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Tom Schneider, Chief Marketing Officer at Revolutionary Clinics, Mike Pires, and Marcus Johnson-Smith of Kush Groove/KG Collective. Photo courtesy of Kush Groove

Kush Groove/KG Collective preparing to begin construction on Columbus Ave. location

BY LAUREN BENNETT

Michael Pires and Marcus Johnson-Smith of Kush Groove/KG Collective are gearing up to open their first retail cannabis stores in Cambridge and Brockton, with plans to open a location at 1589 Columbus Ave. by late summer/early fall of this year.

“We’re finalizing the design concept at the moment,” Pires said, and have plans to begin demolition in the coming weeks, with the buildout set to be completed by the end of the summer.

Pires and Johnson-Smith, who grew up in the community and are excited to be business partners, have already launched their

first cannabis product that is being sold in more than 45 stores across Massachusetts—Slow and Steady edibles.

“We’re inspired by a slow and steady lifestyle,” Johnson-Smith told the Gazette from the Caribbean, where he and Pires were

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JP continúa superando la tasa de criminalidad de la ciudad

BY LAURA PLUMMER

El jueves 1 de marzo, la sucursal de Jamaica Plain del Departamento de Policía de Boston presentó su reunión mensual de relaciones con la policía y la comunidad. La reunión es una oportunidad para que los miembros del público hagan preguntas

a la policía local.

En cada reunión, el Sgto. John Dougherty proporciona estadísticas sobre delitos hasta la fecha compiladas por el Boston Regional Intelligence Center. Un gráfico examina los delitos de la Parte Uno, los más graves.

El crimen aumentó un 5 por ciento en toda la ciudad, pero solo

uno por ciento en Jamaica Plain. En lo que va del año, el barrio reportó 105 delitos, frente a 104 en 2021. Brighton, Dorchester, Downtown, Mattapan, Roxbury, South Boston y South End registraron más delitos. Charlestown, East Boston, Hyde Park y West

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ZONING CODE ISSUES

Five Amory Street residents sue to overturn ZBA decision on new YES headquarters on Amory St.

BY LAUREN BENNETT

Following the Jan. 18 Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA) decision to approve the proposed project at 265-267 Amory St. for a new Youth Enrichment Services (YES) headquarters along with nine residential units, five neighbors have sued to overturn the vote.

The project, which is being proposed by Watermark Development, includes a three story building for the new YES headquarters, including classroom and office space and a ski shop on the first floor. There will also be a bus turnout for buses to pick kids up at the location to take them on ski trips. There is also a four story, nine residential unit building with nine park-

ing spaces proposed as well. The buildings are proposed to be 45 feet tall. Right now, the site is a parking lot.

The five Amory Street residents filed a lawsuit at the beginning of the month, which states that the proposed project does not fit within zoning guidelines.

“The existing project which covers two separate addresses and two separate decisions does not comply with Boston Zoning Code in regards to the following: GCOD applicability, Floor Area Ratio is Excessive, Off-Street Parking is Insufficient, Building Height is Excessive, Off Street Loading is Insufficient, Multi-Family Dwellings are forbidden, Useable Open Space is

Continued on page 6

JP continues to beat city crime rate, reports no shootings in 2022

BY LAURA PLUMMER

On Thursday, March 1, the Jamaica Plain branch of the Boston Police Department hosted its monthly virtual police and community relations meeting. The meeting is an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions of local law enforcement.

At every meeting, Sgt. John Dougherty provides year-to-date crime statistics compiled by the Boston Regional Intelligence Center. One chart examines Part One crimes, the most serious in nature.

Part One crime is up 5 percent

across the city, but only 1 percent in Jamaica Plain. So far this year, the neighborhood reported 105 crimes, up from 104 in 2021. Districts that experienced more crime were Brighton, Dorchester, Downtown, Mattapan, Roxbury, South Boston and South End. Districts that saw less crime were Charlestown, East Boston, Hyde Park and West Roxbury.

Part One crimes that saw an uptick in Jamaica Plain compared to 2021 were non-domestic aggravated assault, residential burglary, larceny from a motor vehicle and auto theft. Crimes

Continued on page 6

Local JP author pens new novel

BY LAUREN BENNETT

After several years in the works, JP resident and author Amy Hoffman's new novel, *Dot & Ralfie*, is set to be released very soon. The novel takes place in Jamaica Plain and focuses on elder issues and the LGBTQ+ community.

According to her website, *Dot & Ralfie* is about a lesbian couple facing the physical, emotional, and relationship challenges of aging.

Hoffman grew up in New Jersey, but has been living in the Boston area since 1973 and in Jamaica Plain since about 1990.

"I've always been an avid reader and I think I've been writing since I learned to write, basically," she told the Gazette. Publishing her books came later on in her life, she said, adding that "I think my first novel came out when I was around 40."

Hoffman has a degree from Brandeis University and an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Massachusetts



Amy Hoffman.

Amherst. She worked in a variety of jobs over the years, from editing to nonprofits to fundraising, and she served as the Editor in Chief for the Women's Review of Books published by the Wellesley Centers for Women at Wellesley College. She has also recently taught writing at Emerson College.

She said that the pandemic has created some issues in the publishing industry which has affected *Dot & Ralfie*. Hoffman said she turned in final edits for

the novel in the fall of 2019, but "it was delayed a few times," as "most books are printed abroad in China and India," and issues with shipping and paper shortages have arisen.

Additionally, promoting books has presented its own new challenges because of the pandemic. She said in-person readings, panels, and conferences have all largely been put on the back burner over the past couple of years. Instead, many events are being held on Zoom, "which is just not the same as getting to talk to people face-to-face," Hoffman said. "That happened with *Dot & Ralfie*."

She said that throughout the pandemic, she didn't do a whole lot of writing save for a "couple of essays. In a lot of ways, it was a hard time," she said. Both of her elderly parents passed away, which "made it really hard to focus on writing fiction," she said. "I've actually just gotten back to it more recently," and is even working on another new novel.

Hoffman said that with *Dot*

& Ralfie, readers should expect to deal with the "psychological, physical challenges of aging, which sounds kind of dismal," but "in my opinion, the book is very funny," she said. "I totally love writing about these characters. I think, like all my books, it's kind of character-driven more than plot-driven."

Though the characters live in Jamaica

Plain and are around Hoffman's age, she said they are "completely made up characters," though some of the issues that *Dot* and *Ralfie* deal with are some she is familiar with either in her own life or that of someone she knows. Issues range from finances to work to mobility issues in typical Jamaica Plain walk-up apartments.

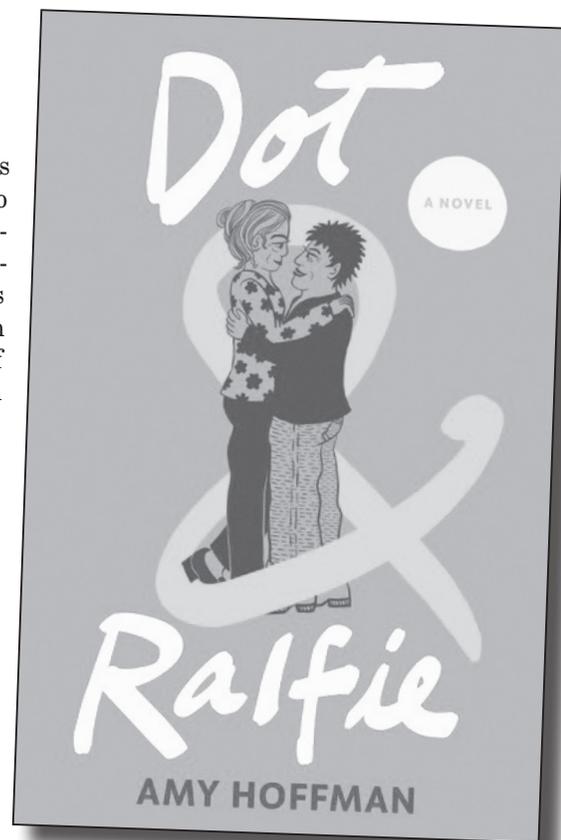
Hoffman is also the author of three memoirs as well as another novel, *The Off Season*, which is set in Provincetown, a "place in real life that I dearly love," she said. She said she's watched it change over the years and appreciates that it is welcoming to "queer people and artists."

The characters in *Dot & Ralfie* live in Hoffman's apartment, she said. "They definitely live in my neighborhood," and take walks around Jamaica Pond.

Though she said the book was not intended for a certain age range, it is "definitely about people" in a certain age range—the main characters are in their late 60s, while one character is in their 89s and another in their early 30s.

"I think, inadvertently, it's probably aimed at people of my generation," Hoffman said, who, like *Dot* and *Ralfie*, is in her late 60s.

"Really, I don't want it to be confined to people in my age group," she said. "Hopefully all of us will be getting older. Some of the issues the book deals with are issues people are going to have to think about."



At the beginning of the novel, *Ralfie* is recovering from knee surgery, and she is an employee of the Boston Public Works Department, so she worries whether or not she'll be able to continue her job with her knee issues.

Dot is a children's librarian who has an "on and off sexual relationship" with her friend *Viola* during her time with *Ralfie*. "She at one point falls and ends up in the hospital." *Ralfie* also suffers a mild heart attack and the duo questions whether or not they should still live in a third floor walkup.

"In Boston, that's actually kind of a big issue," she said, as the majority of apartments in Boston do not have elevators, which prove to be an issue both for parents of young children and aging residents.

Hoffman said these characters are important because they deal with real issues, and also there is a subplot with immigration.

