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PHOTO BY DANA WOULFE OF STUDIO FRESH

Sharif Muhammad's completed mural on the side of the Extra Space Storage building on McBride St., painted by Studio Fresh. Painting of artist Julia Csekö's mural will commence in coming weeks.

## Event to celebrate new murals in JP set for May 21

STAFF REPORT

After years of planning by the Stonybrook Neighborhood Association (SNA) and funding by SSG Development and Construction, the exterior walls of an Extra Space Storage facility at 141 McBride Street in Jamaica Plain will be transformed into works of public art that celebrate the surrounding community. Two areas of the building totaling 2,500 sq. ft. will be enhanced with new, vibrant murals by Boston-based artists Julia Csekö (in collaboration with Eddie Maisonet) and Sharif Muhammad.

The public is invited to cel-

brate the murals' completion with the artists, Stonybrook neighbors, donors, and elected officials. The event will include artist talks, live music by Terri and Mark of "The Spots," and refreshments from Burritos Pizzeria, JP Kitchen, and Third Cliff Bakery. The event will take place on Saturday, May 21 from 12-2pm at Call Street Field on the corner of Call and McBride Streets in the Southwest Corridor Park.

The competition entailed a 5-month public call for entry process, utilizing a jury of seven art professionals and JP community representatives. Csekö and

Muhammad's winning proposals were selected out of a group of eight semifinalists, chosen out of an original pool of over 30 applicants. Csekö's design will be located on the east side of the building while Muhammad's is on the northwest corner. The winners will each receive a cash prize of \$5,000. Mural company Studio Fresh will complete the painting before the event.

The murals are a result of SNA advocacy for a community benefit package associated with a Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA)-approved mixed-

*Continued on page 6*

## Mayor Wu unveils city's proposed, nearly \$4 billion operating budget for Fiscal '23

BY DAN MURPHY

Mayor Michelle Wu unveiled her administration's first proposed operating budget for the city – a recommended \$3.99 billion for Fiscal '23 – last Wednesday, April 13.

This represents new growth of \$216 million or 5.7 percent over Fiscal '22, according to the city, while the Fiscal '23-'27 Capital Plan, which Mayor Wu describes as a "moving target," totals \$3.6 billion of neighborhood infrastructure investments.

Mayor Wu told a small group of reporters from neighborhood newspapers on hand for a Media Roundtable on Thursday, April

14, in the Eagle Room at City Hall that the goal is to connect this money with the nearly \$350 million in one-time federal funds received through the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act, which still remain unallocated, to help Boston reach its goal of becoming a Green New Deal City.

"This is an unheard of amount of money for the city to have available, and there are many needs, but we're going to try to focus on a significant scale in a few key areas," said Mayor Wu. "We have a chance to truly accelerate and go big."

An unprecedented commit-

*Continued on page 7*

## No shootings reported in JP this year

BY LAURA PLUMMER

On Thursday, April 7, the Jamaica Plain branch of the Boston Police Department hosted its monthly virtual community relations meeting, where it was revealed that JP is one of only two districts that have not reported shootings this year.

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 3 percent across the city but is down 5 per-

*Continued on page 2*

## Ningún tiroteo en JP este año

BY LAURA PLUMMER

El jueves 7 de abril, la sucursal de Jamaica Plain del Departamento de Policía de Boston presentó su reunión mensual de relaciones comunitarias, donde

se reveló que JP es uno de los dos únicos distritos que no han reportado un tiroteo este año.

La reunión es una oportunidad para que los miembros del

*Continued on page 2*

**Our Office is Open Monday-Friday 9:30 – 4:30PM**  
**7 Harris Ave., Jamaica Plain**

# JP resident directs 'Bravo Beethoven!'

STAFF REPORT

Music lovers will not want to miss Dedham Choral Society's live concert on Friday, May 6, at 8:00 p.m. at Holy Name Church, 1689 Center St., West Roxbury.

Originally scheduled for spring 2020, "Bravo Beethoven!" was to celebrate the musical genius's 250th birthday, but alas! Covid-19 caused its cancellation. Under the baton of longtime director Jonathan Barnhart of Jamaica Plains and rehearsal pianist Julia Scott Carey, the DCS chorus, accompanied by soloists Katrina Holden (soprano), Caroline Olsen (mezzo soprano), Brendan Buckley (tenor), Ulysses Thomas (bass-baritone), and a full orchestra, will perform the concert in celebration of the composer's 252nd birthday. The main composition is the Mass in C Major, Opus 86. Two smaller works, the first movement of the "Moonlight" Sonata (arranged by a Beethoven con-temporary) and the rarely performed "Calm Sea

and Prosperous Voyage" open the program.

Fifty choral members from 20 communities in greater Boston have been rehearsing in-person since February for this concert. DCS prides itself on being a "musical family," not only by performing great choral works together, but also by fostering a supportive network of social relationships that value both long-term members of our inter-generational ensemble and new singers. To inquire about an audition for next season, please email DCSAud4@gmail.com. For general information see website: www.dedhamchoral.org.

Concert tickets are limited. They may be purchased from any DCS member or at the door, subject to capacity restrictions. Adults-\$35 / Seniors-\$30 / Students-\$20 / Children-\$5 (ages 5-12). Audience members are required to wear masks at all times.



STAFF REPORT

Olmsted Now, Emerald Necklace Conservancy, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site (Fairsted) and Friends of Fairsted are partnering with Olmsted 2022 and Friends of Jamaica Pond to expand their annual tradition marking Frederick Law Olmsted's birthday on April 26 with the Jamaica Pond community.

America's great place-maker Frederick Law Olmsted—who created the field of landscape architecture and the Emerald Necklace park system—turns 200 in 2022. Join us at Jamaica Pond, the geographic heart of the Emerald Necklace, to kick-off Olmsted's bicentennial and honor his legacy values of shared use, shared health and shared

# Frederick Law Olmsted's 200th Birthday celebration

power in parks and public space. Enjoy treats, toasts and local legend Gerry Wright, founder of Olmsted 2022, portraying the man himself! Olmsted 2022 will recognize and spotlight awardees for their leadership in parks access and advocacy. Proclamations about this day in history will precede a sunset toast to an upcoming season of Olmsted Now bicentennial events, April through October. The growing list of activities will be accessible with each fresh-baked sweet provided by Jamaica Plain's Monumental Market until supplies run out. This event is free and open to the public.

The event will take place at the Jamaica Pond Boathouse, 507 Jamaica Way in Jamaica Plain, on Tuesday, April 26 from 6:30-7:30pm. The rain date is April 27. This event is free and open to the public, however

RSVP is recommended at [www.emeraldnecklace.org/event/olmsted-bicentennial/](http://www.emeraldnecklace.org/event/olmsted-bicentennial/).

Additionally, Olmsted 2022 annually recognizes local leaders for their parks access and advocacy work and will publicly recognize recent awardees:

- Patrice Kish, Chief of Design and Engineering, Department of Conservation and Recreation
- Kent Jackson, Director of Education, Emerald Necklace Conservancy

For the bicentennial year, Olmsted 2022 spotlights prior awardees whose empowerment work exemplifies the themes of the Olmsted Now Bicentennial:

- Carol Miranda, Director, Community Connections Coalition/Tree of Life/Arbol de Vida
- Corey Stallings, Program Director, South Street Youth Center.

# Policía

Continued from page 1

público hagan preguntas a la policía local. En cada reunión, el Sgto. John Dougherty comparte estadísticas delictivas hasta la fecha compiladas por el Centro Regional de Inteligencia de Boston. Un gráfico examina los delitos de la Parte Uno, los más graves.

El crimen de la Parte Uno ha

aumentado un 3 por ciento en toda la ciudad, pero ha bajado 5 por ciento en Jamaica Plain. En lo que va del año, el barrio reportó 168 delitos, frente a los 177 de 2021. Los distritos que experimentaron más delitos fueron Brighton, Dorchester, Downtown, Hyde Park, Mattapan, South Boston, South End y West Roxbury. Los distritos que registraron menos delitos fueron East Boston, Charlestown y Roxbury.

Los delitos de la Parte uno

que experimentaron un aumento en Jamaica Plain en comparación con 2021 fueron la violación, la agresión doméstica, el robo residencial y hurto de un vehículo. Los delitos que vieron una disminución incluyen el atraco, la agresión no doméstica, el robo comercial, otro hurto y el robo de automóviles. La tasa de homicidios (0) se mantuvo sin cambios.

Otro gráfico mostró el número de tiroteos fatales y no fatales, los cuales se mantuvieron igual en la ciudad en comparación con el año pasado (34). Pero Jamaica Plain no representa ninguno de ellos. El único otro vecindario sin tiroteos este año es el South End. Dorchester y Roxbury ya tuvieron ocho tiroteos este año.

La tasa de arrestos ha subido en la ciudad, del 40 por ciento de delitos denunciados que resultaron en arrestos a más del 44 por ciento.

