Dorchester Reporter

"The News and Values Around the Neighborhood"

Volume 40 Issue 22

Thursday, June 1, 2023

50¢

DOT DAY 2023 - A weekend of fun, marching, music

Parade starts Sunday at 1 p.m. in Lower Mills

Dorchester Day, the annual celebration of Boston's largest and most diverse neighborhood, takes place this weekend with a series of events highlighted by the Dot Day Parade on Sunday at 1 p.m. The 3.2 mile march up Dorchester Avenue features marching bands, dance groups, politicians, and plenty of familiar faces. Get the full story on what to expect in our special Dot Day supplement inside this week's *Dorchester Reporter*.

2023 DORCHS FEST V XX

PLUS: DorchFest, the second annual music fest in Dot's Ashmont-Adams neighborhood, returns on Sat., June 3, 12-5 p.m. Get a preview on the front page of our special Dot Day section.

PLUS: Neponset River Day and Caribbean Jerk

Fest in Codman Sq. are on tap this weekend— Page 9B



The Estrella Tropicales Baton and Dance team will march in the Dorchester Day Parade after more than a decade as a perennial participant in the event. At the same time they will be celebrating their 50th anniversary since forming in 1973. Here, Dulce Matos of Estrella Tropicales twirls her baton as she and several other 'Estrellas' march up Dorchester Avenue in a pre-pandemic edition of the parade. Story, Page 22B.

Chris Lovett photo

As Dot Block readies for opening, 'intertwining' is the keyword

By Seth Daniel News Editor

As the first residents of the long-awaited Dot Block apartment complex begin to lug furniture and belongings into their new apartments, the developer, Samuels & Associates, believes they will find a living community that intertwines seamlessly within the surrounding residential and business districts.

The Reporter was given a sneak peek to the brandnew living community at the Dot Block site, which has been some eight years in the making. Jeremy Ouellette, vice president of Portfolio Operations for Samuels, and General Manager Chelsea Nason pointed out design elements that invite the neighborhood inside Dot Block, and the residents to venture outside of the complex. Those design hooks include 9,000

A conversation with Dorchester's most prolific architects - RODE. Page 12

square feet of retail, a public park in the center of the development, and a cut-through parkway between Dorchester Avenue and Pleasant Street.

"As much as possible, we wanted it to be intertwined and not set apart," he said. "All these things we did in design added up to that. That includes the parkway, apartment entrances at street level, extensive landscaping, the siding that looks like three-decker siding and the public park in the center and not out at the edge. This is for everybody and not just people who live here.



The center-feature public park is surrounded by the library, pool deck and the first two buildings of Dot Block – Dot North and Pleasant. Residents will begin to move into Dot North this month, the first to occupy the long-awaited development.

"There is life outside of these buildings and we want our residents to experience that." he added.

our residents to experience that," he added.

Dot Block had a long history with Gerald Chan's Wintergold LLC but grew legs in late 2018 when Samuels combined with Wintergold and filed new plans in early 2019. The new team got final approvals in June 2019, and construction in Phase 1 has been ongoing since 2020.

Leasing started last month and two of the approved four buildings will come online this summer. The six-story North building with 153 units facing Dorchester Avenue will be occupied first, with residents arriving in the first weeks of June. The building

facing Pleasant Street features 92 units in a four-story building and is a few weeks behind Dot Block North.

Interestingly, several apartments in the 'Pleasant' building on Greenough Street open onto the street for a more neighborhood – and less monolithic – feel. Ouellette expects residents to trickle in through the summer, and Sept. 1 will probably also be a big day. He said they hope to hit "stabilization" within 16 months, with 15-18 months being standard.

There are 187 parking spaces in the development, with 172 in a two-level underground garage between Dot North and Pleasant. On the affordable housing front, there are seven units at 50 percent AMI, and 26 at 70 percent AMI.

