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GODDARD HOUSE BREAKS GROUND ON NEW FACILITY — SEE PAGES 12 AND 13

Vol. 34 No. 16



Jamaica Plain GAZETTE

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AUGUST 22, 2025

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Vocalist Zakiyyah preforms at the Sam Adams Brewery during JP Porchfest.



Shown clockwise from above-left: Melody Ross preforms on trombone for Brassterisk at 23 Myrtle Street.

The Clave & Blues Trio, comprised of musicians Anibal Cruz from Cuba and Manolo Mairena from Costa Rica, preformed music that matched the mellow vibe of the day and venue at Rogerson House.

While Le Couteau preforms, TJ, Ian, and Haley look through records at the musical flea market set up at Tres Gatos. See more photos on Pages 8 – 10.

JP Music Festival returns Sept. 6

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

The free, 13th annual JP Music Festival will be held at Pinebank Field at Jamaica Pond on Saturday, September 6 from 12–7 p.m. with more than 21 acts, two stages, and seven hours of non-stop music

The festival will again offer music activities for kids with Jaymz Purtle. Good dogs are welcome.

SEED will be providing pedicabs between Hyde Square and Pinebank Field throughout the day.

Food trucks and vendors will be available, including Bon Me, Daddy’s Bonetown Burgers, Ice Cream Thrill, Mela’s Modern Indian Cuisine, Stokes BBQ, and more.

J.P. Licks will again be selling the Official Ice Cream Flavor of the JP Music Festival at all locations called, “Squirrel Nut Zipple.”

For up-to-the-minute details, follow the festival on Instagram <http://instagram.com/jamaica-plainmusicfestival> or Facebook:

Continued on Page 2

Luis Perez Demorizi named inaugural Executive Director of Franklin Park

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Mayor Michelle Wu announced Luis Perez Demorizi as the inaugural Executive Director of Franklin Park for the Boston Parks and Recreation Department. This park administrator role, envisioned in the Franklin Park Action Plan and announced by Mayor Wu at her State of the City address, will lead and coordinate the City of Boston’s investment in and care for this locally beloved and nationally significant historic park. In implementing the Franklin Park Action Plan, Director Perez Demorizi will work alongside com-

munity stakeholders to restore and sustain the ecological health of the park, and to connect and enhance the experience of all community members enjoying this treasured resource. He will begin his role on September 15, 2025.

“I am thrilled to welcome Luis Perez Demorizi to this important role stewarding the ecology and experience at Franklin Park, our treasured, largest park in Boston,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “Luis brings over a decade of experience in parks operations,

Continued on Page 3

Local leaders support governor signing updated Shield Law

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Last week, Governor Maura Healey signed the updated Shield Law, which prevents the disclosure of sensitive data, such as a physician's name, and formally establishes that abortions are to be provided in emergencies due to medical necessity.

Additionally, the law prohibits Massachusetts state or local authorities from cooperating with any federal or out-of-state investigation into health care services that are legally protected in Massachusetts, such as abortion care.

"Massachusetts will always

be a state where patients can access high-quality health care and providers are able to do their jobs without government interference," said Healey. "From the moment Roe was overturned, we stepped up to pass strong protections for patients and providers, and with President Trump and his allies continuing their assaults on health care, we're taking those protections to the next level. No one is going to prevent the people of Massachusetts from getting the health care they need."

The Shield Act 2.0 is a critical defense against the attacks that the federal government contin-

ues to make against women and the LGBTQ+ community, said Representative Marjorie Decker, House Chair, Joint Committee on Public Health.

"This legislation sends a clear message: we will protect the rights, safety, and privacy of our residents. It ensures that patients and providers are shielded from political interference, legal intimidation, and unlawful out-of-state overreach," said Senator Lydia Edwards, State Senator for the Third Suffolk District. "In Massachusetts, we believe health care decisions should be made in consultation with med-

ical professionals—not dictated by partisan agendas. Here, your choices remain between you and your doctor, and we will fight to keep it that way."

The law also directs the Department of Public Health to create a technical advisory group that will provide support to businesses on implementing privacy protections for storing or managing electronic medical records related to reproductive and gender-affirming health care.

