



Giving Thanks

*for family and friends
Enjoy the spirit of the holiday*



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JP OBSERVER — PAGE 4

Vol. 34 No. 21



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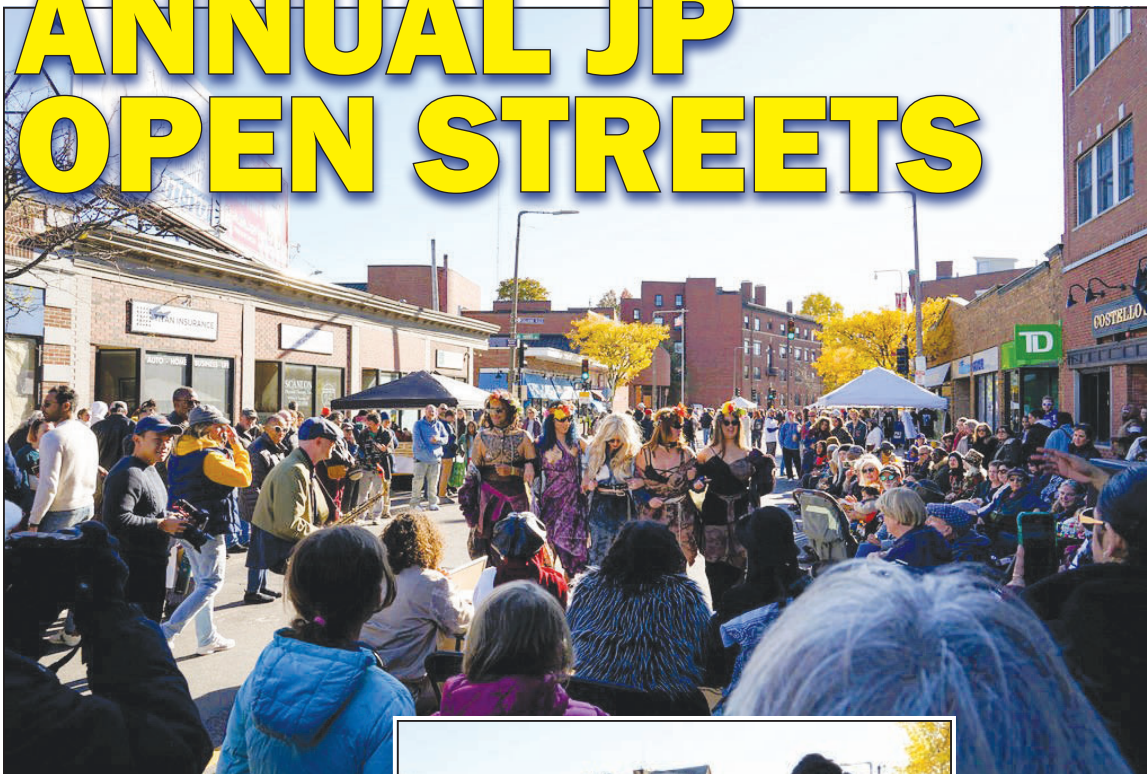
Jamaica Plain GAZETTE

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NOVEMBER 26, 2025

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ANNUAL JP OPEN STREETS



PHOTOS COURTESY OPEN STREETS
BOSTON

Scenes from the Jamaica Plain
Open Streets.

BY SIMONE KRAMER

Local businesses, organizations, food vendors and musicians assembled on Jamaica Plain's Centre Street last week in celebration of Boston's last Open Street festival of the season.

The city closed Centre Street from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. between Jackson Square and Soldier's Monument, according to Boston Mayor Michelle Wu's office.

The Open Street program began with three neighborhoods in 2022, six years after Open Newbury in 2016, the region's first neighborhood event. This year's series began in July with events in Roxbury, followed by Hyde Park, Dorchester and Mattapan



before concluding in Jamaica Plain.

In all, the Open Streets event has attracted more than 30,000 people to various neighborhoods, according to Ginger Brown, executive director of JP Centre/South Main Streets.

Franklin Park Defenders, a community action group, used the street festival to raise awareness about its opposition to the city's proposed sports complex at

Continued on Page 8



JPNC Housing Comm. hears of plans for renovation of Bunte

BY GAZETTE STAFF

The Housing and Development Committee of the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC) held its regular monthly meeting last Tuesday, November 18.

On hand for the session were Chair Danielle Sommer Kieta, vice-chair Purple Reign, Bernie Doherty, Alcurtis Clark, Sarah Horsley, Willie Mitchell, Kathy Brown, Gert Thorn, Lisa Marie Caliga, Aidan Foley, and Lorenzo Bartoloni.

The committee heard a presentation from Joe Bamberg, the Chief of Planning, Construction, and Development for the Boston Boston Housing Authority (BHA) for the past 23 years, regarding the BHA's plans for renovations to the Doris Bunte Apartments complex in Egleston Square. He was joined by Raul Leon, the BHA's Director of Asset Manage-

ment, whose portfolio includes the Bunte.

The Bunte is the landmark 20-story, cylindrical tower at 1990 Columbus Ave. The Bunte originally was known as Walnut Park before being renamed in 2013 in honor of Doris Bunte, the longtime community activist, BHA administrator, and elected official. The building, which was constructed in 1970, has been determined as eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places based on its unique architecture and community development significance.

Bamberg said that the BHA's plans include slightly configuring the present mix of 105 studio units, 52 1-bedroom units, and eight 2-BR units (for a total of 165 units) by reducing the total number of units. (Ed. Note: There was confusion about the

Continued on Page 3

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Our office will be closed
Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 27th
and Friday, Nov. 28th



**Our next issue
will be out early!**



**See You
Friday**

Dec. 5

NeighborHealth, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute partner to expand cancer care access

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

NeighborHealth announced the launch of a new partnership with Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, bringing world-renowned cancer expertise directly to NeighborHealth patients to help close persistent gaps in cancer diagnosis and treatment. The partnership will help reduce wait times for cancer diagnostics, expand community awareness of and access to cancer care, and build greater trust between patients and providers.

