

A real wild goose chaser

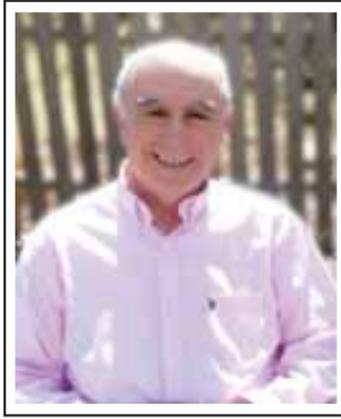
I'm no fan of Canada geese. Evidently they must have admirers because Congress has kept them on the list of protected birds in the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of— are you sitting down?—1918.

(This head-scratcher is not unlike the Marine Mammal Act of 1978 that protects seals, thus drawing sharks into waters off Outer Cape beaches.)

In spite of our federal legislators' tolerance, if not outright welcoming, of geese, opponents are legendary: we have all been witness to their droppings for decades as they continually defecate on playgrounds and fields as well as on boat landings, the last of which has drawn the ire of an affable, creator neighbor of mine, because he is a sculler utilizing a Cambridge boat dock.

Andy's technique for riding boat docks of these creatures was recently featured in The Boston Globe business section, on Channel 7 news, and on WBZ radio.

It uses cameras, image recognition, artificial intelligence, and some magic to detect geese; and sprinklers to chase them away. No geese dare stay around on the docks when the system spots them and activates. De-



My Kind of Town/
Joe Galeota

lighted with the effectiveness of this system, the city of Newton is interested in using it to keep geese from assaulting beaches along neighborhood ponds; other organizations have expressed interest because Andy's system just plain works and is humane—sadly, no harm is inflicted on the creatures, although the same cannot be said of their unhygienic droppings vis-a-vis toddlers.

Congrats to this Boston University alum: not all engineering is pie-in-the-sky theoretical, as this serves a very practical need. For more information, google "Smart Goose Deterrent System" and reach out to Andy Roy.

YET ANOTHER CITY HALL BLEMISH

To the Editor:

Once again we have a Boston City Councilor facing calls to resign over their actions. In June 2023, it was then District 6 City Councilor Kendra Lara who was being asked to resign in the wake of her car accident.

I was not one of the voices asking for her to resign. She was being charged with a number of motor vehicle violations but, in my opinion, the charges were not serious enough to resign. And with the city election only a few months away, the voters could decide if Councilor Lara she should be reelected. We all know what happened in the preliminary; Councilor Lara finished a distant third.

Councilor Hernandez-Andersen is a different case. She faces federal charges directly related to her office, the charges after the result of the actions she took after she was fined for having immediate relatives being on her staff payroll.

When this story first broke I wondered if the Councilor was guilty of arrogance, stupidity or both. Did she seriously think someone was not going to notice a relative on her staff? Let's not forget she also gave them raises. Now, it should be noted that the voters in the aftermath of the fine did reelect her.

The one thing that did surprise me was when she was arraigned recently in court she asked the judge for a public attorney saying she could not afford one. The judge was surprised by the request because a Boston City Councilor's salary is about \$115,000.

Councilor Hernandez-Anderson could say the charges will not interfere with her responsibilities and that a person is innocent until

proven guilty. She could say her resignation would mean a void in the representation of District 7 on the City Council.

These charges are Federal and go far beyond a fine. I agree with Mayor Wu, Council President Loujeune and other city councilors who have asked her to resign.

Stephen Smith
West Roxbury

CORRECTION TO "MURAL/HOUSING KEEPS JPNDC BUSY"

To the Editor:

At its December 13, 2021 monthly membership meeting, the Stonybrook Neighborhood Association voted to not oppose the JPNDC's proposal for this project. Its former address was 35 Brookley, not 45. The original developers proposed the mural from the start; the SNA did not insist on it. Having seen the enthusiasm for maker-type spaces in the area and planning for 5 artist live-work units in the building, it made sense to have them also feature art on the building itself. The nearby ExtraSpace Storage building murals in the 3521-9 Washington St (formerly Flanagan & Seaton) project were requested by the SNA along with a number of other community benefits associated with that project, for which the SNA took the responsibility of organizing (for the murals this was creating and publicizing a public call for entries, assembling a jury, running the selection process, etc). The facade is not red and yellow, it is red, orange, purple, brown and black. The mural will be digitally printed, not painted.

Jennifer Uhrhane
Boston



A rendering of the proposed building at 55-57 Belgrade Ave.

COURTESY PHOTO

Bellevue Hill meeting on Dec. 16

The Bellevue Hill Neighborhood Association is announcing a new website and email at www.FriendsofBellevueHill.org and Hello@FriendsofBellevueHill.org. The association will be holding an additional meeting on Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. at Emmanuel Church at 21 Stratford St., West Roxbury, MA.

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ZBA wants less parking on Rozzie development Approves 55 Belgrade

Jeff Sullivan
Staff Reporter

The Boston Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) voted unanimously to approve the construction of two new three-family buildings on 35-39 Wellsmere Rd. in Roslindale and convert the existing two-family into a three-family.

The proposal, represented

by HS Construction Consulting Services' Luis Santana, originally called for 18 parking spaces, two per unit, so that there would be no zoning violation. ZBA member Hansy Better Baraza said she felt this took away from the open space the property could provide for the families these buildings would be targeting for occupancy.

"The amount of on-surface

parking is very excessive with the topology you see in the neighborhood," she said. "I am having an issue with so much on-surface parking due to environmental concerns like stormwater runoff, but also, if you're providing housing for families, you're really giving up all that open space because

ZBA

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