A chat with Ed Kelly, chief marshal of the 2018 Dorchester Day Parade

BY DANIEL SHEEHAN REPORTER STAFF

Following are questions and answers from a Reporter interview with this year’s Dot Day Parade’s chief marshal, Neponset native Ed “Edzo” Kelly:

Q. What does it mean to you personally to be leading the Dot Day parade?

A. It is quite an honor and I will take great pride marching alongside Mayor Walsh and Governor Baker, two friends whom I admire and respect very much. When I look through the list of past chief marshals, I am humbled to be in the company of such great examples of Dorchester people really are. To follow in the footsteps of Joe Zinck and the late Jimmy McCarroll and Edgardo Zayas, who served posthumously as chief marshal in 2007. Sharing the honor that year was Brian Fountaine, Shane Burke, and Chris Saunders, three warriors I’m lucky to call friends who served our country bravely in what is Dorchester’s greatest tradition, fighting for each other. When I look at the great people who I’ll be able count myself amongst, I am not sure I belong.

Q. What is your favorite part about the Dorchester Day proceedings?

A. The parade itself is always my favorite part. The Parade Committee really needs to be commended for all the effort they put into all of the events. I’d like to recognize my friend Craig Galvin for spearheading the chili cook off and making it the great event it’s become.

Q. Who will you spend the day with?

A. Well, first and foremost, my wife Katy and my kids Maggie and Tommy. I appreciate that my friend, and proud son of Dorchester, Fire Commissioner Joe Finn has assigned my fire company, Ladder 17, to the parade so some of my fellow firefighters will march with me as well as union leaders like Boston Firefighters Local 718 President Rich Paris. The State Champions of Dorchester Youth Hockey Squirt B’s will be marching with us, as well as Neponset Street Hockey League players. After the parade I’ll head down to the John P. McKeon Amvets Post where I am a proud member.

Q. What are some of your fondest memories about growing up in Dorchester?

A. It was a great place to grow up. I was the fifth of six kids and we always had a couple uncles living with us. We lived on the Dead End of Westglow with about 40-50 other kids. The Swikes, Devines, Solettis, McGlaughlins, McCarthy, the Burkes, to name a few. The older kids looked out for the younger kids; the same clothes, beds, bikes, skates, toys etc. all made it through each house.

(Continued on page 5B)
114th Dorchester Day Parade/Sun., June 3rd, 2018

Starts 1:00 pm from Dorchester Lower Mills along Dorchester Avenue to Columbia Road

Happy Dorchester Day from the Dorchester Day Parade Committee

This year we honor our Chief Marshal Edward Kelly
We also congratulate our 2017 Mayor of Dorchester Joe Castro
Little Miss Dorchester - Elisabeth Bogle
Young Miss Dorchester - Gabriella Monteiro

Meet Parade Chief Marshal Ed Kelly • US AirForce

The son, grandson, brother, nephew and cousin of fire fighters, Kelly joined the Boston Fire Department as a fire fighter/EMT in 1997, where he was assigned to the Technical Rescue team that assisted Worcester Local 1009 at the Cold Storage Warehouse fire in 1999. Kelly was among the hundreds of fire fighters at Ground Zero after the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center, and also responded to the Boston Marathon bombing in 2013.

Before becoming a Boston fire fighter, Kelly attended the Department of Defense Fire Academy and from 1994 to 1997 served in the U.S. Air Force, stationed at Tyndall Air Force Base in Panama City, Florida, where he worked as part of the crash and rescue crew.

A graduate of the Harvard Trade Union Program class of 2015, he was named Labor Leader of the Year by the Greater Boston Labor Council. Kelly was appointed by the governor of Massachusetts to serve as a commissioner at the Department of Fire Services, as well as the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Group Insurance Commission, one of the largest health care purchasers in the Northeast, and was elected Executive Vice President for Public Sector of the Massachusetts AFL-CIO.

In addition, he serves as chairman of the Board of Directors for Florian CARES, a fire-based non-profit dedicated to community health, and as trustee for the Boston Fire Department Charitable Association, first established in 1828 to ensure proper burial for indigent fire fighters and which now assists widows and widowers of fire fighters of modest means.

As part of Kelly’s charitable efforts, he is a co-founder and member of the Board of Directors for Massachusetts Iraq and Afghanistan Fallen Heroes and provides support for children diagnosed with pediatric cancer through The Cure It Foundation.

We want to thank all of those who helped out with fundraisers for the parade and those who work throughout the year to put the parade on the street. Especially our parade sponsors.

PARADE WEBSITE: www.DotDayParade.com
Red Line-themed t-shirt added to College Hype’s Dot Day catalog

**By Daniel Sheehan**  
**Reporter Staff**

Dorchester Day brings another batch of fresh College Hype t-shirts to rock on the avenue this Sunday.

The neighborhood’s premier apparel company has been a fixture of Dorchester Days and a source of local pride for over three decades.

Founded in 1987, College Hype produces custom t-shirts, hoodies, hats, and accessories, in addition to their signature unique lines of clothing repping their hometown. Their Dorchester Apparel online shop offers about 40 different Dorchester-themed shirts adorned with shamrocks, three-deckers, and other symbols of the neighborhood.

Some favorite best sellers include the infamous “Dot Rat” t-shirt, the prideful “OFD” (Originally From Dorchester) apparel, and the “Parishes of Dorchester” shirt, a design whose popularity has endured for nearly 25 years.

This year’s Dot Day releases will add a few new classics to the catalog.

“We’ve got four or five new designs that we’re really excited about,” said founder and CEO Jack Doherty, a Lower Mills native. “We think people are really going to like them.”

One of these designs is MBTA themed, depicting a fictional “Dorchester” Red Line stop on the front and a “Dorchester line” of train stops on the back, the ubiquitous “T” logo replaced with a “D.”

A simpler shirt design reads “Dot Day” in large block letters, with a cutout of the American flag in place of the “o.” And below, in smaller font, an inspirational motto: “Anything can happen.”

Doherty said the company will be selling apparel from a pop-up stand by the Gulf gas station at the corner of Hallet Street and Gallivan Boulevard from Wednesday through the weekend. The week leading up to Dorchester Day is typically one of the busiest times of the year for the Adams Village-based company, said Doherty.

