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HILL HAPPENINGS, PAGE 7

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WARD 11 DEMOCRATS MEET IN PERSON



PHOTO BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

Attendees of the Ward 11 Democratic Committee meeting: Representing Mayor Wu's office Anshi Moreno, Erik Mayberg, Bonnie Roviks, Colleen Doherty, Co-Chair Annie Rousseau, Massachusetts State Rep Sam Montaña, Robert Torres, Secretary Mark Seide, Ken Ornes, and Susan Cibulski

Wu announces members of Reparations Task Force

STAFF REPORT

Mayor Michelle Wu on Tuesday announced the ten individuals that will serve on the newly formed Reparations Task Force, created to study the lasting impact of slavery in Boston. The formation of this task force follows Mayor Wu signing a 2022 City ordinance, sponsored and led by Councilor Julia Mejia and co-sponsored by Councilors Tania Fernandes Anderson and Brian Worrell, to study the impact of slavery in Boston. Mayor Wu joined members of the City Council, Reparations Task Force, and

Equity and Inclusion Cabinet at the African Meeting House to announce the establishment of the task force.

"For four hundred years, the brutal practice of enslavement and recent policies like redlining, the busing crisis, and exclusion from City contracting have denied Black Americans pathways to build generational wealth, secure stable housing, and live freely," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "Our administration remains committed to tackling long standing racial inequities and this task force is the next step in our commitment as a city to advance

racial justice and build a Boston for everyone. I'm grateful to the City Council, advocates and task force members for their critical work to strengthen our communities and ensure that Boston documents and addresses the historical harms of slavery and its continued impact on our Black residents."

"As the lead sponsor of this ordinance, I want to thank Tanisha Sullivan of the NAACP for inviting our office to lead this effort and to Dr. Kamara and Yvette Modestin for their leader-

Continued on page 3

JPA members push back on city's plan for bike lane on Eliot St.

BY GAZETTE STAFF

The Jamaica Pond Association (JPA) held its regular monthly meeting this past Monday, February 6.

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

Donna Younger, Sara Freeman, and Laura Mistretta were community members (residents) who also were on hand.

State Rep. Edward Coppinger, whose new district now includes

the area around Jamaica Pond, attended part of the meeting, along with Pat Brown from his staff.

Brett Hoffmann from State Senator Mike Rush's office, whose new district includes the pond area, and Emily Polston from City Councillor-at-Large Ruthzee Louijeune's office also were in attendance.

The monthly Community Safety Report was presented by District 13 Police Officers Patricia DaRosa and Omar Cepeda, who was making his debut before the council.

They told the group that the only major event reported to po-

Continued on page 2

Lawson Park seemingly will not get CPA funding

BY MICHAEL COUGHLIN JR.

At the Egleston Square Neighborhood Association's monthly meeting on Monday, Feb. 6, it was revealed that it does not look like Lawson Park will be allocated CPA funding for a renovation project this year.

According to Magda Drici, who helped steer the application for funding along with Carolyn Royce and Susan Pranger, the application was asking for around \$500,000 for renovations at the

park and renovations to an area that houses blue bikes across the street.

"We had a pretty solid application. I think we were considered seriously, but unfortunately, the staff at the CPA did not recommend our project to move forward," said Drici.

Although Drici did say Monday that a final decision regarding which projects were recommended is expected this week, it

Continued on page 2

Lawson Park

Continued from page 1

did not sound promising for the Lawson Park application.

"It sounded like from the community meetings we've had that they were not going to fund the project at Lawson this year," said Drici.

As for why the project was not given funding, there were indications during Monday's meeting that it has to do with a bit of a quarrel between the Community Preservation Committee (CPC)

and the Parks and Recreation Department.

Drici indicated that the Boston Parks and Recreation Department owns Lawson Park, and the CPC had had issues in the past giving CPA funding for projects at parks owned by the city. The issues stem from funds not being used and projects not being completed in the timeframe the committee wants.

"So they're kind of reluctant to give us the money right now because they worry that the funds will not get to the community right away."

Lawson Park not receiving

this funding was obviously upsetting to those in attendance, especially to Royce, who said she was "exceedingly disappointed."

"It was a multi-year process to get a design for that land, and we had a really good application, and we didn't really have any clue that they were going to turn us down on the reason they said," said Royce.

It seemed like Royce was even more frustrated about the reasoning behind the funding not being awarded, saying, "I don't know – what's a neighborhood supposed to do."

"We don't have control of the land, the Parks Department does, but the Parks Department doesn't fund changes. We have to go out and look for funding for changes, and then we're tied to the Parks Department."

Although this situation definitely is frustrating to some, Pranger was sure not to blame the Parks Department for the issues as she realizes that these approved projects often take a lot of time to complete.

"I do want to be careful to not make it sound like the Parks Department is just sitting on the

money – they are doing these projects; it just takes a while to go through the process," said Pranger.

As for what is next, Drici made it clear that this is not the end of the push for funding for Lawson Park, and an even harder push for CPA funding will happen next year.

"We'll try again next year; we are not going to give up," said Drici.

"Let's just cross our fingers and hope that maybe next year we will see more money being allocated to our area."

JPA

Continued from page 1

lice in the past month occurred at a home on Moraine St. in which the victim stated that three masked men brandishing large knives broke into his unlocked home while he was there and took his cell phone. The victim was uninjured.

There also were two shoplifting incidents during the month at the CVS on Centre St.

Thomson, the JPA's treasurer, reported that the JPA has a balance of \$3434.39.

Special guests of the evening were city employees Nathaniel Fink, Active Transportation Planner, and Stefanie Seskin, Director of Active Transportation, who presented the city's proposal for a bicycle lane on Eliot Street, which traverses Pond St. to Centre St..

Fink presented a slide deck that outlined the city's plans for the project.

"This is a piece of a much-larger city vision by Mayor Wu to expand bike lanes by nine miles in the near-future and, longer-term, to establish a connected bike network across the city," said Fink, "with the goal of having all residents be within a three-minute walk of a bike facility."

He said Eliot St. was chosen because of its popularity as a bicycle route from the pond to the Centre St. business district. He noted that many parents use this route when traveling with their children by bike.

The engineering groundwork still is in the design stage, but presently calls for Eliot St. to remain one-way for motor vehicles, but two-way for bicycling. Additional speed humps at intervals of 150-250 feet would be installed.

He said that Eliot St. sees only about 1000 cars daily, which is a fraction of the usage on other streets such as Centre St. (13,000 vehicles per day), Green St. (4000 daily vehicles), and McBride St. (3000 vehicles).

He also noted that about 25 percent of vehicles on Eliot St. exceed the speed limit of 25 m.p.h. At the present time, there are about 100 bicycle trips daily.

Fink said that the city will be reaching out to residents about the project and will be hosting community events to share information.

Salimbene asked why the community has had no input to this point. He said he is a cyclist and cycles in both directions on Eliot St.

Salimbene, who lives nearby, also noted that the street currently operates very well as a bike-friendly roadway. He cited a study from England that showed that lining the streets actually encourages motorists to speed. He further pointed out that there are many blind driveways in which homeowners will be pulling out into the bike lane.

"My suggestion for Eliot St. is to keep it as an 'open street,' similar to the Dutch concept, with certain pavement treat-

ments that designate to drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians that this is a different street without necessarily designating part of the street for bicycles and part of the street for automobiles," said Salimbene.

Thomson, who said he bikes a lot, also pushed back on the plan.

"It never occurred to me to bike the wrong way on Eliot St. and as a driver I never would think to look at a bike coming from the left," said Thomson. "If people are to be biking the wrong way up Eliot St., I think that's an emergency and we need to do something."

Crafts, who lives on Eliot St., said, "I also agree that we coexist fairly peacefully as it is." She questioned how parking will fit into the plan for those who do not have driveways on one side of the street.

Fink acknowledged that parking spaces will be lost, but did not have a definitive number. "This will be something we'll be looking at very closely," Fink said.

Reiskind asked what changes would be made to indicate to bicyclists that this will be a major route to get from Centre St. to the pond.

Seskin replied that those details have not been worked out yet.

Salimbene ended the discussion by highly-recommending that city officials meet with the residents of Eliot St. as soon as possible in order to hear their input about the project.

Next on the agenda was an update from Mistretta regarding the status of the rent-subsidized tenants at the Forbes Building.

She said the biggest and most exciting news is that a rent freeze was announced for

the 75 low-income tenants at the Forbes (which contains 147 units in total) who are the 13A legacy tenants.

She said the state, city, and building management came to an agreement whereby the state has agreed to waive a \$17,000 per-month fee for the program and management has agreed not to raise the rents for those tenants in 2023.

However, Mistretta cautioned that there has been no timeline for the building's owner to come up with a final plan for the long-term resolution of the issue.

She noted that one-quarter of the units in the building presently are at a market rate of about \$2400 per month for a one-bedroom apartment.

"They are still tenants-at-will and the long-term affordability of the building still is a question mark," said Mistretta.

Mistretta cited the leadership role being taken by State Rep. Sam Montana with regards to the Forbes tenants. Montana is helming a home-rule petition that would allow the city of Boston to assume ownership of the building in order to preserve its affordability.

