## DOT DAY 18

### **COMPLETE GUIDE TO SUNDAY'S PARADE JUNE 3 • 1 P.M.** Along Dorchester Ave. from Richmond Street to Columbia Road



The Tony Barrie Band, shown making its way up the avenue in June 2017, is one of several marching bands and musical units that will be part of Sunday's Dorchester Day Parade. Chris Lovett photo

## 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 who Dorchester people really are. To follow in the footsteps of Joe Zinck and the late Jimmy Mcalways dedicated themselves to our country, city, and neighborhood, and Mary-dith E. Tuitt whose efforts at the State House delivering back to our community I have admired.

I have also served on the board of directors of the Massachusetts Iraq and Afghanistan Fallen Heroes Memorial with past Chief Marshall Brendan Murphy, where we were part of a team that built a fitting tribute to all Bay Staters who sacrificed their lives fighting the War on Terror, including Dorchester's own Danny Londono 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

Carron, friends who have 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 orite 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



Edward A. Kelly, the chief marshal of the 2018 Dorchester Day Parade, is General Secretary-Treasurer of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF).

uncles living with us. We lived on the Dead End of Westglow with about 40-50 other kids. The Swikes, Devines, Solettis, McLaughlins, McCarthys, 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)



A RUN-DOWN ON ALL OF THE BANDS, FLOATS AND SPECIAL GUESTS IN OUR PARADE ROSTER— PAGE 2

## DOT DAY



## The Official Dorchester Day Parade Roster

This roster is printed as an informational guide only. The parade line up is subject to change by the committee at any time.



Charlie Baker

Andrea J. Campbell Boston City Council President Annissa Essaibi George Boston City Councillor At Large Authentic Caribean Foundation Ayanna Pressley Candidate for United States Congress Baker/Polito Campaign Bay Cove Human Services Bethel Seventh Day Adventist Spanish Church Boston Bowl

**Boston Emergency Management Services** Boston Fire Department Boston Fire Department Honor Guard Boston Police Department Boston Police Gaelic Column Boston Public Library Bibliocycle **Boston Windjammers** Boston Youth Raiders and Cheer C.A.S.H. Marching Band Carney Hospital/Harvard Street Health Center Characters from Boston Party Solutions

and LMPK Events

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 as our Chief Marshal Edward Kelly

We also congratulate our 2017 Mayor of Dorchester Joe Castro

Young Miss Dorchester - Gabriella Monteiro

Govenor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts City of Boston, Special Police - BHA Police, BOHC Police, School Police, Park Rangers Clowning for Kidz Colonial Pipers Band

CVC UNIDO, Cape Verdean Association of Boston DaBean Allstarz Dan Cullinane, State Representative Dan Hunt, State Representative Dorchester Baseball **Dorchester Brewing Company** by way of Craft'd Company Dorchester Food Coop

Dorchester Not for Sale Dorchester People for Peace DotOUT

**Dynasty Productions** East Boston Savings Bank Edward A. "Edzo" Kelly, Chief Marshall Elisabeth Bogle, Little Miss Dorchester

Estreallas Tropicales Evandro Carvalho Fields Corner Main Streets Fire House Dixie First Baptist Church

Frank Baker, Boston City Councillor Fuerza International Gabriella Monteiro, Young Miss Dorchester

Glamorous Divas Greg Henning for District Attorney

Hallamore Horses Hot 96.9 FM

Joe Castro, Mayor of Dorchester

Kenny School Marching Band

Linda Champion Candidate for Suffolk County District Attorney

Living Art, Inc. Liz Miranda

Candidate for 5th Suffolk District State Representative

Mark F. Rooney, Candidate for Governor's Council

Martin J. Walsh, Mayor of Boston

McCall Ambulance Michael Capuano, United States Congressmen Michael Flaherty, Boston City Councillor

Michelle Wu, Boston City Councillor At Large

Mike Ritter, Ritterbin Photography

National Lancers **New England Wailers** New Magnolia Jazz Band Nick Collins State Senator Painters, District Council 35

Patsy's Clowns Pop-A-Lock Boston

Rachel Rollins Candidate for Suffolk County District Attorney

Roberto Clemente 21 Dancers Roma Band Musicians

Safe Patient Limits Safety Auto School

South End Dynomites South Shore Health System

Home & Community Care Spartans

Standish Village Strolling Hobos Dixie Tempo International

The Cystem

(The Youth Sports Training & Education Movement) The New Liberty Jazz Band

The Next Birthday Project Titan Majorettes Tony Barrie Band Uphams Corner Health Center Vietnamese American Community of Massachusetts

Waltham American Legion Band Worcester Brass Band Worcester Sound & Lights WORK, Inc.

#### Little Miss Dorchester - Elisabeth Bogle

**2016 PARADE E-BOARD** President: Kelly Walsh Vice President: Marty Hogan Parade Clerk: Dieu Phan Secretary: Brianne Gore Treasurer: Peter Sasso

Judge Advocate: Karen MacNutt At-Large Director: Colleen Walsh At-Large Director: Carol Houghtaling At-Large Director: Christine Isabelle-Hogan

#### **PARADE COMMITTEE**

Steve Allen Pat O'Neill Doug Bennet Cynthia Pape Carol Chaisson Millie Rooney John Connor Pam Smith Christine Hogan Barbara Trybe Paul Nutting Joe Zinck

## 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 Dorchesterthemed shirts adorned with shamrocks, threedeckers, 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

"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

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

> College Hype has unveiled new Dorchester Day designs including a Red Line-themed t-shirt (above) and an American flag-themed shirt (at

right).

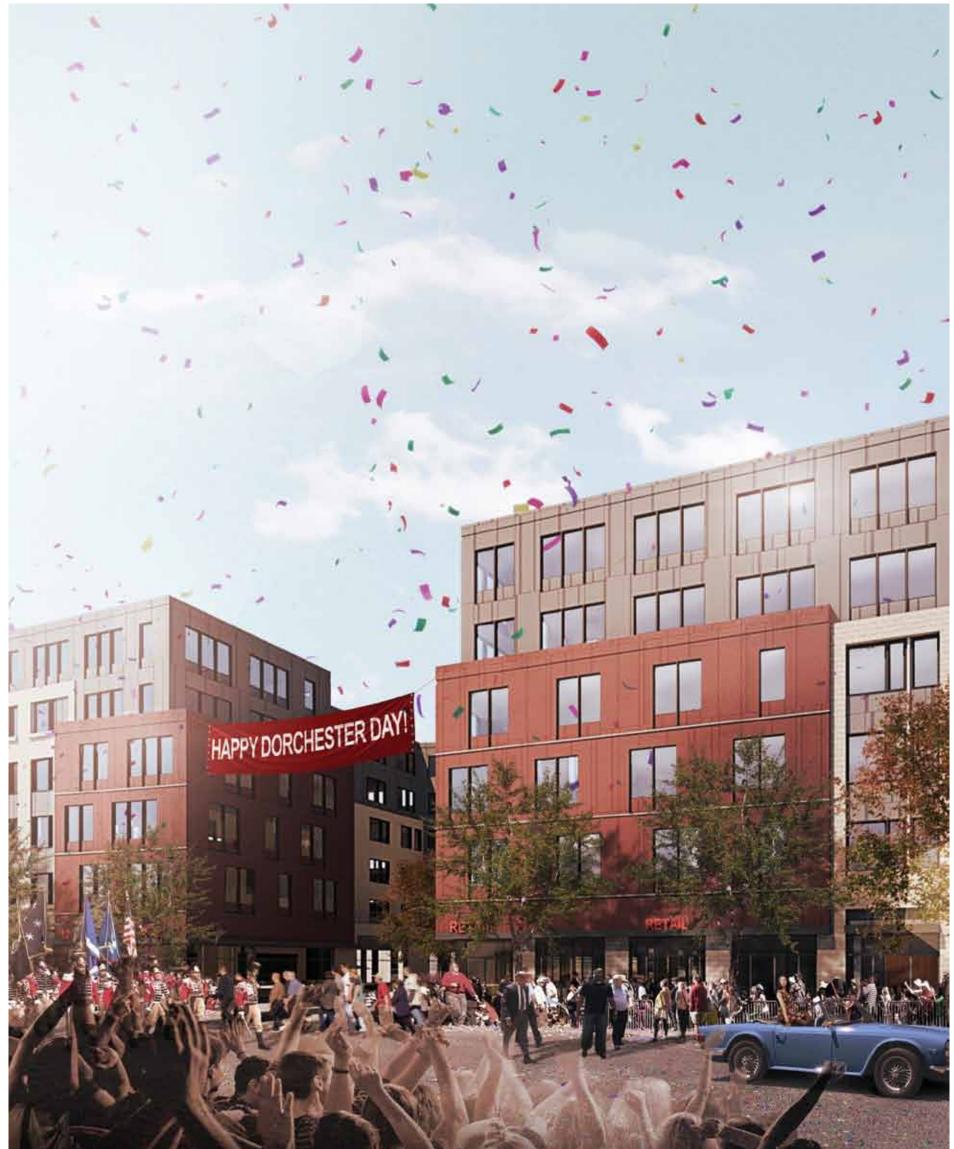
the weekend. The week leading up to Dorchester Day is typically one of the busiest times of the year for the Adams Village-based company, said Doherty.

