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WENHAM STREET CINEMA SCHEDULE, PAGE 9

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THE SQUASHBUSTERS 5K AT JAMAICA POND



DEREK KOUYOU MJIAN PHOTOS

Shown above, runners pose with Adith Belavan from Positive Tracks, a NH nonprofit that helps students organize events, and SquashBusters staff member Carolina Restrepo during the 5K at Jamaica Pond held on March 30. Shown right, Brandon Ayalas with his trophy for 1st place under 18. See more photos on Pages 4 and 5.



Community input wanted in Bussey Street renaming initiative

BY MICHAEL COUGHLIN JR.

A working group comprised of residents that is endorsed by local electeds and organizations is leading the charge to rename Bussey Street and seeking community input to help determine its new name.

Bussey Street is named after Benjamin Bussey, a Revolutionary War veteran, and merchant who left land he owned in Jamaica Plain to Harvard University, which eventually became the Bussey Institute and Arnold Arboretum, according to a document on JP Centre/South Main Street's website detailing the renaming initiative.

However, the abovementioned document states that Bussey's legacy "was complicated by some of his wealth deriving from the profits of trade in products produced by enslaved people in the American South and the Caribbean."

The working group, which rose in June of last year, has worked to learn more about the street renaming process, developed criteria for a new name, and

much more since then.

Through their work, the group developed five criteria for the street's new name, with the first — the new name having a direct association with the Arboretum land — holding the most weight.

Other criteria included the new name having a story "meaningful and consistent" with today's values, being a member of an "under-represented community," whether that be currently or historically, having "accomplished or achieved something of value which had a positive impact on society," and that a potential name already honored in the city would have lower priority.

In addition to the criteria created by the group, the Public Improvement Commission also has requirements for street renaming, which were taken into account.

According to the aforementioned document, these requirements include, "If the proposed name is for a person, the nominee

White Stadium proposal criticized at JPNC meeting

BY GAZETTE STAFF

The Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC) held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 26, via Zoom. Chair Renee Stacey Welch presided over the session that was attended by Jordan Frias from the office of new District 6 City Councilor Ben Weber (a former member of the JPNC) and Caroline Peters, the new liaison to Jamaica Plain from the mayor's office.

The council heard from its various committees.

Dave Baron, the chair of the Zoning Committee, reported that there has been only a "trickle" of applications for zoning relief in recent months. He said the project for 305 Chestnut Ave., the condemned house known as the historic Finch House at the bottom of Chestnut at Green St., is under agreement with a development team that is trying to convert the structure into units with six parking spaces. Baron said the developer's proposal includes a design that will maintain the historical facade of the current building in the front,

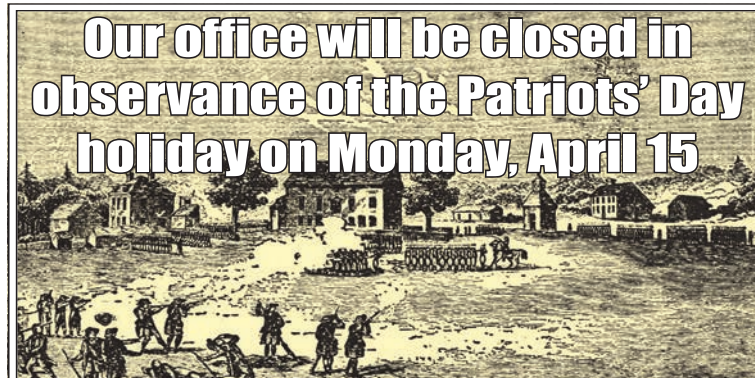
He said that there were both opponents and proponents of the proposal at the committee's most recent hearing. One aspect of the project is that the developer, as a condition of the purchase and sale, has to offer a unit for the current owner, which is why the developer could not reduce the number of units below six, as some opponents had requested.

The upshot is that the Zoning Committee did not make a recommendation about the proposal and therefore was not seeking

Continued on page 2

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Our office will be closed in observance of the Patriots' Day holiday on Monday, April 15



Margarita Muñiz Academy celebrates a new chapter with dedication of Vanessa Calderón-Rosado School Library

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

On Thursday, March 21, the Margarita Muñiz Academy (MMA) celebrated the grand opening of its new school library. The library was dedicated in honor of Dr. Vanessa Calderón-Rosado, CEO and president of Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción (IBA) and one of the

academy's founding members.

The event was attended by special guests and dignitaries, including Mayor Michelle Wu and Alondra Bobadilla, the First Youth Poet Laureate of Boston. Attendees enjoyed light refreshments and a music performance by talented students from the school's MMA music program.

"I am honored to have my

name included as a part of the legacy of work being done at Margarita Muñiz Academy to support our city's bilingual students and students who are English Language Learners. This new library, and the stories held in its books are symbolic of the power of possibility—el poder

Continued on page 3



Margarita Muñiz Academy Headmaster Dania Vázquez and Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción president and CEO Dr. Vanessa Calderón-Rosado.

JPNC

Continued from page 1

a vote from the full JPNC. The developer thus will have to go before the city's Zoning Board of Appeals without any recommendation from the local council.

Michael Reiskind presented the report of the Public Service Committee. He said the committee heard an update from the city's Route 39 Transit Priority Corridor program representative, who presented the draft plans for the project.

"The plans are sensitive to the issues along the street and there will be very little removal of parking on-street spaces in the central business district," said Reiskind, who added that bus lanes are being proposed along South St. and at the Kirby School. He said there will be a priority of improving the light signalization, especially along Forest Hills and Huntington

Ave. Reiskind also said there will be improvements to the bus stops with sidewalk repair and shelters along the busy route, which is the fifth busiest in the entire MBTA system and serves the city's exam high schools and the Longwood Hospital area.

Reiskind and the other committee members who were on hand for that meeting lauded the city's Transit Planner, Maya Mugdal, a recent graduate of Northeastern, for her straightforward presentation to the committee.

Reiskind also spoke briefly about the Better Bike Lanes project and said the committee is seeking input from the community regarding a list of streets and sidewalks that need repairs in JP. He lastly noted that the annual Love Your Block event is coming up on Saturday, April 27, and asked for requests if someone wishes to be included in the event.

Chair Katherine O'Shea presented the report of the Outreach

Committee. She noted that two new attendees from the community were on hand for the committee's March meeting. She also said that the committee's flyers and business cards, which have the goal of getting more JP residents involved with the council, were to be ready for distribution on April 9.

She finally noted that the committee has reserved a table for the annual Wake Up the Earth Festival on May 4 from 12-5 in the afternoon for which she was seeking volunteers.

The report of the Housing and Development Committee was presented by its chair, Danielle Somer Kieta, who noted that the meeting was a brief one and touched on two big topics in the JP community, the Arborway Yard and the White Stadium proposal.

She noted that there was a question among her committee members as to which of the JPNC's committees should take on the White Stadium matter. However, the full JPNC took no action regarding assigning the issue to a committee.

Nicholas Chaves, the co-chair of the Parks Committee, noted that White Stadium is a large project that may require more involvement than what a single committee can provide.

He noted that the Franklin Park Coalition conducted a survey of residents regarding the plans for White Stadium and said he is hoping that city officials will make a presentation to the Parks Committee about the exact scope of the project. He also added that city officials are planning to conduct a series of informational meetings in the coming month. The city is proposing to have the stadium become the home field for the new professional women's soccer team that will be coming to

Boston in 2026.

Carolyn Royce voiced support for the notion that the JPNC should become involved with the White Stadium proposal (as well as the re-use of the Shattuck Hospital), at least to the extent of providing information sessions to the JP community.