Hoffmann from Senator Rush's office pledged his support to work with the tenants' group. There were a number of committee reports.

Steiger said that the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA) Committee met on January 17 and discussed a number of different issues, with progress on the preparation of an inclusion statement for the JPA's website.

Crafts read the statement to the full committee, which will be discussed at the JPA's next meeting.

The Parks, Parkways, and Open Space Committee is reconvening after the departure of some members. Mathew said the newly-formed committee will be scheduling a meeting to discuss the JPA's next steps regarding the DCR's redesign of the parkway.

Reiskind briefly presented reports from the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council and the JP Business and Professional Association.

The members then heard from the aides of the elected officials who were on hand.

Hoffmann told the committee that among the legislation filed by Senator Rush were bills pertaining to veterans (Senator Rush himself is a veteran); bills seeking tax relief for seniors; and bills, after consultation with Mayor Wu's office, regarding fare issues with the MBTA commuter rail in Hyde Park that would make fares uniform throughout the city.

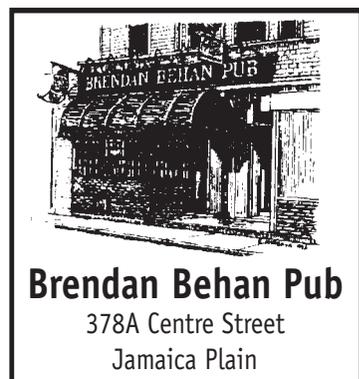
Hoffman also noted that as a member of the Senate's Parks Committee, the senator has made local parks a priority.

"We look forward to working with you," said Hoffmann.

Polston, who is a JP resident, told the group that Councilor-at-Large Louijeune is working on a wide range of issues, including housing affordability, welcoming new immigrants, a new bus shelter on Centre St., and using community preservation funds for a new roof for the Unitarian Church on Centre St.

Mathew noted that a memorial service for former JPA member Karen Wepsic will be held March 18 at the Loring Greenough House from 1PM-4PM.

The JPA's next meeting is set for Monday, March 6.



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Jamaica Plain

FEMA awards over \$1.3 million to City of Boston for winter storm plowing costs

STAFF REPORT

The Federal Emergency Management Agency will be sending more than \$1.3 million to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to reimburse the City of Boston for some of the costs of clearing snow after Winter Storm Kenan in January 2022.

Kenan caused record or near record snowfall in four counties

in Massachusetts. This created an immediate threat to the health and safety of the public and improved property, requiring emergency response and protective measures.

The \$1,351,689 Public Assistance grant will reimburse the City of Boston for 22,777 overtime hours worked by employees and for contracting for plowing services between Saturday, Jan. 29 and Monday, Jan. 31, during

which time it had to clear 785 lane miles continuously.

The city also had to clear parking lots, building entrances and walkways at 73 fire station, 121 public schools, 25 libraries, five municipal facilities, 35 Boston Center for Youth and Families Community Centers, 16 stations for 26 Boston EMS ambulances, and the harbor.

President Joe Biden's disaster declaration made federal

funding available to commonwealth, tribal and eligible local governments, and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of damaged facilities in Bristol, Norfolk, Plymouth and Suffolk counties, and for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe.

FEMA has awarded almost \$25 million in Public Assistance grants to state and local govern-

ments for the disaster to date.

"FEMA is pleased to be able to reimburse the City of Boston for the costs incurred recovering from Winter Storm Kenan," said FEMA Region 1 Regional Administrator Lori Ehrlich. "Re-opening highways for public safety vehicles required extraordinary measures deserving of federal assistance."

Reparations

Continued from page 1

ship in drafting the ordinance," said Councilor Julia Mejia. "We are extremely proud of the work we did alongside the community and look forward to monitoring the processes moving forward"

"The forming of this reparations task force is an important step in the ongoing process of bringing justice to the Black community of Boston," said Councilor Tania Fernandes Anderson. "This is so both for the historical legacies of anti-Black racism going back to the enslavement of kidnapped Africans, to the current manifestations of structural and systemic white supremacy that are embedded and entrenched within the political and economic status quo."

"This is a major step forward for the City of Boston," said Councilor Brian Worrell. "I would like to thank the Mayor and my City Council colleagues for helping bring this important conversation to the top of the agenda. Since the late Senator Bill Owens began this journey, we are proud to now have a diverse group of people working towards a solution that will address past injustices in this City. As the representative of one of the most diverse districts in Boston, I look forward to bringing

new opportunities to the district and fixing previous disenfranchising to build up what makes Boston diverse."

The members of the task force are community leaders in law, academia, community organizing, and education and represent diversity in age, gender, and discipline to fully encompass the Black experience in Boston. The task force's duties will include leading research on the historical impact of slavery in Boston and exploring ways the City can provide reparative justice for Black residents. Over the next 18 months, the task force members will convene and work on proposing recommendations to Mayor Wu for reparative solutions for the descendants of enslaved persons.

The individuals appointed to the task force include:

- Chair Joseph D. Feaster, Jr., Esq., Attorney, former President of the Boston branch of the NAACP, current member of City's Black Men & Boys Commission
- Denilson Fanfan, 11th grader at Jeremiah E. Burke High School
- L'Merchie Frazier, Public historian, visual activist, and Executive Director of Creative and Strategic Partnerships for SPOKE Arts
- George "Chip" Greenidge, Jr., Founder and Director of Greatest MINDS
- Dr. Kerri Greenidge, As-

sistant Professor of Studies in Race, Colonialism, and Diaspora at Tufts University

- Dr. David Harris, Past Managing Director of the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice
- Dorothea Jones, Longtime civic organizer and member of the Roxbury Strategic Master Plan Oversight Committee
- Carrie Mays, UMass Boston student and youth leader with Teen Empowerment
- Na'tisha Mills, Program Manager for Embrace Boston
- Damani Williams, 11th grader at Jeremiah E. Burke High School

"I am honored to be asked by Mayor Wu to chair this Reparation Task Force and serve with such distinguished people," said Joseph D. Feaster, Jr., Chair of Reparations Task Force. "We are looking forward to determining recommendations for how we reckon with Boston's past while charting a path forward for Black people whose ancestors labored without compensation and who were promised the 40 acres and a mule they never received."

The task force will be housed within the City of Boston's Equity & Inclusion Cabinet and work closely with Lori Nelson, the City's Senior Advisor on Racial Justice. In the coming weeks, the City and task force will launch a request for proposal (RFP) to select a research partner to study the legacy of slavery in Boston and produce a report on its impact. The results of the report will inform recommendations brought forth by the task force. For more information about the task force, visit boston.gov/reparations.

"This is a historic moment for Boston, for this nation," said Mariangely Solis Cervera, Chief of Equity and Inclusion. "We are creating an opportunity to intentionally address harms of the past and embed racial equity into the fabric of our city. I am thankful

for the leadership, expertise, and lived experience this task force brings to the table and I look forward to working beside them."

"This important initiative will center the truth, acknowledgment, and reconciliation that history once ignored," said Lori Nelson, Senior Advisor on Racial Justice. "The task force will give us the chance to fully engage and challenge policies that have harmed and marginalized Black people in Boston for generations. I am eager to collaborate with the task force with the goal of repairing and restoring injustice

to move our city forward."

This action builds on Mayor Wu's work to acknowledge historic harms and build an equitable Boston for all. Last year, Mayor Wu established the Office of Black Male Advancement and the Commission of Black Men and Boys to create initiatives to improve outcomes for Black men and boys. The Office of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion has made strides to increase supplier diversity to include more businesses of color in City contracting and to close the racial wealth gap across the city.



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The Spring season runs from Wednesday, April 26th through Sunday, June 25th, 2023

Registration costs \$25.00 — discounts are available.

The spring season is 8 weeks long, every week we hold one 45 min practice for each team, with available sessions on Wednesdays at 4pm, Saturdays at 9, 10 or 11am or Sunday at 10am.

Volunteer Activity Leaders are needed to support every team - no experience needed! See our Website for more details or contact us directly at: contact@jpchildrensoccer.org.

Para niños 3.5-6.5. El registro en línea ya está abierto en <https://bit.ly/jpcsoccer>

El registro de la temporada regular finaliza el 19 de abril de 2023

La temporada de primavera se extiende desde el miércoles el 26 de Abril hasta domingo el 25 de Junio de 2023.

La inscripción cuesta \$25.00 — hay descuentos disponibles.

La temporada de primavera tiene una duración de 8 semanas, cada semana realizamos una práctica de 45 minutos para cada equipo, con sesiones disponibles los miércoles a las 4 p.m., los sábados a las 9, 10 & 11 a.m., o los domingos a las 10 a.m.

Necesitamos líderes voluntarios para apoyar a cada equipo, ¡no se necesita experiencia! Visite nuestro sitio web para obtener más detalles o contáctenos directamente en: contact@jpchildrensoccer.org.





MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTO BY JOHN WILCOX

Mayor Michelle Wu (at podium) participates in the Reparations press conference at the Museum of African American History on Beacon Hill.

