, the JPA held an election, welcoming a slate of neighbors who are joining the board for the first time, as well as those who are re-upping their status

as members of the Board of Directors.

Delicious food was served and, despite these fraught times and a very hot night, the room was full of neighbors who hold concern for the well-being of their neighborhoods, Jamaica Pond, and the entire Jamaica Plain community.

City Paws

Continued from page 6

dure performed.

Also normal are being excessively sleepy or reluctant to move, and Poppy developed a post-surgical cough. We were sure we knew the reason; however, we did report it when the team checked in the next day. They assured us it was normal and caused by the tube placed in her airway to help her breathe the anesthesia gas. Poppy's cough went away just as they said it would.

Ask about milestones in healing that you should see. Those might be signals that you can allow more exercise, allow jumping up and down, give more freedom in the home, and go back to regular food.

Some Tips from Us

- Turn instruction sheets into a checklist of what you need to do each day.
- Transfer the pet medication into seven-day pill containers to make it easy to check.
- Set reminders on your phone or other virtual assistant to stay on schedule.
- Be prepared with a supply

of puppy pads ready to protect surfaces from blood or urine.

- Create a warm, comfortable, quiet atmosphere for your little patient.
 - Soothing music can help your pet relax and get deeper, more restful sleep.
 - Dry food soaked in water or baby food is a good, soft meal when required.
 - Take photos of the incision daily to compare or send to the Vet if you are concerned.
 - While watching for problems, also look for improvements that can make you feel better.
- Finally, the more relaxed you are, the more your compan-

ion animal will relax. They say stress comes down the leash, and we have found that Poppy always reacts to stress in our home.

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

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SCENES FROM EMERALD NECKLACE CONSERVANCY'S PARTY IN THE PARK FUNDRAISER



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL BLANCHARD
AND MELISSA OSTROW

Party in the Park is one of the Conservancy's surest signs of spring and one of the most anticipated social events in Boston. To date, the luncheon has generated more than \$11.2 million for the parks. The proceeds of the Party in the Park support the work of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy.

Every May, just as spring declares itself in Boston, the luncheon draws more than 700 parks champions to gather for an elegant lunch served in a beautiful tent in one of the Emerald Necklace parks. Known as the "hat lunch" because so many guests complement their spring wardrobes with flowers, feathers and fascinators, the party is planned over the course of a year by an all-volunteer committee to ensure a memorable afternoon.

In the spirit of commemorating 20 years of Party in the Park—created to preserve and celebrate the legacy of the Emerald Necklace, Boston’s largest park system—this year’s party highlighted the importance of parks, nature and greenspaces for all of us.

Since 2003, thanks to friends and supporters like you, Party in the Park has made possible care for more than 9,000 inventoried trees, significant restoration and improvements in the historic, 1,100-acre Emerald Necklace park system designed by Frederick Law Olmsted.



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CASAs

Continued from page 1

and make recommendations to the court to help ensure safe, stable and permanent outcomes.

“Even for adults, the child welfare and legal systems are challenging to navigate, full of confusing legal jargon, bureaucracy, and constant changes in professionals. For a child, the experience can be overwhelming, isolating, and deeply traumatic,” said Nicole Stewart, Executive Director of Boston CASA. “CASAs walk beside youth —attending court hearings, school meetings, and placement transition — to ensure each child is seen, heard, and supported.”

The newly appointed advocates will serve children in Suffolk and Middlesex Counties through Boston CASA. The nonprofit recruits, trains, and supports volunteers from the community to become Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) for children and youth who have suffered abuse and neglect. Each volunteer is assigned to one child or sibling group at a time, providing consistency and a trusted presence in the midst of uncertainty.

Research shows that youth with a CASA experience fewer placement disruptions, better access to education and healthcare, and are significantly more likely to find safe, permanent homes. They are also half as likely to re-enter foster care. According to a survey

of judges, 92% report that CASAs improve long-term outcomes for the children they serve.

