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## JP HISTORY PG. 8

# Jamaica Plain GAZETTE

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PHOTO BY DEREK KOYOUMJIAN

Hyde Square Task Force held a Three Kings Day Celebration event at their facility. The event celebrates the Epiphany holiday and the Three Kings (Wise Men, Magi) who brought presents. The function room (above) at the Hyde Square Task Force facility was filled with community celebration. See pages 4 and 5 for more photos

## JPA told of need to raise funds for First Church roof

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

The Jamaica Pond Association (JPA) held its regular monthly meeting this past Monday, January 9.

Chair Kay Mathew and members Rosemary Jones, Kevin Moloney, Jasmine Crafts, Tony Dreyfus, Tamara Pitts, Peter Steiger, Michael Frank, Michael Reiskind, Franklyn Salimbene, Nancy Mazonson, Peter Elmuts, Barry Schwartz, and Martin Thomson

were on hand for the meeting.

Two representatives from local elected officials also were on hand.

Carlos Rios, a legislative aide to new State Rep. Sam Montano, reported that Rep. Montano's office is focusing on housing, which is a major issue in the district.

My'Kel McMillen, the Director of Constituent Services and Organizing from District 6 City Councillor Kendra Lara's office, noted that Councillor Lara hosted coffee hours with constituents

in December at various locations throughout her district.

Treasurer Martin Thomson reported that there is a balance of \$3362.67 in the association's account at the present time.

The meeting did not include the usual monthly Community Safety Report. It was noted that police officer Carlos Martinez, who regularly has been presenting the monthly report, no longer is with

*Continued on page 13*

## JPNC's Public Service Comm. seeks more trash receptacles from DPW

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

The Public Service Committee of the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC) held its regular monthly meeting this past Tuesday.

Chairman Michael Reiskind and fellow committee members Bernie Doherty, Robin Cheung, Dot Farrell, Paige Sparks, and Louise Johnson were on hand for the meeting.

The Public Service Committee's mandate consists of addressing issues related to public safety, licensing, transportation, and public works.

The first matter taken up Tuesday evening pertained to a public works issue to request the City of Boston's Dept. of Public Works (DPW) to place more trash and recycling barrels in the JP business district and in other areas where littering is a problem.

The committee has addressed this issue in the past, but no progress with the city was reported at Tuesday's meeting, inasmuch as the district's DPW liaison has not been in contact with the committee.

*Continued on page 9*



The Independent Newspaper Group Offices will be closed on **MONDAY, JANUARY 16** in observation of **MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY**. The office will reopen on Tuesday, Jan. 17. Deadlines for ads & copy is Friday, Jan. 13.

# Stonybrook Neighborhood Association hears update for Arborway Garage

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

The Stonybrook Neighborhood Association (SNA) held its regular semi-monthly meeting this past Monday evening. Steering Committee member Jonathan McCurdy chaired the meeting, which also was attended by new State Representative Samantha Montano (who invited the community to contact her with any suggestions for new legislation for 2023 within the next 10 days); Thomas Mannion, the Director of Constituent Services for Boston City Councilor at large Erin Murphy; Emily Polston, Chief of Staff for City Councilor at large Ruthzee Louijeune; and Frances Oliveira, who is the community liaison for Jamaica Plain for the city's Inspectional Services Dept.

The principal portion of the session was taken up with a presentation by Alexandra Markiewicz, the Manager of Bus Modernization at the MBTA, in which she updated the association on the progress of the T's Arborway Garage project.

Markiewicz told the group that the new garage, which will replace the existing garage with an electric bus maintenance facility, will house 200 buses, ranging in length from 40 to 60 feet,

all of which will be electric.

Markiewicz said the T is seeking to have an all-electric bus fleet by 2040, "which is one of the most ambitious programs for bus electrification in the country and this requires that the present Arborway facility must be changed over from CNG to electric."

"When the Arborway project is completed, all buses on local JP streets will be electrified and 40 percent of all buses in the city will be electric," Markiewicz noted.

She also added that the T will avoid building directly over the Stony Brook culvert. In addition, the new garage has been designed to allow the city to retain its adjacent snow and ice removal storage facility.

She noted that the impact upon local traffic from the increase in the number of buses using the garage (the new facility will house almost twice as many buses as the present garage) will be minimal because the buses will not be going to-and-from the facility during peak rush hours.

Construction is slated to start in 2025 with a completion date of 2028.

Markiewicz fielded a number of questions from the group.

Tulin Dadali asked whether

there will be any changes to the present walkway and bike path to the Forest Hills rapid transit station and was assured that there will be no changes.

Merlin Southwick asked about the potential uses for the adjacent Community Development parcels, which total 6.5 acres. Markiewicz replied that the City of Boston will be addressing that issue.

Royce Abel asked about the 60-foot height of the new garage. Markiewicz said that the building needs that height in order to accommodate the buses and the pantograph overhead charging system that will be used to recharge the buses in the garage.

Felicia Kazer asked about the environmental impact during the construction phase and where the electricity will come from, including wind and solar.

Markiewicz told the group that the MBTA is the largest consumer of electricity in the state and that 100% of the MBTA's system is powered by certified renewable electricity. She also said that the T has begun already working with Eversource, the local electric company, because the new garage will require a significant power upgrade to the site.

In response to a question about water and air quality during construction, Markiewicz said that the T will be working

with the appropriate authorities on mitigation to make sure the area is safe and protected during the construction project.

Susan Ramos-Hunter asked about density for the new commercial zoning area, but Markiewicz said that issue still is up in the air and in any event will be determined by the city.

Fred Vetterlein made a strong case for the T to incorporate greenery into the plans for the site, which presently indicate a lack of plantings or green areas. Vetterlein suggested that trees might be able to be planted along the perimeter of the site.

"This is an important site that you should make look decent," said Vetterlein. "The Arborway is such a major part of our park system. You should show a face that really has some pride in it and do something that makes that happen."

"The MBTA did a nice job with the Forest Hills station and the T is capable of good design," he added.

Markiewicz noted that the drawings she showed are only preliminary and that Vetterlein's suggestion will be considered.

The association then heard a number of updates from its various subcommittees:

-- Vetterlein told the committee of the progress (or lack of it) regarding the so-called

Southwest Corridor Extension, a stretch of land that is 1/4 mile long and 50-90 feet wide that runs from English High School to Forest Hills station. He noted that \$125,000 has been received toward the construction of a greenway, but there presently are no concrete plans for development.

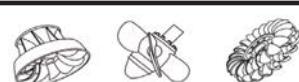
-- Royce Abel updated the group about the construction project at the corner of Brookley and Stonley Rds. He said the existing building has been demolished, but that an issue remains regarding color selection for the new structure. He said a pedestrian path has been included and there are discussions with a car-sharing company to be available for tenants. However, a sticking point has been the finalization of an agreement between the developer and the city & state to make all of the housing, which will include five live/work units for artists, 100 percent affordable. It is expected that the matter will be resolved in time to start construction in May.