"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 batted 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 littler something for lollipops or a trip to the port for Seymour's ice cream Hoodsies. I'm trying to teach my daughter some of Dorchester's life lessons. We were all lucky to be Dead End Dot Rats.

#### 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 Toohig 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 their Dot Day tee shirts from Jack Doherty at College Hype. We considered stopping by the Carney and C-11 a double-header.

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

A. I travel a lot for the union, so being away so much makes me 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 a day, or breakfast after the St. Ann'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.

May 31, 2018

#### 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 with always knowing what I wanted to do in life – be a fireman. Riding my bike into the South End and hanging around with my Dad at the firehouse was gold. My brother Greg and I would wash the truck and run any errands my father's pals Captain "Duozo" Reynolds, Dicky Sanders, Jerry Yanovich, Hippy Gonzalez, or Joe Odom needed. I think you'd have to know our family pretty well to recognize what a tremendous influence my mother Noreen has been to me. My mother grew up in the same house as we did, the oldest of six children. Her Dad was a fireman and owned Dwyer Oil company in Neponset and my mother was the bookkeeper. Bobby "Wizza" White, a legendary Beacon Hill lobbyist and proud Dot Rat told me that Dwyer Oil never left any house without heat, whether you could pay or not. My mother's youngest brother Jimmy was struck and killed by a P&B bus on Neponset Ave. walking home from The Finast Supermarket when he was just six years old, which really impacted her family. My mother was always 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 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, mv 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 under her tutelage. I am truly blessed. I also had 22 cousins I grew up with in Dorchester.

#### Q. Do you say threedecker or triple-decker?

A. Only three-deckers where I'm from.

Q. Firefighting runs in your family and in your blood, and vou've been around firefighters all your life. What are some common misconceptions you think people might have about firefighters and the job they do?

A. That we all know how to cook. We all know how to eat just fine, but I was only allowed to cook once in the firehouse. I made hamburger and vegetable soup that I thought was delicious. We ate in three days a week on the Dead End, which wasn't so popular with my guys who were used to Bubba Martin's meatloaf or Charlie Santangelo's baked chicken. It was all potato-peeling and washing the pots and pans for me after that.

Q. Finally, we'd like to thank you for your service and for being a leader in firefighting communities from the local to the international level. Considering the Dot Day Parade's military history, what special significance will June 3 have for you?

**A.** When I think about the tremendous service to our country by the men and women of Dorchester, it's just an honor to be a part of it. Take a look at all the street corners named for our fallen around this neighborhood. My cousin's uncle, Robert A. Griffin, is one of the 79 sons of Dorchester who made the ultimate sacrifice and is memorialized on the Dorchester Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Gallivan Boulevard. The expressway overpass at Freeport and Boulevard is named for him. This August  $marks\,50\,years\,since\,his\,death.$ I'll be reading all the corner signs when I march down Dot Ave. and remembering their sacrifice.





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**IBEW Local 103 and NECA wish all of our neighbors in** Dorchester a safe and happy parade celebration!

## 114 Years Ago, Dorchester Day took root in Savin Hill

By Peter F. Stevens REPORTER STAFF

Excitement wafted through the crowd along Savin Hill. The community was gathered for a special event that would evolve into a tradition. Sails dotted the blue waters of Dorchester Bay below the shady slopes, where a "historical pil-grimage" was about to unfold. It was June 25,

As the people of Dorchester turned their thoughts back to 1630, when the weary passengers of the "Mary and John" claimed their foothold in the New World, the first Dorchester Day Celebration was on the

In many ways, the genesis of Dorchester Day began with the creation of the Dorchester Historical Society in April 1891. William H. Whitmore, who served as the City Registrar, and local luminary James H. Stark, both of whom were known as avid students of the town's

past, spearheaded an organization that numbered 25 members at its inception. That number would quickly swell.

To celebrate the town's rich annals, the society envisioned a way to blend the past with the present, to gather those who lived in Dorchester and those who had moved, and to bring them together in something of a historical homecoming.

Trask writes: "...many of the best known and most influential men of the old town have become members [of the society]. Among the result of the society's work may be mentioned the observance of the 274th anniversary of the settlement of Dorchesterand the inauguration of Dorchester Day, which is now a fixture, and under the auspices of the society the anniversary is observed yearly, and is practically a 'home coming' for the residents of old Dorchester that are scattered throughout the

festive mood that filled the city, then and now: "Business houses and private residences are elaborately decorated. There are parades, addresses, regattas, ringing of bells, fireworks,

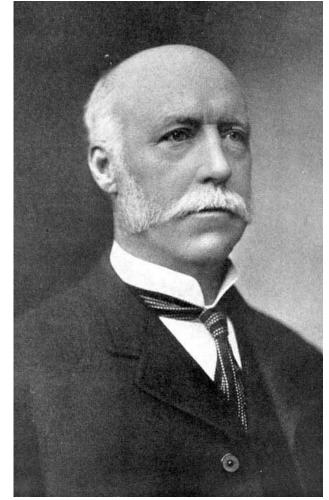
In an April 1904 meeting of the society, Stark, the organization's vice president, first pitched the notion of a "Dorchester Day." He proposed that the town celebrate its founding by gathering the community atop Savin Hill, where the Puritan company of the Mary and John had built their first fort and had carved their first tenuous foothold in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Stark's stated objective was "to draw the attention 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 down to posterity this lovely hilltop."

There was just one

Trask describes the 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 necessity of preserving to posterity 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 to raise funds, came up with \$135 in donations, enough to foot the bill for a tent, printed fliers, and refreshments; he also persuaded officials to provide the Municipal Band and flags for free.

That the first "Dorchester Day" was a smash hit



James Stark was the publisher and president of the Photo-Electrotype Engraving Company, was noted historian and organizer of the Dorchester Historical Society in 1891. He might well be considered the  $father of Dorchester \, {\rm Day.} {\it Photo \, courtesy \, Dorchester}$ Historical Society/dorchesteratheneum.org

is evident from the pages of the Boston Herald the next day, June 26, 1904: "Lifted nearly one hundred and fifty feet above Dorchester bay, the craggy slopes and tree-covered heights of 'Rocky Hill,' 'Old Hill,' or 'Savin Hill,' as it has been variously styled, were yesterday the scene of commemorative exercises that seem destined to make a new place of historical pilgrimage for the tourist whose steps are annually bent toward Massachusetts.