Boston CASA is currently recruiting its next class of volunteers. For more information about how to become a CASA, please visit www.bostoncasa.org.

Boston CASA recruits, trains, and supports volunteers to serve as Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) in Suffolk and Middlesex Counties for children removed from their homes due to abuse and neglect, most of whom end up in foster care. Unlike mentors, CASAs work within the child welfare system, advocating directly in court and alongside DCF to ensure children in foster care receive the support, stability, and services they need. Research shows that

just one consistent adult can change a child's trajectory—help us be that difference. Vol-

unteer, donate, or support our mission at www.bostoncasa.org. #ChangeAChildsStory

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ENGLISH HIGH GRADUATES 114



English High School held its 201st commencement on Tuesday, June 10 at BC High. Head of School Caitlyn Murphy is shown with valedictorian Elían Alejandro Martínez Carrasco and salutatorian Anna Kay Arshari Ashley. Diplomas were presented to 144 graduates.

11 GRADUATE FROM NATIVITY PREP



Nativity Prep held graduation on Sunday, June 8, 2025 at BC High. Diplomas were awarded to 11 boys: In the front row: Emmanuel Arias-Baez, Gianni Santos, Jordan Galette, Ossayuware Iyare, and Anilson Cardoso. Standing: Kyron Keer, Avraam Garo, DeQuan Washington, Jose Figuereo, Henry Mayard, Jibril Hassan.

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Black Voices Of The Revolution exhibit opens at The Museum of African American History on June 30

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

A new exhibit developed by the Museum of African American History I Boston & Nantucket (MAAH), Black Voices of the Revolution: Liberty, Emancipation, and the Struggle for Independence will explore the diverse experiences of African Americans during the tumultuous Revolutionary War period.

Opening on June 30th at the Abiel Smith School, one of two landmark properties on the Museum's Beacon Hill campus, Black Voices of the Revolution tells the stories of Black men and women— from writers and advocates to landowners and entrepreneurs— during this world-changing global conflict. Like the Museum's innovative exhibit, Being Frederick Douglass which is on display at the African Meeting House, some sections of Black Voices of the Revolution encourage museum-goers to interact with AI-driven, holographic images of primary sources, and the men and women who represented the African American community in Massachusetts during the period from the 1620s to 1800. Visitors can ask questions of the interactive using a voice activated program or by simply typing their queries on a touchscreen.

Funded in part by the Massachusetts Office of Travel & Tourism, MA250, and created in partnership with the exhibit design firm TimeLooper, Black Voices of the Revolution considers the American Revolution from the Black and female perspective, showcasing ideas, information, issues, and insights not often incorporated into traditional history lessons. The Revolutionary War era was among a number of global conflicts that exploded during the 18th century. In fact, it was part of a series of rebellions involving settlers and Indigenous peoples, colonial rulers and colonists, masters and those they enslaved, and free Black communities that rocked North America.

"This timely exhibit will introduce audiences to the often-un-told stories of Black men and women who contributed to their fledgling nation while fighting for their own independence," said Dr. Noelle Trent, President & CEO, MAAH. "The brave people represented in Black Voices of the Revolution— artists, activists, farmers, soldiers, and sailors— forged a new path for those who followed."

Black Voices of the Revolution is divided into six primary sections: Slavery and Freedom in Massachusetts; Freedom for Whom?; Divided Promises: Black Loyalties in the American Revolution; We Claimed Ourselves: Black Women and the Fight for Freedom in Revolutionary New England; Beacon Hill: Mapping Black Revolutionary Boston; New Guinea, Nantucket: Black and Wampanoag Power on an Island Edge; and Black Print Culture: Unearthing Black Voices in Massachusetts. Key figures whose lives and legacies are featured in the exhibit include:

- Crispus Attucks- an American whaler, sailor, and stevedore of African and Native American descent, Attucks is recognized as the first American killed in the American Revolution

- Elizabeth Freeman – One of the first enslaved African Americans to file and win a freedom suit in the Commonwealth

- Zipporah Potter Atkins - a free African American woman whose 1670 purchase of a home makes her the first African American to own land in Colonial Boston

- Salem Poor - An enslaved African-American man who purchased his freedom in 1769, became a soldier in 1775, and served during the American Revolution, most notably at the Battle of Bunker Hill.