Entering Dot Block, an arrival's attention is directed to the curving, tree-lined parkway that runs between Phase 1 and what will one day be Phase 2 on the north side of the property facing Hancock Street. In the center of the parkway is a 3,000- square-foot grassy space that is open to the public, with resident balconies looking on from above and a pool deck three

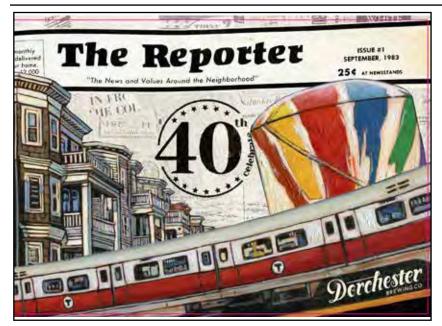
(Continued on page 13)

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The Reporter

Cable TV Almost Ready



Celebrating 40 years of community journalism

The *Dorchester Reporter* is commemorating its 40th anniversary in 2023. We plan to mark this milestone with a series of special events and publications, beginning with today's Dorchester Day edition and culminating in a celebration at Dorchester Brewing Company in September, featuring a special edition keepsake "Reporter" beer can. The label is shown at left.

In this edition, get the back-story on how the Reporter's co-founders, Ed Forry and Mary Casey Forry, began their work in community journalism in the 1970s. Prior to *The Reporter*'s launch in 1983, the Forry family published annual Dorchester "yearbooks" to highlight the Dorchester Day celebrations. Chris

Lovett looks back at *The Reporter*'s origin story in our special Dot Day supplement inside this edition.

For more on *The Reporter*'s 40th anniversary celebrations, see the editorial on Page 10.

Police, Courts & Fire

Adams St. fire displaces 12; damage put at \$500k

A two-alarm fire at a multi-family home at 309 Adams St. on Sunday night into Monday morning displaced 12 people and caused an estimated \$500,000 in damages, according to Boston Fire Department officials. Firefighters used a 35-foot ground ladder and an aerial ladder to rescue two residents from the third floor. The cause is under investigation.

The BFD reports that firefighters responded to 8 Thetford Ave., off Norfolk Street in Dorchester for a two-alarm fire that displaced 9 residents and a cat around 3 p.m. on Thurs., May 25. Firefighters rescued one resident from the second floor who was and transported to a local hospital. The fire began in the rear and completely destroyed the house's rear porches, the department said.

A worker at the Star Market in Lower Mills was charged with stabbing another worker - and pressing his thumbs into the man's eyes - in a fight around 3:30 p.m. last Tuesday (May 23), the Suffolk County District Attorney's office reported.

Trevor Charlton, 47, of Hyde Park, was ordered held in lieu of \$10,000 bail at his arraignment today in Dorchester Municipal Court, the DA's office said. Judge Lisa Ann Grant ordered him to stay away from both the victim and the store while his case is pending.

A worker at the South Bay Stop & Shop in Dorchester was stabbed shortly before 10 p.m. by somebody in a group of eight to nine men who fled the scene. Police said two of the men had knives. A third man had a BB gun.

Boston Police arrested a Medford man and a Dorchester teen on numerous charges that they held two men up at gunpoint on Talbot Avenue near New England Avenue in Dorchester around 1:30 a.m. last Friday (May 26).

Police say officers nabbed Davon Sanon, 23, and the teen, at 16 too young to have his name publicly released, just a couple of blocks down Talbot, near Bernard Street, around 11:40 a.m. - after, police say, they used one of the victims' credit cards.

June 1, 2023 Boys & Girls Club News 19 Opinion/Editorial/Letters...... 10 Obituaries...... 22 Business Directory...... 16 **Days Remaining Until** Juneteenth.....17 Labor Day Quadricentennial of Dot 2,984

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Mayor Wu attended a wreath laying ceremony at William G. Walsh Playground in Dorchester on Memorial Day. Walsh, a Marine Gunnery Sergeant, was killed in combat during the Battle of Iwo Jima in Feb. 1945. The 22-year-old was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for diving onto an enemy grenade, saving the lives of his fellow Marines. See more Memorial Day coverage on Page 20. Photo by John Wilcox

Lane closures at Morrissey and Freeport expected to last through middle of July

Construction work at the intersection of Morrissey Boulevard and Freeport Street led to alternating lane closures at the busy site that began on Tuesday of this week and are expected to be in place until Fri., July 14.

Work will be ongoing daily between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m., and might at times include nights and weekends, according to the state Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR).

"Traffic patterns will be clearly marked, and a police detail will be on site," a notice from DCR said.

The construction work involves intersection. curbing, and sidewalk improvements. Additional details were not immediately available.