"Nuestra misión es la vigilancia comunitaria", dijo el sargento. Dougherty dijo en un correo electrónico a Gazette. "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 5 de mayo. Se anima a asistir a todos los residentes interesados en la seguridad pública.

# Police

Continued from page 1

cent in Jamaica Plain. So far this year, the neighborhood reported 168 crimes, down from 177 in 2021. Districts that experienced more crime were Brighton, Dorchester, Downtown, Hyde Park, Mattapan, South Boston, South End and West Roxbury. Districts that saw less crime were East Boston, Charlestown and Roxbury.

Part One crimes that saw an uptick in Jamaica Plain compared to 2021 were rape, domestic assault, residential burglary, and larceny from a vehicle. Crimes that saw a decrease include robbery, non-domestic assault, commercial burglary, other larceny and auto theft. The homicide rate (0) was unchanged.

Another graph showed the

number of fatal and nonfatal shootings. Overall shootings remained the same in the city compared to last year (34), but Jamaica Plain accounts for none of those. The only other neighborhood with no shootings this year is the South End. Dorchester and Roxbury both had eight shootings this year.

The arrest rate is up in the city, from 40 percent of reported crimes resulting in arrests to over 44 percent.

"Our mission is community policing," Sgt. Dougherty said in an email to the Gazette. "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 May 5. All residents interested in public safety are encouraged to attend.

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# Community Servings' Meals4Moms fundraiser benefits mothers in need

STAFF REPORT

Community Servings, a non-profit provider of medically tailored meals and nutrition services to individuals and families in Massachusetts experiencing critical and chronic illnesses, on April 11 launched its annual Mother's Day fundraiser, Meals4Moms, in partnership with McCrea's Candies of Boston.

Gift givers can send mom a box of handcrafted caramels – available in two sizes, 40 pieces

for \$65 or 80 pieces for \$95 – with a Lake Champlain chocolate heart nestled within the box. Each purchase is a donation that will support a local mom with the nutritious food they need to maintain and improve their health.

The gift includes a card designed by local artist Susy Pilgrim Waters inscribed with a personalized message. Supporters can also choose to send just a card for a \$30 donation.

In addition to McCrea's Candies and Pilgrim Waters

Design, Meals4Moms is sponsored by Gold Star Studios and Franklin Printing.

For more information and to purchase a gift, visit [www.servings.org/meals4moms](http://www.servings.org/meals4moms).



COURTESY PHOTO

*Community Servings is feeding chronically and critically ill mothers with the help of its Mother's Day fundraiser – Meals4Moms. Boxes of 40 or 80 handcrafted caramels from McCrea's Candies accompanied by a specially designed card (pictured) can be purchased for the special mother in your life online at [www.servings.org/meals4moms](http://www.servings.org/meals4moms).*

## NEWS BRIEFS

### REGISTRATION OPEN FOR BOSTON PARKS SUMMER SPORTS CENTERS

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department is pleased to announce that registration is now open for Summer Sports Centers at White Stadium in Franklin Park, Almont Park in

Mattapan, East Boston Memorial Stadium in East Boston, Garvey Playground in Dorchester, and Medal of Honor Park in South Boston. For more information or to register online please visit [boston.gov/sports](http://boston.gov/sports).

The Sports Centers offer free summer camp alternatives to Boston youth who might otherwise have no opportunity to attend

such programming. Each location offers instruction in several popular sports from July 5 through August 19. All Summer Sports Centers are offered free of charge to Boston residents and open to children ages 7 to 14. Parents may register their children for just one week or the entire summer.

#### 2022 Sports Center locations:

- Roxbury/Jamaica Plain

#### Sports Center

- White Stadium  
450 Walnut Ave
- Franklin Park

Please note that lunch will be provided but participants must provide their own transportation. Pre-registration is required for both groups and individuals.

### CITY'S OPEN SPACE PLAN SURVEY NOW ONLINE

How well is Boston's park system working for you? What improvements do we need to make over the next seven years?

To make sure the City of Bos-

*Continued on page 7*

### Jamaica Plain for sale



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- 301 Chestnut Ave JP condo
- 8 Pathwoods Ave Burlington single family
- Moraine St single family (OFF MARKET SALE)

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# JP Centre/South Main Streets supports BIPOC-owned businesses with Uplift JP

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CADA DIA NUTRITION



PHOTOS BY DEBORAH J. KARSON

Many friends, neighbors, and supporters came out to Cada Dia Mini Cafe on Burroughs St. on March 19 for JP Centre/South Main Street's first Uplift JP event.

## STAFF REPORT

JP Centre/South Main Streets presents Uplift JP – a monthly

rally at BIPOC-owned businesses in Jamaica Plain to promote racial equity and justice. Following the success of the March rally

at Cada Dia Mini Café, the next Uplift JP event will be at Nickls & Dimes at 668 Centre St. on Saturday, April 23 from 12-2pm.

A fashion show will begin at 1pm. Nickls & Dimes is an urban clothing company located on Centre Street in Jamaica Plain,

with a focus on one-of-a-kind affordable attire for fashion-for-

*Continued on page 5*

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In addition to obtain the disclosed APY you must open your first new eLife\*\* checking account in-person at The Cooperative Bank Jamaica Plain Branch.

SEE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF YOUR ACCOUNT DISCLOSURE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

\*\*eLIFE CHECKING ACCOUNT: Minimum balance to open the account—You must deposit \$10.00 to open this account. Requirements to avoid imposition of fees—A monthly maintenance fee of \$10.00 will be imposed every statement cycle, unless the account is set-up for electronic statements (eStatements) and Direct Deposit. Transaction Charges—This account allows for 10 written checks at no cost per monthly statement cycle. All checks written above 10 will be charged \$0.50 per check. Additional Information Regarding Your Account—Non-TCB ATM surcharges will be refunded monthly at the end of each statement cycle.

# Uplift

Continued from page 4

at 1pm.

- Wine Tasting featuring Montfleur Duvin — Haitian Born, Family Inspired — a local wine company owned by Abner Montfleur, a first generation Haitian-American.

- Nckls & Dimes owner Brie Pullum will be serving her signature cookies from her business, The Cookie Don — chocolate chip

ward people of all ages! Come out to show love for Nckls & Dimes and check out new attire, including original pieces, t-shirts, and hoodies.

- Fashion show takes over the City Feed & Supply parklet



Aliesha Porcena, Director of Small Business Development for the City of Boston; Nicole Gunn; Segun Idowu, Chief of Economic Opportunity & Inclusion, City of Boston; and Councilor-At-Large Ruthzee Louijeune.

and oatmeal raisin cookies!

- Raffle to win a door prize!

JP Centre/South Main Streets seeks to lift up businesses with positivity, love, inclusion, equi-

ty, and justice. The organization invites the entire Jamaica Plain community to support, to talk, to ask questions, to learn more, and to voice your opinions. JP Centre/

South Main Streets encourages you to join us and contribute to racial justice in Jamaica Plain.



Nicole Gunn (left), owner of Cada Dia Mini Cafe, and Councilor Julia Mejia (right).

## COVID-19 Vaccine for Kids: What You Need to Know

The COVID-19 vaccine is an important tool to keep kids safe from COVID-19.

- Vaccines are available for free for everyone 5 and older.
- Some kids may still get COVID after getting the vaccine, but being vaccinated reduces their risk of severe illness.
- Kids may have side effects like a sore arm, achy muscles, and tiredness that can last a day or two.
- Children who get the COVID vaccine are extremely unlikely to experience any serious problems.



Talk with your child's doctor and learn more at [mass.gov/CovidVaccineKids](https://mass.gov/CovidVaccineKids)

# Mural

*Continued from page 1*

use development at Washington, McBride and Burnett Streets. Other benefits include the Burnett Street Community Garden and Park, Extra Space Storage's community meeting room, and an expansion of the abutting South-west Corridor Park.



PHOTO BY DANA WOULFE OF STUDIO FRESH

Josh Falk of Studio Fresh on a lift painting Sharif Muhammad's mural on the side of the Extra Space storage building.

## Information about the mural artists:

Julia Csekö was born in Colorado and grew up in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. In 2010, she moved to Boston, Massachusetts

to pursue an MFA at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University. In 2022 she

was the recipient of a Create the Vote MassCreative Fellowship, a Somerville Arts Council Project Grant, and the Somerville Museum Community Curator grant. In 2021, Csekö was an Artist in Residence at the Umbrella Center for the Arts, and received a Somerville Arts Council Fellowship. She was also an Emerson College 2020 Visiting Artist. Her work gravitates around conversations and experiments grounded on a paradigm shift from competitive to collaborative mindset in social actions and interactions.

Eddie Maisonet was born in and grew up in Boston. He holds a BA in Psychology from Smith College and was awarded an artist residency with The Theater



PHOTO BY JENNIFER UHRHANE

Dana Woulfe and Josh Falk of Studio Fresh work to paint a mural designed by artist Sharif Muhammad on the side of the Extra Space Storage building on McBride St. The image of the mural was projected onto the building to guide the painters.

