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JP PETS SPECIAL SECTION PAGES 15-17

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FOREST HILLS FIREFIGHTER MEMORIAL



PHOTOS COURTESY OF COUNCILOR ERIN MURPHY'S OFFICE

On Sunday, June 11, residents along with officials, and firefighters from across the City convened at Forest Hills Cemetery for the 130th annual Firefighter Memorial Procession. City Councilor Erin Murphy and Council President Ed Flynn were also in attendance.

JP church rising above hateful vandalism

By MICHAEL COUGHLIN JR.

The First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain, which was the subject of recent anti-LGBTQIA+ vandalism, is moving past the incident with support from the local community. Overnight between June 7 and June 8, the church was vandalized amid Pride Month. In a statement by the Pastoral Team posted on the church's Face-

book page, they described the spray-painted graffiti on the side of the church's steeple as "Homophobic, violent and hateful." "We're not naive enough to think that this kind of hatred and meanness doesn't exist in the world — it does," said Reverend Ashlee Wiest-Laird, a Pastor at the church. "We know that this still exists in the world, and even in Massachusetts, even in Jamaica Plain,"

added Wiest-Laird. Notably, the church is affiliated with the Welcoming & Affirming Baptists. The organization supports churches "in being and becoming Welcoming and Affirming of all people regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation," per its website, which church congregations vote to be a part of.

Continued on page 2

MSPCA-Angell is looking for pet adopters

By MICHAEL COUGHLIN JR.

The Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals – Angell Animal Medical Center (MSPCA-Angell) is on the hunt for those who can adopt

dogs by holding monthly adoption events this summer at all of its adoption centers. The first event, coined Hot Fur Summer, was a fee waived adoption event for adult large

breed dogs and ran from June 12 to June 18 to the tune of tremendous success. Over the week MSPCA-Angell was able to

Continued on page 17

JPNC Housing Comm. discusses Arborway garage

By GAZETTE STAFF

The Housing and Development Committee (HDC) of the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC) held its regular monthly meeting this week. Chairperson Renee Stacey Welch and the committee and community members, including Lorenzo Bartoloni, Peter DeCotis, Gert Thorn, Michael Reiskind, Bernard Doherty, Jaya Aiyer, Anne McKinnon, Sarah Freeman, Hannah Reale, Kathy Brown,

Celeste Walker, Susan Cibulsky, Carolyn Royce, Esther Beillard, Sara Horsley, Pam Bender, Fred Vetterlein, Allan Jhrer, Joanne Paul, and Willie Mitchell, were on hand for the meeting. The main topic of discussion was the MBTA's ongoing Arborway bus garage project. Cibulski and Royce, who are members of the Arborway Garage sub-committee, led the discussion, tracing the history of the project,

Continued on page 2

Open Streets in Jamaica Plain this Sunday

Events happening in the City of Boston will bring some parking restrictions and street closures. People attending these events are encouraged to walk, bike, or take public transit. Information on Bluebikes, the regional bike share service, may be found on the website and information on the MBTA may be found online. The MBTA advises riders to purchase a round-trip rather than a one-way ticket for a faster return trip. Walking is also a great way to move around.

er Street, Fairmount Street and Davison Street with a portion of Fairmount Street being closed. Parking restrictions will be in place on the following street: Fairmount Avenue, Both sides, from Davidson Street to River Street

**JAMAICA PLAIN
Open Streets Boston
Jamaica Plain 2023, Sunday,
June 25, 2023**

The first Open Streets Boston events will take place on Sunday, June 25, 2023 in the Jamaica Plain neighborhood. Open Streets Boston will afford residents, visitors and business

Continued on page 8

**HYDE PARK
Celebrate Hyde Park -
Saturday, June 24, 2023**

Celebrate Hyde Park will be taking place in the area of Riv-

Church

Continued from page 1

“We do take a position and say ... we’re not just tolerant of gay people or the LGBTQIA+ people, but we celebrate everyone and who God has made them to be,” said Wiest-Laird.

She described how other churches have restrictions that prevent members of the LGBTQIA+ community from taking on leadership roles. “We’re very much like — you are who you are, and you are beloved,” said Wiest-Laird.

Following the vandalism, the church decided to hold a Pride Celebration and Speak Out event that Sunday, June 11, following its previously planned Pride Worship service.

The event, which took place on the church’s lawn, featured speakers and music from a group called The Femmes while allowing everyone to come together as a community.

“It was basically a lovely, joyful, celebratory experience where people could just be together and know that this kind of thing is not going to impede our witness or the values of this community which are to stand together,” said Wiest-Laird.

She also spoke about how much love and support the church has gotten from the community since the vandalism. Specifically, Wiest-Laird mentioned the City, Jamaica Plain, and other faith communities who have been supportive.

For example, the First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain posted photos of a note from the Arlington Street Church - Unitarian Universalist and a stack of messages from its congregation on Facebook. They have also received emails in support and even donations since the incident.

Regarding how much this support has meant to the church Wiest-Laird said, “It’s tremendous.”

“I think that’s always encouraging and amazing when people

take the time out just to let you know that they’re thinking of you, that they care about you, that they care about what happens in this community — that does matter,” she said.

In the face of hate, it is clear that the First Baptist Church in

Jamaica Plain and its community are moving forward with a significant amount of love.

“We want to create the kind of communities we want to live in, which are communities of love and support and not the kind of communities where this

kind of hate is tolerated or encouraged — obviously — where people can stand together,” said Wiest-Laird.

“Even if people don’t agree with us, we want this community to be a place where everybody’s respected.”



Members of the community gather at First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain’s Pride Celebration and Speak Out event.

JPNC

Continued from page 1

which dates back to 1999, and the changes that the project has undergone since that time.

The MBTA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Boston in 2001 (then-Boston Mayor Tom Menino was the signatory on behalf of the city) which promised a number of mitigation measures to benefit the Jamaica Plain community, including the set-aside of a minimum of eight acres on the site that would be dedicated for community development purposes such as housing and retail development.

However, that original MOU assumed that the city’s so-called pole yard, a 1.5 acre lot that is adjacent to the MBTA property, no longer would be used by the city. However, Cibulski said that the city since that time has determined that it will be holding onto that 1.5 acres for use by the DPW, which has resulted in a reduction of the area to be given by the T for community development from the original eight acres to 6.5 acres.

Cibulski explained that the purpose of the new garage is to house the T’s anticipated electric bus fleet that will serve Jamaica Plain and the adjacent areas. The MBTA has similar electric-bus garages slated for Quincy and Cambridge, though they too, are falling behind schedule. The electric-bus garage projects are

crucial to the T’s goal of having an all-electric bus fleet by 2040.

The T presently is only 15 percent into the design phase of the Arborway garage. It is expected that the construction start date for the garage will be 2025 with a completion date by the end of 2028, more than five years from now (and almost 30 years since a garage was first proposed).

Cibulski outlined the committee’s priorities: A commitment to an interactive community design process with meetings on a regular schedule; incorporation of the city’s DPW yard into the MBTA’s design; that the community must receive eight acres for community use; schematics must be included for interior and exterior uses of the MBTA buildings and property; height impacts to include consideration of the 10’ rise in the grade of the yard; avoid/mitigate blank wall facades on sides facing the Arborway and residential buildings on Washington St.; Locust St./Stonybrook neighborhood, and Forest Hills St. across from Franklin Park; provide a green landscaping buffer; use stepbacks, setbacks, and exterior materials to reduce massing; create quality space for the impact mitigation land; ensure sufficient space between residences and the bus facility; and clarify the uses along the edges of Lotus St. and the Arborway for greenspace and address the Emerald Necklace Reconnector.

Committee and community members then offered their

views on the project, expressing near-unanimity that the T is falling short of the promises it has made.

Freeman, noting the reduction in the community acreage and that the original garage was meant to house 118 buses, but now will house more than 200 buses, said that the changes in the project reflect “poor treatment of the host community.”