-- The association was informed that the property at 15 Meehan St. was sold on December 30 and the new owner is planning to build either a two or three-family structure.

-- The association learned that there has been no real progress for the plans at the BMS Paper Co. building, 3390 Washington St., where the owner of the current restaurant and party supply company has proposed to expand his retail business with a full-on grocery store, 80 units of housing, and a restaurant on the second floor. The owner presently is working on plans for the shared driveway with the Pine St. Inn, redesigns for the restaurant, and a choice of color for the building.

-- The Guidance subcommittee reported that it is nearing completion of its work on a document regarding the procedures that

*Continued on page 10*



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# Wu encourages parents to utilize the Boston Saves January incentive

Mayor Michelle Wu announced an incentive to encourage families of Boston Public Schools (BPS) K2-3rd graders to take advantage of Boston Saves, the City of Boston's children's savings account (CSA) program. BPS K2 - 2nd grade families who log in to the program's online savings platform for the first time by January 31, 2023 will earn an extra \$25 for their child's account. This money, plus the \$50 provided in every Boston Saves account and any additional incentives families earn, can be used to pay for their child's future college or career training, providing a financial boost to their child's future. Boston Saves is a collaborative effort between the Worker Empowerment Cabinet (WE) and Boston Public Schools.

"Boston Saves is part of our efforts to connect Boston's young people and families with every economic opportunity possible," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "This collaborative program provides families with a chance to plan early and save even more for their children's future. As we start 2023, I encourage all of our newly participating families to log in to Boston Save's online

savings platform and take advantage of this incentive."

"The Boston Saves program is one of the best ways to prepare for your child's academic and professional future," said Boston Public Schools Superintendent Mary Skipper. "It's never too early, or too late to participate, and the January promotion is the perfect time, if possible, to invest a little bit extra into your children's future. We encourage all of our families to take advantage because data shows students who are enrolled in the Boston Saves program are more-likely to enroll and attain a degree in college or a career-training program."

Boston Saves is a tool for working families to save and plan for their children's future college or career training by providing every BPS K2 kindergartner with a CSA automatically seeded with \$50. The incentive encourages families to take a crucial first step towards unlocking the program's many benefits. More than 1,300 BPS families earned a total of \$32,825 for their children's futures through last year's January incentive.

When a family logs in to the Savings Center, they can:

- See the money in their child's Boston Saves account

- Link their own financial account to the Savings Center to track all their savings for their child in one place

- Earn more money for their child's Boston Saves account by taking simple steps like reading with their child, or saving regularly

Additionally, Boston Saves motivates families to earn more money for their child through regular incentives, and provides financial education and resources that make saving easier and helps families get ahead. Since the program began, Boston Saves has provided funds more than \$1,040,000, including \$113,000 in family-earned incentives, to more than 18,580 students.

Research shows that the mere presence of savings can motivate post-secondary success. In one study, low-income children with less than \$500 in an account dedicated to higher education were three times more likely to enroll in college and four times more likely to graduate from college.

"Boston Saves is a great initiative from the City of Boston to help families learn about the importance of saving," said Erin

DiCarlo, parent of two Boston Saves' students at the Adams Elementary School. "With financial literacy often lacking in schools, this program helps teach families to have their children begin saving for their future at a young age. It also gives students an incentive to read!"

The Boston Saves incentive will be applied to the accounts of all students whose families have logged in to the Savings Center for the first time since November 2022, when the platform first became available to current K2 kindergarten families. Currently, all K2-3rd grade students in BPS have Boston Saves accounts. Families of students in select older grades may

also have accounts (and thus be eligible for the promotion) if they were part of the Boston Saves pilot program or joined a pilot cohort. Families that have eligible children should have received an email from [bostonsaves@boston.gov](mailto:bostonsaves@boston.gov) with a direct link to log into their child's account. Parents/guardians who believe their child is eligible (K2-3rd grade BPS students) but did not receive an email can contact the Boston Saves team at [bostonsaves@boston.gov](mailto:bostonsaves@boston.gov) with their child's name, grade and school. Find more information about Boston Saves including eligibility requirements at Bos-

*Continued on page 9*



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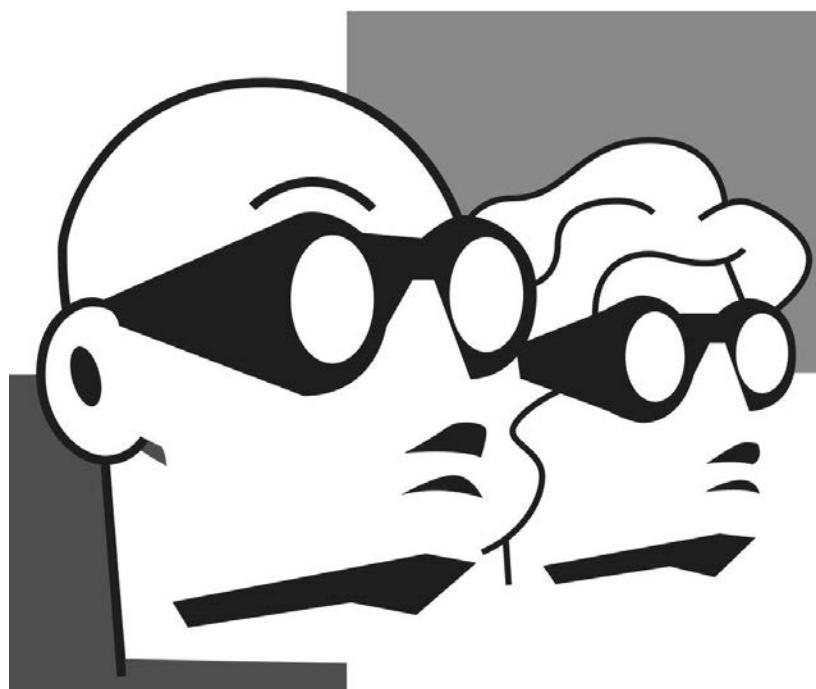
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# HYDE SQUARE TASK FORCE HOSTS THREE KINGS DAY CELEBRATION EVENT

PHOTOS BY DEREK KOYOUMJIAN

Hyde Square Task Force held a Three Kings Day Celebration event at their facility. The event celebrates the Epiphany holiday and the Three Kings (Wise Men, Magi) who brought presents of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Promoting the cultural wealth

of Boston's Latin Quarter, Hyde Square Task Force offered participants the gifts arts and crafts, food, music, and community. As was said about the event: "An example of us telling our story". "A celebration of culture, a celebration of us".