Offensive in 2017 and 2019. His 2019 collaborative project, Narratives of Home, is a response to the question of the unique ways gentrification impacts our communities. Maisonet has forged important relationships with community builders who continue to organize and care for its members.

Websites: [www.juliaceko.com](http://www.juliaceko.com), [www.eddiemaisonet.net](http://www.eddiemaisonet.net)  
Instagram: @csekojulia, @eddiemstoryteller



PHOTO BY HARRY CHAVERIAT

Sharif Muhammad's mural, partially complete.

Sharif Muhammad holds a B.A. in Graphic Design from UMass Amherst and a M.Ed. in Instructional Technology from Bridgewater State University. He has taught at Boston Day & Evening Academy since 2002. 2021 was a breakout year for Muhammad. In addition to being chosen for this mural project, and other juried shows and exhibits around Boston, he was featured in the Boston Globe, Christian Science Monitor, and on the cover of Art New England magazine. Muhammad also received the Boston Celtics' 2021

Heroes Among Us Award, and in January of 2022 he was featured on WCVB-TV's Chronicle. With a primary focus on digital art, Muhammad's artistic purpose is to represent, empower, uplift, glorify, and give voice to black and brown people. He uses his art to unpack the spectrum of complex feelings derived from the history and experiences of people of color.

Website: [www.sharifmuhammad.com](http://www.sharifmuhammad.com)  
Instagram: @sharif\_the\_artist



PHOTO BY SHARIF MUHAMMAD

Dana Woulfe and Josh Falk of Studio Fresh making progress on the mural.

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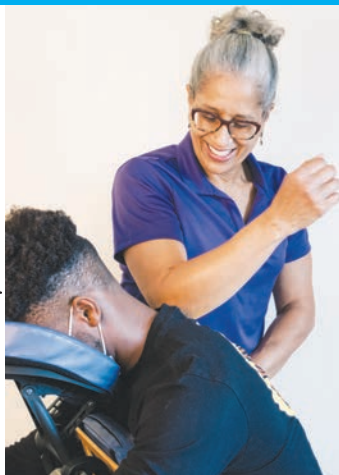
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# Budget

*Continued from page 1*

ment of \$380 million is being made to housing affordability via the city's operating budget while around \$206 million of the \$350 million in unallocated AARP funds will be focused on creating affordable housing and assistance for first-generation home-buyers, as well as updating public housing units. (The AARP funds that the city is receiving must be accounted for by 2024 and spent by 2026.)

This comes in response to what was heard during listening sessions held in neighborhoods across the city, said Mayor Wu, as well from respondents who participated in the city's online

survey.

Also, about \$34 million is earmarked for economic opportunity and inclusion: to grow BIPOC-owned businesses, to further invest in Main Street business districts, to expand tuition-free community college and workforce training programs, and to create a commercial rental rebate program to support small business recovery and build wealth in Boston neighborhoods.

Another around \$31.5 million is earmarked for climate-focused investments, including expanding the Green Youth Jobs program, creating walking and biking infrastructure, growing and preserving the city's urban tree canopy, strengthening local food systems, and supporting elec-tri-

fication of the city's vehicle and school bus fleet.

Climate-resiliency measures will be also incorporated into many city projects, said Mayor Wu, such as the \$10 million allocated for Ryan Playground in Charlestown, which will incorporate design elements to combat sea-level rise.

Despite proposing an approximately 1 percent cut to the Boston Police Department's budget from just under \$400 million in Fiscal '22 to about \$396 million in Fiscal '23, Mayor Wu said there would be more officers on the street in the coming year, with two recruit classes of about 130 each, as well as the cadet program, together expected to exceed officer who are retiring or otherwise are expected to be

lost to attrition.

According to a statement from the city, "Mayor Wu is committed to ensuring the City workforce reflects Boston's neighborhoods and the residents we serve, including our public safety agencies. Our administration is working to break down barriers to expand opportunities for women and people of color to join our Police Department and every department in city government. The budget proposed by Mayor Wu includes an expansion of the cadet program to 90 cadets from 60 in order to promote diversity within the force. It also includes two police recruit classes that will help maintain appropriate staffing levels and diversify the City's police force as well as \$500,000 for a public safety

staffing study to ensure public safety resources are allocated appropriately throughout the City's neighborhoods."

Meanwhile, Boston received AAA bond ratings from both rating agencies for the eighth year in a row last month.

"Boston is in such sound fiscal shape, and we weathered the pandemic very well," said Mayor Wu, as opposed to some other cities that are using the federal funds they receive to "fill holes" in their budget, or to hire back their furloughed employees.

With the passage of Ballot Question 1 in last Nov. 2's election, the city's operating budget now goes to the City Council, where it must garner support from two-thirds of the councilors before it can go into effect July 1.

## NEWS BRIEFS

*Continued from page 3*

ton's park system reflects the needs of all residents, the Boston Parks and Recreation Department has released an online survey questionnaire as part of its update to Boston's Open Space and Recreation Plan. The survey is available in eleven languages at [boston.gov/open-space](http://boston.gov/open-space). The survey link will be available until the end of May, 2022.

Mayor Michelle Wu understands the importance of residents' feedback when evaluating open space, the built environment, and balanced development. The public's responses to this five-minute survey will help the City of Boston improve the way parks are

programmed, permitted, maintained, and designed. Park users and open space advocates are encouraged to share the survey with friends and neighbors to help gather input from residents throughout the city.

The Open Space and Recreation Plan considers all public open space regardless of ownership, including natural areas, urban wilds, community gardens, cemeteries, greenways, trails, parkways, and harbor islands, as well as the traditional parks, playgrounds, and squares. It examines service delivery, park access, distribution of facilities, and demographics to understand

whether the open space system is serving people equitably.

Survey input will help us understand where we need to invest our resources in the years to come. Additional information about the Open Space and Recreation Plan update can be found at [boston.gov/open-space](http://boston.gov/open-space). Comments or questions can be directed to: [openspaceplan22@boston.gov](mailto:openspaceplan22@boston.gov).

### JPHS HOSTS SERIES CONFRONTING RACIAL INJUSTICE

We are very happy to co-sponsor the Confronting Racial Injustice series again this year. Developed by the Northeastern University School of Law Criminal Justice Task Force, it is a free series hosted by the Massachusetts Historical Society. This year

the focus is on Asian-Americans and the first event Confronting Economic Injustice: The Story of Parcel C is on Thursday, April 28, 6:00 p.m. The second event is on Thursday, May 26, 6:00 p.m. and is entitled Confronting Racial Injustice: Rising Asian American Political Power. The panel will feature Boston Mayor, Michelle Wu. These are online events, free but registration is required.

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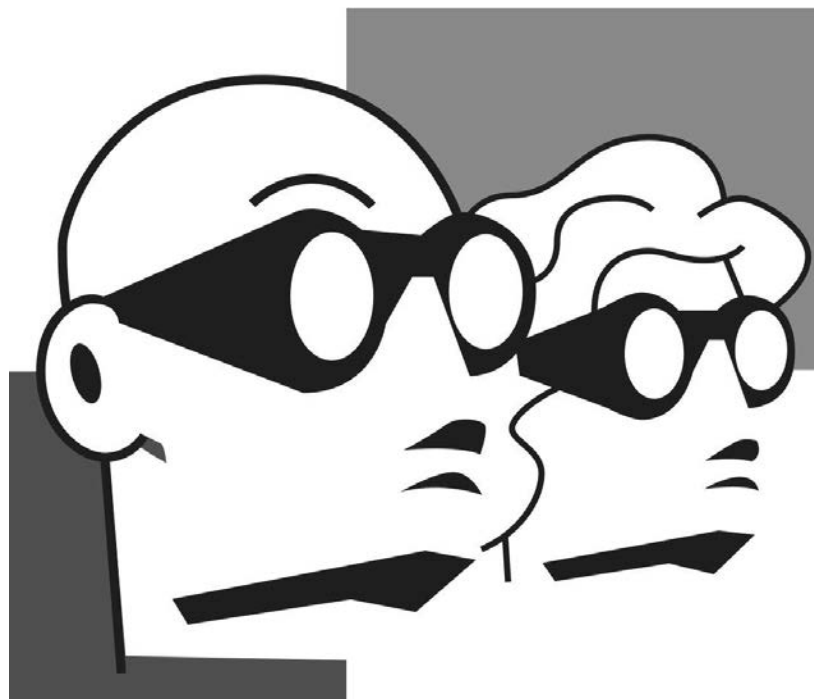
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## JP OBSERVER

# Urban Forest Plan crucial for Boston's trees

BY SANDRA STOREY / SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Everyone who understands the importance of preserving and enhancing the number and well-being of all trees in Boston can be especially happy today, Earth Day, April 22. This year's Earth Day theme is, appropriately, "Invest in Our Planet."