Gert Thorn suggested that the city is not providing the full scope of the project to residents, and that his fellow council members should be aware of what the city is doing, which he referred to as "segmentation" in order to win approval from residents in piecemeal fashion, which he said is "unethical."

Reiskind expressed the hope that the Shattuck and White Stadium issues do not divide the various communities and neighborhoods in the area, which he said include JP, Dorchester, Mattapan, and Roxbury.

"This is a shared park among multiple neighborhoods and everyone has an equal say," said Reiskind. "Let's not have neighborhood against neighborhood and see if we can come up with a shared consensus."

Doherty said White Stadium impacts JP greatly and that the stadium -- where he ran track meets 50 years ago in high school -- has been ignored for many years. "This is public land and people need to understand that this is a commercial operation," said Doherty. "The reality is that we in JP will be greatly affected by this proposal and it is our job to make sure we get the word out to make sure residents understand what the impacts could be. We can't rush it, but this is what is happening with White Stadium, which is being pushed and pushed on us by the city. And Shattuck will have an even greater impact."

Resident Michael Epp said the city is being deceptive in its

approach to informing the community of the project and that the lack of community input is "not democratic. Women's soccer should be in a fabulous stadium with access to public transportation," he said.

Carla-Lisa Caliga echoed that sentiment, saying that B.U.'s Nickerson Field is a much better place for a women's soccer team.

In other Parks Committee-related matters, Chaves said that the annual Muddy River Clean-Up day is scheduled for Saturday, April 20. Chaves said he reserved a time frame from 10-12 AM for the clean-up of Olmstead Park and is seeking volunteers to participate in the event.

Thorn asked Chaves to have the Parks Comm. become more involved with adding signage to the walkway around Jamaica Pond to make it clear that bicyclists are not permitted. Thorn noted that yet another person on foot was struck by a bicycle this past week.

Royce said the Arborway Yard subcommittee of the Housing and Development Committee recently met and requested that the full council approve the appointment of the members of the subcommittee and the inclusion on the JPNC's website of a description of what the committee does. After some back and forth among the JPNC members, the full council voted in favor of both of Royce's requests.

Under the new business portion of the meeting, Epp said he opposed the proposal to turn the Shattuck into the "largest drug rehab facility in the country." He also suggested that the city should have a more democratic approach to imposing speed humps on streets in JP.

The next meeting of the council is scheduled for April 23.

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Bussey Street

Continued from page 1

cannot be living,” and “The proposed name cannot be identical to any other street name in the entire city, regardless of suffix (e.g., St., Ave.) that includes non-persons, as well (e.g., Oak or Walnut Street).”

Eventually, names were proposed, and a list that at one point had 20 names has since been whittled down to five finalists. “All met the first and most important criterion of having a direct association with the Arboretum land,” reads the document.

The finalist names include Cuffe, Dick Welsh, Flora, Margaret Fuller, and Shiu-Ying Hu.

To learn more about each finalist, visit <https://jpcen-tresouth.com/2024/03/13/bussey-street-renaming-initiative-2/>, which contains a document with biographies of each.

For those looking to provide feedback on the names, visit <https://forms.gle/SEmXpXf-WDYvWJ1j17>. The deadline to submit comments is April 27th at 11:59 p.m.

Regarding the next steps in this process, the document indicates that the community input will be shared with the Arboretum and the Parks Department, the abutters of Bussey Street, who would then petition for the street renaming.

The document reads, “The Arboretum and the city Parks Department, who will consider the advice provided by the com-

munity and will consult with the city councilors in choosing the new street name to submit to the Public Improvement Commission.”

“The Commission will hold its own hearing on the petition to help guide its own decision-making process.”

Dedication

Continued from page 2

de la posibilidad—that lays before each student. As they move forward in their time at the academy, they will use this space to access the knowledge to imagine and create their futures, whether in education, careers, or civic leadership,” said Dr. Calderón-Rosado. “I urge our supporters, corporate and community partners to continue to advocate for a holistic educational approach that validates and celebrates each student’s full

identity.”

This event not only marks a new chapter for the academy, Boston Public Schools’ first dual language high school, but also pays tribute to the dedication and contributions of Dr. Calderón-Rosado to Boston’s Latino community. Together, the academy and Dr. Calderón-Rosado demonstrate the power and possibility of fostering access to education for all individuals.

In her remarks at the library’s dedication, Dr. Calderón-Rosado said, “In this day and age, libraries are more important than ever! Just last week, the American Library Association

reported that more books were banned in US school libraries in 2023 than ever before. Libraries have become a battleground for fighting against censorship and exclusion. It’s my hope that the Vanessa Calderón-Rosado Library will stand against censorship, and that it will stay true to the important role that libraries play in our lives, in particular in the lives and education of our students in promoting the pursuit of knowledge and a quest for life-long learning.”

Margarita Muñoz Academy is located at 20 Child Street in Jamaica Plain.

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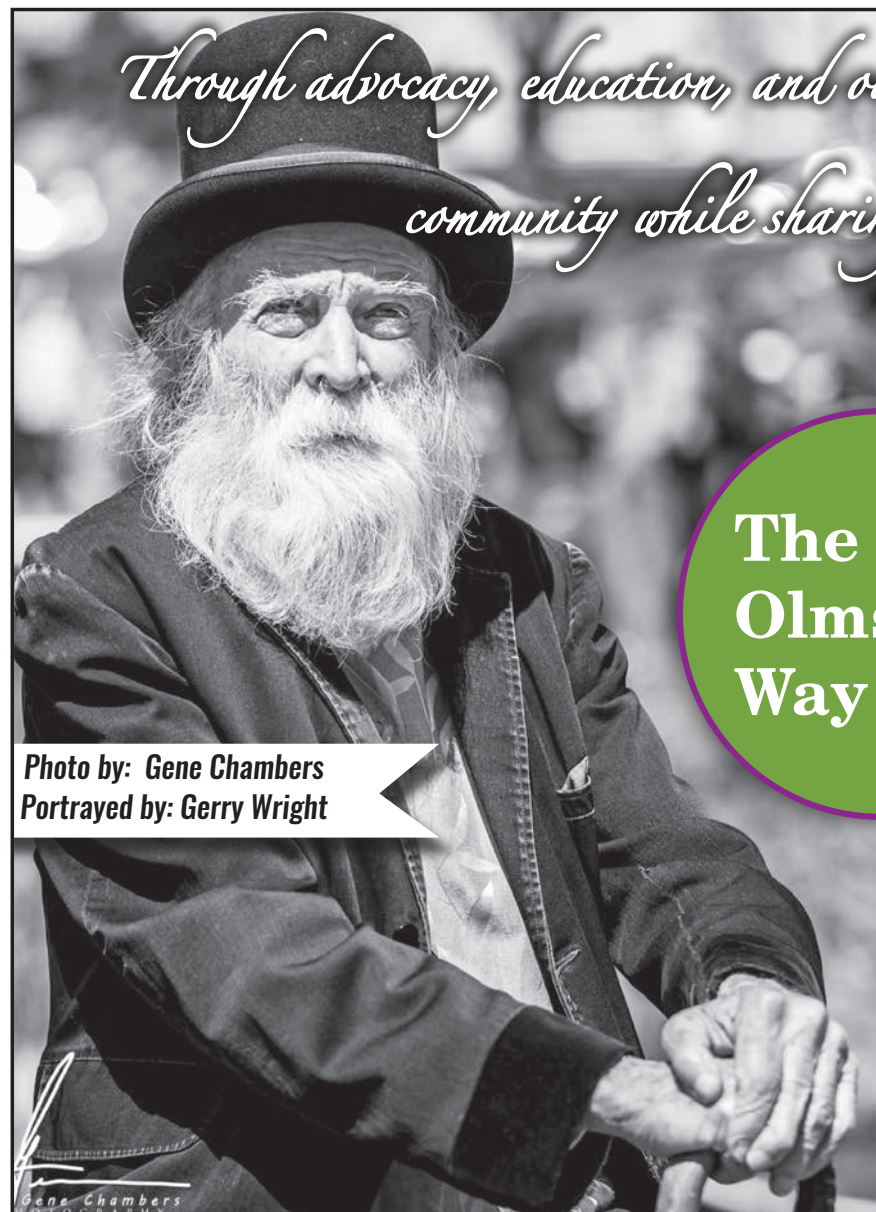


Photo by: Gene Chambers
Portrayed by: Gerry Wright

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Community activities to begin at Noon!