"This law is a landmark victory for health care, human dignity, and the providers and patients who deserve to live free

from fear," said Jordina Shanks, CEO of Fenway Health. "At Fenway Health, we see every day how essential it is that people can access gender-affirming care without threats, delays, or discrimination. This law ensures that clinicians can focus on healing, that families can choose the care that's right for them while remaining protected, and that Massachusetts stands as a national beacon of equity and compassion. We are deeply grateful to Governor Healey, Senator Cindy Friedman, and all the champions who made this possible."

T set to extend subway, some bus service on Friday and Saturday nights beginning Aug. 24

BY DAN MURPHY

The MBTA is slated to make some significant service changes beginning Aug. 24, with subway service and service on certain bus routes extended by nearly one hour on Friday and Saturday nights.

The schedules for some bus routes will be extended by nearly an hour, seven days a week, and service on specific ferry routes will be extended Monday and Tuesday nights, according to the T's legislative briefing on Aug. 18.

Due to the "heavy rail fre-

quency enabled by new fleet performance and track infrastructure work," the Orange line has seen weekday trips increased by 9 percent while its weekday peak headways decreased by 30 seconds.

On the Red line, weekday trips have increased by 3 percent as weekday peak headways decreased by 30 seconds, and

the Blue line also saw improved weekday frequency.

Additionally, the T has implemented recent fare initiatives, including contactless payment; an income-eligible, reduced fare program; the hiring of fare engagement representatives; and the implementation of new commuter rail faregates.

(Keolis faregates have been

installed at North Station and are now being installed at South Station, while faregates are in the planning stages at Back Bay and Ruggles stations.)

Meanwhile, the T has also introduced a new fare engagement team to educate and assist riders, as well to ensure that riders have paid their fares.



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 Fall 2025! See details on our website at <https://bit.ly/jpcsoccer>
Regular season registration ends on August 31, 2025

The Fall season runs from Wednesday Sept. 10th through Sunday Nov. 9th, 2025
 Registration costs \$30.00 — discounts are available.

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

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



Music Festival

Continued from page 1

<http://www.facebook.com/jpmusicfest>

This year's funders are:

• Founding Sponsor:

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• Premier Sponsors:

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 SEED <http://seedyourhead.com>

Tres Gatos <http://tresgatosjp.com>

• Major Sponsors:

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Evergreen Eatery <http://evergreeneateryjp.com>

The Haven <http://thehavenjp.com>

Jamaica Plain Animal Clinic <http://jpanimalclinic.com>

J.P. Licks <http://jplicks.com>

JP Seafood Café <http://www.jpseafoodcafe.com>

The Midway Café <http://midwaycafe.com>

On Centre <http://oncentrejp.comp.com>

Rockland Trust <http://rocklandtrust.com>

Tonino <https://www.toninojp.com> (New Sponsor!)

The festival has two stages, with continuous music from more than 20 artists, bands, and groups, including:

Adult Fiction <http://davidchampagne.com>

Rick Berlin w/ Nickel & Dime Band <https://www.berlinrick.com>

Colonel Broccoli and The Legion Basement Band <https://www.instagram.com/broccolitonny>

Kipling Drozek and the Chaprones <https://kiplingdrozek.bandcamp.com>

Nicolás Emden <http://www.nicolasemden.com>

The Footlight Club <https://www.footlight.org>

The Franc Graham band <http://www.francgraham.com>

Hallelujah The Hills <https://www.hallelujahthehills.com>

Hands and Knees <https://handsandknees.bandcamp.com>

Imaginary Expedition <http://imaginaryexpedition.com>

Lenny Lashley's Gang of One <https://www.instagram.com/lennylashley/>

Magnificent Danger <http://magnificentdanger.com>

magnificentdanger.com

Charles McEnerney <http://charlesmcenerney.com>

Nick & The Adversaries <https://nickandtheadversaries1.bandcamp.com>

Parlour Bells <https://parlourbells.com>

Royer's One Man Band <http://www.guitarmachine.com>

Adam Sherman Band <https://www.adamshermanmusic.com>

Sinnet www.sinnetongs.com

Sunburned Sharks <http://sunburnedsharks.com>

Chandler Travis Three-O <https://chandlertravis.com>

Czarna Wolgastar <http://orchestrotica.com/exotica.cfm>

For more information or to R.S.V.P., check out the event on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/651556937817529>

The JP Music Festival is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation that holds music events throughout the year. The festival began in 2011 and is organized by the acclaimed songwriter and musician Rick Berlin (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rick_Berlin) and Shamus Moynihan. For more information, visit <http://jpmusicfestival.com>

PARKRUN 5K AT JAMAICA POND

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS

Parkrun is a worldwide charity group that organizes 5k races in many communities. Along with Needham and Cambridge, the Parkrun 5k in the Boston area is at Jamaica Pond. Every Saturday morning throughout the year, except for exceptionally dangerous weather, Parkrun gives everyone a chance to keep in shape and see how well they do with each run.