"That's an issue that's very close to my heart," Hoffman said. "My grandparents immigrated to this country." She said in the book, the library intern's parents are from Vietnam and are "terrified that they're going to be deported...their fears are not totally grounded in reality." She added that she "had to make it clear that this was taking place during the Trump administration."

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NEWS BRIEFS

MAYOR'S CUP STREET HOCKEY TOURNAMENT BEGINS APRIL 21

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department will host the 2022 Mayor's Cup Street Hockey Tournament in partnership with the Boston Bruins Foundation during the April public school vacation week.

"We're looking forward to providing a year-round schedule of healthy outdoor activities for all ages in our neighborhood parks," said Parks and Recreation Department Commissioner Ryan Woods. "Thanks to our partnership with the Boston Bruins Foundation, our young street hockey players will once again get the opportunity to meet kids from throughout the city and compete for the title of 'Boston's Best' in the Mayor's Cup."

The Tournament will begin April 21 and continue through the April school vacation week. All games will be played at Garvey Playground at 340 Neponset Avenue in Dorchester. Additional support is provided by P&G Gillette.

Teams will compete in three age groups: Mite (ages 6 to 8); Squirt (ages 9 to 10); and Pee Wee (ages 11 and 12). Please note that pre-registration for teams is required with a limit of eight teams per regional division.

To register or for more information, please contact Damien Margardo at damien.margardo@boston.gov, Jennifer Misiaszek at jennifer.misiaszek@boston.gov, or call (617) 961-3083.

To stay up to date with news, events, and improvements in

Boston parks, call (617) 635-4505, visit Boston.gov/Parks, join our email list at bit.ly/Get-Parks-Emails, and follow our social channels @bostonparks-dept on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

PLANT AND IDENTIFY OAK TREES

Olmstead 2022 Art, Nature and Science Integrated free program to plant and identify oak trees at the Jamaica Plain Pond Gazebo is planned for March 19, from 2-4 pm. Register by March 13 at fcreatingt@gmail.com

Space is limited.

FEMA AWARDS MORE THAN \$1.9 MILLION TO CITY OF BOSTON

The Federal Emergency Management Agency will be sending more than \$1.9 million to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to reimburse City of Boston for purchasing and distributing personal protective equipment (PPE) to city workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The city will receive a total of \$1,941,707 in federal funding through FEMA's Public Assistance grant program to reimburse the costs of supplying Boston Police Department (BPD), Boston Fire Department (BFD), Boston Emergency Medical Services (BEMS), the Mayor's Office of Emergency Management (MOEM), and the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) between March 2020 and July

2021, including:

- Purchasing and distributing (PPE) and related supplies like such as N95 masks, surgical masks, gowns, Tyvek suits, face shields, boot covers, hair bouffants, gloves, hand sanitizer, rubbing alcohol, Clorox wipes & drapes; and

- Purchasing an electric pallet jack and manual jack required for moving the large amounts of inventory from the loading dock to the storage area where the stock was stored and distributed

"FEMA is pleased to be able to assist the City of Boston with these costs," said FEMA Region 1 Regional Administrator Lori Ehrlich. "Providing resources for our partners on the front lines of the pandemic fight is critical to their success, and our success as a nation."

FEMA's Public Assistance program is an essential source of funding for states and communities recovering from a federally declared disaster or emergency.

So far, FEMA has provided almost \$867 million in Public Assistance grants to Massachusetts to reimburse the commonwealth for pandemic-related expenses.

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARADE TRAFFIC ADVISORY

The St. Patrick's Day Parade, as well as the South Boston Boys and Girls Club Road Race, will be held in South Boston on Sunday, March 20, 2022. The parade and road race will result in street closures and traffic detours in South Boston and reduce on-street parking availability. Those coming into South Boston for the festivities are strongly encouraged not to drive their personal vehicles. Information on the MBTA may be found at www.mbta.com/, and information on Blue Bikes, the regional bike share system, may be found at

<https://www.bluebikes.com/>. The parade kicks off at 1:00 p.m. and will start at West Broadway, to East Broadway, ending at Farragut Road. Broadway will be closed to traffic from approximately 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Saint Patrick's Day Road Race begins on West Sixth Street at the Boys & Girls Club at 11:00 a.m. and will end at noon. Traffic will be delayed along the route as runners make their way to the finish line.

"Tow Zone No Stopping Boston Police Special Event Sunday" parking restrictions will be in effect as follows:

- Dorchester Avenue, both sides, from Gillette Park to Old Colony Avenue
- Foundry Street, both sides, from Greenbaum Street to Dorchester Avenue
- West Second Street, both sides, from Dorchester Avenue
- A Street, both sides, from Binford Street to West Second Street
- Binford Street, both sides, from A Street heading

northwesterly to end at 45 Binford

- West Fourth Street, both sides, from A Street to Dorchester Avenue
 - West Broadway, both sides, from Dorchester Avenue to Dorchester Street
 - East Broadway, both sides, from Dorchester Street to P Street
 - Farragut Road, both sides, from East Fourth Street to East First Street
 - Summer Street, Financial District, Atlantic Avenue to the MBTA bus stop near 245 Summer Street
 - Summer Street, South Boston, East First Street to the end of 776 Summer Street
 - E Street, from West Broadway to Athens Street
 - L Street, from East Third Street to East Broadway
- Delays due to Boys & Girls Club Race route are expected as follows:
- West Sixth Street, both sides, from F Street to Dorchester Street
 - F Street, odd side, West Sixth Street to Bowen Street



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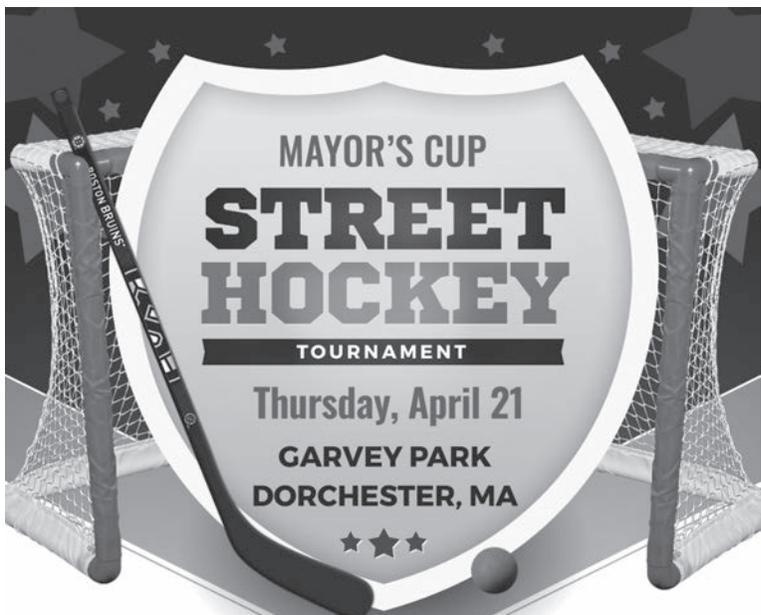
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Sherrill House, and Rogerson House work to serve local seniors

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The Jamaica Plain area is home to a number of senior care programs and buildings that offer seniors a way to live happier, healthier lives.

The Gazette caught up with Patrick Stapleton, CEO of the Sherrill House, and Rebekah Levit Executive Director of Rogerson House to learn about what programs they offer as well as about any updates they might have to share.

SHERRILL HOUSE

Stapleton said that Sherrill House, which is a non-profit organization, offers four different types of care for seniors, ranging from short term to long term care. The facility is located at 135 S. Huntington Ave.

The first, he said is “short term care,” which involves orthopedic and cardiac care, post surgery care, or care following a hospital stay. He said this is the care that is provided to the largest number of people each year—between 700 and 800—and provides them with “strength, confidence,” and allows them to “move recovery along quicker.”

He said that the “whole MO” of the short term care program is to have people leave the facility after a number of days “stronger and more confident in your ability to recover alone.”

Sherrill House also offers the “traditional long-care nursing home,” and has about 100 beds on two floors for this kind of care, Stapleton said. He said that residents stay anywhere from two years to up to ten, though it doesn’t happen often that they stay for that long.

“Home care has gotten a lot better,” Stapleton said, but “long term care is always going to be a need.”

He continued, “We’re here to serve Boston residents. Sometimes people need quality care close to home.”

Alzheimer’s care is also a specialty at Sherrill House. In 1986,

it opened a “secure unit to allow our Alzheimer’s patients to walk around freely” without worrying about going into traffic or other concerns. “We made that program a little bit better every year,” Stapleton said.

He said this is an “acute unit,” for someone who has dementia or Alzheimer’s and needs help with all tasks, including basic things like taking medicine.

“We have an environment here that we can get outside and be safe,” including a wandering garden and events for residents.

“We’ve got residents that don’t know their families,” he said, but can remember the lyrics to a song they enjoyed as a young person. “If you provide situational opportunities, those memories come back,” he said, so having events with music or grilling food can help evoke memories in these patients.

Hospice care is also something that Sherrill House has worked on for years, but just started its own a month ago, called Longwood Hospice, that they hope to “roll out in every nursing home in the City of Boston.” Stapleton said.

“This hospice was founded and operated by nursing home people. We know what a good hospice is in a facility...we cannot wait to earn the business of the rest of the City of Boston.”

Stapleton also said the pandemic took a toll on the facility, and taught them a lot about how to move forward.

“Now we’re confident that we know what we’re doing,” he said. “We have a fantastic mayor who took this very seriously,” and praised Governor Baker as well.

“Everybody thinks this is over,” he said of the pandemic. “It is far from over at 135 S. Huntington Ave. Masks are going to be in the lexicon of my PPE forever.”