Floating hospital eyed to help in opioid fight

By SAM DRYSDALE STATE HOUSE News Service

Senators have a new idea to battle the opioid crisis: Create a recovery facility on a decommissioned ship. Lawmakers have added a redrafted amendment (364) by state Sen. Nick Collins their fiscal year 2024 budget, which approves a study to look into converting a decommissioned ship into The Floating Hospital for Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Recovery.

The Senate approved the study alongside 52 other amendments in a single voice vote last Wednesday night.

The converted "medical vessel" would offer services to respond to patients' acute and chronic health needs, providing mental health, behavioral health, dental, primary and specialty care, according to Collins' office, which said the vessel could be a cruise ship. It would also provide housing with wraparound services for those being

treated on the ship.

The Department of Public Health study, if included the budget that will eventually emerge after House-Senate talks, would consult the Naval $Construction\, and\, Marine$ Engineering program at MIT to look into the feasibility of the program.

Collins told senators last Thursday that the creative solution could help those living on the street in Boston's Mass and Cass neighborhood, where frequent drug and mental health issues

persist in encampments in the area.

"For years now, the situation at Mass & Cass and throughout our city and commonwealth have worsened without suitable state intervention," Collins said. "Now is the time to pursue new, creative ideas to address a humanitarian crisis affecting thousands of people and families throughout the area.

In 1894, Massachusetts doctors operated The Boston Floating Hospital on a boat in Boston Harbor.

UPCOMING CIVIC MEETINGS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Dorchester Day parade is scheduled for Sun., June 4, at 1 **p.m.** Participation forms are available on the website dotdayparade.org or email info@dotdayparade.org.

The Dot Day parade will be preceded at noon by a 5k road race from the Biarney Stone, 1505 Dorchester Ave. in Fields Corner. This is an all-ages event hosted by the Dorchester Running Club and the Blarney Stone. Registration is \$30 for ages 12 and up, \$15 for 0-12. Fee includes post-race BBQ at the Blarney. Go to runsignup.com/Race/MA/Dorchester/ DotDay5K.

The Neponset River Watershed Association (NepRWA) is sponsoring a Neponset Day festival on Sat., June 3, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at DCR Neponset II Park in Dorchester. This free, public, family-friendly event will include boating with Paddle Boston, kids> crafts and games, music, food trucks, environmental exhibits, and more, See Neponset.org/ neponsetday for more info.

The BPDA will host a virtual meeting on Tues., June 13, at 6 p.m. to discuss a proposal to build a 3-story, 31-unit condo building with 23 below-grade parking spaces at 29 High St. in Dorchester. See ad on page 4 or bostonplans.org for more

The

Neponset River Watershed

Association (NepRWA) annual meeting will take place at the Endicott Estate in Dedham on Tues., June 13, at 6:30 NepRWA members, volunteers, and supporters are invited to attend to learn about the organization and its accomplishments, and hear from climate author, researcher, and teacher Courtney Humphries, about the importance of good governance in mitigating and adapting to climate change in cities, and the vital role of community leadership in putting Boston on a better path for the future. Annual Meeting tickets can be purchased at neponset.org. For any questions about the Annual Meeting or kayak raffle, contact NepRWA Outreach Director, Nancy Fyler at fyler@neponset.

The second annual Ashmont Block Party will be held on Sat., June 17, from 1-5 p.m. in the parking lot of All Saints Church. This free event will feature live music, savory and sweet food trucks and a Dorchester Brewing Company beer garden. See greaterashmont.org for more

The BPDA will host a virtual meeting on Tues., June 6, at 6 p.m. to discuss a proposal to build a 5-story, 90-unit mixed-use building at 115-121 Boston St., Dorchester. See bostonplans.org for more info.

The City of Boston is offering its free fitness programming, Boston Parks Fitness Series, again this year. Classes will be held across 18 different parks including Ronan Park, Franklin Park, and Almont Park— and led by certified fitness instructors. Depending on the location, you'll have a chance to line dance, take tai chi, try yoga (and chair yoga) among other classes from now until early September. Find the full list of events (and check whether you'll need equipment for them) at boston.gov/departments/parksand-recreation/boston-parks-fitness-

The Boston Little Saigon Cultural District's Night Market (Cho Dem) event will be back again this year on Sat., July 15, after a very successful inaugural event in Fields Corner last summer. Festivities will take place from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. on blockedoff Dorchester Avenue between Park and Adams streets. For more information on the event, go to bostonlittlesaigon.org.