Run Director James Smith stands with Frances Post, originally from Cambridge, who is holding a Parkrun vanity license plate from her new home in Illinois.



Antonio Leite with canine running partners Xena and Kobe approach the finish line. See more photos on Pages 4 and 5.



Gina Chapman crosses the finish line.



Alison Howe and Lizzy Verish.



Ava and Edward Cooke are visiting from the UK and are supporting their family members Rauth and Nathaniel who are doing the run.



Harry, Jack, and Gina Chapman.

Perez Demorizi

Continued from page 1

open space planning, landscape architecture, and community leadership. Following four years of community input to develop the most comprehensive action plan for Franklin Park, his leadership will help coordinate the Parks Department and City's investments to deliver on the ambitious goals set by community members for this beloved, iconic, historic treasure. I'm grateful to the Franklin Park Coalition for their decades of care and their partnership in guiding and shaping this next chapter for Franklin Park."

Working with the Franklin Park Coalition and in close collaboration with the local community, the City of Boston created a strategic vision for the future of Franklin Park. The Action Plan provides a roadmap for investment in Franklin Park to restore landscape cohesion, support uses and activities desired by park users, and keep the park accessible and welcoming to its neighbors. As Executive Director of Franklin Park, Perez Demorizi will coordinate all management and operations in Franklin Park, in alignment with City priorities, the community's vision and the

Franklin Park Action Plan.

This inaugural park administrator role comes as part of significant investments in dedicated staffing and capital improvements for Franklin Park. Under Mayor Wu, the City has invested more resources into revitalizing Franklin Park than any time in the past five decades, including hiring a new crew of six dedicated park maintenance staff for Boston's largest park. Motivated by the Action Plan, the City is moving forward on many long-identified park infrastructure needs, including the expansion of the Shattuck Tennis Courts, launching community design for the Overlook and Elma Lewis Playhouse, safety improvements on Circuit Drive, the transfer of custody for the Bear Dens back to the Parks Department, and the BPS-led major renovation of White Stadium to deliver a state-of-the-art facility for BPS athletics and public use.

"We are thrilled to welcome Luis Perez Demorizi to Franklin Park. The coalition advocated for this role to be included in the Action Plan and are grateful to Mayor Wu for fulfilling this recommendation," said Rickie Thompson, President of the Franklin Park Coalition. "With the Action Plan now moving forward, we're excited to partner

with the City and the new Executive Director to deliver the park that our neighbors have envisioned."

Prior to this role, Perez Demorizi served as Director of Parks and Open Space for the City of Newton, where he advanced initiatives to expand recreational opportunities, safeguard natural resources, strengthen maintenance operations, and improve stormwater management across that city's park system.

"I am honored to serve as the first Executive Director of Franklin Park. Olmsted built this park as the crown jewel of Boston's park system as a place of joy, connection, and discovery for so many," said Luis Perez Demorizi. "I look forward to working closely with the community, the Franklin Park Coalition, and City partners to bring the Action Plan to life and ensure Franklin Park thrives for generations to come."

His previous experience includes positions as a Landscape Architect at CDM Smith and as a Landscape Designer at Klopfer Martin Design Group (KMDG) in Boston. In 2023, he was honored with the Distinguished Alumni in Landscape Architecture Award from Boston Architectural College, where he earned his

Bachelor of Landscape Architecture.

"Luis's experience and passion for parks make him uniquely suited to serve as Franklin Park's very first Executive Director," said Chief of Environment, Energy and Open Space Cabinet Brian Swett. "This role is a direct outcome of the Franklin Park Action Plan, reflecting our deep commitment to collaboration with the community and sustained investment in Bos-

ton's largest and most cherished park."