He said that while face masks will require additional costs, “We

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Continued on page 5

Seniors

Continued from page 4

don't mess around here," adding that "every single person in the building" is still tested every other day, and masks and proof of vaccination continue to be required, despite any lifting of those restrictions in other sectors.

Visitors are allowed to come into the building 24/7, but they must attest to not having symptoms of COVID-19 per federal and state guidelines, which Sherrill House abides by.

"We don't make any of those rules," Stapleton said of the visitor policy. "We don't rally against those decisions. We don't do anything but applaud those decisions."

Right now, Stapleton said that he and the rest of Sherrill House are "very focused on the future," though there is still "a lot of trepidation and a lot of concern" surrounding the pandemic. "We try

to be very good to Boston's elders. We're grateful for where we are right now, and grateful for where we're headed."

Ada, Fumia, Director of IT for Sherrill House, added that he believes that "we're a better, more capable, more prepared organization right now."

ROGERSON HOUSE

Rogerson House Executive Director Rebekah Levit explained that "we were the first assisted living in the state of Massachusetts that was dedicated solely to the care of people who have memory issues. All of our residents have some form of dementia or Alzheimer's."

Rogerson House has been in the neighborhood for about 25 years, and is located at 434 Jamaica Way. The facility offers an assisted living as well as a social day program and serves about 66 residents. Altogether, there are about 75 staff members.

The social day program has reopened after being closed due

to the pandemic. The program runs from 8:30am to 3:00pm, and begins with breakfast followed by different programs and activities based on what people are interested in, as well as classes with a fitness specialist and a music therapist, and brain games.

She said that this program is "one of the few day programs that has opened post-pandemic."

For the assisted living, Rogerson House follows a "social model, not a medical model," Levin said, and residents are between 62 and 102 years old.

Staff work with the residents on daily tasks as well as other programming throughout the day.

Levin said that Rogerson House's mission is "really trying to understand where our residents are coming from and what they're trying to tell us and what they need. We talk a lot about how we are partners with the residents. We are not completely in charge here; our residents are in charge and it's our job to work

with them, to partner with them, to support them."

As far as COVID-19 policies go, visitors to Rogerson House must wear masks at all times, and staff are tested weekly and also masked at all times while working with residents.

Levin said that there is a "higher than normal" level of sanitizing throughout the facility.

"We have just really fully opened our doors to family visitors," she said. "They can visit in any part of the community at any time; we're very happy to get back to that."

Additionally, Rogerson House has a large outdoor space that Levin described as a "little oasis in the city." It features a large lawn, walking paths, and a gazebo, and many community events also take place on the property, from local karate classes to JP movie nights this coming summer.

"We're trying to find ways to work with the community to offer that for others to use it as well," Levin said, adding that "we're very lucky" to have a space like that



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Kush Groove

Continued from page 1

visiting. He said that the two wanted to come up with a brand that helps take people away from the busy lifestyle of living in the city and “removing you to the Caribbean. We do that with the flavors on the menu,” which include fruits such as papaya and passionfruit.

“All have different cannabis CBD ratios,” he said, and all of the edibles feature vegan ingredients.

The edibles were launched

just a little over three months ago. “The community is really enjoying it,” Johnson-Smith said. The products are one of the top selling products at the SEED dispensary on Centre St., Johnson-Smith said. “We’re just really happy about the product itself.”

KG Collective has another store in Cambridge under construction right now, which is set to open in June, as well as its Brockton location, which is getting ready to start construction.

Pires said that the Columbus Ave. location will be “unique in the sense” that it will feature a Kush Groove shop inside, where the duo will sell their branded

merchandise and apparel. He said it will be a “smaller version of what we had on Mission Hill,” where they sold similar merchandise and accessories to those 21 and older.

“The best way to describe it,” Johnson-Smith said, is a “dispensary gift shop.”

He added that since the two have been part of the community for so long and “have had a presence in the community,” they don’t anticipate having any issues with their Columbus Ave. store, but should there be any, “the line of communication has been there and always will be there,” he said.

Pires added that “integrity and safety” are at the top of their minds, and they already have experience running “adult-only establishments” and have experience dealing with minors and “running a smooth operation.”

Though the duo does not cultivate their own marijuana, “that’s our goal,” Pires said. “When we open, we’re going to be sourcing products from local cultivators.”

Pires and Johnson-Smith said that they wanted to locate their Jamaica Plain store at 1598 Columbus Ave. because Pires used to drive by it going to the Kush Groove shop in Mission Hill and it’s in a community that is famil-

iar to him.

“There are constraints to having a cannabis shop,” Johnson-Smith added, such as not being permitted to have one within a half mile of a school or another dispensary and the property has to be a commercial property.

“There’s a lot to be excited for,” Pires said, adding that he’s “most excited to know” that Johnson-Smith will be by his side as his business partner.

“I can attest to that,” Johnson-Smith said. “I’m excited... to really focus on building the brand and take it internationally. Kush Groove is about peace, love, and freedom.”

Lawsuit

Continued from page 1

Insufficient and Rear Yard is Insufficient,” the suit states. “Allowing these existing nonconformities at such project specifically harms the Plaintiffs and the Amory Street Community.”

The suit also states that “The Variance Decision will result in substantial detriment to the public good, particularly to the Plaintiffs, as well as nullify and substantially derogate from the intent and purpose of the City’s Zoning regulations. The Variance Decision blatantly ignores neighborhood opposition and facts on the record. Specifically, during such community process such direct abutters were not included and ignored.”

At the ZBA hearing on Jan. 18, Tiffani Caballero of the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services stated that there had been an “extensive community process” as well as “unanimous support” from the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council and 88 letters of support for the project.

Attorney Sheryl Furnari spoke on behalf of opposing abutters, saying that “they welcome the YES program” and support its mission, but it is

a “matter of the height issue” and said that these concerned residents “were not included in this community process” and live both “across the street” and “next door” to the proposed project. “They would like it to remain at the 35 feet,” Furnari said.

The lawsuit states that “the Community Liaison for this area did not have any meetings with the direct abutters.”

YES CEO Bryan Van Dorpe told the Gazette that “this is an amazing project for the City of Boston, the youth of Boston, and it’s something we’re very excited about.”

He said that YES has “been serving thousands” of youth since 1968. It started as a ski program,

and has now expanded to include other activities like kayaking and rock climbing as well.

Van Dorpe said that this project would “increase our capacity and reach more youth and impacted neighborhoods...in that way we’re excited about moving forward with it.”

The program aims to “focus on neighborhoods most in need,” Jamaica Plain, Dorchester, and Mattapan.

“We’re going to continue to move forward with it,” he said, adding that “this may slow the process.”

So far, he said “eight to 10 community meetings” have been held, and initial money has been raised for the project. YES has

also begun to explore options for putting its current Massachusetts Ave. headquarters building on the market.

“I think we’d be a great neighbor,” Van Dorpe said. “Quite frankly, I think it would be a great opportunity for us and the neighborhood. We’re moving because it’s the right thing to do and we want to build our capacity and serve more youth who need YES, and it’s the next step for YES as an organization.”

Developer Lee Goodman of Watermark Development said in a statement to the Gazette that “for over four decades, Jamaica Plain and Amory Street specifically have been home to hundreds of nonprofit, social ser-

vice organizations. In the past year, three nonprofits have been sued to block them from joining our community. The fact that neighbors can move into this community and promptly sue to block a youth center that serves 1,600 Boston kids annually is shameful.”

District 6 City Councilor Kendra Lara also weighed in, saying that “YES is an incredible, incredible asset to any community they’re in. I was hopeful that we would be able to approve the plans for that location in our district. I hear the complaints of the constituents and it is within their right to take any necessary actions, so I think the courts will decide and go from there.”

Crime

Continued from page 1

that saw a decrease include domestic aggravated assault, commercial burglary and other larceny. The numbers for homicide, rape and robbery remained the same.

Another graph showed the number of fatal and nonfatal shootings. Overall shootings are down almost 12 percent in the city compared to last year. Jamaica Plain has had no shootings in 2022. Only Dorchester, East Boston, Mattapan, Roxbury and

South Boston have had shootings this year.

The arrest rate is up in the city, from 34 percent of reported crimes resulting in arrests to 44 percent.

“Our mission is community policing,” Sgt. Dougherty said. “Everyone is welcome to contact us about any incidents or public safety issues.”

The police and community relations meeting is on the first Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm on Zoom. The next meeting will be on April 7. All residents interested in public safety are encouraged to attend.

Criminalidad

Continued from page 1

Roxbury registraron menos.

El asalto agravado no doméstico, el robo residencial, el hurto de un vehículo y el robo de automóvil aumentaron en Jamaica Plain. Delitos que vieron una disminución incluyeron el asalto agravado doméstico, el robo comercial y otros hurtos. Las cifras del homicidio, la violación y el atraco se mantuvieron iguales.

Otro gráfico mostró el número de tiroteos fatales y no fatales. Los tiroteos en general bajaron casi un 12 por ciento en la ciudad en comparación con el año pasado. Jamaica Plain no ha tenido

tiroteos en 2022. Solo Dorchester, East Boston, Mattapan, Roxbury y South Boston han tenido tiroteos este año.

La tasa de arrestos aumentó en la ciudad, del 34 por ciento de los delitos denunciados que resultaron en arrestos al 44 por ciento.

“Nuestra misión es la vigilancia comunitaria”, dijo el Sgto. Dougherty. “Todos son bienvenidos a contactarnos sobre cualquier incidente o problema de seguridad pública”.

La reunión de relaciones con la policía y la comunidad es el primer jueves de cada mes a las 6:30 p. m. en Zoom. La próxima reunión será el 7 de abril. Se anima a asistir a todos los residentes interesados en la seguridad pública.



