

WEST ROXBURY ~ ROSLINDALE BULLETIN

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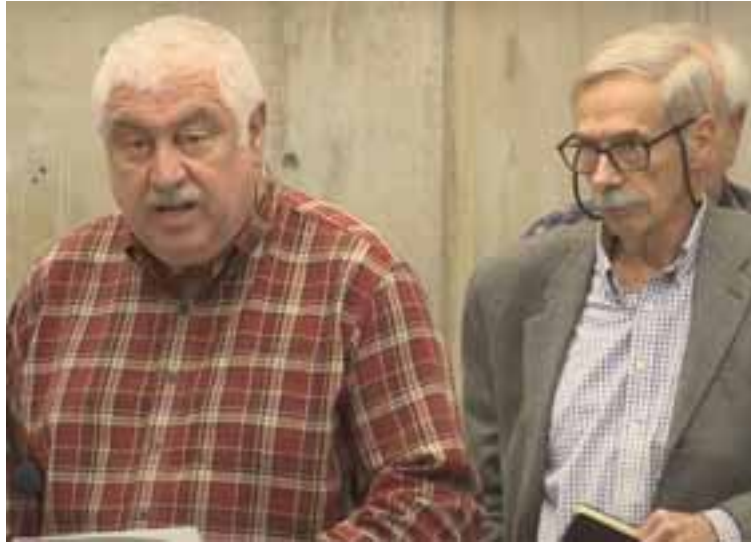
BPDA transition ordinance goes back to committee

Susan Kryczka
Staff Reporter

A four-hour Boston City Council meeting on Feb. 29 ended with Mayor Michelle Wu's proposed ordinance to transition the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) to a new City Planning Department returned to committee for further discussion and debate.

The ordinance proposed codifying the purpose and powers of the new planning department, allowing for the financial transfer of the unit between the BPDA and the city and continuing employment of existing staff. The plan would align with a home-rule petition now under review by the State Legislature. The restructured Boston Planning Department would focus on zoning compliance and comprehensive planning separate from the development review. A Planning Advisory Council would bring together supporting departments, update the zoning code through neighborhood planning processes like Squares + Streets, and update the development review to move toward better predictability and transparency. Boston is the only major city in the U.S. that does not have a city planning department and works with a quasi-public entity like the BPDA.

BPDA Chief of Planning James Arthur Jemison appeared



Allston Civic Association President Tony D'Isidoro, left, spoke about the BPDA's history at the hearing.

COURTESY PHOTO

at the meeting with members of his staff and offered some details, saying he would assist the mayor in the transition.

"We try to take a balanced approach to this. The crucial thing to do is to take action on this important first step," said Jemison. The BPDA current staff works for the BPDA Board, and the change would have the agency working for the mayor.

BPDA Chief Deputy Devin Quirk noted that development has been a separate entity and not under the control of the city since 1960. This has made it hard to coordinate with other city departments. "This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity."

Chief People Officer Alex Lawrence said that BPDA employees would be transferred to the city by July 1, 2024. Many discussions have already occurred with the staff, recognizing their tenure, residency, and retirement benefits. "We believe this package is competitive with folks," she said. There will be a coordinated effort to transfer some employees to more appropriate departments like Transportation or Landmarks.

For many of the councilors the lack of detail in the ordinance was problematic. District 6 City Councilor Ben Weber asked, "Is the City Council in-

BPDA

Continued on page 9



Brother Gabe, left, and Brother Anthony Zuba making sandwiches for their Thursday route to the homeless sites around the city.

PHOTO BY RICHARD HEATH

Mobile ministries take to the streets

Richard Heath
Staff Reporter

The Cupuchin Mobile Ministries van, parked at the corner lot of Marmion Street and Montebello Road, was being loaded up on a recent Thursday afternoon for its tour of homeless sites.

Brothers Gabe and Vince Aquino were stocking sandwiches and supplies for hot coffee as well as energy bars, gloves, hats and thermal blankets, prayer cards and medals. But more than that, the brothers set out mainly to "make people on the margins feel seen, heard and recognized" as reported in The Pilot in March 2023.

Recently, The Bulletin sat with Brother Paul Fesefeldt,

who directs the program. The Capuchin Franciscans live, study, learn and pray in two buildings; at 15 Montebello Rd., with the former convent of Our Lady of Lourdes Church across the street, and 46 Brookside, the old rectory; called respectively San Lorenzo and St Francis of Assisi Friary.