- The Boston family of Nantucket - an influential Nantucket family of African and Wampanoag descent; Seneca Boston, a weaver, built his family home on

Continued on Page 15

NEWMAN SCHOOL STUDENT ENGAGES AMBASSADOR



HER HEAD ABOVE THE CROWD: Jamaica Plain's Antonia Kutsoati, a rising junior at the Newman School in the Back Bay, had a back-and-forth with Ambassador Alan Leventhal, the keynote speaker at the school's "Step Up" rising ceremony held at the Old South Church on Thursday, May 29. As U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Denmark from 2022 to 2025, Leventhal visited and spoke to some 70 Danish high schools about their generation's place in history and path to success. He has continued speaking to schools throughout the Boston area, New Orleans, and elsewhere since completing his service.

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

Iran finally reaps what it is has sown

The decision by President Donald Trump to assist the Israeli effort in setting back Iran's nuclear weapons program should be applauded by every person who realizes that Iran's attainment of nuclear weaponry would be disastrous for the world.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has demonstrated how a nuclear-armed dictatorship can wreak death and destruction upon another country with impunity because the rest of the world is afraid to join the fight thanks to the threats by Vladimir Putin that he will use his nuclear arsenal if provoked.

But whereas Putin is semi-rational, can one even begin to imagine how a fanatical Iranian regime that has been calling for the elimination of the State of Israel (and the United States) for 45 years would use nuclear weapons to blackmail every nation in the Mideast in order to achieve that goal, including ultimately dropping an atomic bomb on Tel Aviv?

The Iranian government has been a force of evil since its inception in 1979. For fans of the Netflix series *Stranger Things*, the Iranian regime is like that monster that spreads its tentacles to terrorize and control the town of Hawkins.

Similarly, Iran has provided arms and training to terrorist organizations such as Hamas and Hezbollah on Israel's doorstep with the specific aim of wiping Israel off the face of the map. The vicious attack by Hamas on 10/7 demonstrated unequivocally that Iran's proxies are capable of achieving the goal of killing every Jew they can lay their hands on.

Only time -- and Israeli and American intelligence assessments -- will be able to determine to what extent the Israeli and U.S. military actions of the past 12 days have degraded the ability of the Iranians to make a nuclear bomb.

But if nothing else, the Iranians have been put on notice that their dastardly behavior finally will be met with more force than they ever could have anticipated.

The gay rights movement began 56 years ago this week

Although Gay Pride Month is observed for the entire month of June, we wish to make note of the specific date and events of June 28, 1969, when a series of riots and demonstrations against a police raid at the Stonewall Inn tavern in the Greenwich Village section of New York City launched the modern-day gay rights movement.

This was not the first time that the gay community had fought back against repression and persecution, but the Stonewall riots marked a turning point for the gay rights movement both in the United States and around the world.

The riot was precipitated when New York City police officers with the NYPD's Public Morals Division (yes, that actually was its name) sought to conduct a typical raid at the Stonewall Tavern, a gay bar. At that time, men even seen holding hands with each other could be arrested on charges of violating public morality.

Almost all of the gay bars in New York City in that era were operated by organized crime. The police typically would give the owners a heads-up about impending raids, which usually took place on quiet weeknights and resulted in the arrests of a few of their customers.

However, on the night of June 27-28, the police uncharacteristically conducted a raid on a weekend night when there were more than 200 patrons in the Stonewall.

As the police began to make arrests, crowds from the surrounding community gathered outside in support of those being arrested. The ensuing pitched battle between the outnumbered police and the hundreds of area residents carried on for the next two nights.