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JPA discusses various updates

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The Jamaica Pond Association (JPA) held its monthly virtual meeting on March 7, and consisted of reports from committees, as well as a presentation from Jen Mergel of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy and general discussion.

Kevin Moloney of the JPA Zoning Committee reported that upcoming matters for the committee include a request for a variance at 561-579 Centre St. for a change of use for Pondsider Pet Care, as well as a “likely sale of all or a part of Hellenic Hill” and the request by the Monastery of Saint Clare to raze the monastery on Centre St.

Jamie Maguire of the Parks, Parkways, and Open Spaces Committee talked about Frederick Law Olmsted’s bicentennial celebration, which will take place this year.

Jen Mergel, Director of Experience and Cultural Partnerships for the Emerald Necklace

Conservancy, came to the JPA to speak about the “Parks as Platform” project that is part of the bicentennial.

Boston’s bicentennial celebration is called Olmsted Now, and according to a slide presented, “...the Emerald Necklace Conservancy will expand its annual Summer on the Emerald Necklace series into a shared resource for Bicentennial partners to animate the Necklace parks with community-generated events—Parks as Platform.”

The slide continues, “Each month, the Conservancy will focus on a site along the Emerald Necklace to anchor programming with extra support: securing permits, signage, power, potable water, food trucks, trash pick-up, portable restroom rentals and more. The monthly site will be the nexus for cross neighborhood collaboration and appreciation of a diverse roster of offerings using the parks as platform.”

Mergel also discussed the “Committee of Neighborhoods,”

which she said will be instrumental in making some decisions about how some bicentennial programming will be funded.”

The Parks as Platform would take place at different sites on the Emerald Necklace from April to October.

On August 20, an event has been proposed for Jamaica Pond, which could potentially overlap with JP Porchfest, Mergel said.

“We’re trying to learn about what support there is for an event like this to happen along Jamaica Pond, she said, and “trying to coordinate what will already be happening.”

Several people had other suggestions for events, such as opening the road to pedestrians and cyclists, as has been done in the past with Francis Parkman Dr., as well as a kite day and theater in the park.

Any suggestions, comments, questions, or concerns on this can be directed to Jen Mergel at jmergel@emeraldnecklace.org.

Novel

Continued from page 2

make a series out of the Dot and Ralfie characters, Hoffman said that “it’s possible” that she’ll write another story that includes them.

There are also a couple upcoming readings tentatively scheduled for the novel, including one at the Jamaica Plain library with fellow novelist Michelle Gabow on April 28. Another reading is planned for the Harvard bookstore in Cambridge on May 2 at 7:00pm.

At this point in her life, Hoffman said she is “very happy to be writing more,” and hopes to get outside more as well as play the violin.

She said “I really like the neighborhood I live in,” where she has friends and is able to converse with everyone. “Some people I know well, and some I just recognize,” she said. Hoffman said she also loves Centre St. and all its local shops and restaurants. “It’s very convenient and fun,” she said.

Dot & Ralfie is expected to be released on April 26. For more information, visit amyhoffman.net

Poor Sisters of St. Clare file demolition delay review application with BLC

BY LAUREN BENNETT

An application for an Article 85 demolition delay review has been filed by The Franciscan Monastery of St. Clare, Boston, Inc, which cites that the Sisters “have a constitutional right to demolish the property following any 90-day delay period imposed by the Boston Landmarks Commission (BLC).”

The Sisters say that they are protected by the First Amendment and their religious beliefs allow them to block the prevention of demolition.

The application, which was filed with the Boston Landmarks Commission, provides some history on the three story building, which is located at 920 Centre St. It states that it was built as a monastery in 1932 and has 54,712 gross square feet of living area on 125,348 square feet of land.

“The entire perimeter of the rear yard of the monastery is enclosed behind a brick wall as part of the cloister and contains gardens,” the application states.

It continues, “the property is not located in a historic district, nor does it have any designation or listing in the National Register of Historic Places, the Massachusetts Historical Commission Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS) or any other designation by the Boston Landmarks Commission.”

The Poor Sisters of St. Clare, O.S.C. assert that they can no longer afford to maintain the building and property and “the Sisters do not wish that the property be put to another use or any adaptive re-use,” the application states. “Their sincerely held religious beliefs is what brings them to make the request for demolition.”

The application also states that one the building is demolished, the property will be sold to Holland Properties, which is proposing to construct “10 duplex townhouses and 2 triplex townhouses for a total of 26 townhouses.”

The Sisters state that only 10 nuns remain living in the

existing building, so they plan on buying a smaller building for them to live in.

The City of Boston requires that prior to demolishing a building, an Article 85 application must be submitted.

According to the City of Boston website, “The article provides a predictable process for reviewing requests to demolish buildings by: establishing a waiting period to consider alternatives to the demolition of a building of historical, architectural, cultural or urban design value to the City; providing an opportunity for the public to comment on the demolition of a particular building; and minimizing the number and extent of building demolition where no immediate re-use of the site is planned.”

The Boston Landmarks Commission will make a determination on whether the building is significant enough—based on certain criteria—to hold a public demolition delay hearing, which would be scheduled within 30 days of the determination.

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BLC imposes 90-day demo delay on home at 44 Robeson St.

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The Boston Landmarks Commission (BLC) on March 8 voted to impose a 90-day demolition delay on the house at 44 Robeson St.

After postponing the hearing last month because it was determined the community meeting requirements were not met, the applicant returned this month after holding a community meeting.

Rosanne Foley, Executive Director of the BLC, said that a virtual community meeting was held on March 3 and “flyers were distributed to everyone within 500 feet” of 44 Robeson St.

The BLC determined that the community meeting requirements had been met, so the next step in the demo delay hearing was to determine the significance of the building in question and possible invocation of the 90-day delay.

Foley said that BLC staff has determined that the building is “significant,” based on two different criteria: “the Landmarks Commission staff finds that the building is historically or architecturally significant because of period, style, method of building construction, or important asso-

ciation with a famous architect or builder” and “the Landmarks Commission staff finds that the building is one whose loss would have a significant negative impact on the historical or architectural integrity or urban design character of the neighborhood.”

The home was constructed in 1892 and is a saltbox building with a gambrel roof line, Foley said, and includes a large yard and “large Roxbury pudding-stone outcropping.”

Foley added that the home was built “as part of a new residential community abutting Franklin Park,” within close proximity to the train. She said that this is still the function of the home today.

Applicant Joshua Brandt spoke about the history and condition of the building, saying that the “house is on an extremely large lot,” and the saltbox gambrel roof can be seen from the front of the building.

He said that there is “evidence of water damage throughout the home, as well as mold.”

Additionally, regarding the history of the building, “we’ve not in our research found anything particularly historical about this property,” Brandt said. “It’s our general understanding that it

was oriented the way it was because of some farmhouses down the hill which have since been demolished. Our research has not indicated anything specifically historical about it rather than it just being an old house.”

Members of the public were also permitted to weigh in on the history and/or condition of the building.

Jean Musiker, who said she lives next door to 44 Robeson, said that the building’s architect has two homes on the national historic register and 40 on the Massachusetts historic register.

She said that when the house was still on the market, she went inside, and said that while the house “wasn’t in great shape,” it “didn’t look that bad.” She said she has photos of the interior that had been posted on redfin.com before Brandt had purchased it.

Another neighbor said that the “roof was repaired fairly recently,” and some painting has been done. “It has been taken care of to a certain extent, she said. “There have been some windows left open that would make the water damage appear worse.”

Others spoke up saying that they believe the home is significant in the neighborhood and fits in well.

BLC Chair Lynn Smiledge said that “I think it’s very handsome and definitely architecturally distinguished.”

Commissioner John Amodeo agreed, saying he would like to see the 90-day demo delay imposed.

Commissioner Richard Henderson, who said he is also a Jamaica Plain resident, concurred.

“I would absolutely recommend demolition delay on this. It’s a beautiful house on a beautiful street. Its demolition would severely erode the character of a very handsome street.”

At this point, the BLC voted to impose the demo delay, and the applicant was instructed to present alternatives to demolition for the Commission to decide whether or not any of them are “feasible.” The applicant also presented his proposal should the building be demolished.

Brandt proposed two alternatives that keep the original building. The first was to build two new single family homes on the lot, separate from the existing single family which would remain. There is no parking proposed, but there is an existing curb cut with space for one car in the front yard. The height would be about 1.5 stories, similar to the existing building.

The second alternative would also keep the existing home as a single family, but create two more units as an addition onto it. The height would also be 1.5 stories and no parking would be provided, per guidance from the BLC.

Brandt then proposed a design that includes the demolition of the existing house. He said that once the house is demolished, the lot would be subdivided “more or less down the middle” to erect “two conforming three family lots” that would consist of a three unit townhouse on each lot for a total of six units. Each unit would have three bedrooms and two and a half bathrooms.

“It would technically be two separate three family buildings

with a firewall along the property line,” Brandt said. There are a total of seven parking spots proposed, one for each unit and one unit would have two.

He said no variances would be required to build this, as it’s all as of right.

The style of the building is “not intended to look like a building from 1892,” he said, but rather a “modern take on a salt box” and would use board and batten siding with “yellow cedar accent cladding.”

Commissioner David Berarducci said he prefers the first alternative, and the Commission got into a discussion about different ways the applicant might approach this by asking for variances. The Commission said they would support him in his ask in order to preserve the existing house.

Brandt said that “in order to get more than three units,” the “lot needs to be subdivided down the middle, necessitating demolition, or variances need to be applied for.” He said that “pursuing variances is fraught with not only cost and time, but a huge amount of risk.”

Commissioner John Freeman said he was in favor of keeping the demo delay in place.