Brother Paul described the Capuchins as 'a ministry within the Archdiocese.' The Capuchin Brothers of Boston are part of the St. Mary Province established at White Plains, New York, in 1952. They were invited to Boston in 2007 by Cardinal Sean O'Malley, himself a Franciscan although not of the Capuchins, to operate and ad-

Cupuchin Ministries
Continued on page 9

EPA gives Neponset Superfund update Lewis Chemical site cleanup nears finish

Matthew MacDonald
Staff Reporter

On Tuesday, Feb. 27, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) updated the community regarding its expansive cleanup of the Lower Neponset River Superfund site. The hour-and-a-half hybrid meeting was held in Hyde Park's Municipal Building/BCYF, and drew 25 in-person attendees and another 60 who participated virtually.

This undertaking – encompassing the Neponset and its surrounding areas from the Mother Brook confluence in

Hyde Park to the Walter Baker Dam in Lower Mills – involves the comprehensive identification of chemical pollutants and their subsequent removal from its riverbed and banks, as well as from affected bordering areas.

The 3.7-mile stretch of river was added to the EPA's National Priorities List in March, 2022 because of its extreme contamination, primarily with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). These hazardous chemical compounds were widely used in the factories and



Crews are currently working on the former location of Lewis Chemical just on the banks of the mighty Neponset River in Hyde Park.

PHOTO BY MATTHEW MACDONALD

Superfund

Continued on page 2

Superfund *continued from page 1*

mills that had – until the late twentieth century – dotted the Neponset’s banks, benefited from its power, and released their chemical pollutants into it.

Although production of PCBs was halted in the United States in 1977, they do not readily break down in the environment, and bind to the soil, riverbed sediment, and organic particles. PCBs also accumulate through the food chain, from small organisms, to fish, to other animals and humans that ingest them, and can reach levels thousands of times higher than in

water alone. PCBs can also be released into the air, traveling long distances.

During the past year, the EPA has completed a detailed survey of the site’s first mile: from the Mother Brook confluence (near the Grimké Bridge at Dana Avenue) to the Tileston & Hollingsworth Dam (behind The Shops at Riverwood, 892 River St.). Extensive samples were also taken and – when their analysis is completed sometime this summer – will specifically identify what is polluting the river

and allow for informed decisions regarding the effective removal of those contaminants.

Remedial Project Manager Natalie Burgo also announced that – pending those results, an engineering evaluation, and a cost analysis – early action will be considered for removal of the contaminated sediment that has amassed against the upstream side of the T&H Dam. She estimated that alternative removal plans would be presented in the fall, after which there will be a public comment period to determine the best course of action.

As the year progresses, surveying and sampling will also

begin for the 2.7 miles of the Superfund site from the T&H Dam to the Baker Dam.

Over the past year, two early actions have also been taken, with contaminant removal winding down at one site, and an investigation wrapping up at another.

The early removal is ongoing at the Lewis Chemical site next to Fairmount Station, where – according to EPA Section Manager for Emergency Planning and Response Ted Bzenas – about 3,300 tons of contaminated earth have been removed since last April, and another thousand tons are expected to be removed, after which the excavated land will be backfilled with clean soil. He estimated that this would be completed by May or June.

Bzenas commented further on the work being done. “It has not been an easy project,” he stated during the Q&A. “The contamination levels are far exceeding anything we expected,” and was cautious while stating the EPA’s ultimate goal for the site. “There may end up being some kind of restrictions on how the property can be re-used, but we’re really doing our best to clean it up to a level where it can be used for anything.”

A question was also raised by Joe Dashner – a lifetime resident of Neponset Hill, the neighborhood overlooking the Lewis Chemical site on that side of the river – regarding the recent increase in the number of rat sightings in that neighborhood, while also stating his concern regarding other animals feeding on their possibly contaminated corpses.

There have also been ongoing complaints on the other side of the river – which is at the foot of Fairmount Hill – regarding a recent increase of rat sightings in that area.

Burgo expressed muted surprise at Dashner’s question, but did say that she would follow up on it with the project’s City of Boston liaison. However, after the meet-

ing, Tom Hatzopoulos – on-scene coordinator for the Lewis Chemical site – did note that, when the issue had come to his attention last June, he had brought in a pest control company to lay poison feeders onsite. “Not one of those traps has been entered by a rat to eat anything,” he said of the results. Referring to the cautious nature of the excavation, he added that “if we saw a mouse or a rat, we would have noticed right away. And if we do see something like that, we stop immediately and reassess. In this case, we didn’t see anything.”

To visit the Lewis Chemical site, stop by during business hours and knock on the trailer door, or email Public Affairs Specialist ZaNetta Purnell at purnell.zanetta@epa.gov.