The new relationship was made possible by Dana-Farber's Cancer Care Access Program, a clinical outreach initiative designed to reduce differences in cancer outcomes among local communities. On November 12, Dana-Farber held its first on-site cancer clinic in East Boston for patients of NeighborHealth, the state's largest Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). Staffed by a multidisciplinary team, and supported by cancer specialists, the bi-weekly clin-



Cancer care access leaders gather in NeighborHealth's Adult Medicine department. (From left to right) Dr. Mothusi Chilume, medical director, NeighborHealth; Dr. Christopher Lathan, chief clinical access officer, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute; Stecy Casseus, specialties administrative director, NeighborHealth; Laura Garber, PA-C, Dana Farber Cancer Institute; and Mimi Gardner, Vice President and Chief Equity Officer, NeighborHealth.

ics will provide a range of cancer-related clinical services in a community setting, including cancer screening and diagnostic workups, follow-up and survivorship care, reconnection to

cancer treatment, referrals for second opinions, genetic cancer risk evaluation, and patient navigation and education.

"The goal is simple but profound," said Mimi Gardner, Vice

President and Chief Equity Officer for NeighborHealth. "By partnering with Dana-Farber, we can more easily connect our patients with expert cancer care while also reaching into communities to identify cancer earlier, remove access barriers, and address the underlying social conditions that create health disparities. We are thrilled to bring new life-saving options for care to our patients."

Cancer disparities remain well-documented in the United States, especially among Black, Indigenous, and Hispanic populations. According to the National Foundation for Cancer Research, cancer remains the leading cause of death among the Hispanic population in the United States. Lack of access to quality care often results in later treatment which is often more difficult and less successful. At NeighborHealth, more than 65% of patients identify as Hispanic/Latino and 85% of patients are at or below the federal poverty level. This partnership is expected

to significantly expand access to timely cancer screening, diagnosis, and treatment for these communities, helping to close long-standing gaps.

"At Dana-Farber, we've long recognized that bringing world-class care into the community is essential to achieving true equity in cancer outcomes," said Dr. Christopher Lathan, chief clinical access officer at Dana-Farber. "Through the Cancer Care Access Program, we've partnered with trusted community health centers to embed Dana-Farber clinicians and navigators directly where patients already receive their primary care. This co-location model has proven that when you remove barriers - whether geographic, financial, or cultural - you can dramatically improve access to screening, speed up diagnosis, and ultimately save lives."

For patients with active cancer issues, the Cancer Care Access Program navigates care to

Continued on Page 15

Mayor's Enchanted Trolley Tour comes to Jamaica Plain Dec. 6

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Mayor's Office of Tourism, Sports and Entertainment announced the dates for the 29th Annual Enchanted Trolley Tour. This year's Trolley Tour will visit 16 neighborhoods on Saturday, December 6 and Sunday, December 7.

"The annual Enchanted Trol-

ley Tour is a beloved annual tradition bringing families together across the city to kick off the holiday season. I can't wait to see everyone at this year's celebrations," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I'm grateful for the support of all our partners who help carry out this joyful weekend each year."

The Mayor's Enchanted Trolley Tour will continue the festive tradition of holiday tree lighting and Santa visits throughout Boston's neighborhoods. This event is presented by Bank of America, and supported by CityView Trolley Tours. The Enchanted Trolley Tour stops feature giveaways and visits from Santa, Mayor

Wu, and Office of Neighborhood Services staff.

"The Enchanted Trolley Tour ushers in the holiday season in a way that only could happen in Boston, charming and delighting residents and visitors throughout a magical weekend," said Miceal Chamberlain, President, Bank of America Massachusetts. "Bank of America is proud to once again join Mayor Wu and the City of Boston in bringing the 2025 Enchanted Trolley Tour and tree lightings to neighborhoods across the entire city."

Enchanted Trolley Tour dates, times, and locations are as follows:

Saturday, December 6
 11:00 a.m. — Hastings Lot, West Roxbury
 12:00 p.m. — Wolcott Square, Readville
 1:00 p.m. — Mattapan Square
 2:00 p.m. — Hyde Square, Jamaica Plain
 3:00 p.m. — J.P. Monument, Jamaica Plain
 3:45 p.m. — Brigham Circle, Mission Hill
 4:30 p.m. — Bolling Building, Roxbury
 5:45 p.m. — Blackstone

Square, South End
 6:45 p.m. — Oak Square, Brighton

Sunday, December 7
 12:00 p.m. — Codman Square, Dorchester
 1:00 p.m. — Adams Corner, Dorchester
 2:00 p.m. — M Street Park, South Boston
 3:00 p.m. — Beach Street and Harrison Ave, Chinatown
 4:00 p.m. — Paul Revere Mall, North End
 5:00 p.m. — Winthrop Square (the Training Field), Charlestown
 6:15 p.m. — Maverick Square, East Boston

The Mayor's Office of Tourism, Sports, and Entertainment supports the tourism industry in Boston by producing events, supporting film, and TV production, and marketing the city to conventions and visitors. Their mission is to advance tourism in Boston and promote participation in public celebrations from Boston residents and visitors. For more information, visit boston.gov/tourism or follow the department on social media @VisitBostonCity.

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Resume to: Marion B. Davis, President, Self Esteem Boston
 P.O. Box 301155, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 (EOE)
 or email: empowermail@selfesteemboston.com

JPA hears of progress of the Campaign for Jamaica Pond

BY GAZETTE STAFF

The Board of Directors of the Jamaica Pond Association (JPA) held its regular monthly meeting on Monday, November 3. On hand for the session were chair Kay Mathews, Treasurer Michal Reiskind, Kevin Moloney, Gerry Wright, Michael Frank, Peter Elmutz, Peter Steiger, Barry Schwartz, Tony Dreyfus, Annie McHugh, and Mark Freudenberger.