During public comment, Foley clarified the demo delay process. “After the three month delay, the house will be demolished and the project will be built,” she said. “So there’s no alternative that will save the house without something compromised so that they can build on the lot. And I think people don’t understand that demo delay is not permanent denial of demolition. The Commission cannot deny demolition.”

After hearing from everyone who wanted to speak on this, Smiledge said that the 90-day delay remains in place, and that she “strongly encourages” Brandt to consider comments heard at this hearing and think of “creative ways this house can be retained. Otherwise, I think you’re doing a huge disservice to the integrity of the neighborhood.” She said that a “project based on avoidance of variances is not a quality project.”

Because of the delay, the applicant is not permitted to receive a demolition permit until June 6.



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Emerald Necklace Conservancy announces the return of Party in the Park luncheon

STAFF REPORT

The Emerald Necklace Conservancy announces the return of Party in the Park, the city's beloved annual luncheon to raise awareness and funds for the Emerald Necklace parks. This year's event will take place on Wednesday, May 11, at Pinebank in Jamaica Plain, with all proceeds supporting the 1,100-acre park system that serves as a backyard for residents and a destination for more than one million visitors each year. The Conservancy stewards the Emerald Necklace through advocacy, maintenance and restoration, education, access improvements, public programs and the promotion of park stewardship through volunteer and youth programs.

"We are so thrilled for this

event to be returning and taking a moment to reflect on what the parks have meant for us and how we can continue to invest in this unparalleled Boston gem. We are excited to bring renewed attention to the parks and be part of restoring and improving the Emerald Necklace for all," said Lydia Cottrell, Co-Chair of the 2022 Party in the Park.

Last spring, the luncheon was not held due to the pandemic. Instead, the fundraiser pivoted to a unique outdoor cocktail event in the fall, which brought guests together in celebration of parks and open space, and their essential role in public health. This May, Party in the Park returns in its traditional format for the first time since 2019 and will feature the presentation of the Liff Spirit Award to Kathy Abbott, Presi-

dent and CEO of Boston Harbor Now—a superior park advocate who has made an indelible impact on the preservation of waterfront parks and open space in Massachusetts. The award is named in honor of the late Boston Parks Commissioner Justine Mee Liff, who served from 1996 until her passing in 2002. Party in the Park benefits the Emerald Necklace Conservancy and continues Liff's legacy of bringing people together to support and champion these vital urban green spaces.

"Party in the Park, the Emerald Necklace Conservancy's signature fundraising event, funds capital improvements and essential tree care in the parks," noted Karen Mauney-Brodek, President of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy. "It also supports

our education programs, free public programming, advocacy efforts and special initiatives. We are extremely proud of the work the Conservancy has done for nearly 25 years to maintain and improve the Emerald Necklace, and to connect our communities to these parks – your parks – which are such an important part of our city, and our collective efforts to manage climate change. In this year, as we mark the bicentennial of the Necklace's creator, Frederick Law Olmsted, we are especially humbled by the power of these special places to heal, restore and bring us together."

Held for nearly two decades, Party in the Park attracts the

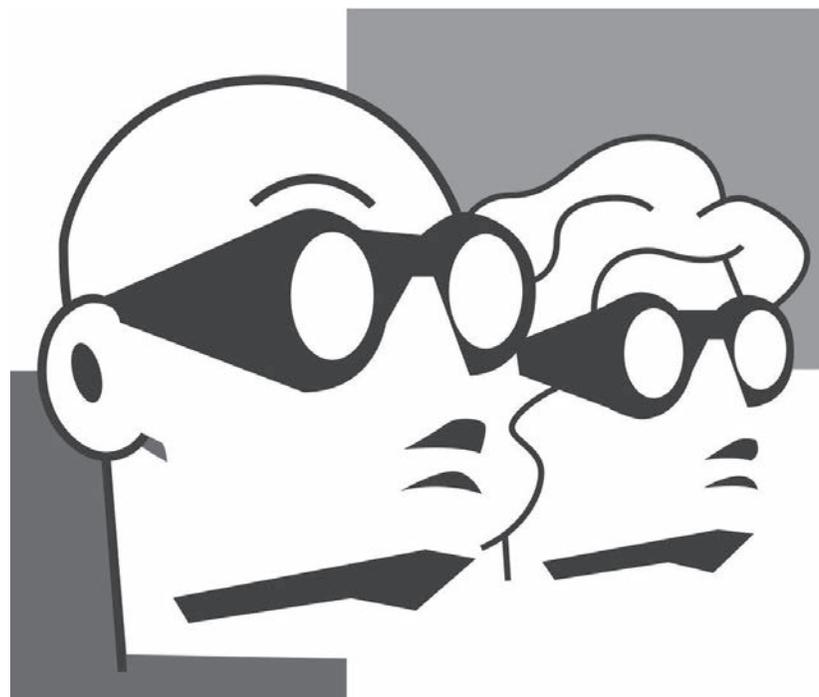
area's most generous green space supporters and civic leaders for a stylish afternoon under a tent. Ladies and gentlemen don their finest millinery at this "must-attend" fundraiser to herald the coming of spring to Boston. From picture hats and fascinators to cloches and pillboxes, every conceivable type of headgear will be on display. Festive spring décor, including stunning Winston Flowers arrangements, will grace the venue while attendees enjoy a champagne and hors d'oeuvres reception, courtesy of Max Ultimate Food, prior to a seated luncheon and program. For more information and tickets, please visit www.emeraldnecklace.org/party-in-the-park

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JP dietician to host webinar; releasing new book in May

BY THE RASHI SCHOOL

JP resident and registered dietician and nutritionist Stephanie Meyers is preparing to host a virtual webinar with The Rashi School on March 21, and also has a new book coming out in May.

Meyers did not set out to be a dietician, however. She studied communications and thought she wanted to be a broadcast journalist before she realized “this is not the life for me,” she told the Gazette.

After realizing she enjoyed reading about eating, food, and nutrition, she took a nutrition class. “I couldn’t believe it was a field you could study,” she said, and was excited at the idea of making a career out of it. She then decided to double major in nutrition and communication, which she said is the “intersection of my work now.”

Much of Meyers’ work focuses on helping parents work with their kids on healthy eating habits.

“The virtual event is for the Rashi community, but also for prospective families,” she said. She said the school focuses on a “sort of whole person-centered approach. There’s many opportunities they have to think about how they’re caring for them-



Stephanie Meyers.

selves and others. That’s so core for the work I do.”

March is also National Nutrition Month, so the event, titled Families Eating Well, comes at a key time. Meyers said that as part of the event, she will talk about “key parenting practices” related to eating. Meyers herself has two daughters ages 13 and 9.

She said that while she is “not a parenting expert,” the “challenges are all too real” when it comes to kids and eating. She said many parents come to her private practice saying things like their kids don’t eat enough vegetables, they’re eating too much “junk,” are “begging for candy,” or are “not very adventurous.”

Meyers said, “We’re going to

talk about in the presentation how you can deal with food rejection or resistance.”

Much of Meyers’ approach with parents includes reframing how they communicate with their children when it comes to food and the phrasing and word choices that are made. She said instead of “pressuring” kids or trying to “tell them what to do,” she said a much more effective approach is to ask open-ended questions and really listen to the child’s response, especially when it comes to foods they are resistant to.

Meyers is also a mindfulness meditation instructor, and said that this also plays into her nutrition work.

“My experience as a mindfulness meditator is to see those struggles as giving you one of two options,” she said. “My job as a parent is to cultivate curiosity and/or connection.”

She said asking kids to “use adjectives” to describe a food in question can be very helpful, as well as to ask things like “what would help it?”

The pandemic has also exacerbated existing issues around food and mealtimes for many families.

Meyers said that as a person with privilege, she acknowledged that she has “not endured the

majority of the challenges in the pandemic,” but recognizes that there has been an “incredible, incredible increase in food insecurity in the country.”

Another issue for many families has been everyone being home together a lot more and figuring out mealtimes.

“For me in my private practice,” she said, “everything that [clients] kind of tried to ignore came rushing to the surface during the pandemic. The pandemic caused a substantial change in how much of the struggle people were living every day.”

She said that parents are looking to help their kids “feel differently around food.” Meyers also said that there has been a “significant rise in children experiencing eating disorders.”

Advice for parents struggling with the pandemic includes having family meals “as often as you can. Even three family meals a week is associated with significant improvement” in kids’ wellbeing, Meyers said, adding that it “doesn’t just have to be dinner,” it could be breakfast or something as simple as eating a snack together. “Any amount of family connection is important.”

Meyers’ book, titled End the Mealtime Meltdown, will be available on May 1.

“I’ve been working on this

book for 11 years,” she said, ever since her older daughter was around two years old. She said she coined a phrase—“table talk”—which is “what you say to your child about eating while they’re eating. I gathered up this research [and] found that most of the time, what we’re saying to kids about their eating is counterproductive.”

She said that “parents may not realize there’s an easier way to parent your kids about food and eating,” and the book will help parents deal with things like “conflict at the table” as well as providing children “with the skills they need for a lifetime of healthy eating.”

Meyers has lived in Jamaica Plain for the past 16 years, and said the Arnold Arboretum is one of her favorite parts of the neighborhood, along with the “like-mindedness” of the people who live in the neighborhood.

“You can be just who you are, and you’re welcome here,” she said.

To register for Meyers’ webinar, which will be on Monday, March 21 from 7 to 8pm visit eventbrite.com/e/six-key-parenting-practices-for-raising-healthy-eaters-registration-268593298787. For additional information, call 781-355-7317.

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Roslindale teen arrested in JP on gun charges

BY JOHN LYNDY

Last month, a Roslindale teen was arrested on a series of gun charges on Parker Street in Jamaica Plain.