“We’ve been doing Dot Day shirts for thirty years. We love it. It’s a great family day, and it’s great to see people come back to the neighborhood from all over,” said Doherty.
HAPPY DORCHESTER DAY!
from your neighbors at
DOT BLOCK
A chat with Ed Kelly, chief marshal of the 2018 Dot Day Parade

(Continued from page 1B)

I never knocked on a front door, just walked into any house and ate right out of the fridge. Nobody hated an eye. My brother Greg, now a Fire lieutenant, and my best pal Bucko Burke, now a district fire chief would do ‘fire inspections’ (walk around someone’s house making sure the lamps were plugged in) for a dime or a quarter so when we got sent to the Pope’s Hill Creamery for cigarettes, we’d have a little something for lollipops or a trip to the port for Seymour’s. Some people might have been surprised to learn about it.

Q. How do you remember Dot Day as a kid?

A. I remember walking up Ashmont Street with the O’Connell family, and watching the parade in Peabody Square. As we were coming of age, Dot Day weekend was the highlight of the year. On Saturday we would have the Jazz Basketball Tournament down Toshig Park, named after my friend Richie “Jazz” Maffie, who was killed in a car accident on Ashmont Street in 1989. Then Dot Day itself was always an adventure. Everyone bought new Dot Day tee shirts from Jack Doherty at College Hype. We considered stopping by the Carney and C-11 for a double-header.

Q. What are a few of your favorite neighborhood spots or establishments?

A. I travel a lot for the union, so becoming a local is the best way for me to really appreciate coming home to Dorchester. For me, a morning run to Greenhills Bakery to get my wife her small coffee with a little bit of cream is a great start to the day, or breakfast after the St. Anne’s 10:30 at The Butcher Shop. Of course, I have a mandatory check in at the Eire Pub to see Kevin McCarron and hear the proprietor John Stenson’s signature laugh. All of the new restaurants have been great additions to the neighborhood, The Landmark, Dorset, Industry, Lucy’s and I’m looking forward to Blasi’s reopening after the fire they suffered in their building. Getting my haircut at Aiden’s Barbershop with Heather and Tara holding court always makes me feel at home.

Q. You’re well known in the community, but what’s something people might be surprised to learn about you?

A. My father, Jack Kelly, being my idol wouldn’t come as a shock to anybody. Following in his footsteps has been my natural path. I was blessed. I also had 22 cousins under her tutelage. I am truly grateful for my mother’s tutelage. I am truly grateful for my mother Noreen has been a leader, a rock for everyone around her, her beauty shines in the tough times. She is a proud graduate of Fontbonne Academy, although she never went to college. Through her hard work and intelligence she became the head of the admitting department at St. Margaret’s Hospital. My mother has been working the world, and my brother Greg is a lieutenant in J.P. and a war hero as a part-time job. My oldest brother Sean is a Fire lieutenant on E-18 in Peabody Square, my brother Steven is the president and CEO of Timberline Construction Company, my sister, Dr. Dianne Kelly, is the superintendent of Revere Public Schools, my sister, Tricia Keegan has been terrific as a Natural Path teacher, and my sister, Dr. Dianne Kelly, is the superintendent of Revere Public Schools, my sister, Tricia Keegan has been terrific as a Natural Path teacher, and my brother Greg is a lieutenant in J.P. and a war hero as a part-time job. My mother has been working on him for a half a century, but even my father turned out okay. My mother had six children, but seven kids, including my father. Her legacy is that we all turned out pretty good. My oldest brother Sean is a lieutenant on E-18 in Peabody Square. My brother Steven is the president and CEO of Timberline Construction Company, my sister, Dr. Dianne Kelly, is the superintendent of Revere Public Schools, my sister, Tricia Keegan has worked as an engineer all over the world, and my brother Greg is a lieutenant in J.P., and a war hero as a part-time job. My mother has been working on him for a half a century, but even my father turned out okay. My mother’s youngest son, who made the ultimate sacrifice in firefighting commu.
Thoughts back to 1630, 1904.

Waters of Dorchester Bay

Sails dotted the blue

Nativity was gathered for a

Savin Hill. The community was

through the crowd along

114 Years Ago, Dorchester Day took root in Savin Hill

Page 6B THE REPORTER DORCHESTER DAY SUPPLEMENT May 31, 2018 dotnews.com

were known as avid

H. Stark, both of whom

the City Registrar, and

Whitmore, who served as

April 1891. William H.

Historical Society in

Day began with the cre-

the first Dorchester Day

“Mary and John” claimed their foot-

sengers of the “Mary and

Trask writes: “...many

lovely hilltop.”

down to posterity this

it for a park and hand

also persuaded officials

and refreshments; he

for a tent, printed fliers,

with $135 in donations,

James H. Stark, chosen

summit of Savin Hill.

and ceremonies at the

274th anniversary of the

the observance of the

work may be mentioned

result of the society’s

the community atop

Puritan company of the

Mary and John had built

and carved their first tenuous

in the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

their first fort and had

their first settlement of Dor-

the Massachusetts.

The tourist whose steps

to make a new place of

Dorchester Historical

the site, the

The presence of Father

the Catholic cleric’s honored

Church in Dorchester, the

Stark, who delivered the

Humphreys, President of the Dorchester His-

torical Society; James H.

the oration; the Rev. Eugene R.

Shippen of the First

Church in Dorchester, who

the President of the

Peter Ronan, and Repre-

Guy A. Ham.”

The presence of Father

Ronan was especially
telling, proving how far

the town had come from

the days of its

Irish Catholics were

finally winning greater

acceptance from the

descendants of the Mary

and John emigrants.

In Dorchester Day

celebrations to come,

whether the 25th or 50th

versions, the festivities

became bigger, parades

and even regattas took

shape, and more money

was poured into the

event, one aspect re-

mained virtually intact.

That aspect was Stark’s

vision of Dorchester Day

as a “homecoming.”

A look at the Dorches-

ter Day coverage by the

old Dorchester Beacon

newspaper reveals that

many of the civic orga-
nizations and businesses

that supported the first

such gathering remained

long-time backers. Even

such gathering remained

that supported the first

Dorchester Day.

That number

“Business houses and

private residences are

elaborately decorated.

There are parades,

dresses, regattas, ring-

of bells, fireworks, etc.”

In an April 1904 meet-

ing of the society, Stark,

the organization’s vice

president, first pitched

the notion of a “Dorches-

ter Day.” He proposed

that the town celebrate

its founding by gathering

the community atop

Savin Hill, where the

Puritan company of the

Mary and John had built

their first fort and had

carved their first tenuous

foothold in the Mass-

sachusetts Bay Colony.

Stark’s stated objective

was “to draw the at-

tention of the public to

this most beautiful and

attractive historic spot,

with the end in view that

the city should purchase

it for a park and hand

over its care to the public

as a ‘homecoming.’”