Riverside Square, overlooking the Neponset at the corner end of Metropolitan Avenue and Pierce Street, is the early investigation site. When the river was redirected in the 1960s, the excavated soil and sediment was deposited along the banks in that area. As Bzenas reported, sampling for the 3.5-acre site has been completed, and its preliminary assessment is expected this summer, after which further action will be determined.

The formation of the Superfund’s Community Advisory Group (CAG), which will serve as a go-between for the community and the EPA, was also a meeting topic. Candidates must be willing and able to attend regular meetings over these next several years, represent the views of the community, and review technical project information. Those interested can email CAG Facilitator Matt Robbie at mrobbie@skeo.com.

For more information about the EPA’s work on the Lower Neponset River Superfund site, and a schedule of upcoming meetings and events, visit www.epa.gov/neponsetriver.



Virtual Public Meeting

55-57 Belgrade Avenue

MARCH

26

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/3SWKZ2r

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Meeting ID: 161 473 7079




Project Proponent:
JMM Residential

Project Description:
55-57 Belgrade Avenue is proposing to construct 15 condominium units with 11 vehicular parking spaces and 19 bicycle spaces.

mail to: **Camille Platt**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
phone: 617-918-4362
email: camille.platt@boston.gov

Close of Public Comment Period:
4/9/2024

Website:
bit.ly/55-57-belgrade-avenue

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REJ HP hosts educational discussion on race

Kwot Anwey
Staff Reporter

Through a film viewing of “Stamped from the Beginning” and a subsequent conversation discussing the themes in the film as it pertains to Boston and making personal commitments to act, the Forum for Racial Equity via Educational Experiences in Hyde Park (FREEE) sought to lay the foundational education about racism for residents of the Roslindale, Hyde Park and Fairmount Hill communities. The event took place at Roslindale Congressional Church from 5pm - 8pm on February 29, the final day of Black History Month.

The FREEE, founded by Marcia Kimm-Jackson, came out of the West Fairmount Hill Community Group, which was also started by Kimm-Jackson in 1996 to bring residents of the area together. Kimm-Jackson began the forum in the wake of the death of George Floyd by Minneapolis Police with the ultimate mission to “create containers for conversation and learning” about racial equity. Kimm-Jackson used the analogy of maintaining a house that you’ve inherited—you may not

have caused the damage, but you take responsibility for repairing the issues.

“The idea of this forum is to really be sure that people understand what is the history of this country as a contemporary system, and what is their responsibility now that they understand the history,” said Kimm-Jackson. “Much like a house that you’ve inherited, where do we stop the harm? How do we stop the harm from continuing, and repair anything that’s damaging that will progress?”

The FREEE holds various regular events, most notably, a regular book club with around 25 members discussing books on Zoom chapter by chapter with a focus on racial equity and justice. The FREEE’s film series hosts viewings quarterly meant to coincide with topics discussed in the book club, designed to be an event for those who are interested in learning more, but may not have the time to join the book club.

The Roslindale Congressional Church held similar concerns following the killing of

Race Equity Forum
Continued on page 7




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Dr. Jennifer Pilcher, Ph.D., CMC

Bilingual education: the conundrum

A recent newspaper article detailed the fear of a Boston Public School parent who had emigrated here from another country: because of her son's newly learned ability in English he was losing his ethnic identity to speak in the parents' foreign language. Would that every bilingual student suffered such a noble fate! The parent did have a point, though: being bilingual would open more doors for their children as adults.

Because English is the language of commerce here in the U.S. and in most of the world—consider all control towers worldwide instructing airline personnel in landings and take-offs do so in English—it is important that all American children, first and foremost, learn English; those who don't risk not having much of a future here.

Like Judy Collins, she of the "Both Sides Now" song, I am somewhat familiar with two sides of the language issue. As a 5th grade teacher at the William Bacon School in the Dudley District back in the early 70s, I had a student, newly arrived from Puerto Rico, who



My Kind
of Town/
Joe Galeota

was plopped into my class in the early spring: he spoke no English. Boston Public ignored his language needs when it assigned him to a "regular" classroom in a school without ESL.

I owe much to his classmate, a George Correia, who worked side by side with him. I wonder what happened to this gentle new arrival in his next year, when most of the Bacon's pupils were assigned elsewhere as the school was demolished: did he receive English as a Second Language instruction?

And then there was my father, born in 1908, the oldest

son of two Italian immigrants. At that time Italians sought to become Americanized: though proud of their ancestry, they were prouder of being Americans. With no TV to teach their children English, they relied on neighbors' children to teach my father and his siblings English, as there was no ESL program at the nearby Bowditch School on Green Street. Granted my grandmother was slightly ahead of her husband in English, my grandfather could not even read or write in Italian. They spoke Italian to each other, especially when they did not want their offspring to understand it. Thus my father and his sibs spoke barely any Italian, as their parents prioritized the learning of English, and, wow, did it pay off for them in their teenage and adult lives!