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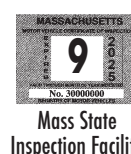
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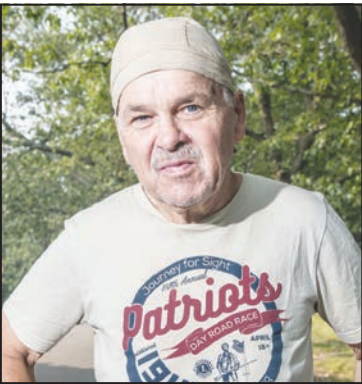
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PARKRUN 5K AT JAMAICA POND



Over 200 runners from Sweden, UK, South Africa, Hong Kong, Ireland, and across the USA took part in this Parkrun.



Shown at left, Martin Walsh.

Shown to the right, Valerie Grande and Megan Wilcox relax after completing their Parkrun.



Jonathan McCrostie finishes his Parkrun 5k with some assist from his wife Rebecca and their child Caitlin.

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PARKRUN 5K AT JAMAICA POND



Parkrun runners make their way past the Boathouse.



Runners prepare themselves for the 5k around Jamaica Pond.



The Parkrun makes 2 trips around Jamaica Pond to complete the 5k.



Loup and Emely hi-five after completing their Parkrun 5k.



The runners are off on their 5k circuit around Jamaica Pond.



Balam Willemsen has volunteered for Parkrun 100 times.



Volunteer Karen Atkinson goes over some details about the run.



Adam Dunn with Maddie, who took a break from her running with her mom Abby after the first trip around Jamaica Pond, now cheer her approach to the finish line.



Lena is ready for running with her humans Rob and Harriet Crawford.



Maddie Dunn will be running with her mom Abby from the carriage seat.

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566 Centre St

The Purple Cactus
674 Centre St

Unlimited Realty
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ANNUAL JP PORCHFEST HELD THROUGHOUT THE NEIGHBORHOOD



An audience gathers to listen to Le Couteau preform at Tres Gatos.



Audience members find a shaded spot to sit, relax, and take in the poetry at Ula Cafe.

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Kathleen Curran and her music appreciating friend George enjoyed the performances at Jamaica Pond.

PHOTOS BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

JP Porchfest is a community based arts festival that takes participants all throughout the

Jamaica Plain neighborhood. Musicians and performance artists occupy venues on the porches of homes, patios of businesses, and at local landmarks around JP.



Amanda Shea recites her performative poetry piece Social Media at Ula Cafe.



Adan Colon-Carmona with Humo are far enough away to enjoy the music at a safe but pleasurable volume.



JP Honk performs at Stony Brook Station.



The Boathouse on Jamaica Pond served as a venue for classical and choral sets. Here Boston Ostinato preforms Down In The River To Pray.

ANNUAL JP PORCHFEST HELD THROUGHOUT THE NEIGHBORHOOD



Brassterisk preforms at 23 Myrtle Street, they did a cover of the song *Flagpole Sitta* by Harvey Danger.



Gabriel Bronk of Boston Ostinato preforms on saxophone.



Le Couteau preforms on the front patio at Tres Gatos.



Audience members relax at Rogerson House as the *Clave & Blues Trio* preform.



Change Order perform at 76 Cornwall Street. See more photos on Page 10.



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August 23rd 2025

11:00

FOLKLÓRICO
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11:30

HIP HOP
with Kayla

12:00

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12:30

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with Elvis

01:00

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ANNUAL JP PORCHFEST HELD THROUGHOUT THE NEIGHBORHOOD



Duo Fresh/Fred Springer on guitar and Díjí Kay on flute perform classical world music compositions at the JP Boathouse.



A large audience gathers at 76 Cornwall Street to see the band Change Order.



At 10 Lochstead Rd poet Cecelia Vaughan recites some of her work with her group Never Too Late To Be A Poet.



Amanda Shea recites her performative poetry piece Social Media at Ula Cafe.



Deidre Colly and Sue North enjoyed the music during their walk to combat breast cancer.



“Nat’s Crew” makes listening to the music a family affair.



Christian and Embie listen to the music on Jamaica Pond from their portable hammock.



Spectators listen to Boston Ostinato perform at the Jamaica Pond Boathouse.



Poet Connie Nelson recites poetry at 10 Lochstead Rd.