There were just one

problem: The society’s

funds were depleted

from having refurbished

its home. Still, Stark

pressed the concept of Dorchester Day and

“argued that it would not

only draw the attention

of the public to the neces-

sity of preserving to pos-

ternity this historic spot,

but it would advance the

interests of the society,

as it would bring it more

prominently before the

public, and if it proved a

success ‘Dorchester Day’

would become the annual

‘field day’ of the society.”

Stark’s powers of

persuasion worked.

The society voted to

celebrate the town’s

settlement with a band

concert and ceremonies

at the summit of Savin

Hill. James H. Stark,

chosen as it would bring it

more

The members of the

Dorchester Historical

Society, having planned

to turn this long-neg-

lected spot into a park,

which shall at the same

time commemorate the

settlement of Dorchester

in 1630, and possess the

character of a national

monument, had enlisted

the aid of several local

societies, such as Savin

Hill Improvement

Association, Gen. Rufus

Putnam Chapter, D. R.,

Savin Hill Yacht

Club, Harrison Square

Association, Dorchester

Lower Mills Improve-

ment Association, Mat-

tapan Improvement

Association, Field and

Forest Club, Dorchester

Veteran Firemen’s As-

sociation, Benjamin Stone,

Jr., Post 68, G.A.R., and

the United Improvement

Association of Dorches-

ter.

“Under invitation of

these organizations some

two hundred citizens of

Dorchester gathered in

tents on the crest of

Savin Hill, and there,

alternated with selections

by the Boston Municipal

Band, under Emil Mul-

lenhauer, patriotic ad-

dresses were made on the

occasion, and even

regattas took shape, and

more money was poured

into the event, one aspect

remained virtually intact.

That aspect was Stark’s

vision of Dorchester Day

as a ‘homecoming.’

A look at the Dorches-

ter Day coverage by the

old Dorchester Beacon

newspaper reveals that

many of the civic orga-
nizations and businesses

that supported the first

such gathering remained

long-time backers. Even

as new arrivals to the

town took their own

places in the festivities

through the years, that

sense of place and home

— of community — has

stood the test of time.

Dorchester Day 2018 will

be proof positive of that.
By Daniel Sheehan
Repoter Staff

For nine-year-old Elisabeth Bogle and 10-year-old Gabriella Monteiro, Dorchester Day will be a special occasion this year. As Little Miss Dorchester (ages 7-9) and Young Miss Dorchester (ages 10-12), respectively, these poised young ladies will play an important role representing their hometown neighborhood in the parade on Sunday.

The Reporter interviewed the girls about their key roles in the parade, which they will take from a vantage point toward the front of the marchers in a convertible sports car. It’s a privilege that Gabriella, in particular, is looking forward to.

She says she’s been practicing her wave, adding that “it feels really good because I get to ride in a convertible and learn about what it’s like to be a princess or a queen.”

A fourth grader at Quincy Catholic Academy, she hails from the Ashmont area, a place she says she’s proud to represent. “I like the community because people support each other, and people have pride in where they live,” she said.

Some of Gabriella’s favorite hobbies include STEM activities, building with LEGO’s, taking hip-hop dance lessons, and training her dog. When she grows up, she wants to be an engineer. If Young Miss Dorchester seems wise beyond her years, the same can be said for her co-tiara wearer, Elisabeth, a third grader at Franklin D. Roosevelt School in Hyde Park. She enjoys singing, dancing, and acting, and participates regularly in community activities at the Fields Corner Library and the Dot House Center. On her future, she’s a bit more hesitant than Gabriella. “I’m still thinking about what I would like to be when I grow up,” she said. “But I would like to have a career in music and be someone that represents the rights of people.”

The Little Miss crownholder added that she had a blast participating in the competition itself. “I loved that everyone received a prize, medal, and flowers for their participation,” she said. “The organizers made all the girls feel special and comfortable to be themselves and nobody was left out.”

In addition to riding in the parade, the Misses will also attend the Chief Marshal’s Dinner on Friday night at Florian Hall as well as participate in other traditional events throughout the weekend.

The contest itself is about girls having fun and building their confidence in public speaking. But just being a part of the Dorchester Day celebrations is something that Elisabeth says she has looked forward to for a long time. “Every year I have watched the parade with my mom, hoping to be a part of it one day. This year my dream has come true!”

Happy Dorchester Day!

Happy Dorchester Day!

from Councillor
Ayanna Pressley
and family

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Ayanna Pressley

Wishing a Safe
and
Happy Dorchester Day
to All

Annissa Essabi George
Boston City Councilor At-Large

Paid for and authorized by the Committee to Elect Annissa Essabi George

Senator
NICK COLLINS
Fourth Suffolk District

Introducing Dorchester’s Little Miss Elisabeth and Young Miss Gabriella
Seal of Approval: The Story Behind Dorchester’s Town Seal

By Peter F. Stevens

In April 1865, Dorchester’s Town Meeting gathered to consider an important civic measure—"to procure...a Corporate Seal of the town." Many modern residents of Dorchester are familiar with that seal, emblazoned with the words "Dorchester 1630" and the Latin motto "Pietate, Literis, Industria," but some may not realize the depth of thought that went into that seal at the 1865 town meeting put into the enduring and proud symbol.

A range of political, historic, and civic considerations compelled Dorchester’s leaders to seek a seal testifying to the town’s unique history and sense of place in Massachusetts. With the Civil War coming to its savage end and with so many Dorchester families having lost fathers, sons, and brothers on the conflict’s far-flung fields, local leaders wanted a seal that would preserve the beautiful memory of sons, friends, and brothers on the battlefields and the memory of Dorchester in more peaceful times.

Along with patriotic considerations, a large band of Dorchester’s residents hoped a local seal would reinforce their status as an individual town, for in 1865, the prospect of annexation by Boston was on the horizon. Many locals already lamented that in 1804, "the part of Dorchester’s territory lying upon her northern border...including Dorchester Heights, had been appropriated by Boston. In the 1850s, Dorchester leaders had vainly struggled as "Washington Village was swallowed up by the city [Boston]."

Many residents still hoping to fend off further incursions by Boston, a who’s who of prominent Dorchester residents—Edmund J. Baker, Edmund P. Tileston, Nathaniel W. Tileston, and others—formed a committee to design a town seal in April 1865. Joining the effort was Dorchester’s Anti-Quarrier and Historical Society.