My father and his sibs endured total immersion — there was no ESL in JP for Italian youngsters in those days. I don't know how his BPS teachers did it. In fact, they were too successful, as he was given two double-promotions before entering Jamaica Plain High (then called West Roxbury high until 1923 or so). The reason I labeled it "too successful" was that it hurt him athletically and socially, as he graduated high school at 15 before entering MIT.

Those parents bemoaning the fact that their children are losing their native language should take it upon themselves to tutor their progeny in their preferred language: the BPS has enough on its plate as is.

Letters to the Editor

O'BRYANT SCHOOL DECISION DISAPPOINTING

To the Editor:

I was disappointed in hearing the news that Mayor Wu has withdrawn her proposal to relocate the John O'Bryant School to the former West Roxbury Academy. I attended it when it was West Roxbury High so it is fair to say I know more about the history of the school than most.

The best teacher I ever had was Mary McLaughlin. I had her in my freshman year (biology) and senior year (physiology). My parents emphasized the importance of studying hard and Mary McLaughlin re-enforced it. Having her in my freshman year made me a better student.

When BPS officially changed WR High to an Academy, I felt BPS was putting the wheels in motion to close the school. It was only a few years after becoming an Academy that the BPS had it on a list of schools to be closed. Parents pushed back and it got a reprieve. It was a short one. Only a few years later BPS said it would be closed as it was in need of extensive repairs. BPS made it sound like it was in danger of collapse.

I don't dismiss any of the reasons why parents of children attending the O'Bryant School opposed the plan when they said there are few transportation options. I will say though that the transportation options now are better than when I went there. Now you have the 36 bus line that has a stop close to the school. This happened only after many years of officials declaring the route should be extended with the creation of Millennium Park.

One reason I did not appreciate was a comment saying they opposed the move because they did not want their child attending a school in a predominantly white neighborhood. What I am about to write may get me in hot water, but if a white parent had said I don't want my child going to a school in a predominantly black neighborhood that parent would be called a racist. The person who made that comment was, at the least, negative stereotyping this neighborhood.

I am sure the people opposed are feeling good about Mayor Wu's reversal, but it will be short lived. The reversal means a much needed expansion of the O'Bryant is put on hold. It also means that this part of Boston (Roslindale/West Roxbury) continues not to have a public high school within its geographical boundaries.

It is my hope that there will still be a good public use found for the site.

Stephen Smith
West Roxbury

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Race Equity Forum *continued from page 3*

George Floyd.

“This church in 2020 and 2021, like a lot of congregations, like a lot of people, started thinking deeply about how to address racial injustice in Boston, in our neighborhood, in the country, and drafted a statement to say that this is a church that declares that black lives matter,” said Reverend Wallace Hurd, pastor of the Roslindale Congressional Church. “And so the congregation has done a lot of work within its walls on trying to figure out what that means and how they can best embody that statement. And one of the things that we really want to do is make sure that we’re actually doing something; we’re not just talking amongst ourselves, but we’re out there and making connections and making partnerships and working with people and lending our support and lending our voice where powerful work for racial equity and racial justice is already going on.”

The event had roughly 30-40 people in attendance, primarily made up of forum members and congressional churchgoers. Attendees were generally older folks and seniors, some of whom had heard about it through the respective groups themselves, and others having received email newsletters highlighting the upcoming event; regardless, they all had an interest in learning more about racism in the US as it pertains to their neighborhood.

“This is the ladder of discrimination and racism that still exists, and we still need to talk about it more instead of just trying to navigate through the elephant in the room,” said Hyde Park resident Carlene Roberts. “I didn’t have a good experience with my parents buying a house in Hyde Park. We were the second family on the street that was Black and they tried to run us off the street [and] broke out our windows in our house. So it’s just horrible, and not much has changed, it’s just [there’s] not as much violence with running Black people out because the neighborhood has changed to Black people and people of color.”

The first portion of the night was a half-hour dedicated to greeting people and giving

them an opportunity to get refreshments. The sound of excited voices bounced off the wooden recreational room floors as some people reconvened, and others were introducing themselves for the first time. The scent of buttery popcorn filled the church hallways, and classic movie theater snacks and drinks like chips, strawberry lemonade and soda sat on a table in the back. As 5:30 crept closer, conversations lulled while viewers moved from the recreation room to the church pews for the screening.