Officers assigned to the Youth Violence Strike Force arrested Nikolos Miranda, 18, of Roslindale, for firearm-related offenses in the area of 940 Parker Street in Jamaica Plain.

According to the police report,

officers were notified via a 911 call that a group was congregating in the area of 940 Parker Street, blocking handicap access to the building, drinking alcohol, and smoking marijuana in public.

As Officers approached the group, they observed a male, later identified as Miranda, separate from the group and attempt to leave the area. Officers spoke

with Miranda and observed a folding knife clipped to his waistband. Officers conducted a pat-frisk of Miranda and recovered a loaded firearm.

He was placed into custody without incident.

The firearm was determined to have an obliterated serial number. The firearm was loaded with one round in the chamber and ten 9mm rounds in the magazine.

Miranda was charged with Unlawful Possession of a large capacity Feeding Device, carrying a firearm without a license, Possession of a Firearm with a Defaced Serial Number, Unlawful Possession of Ammunition, and Carrying a Dangerous Weapon.

Nikolos Miranda was arraigned in Roxbury District Court.

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Armenian Women's Welfare Association expands leadership team at its skilled nursing center

The Armenian Women's Welfare Association (AWWA), a nonprofit health care organization dedicated to serving elders locally and internationally, and the sponsor organization of the Armenian Nursing & Rehabilitation Center of Jamaica Plain announced an expanded senior leadership team at the top-rated skilled nursing center with the appointment of two experienced administrators: Greg Messina, Chief Operating Officer, and Jessica Brigham, Executive Director.

Messina and Brigham each bring more than a decade of health care experience to the 83-bed, nonprofit provider of high-quality long-term care and short-term rehabilitation. Messina will guide the Armenian Nursing & Rehabilitation Center's strategic and planning initiatives, including the development of new services and programs, oversight of finances and collaboration with key health care partners. Brigham



Jessica Brigham.

will lead the day-to-day operations, including the clinical care of patients and residents, management of staff, and communication with families.

"With these important leadership appointments and our continued commitment to strengthen our programs, we are well positioned to grow our mission of providing high-quality, per-



Greg Messina.

son-centered care to the communities we serve," said Martha Mensoian, President of the AWWA Board of Directors. "Greg and Jessica bring new ideas and a record of success in running a long-term care center, which will serve us well in these quickly evolving times."

Messina previously served as a regional administrator

for Whittier Health Network, a group of acute rehabilitation hospitals and subacute rehabilitation and nursing homes in Massachusetts. Prior to becoming a licensed nursing home administrator, he had a career in business and marketing. Messina earned a bachelor's degree in history and an MBA from the University of Massachusetts Boston.

"I am thrilled to join a nonprofit organization with such a rich history in serving its beneficiaries both locally and internationally, and a strong tradition of collaboration in health care with Boston's world-renowned medical centers," Messina said. "I look forward to bringing my experience in managing multiple skilled nursing facilities and helping our team build toward the future."

Brigham has served as the licensed nursing home administrator for several nursing homes in Greater Boston, most recently as executive director of Brighton

House Rehabilitation & Nursing Center. Prior to these leadership roles, she worked for many years as a nurse and nursing director in health care and in long-term care centers. Brigham earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from Simmons University in Boston and is a registered nurse.

"I am excited to return to a nonprofit health care setting and to guide the high quality care and services that the Armenian Nursing & Rehabilitation Center is well known for providing," said Brigham. "As a nurse who has worked in many roles and settings during my career, I look forward to bringing my skills and experience in support of clinical programs during these highly complex times."

The senior leadership appointments at the Armenian Nursing & Rehabilitation Center followed the recent retirement of Scott Ariel, the AWWA's Chief Executive Officer, from a decades-long

Continued on page 13

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CITY PAWS

Puppy dog tails

By PENNY & ED CHERUBINO

Dogs' tails are fascinating. You may think you know how they communicate with their tails, but subtle differences in tail position can make a difference. Here's more about these expressive and useful appendages.

Anatomy and Types of Tails

The Farmer's Dog website describes the anatomy of a dog's tail. "Canine tails are the last segment of the spine and are made up of as many as 23 vertebrae that get progressively smaller from base to tip. The tail also includes muscles that enclose the bones, as well as tendons and nerves."

Breed standards for dogs have precise information about the characteristics required for a proper tail. Beagles always have a white tip on their tails to help spot them in high grass. Huskies should have lush tails they can use to wrap around their face for warmth and protection when

resting. Retrievers' tails should be otter-like to serve as a rudder when swimming. Dogs also use their tails to help them balance.

There are also curly tails sported by breeds like the Shiba Inus and the variant found in Pugs and Frenchies, the corkscrew tail. Greyhounds have whip tails. While a few breeds like the Pembroke Welsh Corgi have a natural short stub of a tail, far too many dogs have had their tails docked purely for style. Fortunately, this practice is now illegal in many areas where it is considered animal cruelty.

Happy Tail Injuries

A dog's tail can also alert you to a medical problem. Anytime you see your dog's tail carried in an unusual position, do a bit of checking. It can signal something simple like an itchy hot spot on the skin to a more severe problem like a happy tail injury.

Dr. Marty Becker writing for VetStreet explains, "This type of

injury occurs when a dog with an outgoing personality and a long tail repeatedly thwacks the tail against a hard surface such as a crate or wall. Really happy dogs — think Golden Retrievers or Cavaliers — or dogs with thin, delicate skin, such as Greyhounds, wag so hard and fast that a bleeding ulcer can develop on the tip of the tail."

Talking Tails

A tail can say many things. To understand what the dog is communicating, you must look beyond the wag. Tail position, speed of the wag, and signals coming from elsewhere on the dog are all important.

For example, a tail held high and still or with stiff, small wags is a sign of a dog on alert and perhaps even threatening. A tail tucked between the legs can signify a fearful or submissive dog. Low, slow wags signal a dog questioning and unsure.

Feeling relaxed and secure, a dog holds their tail in its most



Maggie bows to her play partner while furling the lovely feathers on her tail. Hugo is using his curled tail to help balance on three feet.

natural position. Add a dose of happiness to that, and you'll see a gentle wag. The return of a favorite person could bring on a mighty circular wag.

There are exceptions to these rules. For some breeds, like Greyhounds, a tail tucked between the legs is a natural position. A shepherd will know that a herding dog, like a Border Collie, is concentrating on the job when the tail is tucked between the

legs, and a wagging tail means the dog is goofing off.

The next time your dog is busy having a good sniff of the surroundings, entertain yourself by spotting as many types of dog tails as you can and identifying what each is telling the people and other dogs in the area.

Do you have a question or topic for City Paws? Send an email to Penny@BostonZest.com with your request.

JP weekly COVID positive test remains the same

By JOHN LYNDS

Three weeks after the city ended Boston's "B Together" policy, which requires patrons and staff of certain indoor spaces to show proof of vaccination against COVID-19 would be lifted, new infections continue to level out or decline in Jamaica Plain and the rest of Boston.

On Saturday, the city's mask mandate for indoor spaces was also lifted and that move hasn't led to an increase in cases thus far.

According to the BPHC 12,478 residents were tested citywide last week and 2.3 percent were COVID positive--this was a 36 percent decrease from the 3.6 percent that reportedly tested positive for the week ending on February 28. The weekly positive test rate has now decreased 50

percent in Boston since February 21.

The weekly report released Monday by the BPHC showed that 1,103 Jamaica Plain residents were tested and 2.4 percent were found to be positive--this was the same percentage that tested positive between February 21 and February 28.

Twenty six additional Jamaica Plain residents tested positive for the virus last week and the number of positive cases increased to 7,380 overall since the start of the pandemic.

"Based on the data we have seen over the past weeks, we can remove some of the prevention and mitigation strategies that have been necessary to protect residents," said BPHC Executive Director Dr. Bisola Ojikutu. "I am optimistic about where our city is headed, and the Commis-

sion will continue to monitor our key metrics and adjust our policies accordingly."

The statistics released by the BPHC as part of its weekly COVID19 report breaks down the number of cases and infection rates in each neighborhood. It also breaks down the number of cases by age, gender and race.

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased 0.52 percent last week and went from 165,226 cases to 166,087 confirmed since the start of the pandemic.

There were 9 additional deaths in Boston from the virus in the past week and the total COVID deaths is now at 1,727. Deaths decreased 57 percent in Boston last week with 12 less deaths compared to the 21 deaths reported by the BPHC two weeks ago.

AWWA

Continued from page 11

career in health care administration, who was also serving as the interim administrator of the Armenian Nursing & Rehabilitation Center. The AWWA Board of Directors credited Ariel for his steady management, particularly navigating the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, and for his overall dedication and service to the mission of the AWWA and the Center.

The Armenian Nursing & Rehabilitation Center is an 83-bed, nonprofit skilled nursing center located at 431 Pond St., next to Larz Anderson Park, in Boston's Jamaica Plain neighborhood. The Center offers long-term care with a person-centered approach in a highly skilled clinical setting, as well as comprehensive post-acute care and rehabilita-

tion services including physical, occupational and speech therapy. The Center's dedication to excellence has earned it an overall rating of high performing in "Best Nursing Homes" by U.S. News & World Report.

The Armenian Women's Welfare Association (AWWA) is a nonprofit membership organization dedicated to serving elders locally and internationally through the sponsorship of elder service programs. Founded in 1915 and drawing on the rich history of the Armenian community, the AWWA operates the Armenian Nursing & Rehabilitation Center in Boston and supports an elder clinic and outreach program that provides medical care, food, fuel assistance and social support as well as visiting nurse services for the homebound to hundreds of elderly people who are alone in the Republic of Artsakh.

