The first observance of Dorchester Day, in June of 1904, took place under a tent on Savin Hill. A celebration of local history and pride, it was also meant to protect an urban wild with a panoramic view from a frenzy of new development.

But by the beginning of the 20th century, the fast pace of change in Dorchester was hard to ignore. Over the fifty years after its annexation to Boston, in 1870, Dorchester's population would increase more than ten-fold. And, even by 1910, more than one-third of the growing population in all of Boston was made up of immigrants.

During this period, Dorchester, connected to the rest of Boston by public transportation and water and sewer lines, was filling up with multi-family housing. It was now easy to live in one part of the city and work in another. Too remote and spacious to be an extension of the Back Bay or the South End, but no longer a self-contained community, Dorchester had become the hybrid that would later seem oxymoronic—the “streetcar suburb.”

Despite all the growth, there were also signs of decline, or change of a different kind. As early as 1891, the Dorchester Antiquarian and Historical Society was down to only three members. In the same year, it would be succeeded by the lead organization behind the first Dorchester Day, the Dorchester Historical Society.

By 1910, even the mix of Boston’s new arrivals had changed, with the Irish being outnumbered by Jewish and Italian immigrants. In 1914, a Unitarian minister in Grove Hall noticed fewer people at church. A local newspaper, the Dorchester Beacon, listed properties changing hands, moving from families with names like Brooker, Hutchins and Greenwood to those with names like Weiner, O’Loughlin, and Mugardichian. And, at a “mass meeting,” the Fields Corner Women’s Temperance League rallied support for a cap on liquor licenses.

For the Historical Society, the “long-neglected spot” known as Savin Hill had special meaning. It was the piece of “wilderness” where settlers who arrived from England in 1630 had built their first fort—and where an archival photograph would later show a “last Indian camp.” From the top of the hill, there was a view of Dorchester Bay from the Neponset Estuary to the Columbia Point Peninsula and, beyond, as if at the edge of a continent, to the Boston Harbor Islands. For neighbors, the hill later became a destination for underage drinking and a treacherous magnet for broken glass. But, as one account of the first celebration envisioned, the hill could even become “a new place of pilgrimage for the tourist whose steps are annually bent toward Massachusetts.”

In 1904, the preservation effort earned a campaign promise from a recent transplant to Dorchester, John F. Fitzgerald, a former congressman who a little more than three years later, as the city’s first Irish Catholic mayor born in the United States, designated the hill as a park.

The 200 people who “toiled up” the hill for the first Dorchester Day celebration were reminded that the old town was home to the nation’s first free public school and that incubator of participatory democracy, the town meeting. Among the details of the day noted by a Boston Globe reporter: lemonade provided for women at the observance and, fluttering above the tent, a pennant attached to a kite that proclaimed, “Dorchester Day 1630-1904.”

From below the pennant, the reporter also heard state Rep. Guy A. Ham talk about the present day, lamenting that, since Dorchester had become part of the (Continued on page 18B)
The Official Dorchester Day Parade Roster

This is an alphabetical listing of participants updated through Tues., May 28.

It is subject to change.