The members of the Dorchester Historical Society, having planned to turn this long-neglected 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 Improvement Association, Mattapan Improvement Association, Field and Forest Club, Dorchester Veteran Firemen's Association, Benjamin Stone, Jr., Post 68, G.A.R., and the United Improvement Association of Dorches-

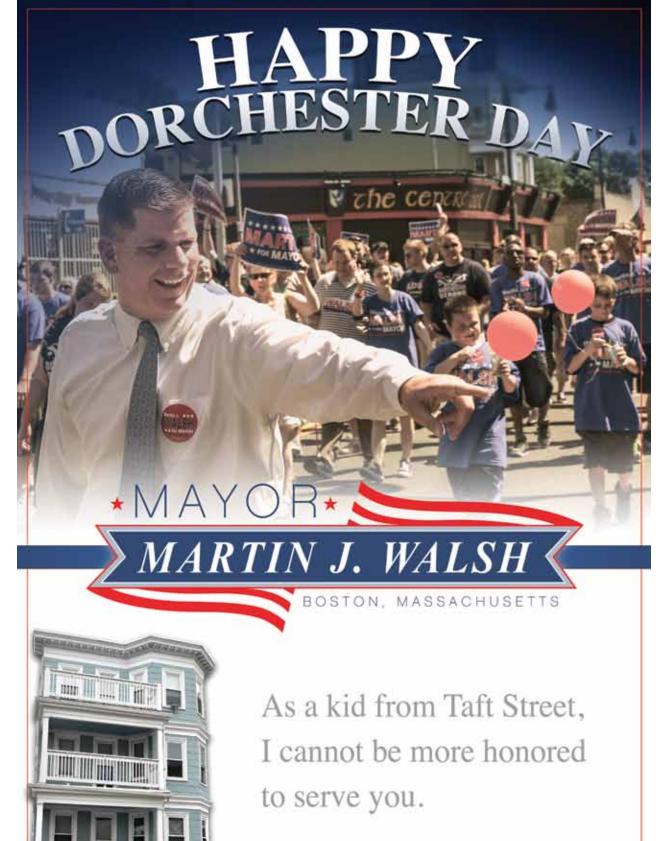
"Under invitation of these organizations some two hundred citizens of Dorchester gathered in a tent on the crest of Savin Hill, and there, alternated with selections by the Boston Municipal Band, under Emil Mullenhauer, patriotic addresses were made on the significance of the day

and the site, the speakers being Richard C. Humphreys, President of the Dorchester Historical Society; James H. Stark, who delivered the oration; the Rev. Eugene R. Shippen of the First Church in Dorchester, who presided; the Rev. Peter Ronan, and Representative Guy A. Ham."

The presence of Father Ronan was especially telling, proving how far the town had come from the days of its first English settlers, Puritans who loathed anything smacking of "Popery." In 1904, the Catholic cleric's honored place at the ceremonies reflected an era when the 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 remained virtually intact. That aspect was Stark's vision of Dorchester Day as a "homecoming."

A look at the Dorchester Day coverage by the old Dorchester Beacon newspaper reveals that many of the civic organizations 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.



Paid for By The Committee to Elect Martin J. Walsh.

#### May 31, 2018 THE REPORTER DORCHESTER DAY SUPPLEMENT Page 7B dotnews.com Introducing Dorchester's Little Miss Elisabeth and Young Miss Gabriella

#### REPORTER 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



Little Miss Dorchester 2018 Elisabeth Bogle, right, with contest organizer Sonia Essaibi.

favorite hobbies include Hyde Park. She enjoys STEM activities, building with LEGOs, 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 said. "But I would like to

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



Young Miss Dorchester Gabriella Monteiro.

have a career in music Marshal's Dinner on Friand 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 day 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 along 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!"

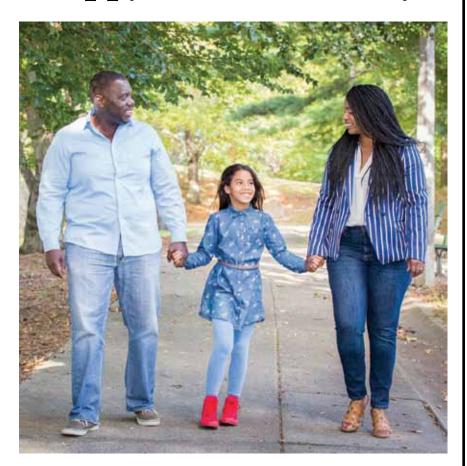
## **Happy Dorchester Day!**



Annissa Essaibi George **Boston City Councilor At-Large** 

Paid for and authorized by the Committee to Elect Annissa Essaibi George.

## Happy Dorchester Day!



## from Councillor Ayanna Pressley and family

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Ayanna Pressley

## Wishing a Safe **Happy Dorchester Day** to All



Senator **NICK COLLINS Fourth Suffolk District** 

## Seal of Approval: The Story Behind Dorchester's Town Seal

By Peter F. Stevens REPORTER STAFF

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 the men at that 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 battlefields, local leaders wanted to extol the town's more than 250 years of contribution and sacrifice.

They sought to create a symbol of Dorchester's unique place in the nation's history: "The town of Dorchester...the mother of free public schools, whose patriotism and liberality have been so tried in the early wars with the Indians, with the French in colonial days, in the War of the Revolution, in the Shav's Rebellion. in the last war with England, and in the dreadful war so lately gloriously closed."

A town seal, in the opinion of people from Neponset to Savin Hill, would help to "sacredly preserve the beautiful tribute of her citizens to the memory of sons, who, in obedience to early instructions, and inherited purpose in morality, patriotism, and humanity, have laid down their lives on the altar of their country."

Along with patriotism, 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, "that 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]."

With many residents still hoping to fend off further incursions by Boston, a who's who of



prominent Dorchester men - Edmund J. Baker, Edmund P. Tileston, Nathan W. Tileston, and others - formed a committee to design a town seal in April 1865. Joining the effort was Dorchester's Antiquarian 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, thatch-roofed church, without a chimney. In explanation of the church's significance in Dorchester's annals, the committeemen noted: "The early settlers of Dorchester organized themselves as a church at the New Hospital in

Plymouth, England, in if not the country." 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 on 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 1633 "by grant of land and timber by the town... and is said to be the first water-mill in the colony,

Readers scrutinizing

the impressive background of the shield 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 son 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 suitability 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 committeemen 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."

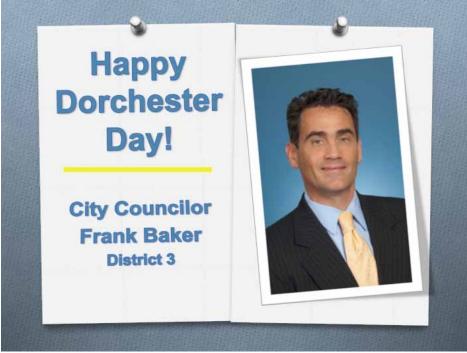
In the case of Dorchester's town seal, the old adage that a picture is worth a thousand words might well be revised: the seal's carefully chosen symbols are worth a thousand words - plus three more that speak volumes: piety, learning and industry.



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

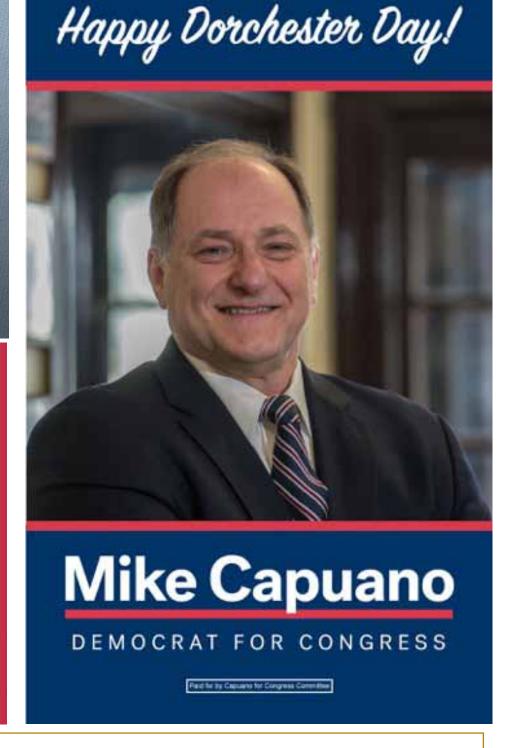
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May 31, 2018