JP OBSERVER

Local people asked to help choose new name for city street in Arboretum

By SANDRA STOREY / SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

In a “Call for Community Input” (CCI), people connected to Jamaica Plain and Roslindale are being asked this spring to consider five possible new, historic local peoples’ names for the city street that bisects the Arboretum. Responses are due by Sat., April 27.

“Bussey Street is named after Benjamin Bussey, whose legacy, like many of his peers, was complicated by some of his wealth deriving from the profits of trade in products produced by enslaved people in the American South and the Caribbean,” according to the 9-page CCI information packet issued by the Bussey Street Renaming Initiative (BSRI) at the beginning of the community renaming input period on March 11.

That CCI information, including an appendix of biographies of name nominees, accompanies the unput form people are asked to fill out to express their preferences.

No one involved is suggesting that the names of Bussey Hill, Bussey Brook and Bussey Brook

Meadow on the Arboretum landscape be changed.

According to CCI organizers, 472 people had already responded to the call for input—having read the CCI, rated the nominees, and submitted a filled-out form—as of mid-afternoon on April 7.

This is a fabulous opportunity for local people to affect local history positively and in the present, thanks to some committed, hardworking community volunteers and officials.

The working group of the BSRI has purposely created “the rare opportunity to rename a street and honor a new individual whose meaningful story deserves recognition,” according to the CCI.

Community groups in JP and Roslindale, with the two District City Councilors, put the working group together in June 2023 “to lead the effort to “recognize, elevate and honor a new individual whose story will be meaningful and in concert with current community values.”

The working group is composed of community residents,

the councilors and representatives of local organizations.

JP Centre/South Main Streets and the Jamaica Plain Historical Society, District City Councilors (since January) Enrique Pepén and Ben Weber, and Roslindale residents Steve Gag and Jerry Mogul, are just some of the groups and individuals listed in the CCI as members and affiliated organizations.

The working group is composed of “dedicated and passionate community stakeholders who have taken great care to include the community as much as possible,” Centre/South Main Streets Director Ginger Brown said in an email.

“They are committed to recognizing the under-recognized, the unnamed, the unknown, because these stories, too, are a part of our community and need to be heard. JP Centre/South Main Streets is proud to be a part of this endeavor.”

The two criteria for any new City street names set by the City of Boston Public Improvement Commission (PIC)—the body that oversees street renaming—were given the most weight by

the working group: If the proposed name is for a person, the person can’t be living. The proposed name cannot be identical to any other street name in the City of Boston either.

The BSRI working group developed further criteria, including the one it gave the most weight: that the nominee has a direct connection to the land at Arnold Arboretum.

Other BSRI qualities required of nominees included: having a story “meaningful and consistent with present day values (e.g. equal rights, inclusion);” being from an “under-represented community historically and/or currently”; having “achieved something of value that had a positive impact on society.” The group is giving a lower priority to people whose names are currently recognized in other Boston places.

Five finalists were chosen from 20 suggestions submitted by the community, and their names appear on the input form with brief biographies:

Cuffe - An 18th century Black man, married with five children, enslaved by Rev. Nathaniel Walter, minister of the Second Parish Church of Roxbury, on what became Arboretum grounds.

Dick Welsh - Born into slavery on what became Arboretum land, sold at age 5 to the Greenough family as an indentured servant (when slavery was abolished in MA), and escaped at age 19, two years prior to the end of his indenture.

Flora - An 18th century older Black woman enslaved by Col. William Dudley on a farm near the land that became the Arboretum across Walter Street.

Margaret Fuller - A pre-eminent 19th century feminist, Transcendentalist, writer, journalist, reformer and activist who frequented what became Hemlock Hill in the Arboretum when she lived in Jamaica Plain.

Shiu-ying Hu - A 20th century internationally-recognized botanist, scholar, writer and teacher in both China and the U.S. who was instrumental in founding the Flora of China project at the Arnold Arboretum, where she was an Emeritus Senior Research Fellow.

Longer biographies are in an appendix that’s part of the CCI information provided with every

input form.

People who are used to quickly selecting one name from a list when they color in circles need to pay more attention in this process. People are being asked to express their preferences by rating all five nominees, each from 0 to 4. Two nominees might actually be given the same number in this system, for example.

People can easily access the CCI materials and the input form to fill out and return by April 27 in one of four ways:

1) Email renamebussey-street@gmail.com to get the CCI materials and input form to submit.

2) Access the CCI materials and input form and respond at <https://jpcentsouth.com/2024/03/13/bussey-street-renaming-initiative-2/>

3) Visit Curtis Hall or the Connolly Branch of the Boston Public Library and ask for the CCI materials and input form. After people fill it out by hand, they give it to a staff person. In Roslindale people can express themselves at the Roslindale Library branch, Roslindale Community Center or the Menino/Archdale Community Center.

4) Find the materials and input form and respond through a newsletter received from a local organization they may belong to.

The input form asks for people responding to give an email address, a ZIP Code, and any affiliation they might have with a local group to show that they are from the two neighborhoods and/or connected to a local organization.

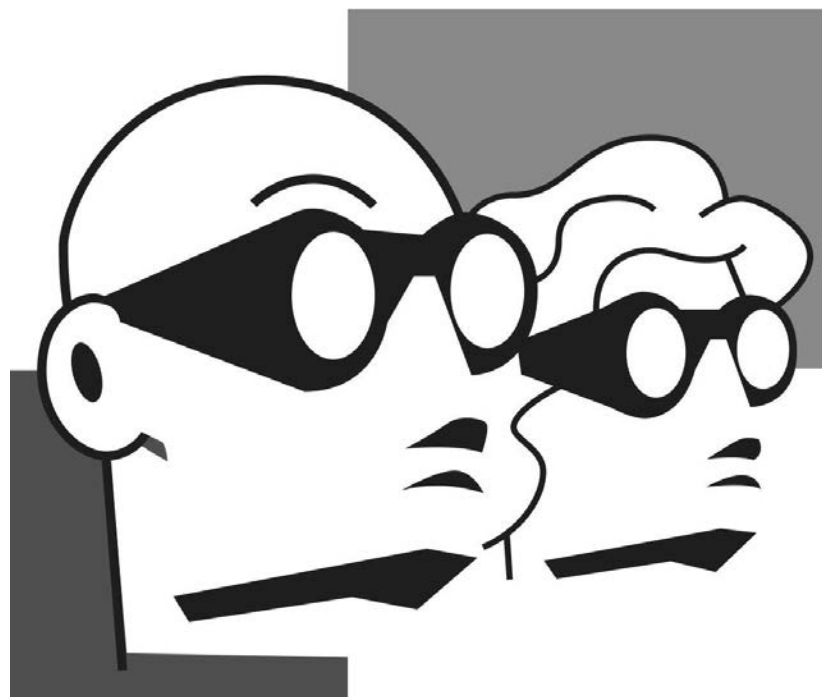
The process of renaming a Boston street is usually more difficult than it is in this case, because all the abutters to a street are required to sign a petition making the change request.