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Miniard Culpepper announces his bid for for State Senate seat

PHOTOS AND STORY BY SARAH BRINK

Former federal housing attorney Miniard Culpepper announced his bid for the 2nd Suffolk State Senate seat that stretches from the South End of Boston to Jamaica Plain and Hyde Park.

The Roxbury lawyer vowed to use his office to expand affordable housing and homeownership opportunities, reduce crime and ensure the participation of

marginalized communities in the transition to a green economy.

During a press conference in Grove Hall, the geographic center of the district, Culpepper said his experience as a housing lawyer and an activist minister convinced him it was time to bring his advocacy and skills to the job of state senator.

"I am a lawyer who follows the law and a minister who follows the Lord," said the long-time pastor of the Pleasant Hill Mission-

ary Baptist Church in Roxbury. "Now it's time to become a lawmaker who works for the people of the 2nd Suffolk District."

Culpepper joined a Democratic primary race that already includes two Jamaica Plain state legislators -- Rep. Nika Elugardo and Rep. Liz Miranda. Former Sen. Dianne Wilkerson, is also weighing a candidacy.

The Senate hopefuls are vying for the seat being vacated by Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz, who is

running for governor.

Joined by several dozen supporters on a cold and blustery day, Culpepper pointed to his work building housing, feeding families, encouraging vaccines and fighting youth violence as the hallmarks of a career spent on the front lines of urban struggles.

"We love where we live," he said. "By working together, we can lift the lives of those left behind -- to house the homeless, shelter the sick, comfort the afflicted, feed the hungry and provide a better day for all. I believe that by working together we can create the beloved community Dr. King so eloquently spoke about."

Former colleagues at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban development and several local pastors, including the Rev. Gregory Groover of the Charles Street AME Church, praised his efforts to combat housing bias and bring federal resources to improve affordable housing.

Culpepper recently retired from HUD after spending 27 years as its New England regional counsel.

A graduate of Brandeis University, he received a law degree from Suffolk University and a theology degree from Howard University. He worked for U.S. Rep. Cardiss Collins (D-Mich.), the one-time chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, on housing issues and played key voter education and turnout roles in the presidential campaigns of U.S. Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, Bill Clinton, Barack Obama and Joe Biden.

He also traveled the country with U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren during her 2020 bid for the Democratic nomination and worked on the campaigns of Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, U.S. Sen. Edward Brooke and a host of state and local officials.

Housing, he said at the announcement, is the greatest challenge facing residents of the majority-Black district. But he also cited a resurgence in youth crime and called for re-deploying the strategies used in the 1990s



Miniard Culpepper.

to reduce violence and fear.

"They called it 'The Boston Miracle,'" he said. "But we know it wasn't a miracle. It was just common sense. It was a matter of getting everyone to work together -- pastors and social workers, police and prosecutors, probation officers and school teachers, federal, state and city officials working in concert with a laser-like focus on keeping the peace."

"There's too much fear in our neighborhoods, too many of our friends and families hiding behind drawn shades and locked doors. We can do something about it. I know what happened back in the 90s because I was there, working out my own church as well as with the pastors of the Ten Point Coalition. And we created a model for the whole nation to follow."

Culpepper said he would ensure full community participation in the hiring and contract opportunities arising from a recent federal \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill to repair roads and bridges and build green infrastructure.

"That money, for the first time in history, has been linked to verifiable spending metrics to advance the goals of economic and social justice for marginalized communities," he said. "But we need leaders who know how Washington works, who know how the State House works, who know how the tidal wave of funding is distributed and how to ensure that we get our fair share."

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Wu files ordinance regarding targeted residential picketing

STAFF REPORT

Mayor Michelle Wu on Feb. 28 filed an Ordinance Regarding Targeted Residential Picketing, adding parameters to protect the health and well-being of residents in our neighborhoods against targeted harassment. Targeted residential picketing means picketing, protesting, or demonstrating, with or without signs or sound amplification, that is specifically directed towards a particular residence or one or more occupants of the residence, and which takes place before or about the targeted residence. The ordinance would restrict targeted residential picketing only

between the hours of 9:00pm and 9:00am, and would not affect marches or protests passing through residential areas that are not targeted at a particular home.

“Boston has a strong legacy of activism, and it’s important to uphold and protect the ability to speak out and advocate fiercely to keep our democracy strong,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “But in a moment of divided national politics, we can’t normalize the harassment and hate spilling over into our communities. Boston must model not only bold, urgent policies, but also inclusive, empowering politics.”

“This ordinance will add to

our existing laws to stop harassment of residents in their private homes, while respecting the right to protest,” said Acting Commissioner and Superintendent-in-Chief Gregory P. Long. “People have a right to privacy and peace in their homes.”

The City of Boston is committed to the First Amendment right to protest, while protecting residents’ privacy and the quality of residential life. Targeted residential picketing that occurs late at night or early in the morning increases the intrusion on the privacy and sanctity of the home, and is particularly harassing and detrimental to the sleep and well-being of families,

including seniors and families with children.

The ordinance would protect any targeted residence, not just elected officials’ homes. The U.S. Supreme Court case that affirmed such protections, *Frisby v. Schultz*, upheld a local ordinance in Wisconsin created after anti-abortion protesters consistently targeted doctors who performed abortions, by repeatedly picketing outside their homes. The framework proposed for Boston would restrict targeted residential picketing only at night and in the early morning. The order will complement existing prohibitions against excessive noise, disturbing the peace, and

blocking of streets and sidewalks through these clear guidelines around targeted residential picketing.

“Public protests at people’s homes must have reasonable limits. These demonstrations are not only causing stress to the families of elected officials, it is also hurting their neighbors, many of whom are seniors, persons with disabilities, veterans and young children,” said Boston City Council President Ed Flynn. “Now is the time to come together as a city and country to treat each other with empathy, respect and dignity.”

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COLOR SCHEME



Peninah Hodin and her mother were walking home from Centre Street and chatting when Peninah suddenly stopped and said, "OMG, I'm dressed like that house!"

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Carol Truncale's story isn't just about how she prevailed through a severe childhood case of scoliosis, or curvature of the spine. It's about what she did when she grew up.

She became a nurse—a decision inspired by the support and dedication she received from her own medical team during her long years of treatment and successful recovery.

Carol Truncale's story leaves us with two of the most contagious messages we know: don't give up, and remember to give back. If Carol's story inspires just one more person to make a difference, then its telling here has been well worth while.



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EDITORIAL

Putin: Pure evil

As regular readers of this column know, we do not view events in terms of “good vs. evil.”

Over the years, we have referred to tobacco companies, polluters, et als as greedy and despicable, but describing them as “evil-doers,” as former President George W. Bush did in referring to the plotters behind the 9/11 attacks, or labeling Iraq, Iran, and No. Korea as the “axis of evil,” as Bush did in his 2002 State of the Union speech, always struck us as an overly-simplistic way to refer to those with whom we disagree, a verbal short-cut to avoid trying to explain complex matters.

But sometimes words cannot be found to discuss events for which there is no rational explanation. The more we try, the more we realize that sometimes, words are nothing more than hollow, shallow, and meaningless keystrokes on our laptops.

The actions of Hitler and the Nazis before and during WWII fit into this category.

And so too, is the tragedy that is unfolding hour-by-hour in Ukraine, where the civilian population is being wiped out by the whims of a semi-mad and sociopathic 70 year-old dictator.

Evil -- pure “evil” -- is the only word that comes to mind when we think of Vladimir Putin.

That’s all we’ve got. But that says it all.

Energy relief is needed -- suspend the gasoline tax

Other than a couple of on-air Fox TV personalities, the vast majority of Americans are outraged about the situation in Ukraine.

But there isn’t much that we in the U.S. can do about it directly, whether individually (unless we want to join the Ukrainian army) or collectively (unless we want to start a nuclear World War III).

Yes, the U.S. is working with other nations in supplying weapons and humanitarian aid to Ukraine. We also have imposed unprecedented and devastating economic sanctions upon Russia that already are wreaking havoc with the Russian economy.

But what has not been done is the big one: Shutting-off the spigot of Russian natural gas and oil, the means by which Putin is able to finance his war and his hold on the Russian people.

Congress is in the process of passing a bill that would ban the import of Russian oil into this country. Apparently, we get seven percent of our oil from Russia.

The Biden administration has been hesitant to do so because it fears that this would cause a huge spike in the price of gasoline, which would further fuel inflation.

However, we cannot offer platitudes to the Ukrainian people and talk about our commitment to democracy and peace if we are unwilling to make sacrifices ourselves.

Congress and the Biden administration can soften the effect upon average Americans of skyrocketing energy costs in a number of ways, either through direct payments to income-qualifying Americans or even subsidies to domestic energy producers, with the caveat that they need to increase production here in America. (In fact, our domestic oil producers are engaging in nothing less than crass war-profiteering by refusing to produce more oil and natural gas, which they easily can do and as they have done in the past, in order to flood the world market and bring prices down.)

The state and federal governments also can suspend the tax on gasoline. In California for example, the per-gallon state tax is 51 cents and the federal tax is 18 cents. Here in Mass., our state tax is 24 cents.

If the world is to turn the tide against the Putin regime, we must be willing to make sacrifices on an individual level. If that means paying more for gasoline, then that’s what we have to do.

But governments can soften the blow upon average Americans of soaring energy costs, which will have ripple effects throughout the economy, and should take action to do so immediately.

OP-EDS

Is Vladimir Putin the Devil?