The contingent described their purpose: "Your Committee have sought to emblazon upon the Town Seal such a device as would symbolize the acts which rendered the early settlers of this town a peculiar [particular] people, and objects of gratitude and veneration by their descendants for all time to come."

The centerpiece of the committee’s design was a shield embossed near its base with the image of a rough-hewn, thatched-roofed church, without a chimney. The explanation of the church’s significance in Dorchester’s annals, the committee noted: "The early settlers of Dorchester organized themselves as a church at the New Hospital in Plymouth, England, in March of 1630, prior to their embarkation for this country, which act was pre-eminently the cornerstone of the foundation of this town, although they did not arrive here until early in June of that year."

To the rear of the seal’s church, another rude, thatched structure appeared on the shield. The second structure represented Dorchester’s first school.

"The free school," Edmund Baker and his colleagues asserted, "the system of which has been exerting a beneficial influence over the whole country, was established in this town in 1639, and is said to be the very first free school in the world. The foundation of this institution is recognized upon the shield..."

In another image engraved upon the shield, the committee cited the portrait of a "rude mill, with its large wheel, which is seen upon the left bank of the Neponset River, the course of which river, from its source to its mouth, lay through the ancient territory of Dorchester."

The image symbolized Israel Stoughton’s corn mill, which he built in 1635, a grant of land and timber by the town and is said to be the first water-mill in the colony, if not the country. Readers scrutinizing the impressive background of the seal will likely identify the scene’s inspiration - the Blue Hills. The 1865 committee, testifying to those slopes’ importance to the town’s early development, asserted: "In the background will be recognized the Blue Hills, which served as a landmark to pilot the early settlers to the mouth of [the] Charles River, and from behind which the rising sun is shining upon a colony who left their homes in the mother country, not as adventurers in search of gold, as exiles, or for conquest, but the more precious boon of religious liberty."

A regal image materialized atop the shield, soaring above the rolling contours of the Blue Hills. A castle with three imposing turrets crowned the slopes, the mill, the school, and the church. Baker and company proudly summed up their castle as a fitting symbol for the town: "The triple-towered castle surmounting the shield is adopted in respectful memory of Dorchester in Old England, of whose seal this is the principal charge. In commemoration of that borough having been formerly a Roman fortress, and from which place the infant colony derived much of its strength, both physically and spiritually."

The Roman connection would take on added significance several decades later, when ancient Roman paving stones would be placed at Dorchester High School. A banner draped beneath the castle and along the top and sides of the shield bore the motto "Pietate, Literis, Industria." For the committee and their neighbors, the trio of words represented a direct link between the early settlers and the residents of 1865, words reflecting values passed down through the centuries. "The motto upon the ribbon, Pietate, Literis, Industria, signifies that piety, learning, and industry were the prominent virtues which the early settlers coveted, and which their descendants unanimously accord to them."

In the case of Dorchester’s town seal, the old adage that a picture is worth a thousand words might well be revised: the seal’s carefully chosen symbols are worth a thousand words plus three more that speak volumes: piety, learning and industry.

Proud to stand with our great Mayor Martin Walsh in wishing our neighbors a Happy Dorchester Day

To our great Dorchester friends and neighbors, we are proud to be Dorchester’s authentic Irish pub, celebrating the very best of Ireland 365 days a year, fine food, drink and atmosphere, your home for GAA and 6 Nations Rugby.

Proprietors Michael Vaughan & Raymond Butler
The Boston Foundation, Greater Boston’s community foundation, joins in celebrating Dorchester Day 2018! We are proud of the many partners we work with to help make Boston’s biggest neighborhood a safe and vibrant place to work and live. Congratulations on another great year, Dorchester!

For more about the Boston Foundation, visit www.tbf.org.
When Lower Mills was the center of the chocolate universe

By Peter F. Stevens

Something was in the air. People on their daily rounds along the roads of Dorchester and Milton Village turned toward the Neponset River, inhaled the spring breeze, and took a deep whiff. The smell of chocolate was in the air.

The year was 1765. The heavenly scent drifted from a sawmill on the banks of the river within eyeshot of Boston. Inside the mill, an Irishman watched two giant millstones grinding fragrant cocoa and sounding a call to a culinary revolution that was to spread from Dorchester and conquer the collective palate of America.

In the fall of the year before, Dr. James Baker had smelled an opportunity for a quick and lucrative profit. For a venture that he hoped would prove a long-term success.

Baker, a Harvard graduate who had practiced "physicke [sic]," medicine for a time, and had run a Dorchester store, learned from their encounter that even though the Irishman did not have a shilling in his pocket, he possessed a prized skill: He knew how to make chocolate, for which colonists were willing to part with steep sums even though after paying for the pricey product, imported from the West Indies, they still had to "work" for their "fix" by grinding the chocolate with mortar and pestle or by using cumbersome, expensive "hand mills.

Baker took on the challenge, betting his savings and his energy on Hannon's expertise for a venture that he hoped would prove a long-term success.

Although the partners didn't need a huge space to launch their scheme, they did require unlimited water power. And they did not need to look any farther than the Neponset after Baker bought a sawmill nestled alongside the river.

By spring 1765, Hannon was ready to put the plan to the test by grinding cocoa beans between two massive, circular millstones. Now, his partner would learn whether the Irishman knew his craft or else had had sold him a bill of goods.

Hannon set the top millstone to one-third, the speed used to grind corn. As the stone ground and began to spin, he poured cocoa beans into a hole cut through the center. Then, the Neponset's flow set the bottom stone whirling, and the motion of hard "wheels" pulverized the beans into a thick syrup. Then, he and Baker first poured the liquid into a giant iron kettle and then into the concoction cooled to form chocolate "cakes" that looked more like "bricks" in weight and consistency. With that first batch, Hannon proved that he could deliver the goods. America's first bonafide chocolate factory had been born along Dorchester's banks.

No one knew exactly how and where Hannon had "welld his expertise with chocolate. His past was as - and is - elusive. But the enigmatic Irishman's and the Dorchester physician's new process was poised to cure "chocolate-lovers' elbow" - the soreness that colonists endured from grinding their own cocoa beans with their own pestles or hand mills.

Rising orders compelled Baker and Hannon to move the operation in 1766 to a larger space on the Neponset, with Baker renting a fulling [cloth] mill from his brother-in-law, Edward Preston. Preston, however, was not satisfied with merely being the chocolatiers' landlord. He had his eyes on the business itself. For the moment, he appeared "interested" in only a curious fashion, but all that would change.