“As the only abutters, the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University and the City of Boston Parks and Recreation Department are eager to consider the community input so they can file the petition to the City of Boston to request the name change,” the CCI material says.

“The Arnold Arboretum has been supportive of interest in changing the name of Bussey Street since the idea was first raised by the community over a

Continued on page 5

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Love Your Block Neighborhood cleanups scheduled for April

Love Your Block is a Citywide community service event that invites community members to lead in hosting a neighborhood cleanup or joining a cleanup as an individual volunteer. Love Your Block neighborhood beautification projects include cleaning up trash on sidewalks and streets, park revitalization, and flower planting. The Love Your Block application is open for volunteers to sign up to become a host or join a neighborhood cleanup here. OCO will connect individuals with a cleanup site in their neighborhood once all sites are finalized.

“Love your Block cleanups are a perfect way to enjoy the upcom-

ing spring weather while helping your local community look vibrant and clean,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “The City is proud to help supply the tools to host group cleanups and assist individuals in finding a Love Your Block volunteer opportunity near them.”

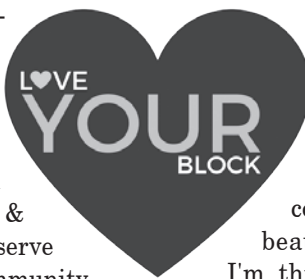
Cleanups will take place in every neighborhood of Boston over the course of three weekends.

The dates are as follows:

Saturday, April 27: Roxbury, Mid-Dorchester, Dorchester, Hyde Park, Mattapan, Roslindale, Jamaica Plain

The Love Your Block program was first created in 2015 with

a three-year grant awarded to the City of Boston by Cities of Service. After the grant's expiration in 2018, Love Your Block became a permanent City program under the Mayor's Office of Civic Organizing (within the Community Engagement Cabinet). This year, OCO will partner with Boston Public Library and Boston Centers for Youth & Families who will serve as host sites for community members to pick up and drop off cleanup tools. All sites are listed on the Love Your Block sign up form. Tool collection is scheduled from 9:00 -10:00 a.m., with



returns to the same location between 12 - 2 p.m.

“Having served as East Boston's liaison, I've seen the transformative power of this initiative firsthand,” said Director of Civic Organizing Nathalia Benitez-Perez. “Love Your Block empowers residents to take charge of their community's well-being through collective action and beautification efforts.

I'm thrilled to carry forward this tradition of fostering empowerment and unity.”

In past Love Your Block cleanups, neighborhood groups have picked up litter from streets

and sidewalks, beautified local parks, cleaned up vacant lots, urban wilds, and more. For tips on how to plan and host a cleanup in your neighborhood, OCO has created a helpful guide.

“In 2022, fourteen volunteers from Prospect Hill and Mt. Hope neighborhoods of Roslindale turned out to clean up the pedestrian walkways of the Blakemore Street Bridge,” said Friends of Blakemore Bridge Co-Founder Meri Bond. “By the end of the day not only had they removed the leaves, litter, bottles and nips that had been accumulating along the Bridge for years, they had enjoyed meeting one another and working together for a common purpose.”

Observer

Continued from page 4

year ago,” an Arboretum spokesperson said in an April 4 statement.

In a truly cooperative process, after April 27, the BSRI working group will compile and analyze the responses from the community and share that information with the Arboretum and the Boston Parks Department. The two abutters will consider the advice provided by the community and consult the city councilors to choose a name to submit to PIC. PIC will hold a public hearing before it makes a decision.

“From the outset, we expressed the determination to allow the process to be driven by community stakeholders and to review their feedback before making any commitment to pursuing a name change,” the Arboretum statement says.

Working group member Mogul said in a recent interview he

got interested in the topic of local history around slavery after he read the report of the Presidential Committee on Harvard and the Legacy of Slavery that came out in 2022. After learning about Bussey Street, he said he saw “an opportunity to elevate another name” that “better reflects present-day values.”

The BSRI working group has pledged to stay involved past the renaming. “Long term, we are committed to working with the Arboretum and the Parks Department to provide ongoing community education about the new person who the street will be named after,” the CCI says.

Gag, who has been very active in the BSRI since the beginning, said in an interview last week that he is looking forward to doing the ongoing community education after the street is renamed. “This has been a great project for me,” he said. “It's about learning and sharing history with family and friends.”

Benjamin Bussey “was a Revolutionary War veteran and wealthy nineteenth- cen-

tury merchant who bequeathed funds and the lands he owned in Jamaica Plain to Harvard University,” according to the CCI materials. “That land would become the Bussey Institute, a school of agriculture, and the Arnold Arboretum with the funding from James Arnold to create the Arboretum. Bussey was a philanthropist to numerous

organizations and a prominent member of Boston's upper class.”

The working group “made an effort not to demonize him,” Mogul said. “We don't want to portray him as evil. He was not personally involved in slavery itself, he pointed out.

“His name will remain visible and remembered through Bussey Hill, Bussey Brook and

Bussey Brook Meadow on the Arboretum grounds,” the BSRI working group said. An Arboretum spokesperson confirmed that last week.

The BSRI held a community meeting on April 11 (after the Gazette went to press) for people interested in learning more about the project and the community input process.

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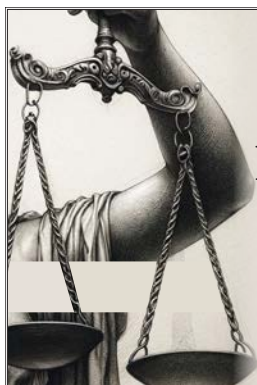


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SQUASHBUSTERS 5K RACE AROUND JAMAICA POND

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS

SquashBusters is an organization that provides a haven for students to connect, do their homework, learn about healthy

living, and more. 35 high school students in SquashBusters organized this 5k run around Jamaica Pond to help raise awareness for healthy living and raise funds for their group.



Runners Alisha Contreras, Myra Muyonjo, and Zaria Long.



Runners Michelle with Elvis relax a moment after completing their 5k.



Jayden Ferreras helps customers buy his homemade cookies to help raise funds for SquashBusters.



Jayden Ferreras with his homemade cookies for sale.



Simon Andrade with his trophy for 2nd Place under 18.



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SQUASHBUSTERS 5K RACE AROUND JAMAICA POND



Kaliyah Ghany gets a post-run congratulations hug from her friend Greg.



Mike and Kayla Shannon.



Shayan Olumi with his 2nd place trophy for runners 18-39.



After completing the 5k together, the Toruno Family waits in line for some refreshments.



H Garcia, Tayrah Sineus, and Amonii Mendes.



Karleen Porcena and her niece and nephews on hand to cheer her on with Organizers Elena Sicairos and Lindsay Thornquist.



Minerva Toribio, Miranda Castillo and Melvin Vargas.



Nku Patrick holding Myra M.

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City hosts workshop on White Stadium Transportation

By MICHAEL COUGHLIN JR.

On Wednesday evening, more than 100 people attended a virtual

meeting concerning a transportation plan specific to Jamaica Plain related to the proposed revitalization of White Stadium.

The city's website describes White Stadium, which was constructed in 1945, as being "in a state of disrepair and in desperate

need of revitalization."

Now, through a partnership between the city and Boston Unity Soccer Partners (BUSP), the stadium is proposed to be renovated and would eventually become home to a National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) team.

As previously indicated, Wednesday's meeting focused on transportation. Anshi Moreno, a member of Mayor Michelle Wu's policy team, outlined how the plan presented was put together and what it seeks to address.