Also in attendance were Caroline Peters, the liaison to JP from Mayor Wu's office; Michael Munchbach, the Chief of Staff from Senator Mike Rush's office; and Legislative Aide Michael Giordano from State Rep. Bill MacGregor's office.

Reiskind reported that there is a balance in the JPA's account of \$3534.12. He said that the most recent expenditures were for the annual meeting in June and for the annual website Domain Name renewal of \$204.

Sgt. Bill Walker, who introduced himself as the new Community Service Sergeant in Dis-

trict E-13 to replace the recently-promoted Lieutenant Ryan Cunningham, and officers Omar Cepeda and Patricia Darosa presented the Community Safety Report. They said there was nothing new to report, though they were unable to discuss the recent murder in a nearby neighborhood other than to say that the matter, which is still under investigation, is not of concern to the general community. They noted that the incident reportedly was targeted toward a specific victim, as opposed to a random shooting.

Dreyfus and Freudenberger presented an update on the progress of the Campaign for Jamaica Pond and Olmsted Park, which is a collaborative effort among the JPA, the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC), the Friends of Jamaica Pond, and the Emerald Necklace Conservancy.

Dreyfuss said the campaign recently held a six-month review of its progress and then conducted a walk around the park with Rep. MacGregor and Senator

Rush on November 3.

"The campaign has shifted into a higher gear," said Dreyfus, noting that the Boston Parks Dept. is moving forward with capital improvement projects and that Senator Rush indicated his support to gather state and city officials in December to discuss a program for improvements.

Dreyfus said the goals of the campaign at Jamaica Pond include the removal of invasive plant species such as Japanese Knotweed; provide care for the trees (pruning, planting, and regeneration); address soil erosion along the pathways; improve plantings of the gardens and along the pathways; improve bike and pedestrian safety at Perkins and Chestnut Sts. to direct bicyclists away from the pond; and replace the rotted wood, and repaint, the entire bandstand.

As for Olmsted Park, Dreyfus said some of the goals are similar, with the additional challenges of stopping the daisy field soil erosion and removal of large runoff deposits from the south end

of Leverett Pound; narrowing the widened footpaths in the woods; planting of trees to help regenerate the forest; and addressing Beech Leaf Disease.

Dreyfos presented a detailed discussion of the bicycle-pedestrian issues, especially at Chestnut and Perkins Sts. He noted that Nate Hinchcliffe from the Boston Parks Dept. will be coming on November 16 to observe the problems of the bicycle-pedestrian safety situation.

In response to a question from McHugh about water quality, Dreyfus said that water quality is a big concern and that many of the goals of the campaign will serve to improve the water quality in the pond.

Dreyfus also raised the issue of obtaining private funding for these projects in light of the looming budget problems that the city and state are likely to face given the present administration in Washington.

Reiskind presented the report of the JP Business and Professional Association. He said that officials from the Health Divi-

sion of the Inspectional Services Dept. (ISD) made a presentation about the scope of ISD's many responsibilities at a recent meeting. He also noted the annual K-9 Halloween Costume Parade once again was a big success with 93 dogs taking part and that the Footlight Club will be observing its 150th anniversary with an upcoming production.

Reiskind, in response to a question from Dreyfis, also touched on the problem of vacant storefronts in the main district area.

Giordano reported on the challenging budget issues that likely will be looming both for the state and municipalities because of the cutbacks on the federal level.

Peters reported about plans for upcoming office hours and turkey distributions by Mayor Wu's office. She also noted that planning is underway for the mayor's annual city-wide Holiday Trolley Tour that will make stops locally at Hyde Square and the Monument.

The next meeting of the JPA is set for Monday, December 1.

Housing

Continued from page 1

final number of units pursuant to the new plans and a final figure was not presented at the meeting.) The extra space created by the reduction in the number of units is necessary for accessibility and other needs of the renovated building.

The BHA's plans to revitalize the building will enhance energy efficiency and will allow residents to age in place. Bamberg said the Bunte, which serves senior citizens and non-elderly disabled persons, will convert from the present federal public housing subsidies to Section 8 subsidies, "which are a much more robust and generous stream of subsidies."

The proposed work will involve no changes to the exterior of the building. The renovations will ensure that the building will be fossil-fuel free with electric heating and cooling systems. There also will be modifications to balconies and railings to meet

2025 building codes. In addition, there will be enhancements to site security with added fencing and secure gates.

Bamberg said the construction will be done in "stacks." He said current residents will be relocated from one part of the building (which presently is about 50% occupied) to another section or to other BHA sites as needed.

The cost of the renovations will be about 300,000 per unit, which Bamberg noted is still sub-

stantially less than new housing construction.

"Everyone who lives in the building now will have the right to come back when construction is complete," said Bamberg, who emphasized that the complex will remain a BHA property and will achieve a higher degree of affordability for extremely low-income persons compared to the typical private "affordable" housing development.

Mitchell asked about the security and safety problems

surrounding the Bunte. Leon responded that there has been a "downward trend" in the issues directly at the property and around it. Leon noted that the BHA has evicted some tenants and has installed enhanced lighting and other security measures that have improved safety

for residents. "Our goal is to ensure that our residents have a better and safer place than they had before," Leon said.

Bamberg said the BHA is expecting to start the project by the end of 2027.



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Thank You!

Rep. Sam Montañó has been an unwavering advocate on Beacon Hill, standing side by side with public school educators to make sure every child in Massachusetts has access to the best possible education. **THANKS!**

This is the time of year to reflect on what we are grateful for, and this year, educators are extremely grateful for **Rep. Sam Montañó** and their work to strengthen public education in our community.



Paid for and authorized by: Massachusetts Teachers Association,
20 Ashburton Place, 3rd Floor, Boston, MA 02108-2705



Representative
Sam Montañó

MBTA delivers 3,800 pounds of food for GBFB

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE
The MBTA has announced it collected nearly 3,800 pounds of food items as part of an em-

ployee-led food drive to support The Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB) and its partner organizations. That translates

to about 3,165 meals, which will benefit Salvation Army Cambridge Corp, an Agency Partner of GBFB.