In 1772, Baker, with sales continuing to swell, opened a second Dorchester mill. Speculators came, and Hannon, who continued to operate the other plant, had quarreled and had either parted ways or forged a looser partnership, abounded. Baker had learned much from the Irishman: The old mill turned out nearly nine hundred pounds of chocolate in 1773.

Baker's decision to branch out proved both profitable and lucky. For a venture that would change.

In 1779, Hannon reestablished himself on a voyage to buy beans in the West Indies. No one in the kettleshop ever saw or heard from him again. Various sources believe he perished in a shipwreck; however, others contend that he vanished only from his vitriolic marriage to a Boston woman named Elizabeth Doe. But to (Continued next page)
Hannon’s partner, Dr. James Baker, business history beckoned. He was soon enmeshed in legal wrangles with Hannon’s widow, who seemed intent on running her husband’s mill with her capable apprentice, Nathaniel Blake, as her workhorse. Blake, deciding that Mrs. Hannon was running the business into the ground, walked out on her and had little trouble in finding a new post — with James Baker.

By 1780, Baker had wrested his former partner’s mill from the widow, presumably by buying her out. By consolidating the operation under one roof on the site of the mill that had burned down in 1775, Baker saw his sales soar.

Watching the cash that chocolate-making poured into his brother-in-law’s account spurred Edward Preston to make a move after 12 years of seeing Baker struggle his way to success. He had studied the operation from millstones to handbills. In the 1790s, a Preston’s chocolate vied for space on tables and cupboards with Baker’s product.

Some four decades later, James Baker, the Harvard doctor and businessman who had launched America’s first chocolate mill, stepped down as “the king of cocoa.”

Chocolate’s new chief opened a state-of-the-art plant alongside the Neponset River, which powered the Baker Chocolate juggernaut for close to two centuries. Image courtesy Dorchester Historical Society

![Neponset River](image.jpg)

A turn-of-the-19th-century postcard shows a bustling industrial village on the banks of the Neponset, which powered the Baker Chocolate juggernaut for close to two centuries. Image courtesy Dorchester Historical Society

By 1780, Baker had wrested his former partner’s mill from the widow, presumably by buying her out. By consolidating the operation under one roof on the site of the mill that had burned down in 1775, Baker saw his sales soar.

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Some four decades later, James Baker, the Harvard doctor and businessman who had launched America’s first permanent and profitable chocolate factory, stepped down as “the king of cocoa.” Baker expanded sales from the Northeast to the western outposts of the young republic’s widening borders; however, come 1812, America’s second war with Britain suddenly heaped upon Edmund Baker the same shipping problems his father had suffered during the Revolution. This time, the Royal Navy’s squadrons choked off cocoa shipments so effectively that the kettles and molds inside the Baker chocolate mill stood virtually empty for two years.

With the war’s end in 1814, cartloads of cocoa beans rumbled into the impressive, three-story stone edifice Baker had built. Soon, Baker’s best was on the shelves of America’s general stores again.

Edmund Baker later entrusted the company to his son Walter who moved to expand his work force. In a sign of the changing times, two of his were young women, Mary and Christiana Shields, who walked onto the plant floor in petticoats in 1834. By 1846, Baker’s payroll included several women.

Walter Baker’s mill, the fragrance of its chocolate to many passersby notwithstanding, continued to turn out its near-legendary products along the Neponset until 1965. In that year, two centuries after a Dorchester doctor/shopkeeper and an Irishman set their first two millstones into motion, General Foods, Baker’s parent outfit since 1927, shut down the venerable red-brick plant and moved the operation to Dover, Delaware.

Still, it is in the annals of Dorchester, not Dover or anywhere else, that the proud legacy of Baker Chocolate truly lives as the site of America’s first successful chocolate mill, where the family’s business dominated the chocolate-making industry for nearly ninety years. The Baker Chocolate Factory continued to turn out its near-legendary products along the Neponset until 1965. In that year, two centuries after a Dorchester doctor/shopkeeper and an Irishman set their first two millstones into motion, General Foods, Baker’s parent outfit since 1927, shut down the venerable red-brick plant and moved the operation to Dover, Delaware.

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I work in Hollywood but I keep my money in my hometown—Kevin Chapman

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He saw the moon as just the beginning.

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Dot Day Parade 101: Tie on those Adidas and hit the Avenue

By BILL FORRY AND LAUREN DEZENSKY

This beginner’s guide to the Dot Day Parade was originally published in June 2015.

Can you feel it? The sense of anticipation, joy, and wonder, reverberating up and down Dot Ave?

The parade brings together all the different ethnic groups that make up Boston’s biggest and best neighborhood. You could spend a year going to all the different ethnic fests across Boston. Or just come to Dot Day and see them all in one-two-hour extravaganza. Plus, we were gay friendly before it was a thing. There’s something for everyone in this parade.

For the folks that grew up here (OFD), the day is a walk down memory lane (and a 3.2-mile parade route). For some, it’s a time to return to one’s roots and relive the glory days of a memory lane (and a sense of anticipation, joy, and wonder, reverberating up and down Dot Ave.

Dot Day itself is steeped in tradition. Around for over 100 years now, the parade started as a way to mark the foundation of Dorchester as a Puritan settlement back in May 1630 (see this week’s editorial, page 12).

And now to the brass tacks: The parade itself starts at 1 p.m. from Dot Ave and Richmond Street in Lower Mills and troops up Dot Ave all the way to the Polish Triangle at the border of Southie. The head of the parade will reach its end-point at Columbia Road more than an hour-and-a-half later. Project DEEP co-hosts a 5K run beginning and ending at the Blarney Stone— the other sponsor— on Dot Avenue before the parade. (See story, page 14). Locals will tell you it’s not a bad way to snag a prime and well-hydrated spot in the shade along the parade route.

Before the parade, State Sen. Linda Forry typically hosts a greening tent at the Meetinghouse Bank parking lot in Lower Mills— where lots of pols and dignitaries stop to swap parade gossip, take photos and a sneak in a water break. Getting there: The MBTA Red Line to Ashmont or Fields Corner. Both stations are right on Dot Ave. and just steps from big crowds.

Where to watch (and blend in with the big crowd)? Along the wall (and under the trees) at Dorchester Park in Lower Mills, south of Carney Hospital; intersection of Dot Ave and Gallivan Boulevard; Peabody Square; in front of St. Mark’s Church; the Blarney Stone; and the Savin Hill Ave. and Richmond Street in Lower Mills, south of Carney Hospital; intersection of Dot Ave and Gallivan Boulevard; Peabody Square; in front of St. Mark’s Church; the Blarney Stone; and the Savin Hill Ave. intersection.