Doherty and Jhrer also took the T and the city to task for what they asserted has been the failure both to live up to the promises and goals they made in the original MOU.

Thorn made the point that the loss of the pole yard (which is on the opposite side of the site from the community development acreage) should have no impact on the amount of land available for community development purposes and that the T should absorb the reduction in acreage available for its garage. He also suggested that the garage could be constructed over the DPW yard.

Brown said that affordable housing on the community development acreage should be a major priority, though Thorn noted that the reduction in the acreage makes housing development problematic.

All of those in attendance were encouraged by Welch to attend the community meeting that the T was slated to conduct on June 22 (yesterday). The committee then adjourned until its next meeting in July.



The Femmes perform for those in attendance at the event.

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MAYOR WU'S COFFEE HOUR COMES TO MOZART PLAYGROUND

PHOTOS BY JON SEAMANS

On June 16, Mayor Michelle Wu's Neighborhood Coffee Hour Series made its stop in Jamaica Plain at Mozart Park. Residents got to chat and meet with the Mayor, as well as enjoy refreshments provided by Dunkin' and Star Market.

Plain at Mozart Park. Residents got to chat and meet with the Mayor, as well as enjoy refreshments provided by Dunkin' and Star Market.



Boston Office of Youth Engagement and Advancement staff members Sneha Vaidya, Lindsey Boozer, and Emiliana Roman were just three of the City representatives on hand to meet the public at Mayor Michelle Wu's Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Coffee Hour.



Yohenny Arias of Dorchester picked out a plant grown from seed at the Boston Parks Department greenhouses.



William Moose of Jamaica Plain introduces his friendly Chihuahua mix Ruthie to Christian Decanto of Hyde Park.



Residents get a photo with Mayor Michelle Wu.



Mayor Michelle Wu chats with Hyde Square resident Pip Lewis about the proposed bike lane plan for Jamaica Plain.



Suresh Patel picked up flowers at Mayor Wu's Jamaica Plain Coffee Hour on June 16. Attendees were treated to Dunkin' coffee and donuts, fresh fruit from Star Market, and potted plants grown at the Parks Department greenhouses in Franklin Park.

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Michelle Wu, Mayor



Boston Parks and Recreation Department External Affairs Director Liz Sullivan congratulates Dunkin' raffle winner Mi Herzog.

MAYOR WU'S COFFEE HOUR COMES TO MOZART PLAYGROUND



Jamaica Plain resident Dorothy Fennell and future Curley School student Maisie, 4, get ready to enjoy a Dunkin' snack at Mozart Playground.



Eight-year-old twins Mason and Melina Onabajo of Jamaica Hills share a bowl of fresh fruit from Star Market during Mayor Michelle Wu's Coffee Hour at Mozart Playground.

NEWS BRIEFS

DA HAYDEN PRESENTS \$260,000 IN GRANTS TO SUFFOLK COUNTY NONPROFITS

Suffolk District Attorney Kevin Hayden announced the distribution of \$260,000 in grants to Suffolk County nonprofit organizations dedicated to improving the health and safety of residents in Boston, Chelsea, Winthrop and Revere.

Hayden's Community Reinvestment Grant (CRG) program awarded 45 nonprofits with grants ranging from \$4,000 to \$7,500. This year's fund dispersal is the largest amount in Suffolk County CRG history.

"I am extremely proud our office has been able to provide the most funding ever from this important program. The mission-driven work undertaken by all of these organizations is inspiring and important. Throughout my career as a prosecutor and a defense attorney, I have witnessed young people with promise veer onto dangerous paths due to lack of opportunity and guidance. We fail these children when our intervention starts in a courtroom. We achieve a more just and equitable legal system when we help communities provide interventions, services and opportunities necessary for youth to succeed," Hayden said.

The program draws from cash and assets seized from drug distribution cases to support organizations preventing youth violence or providing substance abuse prevention or treatment. State auditors have praised the Suffolk County process for turning "the profits of crime into something positive for the community," while carefully documenting all forfeiture-related income and expenditures.

This year's local grant recipients include:

- Wally's Café Student to Student, South End
- Boston Debate League, Mission Hill
- Bradshaw Family Foundation, Dorchester, Hyde Park,

Roxbury, Jamaica Plain

- Casa Myrna Vazquez, Inc., Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan, Jamaica Plain

- Hyde Square Task Force, Jamaica Plain

"I look forward to meeting with each of these partners to thank them for their commitment and invaluable work on behalf of Suffolk County. Public safety is more than just the law; it relies on equity, engagement, and dedication to our youth. We can accomplish far more together than we can alone. These organizations all do great work and have life changing impacts on the communities they serve," Hayden said.

Continued on page 5

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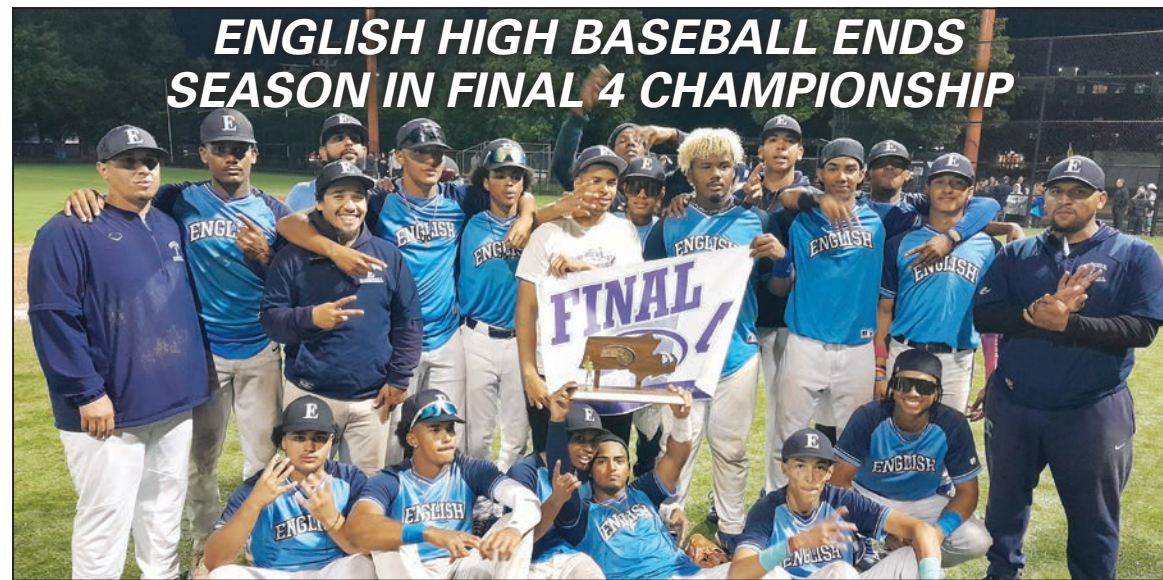


PHOTO BY PATRICK O'CONNOR

The English High baseball team celebrate their 'Final 4' championship win on Saturday, June 10 after bearing Hamilton-Wenham 4-3. The win advanced the team to a Division 4 semi-final game on Tuesday, June 13 against Seekonk in Lowell. Unfortunately, the Blue and Blue lost 2-0 in eight innings. Previously, the boys won the city league championship on Saturday, May 27 with a 4-3 win over East Boston. English ends the season with a remarkable record of 24-1.

Coalition selected to pursue transformation of Shattuck Hospital Campus

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

A first-of-its-kind coalition of community-based organizations, led by Boston Medical Center (BMC), has earned provisional designation from the Healey-Driscoll Administration to redevelop the Lemuel Shattuck Hospital Campus at Morton Street in Jamaica Plain, to be known as the Morton Street Campus. The coalition's proposal would transform the existing hospital site into a comprehensive behavioral

health and housing community, with the potential to offer up to 200 units of supportive housing for individuals, up to 205 units of supportive housing for families, behavioral health and substance use disorder treatment services, and a wide range of supportive services, including job training and financial education. The proposed plan includes a 30% increase in green space with enhanced public access and new transit connections.