The donated food was delivered to GBFB aboard the T's specially designed "The People Who Move Boston" bus, which features images of T workers that represent the thousands of MBTA employees who provide transportation services to riders each day.

"This food drive represents the spirit of what we stand for as public servants," said MBTA Chief Operating Officer Ryan Coholan. "The Greater Boston Food Bank serves individuals who are our neighbors, friends, and family – many of whom rely

on the MBTA for their transportation needs – and I'm proud to see such generosity from the entire MBTA workforce. Thank you

to our System-wide Accessibility Deputy Director Jennifer Ross

Continued on Page 11



MBTA's "The People Who Move Boston" bus transporting donated food to GBFB.

WHERE'S THE GAZETTE?

Post Office Centre St	Dunkin' Centre St	Italian Pizza 172 South St
JP Licks 659 Centre St	Latino Restaurant 304 Centre St	Evergreen Café 154 Green St
On Centre 676 Centre St	Freddy Market 302 Centre St	Metro Mark Apt 3615 Washington St
JP Realty 7 Harris St	Kappy's Pizza 304 Centre St	Metro Mark Apt 3611 Washington St
Cooperative Bank Washington St	Square Market 331 Centre St	Rosmore Landry Washington St
JP Seafood 730 Centre St	Rizzo's Pizza 347 Centre St	JP Kitchen 3510 Washington St
The Real Deal 732 Centre St	Martial Academy 363 Centre St	Bradddock Café 3484 Washington St
Gibson/Sotheby's Realty 713 Centre St	Tropical Market 371 Centre St	Bmc Market 3390 Washington St
Happy Market 128 South St	CVS Centre St	Santia's Bakery 3381 Washington St
Tikki Masala 3706 Washington St	Laundromat 270 Centre St	Ruggiores Market 3345 Washington St
Blanchards 741 Centre St	Camillo Liquor 280 Centre St	Brookside Community Health Center 3297 Washington St
Dunkin' 755 Centre St	Check Cash 282 Centre St	
Bank of America 677 Centre St	JP Laundry Center 410 Centre St	JP Apts 3200 Washington St
Eastern Bank 687 Centre St	Zesto's Pizza & Grill 460 Centre St	Papi's Market 3145 Washington St
CVS 704 Centre St	Ideal Caffè & Pizza 484 Centre St	YMCA 3134 Washington St
Ace Hardware 656 Centre St	Clean Getaway Laundry 546 Centre St	10 Store 3122 Washington St
Citizens Bank 696 Centre St	The Forbes Building 545 Centre St	Chancy Liquor Washington St
True Value 698 Centre St	Gentle Dental 612 Centre St	Praviana 3093 Washington St
City Feed and Supply 672 Centre St	JP Health Centre 640 Centre St	Egleston Pizza 3080 Washington St
East Boston Bank 687 Centre St	Same Old Place 662 Centre St	Santander Bank Columbus & Washington
CVS 407 Centre St	Smoke Shop 566 Centre St	Landromax Washington & Columbus
Whole Food Centre St	The Purple Cactus 674 Centre St	Walgreens Columbus Av
MSPCA 350 S Huntington St	Unlimited Realty 633 Centre St	Academy Market 1580 Columbus
Stop & Shop 301 Centre St	Polkadog Bakery 42 South St	Goddard House 201 Huntington St
Bank Of America 677 Centre St	Flore's Bakery 55 South St	MT Pleasant Home 301 Huntington St

Jamaica PlainGazette & Mission Hill Gazette 2026 Publishing Calendar

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JANUARY

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Mission Hill Gazette

Jamaica Plain Gazette

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JPNC Zoning Comm. approves three projects at Nov. 5 meeting

BY GAZETTE STAFF

The Zoning Committee of the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC) held a regular meeting on Wednesday, November 5, via Zoom. Chair David Baron and fellow committee members Willie Mitchell, Purple Reign, Peg Preble, Kevin Moloney, Alcurtis Clark, Renee Stacey Welch, Bernie Doherty, Alessia Shelley, David Seldin, Kevin Leary, Kendra Halliwell, and Andrea Howley were in attendance.

The committee took up three matters.

The first was a request from the owners of 49 Oakview Terrace for a full interior renovation of their single-family home, for which they need variances for excessive floor area ratio (FAR) and a lack of side and front yard setbacks.

Alessandra Michener, one of the owners of the property, said her family, which includes four children, presently lives in a small condo at 37 Oakview Terrace. She said they purchased the 49 Oakview Terrace property “to

be our forever home on a street we love.”

Michener and her architect explained that the prior owner had owned the property for a number of years and that the property is in need of substantial renovations both to bring it up-to-date and to expand it (by means of a dormer without enlarging the footprint) to provide added space for the family.

A next-door neighbor sent in a letter voicing support. Gary Cohen, who lives on Oakview Terrace, also spoke in favor of the project, noting that none of the homes on the street, all of which were built in the 1890s, are in compliance with the city’s present zoning ordinances.

There were no opponents and the Zoning Committee members unanimously voted in favor of the application.

The next matter was an application from Colleen Beaton, the owner and operator of the Boston’s Boxer Club at 3520 Washington St. (at the corner of Rossmore Rd.), who was seeking permission for a change of the zoning use from a restaurant

(the former Wishing Well) to a boxing club, which is a conditional use.

Beaton told the members that there will be no changes to the exterior of the building and only cosmetic changes inside the space.

In response to a question from Baron, Beaton said that the maximum capacity is 25 persons and there are only three parking spaces, which will be set aside for employees, but that 90% of the club’s members come by foot, bicycle, or public transportation. The club has been operating since January of this year pursuant to a temporary certificate of occupancy.

The Stonybrook Neighborhood Association (SNA) sent in a letter stating it is not opposed to the request.