Suffolk County Sheriff indicted for alleged extortion of cannabis company

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins was charged with extortion involving the purchase of an equity interest in a Boston-based cannabis company by federal authorities last week.

Tompkins, 67, of Boston, was indicted by a federal grand jury on two counts of Extortion Under Color of Official Right. He was taken into custody last week in the Southern District of Florida and is scheduled to appear in federal court in Boston at a later date, according to the Boston office of the U.S. Attorney's Office.

"Mr. Tompkins is a sitting Sheriff, responsible for over 1,000 employees, who was elected by the good people of Suffolk County," said United States Attorney Leah B. Foley last week. "Today, he is alleged to have extorted an executive from a cannabis company, using his official position as Sheriff to benefit himself. Elected officials, particularly those in law enforcement, are expected to be ethical, honest and law abiding – not self-serving."

"His alleged actions are an af-

front to the voters and taxpayers who elected him to his position, and the many dedicated and honest public servants at the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department," Foley continued. "The people of Suffolk County deserve better. Public corruption remains a top priority for my administration and we will continue to investigate and prosecute anyone who uses their position of trust and power for their own gain."

As of early this week, neither Tompkins nor the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department had issued a statement on the charges.

According to court documents, in 2019, the cannabis company, which was not named in the documents, sought to open a retail cannabis dispensary in Boston and applied to the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission (CCC) for a dispensary license. To satisfy the Positive Impact Plan (PIP) requirement of the CCC, the company entered into a partnership with the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department (SCSD) whereby the SCSD would help screen and refer graduates of its re-entry program to apply for work at the



Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins.

company's retail store.

The cannabis company's partnership with the SCSD was memorialized in a September 2019 letter signed by Tompkins and submitted to the CCC in its completed dispensary license application in or about March 2020, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office. In or about March 2021, the CCC approved a license for the company to operate a cannabis dispensary in Boston. The CCC later approved license renewal applications for the company in 2021, 2022 and 2023. In each of the renewal applications, the company included its ongoing

partnership with the SCSD as part of its fulfillment of the PIP requirement.

According to court documents, one of the cannabis company's goals was to raise capital to launch an initial public offering (IPO) and then continue its growth as a publicly traded company. Company officials, including a company executive identified as Individual A, sought multimillion-dollar investments from institutions or other high net-worth, sophisticated investors in order to raise capital. That company's officials, including Individual A, were not looking to raise capital from the general public or small, individual investors. Beginning in or about mid-2020, the company began preparing for an IPO of stock, which included producing audited financial statements, hiring attorneys to ensure compliance with securities laws and obtaining additional financing from large scale and high net-worth investors, among other things, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

It is alleged that Tompkins pressured Individual A for

stock, reminding Individual A that Tompkins had helped the cannabis company in its Boston licensing efforts. It is alleged that Individual A believed and feared that Tompkins would use his official position as Sheriff to jeopardize the company's partnership with the SCSD and thus imperil both the dispensary license for Company A, as well as the timing of the IPO. In November 2020, Tompkins allegedly wired a \$50,000 payment from his retirement account to an account controlled by Individual A. Tompkins paid a pre-IPO price of approximately \$1.73 per share of company stock (equity equivalent to 28,883 shares) and after a reverse stock split, Tompkins held approximately 14,417 shares at a price of approximately \$3.46 per share.

According to court documents, in or about mid-2021, when the cannabis company launched its IPO, the stock had a value of approximately \$9.60 per share. Thus, Tompkins's \$50,000 purchase of 14,417 shares of Company A stock had appreciated to an

Continued on Page 14

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& Paula Callaghan**

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YOUR BUSINESS HERE

Goddard House breaks ground on bold \$16.5 million renovation and addition project, ushering in a new era of healthy aging

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

On a beautifully sunny July 24, Goddard House broke ground on a renovation project that will bring new and enhanced spaces for residents and associates at the Assisted Living and Memory Support Community located on Chestnut Street. Goddard House, Massachusetts’ oldest elder care organization and an innovator in the creative aging field, celebrated its 175th anniversary last year.