By DR. GLENN MOLLETTE

There is nothing good to be said about the Devil. If you don’t believe me, check out Bible. Or, just turn on the television for a reporting of the evil he spreads throughout the world. You will likely see his picture, Vladimir Putin, the President of Russia.

Some people say they don’t believe in the existence of the Devil. I do, his name is Vladimir Putin.

Look at the face of Putin. You will see the Devil. Look at his dark eerie eyes and his pointed ears. When he attempts to smile, you’ll notice his tongue rolls out like a serpent’s. His smile is never genuine but is always forced as he has no heart to produce any kind of a human gesture. The head of Putin is shaped like a Devil’s head. The one thing you’ll never see is his rear end because his long tail gives his identity away.

The appearance of Putin unfortunately is not what gives his identity away. The lifelong actions

of Putin give him away. He is the chief producer of the slaughter of hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians and possibly millions before this invasion is over, if it’s ever over. Anyone who can take the lives of innocent people simply because he wants to control a particular part of the world is again, evil.

Putin wants the Ukrainian people to live like Russia’s people and to control their lives, their government, what they do and where they go. He is our modern-day Adolph Hitler. There is nothing good to say about him.

The Devil wants to control our lives. He wants to bring us down to where we are under his dominion. He wants our lives to be filled with darkness, hopelessness and bound to his wishes. We see this in everyday life. People are in slavery to addiction, greed, perversions, hatred, jealousy, depression and more. We war within ourselves but our inward war

often turns outward and impacts people around us. People kill people. People hurt people. People maim others with words and attitudes and actions that often destroy themselves and others. This is the work of the Devil. He is about devouring and destroying. He often comes across as an angel of light. He pretends he wants us to be fulfilled by not being denied anything. This is how the serpent approached Eve in the Bible. The Devil still uses this trick all the time and it still works much of the time.

Is Putin the real literal Devil? You judge for yourself or ask someone from Ukraine.

Glenn Mollette is the publisher of Newburgh Press, Liberty Torch and various other publishing imprints; a national columnist – American Issues and Common Sense opinions, analysis, stories and features appear each week in over 500 newspapers, websites and blogs across the United States.

PLEASE WRITE...

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@JamaicaPlain-Gazette.com. Please include address and telephone number for verification purposes. Anonymous letters will not be published. More information: 617-524-2626

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

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Councilor Kendra Lara looks forward to the future

By Lauren Bennett

City Councilor Kendra Lara has been the District 6 City Councilor for about two months now, and the Gazette caught up with her to learn about what she's been up to and what she's working on.

"It's been an incredible two

months," Lara said. "We've spent most of the time learning our way through City Hall" and has hired her staff.

Lara has also filed a hearing order to talk about the restoration of municipal voting rights for immigrants with legal status. Lara is also the chair of the Environmental Justice, Resilien-

cy & Parks and the Housing & Community Development committees.

"We've started a community process to develop a collective strategy for those committees for the next two years, which we'll be unveiling soon," she said.

Lara also recently delivered her maiden speech at City Hall

on March 2, entitled "Bringing the Margins to the Center: Expanding the Electorate and Deepening Democracy."

Lara said of her speech, "I feel great. I think that a lot of my inclination is to redistribute power from City Hall back to our constituents, deepening democracy."

Looking towards the future, Lara said her office is working on "finalizing the strategy for the housing and environmental justice committee" as well as several hearing ordinances and orders with other City Council-

ors. She said that in this process, she "wants to be deliberate" and include as many voices as possible."

She said that "as we finalize our strategies for our committees, I'll definitely have more to talk about. Right now, we want to make sure we're in community talking to all the right people."

Any residents with questions, comments, or concerns should reach out to Councilor Lara's Director of Constituent Services, My'Kel McMillen, at Corey.mcmillen@boston.gov.

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304 Docket No. SU21P2446GD In the matter of: Ceferino Monzon Of: Jamaica Plain, MA RESPONDENT

Alleged Incapacitated Person

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Department of Correction of Jamaica Plain, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Ceferino Monzon is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Department of Correction of Jamaica Plain, MA (or some other person) be appointed as Guardian to serve on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority. You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 04/06/2022. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice

to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date. IMPORTANT NOTICE The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: February 22, 2022 Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate 3/11/22 JP

the allowance of a final account, and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition. 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 04/07/2022. 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 written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: March 03, 2022 Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate 3/11/22 JP

been filed by Barly Mui of Jamaica Plain, 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: Barly Mui of Jamaica Plain, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond un supervised 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 04/13/2022. 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 (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you. UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: March 02, 2022 Felix D. Arroyo 3/11/22 JP

Register of Probate 3/11/22 JP

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Division 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 (617)788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT Docket No. SU20PO676EA Estate of: Eleanor Ballentine Date of Death: 01/21/2020

A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by Christopher Mark Gilmore of Sharon, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including

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 FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU21P2584EA Estate of: Loi Yee Mui Date of Death: 11/14/2021

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has

been filed by Barly Mui of Jamaica Plain, 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: Barly Mui of Jamaica Plain, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond un supervised 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 04/13/2022. 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 (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you. UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: March 02, 2022 Felix D. Arroyo 3/11/22 JP

Register of Probate 3/11/22 JP

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Division INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE Docket No. SU21P2340EA Estate of: Raymond Moye Date of Death: April 16, 2019

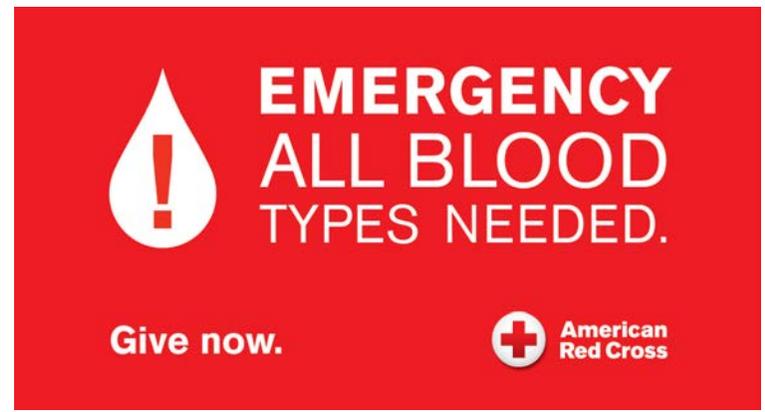
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate by Petition of Petitioner Theresa M. Hom of Columbus, OH Theresa M. Hom of Columbus, OH has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 3/11/22 JP

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HELPING THE HOMELESS



Public Action for Arts and Education's (PAAE) first phase of a clothing drive was delivered to The St. France House for the Homeless in Boston. PAAE is asking its members and friends to help support the second phase of this worthwhile cause. We are in need of winter coats, warm jackets, and sweaters. Please contact St. Francis House or Public Action for Arts and Education at publicactionarts@gmail.com. Attending the first phase of PAAE's kickoff drive is, from left to right, Shannon Steele (Development Dept.), Patrick Murray (Drive, Chairman), Leeroy Buissereth, Joseph Hill (Pres. of Public Action for Arts and Education), Maria Fallavollita (Clothing Supervisor).

Do You need to run a legal?

Don't forget to check at the court to see if you qualify for a fee-waiver!

BU researcher receives Alzheimer's Association Fellowship to study older adults with dementia

Jamaica Plain resident Diana Anderson, MD, M.Arch, a neurology instructor at Boston University School of Medicine (BUSM), has received an Alzheimer's Association Clinical Scientist Fellowship. The three-year, \$155,000.00 award will support her research project, "Health Outcomes of Transitional Space Design for Older Adults with Dementia."

The goal of Anderson's study is to gain a better understanding of how older adults access and engage with their surrounding environment at home and in their community (spaces such as parks, outdoor seating, etc.) and how that engagement may impact social isolation, loneliness, mood, anxiety, cognitive function and behavior in older adults with and without Alzheimer's disease and related dementias over time.

"For older adults who increasingly stay in their homes, these spaces may allow ways of engaging with the surrounding social landscape, promoting benefit and mitigating some of the effects of isolation," explains Anderson, who also is a research fellow in geriatric neurology at the VA



Diana Anderson, MD, M.Arch.

Boston Healthcare System.

Anderson is a board-certified healthcare architect and geriatrician. As a "dochitect," (doctor + architect) she combines educational and professional experience in both medicine and architecture. She has worked on hospital design projects globally and is widely published in architectural and medical journals and books. She is a frequent speaker about the impacts of healthcare design on patient outcomes, staff satisfaction and related topics.

Anderson received her bachelor of science in architecture and master of architecture degrees from McGill University in Montreal before pursuing her MD from the University of Toronto. She completed a residency in internal medicine at New York-Presbyterian Hospital, Columbia University Irving Medical Center and a clinical geriatric fellowship at the University of California, San Francisco.

A past fellow at the Harvard Medical School Center for Bioethics, she continues to explore space design and ethics, especially in the context of nursing homes and institutional living for older adults. Anderson frequently speaks about the impacts of healthcare design on patient outcomes, care delivery and related topics. She also is co-founder of the Clinicians for Design group, an international network of leaders that seeks to inspire and accelerate the design of environments and systems.

The Alzheimer's Association was founded in 1980 by a group of family caregivers and individuals who recognized the need for an organization that would unite caregivers, provide support to those facing Alzheimer's and advance research into the disease.

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Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll



'GORDO' AND 'PELUA'

Gordo and Pelua are a 6 year old pair looking for a home together. They are friendly, affectionate pups.



While they adore their humans and each other, they need a home without other pets. They also need to be walked separately if they are going to pass other dogs because Gordo thinks he needs to protect his sister. They would love a home where they can soak up all the love for themselves!

"Gazette Pet of the Week" is sponsored by

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