The groundwater levels that ensure Boston's structural stability have remained relatively unchanged over the last year, according to the Boston Groundwater Trust (BGwT).

The large swath of Boston's historic metropolitan area, from Fenway to East Boston, sits on a vast subterranean underwater forest that keeps the city from collapsing in on itself, which is an infrastructural challenge specific to Boston because of centuries-old architecture. The city remains on track to exceed the previous record of 338.7 inches of rainfall in the state, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). As of August 28, the state had received 263.4 inches of rainfall since January 1, compared to the 20-year average of 238.8 inches. The record was set in 1917.

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Groundwater Levels Remaining Stable

Shaded area represent where groundwater issues prevail

By Jacob Geanous

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Must Realtors Disclose If a House Is Haunted?

By Mannie Lewis

If your dream home were rumored to be haunted would you buy it anyway? Would you rather be told up front or not know at all?

These questions are rare but confounding for Boston realtors navigating the odd legal landscape of paranormal disclosure and Massachusetts real estate.

"I myself, in 15 years of real estate in Boston, ran into a murder and a haunted house," said Robb Cohen, principal broker at Engel & Völkers. So unfamiliar was the question of supposed hauntings that Cohen had to do a bit of internet sleuthing to find out if he was legally required to disclose it. As it turned out, he was not.

"If it can be easily found out and it can be public knowledge, then yes, you do have to disclose it," said Cohen.

Haunted houses are considered Continued on Page 2

High Turnout For Local Elections

By Jacob Geanous

Ayanna Pressley’s upset victory over Mike Capuano in the Seventh Congressional District Tuesday has practically ensured her a seat as Boston’s first African-American Congresswoman.

The 44-year-old Boston City Councilor beat out the 10-term incumbent Congressman to lock down the Democratic nomination and will run unopposed in November’s mid-term election.

More than 100,000 turned out to cast ballots in the widely covered race that sparked the interest of national Continued on Page 2

Mr. Rogers Says Welcome

No one has missed the arrival of large and small moving vans in our downtown neighborhoods. To all of our new residents, we say welcome.

To help your transition, The Boston Guardian is publishing a special section starting on page seven with helpful information.

You will find us friendly and caring. We believe there are no strangers, only friends you have not yet met. To paraphrase Mr. Rogers, please become our neighbor.
Police Report
Continued from Page 4

committed a hat trick of felonies, for which they
were each charged with three counts of shoplifting
by concealing merchandise. A search of the Mad
Hatter’s records revealed that he had an active
warrant for his arrest from the South Boston
District Court. It seems this Newbury Street
dealership’s criminal history began in an entirely
different neighborhood. But now, thanks to the
cops of District 4 and the managers at North
Face and Newbury Commons, this serial shoplifter
is finally off the streets.

The Doctor is In
On Wednesday, August 29 at 11:35 am, a Special State Police Officer working for the Boston
University Medical Center responded to reports
of a man selling prescription drugs outside of the
Shapiro Building, a medical center on 725 Albany
Street. Could this pill pushing entrepreneur be
trying to compete with the medical center?

The officer accessed CCTV footage, which
showed the suspect, a shirtless white male wearing
tan shorts, selling drugs to at least four different
customers within the span of five minutes. While
this local businessman might have a keen instinct
for sales, his skills don’t include subtlety. All four
of these deals occurred out in the open, in broad
daylight, in front of a public building.

When the officer arrived on scene, he advised
the discount doctor of his Miranda Rights. The
suspect immediately denied selling any drugs, but
the contents of his pockets told a different story. A
quick search yielded Gabapentin, Amphetamine
Sulfate, and Clonazepam, about $40 in total.
He was charged with possession with intent to
distribute class B, C, and E level drugs. Business
closed until further notice.

Sledger Bois
On Friday, August 31 at 7 pm, an officer from
Longwood Public Safety stumbled across a gaggle
of unruly skateboarders at the entrance of Tent
City properties on 130 Darmouth Street. The
skaters were so busy busting sick moves that they’d
begun to get in the way of customers.

When the officer asked the kids to get off the
dang lawn, they refused to leave the property, and
became physically and verbally combative. When
he called for backup, these tubular trespassers fled
on their skateboards, but were stopped by one of
the additional units. They each received a civil
citation for trespassing.

Groundwater
Continued from Page 1
originally sat on a much smaller multi-ponded
peninsula, which was expanded by dumping
dirt and fill on top of wetland. As the city
grew, whole trees were chopped down and jammed
into the wet silt to support buildings in the ever
growing city.

Today, The BGwT monitors groundwater
below the city and the estimated 6,000 buildings
supported by wooden pilings. Christian Simonelli, Executive Director of
the BGwT, keeps an eye on the groundwater
level year round, and monitors hundreds of
groundwater wells that regulate the water
that keeps Boston’s buildings above ground.

“The piles are basically a tree trunk stripped
of branches driven upside down into the
ground,” Simonelli said. “A whole forest in
Maine basically lost its life to build this city.”

The piles are苏州 to be submerged
in groundwater at all times, or else they will
be exposed to air microbes and insects that
degrade and rot the wood, endangering the structural
integrity of the city above. If the water level
drops, the wood is exposed, said Simonelli.

“The piles can last indefinitely hundreds of
years and be fine,” said Simonelli. “And when
the piles rot, it takes years, so it’s a race against
time.”

According to Simonelli, a lot of new residents
are unaware of this detail when they decide to
move to the city. For residents, maintaining and
possibly repairing the structure below their
home is their complete responsibility.
Although the BGwT is tasked with monitoring
the groundwater wells, if repairs are necessary,
the piles must be dug out by hand by a contractor
and the expenses fall squarely on the homeowner.
This could anywhere between $200,000 and $2 million, according
to Simonelli.

“I get people all the time that will call and
say they are looking to buy in Back Bay or the
South End, and I walk them through it,” he
said. “That’s part of it, the public outreach.”

The BGwT recently released a series of
award-winning educational videos to help
educate the public and make them aware of
the importance of monitoring their property’s
groundwater.

“Now people can get a good overall picture
and we’re not always going to prevent [deteri-
oration], all these buildings are at different
heights and were built at different years,”
Simonelli said. “The reception [to the videos]
has just been overwhelming.”