WARD 11 DEMOCRATS RETURN TO IN-PERSON MONTHLY MEETINGS

PHOTOS BY DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

The Ward 11 Democratic Committee held their first in-person monthly meeting in 3 years at The Haven. Open to the public, the Committee discussed policies to investigate and support.

Some of the issues discussed: Adjusting the affordable housing threshold to counter developers from avoiding them

Featuring a panel in March to address statewide housing policy

Co-hosting a multi-Ward forum to highlight the City Council election

Developing the Shattuck Hospital site for conversion to become stabilization housing for substance abuse recovery and transitional housing

Exploring options for LGBT and the mentally ill in the Massachusetts prison system

Other ideas were brainstormed including Ward 11 getting better involved with the Wake Up The Earth Festival, whose theme this year is "art and activism creating a sustainable world together".

Ward 11 should have a volunteer activity that is not related to politics, perhaps something in Egleston Square, maybe with the Peace Garden

Could Ward 11 and Ward 19 have a joint forum with JP Progressives to increase numbers and inject fresh energy.

Also the Ward 11 Committee could get more involvement from the community by reaching out to neighborhood organizations.



The Ward 11 Democratic Committee held their monthly meeting in the event room at The Haven.

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Representing Mayor Wu's office was Anshi Moreno Jimenez.



Massachusetts State Rep Sam Montañó was in attendance.



Erik Mayberg, Chief Of Staff for Massachusetts State Rep John Mahoney



Ken Ornes.

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WARD 11 DEMOCRATS RETURN TO IN-PERSON MONTHLY MEETINGS



Colleen Doherty



Ward 11 Democratic Committee Secretary Mark Seide



Ward 11 Democratic Committee Secretary Co-Chair Annie Rousseau



Bonnie Roviks

Wu submits Home Rule Petition to end Urban Renewal

STAFF REPORT

Mayor Michelle Wu on Monday submitted to the City Council a proposed Home Rule Petition to end Urban Renewal in Boston. If approved by the City Council, the Home Rule Petition would be sent to the State House for approval by the Massachusetts legislature. The proposed legislation would create new tools to meet future needs such as climate change resilience infrastructure, and retain the Boston Planning & Development Agency's (BPDA) ability to enforce restrictions that protect community assets, such as affordable housing and open space. The proposal will also update the statutory mission of the BPDA by establishing a new charter for advancing resilience, affordability, and equity. Mayor Wu today also submitted an order to the City Council requesting a two-year extension of remaining Urban Renewal plans to allow time for legislative approval of the Home Rule Petition.

based on blighted, decadent, or substandard conditions in the City. It also entitles the agency to enforce any conditions and restrictions in existing plans that protect important community benefits such as affordable housing, open space, and community uses.

New Charter

The legislation directs the BPDA to prepare and implement plans that address three key planning principles: 1) resiliency, including climate change mitigation and adaptation; 2) affordability, including the creation and retention of affordable housing and support for local businesses; and 3) equity, in the form of community development plans that ensure the equitable distribution of benefits derived from development in the City, and redress historical inequitable policies that may have led to inequities in the City's growth. The legislation would require that all plans be approved by the mayor.

(BPDA) has been the operating name of two legal entities: the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) and the Economic Development and Industrial Corporation (EDIC) of Boston. This legislation will simplify Boston's quasi-governmental entity by abolishing the BRA and EDIC and transferring the powers and duties of those entities into a new, singular entity named the BPDA. As Mayor Wu announced in her 2023 State of the City address, the quasi-governmental entity, which will be named the the Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) legally upon passage of this legislation, is envisioned to be staffed by City employees who work for a City Planning & Design Department and report to the Chief of Planning. The migration of current BPDA staff to this new City department will take place over the next 1 to 2 years.

Temporary Urban Renewal Extension

The Order submitted today, which requires approval of the City Council, the BPDA Board, and the Commonwealth's Department of Housing and Community Development, extends protections on 12 existing Urban Renewal plan areas beyond the current sunset date of March 31, 2023. The extension will guard land use protections currently in place and give time for the Home Rule Petition to pass. Once passed, the temporary extensions will remain in place through March 31, 2025, or until passage of the proposed Home Rule Petition.

Executive Order on New Direction for Planning and Development

In her 2023 State of the City last week, Mayor Wu announced a new direction for planning and development that ensures resili-

ence, affordability and equity goals guide the City's growth. Today, Mayor Wu also issued an Executive Order to ensure that direction. The Executive Order directs the BPDA to invest in reforming Boston's zoning code and to prioritize community engagement in that planning work. It also directs the Chief of Plan-

ning to create a coastal resilience delivery team responsible for preparing Boston for sea level rise and directs the BPDA to use its portfolio of property to advance the City of Boston's priorities. The Executive Order also instructs the BPDA to use its existing powers to act in accordance with the Home Rule Petition filed.

Urban Renewal

The proposed Act would end the ability to make land takings

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Wu announces call for artists to redesign Boston's neighborhood signs

STAFF REPORT

Mayor Michelle Wu announced the launch of the Neighborhood Sign Redesign program in partnership with the Office of Arts & Culture, the Department of Property Management, and the Department of Innovation and Technology. Across Boston, neighborhood signs welcome residents and visitors to the diverse communities that make up the City. The City of Boston is seeking artists to redesign these signs. Artists are invited to submit up to three conceptual designs based upon a template provided by the City.

"Our neighborhood signs are often the first thing residents and visitors see when they cross into different areas throughout Boston," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I'm excited for this program

to empower our residents to create welcoming, creative signs to reflect the unique, vibrant neighborhoods and communities they live and work in."

"This is an exciting, new opportunity to recognize that Boston's arts community is embedded in every neighborhood of Boston," said Kara Elliott-Ortega, Chief of Arts and Culture. "Whether someone is a longtime resident of a neighborhood or a visitor seeing a neighborhood for the first time, they'll be greeted by vibrant, inspiring artwork that reflects the talent and creativity of our city. We look forward to supporting local artists in this new initiative and creating new opportunities to celebrate their work!"

"Boston is home to many talented artists. This is such a great opportunity to continue to financially invest in artists'

practices while beautifying our neighborhoods," said Brianna Millor, Chief of Community Engagement.

"Boston is a city of amazing neighborhoods rich in culture, creativity, and filled with diversity. We are proud to take every opportunity to promote our artists, including engaging them in developing our neighborhood welcome signs. I'm very much looking forward to seeing their talents displayed across our city," said Dion Irish, Chief of Operations.

Artists must be at least 18 years old and must live or work in the City of Boston to partici-

pate. Preference will be given to artists who live or work in the neighborhood where each sign is located. Selected artists will receive a \$1,000 stipend for their

artwork. This program is funded in part by an investment from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to aid in Boston's local recovery and will support local artists.

Submitted artwork should align with the City of Boston's Curatorial Vision. The Curatorial Vision for the City of Boston is to foster the creation and collection of artworks that reflect the people, ideas, histories, and

futures of Boston, the traditional homeland of the Massachusetts people and the home of the neighboring Wampanoag and Nipmuc peoples. The City aims to commission and approve artworks that engage communities and directly respond to, enrich, and enliven the urban environment. The City seeks public art that is driven by an artistically strong vision, enhances the diversity and equity of the existing collection, and possesses durability appropriate to the lifespan of the work.

The deadline for artists to submit designs is March 3, 2023. The City will select artists by mid-March and will work collaboratively with them to refine final designs.

Interested artists can apply and learn more at boston.gov/sign-redesign.



Mass Humanities announces 2023 funding opportunities

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Mass Humanities, the Commonwealth's leading funder

of humanities programs, announced upcoming opportunities for its 2023 grant season.

In 2022, the Northampton-based foundation awarded

more than \$1 million in grants to non-profits, supporting free public events, oral history projects, and community conversations and media partnerships. This

year, Mass Humanities seeks to increase its impact through the Expand Massachusetts Stories initiative, and its long-running Reading Frederick Douglass Together program.

Applications and guidelines are available at massshumanities.org.

"We believe the work of Massachusetts residents to reimagine our stories provides a pathway to reinvigorating our democracy at the local, state, and national level," said Brian Boyles, Executive Director of Mass Humanities. "These vital programs amplify the diverse ideas, stories and conversations that continue to make the Commonwealth a global leader in ideas and the fight for equality."

Mass Humanities grants opportunities for the 2023 season include:

- Expand Massachusetts Stories (Up to \$20,000)—At this pivotal time, Massachusetts needs new voices and fresh narratives to meet our challenges. We support organizations that embrace this historical moment as an opportunity to bring communities together to reimagine stories, revitalize traditions, and ignite new ideas for the future. Expand Massachusetts Stories (EMS) grants support projects that collect, interpret, and share

narratives about the commonwealth, emphasizing the voices and experiences that have gone unrecognized or have been excluded from public conversation. As part of the EMS grant program, Mass Humanities will also offer Advancing Equity Track grants to 15 applicants whose projects are led by people from historically excluded communities, and whose organizations meet additional criteria. The Advancing Equity Track applications open on Monday, Feb. 6, with Letter of Inquiries due on Monday, March 20. Applications for the EMS Open Track opens Monday, March 20, with applications due on Monday, May 22.