Portraying the Three Kings: Lorena Gondres, Jayden Guzman, and Zaniyah Wade.



Musicians Fabiola Mendez, Christopher Wilkins, and Miguel Martinez take a bow.



Jose C. Masso III thanks Boston Landmarks Orchestra conductor Christopher Wilkins for their contribution to the event.



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Jocelyn Pena, a patent of a student at the Hyde Square Task Force, offers complimentary food to help celebrate Three Kings Day.

# HYDE SQUARE TASK FORCE HOSTS THREE KINGS DAY CELEBRATION EVENT

PHOTOS BY DEREK KOYOUMJIAN



Boston Landmarks Orchestra musician Greg Vitale performs.



Peter and Solana Alvarez.



Ysabella and Mary Delgado.



Boston Landmarks Orchestra musician Paula Oakes preforms.



Fabiola Mendez performs with the Quatro, a traditional stringed instrument from Puerto Rico.



Maria Termini sings along with the music.



Fabiola Mendez preforms with members of the Youth Of Hyde Square group she's been instructing in music: Danny Vargas, Siuli Gonzalez, Mariam Pena, and Edras Alvarez.



The function room at the Hyde Square Task Force facility was filled with community celebration.

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**JANUARY**

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**FEBRUARY**

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**NOVEMBER**

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**DECEMBER**

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# JP HISTORY

## This Month in JP History

The following are the Gazette's top headlines from this month in Jamaica Plain history:

**2013**

"Martha Eliot Health Center to cut service to adults"

The Martha Eliot Health Center (MEHC) at 75 Bickford St., which is run by Boston Children's Hospital (BCH), announced it would no longer care for adult patients in a letter to BCH's staff, associated personnel and volunteers.

The change affected about 5,000 adult patients, according to Dr. Shari Nethersole, MEHC's acting medical director. transferred the care of adult patients to other facilities in what was a months-long process that started immediately.

The focus on young patients is part of BCH changing its clinical services on "what it does best,"

Nethersole said at the time. There are about 4,000 child and teen patients at MEHC, she said.

"After much deliberation, we have decided that we must focus Boston Children's expertise and resources solely on providing patient care and developing community health and outreach programs for those we know best—the children and adolescents of the community," said the letter from BCH Chief Executive Officer James Mandell and BCH Chief Operating Officer Sandra Fenwick.

The move drew criticism from the Bromley-Heath housing development, which is next door to the health center.

"Of course, I'm very, very upset," said Mildred Hailey at the time. Hailey was the former executive director and founder of Bromley-Heath Tenant Management Corporation (TMC), which

ran the Bromley-Heath for 40 years before the Boston Housing Authority (BHA) took over last spring.

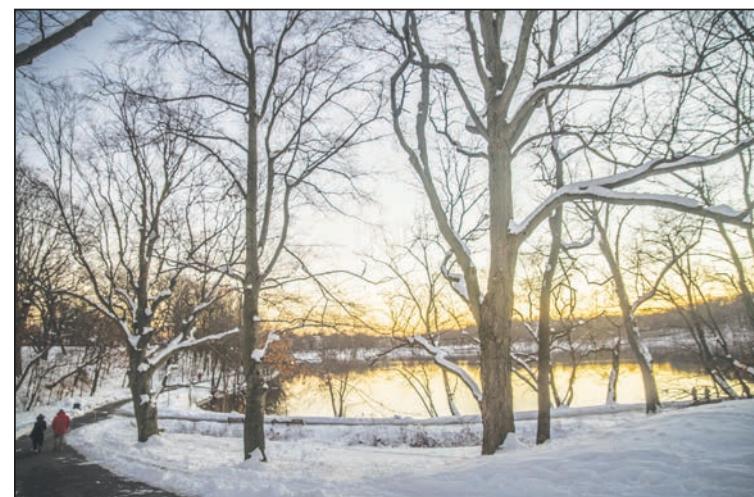
**2008**

"Arborway transit process misses deadline"

The state Executive Office of Transportation (EOT) missed a deadline to complete a series of community meetings about public transit improvements in the Arborway corridor currently served by the Route 39 bus, in apparent violation of a 2006 lawsuit settlement.

"There will be a meeting on this in February," said EOT spokesperson Adam Hurtubise at the time, adding that more information will be forthcoming.

The settlement agreement is between EOT and the Conservation Law Foundation (CLF), an environmental non-profit or-



*This time last year, snow fell on JP and many residents enjoyed their time outside around Jamaica Pond.*

ganization. CLF previously said it would consider resuming its lawsuit if the meetings do not occur. CLF staff attorney Carrie Russell sent the EOT a letter on Nov. 16 reminding it of the approaching deadline.

EOT oversees the MBTA, which in 1985 "temporarily" suspended Arborway trolley service and replaced it with the 39 bus. Trolley restoration was one of several transit projects EOT was

required to complete as mitigations for the Big Dig under a previous CLF lawsuit.

The state and the MBTA have attempted to get out of doing the restoration several times, but have repeatedly been ordered by environmental officials to complete it. Meanwhile, JP has become divided on the issue, and 39 bus ridership had fallen significantly at the time.

**2003**

"Airplane noise a nuisance to residents"

JP residents showed up at Agassiz School on Jan. 14 out of frustration with repetitive airplane noise from Runway 27 that they said begins as early as 5:30 a.m. and extends late into the evening.

Resident Martha Merson said at the time she is woken up regularly by a flight at 3 a.m.

Another resident said she recently bought a new home at the edge of Franklin Park. She said she expected peace and quiet, but what she got was the exhaust noise of one plane after another. "I totally thought I was losing my mind," she said.

Runway 27 is one of four runways currently in use at Logan Airport. According to Massport officials at the time, the runway is used when the wind comes out of the west so that planes may take off into the wind. This leads to flights over eastern Jamaica Plain.

The flight path crosses Boston Harbor then turns southeast at the World Trade Center to fly over the Southeast Expressway, Franklin Park, and Forest Hills and Mount Hope cemeteries. The

*Continued from page 9*

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# JPNC

*Continued from page 1*

capped ramps and crosswalks, as well as along the Green St. area, senior citizen residential areas, and bus stops.

Doherty noted that businesses are responsible for shoveling snow and ice from in front of their storefronts and can be subject to fines for failing to do so. However, it was noted that the city's Inspectional Services Dept. lacks the resources to enforce the ordinance, which prompted Doherty to suggest that the power to levy fines should be vested with the DPW, which originally had that authority.

Sparks asked whether there

might be alternatives to the use of rock salt because of the harm it causes to pets. She noted that JP ranks either first or second among the city's neighborhoods for dog ownership and that dogs can suffer injury to their paws from rock salt.