Alexandra St. Guerin, Candidate for Boston City Council At Large
Althea Garrison, City Councilor
Andrea J. Campbell, Boston City Council President
Angie McGrath, Young Miss Dorchester
Ayanna Pressley, United States Congress
Bay Cove Human Services
Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology
Bernie Vision 2020
Boston Bowl
Boston Emergency Medical Services
Boston Emergency Medical Services Honor Guard
Boston Fire Department
Boston Fire Dept. Honor Guard
Boston Police Department
Boston Police Gaetolic Column
Boston School of Music Arts
Boston Windjammers
Boston-Windjammers Concert
Carney Hospital
CASH Army ROTC
Codman Square Health Center
Colonial Pipers Bag Pipe Band
Disabled American Veterans
Dorchester Brewing Company
Dorchester Food Coop
Dorchester Not for Sale
Dorchester People for Peace
Dot Out
Dynasty Production
East Boston Savings Bank
East West Mortgage
Erie Murphy, Candidate for Boston City Council At Large
Estrellas Tropicales
Fields Corner Main Street
Firehouse Dixies
First Baptist Church
Frank Baker, City Councilor
Fuerza Internacional Dance Group
Gretchen Haase, Mayor of Dorchester
Hers Chambers
Hot Tamale Brass Band
Jeffrey Ross, Candidate for City Council At Large
Jha’Niyla Tinker, Little Miss Dorchester
John Schneiderman, Chief Marshall
Julia Mejia, Candidate for Boston City Council, At Large
Kennedy School Marching Band
Living Art Unc.
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor of Boston
Mass IPOB USA Suffolk County
McCall Ambulance
Michael Flaherty, City Councilor
Michelle Wu, City Councilor
Mike Ritter/Ritterbin Photography
National Lancers
New England Walser
New Magnolia Jazz Band
Next Birthday Project
Nick Collins, State Senator
Pretty Gurtz Club
Priscilla Flint Banks, Candidate for Boston City Council, At Large
Providence Brass Band
Quincy-North Quincy Band
River Street Civic Association
Roberto Clemenete Dancers
Roma Band Musicians
South End Dynamite
Spartans DBC
Standish Village
Strolling Hobos
Suffolk County Sheriff
Tempo International
The New Liberty Jazz Band
Titan Majorettes
Tony Barrie Band
Uncle Sam Jazz Band
Unknown Hype Marajette
Uphams Corner Health Center
Vietnamese American Community of Massachusetts
Waltham American Legion Band
Waymark Church
Worcester Brass Band
Worcester Sound & Lights
Work Inc

John Schneiderman

Dot Day Parade’s chief marshal takes the stand

A Q&A with John Schneiderman

By ELANA AURESE

Q. Chief Marshal, can you tell me what Dorchester means to you?
A. I was recently asked what I meant when I jokingly said I was going to coin a new phrase to be added to Dorchester By Choice (DBC) and Originally from Dorchester (OFD). The new phrase, DWAC, stands for Dot Without Any Choice.

When I was first introduced to the woman who is now my wife of 36 years, Janice Marie Mullen, she made it perfectly clear that if we were to be married, she would never uproot her two children and move to where I came from, or anywhere else for that matter. So, the choice was made, and to this day I have no regrets whatsoever.

Q. How have you celebrated Dorchester Day in past years, and what significance does the day carry for you?
A. I remember when I attended my first parade in June of 1983. I was amazed. I had no idea of the scope of this great event. In those early years, we had the family BBQ in our backyard on King Street. All of my wife’s family came back to Dot that day and we had loads of good clean fun. I knew that I was in the right place and never ever thought about leaving. This was going to be my home.

In 1985, we bought the home where we still reside here on Ashmont Street. In the next couple of years, I was asked to coach Cedar Grove youth baseball. We won our first and only championship in 1987. Some of the players on my team were Chris O’Sullivan, who went on to play in the NHL for a number of years before retiring and taking a job with the BPD. The boys grew up to be so successful.

Q. You have served in other civic positions, like president of the Pope’s Hill Neighborhood Association (PHNA). How do you think that service impacted the neighborhood?
A. In 2005 I was introduced to Phil Carver, then president of PHNA, and I soon found out the value of neighborhood associations. Phil was passionate about our neighborhood and taught me what that value is. I became an executive board member and attended every meeting. We all had a voice in what went on in our neighborhood.

In 2011, I took a bigger role and became vice president when then VP Mike Juliano stepped down. I learned about development issues and got to have a bigger voice in what I call “protecting our neighborhood.” When Phil stepped down in 2015, I was elevated to president and found myself in a position where I could substantially make a difference in my neighborhood. I’ve always said transparency and honesty is what I believe in, and I think I’ve proved that.