The BMC-led coalition includes six respected health and social service providers currently offering daily, distinct support services to thousands of community members: Bay Cove Human Services, BMC, Boston Healthcare for the Homeless Program, Health Care Resource Centers, Victory Programs, and Pine Street Inn. Together, these organizations will partner to deliver a novel, community-inspired, integrated care model at Morton Street. To bring this innovative vision to fruition, BMC is also partnering with experienced supportive housing developers, owners and operators, Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation and The Community Builders, to build the infrastructure including supportive housing.

"The co-occurring crises of mental illness and addiction that often results in homelessness are taking a painful toll on our families and communities," said Alastair Bell, MD, MBA, President and CEO of Boston Medical Center Health System. "BMC is proud to be part of this unique, highly experienced coalition of providers, who all care deeply about our communities and have envisioned a new model to tackle this crisis through a fully integrated continuum of care. We applaud the Commonwealth for advancing a transformative vision for a behavioral health community that we believe will become a model for the nation."

With provisional designation, BMC and the coalition of community providers will now work with the Healey Administration,

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More details coming soon - including the full schedule for the Day of Play on September 30, from 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm.



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Continued on page 7

Shattuck

Continued from page 6

City officials, neighbors and other community stakeholders to earn final approval for a new model of care on the 13-acre Morton Street parcel.

The Shattuck campus on Morton Street currently provides behavioral health services to thousands of patients and community members every year. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is transitioning its existing medical, acute-care services from the current hospital on Morton Street to a former hospital building in the South End of Boston. This transition provided an opportunity for the State to identify partners who have the expertise and commitment to pursue a new vision for the Morton Street Campus, where land use is designated for public health purposes.

The Massachusetts Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance issued a Request for Proposals for the campus redevelopment in June 2022, following a thorough public process with a Community Advisory Board that established a Vision Plan for the campus. The Vision Plan calls for an integrated system of behavioral health services, including inpatient and outpatient care in mental health and substance use disorder, as well as new, permanent supportive housing.

“As a health system committed to reshaping how care is delivered and delivering solutions that empower communities to thrive, BMC sees this moment as an unprecedented opportunity to fully integrate a new model of care and provide new solutions to this crisis,” Bell said. “And while we are confident that our proposed model is community-inspired, data-driven and aligned with the current land use, we are eager to engage the community

in the design and address opportunities for improvements.”

The Coalition is proposing:

- Up to 200 new units of supportive housing for individuals, managed by Pine Street Inn, and up to 205 new units of supportive housing for families, managed by the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation. Supportive housing provides residents with case management, job training, life skills, counseling, transportation, and other support services. Residents will be tenants who sign a lease and pay rent.

- Inpatient and outpatient clinical services, including primary care, mental health, and substance use disorder treatment in new clinical buildings that complement the surrounding park and its healing, natural environment.

- Emergency housing services, similar to those already provided on the site.

- Additional, accessible green space adjacent to the campus, for a total of more than seven dedicated acres of green space, and new pedestrian, bicycle and public transit connections.

The Coalition is committed to completing the following to advance the provisional designation and deliver a new model of care for people in our community who are at risk of crisis: thoughtful and regular community engagement; a State review of the finalized mix of behavioral health, housing, and support services; and an extensive City and public review throughout the permitting process.

The Coalition will also make informational materials available and will participate in community engagement opportunities as it advances plans with the State. The Coalition has presented a community-inspired proposal and is committed to achieving full approval to deliver a new model of care, critically needed in our community.

The Coalition partners:

Bay Cove Human Services

“Bay Cove has a long history of partnering with the people we serve - individuals and families facing complex combinations of behavioral health challenges - to deliver best-in-class services despite the limitations of the existing systems of care,” said Bay Cove CEO, Dr. Louis Josephson, “so we are proud and excited to be working with BMC

and all of the organizations involved in this innovative project to help realize the potential of transforming the Shattuck site into a truly integrated behavioral health care campus.”

Boston Healthcare for the Homeless Program

“We’re committed to providing equitable access to quality health care for the most vulnerable members of our community, so we’re thrilled to collaborate with BMC and the other coalition partners in this innovative model to provide much-needed support to an at-risk population,” said Stephanie Sullivan, CEO of Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program. “Our planned collaboration for the Shattuck Hospital redevelopment includes clinical, behavioral health, and substance use disorder treatment consultation and services, ensuring that individuals have access to integrated care that meets their unique needs.”

Health Care Resource Centers

“Health Care Resource Centers is honored to be a part of this project,” said Senior Vice President of Operations, Dan Greer, “and we look forward to working closely with the community to continue providing quality, effective outpatient substance use disorder treatment to the community around Morton Street.”

Pine Street Inn

“Pine Street Inn is honored to be part of this coalition, headed by BMC, which will provide much needed housing, support and community for the most vulnerable residents of Boston,” said Lyndia Downie, president and executive director, Pine Street Inn. “We look forward to working with these partners and the larger community to create a unique and sustainable campus for both individuals and families to thrive.”

Victory Programs

“Victory Programs is thrilled to be working in partnership with this Coalition to create an innovative and collaborative solution dedicated to the long term health and wellbeing of individuals facing complex needs,” said Executive Director Sarah Porter. “When we first learned of the relocation of the current Shattuck inpatient units, we

never imagined such a creative, thoughtful and impactful solution. As we work diligently addressing the needs of those in immediate crisis, it is crucial to continue allocating resources along the continuum of recovery and stability to ensure a truly walkable path of healing for the most vulnerable members of the Commonwealth.”

The Community Builders

“Today’s announcement is an important first step to replace endless pavement with green space, trees and play areas that are open to the community, as we deliver comprehensive health and housing support for families and individuals,” said Andy Waxman, TCB New England vice

president of real estate development. “Together with BMC, our Coalition is committed to a process of community collaboration that strengthens the neighborhood and the region.”

Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation

“We are delighted that this collaborative proposal includes family supportive housing,” said CEO Teronda Ellis, CEO of Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation. “Ending family homelessness today, and offering families the supports that will heal trauma, is an investment in the next generation and will save our state from future public health crises.”

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The bid documents will be accessible online from Monday, June 12, 2023, through Friday, June 23, 2023 by visiting the City of Boston Public Procurement website at boston.gov/procurement/ and clicking on the supplier portal button to access event ID # **EV000012555**

The term of the contract shall be for three (3) years starting July 1, 2023 ending June 30, 2026

The attention of all bidders is directed to the provisions of the Invitation for Bids and contract documents, specifically to the requirements for bid deposits, insurance, and performance bonds as may be applicable. All bids for this project are subject to **M.G.L. c.30, s. 5** and in accordance with the terms and provisions of the contract documents.

Sealed bids shall be filed electronically no later than 4:00 pm on Monday, June 26, 2023 by login onto the City of Boston Procurement website as listed and accessing the above listed event number. The contract awarded pursuant to this invitation for bid will **commence on or about Monday, July 10, 2023.**

Marta E. Rivera, Commissioner
(June 12, June 19, 2023)



Brendan Behan Pub

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Jamaica Plain

NEWS BRIEFS

Continued from Page 5

BOSTON WARD 19 DEMOCRATS TO ELECT DELEGATES TO DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION

On Saturday, June 24, at 11:00 am, Democrats will convene in person at Curtis Hall, 20 South Street, Jamaica Plain, to elect 23 delegates and 5 alternates to represent Boston Ward 19 at the 2023 State Democratic Convention. All Democrats in Ward 19 are invited to attend and participate.