- Read Frederick Douglass Together Grants (Up to \$2,000)—Each year, Mass Humanities organizes and funds free events where communities gather to read and talk about Frederick Douglass' influential address, "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?" The most celebrated orator of his day, Douglass' denunciations of slavery and forceful examination of the Constitution challenge us to think about the stories we tell and do not tell, the ideas that they teach or do not teach, and the gaps between our

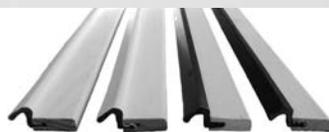
Continued on page 7



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Hill Happenings

By MAURICE 'MOSSY' MARTIN

Donny Rollins, from the Mission Hill project, passed away quietly last month at age 77. Donny had polio as a child but he was not deterred by the effects of the disease. Being a close friend of Donny's younger brother, Col. George Rollins,

I got to know Donny and I was appreciative when Donny would play tag rush football with us little kids at Tobin Court. Donny graduated from Mission High in 1963 and he bustled with school spirit. One memorable day the packed Tobin Gym crowd erupted in applause at a basketball pep rally when Donny entered the gym dressed up as "Major Mudd", the popular kids space television show. Donny played quarterback and safety for the St. Alphonse Club (later called the Killilea Club).

He worked as an electrician for the MBTA and he was a terrific family man. Donny will be dearly missed by his loved ones particularly his wife of almost 50 years, Carol and the couple's two children..

Doreen Earley Barker suffered a severe stroke in July and she is recuperating at her home in Tewksbury. Doreen, from Mission Hill, worked for the Mass General Hospital as a visiting nurse but she is unable to work and receives only half her salary. A fundraiser has been set up to help Doreen and her family. Doreen is married to Michael Barker and the couple have 3 children. To contribute - Go fund me-Doreen Earley Barker.

I've been close friends with the Earleys for years and they are a wonderful family. I fondly recall when my small family and the Earley clan shared a cottage in Hull by the ocean one wonderful summer in the late 70's when Doreen was a

youngster..

Happy 70th birthday to Gerry O'Connel (Feb.11). Gerry, from the Hill and currently living in Hyde Park, was a rugged middle linebacker in the Boston Park League. He and I were teammates on the 1979 Killilea Club City League championship team. My speciality on the team was catching five yard passes from quarterback Eddie Gillis and quickly hitting the dirt.

Condolences to the family of Richie Caulfield, from Mission Hill and a retired Boston Police Officer, who passed away last month. After graduating from Mission High in 1971 Richie served in the U.S. Army for four years and he remained an active member of the Mission Hill Post 327. Richie had a heart of gold and a keen sense of humor. I enjoyed many evenings drinking beers with Richie at the Post where his pleasant demeanor earned Richie the moniker "Officer Friendly." R.I.P. Richie.

The Mission Hill Post is sponsoring Mission Grammar School boys and girls basketball teams which commenced last month. I'll be taking in a few home games which are played at Pope John Paul Academy in Dorchester..I had a nice afternoon lunch with my childhood friend, "Big Jim" Moynihan last month at Tony's Restaurant in West Roxbury to commemorate Big Jim's 74th birthday (Jan.12). Known as the Mission Hill Marathon Man, Jim completed seven Boston Marathons back in the 80's. Big Jim and I were accompanied at lunch with Jim's brother, Tom Moynihan and former Killileas Club star quarterback, Dan Breen..

Racquel Burgos worked her final shift last week at the Brigham Circle Dunkin Donuts after 21 years of serving coffee with a smile. Racquel is

month.

An online webinar for anyone interested in applying takes place on Feb. 16 at 1pm. Spanish and ASL translation will be provided during the webinar (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/529364281817>) and video will be shared on masshumanities.org.



The Mission Grammar girls basketball team at Pope John Paul Academy in Dorchester.

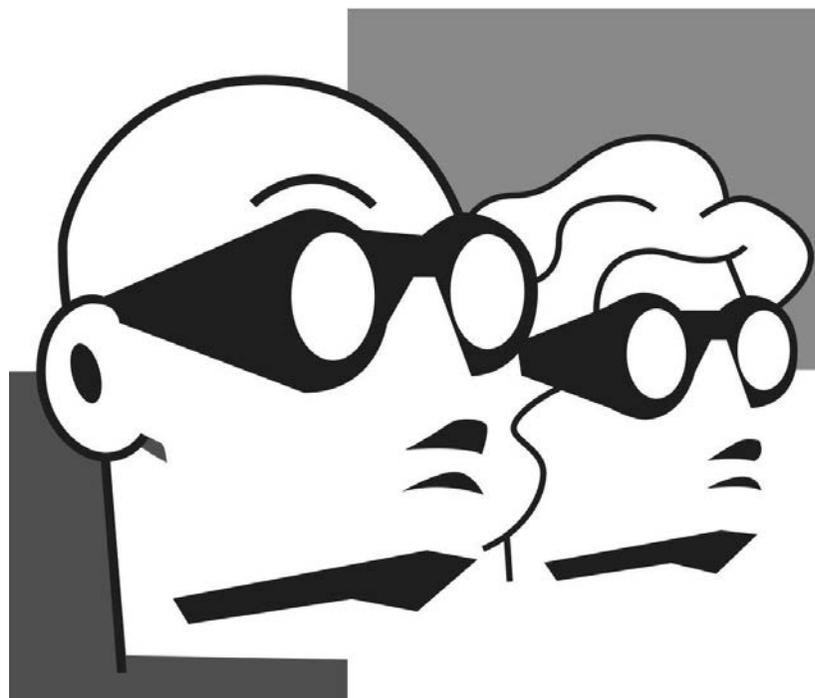
a lovely woman and I've known her since she was a teenager when I worked next door at Mission Hill Liquors. Racquel, who lives in Brockton, is the mother of two and her young son attends Mission Grammar School.. Ilanga Scott, the famous singer from Roxbury, passed away on Christmas Eve after a battle with cancer at age 82. Ilanga formed the popular 60's doo-wop group, the G-Clefs. I en-

joyed chatting with Ilanga, who often stopped at Mike's Donuts. I would tell Ilanga, my favorite G-Clef song is "I Understand", a beautiful slow tune. Ilanga will be missed but his music lives on.. Thanks to Carla Kaufman for inviting me to her birthday party at Brendan Behan Pub in J.P. Jan. 22. It was a nice celebration for the talented Carla who is known in J.P. circles as "The Dancing Queen." ..Post holiday

notes: It was a noble gesture by the Mission Grammar 4th and 6th graders along with a dozen Cathedral students, who made Christmas cards for Mission Hill senior citizens. Said Laura Adams, the dedicated Director of Senior Services at R.T.H.; " It brought joy and smiles to our seniors." Maurice can be reached at mossymartin2@gmail.com

Maurice can be reached at mossymartin2@gmail.com.

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Grants

Continued from page 6

actions and aspirations. To quote Douglass: "We have to do with the past only as we can make it useful to the future." Applications are open now and grants are made on a rolling basis each

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BBR named Champion in Action by Citizens and NECN for supporting environmental sustainability

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Boston Building Resources – Reuse Center (BBR), located at 100 Terrace St., Boston, a non-profit organization that inspires, educates, and empowers homeowners to increase the efficiency and value of their homes, has been named a 2023 Champion in Action® in the category of Supporting Environmental Sustainability. The award, announced jointly by Citizens and NECN, includes \$35,000 in unrestricted funding, as well as significant promotional and volunteer support in recognition of the organization’s critical work.

“Citizens is pleased to support Boston Building Resources – Reuse Center as it provides access to affordable building materials in our communities,” said Lisa Murray, President, Citizens Massachusetts. “The Reuse Center at BBR is a Champion not only for the environment, but also for moderate- and low-income homeowners.”

“All of us at NBC Universal Boston are delighted to celebrate Boston Building Resources as a 2023 Champion in Action”, said Maggie Baxter, Vice President of Programming for NBC Universal Boston. “Through its work in our communities BBR is reducing waste and making environmental sustainability more accessible to everyone.”

The Reuse Center at BBR provides low- and moderate-income homeowners with the materials and knowledge they need to improve their homes and communities. The Reuse Center at BBR reduces waste by taking in donations of used and surplus

building materials and makes them available at affordable prices to lower-income homeowners and small nonprofits. Instead of heading to a landfill or incinerator, new and high-quality reusable building materials are kept out of the waste stream and given an extended life improving people’s homes.

“We are proud that the Reuse Center at Boston Building Resources not only models environmental sustainability, but also helps our lower-income neighbors to keep their homes in good repair,” Kord Jablonski, Executive Director of BBR. “Being selected as a Champion in Action means that we can replace our diesel van with an electric vehicle and can pick-up donations of reusable building materials without generating any carbon emissions. We can recharge using solar power generated on our own rooftop, and, because EVs cost less to maintain, we also expect to save on vehicle operating costs.”