(Continued on page 14B)
As a kid from Taft Street, I cannot be more honored to serve you.

Paid for By The Committee to Elect Martin J. Walsh.
Happy Dorchester Day

From your friends at DOT BLOCK
The annual Little Miss and Young Miss Dorchester contests took place on Sat., May 18. Margaret Janulewicz and Janessa Cosgrove were runners-up to Miss Tinker. “Jha’Niyla and one of her younger sisters, who also competed, both spent a couple of weeks practicing their essays using hairbrushes as microphones,” said Jasmine Tinker, Jha’Niyla’s mother. “The day of the contest, they were wearing the dresses I got them and they were so excited, but the nerves were there. When Jha’Niyla won, she looked at me and was just so happy, she said later that she almost cried.”

Tinker was presented with a brand-new bike – one she will share with her sister – together with the customary trophy, sash, and tiara.

Meanwhile, in the 10-12 age division, this year’s Young Miss Dorchester is Angelie McGrath. Samantha Forster was the runner-up in the Young Miss category. As is tradition, the winners will ride in a convertible near the front of Sunday’s parade.

### Young Miss, Little Miss Dorchester to ride in parade

**By Elana Aurise Reporter Staff**

The annual Little Miss and Young Miss Dorchester contests took place on Sat., May 18. Margaret Janulewicz and Janessa Cosgrove were runners-up for Little Miss Dorchester, at the First Parish Church in Meetinghouse Hill. The contest is held annually for girls ages 7 to 12 in the weeks leading up to Dorchester Day. The competition—organized by City Councillor Annissa Essaibi-George and her family—is meant to motivate girls to have confidence in public speaking while celebrating the love young women have for Dorchester and its traditions.

This year’s Little Miss Dorchester is nine-year-old Jha’Niyla Tinker, a third grader at Match Community Day Charter School who loves art, competitive cheerleading, singing in Mattapan’s Greater Victory Temple Church choir, and riding bikes.

Margaret Janulewicz and Janessa Cosgrove were runners-up to Miss Tinker.

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HAPPY DOT DAY!
My best wishes for the success of the celebration.

Congressman

STEPHEN F. LYNCH

HAPPY DORCHESTER DAY!
From Andrea J. Campbell
Boston City Council President, District 4
617-635-3131 • www.AndreaCampbell.org • @CampbellforD4
This Dorchester Day will bring another round of exclusive t-shirt designs for Sunday’s parade. The neighborhood’s premier apparel company, College Hype, produces shirts that bring it all home for people from the neighborhood — or people who wish they were.

Since 1987, College Hype has been producing t-shirts, hoodies, hats and accessories with a customized approach. There have been some popular parade day sellers like the classic “Dot Rat” and “Parishes of Dorchester,” which has been a hit seller for some 25 years.

The College Hype online shop — and its retail space on Gallivan Boulevard — offers about 40 themed Dorchester clothes and hats, many festooned with street signs, three-deckers, and other neighborhood iconography. An in-house art department is on call for customers who want to create their own design and have a custom look to any apparel.

Jack Doherty, the founder and owner of College Hype, has been enjoying Dorchester Day and selling shirts at the gas station between Hallet and Gallivan Boulevard for more than 30 years. The St. Gregory’s parish native started the company when he was 20 and has been the owner for 32 years.

“We do have a new shirt this year that I think people will really like. It’s “Dorchester, Where My Story Began,” said Doherty. “I think we’re inspired every year, honestly, just because we were from here, myself and a number of the managers are from this area, and we know that people like to have a unique shirt every year.”

“Dorchester Day is a great time to see old friends and make new friends,” said Doherty, “I think it’s a great holiday to see the old neighborhood.”

Some of the new designs include the DOT name emblazoned in a star-pattern with patriotic colors. Another features emojis with the slogan “It’s Dot Day.” The store in Adams Village still stocks a popular throw-back, the “All Roads Lead to Dorchester” shirt with the name of every street in the neighborhood incorporated into a big letter “D.”