Registered and pre-registered Democrats in Boston Ward 19, 16 years and older by May 23, 2023, may vote and be elected as delegates or alternates during

the caucus. Youth (age 16 to 35), people with disabilities, people of color, and members of the LGBTQ+ community not elected as delegates or alternates are encouraged to apply to be add-on delegates at the caucus or by visiting massdems.org/massdems-convention. The 2023 Convention will be in person at the Tsongas Arena in Lowell, MA on September 23.

For further information on the Boston Ward 19 Democratic Committee and its activities, see bostonward19dems.org.

BOSTON COMMON FROG POND SPRAY POOL OPENS JUNE 27

Mayor Michelle Wu, Bos-

ton Parks Commissioner Ryan Woods, and The Skating Club of Boston are pleased to welcome children and their caregivers to kick off the 2023 summer wading season as the Boston Common Frog Pond spray pool reopens on Tuesday, June 27.

The wading pool opening is made possible by title sponsor Bank of America and presenting sponsors College H.U.N.K.S. Hauling Junk & Moving and H.P. Hood LLC. The event will include a fun and exciting celebration at 11 a.m. followed by the opening of the spray pool.

In addition to activities from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., residents can enjoy tasty treats and a visit from official mascot Frog Pond

Freddie. Contributing sponsors include Polar Beverages, New England Dairy Council, Alamo Drafthouse Cinema, and SourCan, with additional support from PROJECT Melanoma.

Also participating will be the Boston Police ice cream truck, Mass Audubon, the Boston Public Library Chinatown Branch, Read Boston, and Science from Scientists. For more information visit www.boston.gov/frog-pond-opening.

A year-round recreational facility, the Frog Pond offers ice

skating in the winter, a spray pool and supervised wading for youth in the summer, and the Carousel from spring through fall. Information on additional activities offered at the Frog Pond can be found by visiting www.bostonfrogpond.com.

The Frog Pond spray pool is open daily from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. until Labor Day. The facility is managed by The Skating Club of Boston and staffed by youth workers from the Boston Youth Fund. For further information, please call the Frog Pond at (617) 635-2120.

Traffic

Continued from page 1

owners to experience Boston in a whole new way through a fun-filled day of walking, biking, skating, rolling, and family-friendly activities on car-free

streets, which will require some temporary parking regulations and some roadway diversions.

Parking restrictions will be in place the following streets or lots:

Centre Street, Both sides, from Lamartine Street to South Street

Barbara Street, Both sides, from South Huntington Avenue to Centre Street

Municipal Lot # 32, Entire Lot off of Centre Street between Kingsboro Park and Spring Park Avenue

Municipal Lot # 7, Entire Lot at #350-352 Centre Street



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Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council Election Day: June 24, 2023!



Vote!

Eligible Jamaica Plain Residents (age 16+) can vote on Election Day, Saturday, June 24, 2023

Run!

Pick up a nomination packet at your library branch and run for a council seat.

Volunteer!

We need neighbors to help us with the election! Sign up online at jpnc.org.



Visit jpnc.org for more information

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LOCAL STUDENTS GRADUATE FROM NATIVITY PREP REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Nativity Prep that is located at 39 Lamartine St. in Jamaica Plain held graduation on Sunday, June 11 at the Lion of Judah Church in the South End. Diplomas were presented to the following sixteen students: Myles Montrond, Elisandro Pereira, Javian Vatel, Emmanuel Pineda Garcia, Jace Dasilva, Malik Depina, Robel Gebre, Mike Francois, Rodniell Gonzalez, Rodniell Gonzalez, Rodbiell Gonzalez, Anthony Campbell, Yasin Andino, Jamir Crichlow, Peter Jacques, Kamal Mohamud.



The sixteen graduates shown above with Nativity Prep Principal Gadisa Goso (back center).



The Nativity Prep graduates shown on stage with their respective families.

JP'S KALINICHENKO GRADUATES FROM ST. SEBASTIAN'S SCHOOL



St. Sebastian's School graduated 73 students at its 79th Commencement Exercises on Thursday, June 8, 2023.

Local Jamaica Plain graduates include: Michael J. Kalinichenko, who will attend Dartmouth College.

Shown to the left: Headmaster William Burke with Michael J. Kalinichenko.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL 2023 GRADUATES!!

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ENGLISH HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION CEREMONY

PHOTOS BY PATRICK O'CONNOR

The English High School held graduation on Thursday, June 15, 2023, at White Stadium. Diplomas were presented to 125 graduates.



Graduates make their way to the stage across the field at White Stadium.



Head of School Caitlyn Murphy is shown with salutatorian Rosalinda Calmo Pablo and valedictorian Kaelyn Madison McInnis.



The graduates entering White Stadium.



The graduates make their way into White Stadium.



Many friends and family came out to support their graduate during this accomplishment.

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Communities set to read and discuss “What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?”

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Each year, Mass Humanities organizes and funds free public events where communities gather together to read and talk about Frederick Douglass’ influential address, “What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?”

The next Reading of Frederick Douglass Together event

is Sunday, June 25 in Jamaica Plain.

Presented by the Jamaica Plain Historical Society, the event will take place in First Baptist Church, 633 Centre St., Jamaica Plain starting at 4pm.

This year, more than 40 cities and towns across the Commonwealth will take part in the Reading Frederick Douglass

Together Program. The number of events continues to grow, surpassing the 24 held in 2022. A full list of dates and locations is available at Masshumanities.org.

“We need the words of Frederick Douglass now more than ever,” said Brian Boyles, Mass Humanities Executive Director. “As the nation confronts rising

intolerance and threats to our democracy, we are honored to partner with these communities. These neighbors and organizations choose to take responsibility for the past and to imagine a shared path forward. It is, as Douglass said, time to do our work.”

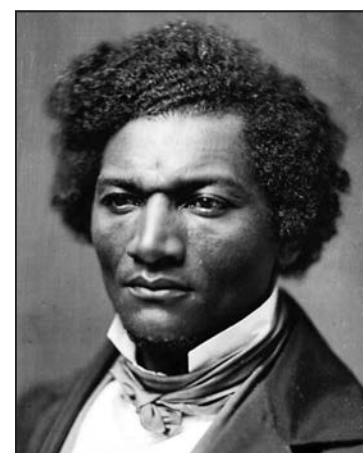
After escaping slavery in 1838, the famous abolitionist lived for many years in Massachusetts. The most celebrated orator of his day, Douglass’ denunciations of slavery and forceful examination of the Constitution challenge us to think about the stories we tell and don’t tell, the ideas that they teach or don’t teach and the gaps between our actions and aspirations. Douglass delivered the Fourth of July speech on July 5, 1852, in Rochester, New York, to the Rochester Ladies’ Anti-Slavery Society.

Mass Humanities began supporting public readings of the speech in 2009. New to the Douglass program this year is a “trauma-informed” discussion guide for grantees.

Racial trauma, or race-based traumatic stress, is the cumulative effect of racism on an individual’s mental and physical health. It has been observed in numerous BIPOC communities and among people of all ages, including young children. Racial trauma can be experienced vicariously or directly. It has been linked to feelings of anxiety, depression and suicidal ideation, as well as other physical health issues.

Published by Mass Humanities in May, the guide acknowledges that the context of Douglass’ powerful speech, “What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?” can result in racial traumatization or re-traumatization for participants and audience members as they read and discuss his words.

“The Trauma-Informed Discussion Guide provides a proactive, inclusive, and responsive framework for facilitating potentially difficult, uncomfortable conversations. It outlines a variety of step-by-step practices facilitators can choose from based on their experience and comfort levels to create supportive spaces for transformative dialogue on race and equity,” said the guide’s author, Dr. Latoya Bosworth, Mass Humanities Program Officer and coordinator of the Douglass initiative.



Frederick Douglass.

Along with providing funding support to organizations throughout the state, Mass Humanities hosts a reading each year on the Boston Common, near the monument to the 54th Regiment, that attracts state legislators, students and members of the public who take turns reading Douglass’ speech.