Reiskind provided an update on licensing issues and noted that the Canary Sq. restaurant at 435 So. Huntington has closed and is selling its liquor license outside of Jamaica Plain to a movie theatre that will be selling alcoholic drinks in the Seaport area.

He also reported that a new restaurant, Across the Border, at the corner of Center and Sheridan Sts. is opening, but will not be serving alcohol.

## History

*Continued from page 8*

path came after a 1987 lawsuit by a group of Jamaica Plain, South End and Brookline residents called the "Runway 27 Coalition" that mandated an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The coalition wanted to disperse the traffic over a broader area, but the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) claimed that was too difficult to do. Using demographic information from the EIS, the FAA chose a flight path that would affect the least number of people. It was put into effect in August, 1996.

### 1998

"Residents take control"

Residents of Stony Brook Gardens Cooperative gained control of the housing development.

The cooperative was established five years ago by Urban Edge, a Jamaica Plain-based nonprofit that develops affordable housing. Urban Edge signed over the control on Dec. 13 as the cooperative finished self-management training.

They underwent various kinds of training, such as "how to make a policy, how to understand financial management," and maintenance, said Fran Price of Urban Edge at the time.

The city, state, and federal government and the private sector funded through Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership, Inc. over \$6 million to build the 50-unit town house compound located between Chestnut Avenue

The committee briefly discussed the problem of the large number of nip bottles and cigarette butts that are littering the neighborhood's streets.

On a separate note, Sparks mentioned that the family of Justin Root, a 41-year-old man with lifelong ties to Jamaica Plain who was shot and killed by police

on February 7, 2020, will be holding a vigil on February 7 at 9:15 a.m. to mark the third anniversary of his death. Six police officers fired 31 rounds in a matter of a few seconds at Root after a car chase that began at the Brigham and Women's Hospital, where Root allegedly brandished a BB gun, and ended when his vehicle

crashed on Hammond Parkway in Brookline.

Norfolk County District Atty. Michael Morrissey cleared the officers of any wrongdoing. However, Root's family has filed a wrongful death lawsuit.

The next meeting of the committee is set for the evening of February 7.

## Wu

*Continued from page 3*

tonSavesCSA.org.

Managed by the Mayor's Office of Financial Empowerment, Boston Saves is the City of Boston's children's savings account (CSA) program. Starting in K2 Kindergarten, Boston Saves provides each student with a CSA automatically seeded with \$50 for their future college or career training. The program also provides opportunities for families to earn additional Boston Saves Dollars for their child's

account and to take advantage of financial education resources that make saving easier.

The Worker Empowerment Cabinet (WE) leads the City's work in advancing the well-being

of all working Bostonians in both the public and private sectors by linking worker empowerment policy and programs to create a safe, healthy, and climate resilient city for all.



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## SUPPORTING JP HISTORY

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**For the Gazette's History Edition, we salute our very own Janet Deegan, Board Member of JPHS**



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**SNA***Continued from page 2*

will govern the SNA's subcommittees.

-- Tulin made a presentation about the NextDoor social media website.

-- McCurdy thanked the members of the community who volunteered themselves and their homes to make the SNA's recent Holiday Stroll a success.

The next meetings of the SNA are scheduled for March 13 and May 8.

**SNA in dire need of members**

The Stonybrook Neighborhood Association (SNA) needs members from the community who are willing to step up to become active members of the SNA.

Steering Committee member Jonathan McCurdy said that the Steering Committee, which

typically has five members, has been reduced to three in recent years and that he is planning on stepping down after the SNA's next meeting in March.

"We are in crisis mode," said McCurdy, who has been a member of the Steering Committee for four years. "We need at least three members to handle the or-

ganizational needs for our meetings, but when I leave, we'll be down to two."

Interested members of the J.P. community who would like to join the organization should go to the SNA's web site at [www.sna-jp.org](http://www.sna-jp.org) for more information.

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# Hayden sworn in as the Suffolk County District Attorney

Kevin R. Hayden was sworn in as the Suffolk County District Attorney on Monday, January 9, at Roxbury Community College.

Hayden was appointed by Governor Charles Baker to the fill the unexpired term of Rachael Rollins who was appointed United States District Attorney for Boston by President Joseph Biden. The following is Hayden's Inaugural Address:

Good evening. It's so wonderful to see everyone gathered here. I'm truly honored and humbled to stand before you for my inauguration and swearing in as the elected District Attorney for Suffolk County.

There are some thank you's I need to offer up at the outset. First, thank you to all my supporters. Whether you volunteered on my campaign, made a contribution, put a sign on your lawn, or simply voted for me and encouraged others to do so, I thank you. I thank you for believing in me and for believing in a vision of what's possible in Suffolk County.

Thank you to my Transition and Community Advisory Committee for your support. I look forward to the important foundational work we'll do together.

Thank you, Ralph Martin for hiring me way back in 1997 and for your many years of mentorship, support and friendship.

Thank you, Governor Baker for the confidence you had in me to appoint me as the interim D.A. and for your guidance and leadership.

Thank you, Senator Collins and Representative Tyler for your incredible support.

Thank you, Chief Justice Budd for doing the honor of swearing me in this evening.

Thank you, all our police officers in Boston, Chelsea, Revere and Winthrop, and at the MBTA and State Police, for your selfless service.

Thank you to all of my staff at the District Attorney's Office for your tireless commitment to justice, public safety and the welfare of our Suffolk County residents. You are the greatest group of public servants working for the best D.A.'s Office in the Commonwealth, and perhaps even one of the best in the nation. For all my A.D.A.'s here I look forward to the honor of swearing you in at the conclusion of this



From left: Kevin Hayden, Carson Hayden, Michelle Hayden, Jordan Hayden and Supreme Judicial Court Chief Justice Kimberly Budd.

program.

Thank you to all of the elected officials here today, my partners in government. I look forward to continuing to partner with all of you as we work to make Suffolk County even greater.

Thank you to all the residents of Suffolk County and your commitment to what is right...good...fair...and just...and your concern for public safety and the support of those impacted by crime.

Thank you to my mom, Char-

lene Roberts-Hayden, for your unconditional love and constant prayer. All my life you've been faithful, all my life you've been so so good.

Thank you to my wife Michelle and my sons Jordan and Carson. I love you more than words can express. To my beloved Michelle, I am nothing without you, and to my 2 sons you make me so proud every day.

I want to start by sharing a story of a chance meeting I had

with a young man just before Christmas, and a card I received on the first day back in the office in 2023.

[Tell story of meeting young man from Power Corps Boston on the steps of West Roxbury District Court – Career development program paying and preparing young adults in need of support for a career in the green industry].

[Read card from survivor.] Over the years I've witnessed many testimonies like this and I'll touch upon them again later in my address.