“You have a lot of people who’ve been out of Dorchester for years and they’re very proud of their roots and they want to promote that,” said Doherty.

In stock: College Hype’s Class of ’19 Dot Day apparel

The newest Dot Day t-shirt designs from College Hype include a patriotic theme.

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

Proprietors Michael Vaughan & Raymond Butler

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

State Representative
Russell Holmes
Representing the People of the 6th Suffolk District

State Representative
Dan Cullinane & Family
12th Suffolk District

Happy Dorchester Day
Best Wishes for a Happy, Safe, & Healthy Summer

Wishing your family a Happy Dorchester Day!!
The Boston Foundation, Greater Boston’s community foundation, joins in celebrating Dorchester Day 2019! 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.
Althea Garrison
You have seen the rest, now Vote for the best.
Althea Garrison
At-large Boston City Councillor

Happy Dorchester Day
from all you friends at
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Happy Dorchester Day!

Congratulations to the UMass Boston Class of 2019.

HAPPY DORCHESTER DAY!

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Happy Dorchester Day
from the Staff and residents of
The Boston Home

The Boston Home - A residence for individuals with Multiple Sclerosis and other advanced neurological diseases.

2049 Dorchester Avenue
Dorchester, MA
www.thebostonhome.org
Chief Marshal takes the stand (Continued from 2B)

Q. As a well-known and active community leader, can you name one thing that people might be surprised to learn about you?

A. Most people who know me don’t know that I am not OFD, and to me this is what makes it more special to be a PHNA president, that the trust placed in me by my neighbors, the association, and elected officials will never be compromised. To think that when Janice and I went to work on Jim Brett’s mayoral campaign in 1993, we met such a great family in the Brett family and others at phone banks. We would often sit next to a young man named Marty Walsh. [Now knowing] that we were sitting next to a future mayor of Boston is truly unbelievable. I am so proud to have watched him grow into a world class mayor of a world class city.

Q. In closing, as a veteran, how do you view the annual Dot Day parade and the other events?

A. As a veteran, but more as a civic leader, I am thrilled that I will be leading the 115th edition of the Dorchester Day Parade. I am proud to be a veteran, although I was fortunate in that I didn’t serve in a war zone. I’m proud to know that my name will be added to the list of chief marshals in the archives of the 115-year history of the Dorchester Day Parade. I will tell you that I am extremely proud to have lived most of my life in this wonderful community. A phrase that’s often used by OFDers comes to mind: This is truly God’s country.”
At Nordblom, we’re excited to be transforming the old Globe into our dynamic new property, The Beat. We’re happy to be a part of a forward-thinking neighborhood, and are excited for what’s next. From all of us at Nordblom Company, Happy Dorchester Day!

Visit thebeatboston.com
parade is Sunday, June 2 – starting at 1 p.m. in Lower Mills. Editors
Never been to Dot Day? Kid, you’re in for a treat.

Here’s what you need to know to get the most out of Dot Day – a roadmap from the Original Dorchester (OD) to the DBC (Dorchester by Choice).

For the uninitiated, Dot Day could appear to be just another ubiquitous summertime parade. False.

The parade brings together all the different ethnic groups that make up Boston’s biggest and best neighborhood. You could spend a day going to all the different ethnic fests across Boston. Or just come to Dot Day and see them all in one two-hour, 3.2 mile-long extravaganza.

Dot Day itself is steeped in tradition. It started as a way to mark the foundation of Dorchester as a Puritan settlement back in May 1630. Sunday’s parade is the culmination of a series of events that started in March with a chili cook-off and meatloaf dinner—all to raise money for the parade, which costs the parade committee upwards of $30,000 to pull off.

And now to the brass tacks: The parade itself starts at 1 p.m. from Dot Ave and Richmond Street in Lower Mills and troops up Dot Ave all the way to the Polish Triangle at the border of Southie. The head of the parade will reach its end-point at Columbia Road more than an hour and a half later.