On Monday, July 3, Mass Humanities will once again partner with the Community Change, Inc. of Boston, the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice at Harvard Law School and the Museum of African American History to host the annual Boston Common reading.

For further information, contact John Lynds, Director of Communications, at jlynds@masshumanities.org.

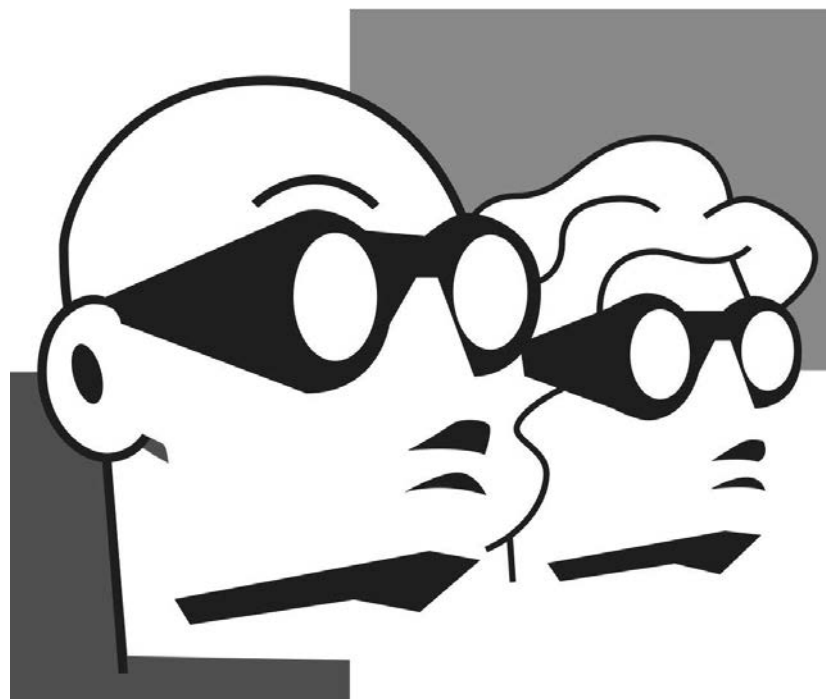
To learn more about Reading Frederick Douglass Together contact Latoya Bosworth, Program Officer, at lbosworth@masshumanities.org

Mass Humanities, a non-profit foundation based in Northampton, creates opportunities for the people of Massachusetts to transform their lives and build a more equitable Commonwealth through the humanities. Since its founding in 1974, the organization has provided millions of dollars to support thousands of humanities projects across Massachusetts. Established as the state-based affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), Mass Humanities is an independent programming and grant-making organization that receives support from the NEH and the Massachusetts Cultural Council and private sources. For more information, visit www.masshumanities.org or connect on social media at: [Facebook.com/masshumanities](https://www.facebook.com/masshumanities) [Twitter.com/masshumanities](https://twitter.com/masshumanities) [Instagram.com/masshumanities](https://www.instagram.com/masshumanities)



Students reading during during a previous years’ event.

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MBTA to host open house on June 28 about Green Line B Branch track upgrades

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

The MBTA will hold an in-person Open House on Wednesday, June 28, at 6 PM at Boston University's Sleeper Auditorium located at 871 Commonwealth Avenue in Boston to discuss a 12-day closure of the B Branch from Kenmore to Boston College Stations from Monday, July 17, through Friday, July 28. This closure will allow crews to complete critical track upgrades and additional work on the B Branch. The MBTA welcomes the public to join the conversation regarding the work by voicing their thoughts, comments, and concerns.

During this 12-day suspension in B Branch train service, accessible shuttle buses will replace Green Line trains between Kenmore and Boston College. During this service change, crews will perform a full-depth replacement of the track at Packard's Corner Station as well as from Harvard Avenue to Allston Street Stations. More information is available within a video accessible at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RT6507crZ-zo>.

"I made a commitment to the public when I accepted this responsibility to restore safety and reliability," said MBTA General Manager and CEO Phillip Eng. "The recent derailment is a stark reminder that we have work to do, and accelerating this work when schools are out is the best way to address a long-standing issue. This 12-day full access closure allows us to implement track renewal safely and most efficiently along the Green Line's

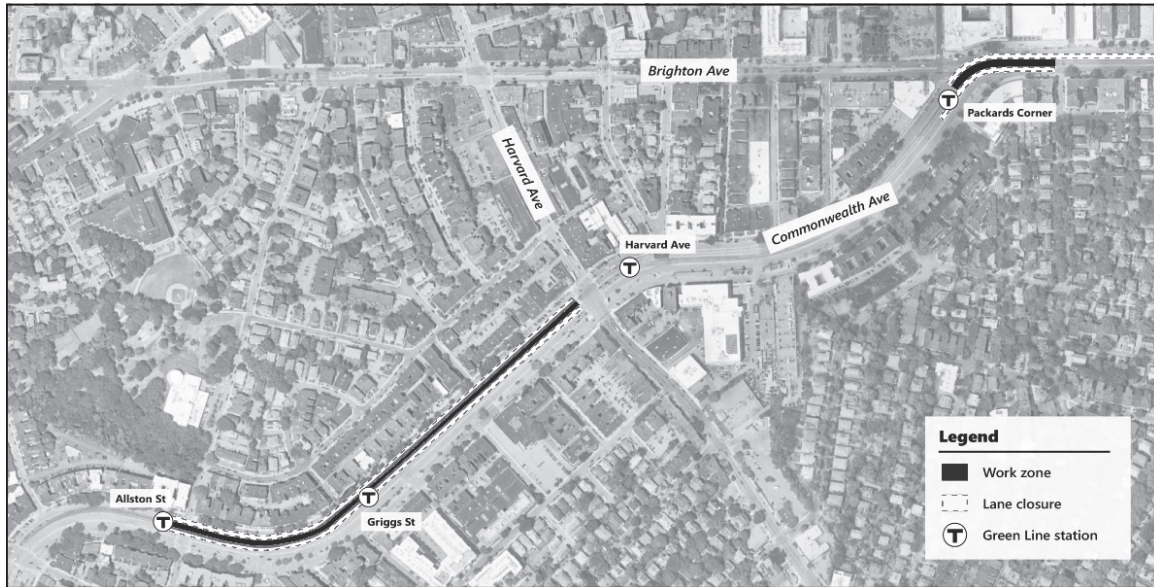
B Branch, and most importantly, improve service."

During this 12-day full-access closure, crews will fully replace over 2,000 feet of track at Packard's Corner and between Harvard Avenue and Allston Street, bringing this area into a state of good repair. To maximize efforts during this closure, crews will also replace duct banks, underground conduits that provide power to trains, and repaint pedestrian crossings, bike lanes, and platform edges along the B Branch.

"We are committed to providing our riders with the best possible quality of service," said MBTA Chief of Capital Transformation Angel PenPa. "A full-access closure allows crews to accomplish critical upgrades on an expedited schedule, delivering improved service that our riders deserve. We understand how frustrating service diversions can be. However, as a team, we will work as quickly and safely as possible to deliver these much-needed upgrades."

Green Line Transformation follows a holistic approach to transforming the Green Line. The program is aligned by multiple Levels of Transformation: Improving Safety & Bringing Infrastructure into a State of Good Repair, Enhancing Accessibility, Replacing Legacy Fleets, Increasing Passenger Capacity, and Modernizing Rider Experience.

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



A map showing the upcoming changes showing the expected shutdown.