Moreno explained that a request for proposals (RFP) was previously released, seeking a preliminary transportation plan. BUSP supplied a plan in July, and subsequent meetings in September and October were held to gather feedback.

"We got some great feedback and are incorporating that into the plan you'll see today, and we have been working together with Boston Unity Soccer and our inner city departments to refine it," said Moreno.

She also detailed what the plan is looking to address: mitigating traffic congestion during NWSL game days and improving the transportation challenges associated with existing larger events at the stadium.

Additionally, Moreno outlined

the tools used to enhance the plan, which included using feedback from the aforementioned meetings, looking at the Franklin Park Action Plan and other City Transportation initiatives in the area, looking at a traffic management analysis, and finally reviewing city enforcement tools and new staff commitments from the city and BUSP.

Through the tools mentioned above, transportation goals during game days were created, including aspects such as improving pedestrian safety at park entrances, encouraging sustainable transportation choices, and more.

It should be noted that Moreno indicated that the plan shown during the meeting was for game days that could be "applied to other large events and then to be customized for medium and small events as it best fits."

Following Moreno's outline of how the current iteration of the plan was developed, Brian Beisel, BUSP's Transportation Consultant, and others walked through the multi-modal plan.

First, Beisel reviewed how spectators will get to Franklin Park on game day. These modes included public transportation, parking off-site and shuttling, ride-sharing, biking, and walking.

"A big component of this project is that there is no spectator parking onsite," said Beisel.

As part of the plan, people are encouraged to use public transportation and walk or take BUSP-provided shuttles from stops.

"We really feel a large percentage of people that take public transportation will actually just walk from Green Street or Stony Brook, which are both about 0.7 miles from the stadium," said Beisel.

Continued on page 9

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Gazette Pet of the Week

by Sarah Carroll



BRAD

Brad is an adorable pup who loves the company of his favorite people (but not everyone is his favorite!) He enjoys being carried around and cuddling on the couch. He's fine around other dogs for walks but doesn't like to share a home. Brad is about 2 years old and weighs 17 lbs.

"Gazette Pet of the Week" is sponsored by

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Wenham Street Cinema welcomes back fans with Boston Marathon watch party

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

The Wenham Street Cinema is thrilled to announce the commencement of its 2024 season with an exciting inaugural event: The Boston Marathon Watch Party.

Scheduled to begin at 9:00 am on race day, all cinema enthusiasts and marathon fans are invited to join at 23 Wenham St, Jamaica Plain, and watch the first runners set off at 9:37 am. The viewing will continue until approximately 10:40 am, after

which many attendees will make their way to the marathon route to cheer the athletes in person.

To enhance the celebration, the organizers kindly ask attendees to bring a dish or beverage to share, if possible, and to bring their own chair for seating.

Stay tuned for details on the rest of the Wenham Street Cinema this season, and check out the schedule below. The Jamaica Plain Gazette will publish the extended schedule as the year goes on, so be sure not to miss it!



Runners in the womens' division seen taking off at the start of the 2023 Boston Marathon.

Wenham Street Cinema 2024 Season Schedule

Wenham Street Cinema builds community through free film screenings, concerts, and other events. If you are able, please bring your own chair, and help contribute to the sense of community by bringing food or drink to share. If you'd like to get on the email list please send an email to matt.shuman@gmail.com. Thank you!

	Event	Date & Time	Movie Description	Speaker and Theme
1	Boston Marathon Watch Party	Monday, 4/15 9:00am to 10:45	This is a breakfast potluck and has a hard stop at 10:45am so we can bike over to the Marathon. Please bring food or drink to share if you are able.	
2	<i>Honey I Shrunk the Kids</i> (93 minutes)	Early May	When kids sneak into inventor Wayne Szalinski's upstairs lab to retrieve an errant baseball, his experimental shrink ray miniaturizes them. When Szalinski returns home, he destroys the device -- which he thinks is a failure -- and dumps it in the trash, throwing out the kids along with it. The four children, now 1/4-inch tall, must survive the journey back to the house.	Kids' Screening
3	<i>Barbie</i> (114 min)	Mid May	The pre-movie lecture will be given by Margaret H. Wilson, a culture writer, podcaster, and -- most important of all-- a J.P. native since 1985. You may know her from her work with NPR's Pop Culture Happy Hour, her newsletter Two Bossy Dames, or her trips and courses through Not Sorry Productions. To introduce this screening of Barbie, she's going to speak on hyperfemininity as a rebellious act.	Friend of the Cinema, Margaret H. Wilson
4	<i>American Fiction</i> (117 min)	June 15th or 22nd (probably)	Monk is a frustrated novelist who's fed up with the establishment that profits from Black entertainment that relies on tired and offensive tropes. To prove his point, he uses a pen name to write an outlandish Black book of his own, a book that propels him to the heart of hypocrisy and the madness he claims to disdain.	WSC's Director of Film Analysis, Josh Ramos

Workshop

Continued from page 8

The presentation compared the distance mentioned above to the distance between the outer parking lots in Foxboro and Gillette Stadium.

"People going to events like this are used to and fully aware and willing to walk from this distance," said Beisel.

In addition to encouraging the use of public transit, the plan looks to support pedestrians and cyclists. "After we've encouraged people to take public transportation, how do we then get them from the orange line, in this case,

to the stadium," said Beisel.

Specifically, the presentation noted traffic calming measures on School and Boylston Streets and Glen Road, an improved bike connection through the Egleston Square redesign, and the repaving of School Street between Washington Street and Walnut Avenue.

Additionally, as part of cyclist support, there are plans to have around 1,000 bike parking spaces during events, including private and blue bike valets.

Moreover, the transportation plan is slated to contain satellite parking, which is purposely placed away from the stadium, where people will then be shut-

tled to the stadium.

Shuttling from the satellite parking areas and public transportation stations was also detailed. Specifically, southern shuttle loops are proposed to serve the southwest and east satellite parking areas along with the Forest Hills and Red Line MBTA stations. Further, the shuttles on Circuit Drive would turn around in the Valley Gates lot.

Northern shuttle loops are slated to serve the northwest and northeast satellite parking areas and the Jackson Square MBTA stations. The shuttles would turn

Continued on page 10



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Workshop

Continued from page 9

around at the Walnut entrance.

The plan also includes traffic operations management through the use of traffic operations managers and traffic ambassadors. Beisel mentioned these operations managers would be in areas such as Walnut Avenue and School Street and at Seaver Street, Columbus, and Walnut Avenue.

Regarding rideshare and carpooling, those folks would be sent to a drop-off and pick-up lot at the intersection of Humboldt Avenue and Seaver Street.

Beisel then walked through strategies that could be scaled up or down to ensure safety and minimal congestion regarding transportation aspects such as rideshare and carpooling, ranging from variable message boards to physical barricades.

Finally, Boston Transportation Department (BTD) Commissioner Nick Gove walked through the process of preserving neighborhood parking and mobility for the neighborhood and visitors to the park.

For example, plans are underway to institute a game day parking program for residents and visitors in the White Stadium walk area. The streets in this proposed walk area

can be viewed at <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1M-RffWU9yHIhd3OfgQloeg92f-3G9EEiO7MuTuAHYCIKA/edit#gid=0>.

As part of the program, residents with a parking sticker would be allowed to park on the streets, which would normally not allow parking on game days. Moreover, residents could get a placard for visitors — the current proposal is one per household.

Gove also detailed enforcement, which included a \$100 fine for parking violations during game day, tow zone signs, and a dedicated BTD enforcement shift on game days.

Concerning parking for those

not attending a game and just visiting the park, soccer spectators will not be allowed to park in the Franklin Park lots. Enforcement is slated to be through park rangers and Boston Police, with support from traffic ambassadors.