Project DEEP (projectdeep.org) co-hosts a 5K run beginning and ending at the Blarney Stone—the other sponsor—on Dot Avenue before the parade. Locals will tell you it’s not a bad way to snag a prime and well-hydrated spot in the shade along the parade route.

Getting there: The MBTA is your friend on Dot Day and 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.

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 Blarney Stone is a very popular spot because its windows open up to the route and it has an amazing outdoor patio. It’s usually a big crowd, especially among those who run in the pre-parade Blarney Stone-Project DEEP 5K. South of those Adidas Gazelles 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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Globe rolling the first ball on a new bowling green, races organized at Franklin Field by the Dorchester transient interests. Fitzgerald took part in carriage soft drinks, the celebrations were not immune to "fakirs" hawking balloons, popcorn, ice cream, and Fitzgerald put up bunting and, between two large housetops. In 1907, at his home on Welles Avenue, baseball team. Flags were displayed on verandas and a torchlight parade led by the Dorchester High School also included band concerts and a regatta, and a everything from the main parade to horse racing, $2,000 on Dorchester Day activities—supporting constructive or healthful than horse racing, except baseball.

During the first decade of reports on the Dorchester Day celebrations, there was no shortage of superlative, from "biggest" to "best yet," with as many as 75,000 people viewing the parade and as many as 20,000 watching the fireworks.

In 1911, there was landing of a Burgess-Wright biplane at Franklin Field, piloted all the way from Squantum by Harry Atwood, who had invited Mayor Fitzgerald to join him. The first try at landing had to be put off because of weather conditions. By the time Atwood touched down, at the center of the field, the last horse race was coming to an end, and the police details had already left the site. "The crowd swarmed around the machine, gazing upon and feeling it," The Globe reported. "It was feared that the machine would be torn apart by souvenir hunters."

Over the years, Dorchester Day celebrations were consistently affected by more passing developments, from "biggest" to "best yet," with as many as 75,000 people viewing the parade and as many as 20,000 watching the fireworks. One of the buggies was Frankie Kelly, the youngest lieutenant governor in Massachusetts history. The self-described father of the state lottery, Kelly was best known for filling bills 29 years in a row to establish a Massachusetts sweepstakes that promised a windfall in tax relief. Even after he drew the state's first lottery ticket in 1972, he continued to ride in the parade as one of its most enduring political curiosities.

**AFTER THE WAR, A MATTER OF 'ROUTINE'**

The parades resumed in 1944, after a hiatus during the later war years. As late as the 1950s, there were still reviewing stands for mayors and governors. But there was also an impression that the event had become more routine. As early as 1923, The Globe had mentioned "exercises" and field events while noting that "the occasion was at one time observed with great ceremony."

There were also changes in the parade route. The earlier routes had included Codman Square, Uphams Corner, and a stretch of Dorchester Avenue, ending at Fields Corner, with marching units crossing or going parallel with the trolley tracks. By the late 1960s, the parade route was usually along the avenue, but going north to south, from Columbia Road to Pierce Square in Lower Mills. By the 1970s, the direction had been reversed, and parade units marched with the sun at their backs.

In 1987, despite an attempt to ban political signs, the first line of march comprised members of Boston's all-white school committee, at a time when the city was already embroiled over the racial divide in education. In 1968, the June 9 parade was "postponed indefinitely," out of respect to Robert F. Kennedy, who had been assassinated three days earlier.

As late as the 1980s, the parade featured one other office-holder: the Dorchester Town Greeter. With his top hat, red jacket, white trousers, and two-toned shoes. "Boston Billy" Melchin presented himself as the embodiment of the neighborhood, drawn to spectators along the avenue as it would have been to 17th-century settlers. If the parade came to one of its all-too-frequent stops, he would tend with one hand in a white glove holding a sceptre tipped with the town seal, and the other gripping an imaginary multitude, as restless kids swarmed the avenue or sped off on bikes and skateboards.