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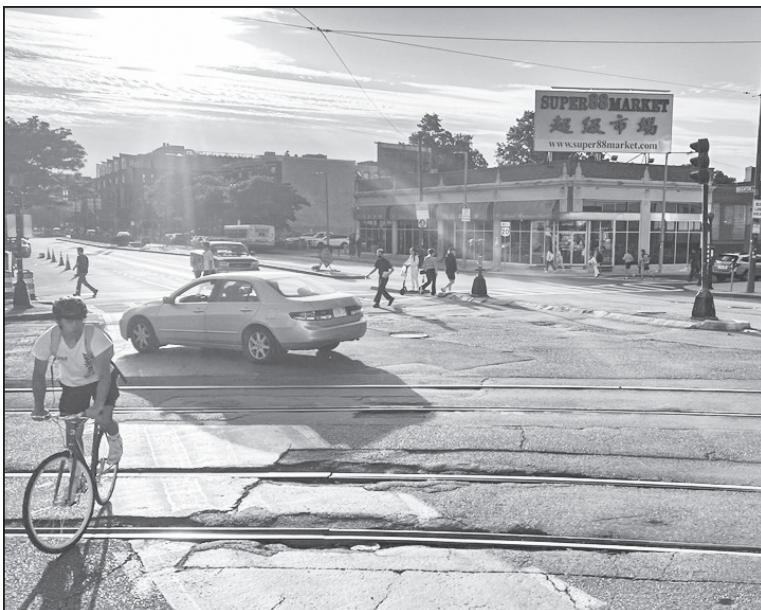
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The Green Line B Line tracks as seen on Brighton Avenue.

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. SU23P1272PM In the matter of: Bobby Williams

Of: Boston, MA To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Sherrill House of Boston, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Bobby Williams is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and re-

questing that Jonathan J. Davey of Quincy, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve With Corporate 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 07/18/2023. This 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: June 14, 2023 Vincent Procopio, Register of Probate 6/23/23 JP

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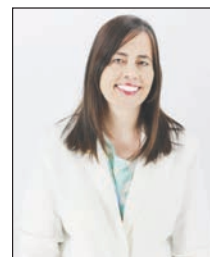
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Jamaica Plain Pets Special Section

Levine successfully leading JP Animal Clinic

BY MICHAEL COUGHLIN JR.

Over the past year, the Jamaica Plain Animal Clinic, a neighborhood staple since it first opened in 2006, has continued providing all sorts of care for dogs and cats under the ownership of Doctor Jonathan Levine.

Levine, who has been a veterinarian in the Greater Boston area for five years, purchased the clinic from its original owner Doctor Amy Johnson last June and has since hit the ground running.

“I always wanted to own my own practice and be part of the community,” said Levine. “I was lucky enough that Doctor Johnson, who built this practice in 2006, was also motivated to sell to an individual,” he added.

The clinic located at 10A Green Street offers many services for dogs and cats, such as preventative care, behavioral care and basic training, illness care, dental work, some surgery, and internal medicine. It even does international travel certificates for pets.

“I think our bread and butter is like the preventative care, the vaccines, and then also like basic illness coverage,” said Levine.

“So when things get real-

ly complicated, or dogs or cats need specialists, we definitely partner with the different specialty clinics in the area, but as long as things are stable, we can definitely manage some internal medicine cases as well,” he said.

Levine, who lives in Jamaica Plain and even does house calls for some clients, indicated that he has enjoyed his time owning the clinic.

“It’s been great. I feel really welcomed by the community,” said Levine. “It’s a great community, so I’m excited to raise my family here and also be a part of it as a local business owner too.”

While Levine says he has not made significant changes to the clinic’s process since taking over, he has thought about potentially expanding behavioral and end-of-life/hospice care — though he did say he did not want to promise anything.

“I always want to expand — I think behavioral concerns and training are definitely things that people love, and I want to look into that, and then end-of-life care and hospice is a bigger thing as pets are living longer,” said Levine.

For those who are dog or cat owners, the clinic is accepting new clients. The best way to get

an appointment is through the clinic’s website — <https://jpanimalclinic.com/> — or to give it a call at (617) 524-7300.

“I feel really proud of the medicine we offer here. I think we

do a really good job at providing really solid primary care and basic illness urgent care coverage,” said Levine.

“I feel really proud of it, and we’re definitely welcoming new

clients all the time, and I think people have been really receptive and really happy with the care we offer.”

CITY PAWS

Shrinking World Syndrome

BY PENNY & ED CHERUBINO

On a recent stroll with a friend and his senior Cairn Terrier, this wise dog guardian talked about how important it was to continue with the longest walks his little dog would take, no matter how slow. Watching the dog sniff her way along the sidewalk, pausing to inhale an intriguing aroma a second or third time, we agreed.

He was preventing shrinking world syndrome. In an article on teaching old dogs new tricks on the website The Wildest, author Jeannette Cooperman quoted certified veterinary behaviorist Dr. Lore Haug. “A lot of old dogs get what I call the ‘shrinking world’ syndrome.” “Their owners get in a rut with them; they start walking the dog less... and they don’t train the dog or teach him tricks. The dog doesn’t get as much stimulation and enrichment — maybe they stop taking the dog to the dog park — and there’s a significant decline in mental and physical challenges.”

Symptoms

Dr. Haug outlined the changes you might see if your dog begins to have the cognitive dysfunction that isolation can cause. These

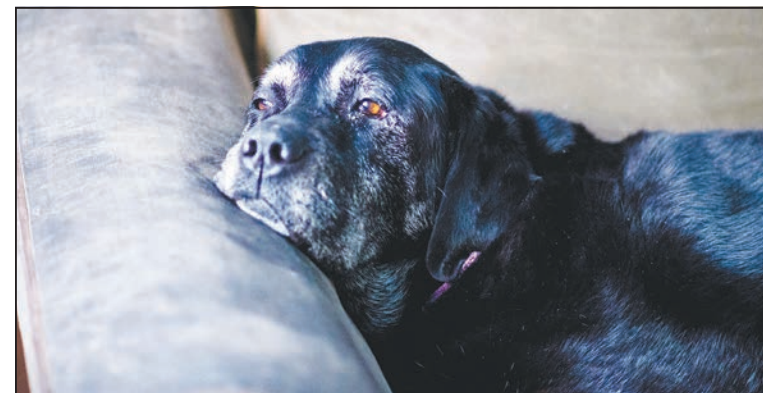


PHOTO BY JACK PLANT

While rest is essential for a senior dog, exercise, and stimulation are also needed to avoid shrinking world syndrome.

include changes in their sleep patterns, disorientation, housetraining mishaps, pacing, and vocalizing at night. Your dog may begin to experience separation anxiety and cling to you. On the other hand, a senior dog might be less interested in greeting or interacting with family members. Slowly they are not acting like the dog you knew.

Prevention

We are all becoming aware of the importance of socialization, exercise, and stimulation for the human brain. The same is true for dogs. However, in the case of dogs, it’s easier to take the steps that will prevent decline than when a person in our family decides to spend hours in a recliner watching a screen.

First, look around and see if you can change anything about your home that will make your dog feel safer or more secure doing simple things like walking around, getting up on the sofa, joining you on the bed, or enjoying a meal. Non-skid rugs may make walking on slippery floors easier. Steps up to a couch or bed to visit you or a

favorite window view could help.

Nightlights along the floor may help low-vision dogs find their way in the dark. You can use scented toys to play with a blind dog and dog whistles, clickers, and noise makers that can catch the attention of dogs with hearing loss.

Slow walks can be interesting for older dogs if they are physically up to the task. You can bring a stroller for a small dog or a wagon for a larger pal. This will ensure you can give your dog a rest or a ride home when they tire. Sitting on a bench or blanket in the park might be a welcome change of scenery for a dog.

Training

Teaching your old dog new tricks or behaviors is a great way to stimulate their time at home. Sometimes, it might be an adaptation of a behavior the dog already knows. For example, you could teach the hand signals that match the words you use to communicate, like sit, down, and wait.

Continued on page 17



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How to be a pet parent on a budget

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Fueling your pet with nutritious food doesn't have to break your budget. By stocking up on options available exclusively at select retailers, you can feed your furry family member affordably. For example, Nature's Menu is available only at Dollar General and offers dog and cat food free from artificial colors, flavors or preservatives. Their dry pet food products also include pre and

probiotics to support healthy digestion, along with added vitamins, minerals and other trace nutrients and a money-back satisfaction guarantee.