A draft Boston Urban Forest Plan (UFP) released recently by the Boston Parks and Recreation Department (BPRD) is set to be finalized in late spring or early summer, after further input is considered.

The introduction to the draft plan asks: "Why now?" And answers: "Because Boston is growing and changing; to address equity and environmental justice issues;" and "to mitigate climate change impacts."

Another good reason for Boston forest planning now was added on April 13, when Mayor Michelle Wu proposed that \$31 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds allocated to Boston go to "climate focused investments" including "growing and preserving our urban tree canopy."

The draft UFP calls for expanding urban forest now and for 20 years into the future. Devised in a planning process whose first meeting was in July, 2021—the draft defines Boston's forest as every tree in the city. Just as it doesn't leave out any kind or size or location, it looks at all aspects of managing the forest on every type of land, no matter who owns or manages it.

The UFP process is being carried out through an equity-centered Community Advisory Board (CAB) made up of members of three groups: an Equity Council, an Intergovernmental Working Group and Collaborating Partners, with a total CAB membership of more than 60 people. A team of six consultant groups assisted in the planning. BPRD staffer Maggie Owens is the UFP project manager.

On March 14, a large crowd attended an hour-and-a-half virtual "open house" presentation of the draft Boston UFP.

Throughout the CAB workshops and planning process, equity has been emphasized, with special attention to people, grassroots organizations,

and neighborhoods with fewer trees in "historically excluded and marginalized communities." Neighborhoods that were red-lined by banks in the past are one example of such "socially vulnerable" communities.

A tree protection ordinance—supported in principle by the draft UFP—was endorsed by every Boston City Councilor after Councilor Ricardo Arroyo put forward an example of such an ordinance last August. Plans call for considering the ordinance in working sessions of the City Council Committee on Government Operations after the final UFP is published, according to Arroyo's office.

The third CAB workshop on October, 21, 2021, discussed tree protection regulations, among other topics. Consultant Jenny Gulick of Urban Canopy Works, LLC described tree protection regulations in general and presented example laws from Boston "peer cities" Atlanta, Austin, and Seattle.

In an online poll of attendees—a device used frequently in the process—85 percent of 39 voting CAB members said they believe "the existing tree protection regulations [here] need to be strengthened."

Regarding regulating tree removal on private property, 54 percent said it should happen "in all instances," and 38 percent said "just during land development or construction projects." Three percent were unsure, and none said tree removal on private property shouldn't be regulated at all.

The CAB looked at facts—including related general data—and information about our forest, did analysis and discussion, and crafted draft goals that were presented in the 62-pages of UFP materials on March 14.

About 60 percent of the trees in Boston are on private land, and 40 percent are on public. The city counted 38,273 street trees when doing its first inventory last year. They don't know the numbers or kinds of others or the total number of all trees.

A green canopy made up of branches and leaves—another standard way to measure the presence of trees—covers about

27 percent of the city. Coincidentally, in 2021 the Center for Watershed Protection reported that 27 percent is the average coverage for urban areas in the US.

Boston is fortunate to have a moderately good variety of street tree species, which indicates resilience, according to the UFP materials. Some trees will do better with climate change than others. The rule of thumb is that no species should comprise more than 10 percent of the trees.

Boston has many more "young" and "establishing" street trees than it has "maturing" and "mature" ones (only about 17 percent of total). Mature trees produce the most benefits.

Trees are valuable, the materials say, for: cultural reasons, lowering heat in summer, providing better air quality due to lower temperatures, providing stormwater capture and wildlife habitat.

In addition, though not stated in the draft, studies by Boston University (2021) and the US Department of Agriculture For-

est Service, Northeastern Research Station (2002), among many others, show, to quote the USDA study, "...urban forests can play a critical role in helping combat increasing levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide," a major cause of harmful global warming.

Challenges and threats to forest included: degree of tree protection offered; space for tree growth; determining who takes care of trees; how many are protected or planted; skills and resources to take care of them; exposure to stressors such as dog waste, underground infrastructure; people's feet; land use challenges; storms; floods, droughts, temperature swings; soil compaction, vandalism, and pests.

Jamaica Plain tops the list of Boston "green neighborhoods" with 44 percent coverage by trees. Given that JP is a peninsula nearly surrounded by large green spaces with the Southwest Corridor Park running through it—not to mention smaller parks and lots of private land with

trees on the green space map—it's no wonder.

Fortunately for JP and for mature trees around the city, a large part of the UFP deals with caring for and preserving existing trees, especially mature ones.

Canopy surveys in 2014 and 2019 turned up a trend that calls for everyone to be alert: Neighborhoods with a bigger canopy in 2014 tended to see a slight loss and those with smaller canopy saw a slight gain in canopy during those four years. The plan

*Continued on page 10*



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# United States Postal Service seeking applicants for new hires

STAFF REPORT

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and industry. The Postal Service is growing, with new facilities, equipment and technologies as online shopping and shipping continue to increase and package growth expands. Right now, we are looking for committed and motivated individuals to join us in our mission of service to your

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*Continued on page 11*

## JP Observer

*Continued from page 9*

calls for monitoring changes in the future.

The other four southwest Boston neighborhoods—Hyde

Park, Mattapan, Roslindale and West Roxbury—also have tree canopy that's more than 30 percent. Mission Hill and Roxbury are slightly over the total of 27 percent. Downtown, northern, and eastern Boston have less canopy, with East Boston having

the least at about 7 percent.

The draft UFP calls overall for preservation, care, and planting of trees and offers "strategies and recommendations" for doing that. At this time, it does not set a goal for Boston tree cover percent in the future.

"Equity" is general Goal #1, asking for "focus on investments and improvements in under-canopied, historically excluded and socially vulnerable areas" of the city. It also says that the forest workforce come from similar areas, and the outreach and support be given residents to protect and care for trees on private property.

Goal #2 calls for "Proactive Care and Preservation" to "ensure trees/tree canopy are proactively cared for." This recommends creating a tree protection ordinance, with requirements and incentives for tree protection during development. Mature

trees should be treated as especially important. Ensure other departments share the same goals for protective care. Expand the tree care workforce. Increase data sharing with partners. "Future-proof the urban forest by addressing challenges to trees and other care needs such as adequate staffing and funding."

Goal #3 "Community Driven Processes" recommends that the community has an active role in guiding tree canopy decisions. It suggests a city tree advisory board that includes people from historically unincorporated neighborhoods and creation of an urban forest website.

"Trees are Prioritized and Valued" is Goal #4. It calls for increasing "awareness and buy-in regarding the importance of trees in Boston, across the public and private sectors." It suggests improved awareness and coordination within government to "ensure the value of trees is em-

bedded within other programs, priorities and policies." It wants to see "adjustments to the development process that support retention of existing large trees and increase new plantings."

Two other forest-related planning processes are going on at the City of Boston right now: a Heat Resilience Study and an Open Space and Recreation Plan. The UFP is coordinating with them. Overall, the outdoor planning is called "Healthy Places."

The UFP CAB "will provide input on the UFP by reviewing the draft materials and supplying comments and recommendations," Project Manager Owens wrote in an email last week, describing next steps at my request.

Owens emphasized that the Urban Forest Plan is "just the start." She said that the plan will be a 20-year vision that "will involve many different stewards of the forest across public and private property."

She added that, "Acting on the ideas, seeing what does or doesn't work in practice, and further conversations with communities will all be a part of implementing a Boston-wide forestry effort."

The BPRD will have information about the forest plan at tables at Mayor Wu's Neighborhood Coffee Hours around the city in May and June. In Jamaica Plain the coffee hour will take place at Mozart Park in Hyde Square on Fri., May 13 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

The City of Boston website has more about the UFP with details and many photos and illustrative graphics. Go to <https://www.boston.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/urban-forest-plan> for more information. The site has a recording of the March 14 virtual open house meeting as well.

*Sandra Storey is the Publisher Emeritus of the Jamaica Plain Gazette.*



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## Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll



### 'GORDO' AND 'PELUA'

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## LONGTIME JP LIBRARIAN LAURA PATTINSON RETIRES



PHOTOS BY PATRICK O'CONNOR

Laura Pattinson, seated joins the staff of the JP Branch for a group photo on Thursday, March 17 on the occasion of her retirement from the BPL. Shown to the left, Laura Pattinson with two friends who stopped by for her retirement celebration with her cake.

On Thursday, March 17, long-time BPL employee and JP branch librarian Laura Pattinson retired following a 30-year career with Boston Public

Libraries. Many patrons and friends of the library, as well as, BPL Director David Leonard attended a farewell reception in her honor.



## USPS

Continued from page 10

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# Massachusetts RMV announces road test applicants will need their own vehicles

STAFF REPORT

The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) is informing Class D learner's permit holders applying for a Massachusetts issued driver's license that all applicants will be required to supply their own vehicle for road testing beginning on Monday, May 2.