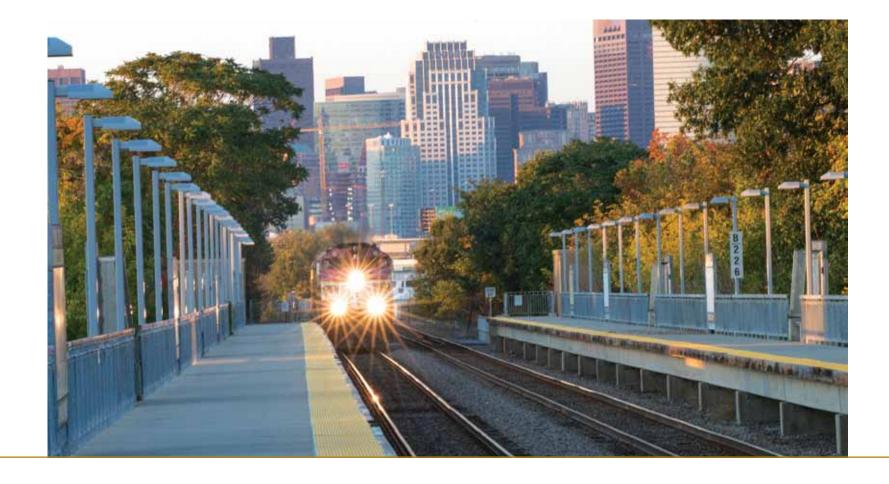




The Boston Foundation, Greater Boston's community foundation, joins in celebrating Dorchester Day 2018! We are proud of the many partners we work with to help make Boston's biggest neighborhood a safe and vibrant place to work and live. Congratulations on another great year, Dorchester!

For more about the Boston Foundation, visit www.tbf.org.





#### When Lower Mills was the center of the chocolate universe

By Peter F. Stevens Reporter Staff

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 mouth-watering, moneymaking product that had materialized in a chance meeting on a local road with a down-on-his-luck Irish immigrant named John Hannon.

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

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This Reporter file photo from 1987 shows the old Baker Chocolate silos that were once a prominent feature of the Lower Mills plant.

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."

Most significantly for Baker, the Irishman not only knew how to make the "sweet stuff," but he also could set up and run a chocolate mill. Several New Englanders had tried to set up chocolate-grinding operations, but none had taken off. The closest that any entrepreneurs had come was in Provi-

dence, in 1752, when Obadiah Brown had built a water-powered mill and had churned out four hundred pounds of the treat for Newport merchants. He was not, however, in the business for the long haul, just for a quick and lucrative profit.

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

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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 groaned and began to spin, he poured cocoa beans into a hole cut through the its center. Then, the Neponset's flow set the bottom stone whirling, and the motion of both "wheels" pulverized the beans into a thick syrup. Then, he and Baker first poured the liquid into a giant iron kettle and then into molds, where 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 knows exactly how and where Hannon had honed his expertise with chocolate. His past was – 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 1768 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. Speculation that he 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: Nhe new mill turned out nearly nine hundred pounds of chocolate in 1773.

Baker's decision to branch out proved both profitable and lucky, for in 1775, Hannon's site burned to the ground. The Irishman, probably able to foot his own operating costs by that time, rented space in a Neponset snuff mill, grinding and pouring "cakes" once again and presumably making sure that no tobacco residue from the adjoining business drifted into his pouring kettles.

With the outbreak of the American Revolution in 1775, the Dorchester chocolate-makers struggled to stay in business. Their dependence upon cocoa from the West Indies forced them to smuggle shipments of beans through the web of Royal Navy warships prowling the Eastern seaboard. Even after the Patriot cannons bristling atop Dorchester Heights helped force the "lobsterbacks" departure from Boston, Baker and Hannon still faced the headache of running beans through the Royal Navy's gauntlet, not to mention paying the warinflated costs of cocoa.

In 1779, Hannon reportedly vanished on a voyage to buy beans in the West Indies. No one in Dorchester 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)





#### dotnews.com

(Continued from page 10B) Hannon's partner, Dr. James Baker, business history beck-

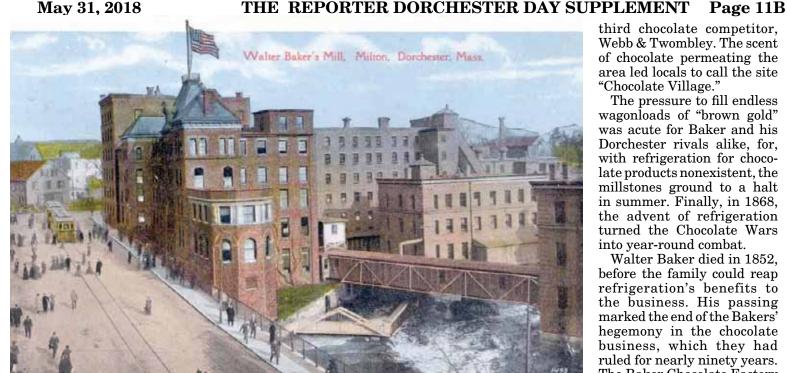
He was soon enmeshed in legal wrangles with Hannon's widow, who seemed intent on running her husband's mill with his capable apprentice, Nathaniel Blake, as her workhorse. Blake, deciding that Mrs. Hannon was running the business into the ground, walked out on her and had little trouble in finding a 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 in cupboards with Baker's product.

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." He chose his son Edmund as the successor to the family business

Edmund Baker soon began taking the venture to levels that his father and Hannon could scarcely have May 31, 2018



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

dreamed of. In 1806, Baker Chocolate's new chief opened a state-of-the-art mill alongside the Neponset and started up a gristmill and a cloth mill nearby. With the Baker complex the focal point, the Neponset was dubbed "the river of American business."

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,

was hardly a comfortable workplace. In summer, employees swooned from the kettles' brown molten fumes and from the temperature within and outside the factory. In winter, gusts roared from the Atlantic and up the Neponset, the chill assailing workers inside and outside the plant and making the steaming kettles a desirable spot around which to gather.

The Baker workers nonetheless made their boss the first name in American chocolate, a success that attracted tough competition from chocolatemaking interlopers. By 1835, the Preston mill was rolling out 750 pounds of the product a day. And by 1842, the banks of the Neponset featured a

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third chocolate competitor, Webb & Twombley. The scent of chocolate permeating the area led locals to call the site "Chocolate Village."

The pressure to fill endless wagonloads of "brown gold" was acute for Baker and his Dorchester rivals alike, for, with refrigeration for chocolate products nonexistent, the millstones ground to a halt in summer. Finally, in 1868, the advent of refrigeration turned the Chocolate Wars into year-round combat.

Walter Baker died in 1852, before the family could reap refrigeration's benefits to the business. His passing marked the end of the Bakers' hegemony in the chocolate business, which they had ruled for nearly ninety years. The Baker Chocolate Factory continued to turn out its nearlegendary 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 cocoa was turned into cash.

Today, America's love affair with chocolate waxes unabated, testimony to the "taste" and acumen of Dr. Baker and an Irishman named John Hannon.