When I returned to the office about a year ago it was exciting and surreal. The honor of returning to where my career began... to an office and county that has always had my heart...to a calling to serve as leader of this great office...was extraordinary and is still somewhat difficult to even put into words.

But I CAN put into words some of the things we've done already.

We created the Boston First Program to focus on firearm violence, gun trafficking and unsolved shootings.

We created a new Civil Rights Unit with prosecutors in the district and superior courts.

We established a community engagement team to create

neighborhood partnership, collaboration and trust that will achieve a level of community-based prosecution never seen before.

We launched our Services Over Sentences Program to provide true assistance and real alternatives to prosecution for those battling with substance use disorder at Mass and Cass and even beyond.

And while I believe we're off to a great start, there's much left to do. The statistics for last year showed a continuing drop in serious crime in Boston, but an increase in gun arrests involving youth and an alarming spat of violence this fall. I believe we must deal with crime comprehensively and collaboratively to get to the root of the problem.

We will create the Suffolk County D.A. Youth Engagement Council, made up of young people from throughout Suffolk County, to gain a deeper and better understanding of the factors at play in youth violence, and how to create effective prevention strategies.

We will also create the Emerging Adult Alternative Resolution Program in collaboration with the Center for Law, Brain & Be-

*Continued on page 12*

## Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll



### 'BUDDY'

Buddy is a house-trained, social dog who loves people and other dogs. He is about a year old and very smart. He will thrive on lots of exercise and training to keep him busy!



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# Hayden

*Continued from page 11*

havior at M.G.H. and Harvard Medical School. This program will offer real, comprehensive alternatives to prosecution for Suffolk County's young adult population.

We'll be seeking additional funding to expand our Services Over Sentences program to tackle the opioid epidemic. We've already seen great outcomes since we launched last summer, and we want to help even more people in their paths to recovery.

Our Transition and Community Advisory Committee will assist in the development of our strategies to address crime intervention and prevention, and

enhance community trust and operational transparency and accountability.

The Suffolk County District Attorney's office has been nationally recognized for decades now thanks in large part to the incredible work of my predecessors. Ralph Martin gained country-wide recognition for bringing the office out of the courts and into the neighborhoods. Dan Conley built on that while creating the Juvenile Alternative Resolution program and establishing specialty courts to help veterans and others with sentencing alternatives. Rachael Rollins added data-driven outcomes and historic accountability with the Crime Strategies and the Integrity Review Bureaus.

And I declare here today that

our best and brightest days of community safety...and neighborhood security...and systemic reform still lay ahead. When we unite in faith and hope... when we work together in faith and hope...we can achieve amazing results.

Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Even when we can't see it we must know that our hope is never mere nor meager. When all other senses sleep our eye of hope is the first to awaken and the last to shut. Today more than ever, we must hold unwaveringly to hope. But hope for what? Well one main hope for me is the multiplication of overcomers.

If you've heard me speak at all recently you already have a flavor of what I'm about to

say. But I'm determined to speak this message into existence. An overcomer is defined as someone who prevails over opposition, difficulties, conflict, or attack. An overcomer is someone who knows weeping may endure for a night but joy comes in the morning. An overcomer is someone with a spirit who won't allow themselves or others to be defeated by tragedy or adversity...and thus ultimately triumphs.

An overcomer won't suffer alone and seeks to find refuge, solace and peace in the sharing of fellowship with others. Whether you're a homicide survivor who has lost a loved one to violence, or a survivor of rape, human trafficking or sexual assault who now ministers to others, someone who's gotten sober and triumphed over

substance use disorder who now mentors or sponsors another, or are a returning citizen who has turned your life around and is now helping others do the same, YOU ARE AN OVERCOMER! You will help transform Suffolk County. It is by and through the spirit of overcomers the curse of violence in Suffolk County will be broken. I believe when the power at work in restored overcomers is poured out and multiplied, miracles will happen, deliverance from the clutches of crime and violence will become manifest. The mission of this office will be to always fight for you and stand with you each and every day.

I thank all of you, I am humbled by the opportunity you have given me, and I stand ready to lead this wonderful office. Thank you.

## CITY PAWS

### Extrasensory dogs

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Do you ever suspect that your dog has some form of extrasensory or telepathic powers? When one of us is out, our Westie Poppy races to the door long before the sound of footsteps in the hall or a key in the lock should alert her to an arrival.

This "power" is so common

that scientist Rupert Sheldrake wrote a book about it, "Dogs That Know When Their Owners Are Coming Home: And Other Unexplained Powers of Animals."

Penny read it years ago and reread it recently in light of all the current research on this topic. Sheldrake quickly explained when the information about

dogs' special powers was anecdotal stories vs. evidence and controlled studies.

In addition to knowing when you are coming home, Sheldrake also discussed emotional support and therapy dogs' abilities to comfort people. He noted service dogs' ability to alert people to seizures or drops in blood sugar. And discussed how sensitive animals might predict earthquakes and other disasters.

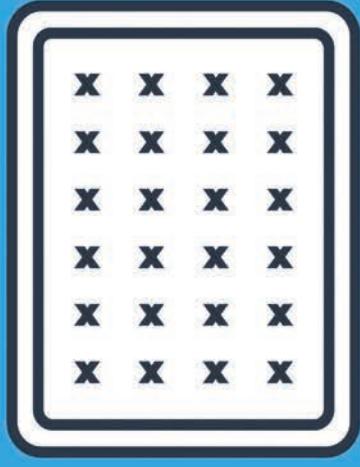
Better Senses!

Writing in Psychology Today, Jessica Pierce, Ph.D., explained, "The sensory world of dogs overlaps with ours, but also extends well beyond ours in some areas. Smell is the most obvious sensory modality in which dogs excel, having a far more powerful nose and a much larger area of the brain dedicated to processing olfactory information than humans. Dogs can also hear sounds that we cannot hear and will pick up on different visual information than we do."

This keen sense of smell enables service dogs to alert their humans to an oncoming seizure, change in blood sugar level, or an anxiety attack. They learn to differentiate between a person's familiar scent and the change that precedes an episode.

Animal-Human Bond

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*Continued on page 16*

# JPA

*Continued from page 1*

the District 13 Community Safety Office and his replacement has yet to get in touch with the association.

Prior to the business portion of the meeting, Dennis O'Brien from the First Church Unitarian made a presentation about the church's ongoing capital campaign. He said that the church has completed repairs on the church tower, which was in danger of collapsing, at a cost of \$280,000.

However, there is an urgent need now to replace the slate roof on the building, which is the original roof of the 156-year-old structure.

"The roof is leaking significantly," said O'Brien, who noted that the present roof has outlived its useful life of 100 years by quite a bit. "The leaks last year needed a rain diverter to keep it from collapsing. We've kicked this can down the road as far as we can, and the congregation now is authorizing a capital campaign to fix it."