As the divider doors between the two interconnected rooms closed, the film began, projected onto a white screen placed in the middle of the room, directly in front of the altar. “Stamped from the Beginning” is a documentary-scripted feature film based on the book from Boston-based activist and author, Dr. Ibrim X Kendi. With the film centered around Black women, activists like Angela Davis, Lynae Vanee, Dr. Imani Perry and Brittany Packett Cunningham helped to tell the story alongside Kendi himself.

The film used the mode of historical events and figures to draw comparisons to the cruel nature of slavery and the Jim Crow era, and the racism we face today, showing the evolution of anti-Black discourse through centuries. The documentary discussed myths like the “Jezebel” and discrimination through modes like police brutality, showing modern examples through the lived experiences of black people and media portrayals. The audience was silent, fixated on the

historical recount walking us through the evolution of the rhetoric we know all too well.

The last part of the evening included a roundtable “salon” style discussion – which is French for “enlightening conversation,” – about the film, its connections to Boston, and what can be done on an individual level. With roughly five to eight people at each table, conversations ensued around the room centering questions like “what topics about Black History did you not know about the film,”

instigating conversations about various topics from racist local statues and the resignation of former Harvard President, Claudine Gay, to the meaning of solidarity for white people and the narratives pushed by the selective history shown in textbooks. At the very end, Kimm-Johnson asked the audience to voice their devotions to take action.

“I actually realized I had seen the movie before,” said Jennifer Rugg. “But seeing it in a group of people that are really thinking deeply about it and engaged in it made a big differ-

ence, and having the dialogue is great... I think it makes you not just walk away. It makes you engage and think, and bring out your curiosity, and feel more a part of the issue and look for a way to make things better.”

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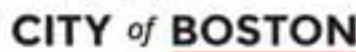
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In-Person Public Meeting

Roslindale Squares + Streets

MARCH

WED 13

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Registration (RSVP) Link:
bit.ly/roslindalesquarehousingworkshop



Project Description:

The BPDA is a housing visioning workshop as part of the 6-9 month planning and engagement process for the Roslindale Square Squares + Streets plan! Community members can learn more about current housing tools the City has to create and preserve housing, how the Squares + Streets Small Area Plan can address current housing challenges in Roslindale, and envision through hands-on activities what Roslindale Square might need for the future to support future new neighbors and diverse households.

Ajans Planifikasyon ak Devlopman Boston an ap òganize yon atelye vizyalizasyon nan kad pwosesis planifikasyon ak angajman sòti 6 jiska 9 mwa a pou plan Plas + Lari (Squares + Streets) Roslindale Square lan! Manm kominote yo ka aprann plis sou zouti lojman aktyèl Vil la genyen pou li kreye ak prezève lojman epi kijan Plan pou Ti Zòn Plas + Lari a ka leve defi lojman aktyèl yo nan Roslindale.

mail to: **Eileen Michaud**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
phone: 617.918.4343
email: eileen.michaud@boston.gov

Website:
bostonplans.org/roslindale-square

Miracle Prayer

Dear Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked You for many favours. This time, I ask you this very special one (mention favour). Take it, dear Heart of Jesus, and place it within Your own broken heart where Your Father sees it. Then, in His merciful eyes, it will become Your favour, not mine. Amen. Say for three days, promise publication and favour will be granted.

—D.R.

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Since the Federal, State, Local authorities have put in place social distancing guidelines, and places of worship have suspended services, we've found ways to help families continue to honor their loved ones.

We can meet with you in person, via telephone or email to assist with the planning process. We can also offer some alternatives to traditional rites and ceremonies by live streaming, online condolence books as well as other alter-natives to traditional choices.

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BURKE

Patricia J. (Connolly) of Milton, formerly of West Roxbury, died peacefully at home on Feb. 22, 2024, wrapped in the love of her adoring family. She was 90. Patsy was the beloved wife of the late David J. Burke; mother of Patty Spigel and husband, Eric, of Portsmouth, RI, Cathy of West Roxbury, and David and wife, Tamara, of Westwood; cherished sister of Ann Houhoulis of Avon, and the late John Connolly, Mary Cullinane, Ellen Halkyard and Kathleen Mahoney; and adored grandmother of Bridget, Siobhan, Liam, Colin, Jack, Grace, Lily, Mary, Declan, Mae, David and Maeve. Patsy was a graduate of St. Mary's High School in Brookline and Fisher Junior College. She worked for years as a medical secretary and provided critical support to Louis Wolff, MD, in his work on Wolff-Parkinson-White Syndrome.