“We’re committed to retaining parking for the key destinations such as the zoo, the golf course, the Shattuck picnic area, tennis courts,” said Gove.

It should be noted that parking restrictions are proposed to start four hours before a game begins and end one hour after a game.

Following the presentation, those in attendance were given the opportunity to ask questions

and provide comments.

For those interested in learning more about the transportation plan, hearing residents’ comments, and more, visit <https://www.boston.gov/education/white-stadium>, which has previous meeting materials.

However, it should be noted that it is unclear when the materials and recording from Wednesday’s meeting will be published.

Regarding the next steps, Dion Irish, the city’s Chief of Operations, indicated that feedback will be incorporated into the plan, and a new iteration will be presented at an impact advisory group meeting on May 15th.

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate And Family Court 24 New Chardon St. Boston, MA 02114 (617)788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU21P2285EA Estate of: Aida Lopez Date of Death: 05/31/2020 To all interested persons:

A Petition for S/A - Formal Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Aida Leon of Los Angeles, CA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Aida Leon of Los Angeles, CA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration. IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/02/2024. This is NOT a hearing

date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you. UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: March 27, 2024 Stephanie L. Everett, Esq. Register of Probate

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Division 24 New Chardon St.

Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU24P0668EA Estate of: Mary Terrell Naumes Also Known As: Mary Isabelle Naumes Date of Death: 12/28/2023 To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Robert T. Naumes of North Falmouth, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Robert T. Naumes of North Falmouth, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration. IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/06/2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely

written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty days (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you. UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court. Date: March 25, 2024 Stephanie L. Everett, Esq. Register of Probate

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. SU24P0603EA Estate of: Amiel Gershon Cooper Also known as: Amiel G. Cooper, M.D. Date of Death: 01/31/2024 To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Lori H. Adcock of Jamaica Plain, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Lori H. Adcock of Jamaica Plain, 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 04/22/2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty days (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

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A release of oil and/or hazardous materials has occurred at this location, which is a disposal site as defined by M.G.L.c. 21E §2 and the Massachusetts Contingency Plan, 310 CMR 40.0000. On March 13, 2024 V & S Trust recorded with the Suffolk County Registry of Deeds a Notice of Ac-

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be viewed at MassDEP website using Release Tracking Numbers 3-37701 & 3-37810 at <https://eeonline.eea.state.ma.us/portal#!/search/wastesite/results?RTN=3-0037701> or at MassDEP Northeast Regional Office, 205B Lowell Street, Wilmington, MA 01887, 978-694-3200. 4/12/24 JP

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate And Family Court Boston, MA 02114 CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION TO EXPAND THE POWERS OF A GUARDIAN Docket No. SU17P0445GD In the Interests of: Wilson Roldan Of:Jamaica Plain, MA RESPONDENT Incapacitated Person/ Protected Person To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Department of Development Service of Boston, MA in the above captioned matter requesting that the court: Expand the powers of a Guardian The petition asks the court to make a determination that the powers of the Guardian and/or Conservator should be expanded, modified,

or limited since the time of the appointment. The original petition is on file with the 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 04/23/2024. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date. IMPORTANT NOTICE The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense. WITNESS, Hon. Katherine A. Field, First Justice of this Court. Date: March 25, 2024 Thomas C. Hoye, Jr. Register of Probate

or limited since the time of the appointment. The original petition is on file with the 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 04/23/2024. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date. IMPORTANT NOTICE The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense. WITNESS, Hon. Katherine A. Field, First Justice of this Court. Date: March 25, 2024 Thomas C. Hoye, Jr. Register of Probate

J.P. Licks celebrates 25 years of coffee with an all-new birthday cake ice cream

J.P. Licks, Boston's favorite ice cream shop is excited to announce its 25th anniversary year of roasting coffee. Fair Trade and Organic Certified coffee have been freshly micro-roasted from the Jamaica Plains headquarters since 1999, and J.P. Licks will be commemorating the milestone with the perfect celebratory new ice cream flavor, Birthday Cake Ice Cream. The new flavor, sweet ice cream with pieces of yellow cake, rainbow sprinkles, and a buttercream frosting ripple, is available now in all 17 J.P. Licks store locations.



The inaugural Birthday Cake flavored ice cream for the local chain's 25th anniversary is now available.

"Everyone knows us for our ice cream, but over the last 25 years we also have been roasting our own coffee," says J.P. Licks founder and owner Vincent Petryk. "We roast down the middle . . . dark enough for a hearty brew but not so dark that every bean tastes burnt. And honestly, what is a better pairing than to celebrate with our latest and greatest flavor, Birthday Cake Ice Cream. My son has been asking for a birthday cake flavor for years and helped to inspire the sweet and buttery flavor. If you think about it, birthday cake is almost always accompanied by ice cream so it's really a no brainer, here at J.P. Licks your birthday cake is now served with a spoon!"

trade, and organic certified coffee is available by the cup or pound, whole bean or ground, at all locations. Coffee is roasted in a Dedrick 25 lb. roaster, producing about 20 different types of coffee, both single origin and blends. J.P. Licks has a few direct buyer relationships with farms, including farms in Guatemala and Nicaragua. These farms help the community earn fairer wages and build schools, houses, and other things needed to sustain their communities. The team at J.P. Licks has vis-

ited some of these communities, including the family owned farm, El Recreo Estate Farm, in Jinotega, Nicaragua.

J.P. Licks also recently announced the addition of Dr. Aisha Densmore-Bey, the new visiting artist at the Coolidge Corner store. The ice cream shop has been showcasing local artists in-store for over 20 years. Artists display their work at J.P. Licks for a minimum of three months and their artwork is often available for purchase— J.P. Licks does not take any commissions on any artwork sales. J.P. Licks seeks artists local to each store's neighborhood via arts councils, alumni groups, artist studio spaces, and word of mouth. The full list of artists currently showing at J.P. Licks can be found here, along with a list of every artist who has shown since the beginning of 2019.

Dr. Densmore-Bey received her Doctorate of Design from the Harvard Graduate School of Design and teaches design at various colleges in Massachusetts and runs a creative office specializing in architecture, interiors, graphic design, design strategy, film, and art. She is the founder and past chair of the Museum and Exhibit Design Committee at the Boston Society of Architects, the creator of Future Prep 101™, a two time recipient of

the BSA Foundation grant. Aisha also wrote and illustrated the children's book "Who Made My Stuff?" which is included in the National Museum of African American History and Culture, part of the Smithsonian Institution. The artwork Aisha has on

display at J.P. Licks is acrylic paint on canvas, incorporating portraiture, lighting, and dessert.