He said that the estimated cost of repairs, about \$1 million, is beyond the ability of the small congregation to undertake on its own.

He said the church is applying for grants and has exceeded its initial goal of raising \$350,000 in pledges, which now total \$450,000.

"We have been gratified by the response from the congregation and the community for what has been by far the largest capital campaign we ever have undertaken," said O'Brien. "If we are unable to do this, the church building is not sustainable and not something we can continue

to occupy with a ceiling in danger of collapse.

"We are trying to save this aging building," continued O'Brien. "It is important to the community and a number of groups who consider this their home. It is an important resource to the community and an anchor to the whole Monument Square district. We are pressing forward in faith that we can get this gargantuan task done.

"All repairs have to be made in accordance with guidelines set down by the Mass. Historical Comm.," O'Brien added. "We have to use the same materials as the original, which in this case is green Vermont slate for the roof."

He also noted that the roof will be substantially strengthened when the project is completed.

"This is the most urgent need we have," he said. "If the roof collapses, we don't have a building anymore. If we are able to receive the grants, the project will be started in the summer and completed by the winter."

"This is an important structure in the middle of Jamaica Plain," said Salimbene. "These old structures need the support of the entire community."

Information about the project is available at [www.firstchurchjp.org](http://www.firstchurchjp.org).

The JPA next took up the matter of the Forbes Building and the precarious standing of its low-income tenants who are facing possible eviction from the apartments in which they have resided for many years. The Forbes is the last of the apartment buildings in the city that were constructed in the 1970s and 80s pursuant to a state and federal program that provided financing and low-interest loans to developers who agreed to rent

units at below-market rates for a 40-year period.

The Forbes's agreement expired two years ago and the tenants have been left in limbo as state and city officials negotiate with the owner of the building for a buyout figure in order both to allow the current tenants to remain and to provide affordable housing for future tenants.

Laura Mistretta from the Mass. Tenants Alliance said there have been a number of twists and turns in the negotiations in recent months. She reported that the current owner missed the deadline for applying for funding from the city and state and that there is a "huge gap," amounting to \$40 million, beyond what the city and state are willing to offer to purchase the property.

"They're looking for an \$80 million deal, which is astronomical," said Mistretta. "In addition, the negotiations have been in a 'black box' as to the progress of the negotiations."

She also noted that the six-month leases given to the 80 low-income households in June expired on December 31. She said the owner also has demanded that the state and city waive a Mass. Housing monthly fee in return for which he would agree to freeze rents for 2023.

"We're getting pretty tired of

them promising to submit things on time," said Mistretta. "We're looking forward to the legislative session and a home rule petition that would preserve expiring-use housing."

The association next took up the Jamaicaway-Arborway road project that is being undertaken by the Dept. of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). The DCR examined four plans and decided to back Alternative 4, which calls for the signalization of the current rotary intersections. The JPA has gone on record as favoring Alternative 1.

Moloney noted that there may be a change in the DCR's current plans because of the incoming new administration. However, he acknowledged that many residents in the J.P. community favor Alternative 4, especially if the DCR would be willing to make some changes to that plan.

The group also discussed the So. Huntington Ave. Bike Lane project that is being undertaken by the city.

Dreyfus, a dedicated bicycle user, reported to his fellow members that he met with a Dept. of Transportation staff member one-on-one for about 30 minutes. He said the most important point he took away from the discussion is that the installation of the protected bike lanes on South

Huntington from Moraine St. to Heath St. is "pretty much set to go as soon as the weather permits," which constitutes about 2/3 of the length of the entire bike lane project. He pointed out that there are some parking spaces that will be lost in some sections along the stretch of the new bike lanes.

However, he noted that the final third of the project, running from Heath St. to Huntington Ave., still has yet to be designed and involves a number of logistical problems. He noted that this last section of So. Huntington is extremely dangerous per statistics from 2015.

The association then took up the pressing matter of the sharp decline in its membership over the past few years.

There have been about 100 households historically in the JPA. However, since the pandemic, the membership has fallen to 38, which Thomson noted comes very close to the minimum threshold of 30 community members needed for the election of board members at the annual meeting.

"We need to reverse the decline in membership," he said.

The members then discussed the issues of membership fees and how the group can create better outreach in order to involve more residents of the J.P. community.



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## EDITORIAL

### We must never forget the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

For those of us of a certain age, it is hard to imagine that 2023 will mark 55 years since the assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King in Memphis while he was standing on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel on April 4, 1968. Recalling how we felt when we first heard the news of Dr. King's murder still brings chills and a deep sense of sadness that never has subsided.

For those who are too young to have been alive in that era of American history, there are a few things that everyone should know about Dr. King that should provide inspiration to all of us.

First, Dr. King was fearless. He knew from the inception of his rise to prominence of the civil rights movement that he would become a target for those who opposed change. Yet, even though he often told others that he believed his death would be imminent, he did not relent in his fight to continue his work in the civil rights movement.

Second, Dr. King stood for the rights of all Americans, not merely those of color. Indeed, he was in Memphis working with striking sanitation workers whose pay and working conditions he was seeking to help improve. He was an outspoken critic of the Vietnam War because he knew it to be an unjust war, not only for poor Americans who could not get a college deferment for the draft, but also for the people of Vietnam, whose homeland was being bombed into oblivion at great profit for the American military-industrial complex.

To be sure, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was not perfect. No person is or ever has been. Dr. King was just like any of us; he had his strengths and he had his weaknesses.

If Dr. King were alive in the present era, there is no doubt that he would have been in the forefront of the Black Lives Matter movement that highlighted the ongoing racism and economic inequality that oppresses Americans of all races today.

By any measure, Dr. Martin Luther King was a great man. His speeches ring as true today as they did two generations ago; indeed, his "I Have A Dream" and "I've Been to the Mountaintop" speeches are among the most powerful not only in American history, but in all of Western civilization.

All of us should realize from the example set by Dr. King that in each of us is the power to change the world. We may not be as gifted as Dr. King was with his oratory, but each of us has the capacity to inspire others, whether through our words or deeds, whether on a small or large scale, to make the world a better place.

Many of our fellow citizens have followed the path set by Dr. King and many more will do so in the years ahead. So as we celebrate Martin Luther King Day, let us recall not only his memory and the many things he accomplished, but the great things that his legacy is continuing to bring about more than two generations after his death.