Hygiene How-To

Having a pup or feline companion comes with responsibility, especially when it pertains to their cleanliness and well-being. To maintain a groomed pet, create a care tote that includes such hygiene essentials as a brush or flea comb, shampoo, nail clippers and puppy pads, which can be used as clean-up tool for both dogs and cats. Also consider using a dual-action topical treatment to help prevent fleas and ticks. Be sure to see a trusted veterinarian for annual check-ups and other needs.

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Jamaica Plain Pets Special Section

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hance your pet's days and nights don't have to be costly. Consider new water and food bowls, a collar and a bed for a good night's

rest after playful days. Next, make playtime a bit more fun with a few new toys from Dollar General's private brand, Forever Pals, which include a variety toy pack for dogs and a feather wand for cats. With these accessories, your pet will be wagging their

tail or purring with excitement all day long!

By shopping wisely for all your pet's needs, you can provide them with quality products while stretching your budget in the process.

MSPCA

Continued from page 1

adopt out 100 dogs between its four adoption center locations in Jamaica Plain, Centerville, Methuen, and Salem.

100 dogs is a number that Mike Keiley MSPCA-Angell's Director of Adoption Centers and Programs, said "Is the most number of dogs in a week that I've ever seen in my 29 years at the MSPCA."

The good news for those who might have missed this past week's event is that at least two more events are planned for the second week of July and August. Currently, the details are still being hammered out for each.

When details for these events do become available, they can be found on the MSPCA-Angell website — <https://www.mspca.org/> — and on its various social media accounts, which can be found on the aforementioned website.

According to Keiley, these summer events have spawned in direct response to a need for adopters.

"Part of the story goes back to 2020 when Covid hit, and services were shifted to emergency only. We saw a record sort of decrease in intake into shelters which meant that shelters around the country all of a

sudden had all this space that they've never had before," said Keiley.

"But we also saw this massive interest in adoption that's also never risen to those levels before," he added.

Moreover, Keiley explained that as 2021 came along, and services opened up, intake began to increase while adoption interest remained steady. Then in 2022, the space acquired in shelters during Covid began to dwindle, and adoption decreased a little as well.

"But as 2022 went on and as we entered 2023, all of that space sort of had been backfilled and then some, and now we're seeing sort of this extra problem which is the decrease in adoption interest," said Keiley.

Keiley mentioned that the decrease in adoption interest — which he partly attributed to the economy and inflation — has been felt here in Massachusetts, which he described as surprising because the area does not have the same overpopulation issues as some southern shelters MSPCA-Angell partners with.

This adoption decrease is an issue, especially for MSPCA-Angell, in that if it cannot adopt out, it then cannot take on relocation from places like the aforementioned overpopulated southern shelters.

"We really thought that putting out this messaging about

what's happening in animal welfare to raise awareness that shelters are overcrowded and ultimately animals are at risk for euthanasia when that happens," said Keiley.

While Keiley was grateful for the response to last week's event, he underscored the importance of finding more people who can adopt.

"We're really thankful for everybody that responded to the message, and we know that there's so many more people out there that hopefully will hear this message and respond. We need a lot more adopters all summer long," he said.

Keiley also specifically called upon adopters at its Boston location, which, as mentioned, is located in Jamaica Plain, saying, "We haven't seen quite that same response from people in the Boston area to our Boston location. I'm not sure why so we're really hopeful that we can stimulate as many adoptions out of Boston as possible in the next coming weeks."

It should be noted that while you may not be able to adopt, MSPCA-Angell has many ways for people to get involved, such as becoming a foster home, a volunteer, or even donating.

"We're going to keep innovating as long as we need to until every dog has found a home," said Keiley.

City Paws

Continued from page 16

It's hard to watch your dog age, but knowing you can prevent some of the changes can give you a way to be proactive

to slow the aging process. What's more, many of the tasks that are good for your dog are also good for you!

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

Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll



'COOPER'

Is as loyal as he is handsome. This big boy is affectionate, housetrained, and looking for a person to call his own. This middle-aged guy prefers to be an only pet so that he can steal all of the attention for himself! He loves car rides, squeaky toys, and cuddles with his favorite people.

"Gazette Pet of the Week" is sponsored by

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EDITORIAL

Yes, we're in hot water

It's a cliché that modern man is out-of-touch with the natural world (what's left of it). Whereas our long-ago ancestors had a deep sense of the change of seasons, migrations of animals, and so forth, we know nothing. Compared to their innate knowledge of the natural world, we are illiterates.

People the world over have been captivated by the recent news story about the survival of the four, Indigenous, young children in the Amazon rainforest for 40 days after their small plane crashed (and all the adults died). Their tale of survival prompted this comment by an expert: "Westerners would have been long dead," and no one disputed it.

However, there is one thing that we ourselves have noted this spring, namely, that the ocean temperature along our coast is much warmer than it typically is at this time of year.

We have belonged to a local ocean-rowing club for a few years. We launch our boats (which accommodate a crew of four with a coxswain) by lifting them off a trailer and walking them into the water.

Our season starts in early May and our ankles and feet usually become numb within minutes of stepping into the water during the first few weeks before Memorial Day.

But this season, we noticed something different, something amiss: There was no numbness in our feet. Sure, the water was cold, but not numbingly so. In fact, the water felt pleasant, especially after a long row.,

Similarly, swimming in our wetsuit (in preparation for a local triathlon in late June which we have been doing for 16 years) typically is a chilly experience at this time of year, but it has not been so this spring.

A recent report from the government agency NOAA revealed that ocean water temperatures world-wide are the warmest that EVER have been recorded. In addition, the first 10 days of June were the hottest-ever recorded on the planet for that 10-day time period (although we would never know it here!).

So for those of us who venture into the ocean in May and June, the good news is that the water has been far more pleasant than usual.

But the bad news is that our planet, both on land and sea, is warming faster and faster -- and we fear the implications for our environment will only be more and more furious.

We can't escape feeling that we're like the proverbial frog in the soon-to-be boiling pot of water. But unlike the frog, which does have the ability to jump out, we have nowhere to go.

No end in sight for housing crisis

Everyone on all sides of the political and economic spectrums are in agreement that (1) inflation is too high and (2) there is a shortage of housing in this country. However, solving both of those problems seems to have become a classic Catch-22 scenario: Higher interest rates may tame inflation by lessening the demand for some goods (such as automobiles) and services, but it also serves to put a lid on new home construction.

But with fewer homes on the market (both new and existing) at a time of ever-increasing demand for homes (because of the coming of age of millennials), the prices for new homes and rents are continuing to increase even in the face of higher interest rates. In other words, by continuing to reduce the supply of new housing by means of higher interest rates, policy makers are ensuring that prices will remain high.

It is estimated that with new home construction at its lowest level in 20 years (despite a larger population), the U.S. has failed to meet the demand for housing of all types, both single family homes and rentals, by more than two million units for each of the past few years, thus creating the housing crisis we have today. But with interest rates now at their highest levels in 20 years, new home construction will continue to fall far short of demand for the foreseeable future. Higher interest rates also have the ripple effect of keeping Baby Boomers and Gen Xers in their current homes (where they have low interest rates), which decreases the number of homes on the market for younger home-buyers.

In other words, our housing crisis is the result of what physicists refer to as a positive feedback loop. And just as in climate science, where feedback loops are creating dire consequences for the future of the planet, so too, the housing crisis only promises to worsen with no end in sight.

LETTERS

We must preserve the trees

Dear Editor:

I have been very impressed and pleased by the statements of City of Boston officials regarding their commitment to protect trees and promote tree cover in the City. I was deeply saddened and pained to see beautiful full trees being chopped down close to the intersection of Chestnut and Green Street in Jamaica Plain on Wednesday, June 14, 2023. The property 304 Chestnut Ave. has been condemned by the City's Inspectional Service Department. The property is slated for new development.