With shovels in hand, a group of Goddard House leaders and local dignitaries dug into the soil for the ceremonial groundbreaking, kicking off a \$16.5 million renovation project to update the 29-year-old building. Designed in collaboration with Boston-based architectural firm DiMella Shaffer, the renovation centers on the creation of a Creative Aging Hub—an inspiring space to foster arts, lifelong learning, and community connection. Other upgrades include an expanded dining room, improved kitchen, dedicated art room, beautified

outdoor spaces, enhanced staff amenities, and an energy-efficient HVAC system.

Nearly one hundred residents, families, staff members and visitors attended the ceremony and enjoyed visual renderings of the upgrades, a live art installation, heartfelt speeches, and a barbecue lunch prepared by the Goddard House culinary team.

Candace Cramer, Goddard House’s President & CEO, summarized the project’s intent: “We’ve named this day ‘From Vision to Reality: A New Goddard House Era Begins!’ because that’s exactly what we’re doing — bringing to life a bold, long-term vision of what’s possible when a community comes together to reimagine aging.”

In his speech, Bernard Greene, Chair of the Brookline Select Board, highlighted how Brookline is a community that deeply cares about its people, especially seniors and other vulnerable groups. He thanked Goddard House for “being an important link in the chain of our community’s commitment to the



From left to right: Brookline Police Chief Jen Pastor; Goddard House Assistant Executive Director, Lance Chapman; Goddard House Board Chair, Rev. Mark Caggiano; State Representative Tommy Vitolo; Goddard House President & CEO Candace Cramer; Brookline Select Board Chair Bernard Greene; Brookline Select Board Member Michael Rubinstein; The Hamilton Company Charitable Foundation Trustee, Andrea Kozinetz; and Goddard House Resident Barbara Bauman.

senior community by providing assisted care housing for people as they age.”

Goddard House recently received a generous \$500,000 donation from The Hamilton

Company Charitable Founda-

Continued on Page 13



Christopher Wilkins, Music Director

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Barbara Bauman, a resident of Goddard House, shares her remarks.



Rendering of Goddard House's new Creative Aging Hub



Goddard House embraces the aging experience for seniors living in the Boston area by operating a high-quality assisted living community and by creating innovative programs which support our need for purpose, engagement, autonomy and choice as we age. Learn more about Goddard House, including the renovation project, at www.GoddardHouse.org.

Goddard House

Continued from page 12

tion to support construction of the Creative Aging Hub. At the Groundbreaking Ceremony, Andrea Kozinetz, a Hamilton Company Charitable Foundation Trustee, described the addition as “a multifunctional gathering place, fostering music, theater, film and other creative programming, and uniting residents, families, and community members. This center aligns with the Goddard House’s legacy of offering award-winning creative aging programs and hosting notable figures from the aging, healthcare, and arts fields.”

Barbara Bauman, a resident who has lived at Goddard House for three years, expressed her excitement about the expanded dining room and remodeled lobby. “I realize again how good it is and how fortunate I am to be a member of this community — vibrant, active, engaged community, a diverse community composed of residents, our families, friends and guests, staff and leadership.”



Live art installation inspired by Goddard House's Opening Minds through Art program.

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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.

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EDITORIAL

Accurate inflation data is crucial for senior citizens

The controversy surrounding the recent firing by President Donald Trump of Erika McEntarfer, the former commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), who was a respected statistician (she was approved for the post by an overwhelming and bipartisan vote of the U.S. Senate) and who had worked with the agency for decades, and the announcement of her replacement by somebody who has no expertise or experience in this realm, should be of deep concern for every senior citizen for whom Social Security provides a significant portion of their income.

The reason is this: In addition to compiling employment figures, the BLS also reports inflation data. And as every senior citizen (and we are among that group) knows, the annual increases in our Social Security benefits are tied directly to the previous year's rate of inflation (specifically, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers) as determined by the BLS.

Social Security plays a crucial role in providing a basic level of income for our nation's seniors, as it has since its inception in 1935. When President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act into law 90 years ago, it was estimated that 70-90% of America's elderly population lived in poverty. Social Security instantly provided a life-changing base income for millions of Americans.

Today, most seniors still rely on Social Security to live a life of dignity in their golden years. A survey conducted by the Senior Citizens League, a non-profit that advocates for increased Social Security benefits, found that 27 percent of older Americans rely solely on Social Security for their income and 67 percent of seniors said they depended on Social Security payments for more than 50 percent of their income.