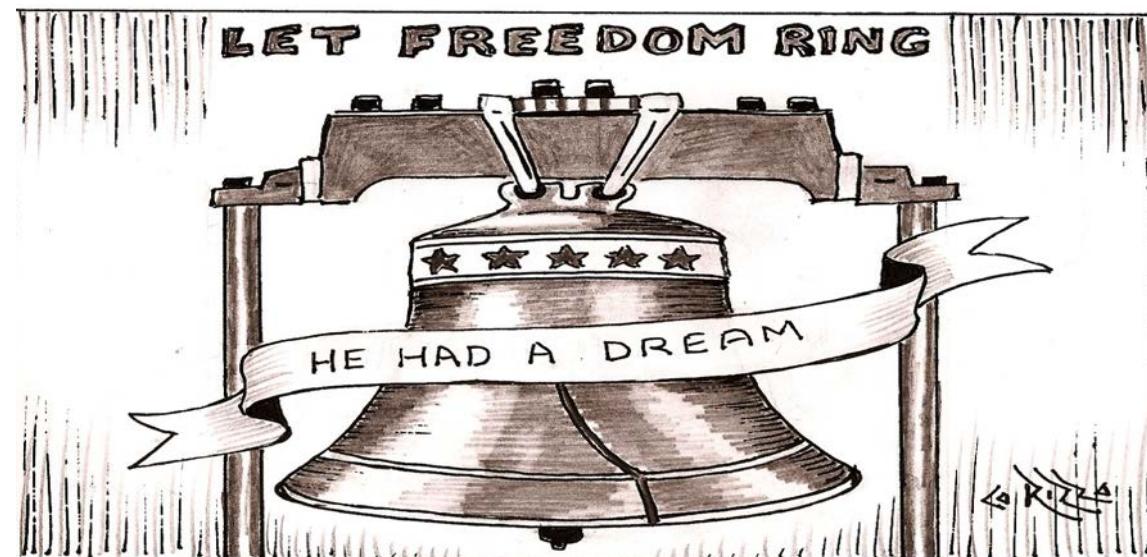
### PLEASE WRITE...

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

Deadline: Friday at 5 p.m. one week before publication. Letters may be emailed to [letters@JamaicaPlainGazette.com](mailto:letters@JamaicaPlainGazette.com). Please include address and telephone number for verification purposes.

Anonymous letters will not be published.

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## OP-EDS

### Kevin McCarthy, President Joe Biden and Congress must work to solve problems

DR. GLENN MOLLETTE

Recently, in a Mexican restaurant in Houston, Texas, a patron shot and killed a man who was robbing other patrons. The robber was masked and brandishing what appeared to be a pistol. If the man who shot the robber is charged with murder for protecting himself and others from a potentially lethal threat, then we have a serious problem.

We have another problem. Millions of undocumented people have crossed our border from El Paso to San Diego and in between. America is being invaded. We do not have enough free housing, welfare and food stamps to support all these people.

Biden wants to mobilize 85,000 IRS agents who will find every dollar they can to support the millions of undocumented people roaming our nation. How many more dollars can the IRS squeeze out of your pocket? Do you have property that they can seize and sell for a few dollars? 85,000 agents will need to find something to do and most likely they will be checking up on everyone.

Arizona has been patching holes in their border with containers which has been working. Biden ordered that the containers be removed. Over one million undocumented people have crossed into America through Arizona during Biden's Presidency.

Can you imagine being a farmer or just living on the Southern Border? This is 24-hour a day nightmare for these landowners. Do you think anyone wants to buy their property? These same

people are coming to your community. They are looking for jobs and housing. They need money and food. Do you have plenty of affordable housing in your community? Do you have big free food banks to feed these people? If you need a reasonably priced apartment, I would suggest you snatch it fast because people are coming who need that apartment and they may have more help from the government than you do to underwrite the costs.

McCarthy, Biden, and Congress must bring back every job we have outsourced to China. We can no longer do business with China. The people who have been living in America the last few years need jobs and millions

of new undocumented workers need jobs. By the way, do you remember when the United States Census was a once every ten-year job? Now, Census workers have to work year-round chasing down people who will not complete U.S. Government Census information. How many full-time census workers will it take to chase down all of these undocumented people?

If Biden, McCarthy, and Congress do not protect Social Security your town will probably have to close up. Over 70 million Americans count on Social Security income. Social Security is all or over half of all this num-

*Continued on page 15*

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

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### POSTAL EMPLOYEES WILL CELEBRATE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

Post Offices across the commonwealth will be closed on Monday, January 16, as our employees pause to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Street delivery on Monday will be limited to guaranteed overnight parcels and there will be no collection of mail.

Full retail and delivery operations will resume on Tuesday, January 17.

### NFPA ENCOURAGES PROMPT REMOVAL OF CHRISTMAS TREES

One-third (around 33 percent) of U.S. home fires involving Christmas trees occur in January. With this post-holiday fire hazard in mind, the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) strongly encourages everyone to keep the festive memories and remove the hazards by disposing of Christmas trees promptly after the holiday season.

"As much as we all enjoy the look and feel of Christmas trees in our homes, they're large combustible items that have the potential to result in serious fires," said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at. "The longer Christmas trees remain in homes, the longer they present a risk."

Carli notes that fresh Christ-

mas trees, which continue to dry out and become more flammable over time, are involved in a much larger share of reported Christmas tree fires than artificial trees.

According to the latest Christmas Tree Fires report from NFPA, 160 home structure fires began with Christmas trees, resulting in two civilian deaths, 11 civilian injuries, and \$12 million in direct property damage, on average each year between 2016 and 2020. Overall, fires that begin with Christmas trees represent a very small but notable part of the U.S. fire problem, considering that they are generally in use for a short time each year.

To safely dispose of a Christmas tree, NFPA recommends using the local community's recycling program, if possible; trees should not be put in the garage or left outside. NFPA also offers these tips for safely removing lighting and decorations to ensure that they remain in good condition:

- Use the gripping area on the plug when unplugging electrical decorations. Never pull the cord to unplug any device from an electrical outlet, as this can harm the wire and insulation of the cord, increasing the risk for shock or electrical fire.

- As you pack up light strings, inspect each line for damage, throwing out any sets that have loose connections, broken sockets or cracked or bare wires.

- Wrap each set of lights and put them in individual plastic bags or wrap them around a piece of cardboard.

- Store electrical decorations in a dry place away from children and pets where they will not be damaged by water or dampness.

For more information on home fire safety all winter long, visit "Put a Freeze on Winter Fires," a winter safety campaign NFPA promotes annually with the U.S. Fire Administration.

For this release and other announcements about NFPA initiatives, research, and resources, please visit the NFPA press room.