Due to the pandemic and health and safety protocols, since June of 2020, the RMV deployed a fleet of Commonwealth-owned vehicles for road tests which were cleaned and sanitized on a regular basis. The use of these Commonwealth-owned vehicles will end on April 29, 2022. Applicants for a Class M, or Motorcycle license, supply their own motorcycle for testing. Applicants

scheduled for testing through a driving school should confirm they have access to the school's vehicle for their road test.

"Vehicles on loan from our MassDOT Highway Division partners and other Commonwealth agencies' vehicles allowed us to continue road testing and licensing in a safe and healthy manner during the State of Emergency and continued COVID-19 restrictions," said Registrar of Motor Vehicles Colleen Ogilvie. "As we prepare for the transition back to private cars, we want applicants to be aware of our requirements and to be prepared to arrive sufficiently skilled behind the wheel to pass the road test on their first try."

Applicants must bring a physical copy of their learner's permit,

a printed and completed copy of the Road Test Application and be accompanied by a qualified sponsor. A sponsor is a person who is a licensed driver over the age of 21 with at least one year of experience driving. Should it be required, the sponsor will be responsible for operating the vehicle if at any point the road test examiner determines the applicant cannot continue testing.

In addition to meeting the application and sponsor qualifications, the applicant must make sure the vehicle brought for testing meets all functional and safety requirements. Some practices adopted during the pandemic will continue -- license applicants will be asked to keep open windows for ventilation.

Face covering requirements

will be dependent on guidance provided by the federal Transportation Security Administration (TSA). All applicants and sponsors are required to arrive prepared to wear a face covering during their scheduled road test and to follow all face covering protocols in place at the time of the test.

Private passenger vehicles used for a Class D road test must meet the following requirements, (including vehicles with an ignition interlock device, and vehicles with adaptive equipment for a competency test):

- Be in good working condition and be able to pass a safety check.
- Have a valid registration and current inspection sticker.
- Contain adequate seating

accommodations next to the operator for the use of the examiner and have a rear seat for the sponsor.

• Be designed to let the examiner make an emergency stop using the parking brake. If not, the vehicle cannot be used for the road test.

• Any vehicle with a center console that does not have a parking brake as part of the console cannot be used.

• Any vehicle that does not allow the examiner unobstructed access to the parking brake cannot be used.

Customers are advised that if the road test examiner identifies any of the following conditions, the road test will not go forward

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# JPNC Zoning Committee hears four matters

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The JPNC Zoning Committee met virtually on April 20, where it discussed four matters: a proposal at 72 Hyde Park Ave. to raze the existing structure and build a six-unit residential building; a proposal at 11 Parkside Drive to create a second floor addition; a proposal at 51-53 Walk Hill Street to change the existing building from a single-family residence with an administrative office to a three-family building; and a proposal at 79 Perkins St. to change the occupancy from a three-family to a four-family residence.

## 72 HYDE PARK AVE.

This was the third time this proposal had come before the committee, according to Zoning Committee Chair Dave Baron. The proposal now includes no off-street parking, but the proposal to demolish the existing structure and build a six-unit building remains.

“People seemed to like the updates and changes the developer made to the project,” Baron said, one of which included getting rid of the garage door at ground level as well as removing all off-street parking from the proposal.

JPNC member Omer Hecht said he supports this, especially because of the lack of parking.

One direct abutter, identified as Tess, said she hadn’t seen the new plans prior to this meeting but an overview was shown and she said that “it looks much better than it did...I think it’s improved a lot.” Attorney Derric Small said he will remain in contact with her as the project moves forward.

Other people also thanked the team for the changes made, and the committee voted to approve.

## 11 PARKSIDE DR.

11 Parkside Dr. is a single-family home that is currently two stories on one side and only one story where the attached garage currently is.

Owner Roya Khosravi-Far said that she would like to build a master bedroom above the existing one car garage. In doing so, the one car garage will be turned into a two car garage and there will be an entrance for cars from the front rather than the side. The proposal also includes finishing a portion of the basement for office space.

She said that a front porch will also be added so the depth of the house will be the same once the addition is built. Zoning violations include excessive Floor Area Ratio (FAR) and insufficient front yard, because the garage conversion will alter the depth of the front yard from 21.1 to 14.7 feet, according to a slide presented. The slide also stated that other homes on the street do have front yard depths that are less than 13 feet.

After some more discussion, the committee voted to approve.

## 51-53 WALK HILL ST.

Attorney Matt Eckel and architect Deven Riley-Marini spoke about the proposal at 51-53 Walk Hill St. to convert the existing single-family residence with administrative office to a three-family residence.

Eckel said that the building was “purchased as a two-family,” but is allowed per the zoning code to be a single-family with administrative office.

He said main changes include renovations to the interior and exterior of the building, including the construction of a matching dormer on the left hand side of the building, as one currently exists on the right hand side. The proposal also includes the

demolition of the “dilapidated” detached garage in the rear of the building, where three parking spaces will be created.

The existing mature tree will be kept, he said, and the front porch will be enclosed.

Riley-Marini said that the existing basement has some storage and a bathroom, but it is only partially finished. There is also an existing bathroom on the third floor with the dormer, but that space is also only partially finished.

The basement will “stay common and unfinished” as part of the project, she said. Unit 1 will be about 1,038 square feet, and will have two bedrooms and two full bathrooms as well as use of the rear deck.

Unit 2 will be about 1,127 square feet and have three bedrooms and two bathrooms, as well as the use of a rear deck.

Unit 3 will be about 1,054 square feet and will also have two bedrooms and two bathrooms.

Committee member Kendra Halliwell asked about mechanical equipment and trash, saying she would not like to see either of these things in the front yard.

The team said that they could commit to storing trash in the rear and also not having mechanicals in the front. Eckel also said there is potential for plantings to hide trash bins as well.

Several abutters spoke in favor of the project, saying that it will be an improvement over what is there now and the addition of more housing is welcome.

The committee voted to approve.

## 79 PERKINS ST.

This project had come before the committee last year, and owner Christopher Page, who lives down the street at 67 Perkins St., presented a proposal to

create a new unit in the basement of the existing three-family at 79 Perkins St. to make the building a four-unit building.

He said that the “envelope of the building is not changing,” but he has made some changes to the front and rear entry for this unit, including the removal of a previously proposed partition wall, which will let in more natural light. He said the lack of light in the unit was one of the complaints last time.

The previous proposal was for a three bedroom unit, but now it’s being proposed as a two bedroom unit and the space where the third bedroom was is proposed as a dining area instead.

He also proposed a third window in the kitchen area for more light, as well as a few other tweaks.

“I can’t see that much light will be coming in with cars parked in the driveway,” said committee member Peg Preble.

“You’d be surprised by the amount of light that comes in with just two windows,” Page said.

There was also a lot of talk about the cars being parked by the window and how the exhaust might affect the occupants of the unit.

Page said that his desire to

construct this unit is so that two of his children can remain in the city where they work at an affordable rate.

“I am very much opposed to this project,” said committee member Kevin Moloney, who is also a member of the Jamaica Pond Association (JPA), which had voted against this project when it had come before that organization. Moloney said he believed that there was “no argument that would qualify legally for a variance.”

There was also a conversation at length about the sprinkler system to be used in the unit. Other concerns included traffic and parking pressure on the street.

Committee member David Seldin said that he saw “a lot of letters of support” for this project, though he does recognize that the JPA had opposed it. He said he is not sure why there is so much opposition to the project.

A motion to deny this proposal failed, as three voted in favor of the motion, three voted against, and two abstained.

“I think you should, to some extent, go back to the drawing board,” Baron suggested to Page, adding that he might want to go back before the JPA as well as hire an architect to ensure the plans are clear.



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## RMV

*Continued from page 12*

and rescheduling will be the responsibility of the applicant:

- Road test examiner identifies the applicant and/or sponsor is displaying signs of impairment.

- Road test examiner identifies

an odor of cannabis or alcohol emanating from the applicant and/or sponsor; including from their clothing or from inside the vehicle to be used for the road test.

- Road test examiner observes present minor children, including babies in car seats, or animals, other than service animals, which cannot be unsupervised at the Service Center

during the test.

The RMV has a new webpage to help applicants locate all information related to their road test, Mass.Gov/RoadTest. The page includes information on what to expect, videos to help prepare for the road test, links to checklists and applications to increase an applicant’s chance of passing their exam.