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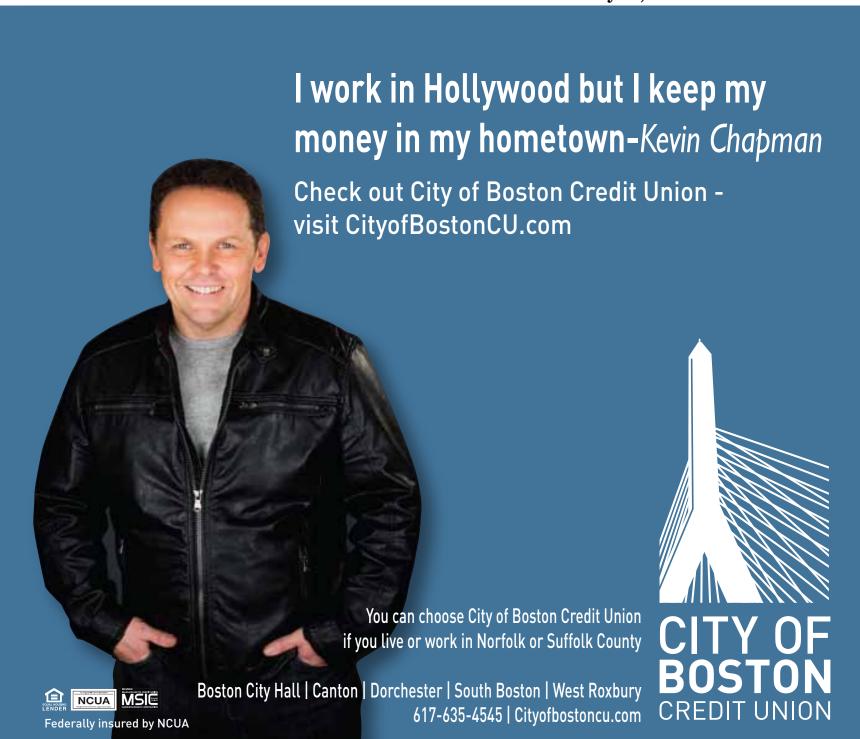
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it was literally one of the best choices on a trip we've made."

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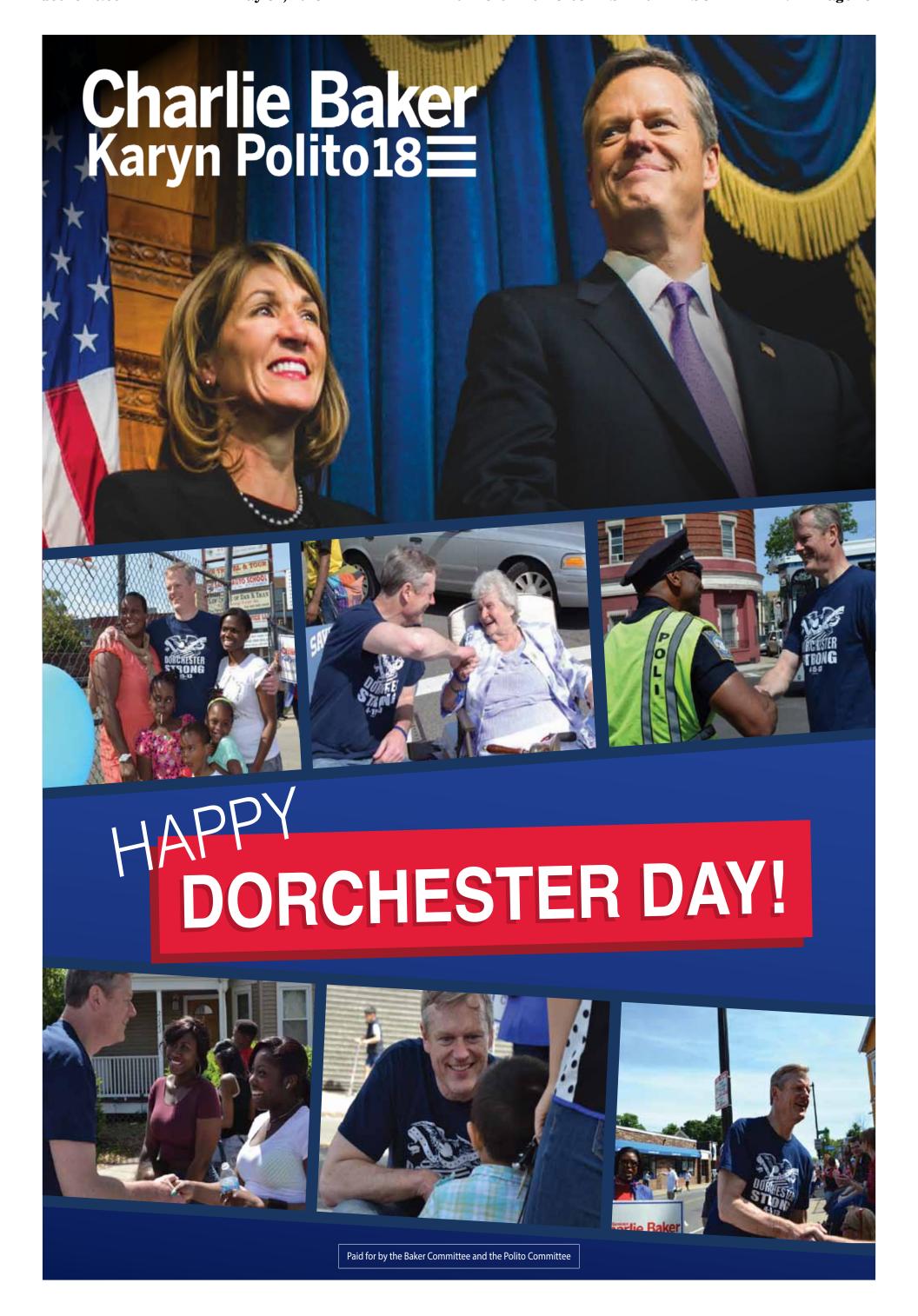
"Fantastic!" - Went with our son who we were visiting at college . . . We all loved it."

"Covers so many details

of the lives of him and his family - home movies with Caroline, John Jr and Jackie"

\*Based on TripAdvisor ranking as of May 2018. TripAdvisor reviews are from September 2017 to May 2018. Save \$2 on admission when you use the code "Dot18"

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

By BILL FORRY AND Lauren Dezenski

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 twohour 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 street corner youth. For others, it's celebrating local organizations and groups that march in the parade, not to mention the scores of kids and cousins marching in their little league uniforms.

DotDayitselfissteeped 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).

May 31, 2018

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 hourand-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

Before the parade, State Sen. Linda Forry typically hosts a greeting 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. Gettingthere: The MBTA is your friend today. Cars will be ticketed and towed along Dot Ave. and Richmond Street ahead of the parade, so if you typically park on the avenue, have a plan to move it a few hours ahead of time. Take the Red Line to Ashmont



Chris Lovett captured the scene as a band made its way up Dorchester Avenue last June.

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. 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.

Pro-tip: There's usually a raucous group watching from the side-lot at Peggy O'Neill's bar.

The glory of Dot Day is in its inherent ability to bring people togetheroften over brews and hot dogs. It's a day to get to know your neighbors and, especially after this winter, spend some time outside.

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 Baker hosts a block party on Dot Ave north of Columbia Rd. with free food, music, and other

entertainment.

If Sunday's a real scorrchah (hot day), hoof it a few short blocks from Dot Ave. to Savin Hill beach for a splash in Dorchester Bay. The stretch of beach on the other side of Morrissey Blvd. (careful now, use the crosswalk) is Malibu Beach, closer to the landmark gas tank. Be nice and maybe one of the 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 mintgreen or hot-blue Adidas Gazelles? Old-school sneaker heads break out these high school throwbacks and share notes on which variety store they copped them from in the 1980s.

Vendors along the route will be hawking Dot-themed t-shirts and tanks. Longtime Dot activist Lew Finfer breaks out his vintage three-decker tee for every parade. Notice we said three-decker, not triple-decker. Triple deckers are sandwiches. If you're a legit Dot "kid" – you know it's a three-decker.

Also, sunscreen. Lots and lots of sunscreen. (Unless it rains, of course, which it might this year, based on the latest forecast.) A final note, from the department 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's favorite establishments including Ashmont Grill, Harp & Bard, and the Banshee. The Blarnev 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 Blarney Stone-Project DEEP 5k.

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.

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## Veteran Stephen Butler, OFD, keynoted Memorial Day ceremony



 $Dorchester\,native\,and\,former\,US\,Navy\,Seal\,Stephen\,Butler\,(shown\,with\,Boston\,Warner\,W$  $Mayor \, Marty \, Walsh \, and \, City \, Councilor \, Annissa \, Essaibi \text{-}George) \, acknowledges \,$ applause after main speech. Chris Lovett photo



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



Boston Firefighters begin to unfurl Old Glory on a ladder truck in front of



Members of the Thomas J. Kenny Elementary School Marching Band at Cedar Chris Lovett photo



Residents watched the parade go by on Milton Street.