Doherty said that he is in favor of the proposal, stating that the sport of boxing instills discipline and life-skills. Doherty also noted that his father had been a boxing trainer who had trained the legendary Joe DeNucci, who fought twice for the world middleweight championship (los-

ing both by split decisions to the great Emile Griffith) and who after his career became the long-serving State Auditor in Mass. history.

Carla Lisa Caliga, who is a member of the SNA and who also is a nearby neighbor on Burnett St., voiced her support of the proposal, noting that Beaton has cleaned up the exterior of the premises and that the Boxer’s Club has provided programs for local youths. “Colleen has already become an integral member of our community,” said Caliga.

There were no opponents and the members unanimously gave their approval to the project.

The final item on the agenda pertained to 174 Forest Hills Street in which the Laurel Ridge Rehabilitation and Skilled Nursing Center “is seeking to infill an existing porte cochere to create new physical therapy and private dining space.”

Colin O’Leary, the Executive Director of Laurel Ridge, presented the application to the members. He said that it became apparent during COVID

that additional space was needed to meet the modern-day needs of the facility’s 120 residents.

Architect Kevin Kozak explained the details of the project with a slide show, noting that the proposed renovations, which essentially will enclose the current porte cochere, will be limited to the first floor of the four-story building and will not expand the existing footprint of the structure.

A variance is needed for the renovation because the facility is an existing non-conforming use within that zoning district. There were no opponents and the members unanimously approved the variance request.

All three of the applicants now will go before the full JPNC to obtain the council’s approval and then must go before the City of Boston Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) to obtain their variances.

The Zoning Committee was scheduled to hold a meeting this past Wednesday (November 19) to take up a proposal at 6 Brookside Ave. for a new, three-story, single-family home.



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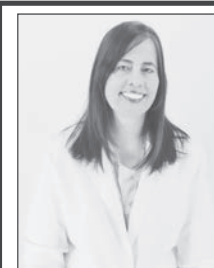
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YOUR BUSINESS HERE



Open Streets

Continued from page 1

White Stadium.-*
“These are the opportunities we have to meet people [and] talk to people,” said Melissa Hamel, a volunteer with the Franklin Park Defenders, an organization that lobbies city officials to re-store White Stadium as a public



Scenes from Open Streets in Jamaica Plain on Sunday, Nov. 2.

space, rather than proceed with a for-profit establishment.

Michelle Davis, a Franklin Park Defenders volunteer who grew up in the area, said the city neglects Franklin Park because it is surrounded by minority communities.

“You would never privatize the Boston Common,” Davis said.

Organizers divided the festival into three zones separated by intersections, which allowed traffic to pass through. Zone 1 stretched from Jackson Square to Moraine/Boylston Street, Zone 2 extended to Green Street, and Zone 3 concluded at Soldier’s Monument, according to a map provided by the city.

The Stop & Shop near the Jackson Square MBTA station offered free fruit, water and granola bars.



“We’re doing everything we can,” said Cindy Sailer, the store’s community relations specialist, responding to recent cuts to the federal food stamp program.

Brown said Open Streets en-



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SCENES FROM OPEN STREETS IN JP



riches Jamaica Plain's community spirit, along with year-round events such as dance classes, farmers markets and other community events. According to Niche, a website that profiles neighborhoods and schools, Jamaica Plain is the third best neighborhood to raise a family in Boston.

Northeastern graduate students Krithika Krishnamurthy and Tanvi Kandalla are new members of the Jamaica Plain community who visited Open Street for the first time last week. They said it helped acclimate them to the neighborhood.

"It was nice to go and sort of interact with a bunch of people who live here and meet them," said Kandalla, who bought chicken wings from Cambridge Smoke, which, according to Instagram @cambridgesmoke, specializes in smoked meats, barbecue, Southern and Haitian cuisines.

Replenish Scrubs owner Shaneen Harris offered visitors samples of organic body scrubs. Harris began creating the products in 2018. Her products include lavender vanilla, peppermint tea tree and sweet orange lemon scents, according to @replenish_scrubs on Instagram.

"You create a buzz," said Harris, describing Open Streets' benefit to businesses.



PHOTOS COURTESY OPEN STREETS BOSTON

Families were able to use sidewalk chalk, take swings in batting nets set up by the Boston Red Sox, and participate in live painting classes combined with music from At Peace Arts.

Brown said the Open Street event served its purpose by bringing people together.

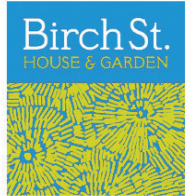
"What tends to happen is we isolate ourselves to the neighborhood we live in," she said, "so if folks walk a bit further, they could discover something new."

Simone Kramer is a student in the Boston University Journalism program. This story is a partnership between Jamaica Plain Gazette and the Boston University Journalism program.



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Swearing-in ceremony for Mayor Wu and the Boston City Council set for January 5

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

The 2026 Boston Inauguration Committee announced that the City of Boston will host Mayor Michelle Wu's swearing in ceremony for her second term as mayor on the first Monday of the year in accordance with the City Charter, on January 5, 2026 at 10 a.m. The inauguration ceremony for Mayor Michelle Wu and the Boston City Council will take place at the historic Boston Symphony Hall. Following the ceremony, Mayor Michelle Wu will host a series of events and activations throughout the week to highlight and connect our city.

Julia Leja will serve as the Chair of the Inaugural Committee, and Jessicah Pierre, who will transition out of her role as the Chief Communications Officer for the City of Boston, will serve as the Creative Executive Producer spearheading the communications strategy and creative direction for the inauguration and community events that will take place across the city during the week of January 5th, 2026.

"Our mission is to make Boston a home for everyone and I'm honored to continue to serve our communities," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "Over the last four years of our administration, Jes-

sicah's leadership, creativity, and dedication to our city have been essential to delivering results and connecting residents across our neighborhoods, creating empowering spaces and celebrating our communities. She has been an essential advisor and visionary stewarding our administration's most important initiatives and foundational responsibilities. I'm grateful that her leadership will help us kick off the new year with a focus on Boston's progress and determination to keep moving forward."