Citizens has announced a number of initiatives recently that focus on the bank’s efforts around sustainability. In 2021, Citizens introduced Green Deposits for commercial clients, allowing customers to direct balances to support companies and projects expected to create a positive environmental impact. In 2022, the company launched a new Carbon Offset Deposit Account, which provides clients a simple way to acquire high quality carbon offsets using credit earned on their deposits. Acquired offsets enable clients to integrate sustainability into their own strategies and prod-

ucts. In December, the company released its inaugural Climate Report, which aligns with the recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD). This report details efforts underway at Citizens to address both the risks and opportunities related to climate change.

Citizens created the Champions in Action program to address the unique social challenges facing the communities it serves. The initiative rewards established nonprofit organizations, to help them reach the next level. Over more than 20 years, the program has awarded upwards of \$10 million in contributions and promotional support to more than 370 nonprofits across the bank’s footprint. In Massachusetts alone, 60 nonprofits have been honored, receiving more than \$1.7 million in funding.

As a Champion in Action, BBR will benefit from:

- A \$35,000 contribution in unrestricted funds from Citizens
- Features and public service announcements from NECN
- Complimentary membership to the Massachusetts Non-profit Network
- Volunteer support from Citizens colleagues
- Public relations and promotional support

For more information about the Champions in Action program, visit www.citizensbank.com/community/champions-in-action.aspx

Citizens Financial Group, Inc. is one of the nation’s oldest and largest financial institutions, with \$226.7 billion in assets as of December 31, 2022. Headquartered in Providence, Rhode Island, Citizens offers a broad range of retail and commercial banking products and services to individuals, small businesses, middle-market companies, large corporations and institutions. Citizens helps its customers reach their potential by listening to them and by understanding their needs in order to offer tailored advice, ideas and solutions. In Consumer Banking, Citizens provides an integrated experience that includes mobile and online banking, a full-service customer contact center and the convenience of approximately 3,400 ATMs and



Shown left to right, Katelyn Flint, Reporter, NBC10 Boston, Kord Jablonski, Executive Director, Boston Building Resources and Lisa Murray, President, Citizens Massachusetts.

approximately 1,100 branches in 14 states and the District of Columbia. Consumer Banking products and services include a full range of banking, lending, savings, wealth management and small business offerings. In Commercial Banking, Citizens offers a broad complement of financial products and solutions, including lending and leasing,

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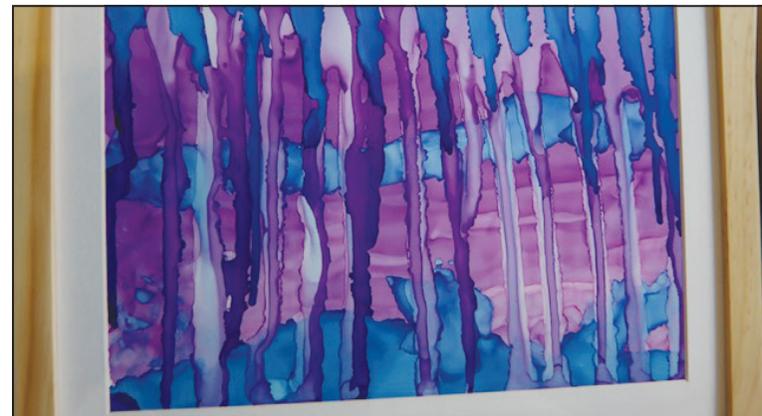
On February 2 and 3, Mt. Pleasant Home Goddard House resident artists showed off their cre-

ativity in a program called Opening Minds through Art. This program is an award winning,

evidence based, intergenerational abstract art making program designed for older adults who

have physical and cognitive challenges. More than 50 artworks were on display. A special vid-

eo was shown featuring the Mt. Pleasant Home artists at work.



Shown in the photo above, a member of the staff explains the program. In the photos to the left are some of the artworks.

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Boston Public Schools add electric buses to its fleet

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Mayor Michelle Wu celebrated the arrival of the first two electric school buses to the Boston Public Schools (BPS) school bus fleet. An additional 18 buses will arrive in the coming weeks and are expected to be in use following the February school vacation. This is a major milestone in creating a Green New Deal for the City of Boston, leading to immediate health and quality-of-life improvements for Boston students, workers, and residents, while advancing climate action. Mayor Wu joined BPS Superintendent Mary Skipper, Green New Deal Director Oliver Sellers-Garcia, BPS Director of Transportation Dan Rosengard, bus driver trainers, and community members at the Readville bus yard in Hyde Park to see how these electric buses are being integrated into the fleet.

"I'm grateful to the many people who have been instrumental in getting Boston to this point and helping us demonstrate the many overlapping benefits of moving to a green economy and ensuring that our kids and our workforce are at the center of that transition," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "Today is one of many steps we are taking to make Boston a Green New Deal city and to move with the urgency that our communities and residents deserve. From cutting down on emissions from every part of our education infrastructure – where our students learn and how they get to class – to preparing our next generation of workers to build and sustain cleaner, greener infrastructure for all of us, we're so excited about where this will lead Boston."

"Our children deserve to learn, grow up, and play while enjoying clean air and experiencing a healthy environment free of air pollution," said Boston Public Schools Superintendent Mary Skipper. "When these buses hit the road, they will operate with zero emissions and significantly lower noise levels than their diesel-fuel counterparts. So when you see the buses with the green bird with a plug logo on each side, be sure to wave and smile as they and the children inside represent our great city's future."

"As a City, we know we must prioritize the development of electric vehicle infrastructure to support the future of green mobility in Boston to advance our Green New Deal for all of our residents," said Green New Deal Director Oliver Sellers-Garcia. "I'm grateful to Boston Public Schools for their leadership in making critical climate investments while supporting the health of our communities and growing our green workforce trained with these skills."

The BPS Department of Transportation carefully selected the first routes – 111 trips, across 42 schools – to run electric school buses based on a variety of factors, including distance from the dispatch yard charging station, total length of route, and the expected traffic patterns along the route, with a preference for stop-and-go traffic rather than highway driving. Additionally, the cold weather deployment was factored into route selection to ensure power supply for battery conditioning and bus heating. Routes travel through nearly all of Boston's neighborhoods.

BPS is finalizing installation

of 20 charging stations at the Readville bus yard, utilizing increased charging capacity that was added with support from Eversource. Each electric bus will have a dedicated charger and be charged every day. The total time to charge each bus is about three to four hours. The learnings from this first phase of electric school bus deployment will support the City in designing and implementing future electric school bus fleet expansion.

Prior to integrating the 20 buses into the fleet, BPS is training driver trainers, drivers, mechanics, operations staff, and emergency responders to ensure familiarity with the bus design and operation. During the upcoming February vacation, drivers will test routes to ensure they are comfortable driving the new buses in advance of students boarding later this month. An estimated 2,561 students across 42 schools will be riding the 20 buses each school day. BPS currently has 620 buses on the road each day.

Boston's Green New Deal works to address climate change with positive co-benefits including creating good jobs, enhancing public health, and transforming structures to promote racial and economic justice. School bus electrification will protect children from diesel particulate matter, eliminate tailpipe emissions, address air quality and noise concerns around school pick-up and drop-off, and offer a healthier work environment for bus drivers and monitors. The City of Boston is fostering the Green New Deal by leveraging funding to invest in solutions that improve the lives of Bostonians and catalyze the transition to a just, green City.

In April 2022, Mayor Wu first announced that up to 20 electric school buses would be deployed during the 2022-23 school year. These electric buses will replace existing diesel buses. These buses were funded through the BPS operating budget and the federal American Rescue Plan Act. Mayor Wu previously shared the goal that BPS will work to replace additional big buses each year, and then move to replacing smaller buses until the entire fleet is electrified by 2030.

Additionally last spring, the Public Works Central Fleet Maintenance Division introduced the first ever train-the-trainer class for fleet mechanics from the Public Works Depart-



Boston Mayor Michelle Wu (speaking), joins Superintendent Mary Skipper, Green New Deal Director Oliver Sellers-Garcia to celebrate the start of school bus fleet electrification.

ment (PWD) and BPS on how to safely service and repair electric vehicles at Madison Park Technical Vocational High School. To date, eight mechanics from the PWD and two from BPS have completed the course and continue to take online classes to keep pace with the ever-changing technology. Beginning in the fall of this year, electric vehicle maintenance will be added as part of the core curriculum for seniors participating in Madison Park's automotive program.

Today's celebration will lay the foundation for the future of the Boston Public Schools bus fleet. The City intends to use federal funding from the Environmental Protection Agency and Inflation Reduction Act to further expand the number of electric buses in the fleet and enhance training for staff.

The City has been making

progress on its commitment to installing electric vehicle (EV) charging stations throughout Boston's neighborhoods for both municipal use and residents. The City currently operates 66 LV II EV charging plugs across 14 municipal parking lots. There are plans to add an additional 18 LV II EV charging plugs, and four high-speed LV III DC fast chargers this year. This investment in public charging, along with the City's EV readiness policy for new development and right-to-charge rules for condominium residents provide a foundation for the rapid, equitable electrification of transportation in Boston. The City also continues to electrify its vehicle fleet, adding charging plugs where City vehicles are garaged, prioritizing EVs in its replacement cycle, and adding its first all-electric street sweeper last year.