Chris Lovett photo



Members of Irish 28th Massachusetts Volunteers. Chris Lovett photo



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



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. Chris Lovett photo

## Former Navy SEAL: Dot's support for service members makes it a special place

May 31, 2018

Stephen Butler, a former Navy SEAL and Dorchester native, was the keynote speaker at Monday's Memorial Day ceremony in Cedar Grove 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 pretty involved in 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 had always had the military in the back of my mind, being a Navy SEAL in particular...

The first things people ask me is always, 'How was the training, how did you make it through hell week?' And for me, I'm not going to stand up here and say it was easy, but I think there is a reason that I didn't struggle with it as much as some guys did. You 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 great if you can run a 5-minute mile and swim like a fish, but if you don't have those intangibles that 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 coaches, from my friends. I think one of the biggest things that benefited me and something you definitely needed to have is humility and thick skin. And, good luck, growing up in Dorchester if you don't have some thick skin.

especially with my group of friends. Hell, I fully expect to get heckled as soon as I step off this podium.

So, 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 some great guys and create relationships that I will have for the rest of my life. To be a part of the SEAL community is something very special.

The SEAL Teams truly are a brotherhood. It's an extremely tight knit group and a very unique and special part of the military. I think one of the best things that the Teams do is remember their fallen brothers. I can remember my first day checking into Team Four. You know you are feeling a little high on yourself because you just made it through [training], had that coveted trident on my chest.

Then I get to the Team Four Building and right outside the front door is a giant roman numeral 4 that was forged from the steel beams of the twin towers. And I walk in the door and the hallways are lined with plaques of all the Team 4 members that have died in combat. Their pictures and stories are on the walls so that we remember them every day. And that humbled me real quick. The SEAL teams have enjoyed a certain reputation and prestige over the years. And that sure isn't from me, I don't expect that and I certainly don't deserve it. That's something that comes from those men whose stories were on those walls. I couldn't and still can't cast a shadow on what they sacrificed. And that was a constant reminder I was getting myself to me every time I walked into. And I don't feel

down those hallways. And that's why we are gathered here today. To remember all those who made that sacrifice.

Today we remember and we celebrate all those who have served and sacrificed for this country. For me, I can't stand up here and pretend to know what that means or what that feels like. I'm sure there are people in the audience that have been through far more then 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 what that is, is a sense of service. Wars change, soldiers evolve, but the one constant is that sense of service. Because all those who have served know that it's not something we do for ourselves. Those people didn't fight for themselves, they didn't sacrifice for themselves. They fought for the people standing next to them, they fought for people that couldn't fight, they sacrificed for their community, they sacrificed for this country. And I think that this community embodies all the values and ideals that all those men and women sacrificed for.

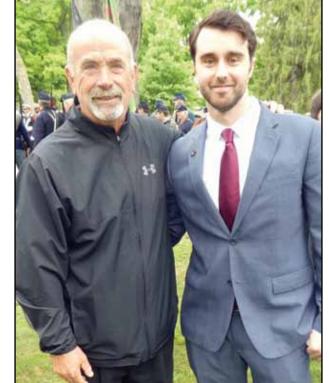
And that's what I want to focus on today. I've had the opportunity during my time in the military to travel all over the country and all over the world and it has made me realize how special this community is. Ceremonies like this don't happen everywhere. Most people these days use Memorial Day as an 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 sacrifice so many Americans have made. And I can tell you first hand that this doesn't happen everywhere.

For me it's always a little awkward when people thank me for my service. I never really know how to react. I did what I did because that's what I wanted to do. I fully understood what like anyone owes me anything for that. I don't feel entitled or special.

But people from this community don't seem to care about that. The support this community has for the military is truly special and unique. Both of my deployments were over the holidays. That can be hard. Everyone wants to be home with their families and friends during that time. So while you're away, especially during the holidays, any little reminders of home are always appreciated.

And the support I got from this community was pretty special. Mostguys would get packages from their wife's or girlfriends every month or so. Maybe a parent here and there. But not me. I had stacks upon stacks in my room. My wife had to have sent at least one a week, my family, my friends, cards from the school my wife worked at, the school my sister worked at, the Leahy Holloran Community Center, and then local Boston organizations that I've never even heard of...

And that wasn't just my personal experience. I bet that every other local kid who served,



Retired Navy SEAL Stephen Butler with Steve Bickerton of the Old Dorchester Post. Ed Forry photo

no matter the branch or their rank or rat, e got the same support from this community that I did.

And the support wasn't just when I was deployed.

When I got out of the Navy last summer and moved back home so many people reached out to me and were willing to help me with my transition. I got phone calls and emails from people that I never even met offering to help in any way they could. The support and respect this community has for the military is special.

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 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.

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#### One of Dorchester's Great Historians Recounts Dorchester's



Take out the gas tanks, the Beades Bridge, the expressway. Lose the traffic. Now you may be able to picture the arrival of the first pilgrim settlers at Savin Hill in 1630. The photo above was taken at a Landing Day ceremony in the 1980s.

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.  $All en \, was \, perhaps \, t\bar{h}e \, most \, well\text{-}versed$ 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.

#### BY REV. JAMES K. ALLEN

Dorchester, with a population of just under 200,000 people, is the second-largest urban center in Massachusetts. That, in itself, would make Dorchester important; but through its history, Dorchester rightly deserves to be recognized as "a foundation stone of our nation" because so many important developments in our history had their beginnings herein.

When Captain Squebb of the Mary and John unloaded his 140 passengers at Hull, in 1630, the Massachusetts Bay Colony had its second group of settlers, the first being Salem about six months before. These jettisoned people made their way by fishing boats to Savin Hill Bay to begin their colony on the land called Mattapan by the Indians of the area, but destined to be called Dorchester at the home base of those Puritan adventurers. Inspired by the Reverend John White, they chose to cross the Atlantic and make a new beginning in this new land where they would name their community Dorchester in honor of the pastor, John White who sponsored them and helped them prepare for their new life in a new area which they referred to as "God's Plantation in the Wilderness."

After one saga by some of the men up the Charles River to the present area of the arsenal in Watertown where they planted their gardens as the Indians watched them in amazement, they returned to Mattapan at the behest of the majority who chose the shores of Savin Hill and the Mouth of the Neponset River as most favorable for settlement. A group of these people returned to Watertown in the fall of 1630 to harvest their crops planted the first week of June.

The Dorchester settlement was selected as an appealing location with conditions favorable for gardens and the feeding of farm animals on which the new settlers would lean heavily for their subsistence on this new continent. The harbor of Massachusetts Bay itself, with two rivers -the Charles and the Neponset—was a favorable place, with the protection of many islands facing the Atlantic, and beautiful background of forested hills. Dorchester seemed the most advantageous location for the most dominant colony in New England, as indeed it was for the first century. Only because of the deeper channels in its harbor did Boston outstrip Dorchester in population and commercial life. Even then, it borrowed many of its important developments from the town of Dorchester and its people.

The early Dorchester community had foundations 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 profane 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 Manichaeism 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 Pilchard 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 though 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

## for a Nation

#### Early Days and Contributions

May 31, 2018

belonged to the Church, so the Church was a political power 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 skillful 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. Three 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 costs. 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 tax-supported public school had its beginning in Dorchester with Mr. Thomas Waterhouse as its teacher. The school opened in March at 7 in the morning and continued until 5 in the evening through the month of September, with two hours off for lunch except for examinations that came on Tuesdays to test the Sabbath Day learning of the scholars. They met on Saturday for instruction in catechism and began every school day with prayer, ending it the same way in the afternoon. This six-day-perweek program continued from October through February - a 12-month session - except that the day was shortened from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. during the five months of less daylight.