**THE PARADE AS A MESSAGE BOARD**

Over the last 40 years, the parade has been used as a platform for messages of all kinds. In the 1980s, a parade float entered in 1987 by former presiding justice James Dolan to call for a permanent expansion at Dorchester District Court, instead of the overflow trailers.

In 1906, under Mayor Fitzgerald, the city spent $2,000 on Dorchester Day activities—supporting everything from the main parade to horse racing, water sports, and fireworks. The first celebrations also included band concerts and a regatta, and a torchlight parade led by the Dorchester High School baseball team. Flags were displayed on verandas and boushetops. In 1897, at his home on Welles Avenue, Fitzgerald put up bunting and, between two large American flags, a "great Irish flag."

With a cast of fortune-tellers, dodgers, and "fakirs" hawking balloons, popcorn, ice cream, and soft drinks, the celebrations were not immune to transient interests. Fitzgerald took part in carriage races organized at Franklin Field by the Dorchester Gentlemen's Driving Club, as did his rival and successor, James Michael Curley. In 1916, after rolling the first ball on a new bowling green, The Globe reported, Curley "said he knew no sport more..."
a trailer dramatized the long wait for badly-needed expansion of the Dorchester District Courthouse. In 2015, a parade unit promoted the designation of Boston as a host city for the 2024 Olympics. Over the last decade, another contingent, “Dorchester Not For Sale,” has been drawing attention to local residents being displaced by gentrification.

Joined by ranks of veterans for most of its history, the parade has also served as a platform for the anti-war message of Veterans for Peace, who would continue to march into the 21st century, after military engagements in Kuwait, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

In the early 1990s, after racial diversity had become very noticeable in the avenue’s storefronts, Boston City Councillor Albert “Dapper” O’Neill gained notoriety for taking exception to the influx of Vietnamese immigrants into Fields Corner. In 2008, he achieved the unique distinction for a politician of being represented in the parade posthumously - by a black 1967 Lincoln Town Car bearing his name in green and orange on a sign that said “The legend lives on.” But “Dapper” was outlasted by the presence and investment along the avenue of Dorchester’s Vietnamese-Americans.

Over the years, the parade has shown that change can lead to improvisations. Around 1980, a re-enactment of the arrival of settlers at Savin Hill Beach included a local Unitarian minister and a local family dressed as 17th-century “pilgrims”—along with a Catholic priest. As pastor of First Parish Church—established by Dorchester’s first religious congregation, Rev. James K. Allen was known for his devotion to local history and support of local civic groups, but he also allowed his church to be used for gatherings by refugees who came to Dorchester from southeast Asia.

If uniforms and costumes are a constant in the parades, they also highlight changes, whether donned by veterans, active military units, Little Leaguers, Pop Warner players, or marching bands. The same goes for other contingents who have marched in recent years: Estrellas Tropicales, the Roberto Clemente 21 Dancers, traditional Irish dancers, and Vietnamese-American contingents with lion dancers and martial arts displays. Others have previewed coming attractions on the calendar: a re-enactment of the arrival of settlers at Savin Hill Beach included a local Unitarian minister and a local family dressed as 17th-century “pilgrims”—along with a Catholic priest. As pastor of First Parish Church—established by Dorchester’s first religious congregation, Rev. James K. Allen was known for his devotion to local history and support of local civic groups, but he also allowed his church to be used for gatherings by refugees who came to Dorchester from southeast Asia.

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Happy Dorchester Day!

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We celebrate the incredible neighborhood of Dorchester and wish you a Happy 389th Birthday!

MASSACHUSETTS CONVENTION CENTER AUTHORITY

DAVID M. GIBBONS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
May 30, 2019 the Reporter Dorchester Day Supplement

www.massleague.org

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We wish you a happy & healthy Dorchester Day!

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www.massleague.org
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By Peter F. Stevens

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