Whittier Street Health Center will hold its 24th annual Men's Health Summit on Sat., June 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Frederica M. Williams Building, 1290 Tremont St., Roxbury. The theme at this year's summit is "United for Men's Health: Grounded in Equity." The annual event will include a health fair, health screenings, and a panel discussion and

conversation about men's health and wellness. In addition, the Summit will serve as an occasion to recognize several men's health champions, including Wilner Auguste, founder, Haitian American United (HAU); Rev. John Finley, co-founder and head of Epiphany School; Rev. Art Gordon, pastor, John Missionary Baptist Church; David Morales, general manager, UniCare; Jean Prezeau, men's health ambassador, Whitter Street Health Center; William Watkins, MBA, vice president of digital strategies and partnerships, Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts; and Leverett Wing, president and CEO, Commonwealth Seminar, NBC10 News Anchor Glenn Jones will be the guest speaker during the highly anticipated event to which all are welcome to attend. For more information contact events@ wshc.org or 617-989-3119.

A public meeting will be held via Zoom on Thurs., June 22, at 6 p.m. about a proposed retail cannabis establishment at 1102A Blue Hill Ave. in Dorchester. See Page 17 for more details on joining the meeting. greaterashmont.org for more

SEND IN EVENT NOTICES TO NEWSEDITOR@DOTNEWS.COM

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School Committee says yes to Shaw-Taylor merger

By Emily Piper-Vallillo SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

The Boston School Committee voted last Wednesday (May 24) to approve the merger of Dorchester's Pauline A. Shaw Elementary School with the Charles H. Taylor Elementary School in Mattapan. The schools are located off Morton Street and sit a three-minute drive apart.

The proposal passed by a 6-0 vote, with one member, Rafaela Polanco Garcia, absent.

The Shaw-Taylor was one of two mergers approved that day, and Boston Public Schools (BPS) district officials said more will follow. "Combining and reconfiguring schools is, frankly, an essential strategy to address some of the district's long-standing challenges," Superintendent Mary Skipper said at the May 24 meeting.

Among the BPS challenges are staffing shortages, outdated school buildings, and declining enrollment.

Critics of the merger include city councillors, who passed a resolution asking for full transparency and better community engagement from the district in their efforts to close and merge schools, and The Build BPS/Green New Deal Coalition.

Barbara Fields, a retired Boston Public School administrator and a member of the coalition, offered her view of the decision at the meeting: "This proposal does nothing to improve the education for students at the Shaw school. This is a racist policy.'



The Charles H. Taylor Elementary School, above, will merge with the Pauline A. Shaw Elementary School after a May 24 vote of the Boston School Committee. The combined Shaw-Taylor school will open in the fall of 2024, serving students in grades K0 to 6. John P. Forry photo

In the years to come, the district will be looking to merge more single-strand schools like the Shaw. "We're looking really hard at single-strand schools, Skipper said, referring to schools that only have general education classrooms, and do not have inclusion classrooms.

The combined Shaw-Taylor school will open in the fall of 2024, serving students in grades K0 to 6, a grade configuration that aligns with the district's goal to transition to a PK to 6/7 to 12 model.

District officials have not explained why the Shaw and the Taylor will be the first schools to merge, but during last Wednesday's meeting, Delavern Stanislaus, BPS chief of capital planning, said the district needed to start somewhere.

The school will be split between the current Shaw and Taylor buildings, according to the merger terms. Lower grades will be housed in the Shaw and upper grades in the Taylor.

In April, district officials submitted a statement of interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) as a first step in the process of securing state funding for a new Shaw-Taylor building.

If the district receives funding from the competitive MSBA core program, the new elementary school would be projected to open in the fall of 2029, said Brian McLaughlin, project manager for the Boston public facilities department, at a March school committee

meeting.

A leader has not been hired for the combined Shaw-Taylor school. Because it will be split across two campuses, Superintendent Mary Skipper said, the school may have multiple leaders.