DEATHS

Later in life, she shared her infectious smile with hundreds of children as a school crossing guard. A woman of tremendous faith, Patsy was a longtime parishioner at St. Theresa of Avila Parish in West Roxbury, where she was a CCD teacher, a member of Sodality of Our Lady, and the Couples Club. She is fondly remembered for her kindness and the great joy she brought to all around her. Funeral from the William J. Gormley Funeral Home, 2055 Centre Street, WEST ROXBURY. Interment at St. Joseph's Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials in Patsy's memory may be made to Covenant House, PO Box 758636, Topeka, KS 66675-9986. For directions and guestbook,

gormleyfuneral.com William J. Gormley Funeral Service 617-323-8600.

RANDO

Stephen J. of Dedham, February 28, 2024. Beloved husband of Elisa A. (Socci) Rando. Devoted father of Joseph M. Temple of Sacramento, CA, Michelle E. Temple of Dedham, and Stephanie E. Rando of Quincy. Grandfather of Coco Temple. Brother of Charles A. Rando Jr. and his wife JoAnn of Dedham, and Ellen Conforti and Adele Kirsner both of Thomasville, GA. Son of the late Charles A. and Mary E. (Donahue) Rando. Also survived by many beloved nieces, nephews, and cousins. Stephen was the treasurer of Puritan Ice Cream of Roslindale. Funeral from the George F. Doherty & Sons Wilson-Cannon Funeral Home, 456 High St., Dedham. Interment in Brookdale Cemetery, Dedham.

Around the Neighborhood**KEEP HYDE PARK BEAUTIFUL EVENTS**

Thursday, March 7 at 6:30pm - Pollinator Roundtable (at the Library)

Saturday, March 9 at 10am - Second Saturday Flash Mob Cleanup at Riverside Square - Meet at 199 Pierce Street and park on Pierce Street or Metropolitan Avenue.

Thursday, March 14 at 6:30pm - Planning Committee meeting. This is a Community Meeting at the Library (Weld Hall). Please invite your friends, neighbors and anyone else who may be interested in what we do.

Saturday, March 16 at 10am - Clean out HPMS Planters and do a general cleanup of Cleary Square. Meet in front of the Muni at 10am

Thursday, March 21 at 6:30pm - Vegetable Gardening 101 with Annabel "Nubs" Rabiya, Engagement Manager, Boston Community Gardens (at the Library)

Sunday, March 24 at 10am - 4th Annual Fowl Meadow Cleanup (rain date - April 7). Please register in advance at this link.

Thursday, March 28 at 6pm - Introduction to Bees and Beekeeping (at the Library)

THREE-DAY ALL GIRLS SPORTS AND WELLNESS FESTIVAL

Mayor Michelle Wu, in partnership with the Boston Parks and Recreation Department and Boston Centers for Youth & Families (BCYF), invites Boston girls aged 7 to 14 to participate in the annual All Girls Sports and Wellness Festival during April Boston Public Schools vacation week.

The All Girls Sports and Wellness Festival offers a diverse range of activities to inspire and empower young girls. From sports and games to health and wellness speakers, self-defense tactics, and aquatic activities, the programming aims to engage the mind, body, and spirit. Expert instructors, with additional support from local non-profits and City of Boston agencies, will guide girls through sports such as basketball, fitness conditioning, rock climbing, swimming, ultimate frisbee, and more.

Due to the event's popularity in 2023, the festival has been extended from two to three days. The first two days of the festival, April 17 and 18, will take place at various BCYF locations across the city. On the third and final day of the festival, scheduled for April 19, all participants from the various BCYF centers will convene at the University of Massachusetts Boston. Transportation will be provided from the BCYF centers to UMass Boston, ensuring access to the festival's final day for all participants.

BCYF Roslindale Community Center, 6 Cummins Highway, Roslindale. Wednesday, April 17: Check in at the Center for indoor activities. Thursday, April 18: Check in at Healy Field for outdoor activities. Friday, April 19: Check in at the Center for activities on the UMass Boston campus; round-trip transportation provided.

Pre-registration is required at boston.gov/sports. Event check-in begins at 9:30 a.m. each day. Participants must be Boston residents and should bring activity-appropriate clothing (including swimsuits and towels for those wanting to participate in aquatic activities). Free lunch will be provided. For more

information please call (617) 961-3047 or email jennifer.misiaszek@boston.gov.

To stay up to date with news, events, and improvements in Boston parks, call (617) 635-4505, visit boston.gov/parks, join our email list at bit.ly/Get-Parks-Emails, and follow our social channels @bostonparksdept on X, Facebook, and Instagram.