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BWSC selected as Biden-Harris 'Get the Lead Out' inaugural partner

STAFF REPORT

Boston Water and Sewer Commission (BWSC) has been chosen to participate in the Biden-Harris administration's "Get the Lead Out" Partnership, comprised of over 100 state and local officials, water utilities, labor unions, and other organizations committed to advance and accelerate lead pipe funding and replacement. Boston Water and Sewer Commission recently was an invitee to and participant in the White House Summit on Accelerating Lead Pipe Replacement hosted by Vice President Kamala Harris, during which the Biden-Harris administration announced new actions and progress to deliver clean drinking water, replace lead pipes, and remediate lead paint.

BWSC Chief Engineer John P. Sullivan, P.E., was honored to represent the agency at the summit and participate in the Partnership's launch.

"BWSC looks forward to joining this collaboration, which will be essential in creating new innovative practices and approaches and wider awareness throughout the country to effectuate the elimination of lead service lines in older properties," said Sullivan.

BWSC also will contribute its own significant expertise and experience removing lead service pipes to the Partnership's collaborative efforts, as over the past three decades the agency has been a national leader in successfully removing lead pipes.

"As a result of the hard work of the men and women of BWSC who work tirelessly to prioritize lead pipe removal, in 2022 BWSC replaced over 300 lead service lines in Boston," said BWSC Executive Director Henry F. Vitale.

The Get Out the Lead Partnership will further incentivize BWSC to remove Boston's remaining lead service pipes, whose locations are largely identified but whose removal requires knowledge and cooperation on the part of their property owners. Executive Director Vitale said that, during this initiative, the Commission will:

ness campaign through targeted outreach and inspections to property owners where the service pipe material is unknown;

- Increase efforts publicizing BWSC's Private Lead Incentive Replacement Program which provides owners with up to \$4,000.00 towards the cost of removal of the private lead service lines; and

- Advise all consumers of the dangers of lead in drinking water and inform them of steps to take to avoid lead exposure.

At the source of supply, Boston's drinking water, which is provided by the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA), is lead-free when it leaves the reservoirs. Neither MWRA's, nor the Boston Water and Sewer Commission's water distribution mains contain lead. Replacement of lead service lines is an important public health issue because lead can enter the drinking water when the water remains unused for long periods of time and water service pipes and household plumbing containing lead dissolve into the water. Excessive amounts of lead in the body can cause serious adverse health effects including damage to the brain, red blood cells and kidneys. The greatest risk is to infants and young children, whose physical growth and mental development can be impaired by lead contamination. Also vulnerable are pregnant women, whose fetuses can be harmed by lead.

For more information about lead in drinking water and to find out how to test tap water for lead, Boston residents may contact the Commission at the Lead Hotline at (617) 989-7888. Customers may also visit the Commission's website at bwsc.org with any questions and obtain free brochures about lead in drinking water.

For more information about the Get the Lead Our Partnership, visit: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/01/27/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-announces-new-actions-and-progress-to-protect-communities-from-lead-pipes-and-paint/>

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FEBRUARY

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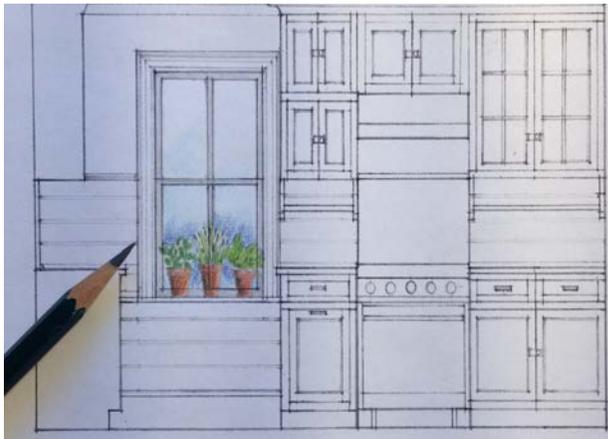


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Mayor Wu appoints Director of People and Culture and City registrar

Mayor Michelle Wu last week announced her appointment of Brenda Hernandez as Executive Director of People and Culture for the People Operations Cabinet. As the City's Human Resources (HR) leader, she will work to strengthen the City's organizational culture and the ways the City's workforce is supported. She will develop all centralized employee-related policy and will oversee essential HR functions including recruitment, job and organizational design, performance management, talent management, health benefits, and employee experience.

Additionally, Mayor Wu today announced Paul Chong's appointment to serve as the City of Boston's next Registrar. Chong will ensure Boston's constituents' needs are at the forefront. As a key leadership role in the City's People Operations Cabinet, the City Registrar will set the policies, vision and strategy for access to vital records for the City of Boston. This includes managing a team of employees who provide essential documents to constituents during critical times in their lives.

"A well-functioning government has a responsibility to

serve both its workforce and constituents through easy-to-access, supportive services," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "I am confident that Brenda's vast Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging and cultural transformation experience will make Boston a desirable employer for both future employees and current staff. Her work internally will complement Paul's work to enhance residents' experience when they visit City Hall for the most essential and foundational constituent services."

Hernandez comes to the job as a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion,

and Belonging (DEIB) expert and culture transformation professional with over a decade of experience in the higher education and nonprofit sectors. Most recently, Hernandez served as the inaugural Chief of Equity and Engagement at Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts. Hernandez began her role on January 4.

"I'm honored to join the Wu administration and Chief Law-rence in the People Operations Cabinet," said Brenda Hernandez, Executive Director of People and Culture for the People Operations Cabinet. "My goal

is to center equity through the entire employee life cycle and lead the cultural transformation necessary to execute on Mayor Wu's commitment to making the City of Boston an employer of choice and one that reflects the diversity of its constituents."

Chong comes to the role following a number of roles for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, including managing strategy and analytics for the School Building Authority and serving as the Finance Director for the Executive Office for Administra-

Continued on page 17

LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

NAMED TO DEAN'S LIST FOR THE FALL 2022 SEMESTER AT QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY

The following area student, Katelyn Pantera of Jamaica Plain was named to the dean's list

To qualify for the dean's list, students must earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 with no grade lower than C. Full-time students must complete at least 14 credits in a semester, with at least 12 credits that have been graded on a letter grade basis to be eligible. Part-time students

must complete at least six credits during a semester. Names followed by an asterisk denotes with honors.

Quinnipiac is a private, co-educational, non-sectarian institution located 90 minutes north of New York City and two hours from Boston. The university enrolls 9,500 students in 110 degree programs through its Schools of Business, Communications, Education, Computing and Engineering, Health Sciences, Law, Medicine, Nursing and the College of Arts and Sciences. Quinnipiac is recognized by U.S. News & World Report and Princeton Review's "The Best

387 Colleges." For more information, please visit qu.edu. Connect with Quinnipiac on Facebook and follow Quinnipiac on Twitter @QuinnipiacU.

HOLY CROSS ANNOUNCES FALL 2022 DEAN'S LIST

College of the Holy Cross congratulates the following students who were named to the Fall 2022 Dean's List for outstanding academic achievement during the fall semester of the 2022-23 academic year.

Aidan Carroll of Jamaica Plain, member of the class of 2025

Isabel Mallory of Jamaica Plain, member of the class of 2026

Lisalina Pena of Jamaica Plain, member of the class of 2023

To qualify, students must pass four or more letter-graded courses with no failing grades during the semester and earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

The College of the Holy Cross, in Worcester, Mass., is among the nation's leading liberal arts institutions. A highly selective, four-year, exclusively undergraduate college of 3,100 students, Holy Cross is renowned for offering a rigorous, personalized

education in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition. Since its founding in 1843, Holy Cross has made a positive impact in society by graduating students who distinguish themselves as thoughtful leaders in business, professional and civic life.

ELLIS NAMED TO SNHU PRESIDENT'S LIST

Lee Ellis of Jamaica Plain has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's Fall 2022 President's List. The fall terms run from September to December.

LEGAL NOTICES

<p>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. SU22P1101EA Estate of: Glenda Buell Date of Death: 03/18/2022 A Petition for S/A - Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Sandra L. Tappin-Hampton of South Holland, IL requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.</p>	<p>The Petitioner requests that: Sandra L. Tappin-Hampton of South Holland, IL be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Unknown 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 03/01/2023. 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</p>	<p>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: January 18, 2023 Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate 2/10/23 JP</p>
<p>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. SU23P0132EA Estate of: Edward Mullen Also known as: Edward E. Mullen Date of Death: 06/20/2003 To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Beverly Salate of Sterling, MA requesting that the court enter a</p>	<p>and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Beverly Salate of Sterling, 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 03/06/2023. 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</p>	<p>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: January 23, 2023 Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate 2/10/23 JP</p>
<p>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 CHANGE OF NAME Docket No. SU23CO022CA In the matter of: David Levi Rexrode Goldman A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by David Levi Rexrode Goldman of Jamaica Plain, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: Sophie Lev Goldman Rexrode IMPORTANT NOTICE Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing</p>	<p>an appearance at: Suffolk Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 02/23/2023. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: January 27, 2023 Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate 2/10/23 JP</p>	<p>Docket No. SU23CO019CA In the matter of: Heather Marie Sawyer A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Heather Marie Sawyer of Jamaica Plain, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: Heather Marie Merriman. IMPORTANT NOTICE Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Suffolk Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 02/23/2023. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: January, 24, 2023 Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate 2/10 JP</p>



Splashers dress up in all kinds of costumes for the event, and the best costume wins roundtrip JetBlue tickets



Participants of the 2022 Shamrock Splash run into the cold water of East Boston's Constitution Beach.