If you like to watch the parade in a more intimate setting (e.g. small crowd), stick to the stretch between Freeport Street and Hecla Street. It’s typically quite thin, albeit a bit of a hike from either the Savin Hill and Fields Corner T stops.

Or as one time, a few short blocks from Dot Ave. to Savin Hill beach for a splash in Dorchester Bay. The route of the parade will be ticketed and lined with police and— if they say so— you’ll have to take the crosswalk in Malibu Beach, closer to the landmark gas tank. Be nice to Mayberry. Jet skiers who weekend on Malibu will give you a lift back to Quincy or wherever you came from.

What to wear: You’re going to be on your feet for hours if you do this right, so footwear is your most important decision of the day. If you want to blend in like an old-school Dot Rat, may we suggest a pair of mint-green or hot-blue Adidas Gazelles? Old-school sneaker heads break out those high school throwbacks and share notes on which variety store they copped them from in the 1980s.

Vendors along the route of the parade itself will be hawking food, music, and other entertainment. If Sunday’s a real scorcher (hot day), hoopt it a few short blocks from Dot Ave. to Savin Hill beach for a splash in Dorchester Bay. The parade itself is steeped in tradition.

Mr. O’Neill’s bar.

And even when the street cleaners come through, Dot Day isn’t over. Longtime families host post-parade BBQs. So get to know your fellow spectators along the route and you’re likely to score an invite. City Councillor Frank Casko Baker hosts a block party on Dot Ave north of Columbia Rd. with free food, music, and other entertainment.

Also, sunscreen. Lots and lots of sunscreen. (Unless it rains, of course, which it might this year as predicted on the latest forecast.)

A final note, from the de-parade of your mother: The absolute worst view of the parade route is from the Area C-11 jail block. Open containers are absolutely NOT allowed on the route and Boston Police have been serious about making this a far-less sudsy affair than the March parade in South Boston. There’s zero tolerance on underage boozing in particular, so don’t risk it. Adult spectators may, however, enjoy their beverage of choice on private property or from one of the Dot Ave. favorite establishments including Ashmont Grill, Harp & Bard, and the Blarney Stone. The Blarney Stone is a very popular spot because its windows open up to the route and it has an amazing outdoor patio. It’s usually a big crowd, especially among those who run in the pre-parade Brunch.

So dust off those Adidas Gazelles (or order them online STAT) and get ready to party like a Dot Rat this Sunday for the biggest day in Dorchester. See you on the Ave.
Veteran Stephen Butler, OFD, keynoted Memorial Day ceremony

Dorchester native and former US Navy SEAL Stephen Butler (shown with Boston Mayor Marty Walsh and City Councilor Annissa Essaibi-George) acknowledges applause after main speech.

Boston Firefighters begin to unfurl Old Glory on a ladder truck in front of Cedar Grove Cemetery.

Residents watched the parade go by on Milton Street.

Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts from Pack/Troop 28 on parade.

Starting up Hill Top Street from the McKeon Post: members of the Greater Boston Firefighters Pipes and Drums.

Members of the Thomas J. Kenny Elementary School Marching Band at Cedar Grove Cemetery.

Members of Irish 28th Massachusetts Volunteers.

Watching the ceremony at Cedar Grove Cemetery: Cindy Monahan (left) of Dorchester with her 2-and-a-half year-old daughter Aoife McMoran and Josh Conroy (right) with 5-year-old daughter Chloe.
Former Navy SEAL: Dot’s support for service members makes it a special place

Stephen Butler, a former Navy SEAL and Dorchester native, was the keynote speaker at Monday’s Memorial Day ceremony at Dorchester Cemetery. The following are excerpts from Butler’s remarks.

I grew up right up the street from here. I went to St. Brendan’s School then Archbishop Williams High School and Framingham State College. I have always been very proud to be a part of the community. After college, I coached Dorchester Youth Hockey for a few years and was involved with Project D.E.E.P. for a number of years as well.

After I graduated from college, like most people, I was trying to figure out what I wanted to do with my life. I really was lost. I didn’t fully understand what the military in the back of my mind, being a Navy SEAL, meant. The first things people ask is how’s it going. ‘How was the training?’ Did you make it through? And for me, I’m not going to stand up here and say it was easy, but I think there were people that obviously have to be able to meet the physical standards and pass all of the tests.

But it’s more than that. It’s really the moral characteristics that they are looking for. It’s the ability to be on a 5-minute mile and swim like a fish, but if you don’t have the intangibles, if they are looking for then you’re going to get weeded out.

You have to be a team player. If the guys in your class don’t like you, then you’re not going to make it. Work ethic, integrity, loyalty, honesty, having your buddy’s back – these are the traits that they are looking for.

And for me, these things were instilled in me since I was a kid. That’s just how I was raised. That’s how I grew up. Those are values that I learned from my parents, from my friends. I think one of the biggest things that instilled the most something you definitely needed to have is humility. You’ve got to have a good luck, growing up in Dorchester if you don’t have some thick skin, especially with my group of friends. Hell, I fully expected to get heckled as soon as I step on this podium. While I didn’t grow up on a farm shooting guns like most guys in [my class] I could sure take some physical and mental abuse.

After I graduated from SEAL Qualification Training I was assigned to SEAL Team Four. I did two deployments to East Africa with Team Four and I got out of the Navy and moved back home last summer. I spent a little over 6 years in the Navy and truly enjoyed my time in the SEAL Teams. I think that it provided me the experiences and growth that I needed in my life. I had the opportunity to serve with great guys and create relationships that I will for the rest of my life. Because those who have served in the military to travel all over the country and all over the world and it has made me realize how special this community is. They fought stand up here and pre

The SEAL team is truly like a fish, but if you don’t do it, they won’t stand up for themselves. They fought stand up here and pre

And that’s what I want today to do. I want to have the opportunity during my time in the military to travel all over the country and all over the world and it has made me realize how special this community is. Ceremonies like this don’t happen everywhere. Most people in these days use Memorial Day as an excuse for a cookout or free day off from work. But here we are taking a few hours on this day to come together to honor and celebrate the sacrifices so many Americans have made. And I can tell you first hand that this doesn’t happen everywhere. And I can tell you that I certainly don’t deserve it. That’s something that comes from those men whose stories are on those walls. I couldn’t and still can’t understand the sacrifice that they made. And that was a constant reminder to me every time I walked down those hallways.

And that’s why we are gathered here today. To remember all those that made that sacrifice.