Brandon Cardet-Hernandez, a School Committee member, pushed district officials to act quickly to identify a principal. 'I choose my own child's school based on the leadership of that school," Cardet-Hernandez said. "I just recognize as a parent, and as a former principal myself, that people make decisions based on you."

Skipper said the district needed to weigh the desire to announce a principal swiftly against hiring timelines, suggesting that the district may extend the search for a school leader beyond the current Shaw-Taylor community.

School panel chair says mergers long overdue

Jeri Robinson, the School Committee's chair and a Dorchester resident, emphasized the need for consolidating schools while acknowledging that it is not easy work. "As we thank the schools who have been the guinea pigs in this, we know that mistakes have been made, and that there is a lot of work we're going to need to do," Robinson said, who added that merging schools was long overdue. "We have been kicking this can down the road for years," she said.

Other committee members raised concerns about how (Continued on page 21)



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Looking at the race in District 3 and its likely candidate field

By GINTAUTAS DUMCIUS Managing Editor

District 3 will get a new city councillor this year. Whoever it is will also get new district boundaries, and the voters and constituents within them

The City Council passed, and Mayor Wu last week signed off on a redistricting map that features redrawn borders of the nine districts, including Dorchester-based District 3. If the map holds up to legal scrutiny, the new borders will remain in place over the next decade.

This latest redistricting process was largely driven by population numbers supplied by the 2020 US Census - while neighboring South Boston-based District 2 had too many residents and needed to lose precincts, District 3 needed to gain people and add precincts.

That largely meant that District 3 had to expand to the north. The district already had the area around the South Bay $Shopping\,Plaza\,and\,the\,Boston$ University medical campus, and now will pick up more of the South End. including most of Widett Circle up to the Mass. Turnpike and Herald Street.

In its middle, District 3 gains

Ward 16's Precincts 1 and 3, known as "Little Saigon" in Fields Corner, while losing Ward 15 Precinct 1, part of the Quincy Street corridor, to District 4, which includes Dorchester and Mattapan.

At its southern end, the border remains the same, and Ward 17-Precinct 13, with its polling location at the Lower Mills Library, stays inside the district along its southwest border.

Most of Dorchester Avenue is kept within District 3's lines, all the way up to where the major thoroughfare meets Southampton and Preble streets.

Savin Hill's Frank Baker, who first won the District 3 seat in 2011, succeeding Maureen Feeney, isn't running for reelection, a decision that has led to at least seven people indicating their interest in becoming the next councillor.

There are a couple of caveats to note: The signature-gathering process was thrown into disarray when a federal judge ordered a do-over of last fall's redistricting map. Councillors handled that late last week, but deadlines had to be pushed back through a bill signed by Gov. Maura Healey on Tuesday. The last date for nomination signatures that candidates have to gather shifts to June 23, from May 23.

Barring a legal challenge to the new map, or more complications with redistricting, the preliminary is slated for Sept. 12 and the general election is scheduled for Nov. 7. Here's a look at who might be on the Sept. 12 ballot, if they have been residents of the district for a year before the election, clear the signature threshold (200 names), and get up and running.

John FitzGerald of Oakton Avenue (Adams Village)

A veteran of Mayor Marty Walsh's administration and the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA), FitzGerald is currently the BPDA's deputy director of operations for real estate. The father of three is the son of the late Kevin Fitzgerald, the Mission Hill state lawmaker who passed away from cancer in 2007.

Jennifer A. Johnson of Mount Ida Road (Meetinghouse

Johnson, who has served as president of the Meetinghouse Hill Civic Association and on the board of Bowdoin Geneva Main Streets, was one of two candidates who jumped into the race early, when it was still unclear what Baker's plans were. The owner of a small business focused on employee benefits insurance, she previously ran for the Fifth Suffolk House seat.

Barry Lawton of Willis Street (Uphams Corner/Savin

Lawton has worked as a schoolteacher and as a government aide inside City Hall (Councillor Gareth Saunders) and the State House (State Rep. Royal Bolling Jr.). The father of two has also mounted runs for the Fifth Suffolk House seat. This is his first run for a City Hall seat.

Pat O'Brien of Franconia Street (Adams Village)

O'Brien, an Army veteran, has experience at the State House and inside the Registry of Motor Vehicles. He worked as an aide for former state Sen. Linda Dorcena Forry of Dorchester and her successor, Nick Collins of South Boston.