# LEGAL NOTICES

**LEGAL NOTICE**

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate And Family Court 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 (617)788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU22P0266EA Estate of: Anne N. Winslow Date of Death: 12/04/2021 To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Sarah R. Baybutt of Rye, NH requesting that the court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Sarah R. Baybutt of Rye, NH be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration. IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/19/2022. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a 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: April 15, 2022 Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate 4/22/22 JP

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: April 15, 2022 Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate 4/22/22 JP

**LEGAL NOTICE**

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate And Family Court 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 (617)788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU21P2486EA Estate of: Claudine C. Francois Date of Death: 05/03/2021 To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Shondell Davis of Boston, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Shondell Davis of Boston, MA and Jilvonya Davis of Boston, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration. IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/19/2022. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a 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: April 07, 2022 Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate 4/22/22 JP

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 05/19/2022. 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: April 07, 2022 Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate 4/22/22 JP

**LEGAL NOTICE**

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate And Family Court 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 (617)788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU22P0481EA Estate of: Erwin Hultsch Also known as: Erwin P. Hultsch Date of Death: 12/30/2021 To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Susanne K. Feldmann of 8315 Langnau Am SW requesting that the court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Susanne K. Feldmann of 8315 Langnau Am SW requesting that the court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as 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 the return day of 05/12/2022. 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: April 08, 2022 Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate 4/22/22 JP

**LEGAL NOTICE**

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate And Family Court 24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114 (617)788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU20P1712EA Estate of: Giovanna Calvi Date of Death: 05/20/2017 To all interested persons: A Petition for Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment has been filed by Anne Marie Cecala of Westwood, 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: Anne Marie Cecala of Westwood, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration. IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/12/2022. 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 days (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you. UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: April 08, 2022 Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate 4/22/22 JP

at no cost to you. 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: April 08, 2022 Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate 4/22/22 JP

**LEGAL NOTICE**

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Division 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF CONSERVATOR'S ACCOUNT Docket No. SU20P1840PM In the matter of: James Jordan Of: Jamaica Plain, MA To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the First Annual account(s) of Rita E. Walsh of Hyde Park, MA as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance. You have the right to object to the account(s). If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 05/12/2022. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s). Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court. You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the Petition and account(s)

at no cost to you. 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: April 08, 2022 Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate 4/22/22 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 FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU21P1252EA Estate of: Jivka Ana Peyev Date of Death: 12/15/2019 To all interested persons: A Petition for Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment has been filed by Paul Peyev of Rutland, 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: Paul Peyev of Rutland, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration. IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return

day of 05/19/2022. 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 days (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you. UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised ad ministration 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: April 14, 2021 Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate 4/22/22 JP

Person To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Kevin Wu of Jamaica Plain, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Robert Wu is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Kevin Wu of Jamaica Plain, MA (or some other suitable 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 05/19/2022. 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: April 05, 2022 Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate 4/22/22 JP

**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. SU22P0681GD Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Suffolk Probate and Family Court 24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114 In the matter of: Robert Wu Of:Jamaica Plain, MA RESPONDENT Alleged Incapacitated

# Stonybrook Neighborhood Association discusses development updates

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The Stonybrook Neighborhood Association (SNA) met virtually on April 11 to discuss updates on development projects as well as chat about goings-on in the neighborhood,

## FORMERLY FLANAGAN & SEATON

SNA member Jennifer Uhrhane reported on the mural project that is nearly complete on the Extra Space storage building on McBride St. There is a mural on the corner of the building as well as “three smaller panes that are on the parking lot side right near the entrance to the community room.”

There is a date of May 21 set to have a celebration for the completion of the mural, which will take place on the Southwest Corridor near the building from 12-2pm. The event will feature refreshments and potentially

local live music, as well as the artists talking about their work.

She said that the mural committee is looking for volunteers for the day of the event, as well as to flyer the neighborhood ahead of time.

Mary Ward reported that the community room in the Extra Space storage building has been reserved by the Garden Committee the second Thursday of each month. The group is the first to reserve the room since Volunteers of America Massachusetts took over the oversight of the room. She said it was “a really easy process and we’re excited to have that opportunity.”

More information about the room and how to book it can be found at <http://www.sna-jp.org/news.html>.

## SOUTHWEST CORRIDOR EXTENSION

SNA Steering Committee

member Paige Sparks and SNA member Fred Vetterlein spoke about the status of the Southwest Corridor Extension project, which is seeking to use the land by the garden and Extra Space Storage building for a dog park.

“We’re drafting language to send to various bodies that are currently in control of the extension land,” Sparks said. It was discovered that the land in question is owned by the MBTA.

Vetterlein said that “MBTA does lease arrangements...as a kind of a license they give to developers. So that’s a start.” He also said that although Amtrak stores batteries near the area for emergency use, “having a park and connection and a dog park wouldn’t interfere with that.”

He added that he hopes to start a website for this project so people can become aware of it and of the area in question.

## 75 STEDMAN ST.

The current proposal for 75 Stedman St. is to construct a self-storage building, which the SNA has voiced opposition to as they do not believe another such facility is necessary in the neighborhood.

SNA member Royce Abel said that while there was no update to share, an email was sent last month to city and state representatives as well as the proponent “reinforcing what we told them back in December about how this plan does not fit with PLAN: JP/Rox and to go back to the drawing board.”

## 35 BROOKLEY/10 STONLEY

Jennifer Uhrhane said that the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) design review team emailed the SNA “asking us what we thought of the new design.”

Royce Abel said that the sub-

committee is asking for more color on the first floor for emphasis, as the artist live/work spaces will be located on the first floor. “It seems like it’s in early design review with the BPDA,” he said.

## 97-99 WILLIAMS ST.

SNA Steering Committee member Jonathan McCurdy reported that this project has been approved by the SNA and has broken ground. He said that the construction team is “working on forms for the foundation and pouring the foundation.”

## DOYLE’S

Paige Sparks reported that the Doyle’s subcommittee reached out to developer Lee Goodman, who said that he was working on getting approvals from the city’s Inspectional Services Department and aims to begin construction “sometime this spring,” she said.

# BAC approves GoFive and TakeOne as artists for Eliot School mural project at English High School

BY LAUREN BENNETT

The Boston Art Commission (BAC) on April 14 approved local artists GoFive and TakeOne as a joint team to lead the mural painting at English High School proposed by the Eliot School of Fine & Applied Arts.

Alison Croney Moses, Associate Director at the Eliot School, told the BAC that the ask was to approve the two artists as part of the Artist in Residence program, which “works hand in hand with the TeenBridge program,” she said.

The TeenBridge program is comprised of students in grades eight through twelve who work on Saturdays during the school year and weekdays during the summer on collaborating with each other and teaching artists to engage in discussion and art creation.

Each year, a Boston-based artist is selected “that engages across Eliot School’s programs,” Croney Moses said.

After explaining a little more

about the process by which these artists get chosen, Croney Moses spoke about the 2022 Artists in Residence, GoFive and TakeOne, who will be tasked with working with the teens and the greater English High School and Jamaica Plain community to create a mural at English High School. The teens will gather feedback before deciding along with the artists what the mural should be.

The mural project is titled “Spaces of Belonging,” and the prospective site is the “brick wall right by the track,” she said, which can be viewed by the general public as the track is open for public use. “This is the site GoFive and TakeOne will work with the teams to install a mural on,” she said, adding that one of the existing alcoves is the specific location where the painting will be.

Though that is the primary location, there is another potential site for a mural at the entrance to the school.

L’Merchie Frazier, who was a previous Artist in Residence

with the TeenBridge program, spoke about her support for these artists and this project.

“...I am very confident that the Eliot School can engage the students at English High as well as the larger community around the school in having their artists that they support do this project,” Frazier said. “...They have been artists who have been very responsive to communities where artists are being displaced and they work in tandem with the students in ways that are really remarkable.”

English High School principal Caitlin Murphy also expressed her support, saying that the school has a “fabulous partnership with the Eliot School.”

She added, “our building is in need of some beautification. Any opportunities for our students to engage in public art and seeing art as both something that’s a personal creative expression but also can be a way to advocate... really aligns well with our school goals.”

Not many comments were

made by the BAC on this, though Chair Mark Pasnik said that the team should “be careful about painting over concrete,” as it “can cause long-term damage to paint it.” He suggested a non-concrete site, though the area in question might already be painted over

anyway.

In the end, the BAC approved the selection of GoFive and TakeOne as the artists for this mural project, and will continue to be in touch with the Eliot School as this project progresses.

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**JP Kids**  
Special Section

# Activities for kids ramping up for spring and summer

BY LAUREN BENNETT

With the weather warming up and kids eager to get back to some activities that were either vastly altered due to the pandemic or just completely cancelled, Jamaica Plain offers a wide variety of programming for kids to participate in.

The Gazette spoke with Mary Ellen Ehrenreich of Kids...Together in the Arts, a summer camp focused on various forms of art and self expression, as well as Phil Hall from JP Children's Soccer, to learn more about these programs and what they can offer for local youth.

## KIDS...TOGETHER IN THE ARTS

Ehrenreich said that this is the 21st year of Kids...Together in the Arts, which runs five different weeks of camp from the last week of June through July.