Please join J.P. Licks on May 14, at 6 p.m. ET at a reception at the Coolidge Corner

Continued on page 13


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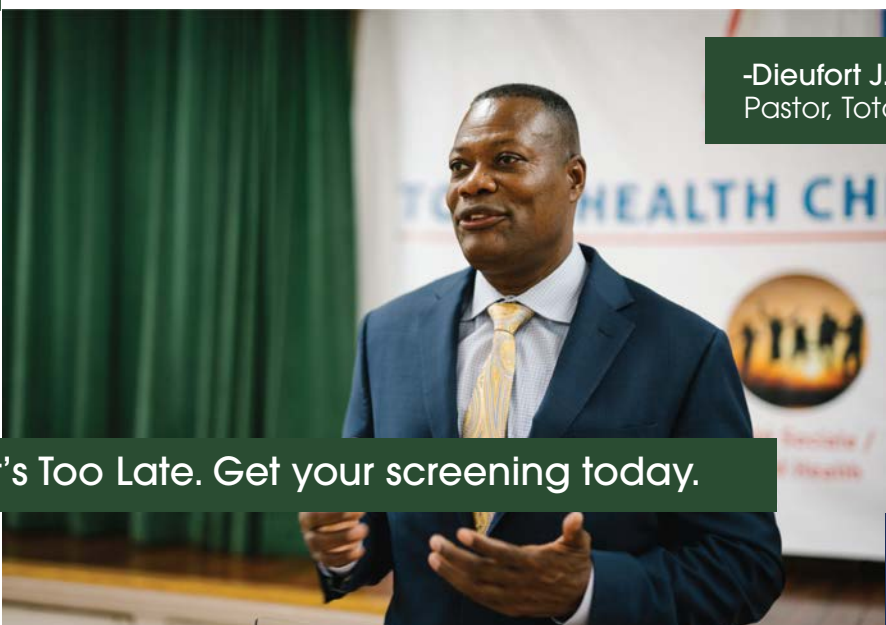
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J.P. Licks

Continued from page 11

store located at 311 Harvard Street in Brookline to celebrate Dr. Densmore-Bey's art and 25 years of coffee roasting. Dr. Densmore-Bey plans to hold an

Instagram contest around coordinating her paintings and ice cream flavors into t-shirt designs. @aishabdesigner <https://lnk.bio/aishadbdesigner>

Locally owned and operated by Vincent Petryk, J.P. Licks now boasts 17 store locations through-out Massachusetts and has remained homemade and

locally owned and operated. The company employs up to 453 employees in the summer months and ships coffee (which is roasted in-house at the Jamaica Plain store) and merchandise anywhere in the continental USA. All ice cream and ice cream cakes are made in house in the Jamaica Plain headquarters.

Since opening its doors, J.P. Licks has been committed to supporting each store's community by donating in-kind donations to small, local organizations.

J.P. Licks has won many awards over the years for their intensely flavored homemade ice cream and frozen yogurt, most recently Best of Boston

2021 from Boston Magazine. J.P. Licks has received over 300 "Best of" awards over the last 40 years. Known for their high quality, scrumptious treats J.P. Licks was named Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce's 2006 "Small Business of the Year".

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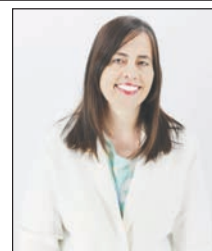
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EDITORIAL

A Freaky Friday.....

Did you feel the earthquake Friday morning?

We were sitting in our recliner in our home when the whole house started shaking and the chair started moving rapidly back and forth. We live on the coast, so at first we thought it might be a change of direction or increase in the velocity of the wind, which can cause our house to creak and the windows to rattle a bit.

But we saw no change in the ripples on the water, so we then thought that perhaps a big truck was on the roadway. But there was no truck. Those two thoughts came in rapid succession within about five seconds, so as the shaking of our chair continued, our next, panicked thought was, "It's an earthquake!"

Five seconds later -- about 10 seconds in total -- the shaking and rattling stopped.

We immediately looked out our windows to see if the water was receding from the shoreline, thinking that if it were an off-shore quake, under the ocean, there might be a tsunami. (Of course, there wasn't.)

We then went on the internet to search for "Boston earthquake," and there were a bunch of posts on X and other social media confirming that there had indeed been an earthquake.

The earthquake's center was in New Jersey, where the seismographic recording was a 4.8. The effect in our area was considerably less.

Although there was no damage reported from the quake (even at its epicenter in New Jersey), we have to admit we were shaken to our core. Our otherwise calm Friday morning had been upended by the most random event we could have imagined -- an earthquake. It made us realize how fragile our existence is and how at a moment's notice, our world can be upended.

It also made us empathize with those who are the victims of a major earthquake and for a few seconds, we understood the sheer terror that one feels amidst an event such as that.

We realize that some might say, "It is what it is," but we have a better one: "Everything is good.... until it isn't."

.....and a Manic Monday

We had not intended to view the eclipse, so despite the hype, we had not purchased special eclipse eyewear. We figured we'd focus on what was happening around us -- the birds and other animals, the shadows, the suddenly-cooler air -- rather than on the interplay between the moon and the sun.

But a neighbor drove up as we were standing outside our home and mentioned that he had an extra pair of eclipse eyewear, which he offered to us. So we took it and got a chance to view the eclipse safely -- and we are so glad we did.

Watching that black moon disc slide over the glowing sun (to about 92% of totality here in the Boston area) was indeed a spectacle that was jaw-dropping. Although the news was filled with reports of traffic jams and millions of people traveling to watch the event in places where the eclipse was 100%, viewing the actual eclipse itself brought about a sense of calm and serenity that we can't describe. It was as if our brains were hypnotized in some way by a celestial, supernatural event.

All of us take the sun and the moon for granted each and every day. But Monday's eclipse created a sense of wonderment that never will be forgotten by those who viewed it.

State budget woes: Here we go again

With state revenue falling off a cliff and almost \$1 billion being spent (on an annualized basis) to house, feed, and care for immigrants who have made their way to Massachusetts from the southern border (and with no end in sight), the outlook is bleak for our state's finances.

Gov. Maura Healy last week announced a hiring freeze for state employees. In addition, the governor's \$58 billion budget proposal's allocation for local aid, particularly for education assistance, is falling far short of the needs of many cities and towns who are dealing with the influx of new migrant students.

For those of us who have been around for a while, we are well-familiar with the ups and downs of the state budget cycle. The down cycles seem to hit their trough every 12 years or so. The last downturn occurred during the Great Recession of 2008-09, but the state avoided a down-cycle during the pandemic thanks to the massive federal spending that occurred during COVID and its aftermath.

However, the unrestricted COVID funding stream has run dry and state budgets now have to deal with the new reality of less aid from the federal government amidst a time of falling revenue and increased spending.

Hopefully, with federal infrastructure spending coming on-line and unemployment still at record lows, we'll get by with a little bit of belt-tightening -- and we'll avoid the starvation-diet mode that marked previous state budget troughs.

Boston's Office of Black Male Advancement awards \$500K in Community Empowerment Grant

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Office of Black Male Advancement announced the awardees for the 2024 Community Empowerment Grants. These grants are a \$500,000 investment aimed at supporting community-based organizations that are focused on empowering and improving outcomes for Black men and boys in Boston. These grants will help organizations scale up their work and deepen their impact throughout the city's neighborhoods. The program is sustained by Black Male Advancement's operating budget.

"We're committed to supporting community organizations that are focused on empowering and improving outcomes for Black men and boys in Boston," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "These grants will support critical organizations in scaling up their programming and deepening the impact across all of Boston's neighborhoods. I'm grateful to the Office of Black Male Advancement for their work to build a stronger network for Black men and boys in our city."

"Investing in the empowerment of Black men and boys across Boston means Mayor Wu stands firm on her commitment on building a truly inclusive and thriving community," said Mariangely Solis Cervera, Chief of Equity and Inclusion. "These Community Empowerment

Grants move the needle closer to a future where every Black man and boy has access to the resources and support they need to flourish."

"The Community Empowerment grants will provide additional financial support for Boston community-based organizations to continue their invaluable efforts within our neighborhoods day in and day out," said Frank Farrow, Executive Director of the Office of Black Male Advancement. "I'm excited to collaborate with local community based organizations and can't wait to see the continued positive impact they will be able bring to our Black men and boys across the city."