48TH ANNUAL GARDENERS' GATHERING

Saturday, March 16, 10AM-5PM Shillman Hall & The Egan Center, Northeastern University. FREE & Open to all.

The 48th Annual Gardeners' Gathering brings Boston-area growers of all kinds together for a free day full of informative workshops, engaging exhibitors, networking, and inspiration. In honor of the 50th anniversary of Mel King's Massachusetts Gardening and Farm Act, the Gathering will focus on celebrating our invaluable legacy gardeners, taking a look back on the incredible community growing work in Boston over the last half a century. Make sure to pre-register to receive a link to the virtual program.

To learn more & register as a guest! <https://thetrustees.org/program/gardeners-gathering/>

DIG DEEP TO FIND THE ROOTS!

A presentation by MAY JEW on Monday, March 18, at 6:00 p.m. at the West Roxbury Branch Library. Whether it's biographies, facts, or maps, have you ever wished you could surf the internet, discover just what you are seeking, and not pay for it? Go beyond Google! May knows how and will share with us the technique, the tools, and the sites she finds most yielding. You won't want to miss this!

Look at Maps with Keith Davison, our cartographer.

Come one, Come all! Bring a friend or two. Free and open to the public. Questions? Comments? Sandi Serkess, sandraserkess17@gmail.com Please like us on [Facebook.com/WestRoxburyHistoricalSociety](https://www.facebook.com/WestRoxburyHistoricalSociety)

WEST ROXBURY LIAISON COFFEE HOURS FOR MARCH

Join West Roxbury Liaison Ben Tayag on March 8th at Sugar Bakery, 1884 Centre St, West Roxbury, from 10am - 11am. March 15th at Fairouz, 5268 Washington St, West Roxbury from 10am - 11am. March 22nd at Tipico Salvadoreno, 5272 Washington St, West Roxbury from 10am - 11am. March 25th at Roche Bros from 6pm - 7:30pm in the evening. March 29th at Recreo; 1876 Centre St, West Roxbury from 10am - 11am.

FIFTH ANNUAL BRIGHTON WINTER FARMERS MARKET

The Presentation School Foundation (PSF) Community Center is hosting our fifth annual Brighton Winter Farmers Market every other Saturday at Oak Square (located at 640 Washington Street, Brighton, MA 02135). We hope to provide community members with the opportunity to experience a vibrant local economy, access to fresh, healthy food, and enjoy a gathering space throughout the winter months.

Capuchin Ministries

continued from page 1

minister Our Lady Of Lourdes Church. The St Mary Province bought the old convent.

When in 2011 the Archdiocese merged St. Thomas, Our Lady of Lourdes and St Mary of the Angels into the JP Roxbury Collaborative, the Capuchins remained in their friary.

Brother Paul is the music director of St Mary of the Angels Church, and said he has been a Capuchin brother for 10 years. He told The Bulletin that the mobile ministries was inspired by a Capuchin food truck in Denver.

“The Province asked me to start a food truck ministry,” Brother Paul said. “I have 20 years of experience with the homeless, so I suggested Boston, having spent three years working with the un-housed there. After taking some months to talk with service providers, faith groups, city officials and people on the streets, the purpose was changed to the spiritual and outreach van.”

“Brother Anthony Zuba helped start the mobile ministry,” Br. Paul said.

Talking with The Pilot in March 2023, Br. Zuba described the ministry as a “mobile church coffee hour... just as a pastor has a deep familiarity with the people of their parish, we are chaplains on the streets getting familiar with our congregation.”

Brother Paul told The Bulletin that the mobile ministry also connects homeless people with service providers like Pine Street. The mobile ministry began in August 2020 with two chaplains and three volunteers; one chaplain, Br. Paul said, has experience in peace and justice

ministry and is skilled in conflict resolution.

The cargo van is custom made, with shelves at the back hatch with a fold-out table and shelves and cubbies neatly stacked with supplies. In summer months, a makeshift freezer has been made with bungee cords that support icepacks for water and fruit juices. Below are shelves with hats, scarves, ponchos, thermal blankets and rolled up yellow tote bags with toiletries, tooth brushes with toothpaste and soap.

Cardinal Sean O’Malley visited on March 27, 2021. He talked with the friars and blessed the van. The Mobile Ministry goes out three days a week, Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday, Brother Paul said, from 2 p.m. until 7 p.m.

He talked with The Bulletin in the living room of the Brookside Avenue Friary as Br. Gabe and Br. Zuba made sandwiches for the Thursday run in the adjoining galley kitchen.

“We go to seven different locations,” Brother Paul said, handing a laminated card with the locations; “Central Square in Cambridge to Nubian Square. We stop for 20 minutes. People expect us, they look for us.”