"Kids have classes in each of the four disciplines," she said, which are music, dance, drama, and visual arts. Each week has a theme that is not announced until kids arrive at camp on Monday. At the end of each week is a performance, but last year it was virtual due to the pandemic.

"We are going to be a live



A group of kids having fun playing with bubbles.

performance this year," she said, if all continues to stay relatively the same.

"We will definitely keep referring to the CDC recommendations," she added.

The camp is held at Spontaneous Celebrations at 45 Danforth St., but many of the activities are held outside, especially

last year for activities like music when kids are singing. She said that Spontaneous Celebrations installed a new HEPA air filtration system last summer as well.

"Last summer, all kids wore masks," she said, which will be encouraged this year as well but not enforced. Children will, however, be required to be vaccinated

to participate in camp, as was the rule last year.

Last year's program was also smaller than usual, with a cap of 10 kids in a class at a time, and 45 total throughout the five weeks.

Ehrenreich said that while there were some perks to the virtual performance, including

being able to take breaks and take their time shooting it, she heard from kids and families that they really missed the live performance.

Counselors participate in training with a professional company on working in groups and problem solving, as well as "positive reinforcement training." Ehrenreich said that counselors are taught how to handle bullying as well.

Aside from the arts classes, kids are given lunch and snack breaks, as well as a free period for outdoor play.

"I'm excited to just have the kids back, hopefully without the masks this summer," she said, and get "back to some normalcy with the program." However, she said that kids did really well with the strict restrictions last year. She hopes the program this year can be "a little more light and less heavy," and kids can enjoy the camp to its fullest.

For more information about Kids...Together in the Arts and to register for camp, visit [kidstogetherinthearts.com](http://kidstogetherinthearts.com).

## JP CHILDREN'S SOCCER

Phil Hall, president of JP Children's Soccer, said he has been involved with the program for about 14 years, though it has existed since 1978. The program serves young children ages three and a half to six and a half, but the real focus is not on the game of soccer.

The goal is "to get kids running around," Hall said. "Soccer is the tool we use...it's about getting the kids active and outdoors and bringing the community together."

He described the program as "grassroots," and all coaches are volunteers. Parents take turns bringing snacks for the kids to eat at the end of each 45 minute session. The program takes place at Pinebank Field by Jamaica Pond.

Hall said that there is a "group of about five or six people who run the operation,"

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Continued on page 17



# Five fun ways to keep kids busy after school

While television and video games are classic after school staples, there are better, more fun ways to keep kids busy in the afternoons. Here are five fun ideas to try:

1. **Bike rides:** Cycling is beneficial to strength, cardiovascular health and mental wellness. It's also a great opportunity for kids to gain a bit of independence and explore the world around them, and there is no better season than spring to encourage them to get off the couch and out for a ride.

2. **Music making:** Kids don't need to be enrolled in a formal music program at school to experience the joys of making music. With a portable keyboard like those in the Casiotone series,

which offer learning and composition tools that grow with a musician's skills, kids can use their afternoons to self-direct their musical education. Every model is under 10 pounds and features a battery-powered option, making them the perfect size and design for teens and tweens who want to start a band.

3. **Giving back:** Children are never too young to learn the importance of giving back to their community. From offering a helping hand at an animal sanctuary to visiting seniors residing in an assisted living facility, there are many volunteer opportunities perfect for kids.

4. **Math fun:** Outside the classroom, mathematics can be

all fun and zero pressure. Be sure to offer kids tools that will allow them to uncover, on their own terms, the way mathematical concepts work. The basic, scientific and graphing calculators available from Casio are all intuitive and easy to use. Some of the advanced models even offer Python programming, a great feature for budding coders.

5. **Dinnertime:** Knowing how to put together a meal is an invaluable life skill, and one that many kids leave home without having achieved. Have your child regularly help you out with dinner, giving them age-appropriate tasks to complete. It's not only a great way to spend some quality time together during the busy



(C) JACOBBLUND / ISTOCK VIA GETTY IMAGES PLUS

*A father teaches his son how to ride a bike.*

week, but they will also begin to pick up the fundamentals of cooking.

With a little creativity, your

child's afternoons can be a time to be a time for them to get active, build new skills and try new hobbies. (StatePoint)

## Activities

*Continued from page 16*

which includes assigning teams, training coaches, and organizing equipment, as well as ordering T-shirts.

The program has two sessions: one in the spring, and one in the fall, and the cost is \$25 for each eight-week session. Families are asked to request a time—Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday are offered—and they will be placed on teams accordingly.

Though he describes the team leaders as "coaches," he said that they are "trying to get away from the term 'coach,'" as it implies that knowledge of the game of soccer is needed, which is not true.

"It's been a challenge for us to get coaches to step forward and work even though I think we're hitting a record number of kids."

He said that this spring, 550 kids have registered to participate in the program. The program took a hit during the pandemic, completely shutting down in the spring and fall of 2020, though it did return last spring "in a limited manner." The teams were smaller and kids were asked to wear masks.

"This year, we're kind of going forward in a normal way," he said. "It's rewarding to see that many people participating."

During the program, kids play games like Simon Says or Red Light, Green Light.

"We don't teach rules," Hall said, and "discourage" things like cleats and shin guards.

There are, however, three different levels depending on age, and the oldest group (five and a half to six and a half) might play some more actual soccer-type activities and play scrimmages, but there are no actual games scheduled for any age group.

Hall said that the "biggest challenge" is getting people to

participate as coaches. "Truthfully, all it takes is someone to be a caregiver," he said, and able to play games with the kids.

"We're looking for people to jump in and lend a hand," he said.

Though registration for the spring session is now closed, Hall said registration for the fall ses-

sion should open up sometime in May.

For more information and to get involved, visit <https://team-sideline.com/sites/jpcsregister/home>, as well as the JP Children's Soccer Facebook page and on Instagram @jpchildrensoccer.

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## EDITORIAL

# Earth Day report, 2022: The planet is doomed

We were around for the first Earth Day in 1970.

We clearly recall the incident a year earlier that spurred Congress and President Richard Nixon to create the Environmental Protection Agency when the Cuyahoga River, which feeds into Lake Erie in Cleveland, literally caught fire after a spark from an industrial plant on the shoreline ignited the chemicals and other pollutants that laced the river.

The Boston area was not much better. The mid-1960s song, Dirty Water, which is played at Fenway after a Red Sox victory, was about the famously-polluted Charles River. In addition, until the Deer Island treatment plant was built in the early 1990s, Boston Harbor was considered the most-polluted harbor in the U.S.

The Clean Water Act and the modern Clean Air Act, both of which enjoyed wide bipartisan support in Congress, came into existence in the aftermath of the creation of the EPA as the result of the environmental movement and enjoyed widespread support throughout the country.

However, terms such as global warming and climate change were not in the lexicon at that time. We thought that if we could clean-up our waterways and air by reducing the levels of pollutants, everything would be fine.

And to a large extent, the goals of cleaner air -- lead was removed from gasoline, there are far fewer coal-burning plants -- and cleaner water -- we now can swim in the Charles and Boston Harbor -- have been attained.

But fast-forwarding 50 years, we now can see that we did not anticipate the global scale that air and water pollution would achieve thanks to industrial development in Third World countries and real estate development in our country.

Nor did we know then that the buildup of greenhouse gases would lead to a warmer and more dangerous planet. Indeed, we recall reading in U.S. News and World Report a cover story in the mid-1980s that predicted that the effect of air pollution would be a colder planet. According to the article, the climate in Florida would resemble that of New England within 100 years or so because, it was theorized, smog would block out the sun's rays.

But, as is evident today in the news headlines every day, just the opposite is occurring.

The Antarctic, the coldest location on the planet, recently experienced an episode of warm weather unlike any ever observed, with temperatures over the eastern Antarctic ice sheet soaring 50 to 90 degrees above normal. The warmth has smashed records and shocked scientists.

At the globe's other pole, the Arctic is warming three times faster than the rest of the planet and atmospheric scientists are trying to better understand the processes contributing to such swiftly-rising temperatures.

In Australia, the Great Barrier Reef continues to experience unprecedented coral bleaching because of rising seawater temperatures. In Florida, the manatees are dying at unprecedented rates because they are starving, thanks to the run-off from housing and agricultural developments that is choking the seagrass, their main food source.

All in all, our planet is in far worse shape, despite many notable successes, than it was on the first Earth Day in 1970. And the sad reality is that at the rate we're going, in another 52 years things are going to be exponentially worse.

## 4/20, 2022: Time to legalize marijuana

As our long-time readers know, we have been advocating for the full legalization of marijuana for more than 25 years.

Despite the large number of states where marijuana is sold legally (38, including medical use-only states), the federal government still labels marijuana as a Schedule I drug, the same category as heroin and other truly dangerous substances.

But as we now know thanks to the release of White House tapes, the Schedule I listing of marijuana in 1970 had no basis in fact or science. The Nixon administration placed marijuana into the Schedule I category solely to use it as a means for prosecuting Black and minority communities and handing out lengthy sentences even for possession of small amounts of marijuana.