"I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to create spaces for residents to build community

and engage in a shared vision for the City of Boston," said Jessicah Pierre. "Serving as the Chief Communications Officer for the city that raised me has been the honor of my lifetime and I'm grateful to have the opportunity to continue to serve in this new capacity."

Pierre has served as Chief Communications Officer for the City of Boston under the leadership of Mayor Michelle Wu since December 2021, driving communications and messaging strategy for the City of Boston. In this role, she served as the lead communications director, spokesperson and advisor to the Mayor elevating the City of Boston's brand and the Wu administration's policy priorities to Boston residents, the media, funders, community organizations, and partners. She has also executed the City's biggest events such as Mayor Wu's annual State of the City addresses. In alignment with Mayor Wu's goals, Pierre has ensured the

City of Boston's messaging is accessible to everyone. She has led outreach to multilingual media platforms and deepened relationships with community-based media. She has also spearheaded the City's partnerships with content creators to help reach residents where they are—executing on the City of Boston's first ever Content Creator Summit.

Media guidelines for Mayor Wu's swearing-in ceremony and additional details on the events and activations happening the week of the inauguration will be shared at a later date.

MBTA

Continued from page 6

for the wonderful idea, our Customer and Employee Experience team for swiftly implementing the food drive, the many MBTA employees who filled our 'People Who Move Boston' bus with food items this Thanksgiving season, and to The Greater Boston Food Bank for the incredible work they do year-round to feed families throughout Massachusetts."

GBFB is the largest hunger-relief organization in New England, serving 190 towns and distributing the equivalent of 90 million meals annually through a network of 600 food distribution partners and programs across Eastern Massachusetts. Nearly 2 million adults in Massachusetts – more than one in three residents – faced food insecurity in 2024, according to GBFB's annual Food Access Study conducted in collaboration with

Mass General Brigham.

"What a wonderful and generous surprise this food donation is during what has been an incredibly difficult time for so many," said Cheryl Schondek, Chief Operating Officer at The Greater Boston Food Bank. "MBTA employees are truly humble public servants, and this thoughtful effort will go a long way towards helping to nourish our neighbors. What a great example of how we can come together as a community to make sure that everyone has access to healthy food."

The MBTA provided collection boxes at 17 locations throughout the transit system where employees gather and work. Facilities, garages, and other locations included Charlestown, Everett Main Repair, Wellington, Orient Heights, Lynn, Arborway, Southampton, Cabot, Braintree, Quincy, Riverside, Reservoir, JFK/UMass, High Street, and the State Transportation Building.

"For nearly nine years, I have

focused on supporting riders with disabilities and older adults, which has given me a deep understanding of the diverse needs within our community," said MBTA System-wide Accessibility Deputy Director of Customer Engagement & Coordinated Mobility Jennifer Ross. "Like many, I was feeling powerless watching neighbors struggle, but I realized the best way to regain that power is through a focused act of kindness. Bringing this food drive forward was a tangible way to provide support. I am incredibly proud, yet unsurprised, that my dedicated colleagues across the MBTA—who embody public service—immediately embraced this effort and made it a success. When we lend a helping hand, we empower both ourselves and our neighbors."

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



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BOSTON LYRIC OPERA PRESENTS THE OPERA GALA



Boston Lyric Opera Artistic Director Nina Yoshida Nelsen and Executive Director Bradley Vernatter.



Elizabeth Wood with Boston City Councilor Sharon Durkan.



Leonard and Maria Michaud.

PHOTOS BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN
The Opera Gala is the Boston Lyric Opera's signature event of the year. Held at the SoWa Power Station, guests came to support the organization that enriches Boston with performances accessible to all.



BLO Executive Director Bradley Vernatter, Susan Goldberg (WGBH journalist), and Jonathan Soroff.



Thomas and Sonja Hout.



Kyla de Asla and Jane Akin.



Alicia Cooney receives a Citation from Councilor Sharon Durkan on behalf of the Boston City Council with Boston Lyric Opera Artistic Director Nina Yoshida Nelsen and Executive Director Bradley Vernatter.



Russ Lopez, Jane Papa, and Andrew Sherman.



Neal Ferreira presents Vocalist Mary Kray with the Steven Shrestinian Award For Excellence.



Neil Ferreira presents Vocalist Mary Kray with the Steven Shrestinian Award For Excellence.

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Priscilla H Douglas and Melissa Gilliam.



BLO Artistic Director Nina Yoshida Nelsen and Boston City Councilor Sharon Durkan thank attendees for their support.

BOSTON LYRIC OPERA PRESENTS THE OPERA GALA



Alex and Rumena Senchak receive a Citation from Councilor Sharon Durkan on behalf of the Boston City Council with Boston Lyric Opera Artistic Director Nina Yoshida Nelsen and Executive Director Bradley Vernatter.



Maria Park and Dion Chay.



Massachusetts State Senator Nick Collins, on behalf of the State Senate, presents a Citation to Jane and Steven Akin with Boston Lyric Opera Executive Director Bradley Vernatter.



Boston Lyric Opera Gala Host Neal Ferreira, Steve Maler, and TJ Liquori.



Jeff Nelsen with Morgan Beckford.



Boston Lyric Opera Gala Stage Director James Blaszkowski, Artistic Director Nina Yoshida Nelsen, and Executive Director Bradley Vernatter.



Massachusetts State Senator Nick Collins, on behalf of the State Senate, presents a Citation to Lee Pelton with Boston Lyric Opera Executive Director Bradley Vernatter.



Co-chairs of The Opera Gala 2025 Alex Senchak and Alicia Cooney speak.



Betsy Ridge and Sandra Gilpatrick.

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EDITORIAL

Happy Thanksgiving

Although a Harris poll a few years back revealed that Christmas is the favorite holiday of the year among all age groups of Americans, we think that Thanksgiving, our uniquely American holiday, has much more to recommend it than Christmas.