The Veterans Shelter at State Street and the Boston Common are two other sites. Brother Paul said the van used to stop at the Peace Garden in Egleston Square before it was closed.

“We’ll go back to Egleston Square when it gets lighter out,” he said. “It’s too dark after we stop at Nubian Square. We’ll stop at the blue bikes



Brother Paul, left, supervising a volunteer packing the van behind him as they prepare to depart for their regular deliveries.

PHOTO BY RICHARD HEATH

lot.”

The Capuchin brothers write down the names of the people they meet in a ledger book and at Thursday mass they say prayer for each person, saying the name of each person aloud. “We remember everyone we meet in prayer,” Brother Paul said. He told The Bulletin the next day that they saw 107 people in Cambridge and Boston on Thursday.

Brother Paul said the mobile ministry is supported through the Food Pantry Fund.

“Brother Anthony helped start the mobile ministry, but was transferred to the development office in September,” Brother Paul said.

According to Brother Paul, it takes \$40,000 to \$50,000 a year to fund the ministry, “supplies, fuel and salaries.”

“We have had two fundraisers a year for the last two years,” he said. “In December, we raised \$40,000 at a fundraiser in the conference room at The Cathedral.”

“We also have street donations,” Brother Paul said. “People see us and donate at the site. We raised \$3,000 last year.”

St Francis of Assisi befriended lepers and, according to Father Samuel Fuller, the Capuchin mobile ministry is no different.

Speaking with The Pilot in March 2023, Fr. Fuller said the ministry “is witnessing hospitality to the marginalized, getting to know them is key to the Franciscan charisma. Otherwise we would be just any social worker driving around in van.”

BPDA *continued from page 1*

cluded in drafting the MOA?” referring to any agreement between the BPDA and the city. “The actual language of the MOA would not require approval of the council,” said Quirk. Council input would be possible in April when a budget would be submitted for revenue to support expenditures with the transfer.

“This is not meant to be the final word but the beginning of the process. You will have budget control for the first time in 70 years,” Jemison said.

“Why now? What do we win and what do we gain?” asked District 3 City Councilor John Fitzgerald. Jemison would be Chief of Planning with oversight over the vast majority of employees.

“What we lack is the trust of many Bostonians. It’s high time to change this,” replied Quirk. In terms of timing, Jemison said, “It’s always the right time to do the right thing.”

Councilor Edward Flynn asked, “Can you expand on transparency?”

“We’ve tried to bring a budget to this body as a courtesy review,” said Jemison. “You will see the details but won’t be able to vote on it. Now you will be able to ... ask the tough questions. Finally, you’ll be able to take votes about the budget.”

Flynn responded, “Where does it say that?” Quirk said that the mayor and council have oversight and will be able to review their performance. “Today, there are no requirements for financial transparency,” said Quirk. Jemison added, “When the next board member’s term is up, you can ask them to come here.” Flynn agreed that part of the

responsibility lies with the council. “It falls on us to be more engaged, more involved,” he said.

District 7 City Councilor Tania Fernandes Anderson expressed frustration about the process and ordinance. “The ordinance feels vague,” she said. “It doesn’t speak to policy or programming... I have thousands of questions about policy and planning.” Jemison said he could answer her questions.

District 1 City Councilor Gabriela Coletta, chair of the committee, said, “We are trying to craft the best possible document.” Jemison said he wants to address the policies, but that this meeting was not the right place. “Passing this ordinance gives you that license.”

Public comments focused on climate change’s effect on development, transparency, equity, and affordability. Steve Hollinger, a Fort Point resident, offered an answer to Fitzgerald’s “why now” question by saying, “climate change.” Another man supported the mayor’s plan, but said it needed more.

“We’ve been terrible about creating affordable housing. We need the Planning Board in the City of Boston.”

Anthony D’Isodoro of the Allston Civic Association advocated for a bolder plan. “Piece meal changes never endure,” he said.

Some said they fear another powerful governmental body. “The BRA had extraordinary powers. We’re setting up another unanswerable entity. Don’t rush through this ordinance,” said Elliot Laffer of Back Bay.

With so much still to clarify, Coletta said the ordinance would go back to the committee for further discussion.

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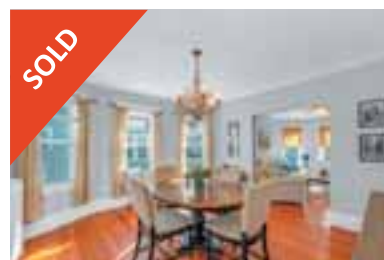
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