The other foundation of life in Dorchester was the Town. Towns are as old as human history, but the democratic form of government which had its beginnings in Dorchester, Massachusetts, was something new in the world. Roger Ludlow, who served as Deputy Governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony under Winthrop, was the man who instituted what has come to be known as the New England Town Meeting on October 8, 1633 - the most democratic process of government known to history. The ancient Greeks exercised the process of democracy,

where the word originated, but only one person out of 10 was qualified to vote in the Old World.

When the beating of the drum summoned the inhabitants of the Town of Dorchester "every Mooneday of the Monthe," the citizens were asked to assemble in the Meetinghouse 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, except when their actions encroached upon the authority of the Commonwealth or of their British over-Lords whose authority they repudiated in common practice. This Town Meeting form of government spread rapidly to Cambridge, Watertown, and other towns, and was made an official instrument of government by the General court in 1638.

The Town of Dorchester included all of the land between Boston, which began at the channel at the present South Station, and the Plymouth Colony that included what became the town of Braintree, the nearest part of which is now known as Quincy. Dorchester boundaries included the communities now know as Squantum and Wollaston, as well as the present towns of Milton, Hyde Park, the adjacent parts of what became Wrentham, Stoughton, Sharon, Foxboro, and Canton (Dorchester Village). Dorchester's land reached to within 150 rods of the Rhode Island border. Though new settlers continued to arrive in Dorchester from England, the population was thinly scattered over the hinterland with most of the people living near the ocean and along the few roads of the town, the most important of which were the Lower Road, now Adams Street, and the Upper Road, now Washington Street, Centre Street, and a small complex that was called the village center on Allin's Plain, where Pleasant Street met east Cottage Street. It was within the triangle formed at this junction that the first Meetinghouse and the village school were built; and nearby, the old Blake House (1650), oldest frame house in the United States and still standing.

New settlers arrived from Boston and settlements to the north, and some came by ship from Englandin 1632, especially. Another group, motivated by the discontent of Deputy Governor



Rev. James K. Allen was one of the great custodians of Dorchester history in the 20th century.

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. Though brilliant, he was a malcontent and departed from Windsor to die in Virginia. Dorchester's first minister, John Warham, went to Connecticut with those dissidents. The Reverend John Maverick died in 1635, so the

Dorchester people called Richard Mather, recently arrived from England, to be their new minister. He began his work in 1636 and continued until the time of his death in 1669, at the age of 73. He was regarded as an authority on theological subjects by his New England contemporaries and authored America's first book, "The Bay Psalm Book." Richard Mather was the father of Increase and the grandfather of Cotton Mather, outstanding clergymen of early New England. Dorchester people continued to move. Some went to Taunton, and many of them were included among the early residents of Northampton. An organized colony, partly gathered from other towns, left Dorchester, Massachusetts on

shipboard to found Dorchester, South Carolina in 1696. There was discontent in South Carolina because of inadequate acreage for farming, and swamp fever. The greatest problem, however, was the building of the Church of Saint George in the middle of the Dorchester colony at the behest of the governing authorities in South Carolina. It was the legal church - the Church of England - which the colonists were called on to support by taxation but in whose religions life they did not share. The people of Dorchester, South Carolina, investigated possibilities and moved in 1752 to found the towns of Midway and Sunbury, Georgia. From this Georgia community came two signers of the Declaration of Independence, four governors of Georgia, two of the nation's greatest scientists, the founder of the University of California, representatives and senators, both in states and nation, as well as 85 clergymen; also, the grandfather of Oliver Wendell Holmes, and Theodore Roosevelt, as well as the father of Mrs. Woodrow Wilson.

Industries in the Town of Dorchester, Massachusetts were notable from its beginnings. Agriculture and fishing began with the arrival of the first settlers. A corn mill, powered by the waterfall in the lower Neponset River, was the first power mill in New England. The first of Dorchester's three clay pits was opened, and building bricks were made from it in the early years of the colony. Downtown Boston was built from bricks molded and fired near one of Dorchester's three clay pits. The clay from one of them, Kaolin, was used in making pottery, - an industry that continues until the present day. Shipbuilding was well-developed as an industry at Commercial Point for more than a century.

The modern-day Dorchester includes one of the nation's greatest hospitals, the Carney, plus six neighborhood health centers. It is the site of the Dorchester Ice Cream plant, the Boston Globe, the nerve center of the First National Bank system, the Harbor Campus of the University of Massachusetts, the Joseph Pollak Corporation, plus many wholesale and retail establishments.

The first supermarket of the nation, Elm Farm, was here, as was the first Howard Johnson restaurant in the nation. Many things have their beginning here. The first playing cards in America were made in Dorchester, the first stringed instruments factory was here, as was the first paper mill, the first book-printing establishment, and the first chocolate mill.

As a present development and a suggestion for future leadership of the Dorchester community, the Kennedy Memorial Library and Museum is now under construction in Dorchester.



Rev. James Allen (second from right) leads a prayer on the shore of Savin Hill Beach, commemorating the arrival of Puritan settlers from Dorchester, England in June 1630. File photo

## For actor Kevin Chapman 'true north' will always be Inwood Street, Dorchester

By BILL FORRY **E**DITOR

Inwood Street is a classic Dorchester side street, densely packed with three-deckers, but still somewhat insulated from the bustle and bus traffic 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, welldecorated 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 to 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 goodnaturedly. "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 apart-

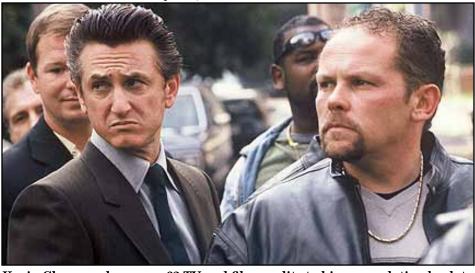
"A lot of families here were struggling. I think maybe there were two families on the whole street who had a Dad. It was just getting by. But, we were like one big, dysfunctional family."

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 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 desegregationera 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.



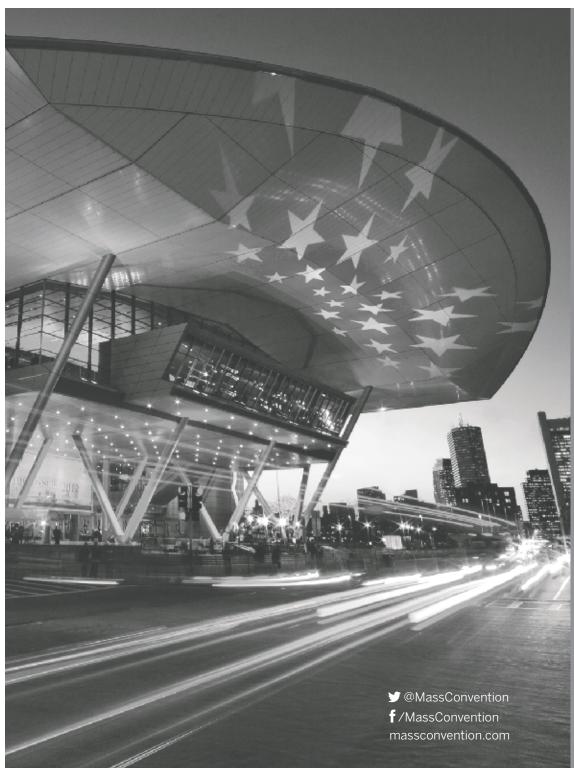
Kevin Chapman has some 62 TV and film credits to his name, dating back to 1998, when he caught his first break as Mickey Pat in the film "Monument Ave." Some other notable roles include: Val Savage in "Mystic River," above, (2003), Frank McKinny in "Ladder 49" (2004), Freddie Cork in "Brotherhood" (2008), 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



was sent over to the King

Ave., which wasn't the

"In the sixth grade, I School on Lawrence most convenient loca-(Continued on page 21B)



# Happy Dorchester

We celebrate the incredible neighborhood of Dorchester and wish you a Happy 388<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

**MASSACHUSETTS CONVENTION CENTER** AUTHORITY

DAVID M. GIBBONS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Chapman has traveled far, but Inwood Street remains his creative base

(Continued from page 20B) coordinator in Dorchestion," he says. "I never went to the same school two years in a row. We were constantly shipped somewhere else."