Make a splash at the 2023 JetBlue Shamrock Splash

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Get Cold for a Cause on Sunday March 12 with Save the Harbor/Save the Bay at the 12th annual JetBlue Shamrock Splash! Join 250 splashers to raise money for free, fun summer events in YOUR community by plunging into the cold, clean waters of Boston Harbor at Constitution Beach in East Boston.

After a plunge in the cold harbor, participants will warm up with plenty of hot clam chowder

and Harpoon beverages. Splashers are encouraged to wear a zany outfit or kooky costume of their choosing. The top six fundraisers and participants with the best costumes will win free roundtrip JetBlue tickets to anywhere JetBlue flies.

Money raised at the Shamrock Splash will support Save the Harbor/Save the Bay's Better Beaches Program in partnership with the Department of Conservation and Recreation. The Better Beaches grant allows local

organizations to host fun beach events free to the public in Nahant, Lynn, Revere, Winthrop, East Boston, South Boston, Dorchester, Quincy, and Hull.

Last year, money raised at the splashed sponsored events in Winthrop including movie nights, kayaking, canoeing, swimming, and more.

This year, with your help, Save the Harbor will be able to award \$300,000 in Better Beaches grants to local organizations.

Make a team, raise money,

and brave the cold harbor! To register for the 2023 JetBlue Shamrock Splash, visit www.shamrocksplash.com

Got a great idea for a free beach event or program? Let us know and apply for a Better Beaches grant at <https://www.savetheharbor.org/better-beaches!> You can also vote for your favorite event idea at <https://www.savetheharbor.org/participatory>.

Save the Harbor's success would not be possible without our program partners and

event sponsors, including Arctic Chill, FMC Ice Sports, Bay State Cruise Company, Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA, The Blue Sky Collaborative, Boston & Maine Webcams, The Boston Foundation, BostonHarbor.com, Boston Properties, Coast Cannabis, The Coca-Cola Foundation, Comcast, Cronin Group, Constellation Generation, Comcast Foundation, the Daily Catch, Department of Conservation and Recreation, Eastern Salt Company, Inc, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Harpoon, IR+M Charitable Fund, JetBlue, John Hancock Financial Services, Massachusetts Convention Center Authority, Massport, P&G Gillette, Mix 104.1, National Grid, and The Richard Saltonstall Charitable Foundation.

In addition, Save the Harbor recognizes the Metropolitan Beaches Commission Co-Chairs Senator Brendan Crighton of Lynn, and Representative Adrian Madaro of East Boston and the legislative and community members of the Commission as well as Senate President Karen Spilka and House Speaker Ron Mariano for their support for our beaches and our communities. We also thank the Baker-Polito Administration, the Massachusetts Legislature, Save the Harbor's partners at the Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Boston Centers for Youth & Families, the YMCA of Greater Boston, and the hundreds of people who take part in the Shamrock Splash for their support.

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Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll

'CHIEF' & 'BLACKIE'

Chief and Blackie are looking for a home together! No kids or cats for them, but they like other dogs and warm up quickly to adults! They are 1 year old.

"Gazette Pet of the Week" is sponsored by
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Appointments

Continued from page 15

tion and Finance. During the initial stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, Chong worked with leaders across the Commonwealth to manage \$300 million in federal relief funds and led efforts to stand up compliance and risk management around federal funds. Chong began this role Monday, January 30.

“It’s a privilege to be a part of the Wu administration and to serve the City of Boston. The Registry provides services to residents at crucial moments in their lives,” said City Registrar Paul Chong. “I am excited to work with Chief Lawrence and the Registry staff to make residents’ experience with vital records simple, accessible, and secure.”

“I am thrilled to welcome both of these talented leaders to such important functions of local government,” said Chief People Officer Alex Lawrence. “Both Brenda and Paul appreciate the amount of transition and challenges our workforce has undergone in the last few years, and have the deep experience in culture building and organizational change that the City needs to help the Mayor achieve her ambitious vision for Boston.”

The Director of People and

Culture for the People Operations Cabinet oversees, develops, and coordinates the policies, activities, and staff for the centralized Office of Human Resources (OHR). The Office of Human Resources partners with all City departments to attract and develop diverse, qualified, and productive employees to serve Boston’s residents. OHR is also responsible for benefits administration and compliance with the policies, laws, and ordinances governing municipal government.

Hernandez received her BA in women’s studies from Mount Holyoke College and her JD, cum laude, from Pace University School of Law. She is a feminist activist and has presented on issues of reproductive justice, abortion support, and street harassment at several universities and conferences. Hernandez is a trained yoga teacher and practitioner and brings mindfulness into her equity practice. She enjoys performing and attending live music. A native of Northampton, she currently resides in Roslindale with her husband, daughter, and their cat Amethyst.

The Registrar will advance the City’s goals of record modernization and digitization and ease of access to public records. The Registrar will continue to develop consistent processes and practices for the depart-



Brenda Hernandez, Director of People and Culture for the People Operations Cabinet

ment and ensure organizational compliance, while maintaining a customer focus. The Registrar is responsible for birth, marriage and death certificates. In 2022, 4,489 marriages were registered in Boston.

Chong started his career as a student volunteer and later as a parking analyst in his hometown of San Rafael, California. Born to immigrants, he has seen first hand how government services can improve the lives of people. Chong is a collaborative leader who believes that government is a powerful tool for good. He brings to the Registry a passion for building cohesive teams and strong institutions that work for employees and the public alike. Chong is a graduate of the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and Northeastern University. He lives in West Roxbury with his wife and two children.

In addition to new departmental leadership, Mayor Michelle Wu announced several new employee transit benefits, including the City of Boston’s MBTA Passport Program, free Bluebikes memberships, and an expanded fitness reimbursement to include active mobility expenses. Mayor Wu is focused on supporting the City workforce and making the City of Boston an employer of choice while building on her commitment to active and sustainable transportation. Inspired by specific asks organized by City of Boston employees, Mayor Wu launched the following employee programs:

The City Of Boston’s MBTA Passport Program: Through the City of Boston’s MBTA Passport program, the City of Boston will pay for 65% of the monthly MBTA pass of an employee’s choice (up to \$232). The program received over 900 new sign ups since its launch.

Free Bluebikes Memberships:



Paul Chong, Registrar for the City of Boston.

The City of Boston is now offering free annual Bluebikes passes to full-time, benefits-eligible City employees, and discounted memberships to part-time and

non-benefits-eligible employees. Since the launch of the program in September, over 1,100 employees have signed up.

Expanded Fitness Reimbursement To Include Active Mobility Expenses: The Mayor also announced that in partnership with City of Boston health partners, the City has expanded employees’ annual fitness reimbursement to include active mobility expenses including:

- Vehicles: Purchase of active mobility vehicles including bikes, cargo bikes, and scooters
- Equipment: Purchase of equipment for active mobility vehicle such as helmets, parts, and gear
- Maintenance: Payment to have active mobility vehicle equipment repaired or inspected

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EDITORIAL

Temporary relief for Forbes tenants -- but they deserve a long-term solution

We were pleased to hear at the recent meeting of the Jamaica Pond Association that city and state officials have reached an agreement with the owner of the Forbes apartment building at 545 Centre St. for rents to remain stable for the 75 low-income tenants who presently live there.

However, the agreement only extends through 2023, which essentially means that these tenants, almost all of whom are senior citizens with disabilities, still are in a state of limbo as to their long-term future.

For those unfamiliar with how we got to this point, here's some history:

In the 1970s, the Commonwealth created the Section 13A Program, a state rental development initiative that resulted in the creation of more than 8,600 units of affordable housing for extremely low-income residents in 67 developments across the state. The 13A Program functioned as a debt service subsidy, reducing the interest rate on the mortgage to 1% for the developer.

The program provided a 40-year lifespan for each development. In other words, in return for accepting the low-interest financing, the developers agreed to a term of 40-years for the affordable housing units in their buildings.

All of the developments that were constructed in the 1970s that were subject to the 40-year terms have expired, with the contract for the Forbes Building, which was the last of these so-called expiring use projects, having reached its endpoint three years ago -- which means that the owner has been free to raise rents to market-rate levels.

Presently, the rent for a market-rate one-bedroom apartment in the Forbes (the building always has had a mix of market and subsidized units among its total of 147 apartment units) reportedly is \$2400.

Thus, for the past three years, the 75 low-income tenants, who have called the Forbes their home for many years, have been facing the threat of eviction -- and with nowhere to go.

"Affordable housing" these days is a catchphrase heard on the lips of everyone, from politicians to developers.