#### NFPA: 125 Years of Protecting People and Property

The National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) is a global self-funded nonprofit organization devoted to eliminating death, injury, property, and economic loss due to fire, electrical, and related hazards. The association began its work to solve the fire problem in a young, industrialized nation in 1896 and has since become a global force known for advancing safety worldwide. NFPA delivers information and knowledge through more than 325 consensus codes and standards, research, training, education, outreach, and advocacy; and by partnering with others who share an interest in furthering the NFPA mission. In celebration of its 125th Anniversary, NFPA is hosting a Conference Series and other initiatives that reflect the association's steadfast commitment to advancing fire and life safety for the next 125 years and beyond. For more information or to view NFPA codes and standards for free, visit [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org).

## LEGAL NOTICES

### LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH  
OF MASSACHUSETTS  
THE TRIAL COURT  
PROBATE AND  
FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Probate  
And Family Court

24 New Chardon St.

Boston, MA 02114

CITATION GIVING

NOTICE OF

PETITION FOR

APPOINTMENT OF

CONSERVATOR OR

OTHER PROTECTIVE

ORDER PURSUANT

TO G.L. c. 190B,

§ 5-304 & § 5-405

Docket No.

SU22P2852PM

In the matter of:

Wilfredo Rivera

Of: Jamaica Plain, MA

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Leticia Rivera Torres of: Jamaica Plain,

MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Wilfredo Rivera is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that Leticia Rivera Torres of: Jamaica Plain, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve Without Surety on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court. You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 01/31/2023. 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: December 27, 2022  
Felix D. Arroyo,  
Register of Probate

1/13/23  
JP

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## Op-Ed

Continued from page 14

ber receives each month. As the buying power of the retired population suffers, each community suffers. The government collects social security taxes from people to subsidize us in our old age. Americans will be back into abject poverty if they don't keep Social Security strong.

Affordable housing, medical insurance and jobs that pay over \$15 an hour must also be McCarthy and Biden commitments. We must be able to buy health insurance across state lines. State

governments need to make it easier for working poor to have health insurance. We need real people to answer the telephones in the state and local governments. Websites need to be simple and seamless. Working poor Americans feel like their local states aren't that interested in helping them.

Making medical care more affordable will solve problems for everyone including the insurance companies. Publicly listing the cost of services and surgeries was a good idea that most medical providers don't seem to be following. Making pharmacy purchases from Canada easier is imperative for struggling Americans.

We have some problems in America. Biden, McCarthy and Congress have a lot to do. Name calling, and aggressive behavior in the House only makes for a few seconds of television stupidity. America has some problems. We need for McCarthy and Biden and Congress to step up and help us solve them.

*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.*

## INAUGURATION DAY



Sen. Liz Miranda is pictured on Inauguration Day Jan. 4 at the State House with some of her colleagues in the Senate. From left, are Sen. Pavel Payano, Sen. Liz Miranda, Senate President Karen Spilka, Sen. Lydia Edwards, and Sen. Adam Gomez.

## BPHC launches Boston COVID-19 wastewater surveillance program

The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) today announced the launch of its COVID-19 wastewater surveillance program that will utilize samples from 11 manholes across the city for more localized estimates of circulating COVID-19 virus and its variants in Boston.

The 11 testing sites are in Brighton, Back Bay, Charlestown, Dorchester, East Boston, Hyde Park, Jamaica Plain, Mattapan, Roslindale, Roxbury, and South Boston.

BPHC chose these locations because they provide broad coverage of Boston's communities and optimize ease of access to the manholes with high population densities, allowing for a detailed understanding of how COVID-19 is affecting different neighborhoods. This data will enable BPHC to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic with more precise interventions for communities with high or rising levels of virus. Prior to this program, BPHC relied solely on wastewater data generated by MWRA and BioBot that measured the concentration of COVID-19 virus particles for the Greater Boston area. The new Boston-specific

testing sites will provide a more detailed local view of COVID-19 in Boston neighborhoods.

"This exciting new wastewater surveillance program will enhance our ability to respond to the many ongoing challenges presented by COVID-19," said Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Commissioner of Public Health and Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission. "We recognize that COVID-19 continues to have a disproportionate impact within communities throughout Boston. Our goal is to use these data to inform our strategies and ensure equity in our responses."

The new testing program is a partnership between BPHC, the Boston Water and Sewer Commission (BWSC), and Cambridge-based Biobot Analytics, a world leader in wastewater epidemiological services. This partnership began in October 2022, with the three organizations working closely to identify the most optimal test sites and pilot the data collection and analysis methods.

"We are thrilled to partner with the Boston Public Health Commission on its COVID-19 wastewater surveillance pro-

gram," said Mariana Matus, CEO & Cofounder of Biobot Analytics. "Boston is a true trailblazer for investing today into the public health infrastructure of tomorrow. The launch of these new wastewater testing sites will create granular data that is more actionable for local officials and will help with the planning of resource allocation and interventions and increase public awareness."

"BWSC is pleased to collaborate as a resource and partner with the BPHC and

Biobot Analytics to identify sites for COVID-19 surveillance in effort to protect all who live, work, and visit the City of Boston," said Henry F. Vitale, Executive Director of Boston Water and Sewer Commission.

Wastewater sample gathering will take place twice a week and the publicly available online data will be updated accordingly to help keep the public informed about the COVID-19 risk levels in their communities. These data can be accessed by visiting [boston.gov/government/cabinets/boston-public-health-commission/covid-19-boston#wastewater-reports](http://boston.gov/government/cabinets/boston-public-health-commission/covid-19-boston#wastewater-reports).

## City Paws

*Continued from page 12*

some of what seems extrasensory is due to the strong bond between dogs and people. Dogs evolved to depend on and please people. They have special skills (and even a particular section of their brain) dedicated to reading our intentions, moods, and needs. Pierce writes, "...dogs are not psychic, but they might as well be. They have incredible skills when it comes to reading, predicting, and intuiting the feelings and intentions of their human companions."

### Sensing Disaster!

Dogs seem to sense the approach of thunderstorms and earthquakes. Scientists speculate that this may be due to a heightened sensitivity to changes in barometric pressure as a storm approaches. You may notice your dog's agitation long before you hear thunder. As for earthquakes, most dog alerts have happened a short time be-

fore humans. This, again, might be more sensitive proprioceptors or sensory receivers in their joints.

### Dogs Pay Attention!

Dogs have the advantage of having less on their minds than we do, with fewer distractions and responsibilities. Their approach to the world is more mindful. Mindfulness lets them use their senses better and react to what they perceive as a danger or a way to get what they need.

If you've ever watched a dog focus on a squirrel or a treat in someone's hand, you have seen examples of single-minded attention to one thing.

When was the last time you saw your dog try to multitask? Dogs can teach us to pay better attention to what our senses tell us. Perhaps we can repay our canines by learning to read their signals, communications, and, therefore, their needs and wants by paying the kind of attention to them that they do to us.

Do you have a question or topic for City Paws? Send an email to [Penny@BostonZest.com](mailto:Penny@BostonZest.com) with your request.

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