Thanksgiving has its roots with the Pilgrims, long before the concept of a United States had crossed anyone's mind. It always has been a secular celebration of peace and relaxation. It simply is a day to be grateful for what we have, however much that may be.

Thanksgiving is a day of no pressure. It is the ultimate family-centered holiday. It has no religious meaning, no national-celebration connotations, and no required gift-giving. It lacks the commercialism, solemnity, and political overtones of all of our other national observances.

In a world where anxiety seems to follow us 24/7, Thanksgiving provides a welcome respite from the commercialism that accompanies Christmas and most of our other holidays. There is no obligation to spend a lot of money (that many of us do not have in the first place) to buy the perfect gift in order to be the perfect spouse, or the perfect parent, or the perfect friend.

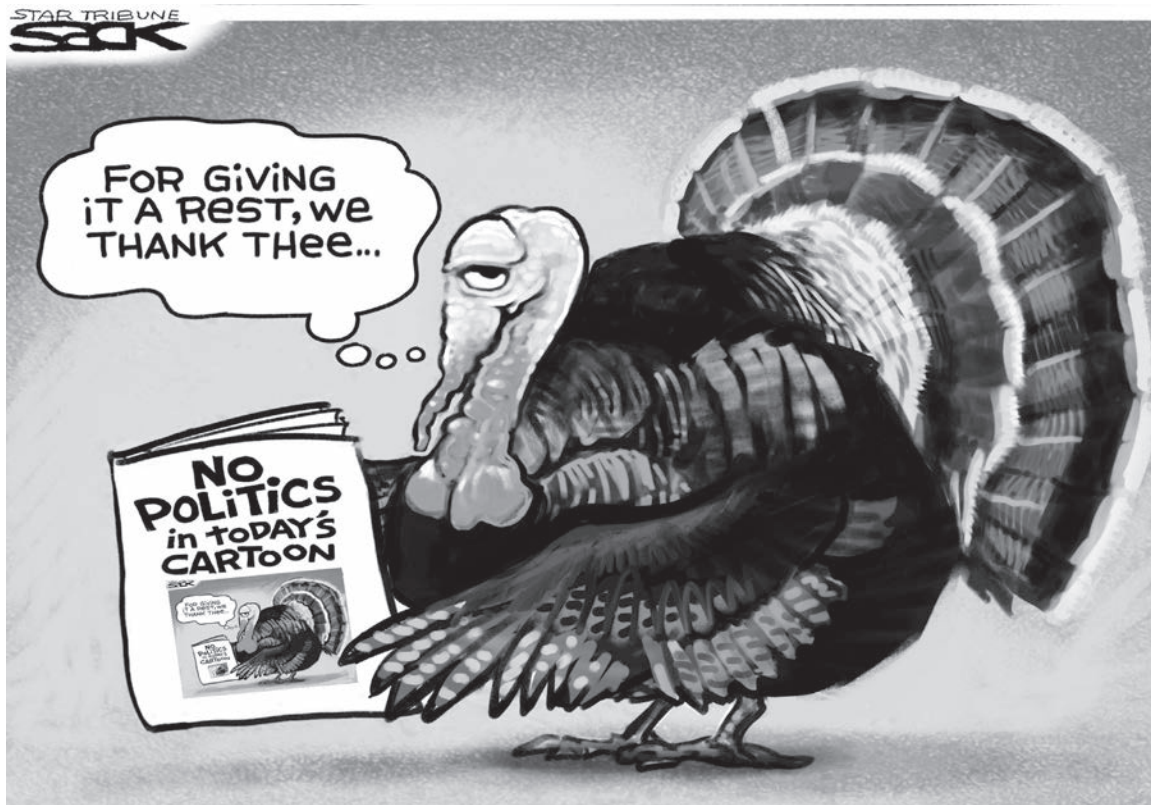
Thanksgiving demands nothing more from each of us (other than for the person who is doing the cooking!) beyond just showing up and enjoying the company of our family and friends and then having a great meal.

When we think of the Christmas vs. Thanksgiving debate, we think it's analogous to the late, great comedian George Carlin's skit about football vs. baseball (check it out on YouTube if you've never seen it!). In Carlin's telling, football is the equivalent of war in which the quarterback, known as the "field general," throws "bullet passes" and "long bombs" in the face of an opponent's "blitz" to pierce the "enemy defense." By contrast, the aim of baseball is to "be safe at home."

Similarly, while Christmas epitomizes our hyper-capitalist, consumerist, and frenetic society, Thanksgiving is its complete antithesis. Thanksgiving is a national celebration that serves to remind us how blessed we are at a time when circumstances are so cruel for so many others in a world in which there are more refugees than at any time since the end of World War II.

Whatever our personal trials and tribulations may be, Thanksgiving reminds us how remarkably fortunate we are to live in this country. And in a day and age when so many of us are connected 24/7 to some instrument of communication, it truly is a relief to have a day when we can just shut it all off (other than perhaps watching a football game.)

We wish all of our readers a happy -- and restful -- Thanksgiving.



MFA Artisan Market returns, celebrating handcrafted community

By Eva Mazzara

As friendly faces gathered and amber afternoon sunlight streamed into the Shapiro Family Courtyard in Boston's Museum of Fine Arts on a recent Saturday afternoon, a community bound by a passion for art began to take shape.

"There's so many big-box stores, and chain(s) (stores), that just (don't) have soul," said Sue Fish, 65, owner of Women's Peace Collection, one of the market's 12 vendors who set up shop at the museum's Artisan Market. "I think that when you have handmade goods, it really does bring a sense of community because it's special, it's unique, it's creative."

The Artisan Market attracts designers from diverse backgrounds to a central courtyard in the museum each year, where they sell items such as handcrafted jewelry, intricately designed clothing and other eclectic pieces. The event last month was the first since COVID-19.