For the first time, persons who did not conform to society's sexual norms had made it clear that they no longer would be treated like second-class citizens.

Although the Stonewall Tavern itself was set on fire during the riots and never reopened, President Barack Obama designated the area as a national monument on June 24, 2016, thus ensuring its legacy as the spot that marked the beginning of a new day of freedom for Americans of the LGBTQIA+ community.

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Leave fireworks to the professionals!

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Fires, explosions, and serious injuries related to illegal fireworks spike each summer in Massachusetts, and fire service leaders are asking residents and visitors to leave those dangerous devices to the professionals.

"Here in Massachusetts, fireworks have caused over 500 fires and explosions, more than 200 emergency department visits, and nearly \$1 million in damages over the past five years," said State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine. "They are illegal without licensing and certification because they are so dangerous. Please don't risk a fire, an injury, or a day in court -- leave fireworks to the professionals."

"The weeks around July 4th are extremely busy for your local fire department," said Westborough Fire Chief Patrick J. Purcell, president of the Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts. "Fires and injuries spike as people put themselves, their families, and their neighbors in harm's way with illegal fireworks. These incidents can draw firefighters and EMTs away from other emergencies in your city or town. If you want to watch a great fireworks show this sum-

mer, please check out one of the many safe, permitted displays scheduled in communities across Massachusetts."

Of the 220 fireworks-related visits to Massachusetts emergency departments from 2020 to 2024, 111 took place during June and July. These months also accounted for 366 of the 559 fires and explosions caused by fireworks during the same five-year period. Both injuries and fires held relatively steady last year and reflect a decline from the historically high numbers in 2020, when 75 ER visits and 187 fires or explosions were reported statewide.

Massachusetts law requires police to seize any illegal fireworks they encounter in the course of their duties. This includes fireworks that were purchased lawfully in another state and transported to Massachusetts. People who use or possess them illegally are also subject to a fine, while the unlawful sale of fireworks is an arrestable offense that carries potential jail time. The law is effective: the Massachusetts fireworks injury rate is about .5 per 100,000 residents compared with a national rate of 2.89 per 100,000 residents.

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

Jamaica Plain GAZETTE

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Luis Fernando Milan

A beloved soul, who touched many lives

Luis Fernando Milan of Jamaica Plain (Boston) passed away peacefully among close family members on June 14, 2025. Better known as Fernando to his friends and Nandi to his family, he was born on September 28, 1947 in Aguadilla, Puerto Rico. He was preceded in death by his father, Luis Antonio Milan and his mother, Tomasa Perez Milan. He is survived by a son, Andrew Milan of Boston and a daughter, Ariana Milan of New York, New York, a brother,

Edwin R. Milan and sister-in-law, Maureen Kennedy Milan of Melrose.

Fernando earned a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Connecticut, and a Master's and PhD in Education from Harvard University. His career included serving as an Assistant Dean of Admissions at the University of Connecticut, as an officer at the National Puerto Rican Coalition in Washington, D.C. and as an administrator at the Department of Education for



the City of Boston.

Fernando was affiliated with a number of community-based nonprofit organizations serving the Latino community of Boston, including serving on the board of directors for La Alianza Hispana, Inc. He served as a mentor to many of his friends and neighbors in the Boston area, and was highly respected for his academic achievements and service to his community. He was a beloved soul, who touched many lives.

Fernando's family would like to extend its gratitude to the medical staff of the Brigham and Women's Hospital for their loving care of Fernando.

A Memorial Visitation will be held at Brady & Fallon Funeral Home at 10 Tower Street,

Boston (Jamaica Plain) on Sunday, July 13, 2025, between 3:30 and 5:30 p.m. In lieu of flowers, a donation may be made in Fernando's memory to La Alianza Hispana, Inc. through laalianza.org.