The annual cost-of-living adjustments in Social Security benefits play a crucial role in ensuring that millions of senior citizens are able to maintain a life of dignity in their golden years. When inflation was running close to 10% a few years ago, seniors saw a timely and much-needed 10% boost to our benefits.

But even if the annual increases in benefits are small (say, two percent), they add up over time, enabling seniors to keep up with the ever-increasing cost of living.

With tariffs certain to raise prices on all sorts of necessary items (including food) in the coming months, it never has been more important that the inflation statistics are honest and accurate so that our Social Security benefits can keep pace with the cost of living.

To put it another way, if Trump's incompetent and unqualified hacks do not provide accurate inflation data, the vast majority of America's senior citizens will soon see a very real decline in our standard of living.

School's back — drive with care

With schools going back into session this week and next after the summer vacation, morning rush-hour commuters need to readjust our driving habits to ensure that we take into account the thousands of children who will be filling our streets during our morning commute.

We'll be the first to admit that school buses, school crossing guards, etc. are a pain in the neck, especially if we're running a bit late on our way to work.

But that is no excuse for ANY sort of driving behavior that does not take into account the safety of the children in our communities. Every morning commuter needs to be a patient and defensive driver, especially in the first few weeks of school, when children are walking and biking to school to take advantage of the early fall weather.

Each of us is responsible not only for our own safety, but also for the safety of others when we are behind the wheel of a motor vehicle -- and that is doubly true when school is back in session.

West Nile Virus risk levels elevated to high in City

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) is alerting residents that the Massachusetts Public Health Department raised the risk level for West Nile Virus in Boston to high. The risk level was raised due to ongoing evidence of mosquito samples in Boston carrying the virus. West Nile Virus is carried by mosquitoes and can be spread to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito. There are currently no confirmed human cases

of West Nile Virus among Boston residents, but BPHC strongly encourages residents to take steps to protect themselves.

You can reduce your risk of contracting West Nile Virus by using the following strategies to avoid mosquito bites.

People age 50 and older and those who are immunocompromised should adjust outdoor activity to avoid peak mosquito hours (from dusk to dawn).

Empty out and clean bird baths, unused flowerpots, and other vessels containing stand-

ing water to prevent mosquitoes from breeding regularly. Flip over unused kiddie pools and dispose of old tires, which are also known to collect rainwater that attracts mosquitoes for breeding.

Clean out gutters and remove any debris or blockages regularly.

Wear long clothing and high socks to keep mosquitoes away from your skin.

Use EPA-approved insect repellents like DEET, oil of lemon

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Thompkins

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approximate value of \$138,403, according to the U.S. Attorney.

In May 2022, company stock decreased in value such that Tompkins's equity interest in Company A stock was worth several thousand dollars less than the \$50,000 he originally invested. However, Tompkins allegedly demanded a refund of \$50,000 and, despite the decrease in the value of Tompkins's investment, Individual A agreed to Tompkins's demands for full repayment of \$50,000.

Subsequently, from approximately May 2022 to July 2023, Individual A refunded Tompkins \$50,000 investment by issuing Tompkins five checks. Allegedly in accordance with Tompkins's wishes, Individual A wrote memos on certain checks that read "loan repayment" and "[company] expense" to disguise the nature of some of the payments:

The charges of extortion under color of official right each provide for a sentence of up to 20 years in prison, three years of supervised release

"From his very first day as Suffolk County Sheriff, Steven Tompkins sought to portray himself as a man of the people — a principled public servant and reformer, devoted to the cause of justice," said Ted E. Docks, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Boston Division. "That's why it's beyond disappointing that he's now accused of gaming a sys-

tem instituted in the interests of public safety and fair play. The FBI took Sheriff Tompkins into custody today for allegedly extorting \$50,000 from the owner of a national cannabis retailer seeking to do business in Boston.

"We believe what the Sheriff saw as an easy way to make a quick buck on the sly is clear cut corruption under federal law," Docks continued. "The citizens of Suffolk County deserve better, not a man who is accused of trading on his position to bankroll his own political and financial future. Public servants must be

held to the highest of ethical standards, and those falling short will be rooted out."

Tompkins was first appointed Sheriff in 2013, elected as Sheriff in a special election in or about 2014, and thereafter elected to successive six-year terms. As Sheriff, Tompkins oversees approximately 1,000 correctional officers and other employees responsible for operating and maintaining correctional facilities in Boston at the House of Correction and the Nashua Street Jail.