Today we remember and we celebrate all those who have served and sacrificed for this country. For me, I can’t remember all those people in the audience that have been through far more than I have and there are people buried in this cemetery that have sacrificed more than I can imagine. But what I can do is try to find that common ground, the one thing that bonds past, present and future military members. And I think that is, is a sense of service. I had stacks upon stacks in my room. My wife had to have sent at least one with these guys or friends, cards from the school my wife went to, the school my sister worked at, the Leahy Holloran Community Center, and then local Boston organizations. There were never even heard of.

And that wasn’t just from personal experience. I bet that every other local kid who served, no matter the branch or their rank or rank, got the same support from this community that I did. And the support wasn’t just when I was deployed.

So today we come together to thank those who have served and are still with us, and we honor and remember those who are no longer with us. I’d like to thank the people of this community for the support they have given me and all prior service members, for the support that they are giving us our current service members and for the continued support I know that they will give our future service members. So thank you and Happy Memorial Day.
One of Dorchester’s Great Historians Recounts Dorchester’s Early Settlement

Dorchester, with a population of just under 200,000 people, is the second-largest urban center in Massachusetts. That, in itself, would make Dorchester a favored location with the people who chose the shores of Mattapan by the Indians. The Dorchester settlement was founded four-square: home, church, school, and town. The home was the starting point for the new-born, but it was also more than that. It was not only a fortress against the world, but also a training place where the children learned the ways of piety and godliness from their earliest impressions. The Bible was read daily and prayers were said, not only at the beginning and end of the day but also in thankfulness before meals. Homes were the fortresses of their lives - the training schools of character as well as shelter from the pristine wilderness. Death laid a heavy hand upon the young, with no understanding of sanitation and no means of combating such epidemics as smallpox, diphtheria, and a long list of fatal illnesses. Two out of three of the children born the first year died, so those who survived were regarded as even more precious. Life expectancy in colonial America was less than 20 years.

It was the purpose of the people to emphasize the sacred in their lives, and that was the whole meaning of the Puritan Revolution. They protested what was known as the Cavalier spirit in Mother England, where profound attitudes toward life were blatant and destructive, and obscenity was so commonplace as to cause the Puritan reformers to close all the theaters and places of public meeting, where possible, in order that what was left of the sacred would not be overwhelmed. The home life developed by the Dorchester Puritans served as evidence that these people not only sought a new way of life but found one of its strongest foundations in their homes. A second foundation of the early Dorchester Community was the Church—a gathering of Christian people who held certain commitments about their faith and belief known to the world as “Puritan.” The word “Puritan” was an epithet hurled at them and was identified by others as negative, hence, in many ways destructive of social values. In some ways, Puritanism could rightly be identified in these ways: but a wider study of its effects both on the people and the civilization which they produced bordered on the admirable. It is not a completely strange system of belief but had its beginnings in Manichaeanism of the late fourth century, to which the great Augustine was himself a convert for many years, and then came to the surface again in the late 12th century with the Cathari of the Roman Catholic Church. They championed the Bible, especially the New Testament as the root of their religions faith and opposed the absorption of all religious authority as residual in the clergy. They attempted to purify their lives and attracted so much attention as to threaten the mainstream of Church life for another century. Religious attitudes very similar in kind surfaced with the Anabaptists of Europe in the early 1500s with Zwingli and many of their basic ideas were strengthened by John Calvin in Switzerland and John Knox in Scotland. All this happened as a foundation to the Puritan movement in England that led to the Massachusetts Bay Colony and Dorchester, in particular. Henry VIII leaned on this arm of religion when he succeeded in having Parliament declare the independence of the Church of England in 1534. The Church of England remained the official bastion of religion until Mary came to the throne in 1553 to re-establish Roman Catholicism. Then Queen Elizabeth restored the power of the Church of England in 1558, but only on paper. Large numbers of English people continued to be Roman Catholics in faith and belief. In 1585, an Act was passed in Parliament accusing all Jesuits and seminary priests entering the realm as guilty of high treason for which there was punishment of hanging, drawing, and quartering. Father Thomas Pelham was tried and executed on the gallows in Dorchester, England. There were many others throughout the realm, so that regardless of any implication made by any writer, the early Puritans and the faithful Roman Catholics had a common bond of resentment and also of faith that would later result in a basic acceptance—one of the other—in Dorchester, Massachusetts colony. The ecumenical spirit, so new in many parts of the world, was not strange in Dorchester from its beginning through the actual physical Church in the Massachusetts Bay colony was made up of English Puritans who themselves suffered threats and violence at the hands of English law and the enforcement of that law, demanding conformity. The Dorchester Colony, like other units in the Massachusetts Bay, was a theocracy with the powers of government centered in the Church and the authority of the Church residual in the membership of the congregation, though in actual fact, the clergy exercised wide influence. The people were allowed to vote but the power of franchise was limited to those who

The Rev. James K. Allen was not a native of Dorchester, but became one of our community's most well-loved and respected members during his long tenure as pastor of the First Parish Church on Meetinghouse Hill. Rev. Allen was perhaps the most well-versed Dorchester historian of his generation and in 1979 he published this remarkable essay about the Puritan people who settled the town of Dorchester in 1630 and their early history in the “New World.” In the 39 years since Rev. Allen wrote this article, many things have changed in Dorchester. Our population is no longer the astounding 200,000 that Rev. Allen accurately recorded at the time; the Kennedy Library, which was then still a promise, has now been completed and its dream fulfilled. Sadly, we’ve also lost a great friend in Rev. Allen, who died in February 1991, but lives on in our memories and through his thoughtful writings, such as this.
for a Nation

Early Days and Contributions

belonged to the Church, so the church was a dominant institution in the life of the Dorchester community.

Richard Mather, who was regarded as a reformer in England and looked on with disfavor by the bishops there, came to New England in 1635. He had been a schoolmaster at Toxteth Park in Liverpool where he was known as a skilful educator. It was normal, therefore, that he should emphasize education in Dorchester where he was called to be minister of the Church in 1636. His work with the people gave rise to a school - the first tax-supported school in America. Other towns claim this distinction: Boston, with its Latin School, Dedham, and Rehoboth. The Boston Public Latin School was opened in 1635, but it was public in the British sense; the scholars paid their tuition fees. The town of Boston did not contribute any money to the Latin School until 1641. School in Dedham was tax-supported from its beginning, but Dedham was not even incorporated until the Dorchester public school had been in operation for four years; and the same thing can be said about Rehoboth and its public school.