Fish discovered her love for fair trade — a partnership between companies in developed countries and producers in developing countries — after graduating from Tufts University in

1982 and spending six memorable months in Peru. After returning to the U.S., Fish studied to become a therapist, a career that spanned 35 years. However, her time in Peru and the lingering idea of working with international artisans never faded. Fish bought the Women's Peace Collection in 2014, a business that sells products such as alpaca hats, gloves, cashmere wraps, scarves and baskets.

Fish works with marginalized international communities, including silversmiths in Bali, who have been practicing their art form for generations. She says she remains involved in the creative process by making frequent trips to the Indonesian island.

"One of the things we love about fair trade is the story," Fish said. "Like, we know these people in Bali, they're family to us. They're the nicest people I've ever met."

The Artisan Market debuted in 2017 and ran annually until COVID-19 forced its closure in 2020, according to Ellen Bragalone, the museum's director of retail. The market is operated in conjunction with Bragalone's fashion and textile buyer, a position that has been vacant since the pandemic.

"I just recently got it (the

job) filled, so we decided to bring back the Artisan Market," she said. "It's always been very successful, so we really wanted to start it up again."

Centered squarely in the middle of the museum, the courtyard provides a space for vendors to showcase their pieces, and room for customers to browse.

More than 5,200 people visited the museum on a recent Saturday for the Homer exhibition and other displays, and many of them stopped by the market. Sarah Basu, a customer and local artist, hopes the market will be a recurring event.

"There's a possibility, but we're trying to work out the details on that," said Bragalone. "It may happen. I can't confirm it, but it might."

When it comes to choosing vendors, Bragalone tries to assemble a marketplace that features a variety of price points, and a diverse range of goods. "That's why we tried to make sure that everybody had a very different look and feel to what they were selling," she said. "That's important for us."

The market's appeal lies mainly in its originality, said Jan Chen, a Newton therapist.

Continued on Page 15

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

Jamaica Plain GAZETTE

Circulation 16,400

Published 26 times a year in Jamaica Plain by Independent Newspaper Group

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Cancer Care

Continued from page 2

Dana-Farber or another appropriate cancer treatment center that is convenient for the patient. For benign or non-urgent cases, the program connects patients to specialty care for follow-up.

“We’re incredibly hopeful about the difference this partnership will make,” said Ludmila Svoboda, nurse director of the Cancer Care Access Program at Dana-Farber. “By bringing Dana-Farber’s expertise directly into NeighborHealth, we’re meeting patients where they are and offering access to earlier detection and treatment, as well as the compassion and support that every person facing cancer deserves. Our aim is to bring high-quality care closer to home and to bring hope to every patient we serve.”

NeighborHealth adult patients can be referred to the cancer clinic by their primary care provider for any cancer-related concern. Currently, clinics will be held twice a month at NeighborHealth’s Adult Medicine department in the Taylor Building at 10 Gove Street in East Boston. Additional clinics may be added based on demand.

NeighborHealth, formerly East Boston Neighborhood Health Center, is one of the nation’s largest Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and the largest community-based primary care health system in Massachusetts, serving over 130,000 people and recognized by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) as a National Quality Leader. For more than 50 years, NeighborHealth has offered access to comprehensive primary care, specialty care and emergency care for patients in the Commonwealth. In a first-

of-its-kind merger in 2020, East Boston Neighborhood Health Center joined forces with the South End Community Health Center and expanded services to patients who live and work in Boston’s South End and Roxbury neighborhoods. NeighborHealth champions innovative care models to actively bridge health equity gaps in our low-income and immigrant communities with services unique from other healthcare providers in our state. For more information, visit www.neighborhealth.com.

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Anonymous letters will not be published.

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Artisan Market

Continued from page 14

pist, as she browsed the tables recently.

“You cannot necessarily find exactly the same thing online,” said Chen, showing off her newest purchase — a chunky necklace filled with anomalous designs and vivid, alternating colors.

Some vendors’ businesses are new. Michelle Yozzo Drake, owner of Stonington Designs, had always enjoyed painting, but her career as an assisted living executive direc-

tor occupied most of her time.

Drake left her job to care for her mother. When it was time to return to work, her husband suggested a different idea. “And that’s why I’m 64 years old ... doing this,” she said. As Stonington Designs blossomed, Drake started a military spouse weaving program that provides jobs for stay-at-home mothers. “My son is an Air Force pilot,” she said, “and I understand the struggle that the military families have.”

Stonington Designs just released its newest collection, America 250, to celebrate the country’s semiquincentennial

birthday.

Art resonates differently for every person. Basu believes the appeal of artistic creativity is universal, and that’s one of the reasons the Artisan Market works.

“The pieces are unique, and it really helps give ... locals a way to show their work,” she said, “especially (during) a busy time like today.”

Eva Mazzara is a student in the Boston University Journalism program. This story is a partnership between North End Regional Review and the Boston University Journalism program.



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Suffolk Probate and Family Court
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To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed

by Karim Souaid of Beirut, LN requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: Karim Souaid of Beirut, LN be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration

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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

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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: November 18, 2025
Stephanie L Everett, Esq., Register of Probate

11/26/25
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LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

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ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING
Docket No. SU24D0489DR
Abel M. Leyva

vs. Sonia Carmen Molina
Upon motion of plaintiff(s) for an order directing the defendant(s), to appear, plead, or answer, in accordance with Mass.R.Civ.P./Mass.R.Dom. Rel.P. Rule 4, it appearing to the court that this is an action for Divorce 1B. Pursuant to Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411, an Automatic Restraining Order has been entered against the above named parties. Defendant cannot be found within the Commonwealth and his/her present whereabouts are unknown.

Personal service on defendant is therefore not practicable, and defendant has not voluntarily appeared int his action. It is Ordered that defendant is directed to appear, plead, answer, or otherwise move with respect to the complaint herein on or before the return day of December 17, 2026.

If you fail to do so this Court will proceed to a hearing and adjudication of this matter.
Date: October 30, 2025
Honorable Judge, Abbe L. Ross
11/26/25
JP

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