Thanks to the real-time experience of fully-legalized marijuana for the past 10 years when Colorado became the first state to do so in 2012, we now know that marijuana is as benign a substance as exists and has many significant medical uses.

In addition, marijuana legalization has not led to an increase in use among young people as some had feared.

The U.S. House recently passed a bill that would legalize marijuana nationwide. We hope that the Senate can take up the legislation soon and make this common-sense measure a reality.

## OP-ED

# Living life lighter

By DR. GLENN MOLLETTE

events.

Carrying baggage is exhausting. When traveling we often pack more than we need. When making a trip it's always easier to travel light.

Life is a trip. The longer we live the more we seem to pack and try to carry. Our mind has so many shelves, drawers and spaces for luggage of all shapes and sizes. We have this giant closet inside our brains that we fill up throughout life.

Your mental closet is filled with memories that are good and not so good. You may have spaces filled with grief, sadness, hurts, rejection, loss, failure, disappointments, defeats and more. You also hopefully have stored up some happy times, victories, successes, celebrations, achievements, love, relationships and peace. Hopefully your mind is filled with more positive happy

I heard the story about a young man who loved his cat. The cat died and his mother gave him permission to bury his cat in the backyard. The mother became appalled when she discovered her son was digging up the cat every few days to see how the cat was doing. Too often we live our lives this way. We dig up old stuff that needs to remain buried forever.

Too often the mind carries what cannot be physically buried, good or bad. We are frequently impacted by what we keep stored. One cold morning, a little boy put his backside up against an old coal stove. The hot stove burned his bottom and he knew never to do that again. What we have stored up in our minds can often serve us well. Wisdom is gained the hard way. The school of hard knocks is educational

*Continued on page 19*

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

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# Face coverings no longer required for MBTA, airport travelers

STAFF REPORT

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), MBTA and the Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) are announcing updates to masking requirements following a U.S. District Court judge's decision on Monday voiding the national mask mandate covering airplanes and other public transportation.

Beginning this week, the mask mandate on MBTA vehicles and MBTA properties will be lifted for all MBTA customers. Masks will still be required by users of The RIDE paratransit

services.

In line with updated guidance from the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), travelers using the Commonwealth's Massport facilities are no longer required to wear face coverings. This includes airports, Conley Terminal, and the Logan Express service.

Most of the state's 15 Regional Transit Authorities (RTA) are also rescinding the face-covering mandate but members of the public should check with a specific RTA to confirm the requirement.

"The Commonwealth has followed federal guidance in terms of face coverings and to be con-

sistent with that, we are lifting the face covering mandate at the Commonwealth's transportation hubs and on most public transportation vehicles," said Transportation Secretary and CEO Jamey Tesler. "While these face covering requirements are being lifted, we remind travelers that masks are welcome if people choose to wear them."

MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak added, "Customers are no longer required to wear a mask on MBTA vehicles, or at stations or facilities if they choose not to; however, if people feel more comfortable wearing a facemask, then by all means

continue to do so. The MBTA remains committed to safety and will continue adhering to all CDC and Massachusetts' public health guidance. The T is continuing to clean vehicles and stations regularly and upgrade air filtration systems."

"In line with the TSA's guidance, mask wearing will now be optional within our airport facilities and on Logan Express buses," said Massport CEO Lisa Wieland. "There may still be certain requirements onboard international flights, so we would encourage those passengers to check with their airline and destination."

The MBTA continues its ro-

bust cleaning programs for passenger vehicles and stations, and the T regularly upgrades vehicles' air filtration systems. Please find more information here on the MBTA's Ride Safer program: [https://www.mbta.com/covid19/ride-safer?utm\\_campaign=curated-content&utm\\_content=Ride+Safer&utm\\_medium=whats-happening&utm\\_source=homepage&utm\\_term=null](https://www.mbta.com/covid19/ride-safer?utm_campaign=curated-content&utm_content=Ride+Safer&utm_medium=whats-happening&utm_source=homepage&utm_term=null)

Per the Department of Public Health, masks remain required in several settings including healthcare facilities and congregate care facilities. For a full list of requirements, please visit: [mass.gov/maskupma](https://mass.gov/maskupma).

## Massachusetts unemployment and job estimates for March

STAFF REPORT

The state's March total unemployment rate dropped by four-tenths of a percentage point at 4.3 percent over the month, the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development announced Friday.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics' preliminary job estimates indicate Massachusetts gained 21,000 jobs in March. This follows last month's revised gain of 22,300 jobs. The largest over the month private sector job gains were in Professional, Scientific, and Business Services, Education and Health Services, and Leisure and Hospitality. Employment now stands at 3,651,100. Since the employment trough in April 2020, Massachusetts gained 600,100 jobs.

From March 2021 to March 2022, BLS estimates Massachusetts gained 186,400 jobs. The largest over the year gains

occurred in Leisure and Hospitality; Professional, Scientific, and Business Services; and Education and Health Services. Financial Activities was the only sector to see job losses.

The March unemployment rate of 4.3 percent was 0.7 percentage point above the national rate reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The labor force grew by an estimated 2,700 from 3,772,500 in February, as 18,000 more residents were employed, and 15,300 fewer residents were unemployed over the month.

Over the year, the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was down by 2.1 percentage points.

The state's labor force participation rate – the total number of residents 16 or older who worked or were unemployed and actively sought work in the last four weeks – was up one-tenth of a per-

centage point at 66.0 percent over the month. Compared to March 2021, the labor force participation rate was up 0.8 percentage point.

### March 2022 Employment Overview

Professional and Business Services gained 7,200 (+1.2%) jobs over the month. Over the year, 33,300 (+5.6%) jobs were added.

Education and Health Services gained 6,900 (+0.9%) jobs over the month. Over the year, 30,400 (+3.9%) jobs were added.

Leisure and Hospitality gained 3,900 (+1.2%) jobs over the month. Over the year, 69,400 (+25.5%) jobs were added.

Trade, Transportation and Utilities gained 2,000 (+0.4%) over the month. Over the year, 16,400 (+3.0%) jobs were added.

Information gained 900 (+0.9%) jobs over the month. Over the year, 4,900 (+5.4%) jobs

were added.

Government gained 800 (+0.2%) jobs over the month. Over the year, 11,900 (+2.8%) jobs were added.

Manufacturing gained 600 (+0.3%) jobs over the month. Over the year, 6,600 (+2.9%) jobs were added.

Construction gained 100 (+0.1%) jobs over the month. Over the year, 8,700 (+5.3%) jobs were added.

Financial Activities lost 100 jobs (-0.0%) over the month. Over the year, 4,200 (-1.9%) jobs were lost. Other Services lost 1,200 (-0.9%) jobs over the month. Over the year, 9,000 (+7.6%) jobs were added.

### Labor Force Overview

The March estimates show 3,614,700 Massachusetts res-

idents were employed and 160,600 were unemployed, for a total labor force of 3,775,300. The unemployment rate was down 0.4 percentage point at 4.3 percent from the February rate of 4.7 percent. Over the month, the March labor force was up by 2,700 from 3,772,500 in February, with 18,000 more residents employed and 15,300 fewer residents unemployed. The labor force participation rate, the share of working age population employed and unemployed, increased by 0.1 percentage point at 66.0 percent. The labor force was up 39,900 from the March 2021 estimate of 3,735,400, as 118,000 more residents were employed, and 78,100 fewer residents were unemployed.

## Op-Ed

*Continued from page 18*

and expensive. We pay dearly throughout life to learn the hard way. Thus, what we have stored up can be very valuable to us as we face additional life challenges and opportunities.

Your past decisions, work, interests, achievements, failures and mistakes all play a part in where you are today. This could be very good. Or, it could be very bad. If you learned from your mistakes and moved forward then you may be further ahead

than you ever imagined. If you didn't learn from your mistakes and you continue to make them then frustration and sadness is haunting you.

Today is a new day. You can't change the past. You do not know the future. Live your best life now. Dispose of as much baggage as you can. Do away with old resentments and regrets. Forgive people. Forgive yourself. Don't live in the cemetery but live with hope of seeing your loved one in a better place.

Paul, the author of Philippians said it this way, "Brethren, I count not myself to have appre-

hended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

*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.*

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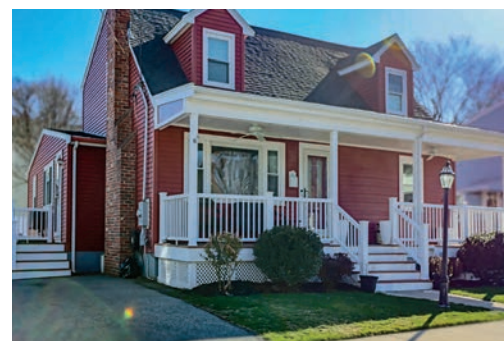
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