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

Jamaica Plain
GAZETTE

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July revenue collections total \$2.694 billion

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR) Commissioner Geoffrey Snyder announced that preliminary revenue collections for July totaled \$2.694 billion, \$7 million or 0.3% more than actual collections in July 2024.

“July revenue included increases relative to July 2024 collections in withholding, non-withheld income tax, and ‘all other’ tax,” said Commissioner Snyder. “These increases were partially offset by decreases in sales and use tax and corporate and business tax. The increase

in withholding reflects current labor market conditions. The increase in nonwithheld income is mostly the result of an increase in income estimated payments. The increase in ‘all other’ tax is due, in part, to rooms tax and deeds excise, partially offset by a decrease in estate tax, a category that tends to fluctuate. The decrease in sales and use tax is due to normal periodic fluctuations in collections. The decrease in corporate and business tax is due to a decrease in estimated tax as well as an unfavorable increase in refunds.”

DOR determined that the

comparison between July 2025 revenue and July 2024 revenue was negatively impacted by an estimated \$40M shift in collections because of timing. Approximately \$40M in sales and use tax payments were received in July 2024. This year these payments were received in June. Without this shift, July 2025 revenue would be about \$47 million or 1.8% more than actual collections in July 2024.

The reported collections are not being measured against fiscal year 2026 benchmarks, which are expected to be established later this month.

West Nile Virus

Continued from page 14

eucalyptus, picaridin, or IR3535. Make sure screens in windows and doors fit properly and do not have any holes.

“The increased risk level for West Nile Virus in Boston is a reminder that protecting yourself and your families from mosquito bites is important,” said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health for the City of Boston. “Residents should take precautions like using mosquito

repellent and avoiding outdoor activities from dusk to dawn. BPHC will continue to monitor the situation closely and ensure that our residents have the information that they need to remain safe.”

Most people who are infected with West Nile Virus do not experience any signs or symptoms of illness. In some cases, however, people will experience a headache, fever, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, and body aches which can last for a few days or several weeks. In most cases, individuals with mild symptoms recover on their own without

needing medical assistance.

People who are older than 50 years of age or immunocompromised are at higher risk of developing severe illness as a result of West Nile Virus infection and may experience high fever and neurologic symptoms, like severe headache, confusion, lack of coordination, and muscle paralysis or weakness. If you or someone you know is experiencing these symptoms, contact a health care provider immediately. More information on WNV and other mosquito-borne illnesses is available on BPHC’s website.

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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. SU24P25796D
In the Interests of: Romel Abraham
Of: Jamaica Plain, MA
RESPONDENT
Incapacitated Person/Protected Person
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Lemuel Shattuck Hospital of Jamaica Plain, MA in the above captioned matter 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 09/04/2025. 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. Janine D. Rivers, First Justice of this Court.
Date: August 08, 2025
Stephanie L. Everett
Register of Probate
08/22/25 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
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Docket No.

SU25P1794EA
Estate of:
Lucio A. Taranco
Date of Death: 03/17/2025
To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy of Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Maribel Taranco of Boston, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that: Maribel Taranco of Boston, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration. IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/19/2025. 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. Janine D. Rivers, First Justice of this Court.
Date: August 08, 2025
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate

08/22/25 JP

LEGAL NOTICE
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Suffolk Probate and Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
Boston MA, 02114
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATOR OR OTHER PROTECTIVE ORDER
PURSUANT TO G. L. c. 190B, § 5-304 & § 5-405
Docket No. SU25P1842PM
In the matter of: Sue M. Sullivan
Of: Jamaica Plain, MA
RESPONDENT (Person to be Protected/Minor)
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Paul G. Sullivan+ of Brighton, MA
Erin Sheepo of San Francisco, CA
Gregory Sullivan of Boston,

MA
in the above captioned matter alleging that Sue M. Sullivan is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that Paul G. Sullivan+ of Brighton, MA
Erin Sheepo of San Francisco, CA
Gregory Sullivan of Jamaica Plain, MA,
(or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve Without Surety on the bond. The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this 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 09/16/2025. 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. Janine D. Rivers, First Justice of this Court.
Date: August 18, 2025
Stephanie L. Everett, Register of Probate
8/23 JP

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