But when he was out of the classroom, Chapman stayed grounded in his immediate environs. The young "Chappy" earned extra coin by stocking shelves at Brother's Market - now America's Food Basket—for \$1.50 after school and \$3 all day on a Saturday. He shined shoes at the Horseshoe Tavern. Later, he watched his older sister Gail get married inside St. Peter's Church, the monument to Catholicism and Puddingstone engineering that still dominates the eastern end of Bowdoin Street.

"Anytime anyone asks me, I always say St. Peter's Parish, that's where I grew up," says Chapman.

Other jobs came later. He wheeled tour buses through tourist-trap Boston, cleaned up at a pig farm up in Holliston, ran a parking lot next to the State House, and, for a time, worked as a bouncer at a Boston comedy nightclub. Chapman also worked as a teller at South Boston Savings Bank— a role that he says has informed one of his most high-profile local gigs of the last few years — serving as the spokesman for the City of Boston Credit Union. (He has maintained his membership with the credit union since his days as a city employee.)

His last career turn before he became a professional actor was the most fortuitous for more than one reason. When the late Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino was first elected in 1993, Chapman, who had supported his campaign, applied for and won the job of City Hall's neighborhood services ter's District Three. It was - and is - gruelingand thankless work, carrying the mayor's banner in front of sometimes disgruntled community groups on a nightly basis, responding to incidents and accidents of all sorts when they happen.

But the job had definite upsides, too. Chapman met his future wife, Meaghan Kennedy, at  $one\,of\,Father\,Dan\,Finn's$ monthly community meetings at St. Mark's on Dorchester Ave. They now have two children.

Paying his dues on the nightly Dorchester political beat eventually led to a promotion: He was assigned to head up the now-defunct Boston Film Office, where he provided logistical support to filmmakers shooting pictures in the city. The job put him in daily contact with people like Ted Demme, the late filmmaker who gave Chapman a part in the Denis Leary film "Monument Ave.," which was set in Charlestown.

From there, his career snowballed, as directors filming in Boston found a willing apprentice in the brawny, 30-something Dorchester "kid." At that point in his life, Chapman, who admits to having yearned for the spotlight much earlier, was ready for the challenge.

In a 2001 interview with the Reporter, he admitted that he had always yearned to act, but he got off to a late start, in part because he had a touch of self-doubt sowed in by some of his early experiences in the neighborhood.

"There'd always been that constant corner badgering," Chapman told the Reporter later on, in 2006. "Acting was always in the back of my head, but there was also the evil twin, I guess, saying, 'You're a kid from Bowdoin Street. You can't do that.'

"You really have to be secure in your life as a person to pursue something like that," he said. "After about the third or fourth job you say, 'I must be okay at this because they keep

hiring me."
In fact, Kevin Chapmanhasbeenindemand.

Most recently, he ended a very successful five-season run portraying NYPD Det. Lionel Fusco on the popular series, "Person of Interest." He is one of the film industry's go-to character actors with credits that will soon include a brand new Showtime police drama series set in his hometown- "City on a Hill." Produced by Matt Damon and Ben Affleck, the series- which is set to begin production soon, with a tentative premiere date set for next year- is purportedly about the so-called "Boston Miracle," a 1990s setting that has already rankled some Bostonians, since early buzz is that the show will lean more heavily on the hackneyed theme of Charlestown as the home of Boston Irish bank robbers than on the streets of Roxbury and Dorchester where the true carnage of the early 90s was so much more acute.

Chapman's character – Dickie Monogue – is a cop with a conscience. "I play a Boston narcotics officer who is kind of the antagonist for Kevin Bacon's character," he said. "When you first meet this guy, you kind of assume that he may be the one who is morally challenged, and then, as the story unfolds you realize that he is probably the guy whose moral compass is calibrated."

Chapman says he'll bring his own understanding of how policing and community activism dovetail to drive down crime rates. He had a unique vantage point to observe this interaction as Tom Menino's eves and ears in much of Dorchester — attending

crime watch and civic association meetings, serving as a liaison to other elected officials and police—and helping to direct city services to constituents.

"It was eye-opening to see how active this community is," said Chapman as he walked his dog Maverick along the crest of Ronan Park last Thursday. "I didn't realize how many community groups and crime watches there were, so many people I met over time who are really invested. It was a great education for me."

In that job, Chapman helped the city choose targets for programs like the Top Ten Most Wanted Drug Den, a task force that picked off vacant properties that were - back then havens for sales or drug use.

"When I was there working for the city, I didn't really reflect on what was happening. It was a period of time where everyone pulled together. No one person can take credit for it."

Chapman isn't part of the writing team for "City on a Hill." He has learned from experience that his role will likely stay on the periphery. Unless asked, he's not likely to offer much input beyond his own character. "If they do, I welcome it," he said. "If they don't, I know what my approach is going to be for my character and how I'll find the truth in my character."

The notion of character is a frequent theme with Chapman, who says he stays grounded to the roles he takes on by his formative years soaking up the people he grew up with in the Bowdoin Street neighborhood.

"It has helped me tremendously to find the truth in the characters that I've played. That's why you've never seen me in a superhero movie or anything like thatbecause I can't find truth in that. And if I can't find truth, I can't play it."

Reporter editor Bill Forry can be reached at bforry@dotnews.com.





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.

# Dorchester Historical Society is looking to broaden its appeal to the younger set

By Jennifer Smith News Editor

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 oversees and maintains several of Dorchester's classic homes, like the Clapp houses on Boston Street. The William Clapp house, newly spruced up and with a fresh coat of historically accurate paint, is where the group gathers for monthly meetings.

"We're finally at the finish of our long-term plan to restore the exterior of all our properties," said Earl Taylor, the society's president. Forthe past 15 years, the society has been all about restoring the James Blake house, The Clapp

family barn and carriage house, and the William Clapp and Lemuel Clap houses. The Lemuel Clap, which is currently being renovated, has exterior siding that is "in bad shape," Taylor said. "It's been neglected for a long time."

As they did with work on the William Clapp house, the historical society and its consultant conferred on the appropriate outside color scheme for Lemuel's old home, which will be roughly the reverse of the neighboring house.

Their ability to do the rehabbing work is "a testament to the charitableness of Dorchester stakeholders," Taylor said. The society has also applied for a Community Preservation Act grant to do the final exterior work, including painting the barn and repairing the fencing, said board member Vicki Rugo.

Funds donated to the society are used for ongoing preservations efforts, programs, and the never-ending parade of cataloguing historic documents and artifacts. They are about 300 years behind on cataloguing,

Taylor jokes, but "I'm always pleased when we get a new piece of Gleason pewter."

Dorchester tinsmith Roswell Gleason and one of his sons opened the first silver-plating establishment in America on Washington Street in the early- to mid-1800s. His work evolved from simple and traditional styles to a more heavily ornamented and opulent look to better suit his Victorian clientele. Pieces of his work crop up every once in a while, Taylor said, and the historical society moves to add them to its collection.

On the third Sunday of each month, the group gathers in the Clapp house for presentations like the one Jim Vrabel and Lew Finfer gave on activism in Dorchester in the 1960s and 1970s. The society also hosts tours of the neighborhood houses and walking tours on a regular basis.

"We've always had programming going, but we want to spend more time dealing directly with programming to see if we can get more diversity in our programs," Taylor said.



Restoration work on the exterior of the Lemuel Clap House on Boston Street is ongoing this season.

Peggy Mullen photo/DHS

"We've long neglected the 20th century."

Rugo and Taylor are acutely aware of the need to expand the society's board and membership, including bringing in younger participants.

"We're looking to diversify our membership; broadenit, get the younger people involved," Rugo said. "So I think our focus after the properties — and there was so much deferred maintenance over the years that predates when Earl and all the other people were involved with the Boston

Street properties and the Blake House – should be on programming and finding ways 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

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."



# Happy Dorchester Day!

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## 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* 