Black Voices

Continued from page 13

Nantucket in 1774. His son Ab-salom was a founding member of the African Meeting House and a whaler who commanded the island's first all-Black whaling crew.

- Phillis Wheatley Peters – Born in West African and enslaved as a child, she is considered the first African-American author of a published book of poetry.

- Prince Hall - An American abolitionist and leader in Boston's free black community, he fought for education rights for African American children.

"Black Voices of the Revolution was created to present a more complete view of American

history combining new technologies with displays of rare artifacts from our collection that were uncovered during archaeological digs in Boston and Nantucket, said Angela Tate, Chief Curator and Director of Collections at MAAH. "I want people to see this period in American history in a new way, through the eyes of the Black individuals who helped shape the ideas and ideals about what would eventually become the United States of America—and how the persistent presence of slavery challenged them."

Our mission is to connect Colonial and early African American history and culture in Boston and the larger New England area with the abolition of slavery and current explorations of race and human rights struggles. As one of the oldest African Amer-

ican public history museums in the United States, the Museum is dedicated to telling the stories of African Americans in Massachusetts and New England who seeded the growth of the antebellum abolitionist movement and the 19th Century fight against segregation, discrimination, and racial inequity. The Museum was founded in 1967 and is New England's largest museum dedicated to preserving, conserving, and interpreting the contributions of African Americans. The Museum has two locations – one in Boston's Beacon Hill and the other on Nantucket Island – and two Black Heritage Trails® that tell the story of organized black communities from the Colonial Period through the 19th century.

Funded, in part, by the Massachusetts Office of Travel & Tourism.

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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 CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION TO EXPAND THE POWERS OF A GUARDIAN Docket No. SU13P1090GD

In the Interests of: Sehquan W. Fisher Of: Dorchester, MA RESPONDENT Incapacitated Person/

Protected Person To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Department of Developmental Service of Boston, MA in the above captioned matter requesting that the court: Expand the powers of a Guardian The petition asks the court to make a determination that the powers of the Guardian and/or Conservator should be expanded, modified, or limited since the time of the appointment. The original petition is on file with the court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 07/03/2025. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which. You have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must

file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date. IMPORTANT NOTICE The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: June 05, 2025 Stephanie L. Everett Register of Probate 06/27/25 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 CITATION GIVING

NOTICE OF PETITION TO EXPAND THE POWERS OF A GUARDIAN Docket No. SU13P1090GD In the Interests of: Kamla Tahsir Of: Jamaica Plain, MA RESPONDENT Incapacitated Person/ Protected Person To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Lutheran Home Of Jamaica Plain of Jamaica Plain, MA in the above captioned matter requesting that the court: Expand the powers of a

Guardian The petition asks the court to make a determination that the powers of the Guardian and/or Conservator should be expanded, modified, or limited since the time of the appointment. The original petition is on file with the court. You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 07/14/2025. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which. You have to file

the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date. IMPORTANT NOTICE The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal

affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: June 16, 2025 Stephanie L. Everett Register of Probate 06/27/25 JP

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32 Clive Street
3 Beds | 2F Baths | 2,203 Sq. Ft.
Offered at \$1,275,000
Roger Rodriguez | 617.504.0199



JAMAICA PLAIN
96 Saint Rose, Unit 1
3 Beds | 2F Baths | 1,373 Sq. Ft.
Offered at \$985,000
Good Boston Living Team | 617.971.7080



ROSLINDALE
4 Ethel Street
4 Beds | 1F 1H Baths | 1,785 Sq. Ft.
Offered at \$949,000
Trisha Solio | 617.293.8070



JAMAICA PLAIN
4 Marlou Terrace, Unit 3
2 Beds | 1F Bath | 922 Sq. Ft.
Offered at \$615,000
Gioulianna Dimitri | 857.294.8267



JAMAICA PLAIN
11 Sedgwick Street, Unit 8
2 Beds | 1F Bath | 810 Sq. Ft.
Offered at \$593,000
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