The other foundation of life in Dorchester was the Town. Towns are as true a history, but democracy of government which had its beginnings in Dorchester, Massachusetts, was something new in the world. Roger Ludlow, who served as New Towns, three other towns enfranchised the inhabitants of the Town of Dorchester “every Mosomeday of the Month,” the citizens were asked to assemble in the Town Meeting to consider their civic and political problems and responsibilities. These meetings were called in the morning because it was a time when indoor lighting was inadequate.

All power of political action was assumed by the New England Town Meeting. During the five months of less daylight, this six-day-per-week program continued until the day was shortened from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. during the five months of less daylight.

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Roger Ludlow, left Dorchester in the company with Thomas Hooker and some of his friends of Cambridge (Newton). They made their way to the Connecticut River and floated down to found the colony at Windsor, Connecticut. Ludlow, unhappy because he had not been appointed Governor in the place of Winthrop, decided to leave Massachusetts. He wrote “The fundamental Orders of Connecticut” that furnished the framework of our federal Constitution and the constitutions of many states.

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For actor Kevin Chapman ‘true north’ will always be Inwood Street, Dorchester

BY BILL FORBES
EDITOR

Inwood Street is a classic Dorchester side street, densely packed with three-deckers, but still somewhat insulated from the hustle and bustle of the Bowdoin Street business district a block away.

Kevin Chapman no longer lives here, but Inwood is still home for the actor and producer who is best known for playing either a cop or a criminal (sometimes, both) on TV and film. Now 55, he is so connected to this street that he named his film company, Inwood Street Productions.

“It’s the last street where my entire family lived together,” Chapman said during a visit to his old stomping grounds last week, as the Reporter tagged along. The Chapmans arrived here when he was eight years old.

“We thought we had got the house on the hill, getting out of the Mission Hill projects,” he recalls, looking up at his former address, 5 Inwood, a tidy, well-decorated house with flowering plants swinging from the second-floor porch that used to be his perch. “Looking at it now, it’s relatively small, but as a child it was massive.”

He calls up a current occupant of the house, who is lounging on the porch. “I used to live in that apartment,” he hollers. “That’s good!” the man replies good-naturedly. “I think I left a few things; mind if I come up and get ’em?” Chapman counters, bursting into a belly laugh. The man on the porch answers in kind.

Chapman can still rattle off the old Inwood family names – “the Haleys, the Butts, the Curriers, the McGees, the Sullivans, the Phippses.” Kevin’s mom raised him and his three siblings here for most of his childhood, spending $325 a month for renting the second-floor apartment.

“A lot of families here were struggling. I think maybe there were two families on the whole street who had a Dad. It was just getting by. But, we were like one big, dysfunctional family.”

The kids on Inwood and nearby Norton and Olney streets found common ground in more than just family hardship. On weekends, they took over the parking lot of the old Meetinghouse Bank across the street and played street hockey for hours on end – until the bells tolled nine o’clock from the top of St. Peter’s.

“That’s how we knew it was time to pack it in.” Some days, they’d hike up Mount Ida Street to Ronan Park at the top of the hill with its majestic vistas of Dorchester Bay and beyond to go head-to-head with kids from the other side of Bowdoin Street in their chosen game.

When he wasn’t polishing his slapshot, Chapman was hustling himself to or from one of several public schools he attended over an academic life that was roiled, like many, by the chaotic desegregation-era busing order. He attended, variously, the nearby Mather School on Meetinghouse Hill, the Holmes School in Codman Square, the Holland School off Geneva Ave, and the Grover Cleveland in Fields Corner.

Kevin Chapman has some 62 TV and film credits to his name, dating back to 1998, when he caught his first break as Mickey Pat in the film “Monument Ave.” Some other notable roles include Val Savage in “Mystic River,” above, (2003), Frank McKinney in “Ladder 49” (2004), Freddie Cork in “Brotherhood” (2008), Terrance in “Rescue Me” (2009) and Lionel Fusco, below, left, in “Person of Interest,” the TV series that ran on CBS from 2011-2016. Source: IMDB

“In the sixth grade, I was sent over to the King School on Lawrence Ave, which wasn’t the most convenient loca-

(Continued on page 21B)
Kevin Chapman walked his dog Maverick along the crest of Ronan Park last week. He spent a few years living with this view as a resident of Mt. Ida Road.

Kevin Chapman, left, walks along Inwood Street last week. At right: The Reporter’s Bill Forry
Dorchester Historical Society is looking to broaden its appeal to the younger set

By Jennifer Smith

Over its 175 years of existence, the Dorchester Historical Society has collected, preserved, and shared knowledge about what happened in the old Puritan town since it was established in 1630.

While actively maintaining several classic properties, accumulating artifacts of importance, and offering programming from its Boston Street base, the society is also adapting to modern pressures as it charts its way into the future.

The society sees if we can get more diversity in our programming,” Taylor said. “We want to spend more time dealing directly with programming to broaden our appeal.”

The society’s online presence has expanded in recent months. There’s more activity on its Twitter handle @DotHist and on Facebook with mystery photos and archived images, and there are neighborhood trivia nights at the nearby Dorchester Brewing Company.

Although the recently revived gem of a fundraising effort, the Dorchester House Tour, is not taking place this year, the group is hopeful that they will be able to expand out into villages beyond the Ashmont area for next year.

New board members are bringing different parts of Dorchester into the mix, Rugo said, which is an encouraging shift. “Everybody’s history is important,” Rugo said. “It’s not just that you were a Blake or a Clapp or came over on the Mary and John.”
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Floor plans from approx. 1,500+/SF to 9,000+/
Our function hall and restaurant are where you come to for all those family moments. Most are happy occasions with a few sad ones, but Florian Hall is where you feel at home.

Our longtime, dedicated staff delivers great service with a can-do attitude to help all. On this Dorchester Day we thank them and you for letting us be part of this community.

We must also acknowledge the Dorchester Day Parade Grand Marshal Edward A. Kelly

As we all know, Edzo is the proud son of Dorchester who is raising his family here. He is a Boston Firefighter from Ladder 17 who has served as our President, as the State President of the Professional Firefighters of Massachusetts and currently is representing 310,000 firefighters across the United States and Canada as the General Secretary-Treasurer of the International Association of Fire Fighters; the IAFF. Edzo is making his mark nationally as a visionary labor leader whose future is bright. This gives us great pride.

For the active and retired members of Boston Firefighters Local 718, Happy Dorchester Day and see you around Florian.

Rich Paris, President of Local 718