The BMA Community Empowerment Grants prioritized organizations that expand one of the following seven focus areas:

- Mentoring and Out-of-School Time: providing quality mentoring, literacy and out-of-school time programs when and where they are needed, offering developmentally appropriate learning environments that support social emotional and physical wellbeing.
- Youth and Young Adult Pathways: providing educational and career pathways for youth and young adults navigating their own course to economic prosperity.
- Housing Mobility: providing

Continued on page 16

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

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3134 Washington St.

10 Store

3122 Washington St.

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3100 Washington St.

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3093 Washington St.

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308 Washington St.

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Washington & Columbus

Walgreens

Columbus

Academy Market

1580 Columbus

Goddard House

201 Huntington St.

Mt. Pleasant Home

301 Huntington St.

Mayor Wu backs Avangrid's offshore wind proposal, pioneering city's contract for clean energy

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Mayor Michelle Wu announced her support of Avangrid's New England Wind 1 offshore wind proposal in response to the multi-state procurement for offshore wind power by Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. If Avangrid's bid is selected by the state, this transaction would be a first for a US city to contract for offshore wind. This endorsement reflects Boston's commitment to decarbonizing the city by investing in clean energy and creating sustainable economic opportunities for its residents. If awarded, part of the energy generated through the project will be used to power Boston's municipal buildings and residences enrolled in our municipal energy aggregation program, Boston Community Choice Electricity.

"Boston must lead the way in building a sustainable future, and we're proud to set a new standard with a direct stake in innovation to create clean energy and good jobs for our residents and communities," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "This partnership advances our climate goals while bringing thousands of green jobs to our region, creating a pathway for generations to come."

The City of Boston and Avangrid have agreed upon a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in which the City of Boston could purchase up to 15 megawatts of energy as part of a future agreement, the equivalent of one wind turbine, from the New England Wind 1 offshore project, if the Commonwealth selects Avangrid as one of

their awardees. Avangrid's New England Wind 1 project has the potential to deliver up to 800 megawatts of renewable energy to the New England grid, enough to power up to 400,000 homes and businesses in the region. The project is estimated to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 1.5 million US tons of carbon dioxide per year, equivalent to taking over 280,000 cars off the road. The amount of electricity that the City of Boston may purchase under the terms of a potential agreement is equal to nearly a third of all the electricity used annually by Boston Public Schools in addition to nearly 5,000 homes. Avangrid has also offered to implement vocational training for Boston Public School students, meaning that this collaboration would not only advance Boston's climate goals but create an investment in the green jobs pipeline, an important part of Boston's Green New Deal.

"The City of Boston is thrilled

by the chance to participate in the offshore wind revolution" said Reverend Mariama White-Hammond, Chief of Environment, Energy and Open Space. "I would particularly like to thank David Musselman, Boston's Director of Municipal Energy, who has spearheaded innovative energy projects like this in Boston and will be retiring next month."

Offshore wind is an industry on the frontlines of the climate crisis, building energy cost resilience in a market that has been increasingly destabilized by its reliance on fossil fuels. The City of Boston believes Avangrid could potentially deliver a transformational project to Massachusetts that would help the state meet its critical energy needs and secure new economic opportunities for its residents.

"Mayor Wu and the City of Boston are among the country's foremost climate champions, so we saw a natural opportunity with our New England Wind bid and the City's leadership to form

this exciting partnership," said Avangrid CEO Pedro Azagra. "Our goal with New England Wind is to bring the region's historic communities into the very blueprints of our project, and we're thrilled to establish this partnership with the City to ensure that Boston benefits from the clean power and economic opportunity that offshore wind offers."

The City of Boston recognizes the significance of this opportunity to advance its renewable energy goals and support the growth of the green economy. By collaborating with Avangrid, Boston aims to lead the way in sustainable energy development and contribute to a cleaner, greener future for all.

This opportunity is one example of the innovative energy projects that the City has im-

plemented to achieve its carbon neutrality goals. Renew Boston Trust's energy performance contracting reduces energy use and emissions from the City's buildings and exterior lights. Renew Boston Trust projects are expected to save the City \$2.3 million and reduce carbon emissions by 3,600 mtCO₂e annually. The City of Boston has also secured a \$250,000 grant from the Barr Foundation to pilot the City's Equitable Electrification Initiative in one of our environmental justice neighborhoods and previously supported the state in the creation of the Massachusetts Community Climate Bank. Through collaborative efforts like these, the City of Boston continues to pave the way for a more sustainable and equitable future, driving positive change for generations to come.

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GOOD FRIDAY PROCESSION

COURTESY PHOTOS

Flor, parishioners gathered at St. Thomas Aquinas Church and walked to Our Lady of Lourdes Church in a recreation of the Stations of the Cross.

Scenes from the Good Friday procession in Jamaica Plain on March 29. Led by Father Carlos



Residents make their way across JP as they reenact the Stations of the Cross.



Grant

Continued from page 14

a continuum of housing opportunities, resources, and supports that are effectively resulting in pathways to affordable housing and homeownership.

- **Economic Inclusion and Wealth Building:** supporting individuals to experience financial empowerment and economic mobility.

- **Workforce Training and Development:** helping unemployed and underemployed individuals attain livable wage jobs and helping businesses with training for employees to support a pipeline of skilled workers.

- **Fatherhood Engagement:** supporting fatherhood education, case management, and peer-to-peer support to strengthen positive father-child interaction, improve social and economic outcomes for fathers and their families and improve healthy relationships.

- **Mental Health and Wellness:** helping support and improve the mental health and wellbeing of men.

The grants will be awarded to the following local organizations:

Youth & Young Adult Pathways

- Bottom Line (JP)
- Apprentice Learning (JP)
- Mbadika (West Fens/Kenmore)
- Next Leadership Development Corporation (JP)
- Charlestown Community Cares (Charlestown)

Mentoring and Out-of-School Time

- Voices of Liberation Inc (JP)

Fatherhood Engagement

- Black Male Artists Collective/Union of Minority Neighborhoods (Jamaica Plain)

Building on the office's work to strengthen Black male serving community organizations, Black Male Advancement is partnering with Resilia on the office's Capacity Building and Impact Institute. The Institute will provide critical capacity building support and on-demand technical assistance to equip proven or promising Black male serving organizations with long-term capacity needs and to drive impact

efforts. The Institute will also support a cohort of Community Empowerment grantees to deepen their impact and bring their work to scale.

"Funding supports Young Man with a Plan with holistic mentoring growth as we expand enrollment, staff, space, and programming, including new wellness programming," said Jaykyri Simpson, Executive Director of Young Man With A Plan. "Our entire organization appreciates the funding from the Office of Black Male Advancement and the uplift!"

"Thank you to the Office of Black Male Advancement for gracing the Center with funds to help make a difference—generationally—in men's lives" said LaWaun Curry, Fathers Nurturing Program Specialist, Family Nurturing Center of Massachusetts. "While we do the work for men directly, we also want to impact their children and their children's children."

For more info on the Office of Black Male Advancement's Community Empowerment Small Grants program, please visit the city website.

ATTENTION BOSTON WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION CUSTOMERS

You may have noticed some changes in your most recent bill from Boston Water and Sewer Commission. As of April 1, 2024 BWSC customers will now see three separate line-item charges on their bill, for water, sewer, and stormwater. Now, paying for stormwater separately will lower the sewer rate while showing the charges attributed to stormwater activities for the property. This is a more equitable way to fund improvements for the stormwater system because everyone pays for the service they use. Here are key highlights of the bill:

- Stormwater charge will be \$8.98 per month for each Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) attributed to the property.
- All property owners with more than 400 square feet of impervious area will be billed.
- 60% of residential households will see a reduction in their overall bill.
- The 30% discount extended to seniors and disabled residents will automatically apply to the new stormwater fee.
- Credits and grants are available for customers who implement green infrastructure measures on their property.



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