But it strikes us that it is a lot like that adage about the weather -- everybody's talking about it, but nobody is doing anything.

While the one-year agreement brings some measure of relief for the tenants, who are among the most-vulnerable members of our society, they deserve the dignity and peace-of-mind of a permanent solution -- and we urge all of the parties involved to make it happen post-haste.

No child should live in Deep Poverty

We wish to voice our support for a bill sponsored by Everett State Senator Sal DiDomenico, the Assistant Majority Leader of the Massachusetts Senate, that seeks to accelerate the timetable for lifting children in our state out of what is known as Deep Poverty.

The Act to Lift Kids Out of Deep Poverty would raise the maximum cash assistance grant by 25% per year until it reaches half of the federal poverty level. Families living below half the federal poverty level are considered to be in Deep Poverty. Under Senator DiDomenico's bill, grants would increase each year and would keep pace with inflation as the poverty level goes up.

Senator DiDomenico has been instrumental in leading the charge in the legislature to raise the grant levels three times for a total increase of 32% beginning in January, 2021.

According to the Massachusetts Budget & Policy Center, almost 80,000 children in our state live in Deep Poverty, a situation that not only is unconscionable in 2023, but that also is counterproductive to the future of our society.

We urge the legislature to pass this bill immediately to ensure that no child in our state lacks food, clothing, and the other basic necessities of life.



OP-ED

Tired of hearing about China? Stop the cash flow

BY DR. GLENN MOLLETTE

Do you get tired of hearing about China? Now we have floating surveillance balloons over our country. We are yet to know for sure what this is about but time will tell. China is probably scouting out the next land or business purchase. They may have come up with an easy way to determine which military bases have available adjacent land. It doesn't matter if it's for sale they can come up with enough money to buy the property. All they have to do is to keep piling up the money from everything they sell to the United States.

Alarms went off in Washington when the Fufeng Group, a Chinese agricultural company, bought 300 acres of land and set up a milling plant last spring in Grand Forks, N.D. The plant is a 20-minute drive from an Air Force base that, according to North Dakota Sen. John Hoeven, hosts a space mission that "will form the backbone of U.S. military communications across the globe." Source WSJ

Ten years ago Smithfield Foods was purchased by China's leading pork producer, Shuanghui International Holdings Ltd. (now called WH Group Ltd.), for

\$4.72 billion.

Keep in mind China has 1.5 billion people. This requires a lot of people to feed. China would love to gain as much of our farmland as possible to gain more control of our food production. This is one area where China really needs us. Our agricultural exports to them increased

by over 27% from 2020 to 2021. They would need us if they can gain control of our farmland. It's also a plus for them if they can have it close to our military bases. This provides a two-fold benefit for them. In the middle of the cornfield, they can watch everything we are doing or even

Continued on page 19

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

Jamaica Plain GAZETTE

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Boston's most popular dog names

Reminder: Boston dog licensing deadline is March 31

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department's Animal Care and Control Division reminds city dog owners that the annual deadline for licensing their pets is March 31. All dogs in Boston require a new license each year.

"We take this time each year to remind pet owners not only that licensing your pet is the law, but a license is your pet's ID and provides their best chance to be returned home if they become lost," noted Animal Care and Control Director Alexis Trzcinski. "If your dog ever gets out, the chances of being reunited are greatly increased with a license."

In preparation for the 2023 licensing deadline, the Animal Care and Control Division released licensing data from the previous year to reveal the most popular dog names of 2022.

The most popular male dog

name in 2022 was once again Charlie with 81 registered in Boston, while Bentley brought up the back of the pack with 23 males with that name. The top female name registered was also the same this year, Luna, with 114 registered while 25th place went to Piper with 27 licensed.

The data also provides the 25 most popular dog breeds registered in Bos-

TOP 25 MALE & FEMALE DOG NAMES OF 2022 Based on City of Boston 2022 Licensing Data

- | | | | |
|---------|---------|-------|--------|
| 1..... | CHARLIE | ..... | LUNA |
| 2..... | COOPER | ..... | BELLA |
| 3..... | TEDDY | ..... | DAISY |
| 4..... | MAX | ..... | LUCY |
| 5..... | FINN | ..... | LOLA |
| 6..... | OLIVER | ..... | PENNY |
| 7..... | MILO | ..... | ROSIE |
| 8..... | WINSTON | ..... | STELLA |
| 9..... | ROCKY | ..... | BAILEY |
| 10..... | OLLIE | ..... | SADIE |
| 11..... | LOUIE | ..... | MOLLY |
| 12..... | TOBY | ..... | RUBY |
| 13..... | GUS | ..... | CHLOE |
| 14..... | HENRY | ..... | COCO |
| 15..... | BUDDY | ..... | MAGGIE |
| 16..... | TUCKER | ..... | LILY |
| 17..... | ARCHIE | ..... | MILLIE |
| 18..... | LEO | ..... | SOPHIE |
| 19..... | JACK | ..... | OLIVE |
| 20..... | BEAR | ..... | WINNIE |
| 21..... | BRUNO | ..... | PEPPER |
| 22..... | ZIGGY | ..... | LULU |
| 23..... | JACKSON | ..... | WILLOW |
| 24..... | DUKE | ..... | ELLIE |
| 25..... | BENTLEY | ..... | PIPER |

ton. In 2022 the top ten breeds were Labrador Retriever with 1,694 registered, Golden Retriever (727), Chihuahua (480), German Shepherd (392), Miniature Poodle (331), Pit Bull (321), Yorkshire Terrier (314), Shih Tzu (312), Beagle (311), and Australian Shepherd (296).

All dog owners need to license their dogs by Friday, March 31, 2023. Dogs must be licensed if they are older than six months. Owners must provide a copy of their dog's current rabies certificate. For spayed and neutered pets, owners must submit proof of spaying or neutering if they have not done so previously.

Licensing fees are \$15 for a neutered male or spayed female or \$30 for an intact male or female. The dog licensing fee is waived for service animals and residents age 70 and older. Owners must also pay any outstanding Animal Care and Control fines. The fine for an unlicensed

dog is \$50. Please call (617) 635-5348 or email animalcontrol@boston.gov with any questions about the licensing process or to update your information in the database.

For an in-depth guide on dog licensing, including a link to license your dog online, visit Animal Care and Control's how-to article.

The City of Boston will also host a series of dog licensing and pet vaccine clinics from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays from March 4 to June 3 at seven BCYF community centers. For details, fees, and locations please visit boston.gov/animals or call (617) 635-1800.

Animal Care & Control posts photos of adoptable pets on their social media accounts at [instagram.com/bostonanimalcontrol](https://www.instagram.com/bostonanimalcontrol), twitter.com/animalboston and [facebook.com/bostonanimal](https://www.facebook.com/bostonanimal).

Op-Ed

Continued from page 18

attempt to thwart what we are doing

The U.S. trade summary reveals the depth of our trade with China.

In 2021, U.S. exports to China were \$151.1 billion, a 21.4% (\$26.6 billion) increase from 2020; U.S. imports from China were \$506.4 billion, a 16.5% (\$71.6 billion) increase; and the trade deficit with China was \$355.3 billion, a 14.5% (\$45.0 billion) increase from \$310.3 bil-

lion in 2020.

China was the United States' third-largest trade partner in 2021.

In 2021, 8.6% of total U.S. exports of \$1.8 trillion were exported to China and 17.9% of total U.S. imports of \$2.8 trillion were imported from China.

Mechanical Appliances, Sound Recorders and TV sets were the most traded commodity sectors. In the last five years, U.S. exports of those commodities show an upward trend from \$25 billion in 2017 to \$36.1 billion in 2021. The percentages of imports of those commodities

from China out of total imports from the World are impressive with 37.0% in 2017 and 29.3% in 2021.

In 2021, U.S. exports of Agricultural Products to China continue to show an upward trend. In 2021, U.S. exports of Agriculture Products were \$31.6 billion, an increase of 27.5% (\$6.8 billion) from \$24.8 billion in 2020.

In 2021, China remained the major source of U.S. imports of Textile Products. In 2021, U.S. imports of \$50.3 billion of Textile Products from China constituted 32.6% of the total U.S. imports of Textile products.

Additionally, in 2021, China remained the major source of U.S. imports of Furniture, Bedding, Lamps, Toys, Games, Sports Equipment, Paint, and other Miscellaneous Manufactured Items. In 2021, the U.S. imports of \$68.5 billion of Miscellaneous Manufactured Items from China constituted 53.2% of total U.S. imports of those commodities. Source: Government info data

What can we do about China? Try to buy products not made in China. You have to shop but it's possible. Shrinking the cash flow to China is crucial to reducing their growing economic and military power. By all means, please

do not sell them your land.

Glenn Mollette is the publisher of Newburgh Press, Liberty Torch and various other publishing imprints; a national colum-

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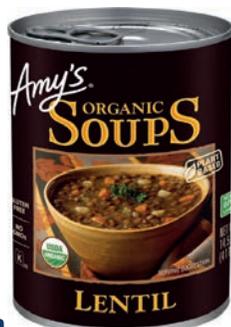
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