It seems like every de-

veloper begins by cropping down trees. This standard practice must be challenged so that trees be preserved whenever possible, if they are healthy. The trees that were cut down had been there for decades. A neighbor told me that 7 trees were cut down. If each tree was 50 years old that would mean it would take 350 years to replace their loss. If new trees are planted it could take decades before they provide the shade, beauty, and carbon sequestering abilities of the trees that were cut down. Trees should not be on a "sacrifice zone" whenever there is new development.

The trees deserve protection. Given that we all have to breathe we should view them as a common good. We all know that we have entered a new era; a time of "climate emergency." Business as usual cannot continue. We need to do all that we can to protect coming generations from the devastating effects of Climate Change. It would be great if trees on land slated for new development had to have city approval before being cut down, especially healthy mature trees.

Virginia Pratt

Reader weighs in on composting and the city's rodent population

Dear Editor,

Mr. Whitney makes a good case for reducing the overwhelming rat population that inhabit many of Boston's neighborhoods by not allowing trash in plastic bags to be put out curbside the night before scheduled trash pickup (per Rob Whitney's Page 10 Commentary published in last week's edition of this publication). He rightfully identifies this as the major contributor to the proliferation of rats. But he leaves out one significant tool that will contribute to reducing Boston's rat infestation and that is composting. Last year the city launched a free composting program for the first 10,000 households to sign up. The reception to the program has been overwhelmingly positive with the next 10,000 sign ups almost complete.

Most of us know that composting has a very positive impact on the environment. But what we don't think about is how composting keeps food waste away from the rat population. The composting bins supplied by the city are made of strong plastic with a tight lid so the bin can be put out the night before without any concern that the rats are going to get to the food waste. We have been using a 3rd party

composting company until we can get on the city's program. What we have found is both the volume and weight of our trash has dropped to the point where some weeks we can even skip a trash pick up. It is so easy to do and makes a huge difference.

And there is good news about the city's next round of the composting program - they will be offering smaller 5 gal buckets for those of us who have no room for the

current 12 gal bin!

Does this mean that we can now put out our trash the night before if we compost? Probably not. Many food containers will still have remnants of food waste. The city should weigh in on this before the new contract is completed.

The combination of same day trash placement and composting will lead to a much reduced rat population.

Stephen Morgan

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

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OP-ED

Climate change affects everyone through water - even in Massachusetts

BY JULIA BLATT,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
MASSACHUSETTS RIVERS
ALLIANCE

When we think of climate change, the first images that come to mind are of hot temperatures, melting ice caps, and greenhouse gases clogging the atmosphere. A recent report by the United Nations, however, warns that most people will actually experience the impacts of climate change through their interactions with water.

The U.N. found: "The science is clear: the global climate change crisis is increasing variability in the water cycle, thus reducing the predictability of water availability and demand, affecting water quality, exacerbating water scarcity, and threatening

sustainable development worldwide." That's certainly true in Massachusetts. It's not simply a matter of whether we can ski during the winter or go kayaking in the summer.

Drought in Massachusetts has become more frequent and more severe due to climate change. Scientists at the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration predict that droughts in our state will become worse. The 2016 drought had severe impacts: six public water suppliers petitioned the MassDEP for water emergency declarations, the Quabbin Reservoir decreased by over 20%, and groundwater that supplies many towns' drinking water declined.

The state's economy is adversely affected. This winter highlighted the loss of snow cover for winter recreation facilities in the state. Additionally, in 2016 it is estimated that cranberry growers lost about one-third of their harvest due to the drought. Our aquatics industries also suffer, as rising water temperatures can lower oxygen levels and alter freshwater and marine ecosystems. Key ocean fisheries, such as cod and lobster south of Cape Code, are expected to decline. The EPA warns that climate change may also pose challenges for the state's agriculture. Some farms may be harmed if more hot days and drought reduce crop yield, or if more flooding and wetter springs delay planting dates.

Less water available for ag-

riculture affects the rest of us as well. According to the state Department of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Massachusetts farmers are irrigating crops more due to decreased precipitation, higher temperatures, and lower soil moisture. This need for more water not only increases consumer costs at local stores – it costs farmers more to run pumps and sprinklers, and further depletes groundwater used for our water supplies.

Most people think of California and the arid West when picturing wildfires. In Massachusetts, however, fires are becoming more widespread and severe. During the 2022 drought, for example, approximately 905 wildfires were reported through August, according to the state's Department of Fire Services, burning an estimated 1,485 acres. The month of August saw

137 wildfires across the state, a nearly six-fold increase over the prior year. The resulting destruction of vegetation and tree cover exacerbates soil erosion and reduces groundwater recharge, increasing water scarcity and food insecurity.

The impact of climate change on the state's rivers is dramatic. In the summer of 2022, many rivers, including parts of the Blackstone in Central Massachusetts and the Ipswich on the North Shore, were transformed from flowing water into disconnected puddles, unfit places for fish or turtles to live and virtually impossible for canoes and kayaks to navigate. Streams flowing into the Charles and Neponset rivers were the driest on record, and other rivers dried up entirely.

The Massachusetts Rivers Alliance, comprised of 87 groups across the state protect.

BPL receives \$1M to expand LGBTQ+ programming

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

The Boston Public Library (BPL) is proud to announce that it has received a \$1,000,000 bequest from the late Howard Cooper to dramatically expand its LGBTQ+ resources, collections, and programming.

Cooper, who resided in San Francisco, CA as an adult, grew up in Dorchester and attended Boston Public Schools. He visited the Central Library in Copley Square regularly as a teenager in the 1950s. Cooper named the Boston Public Library Fund as a beneficiary in his estate plans and passed away at the age of 82 in 2022.

To recognize and celebrate Howard's gift to the Library, family and friends will gather in the Central Library on June 23. The Library will unveil a plaque, installed in the Boylston Street Building lobby, to publicly recognize Cooper's contribution to creating a safe and welcoming space for individuals of all identities.

"With his generous gift, Howard Cooper's legacy reflects the essential founding principle of the Boston Public Library—free to all—and further positions the BPL as a cornerstone of democracy," says BPL President David Leonard. "In these times of increasing challenges to books



COURTESY PHOTO

The Boston Public Library receives \$1,000,000 to expand its LGBTQ+ presence.

and information, this gift sends a powerful message that LGBTQ+ individuals and their stories play an essential role in our society and that the BPL will always be an inclusive space that proudly reflects and celebrates the LGBTQ+ community for generations to come."

The bequest provides immediate-use funding for the Library to expand its current LGBTQ+ circulating collection, hire a researcher to review the Library's historic collections for LGBTQ+ materials, and hire an intern to work specifically on LGBTQ+ community history as part of the Boston Community History Project.

Most significantly, the bequest establishes The Howard Cooper LGBTQ+ Endowment Fund to provide a long-term

funding stream for initiatives and programs, including:

- Annual publication of We Are Pride booklist
- Interactive programming for youth
- Resources for teens, building upon the gender and sexual orientation resources already in place

Boston Public Library Fund Executive Director Paula Sakey added, "We are incredibly grateful to Howard for his insight, compassion, and generosity in naming the Boston Public Library Fund in his estate plans. By establishing an endowment fund, Howard's gift will have a significant impact in safeguarding and expanding public access to the BPL's LGBTQ+ materials and programs far into the future."



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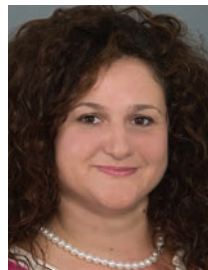
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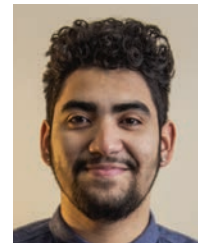
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