Matt Patton of Savin Hill Avenue (Savin Hill)

The labor attorney, a father of two, works for the law firm co-founded by Shannon Liss-Riordan, who ran for state attorney general in 2022. Aside from working on her campaign, Patton's jobs in politics have included time on John Barros' 2013 mayoral campaign and on Elizabeth Warren's first run for US Senate in 2012.

Joel Richards of Parkman Place (Fields Corner)

A teacher at the South End's Blackstone Elementary School, Richards previously served as president of Fields Corner Main Street and helped create and plan Dorchester's Juneteenth celebration. Richards, a self-described socialist, unsuccessfully ran for the District 4 seat in 2021. This year's redistricting process flipped him and his home precinct into District 3, and he was one of two candidates to jump into the race earlier this year.

Rosalind Wornum of Bruce Street (Ashmont)

Wornum, a single parent of four, is the parent-liaison for enrollment at the Davis Leadership Academy in Fields Corner. She is also a housing activist who works closely with City Life/Vida Urbana, a community organization.

SJC orders trial to proceed in 2021 'Moor' murder case

The Supreme Judicial Court ruled last week that a 49-year-old Dorchester man charged in a 2021 murder case must stand trial, despite the defendant's argument that he is not bound by state laws.

accused of gunning down Ivanildo Barros on Park Street in Dorchester on May 28, 2021. Wallace, who now goes by the name of "Szyon Nkrumah, Al © All Rights Reserved," filed a mo-

BLACK

Nickoyan Wallace is tion to dismiss the case because he is an "Indigenous, Free Sovereign and Private Great Seal Moor, in propria persona, sui juris (not pro se or colorable)," and so not bound by the laws of the Commonwealth.

The justices did not deal directly with the sovereignty issues Wallace raised in his "writ of quo warranto" (an ancient legal device used to question the authority of rulers) because in

Massachusetts, appeals of denials of motions to dismiss can normally only be filed after a verdict has been rendered in a criminal case. Wallace has yet to come to trial on the murder charges. The

court said it can only hear such pre-verdict motions in rare cases, such as in potential cases of double jeopardy, which is not at issue in Wallace's case.

- REPORTER STAFF



Virtual Public Meeting

29 High Street

June 13, 2023 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Zoom Link: bit.ly/3qaHmvg Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864 Meeting ID: 161 460 4209



Project Description:

The BPDA is hosting a Public Meeting for the 29 High Street project located in Dorchester. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the Small Project Review Application (SPRA). The meeting will include a presentation followed by Q&A and comments from the public.

Erect a new three-story multifamily building to contain 31 residential condominium units with 23 accessory belowgrade garage parking spaces.

At this time, the Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) is continuing to host public meetings in a virtual setting for the health, safety, and accessibility of Boston residents. For more information and updates, visit bostonplans.org.

mail to: Quinn Valcich

Boston Planning & Development Agency One City Hall Square, 9th Floor

Boston, MA 02201 phone: 617.918.4219

quinn.w.valcich@boston.gov email: website: bit.ly/bpda-29High-Street

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NEWS ANALYSIS

War and peace inside Boston's City Council

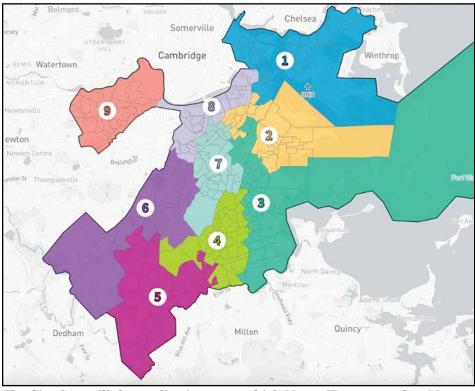
By Gintautas Dumcius Managing Editor

In the end, it came down to one precinct in Mattapan.

In a 10-2 vote on the political boundaries of the nine district seats, councillors late last week agreed to keep Ward 14-Precinct 14, which includes Wellington Hill and Morning Star Baptist Church, in District 5 (Hyde Park and Mattapan, represented by Ricardo Arroyo), rather than shift it to District 4 (a Dorchester and Mattapan seat represented by Brian Worrell).

Arroyo had pressed to keep the precinct and others in Mattapan, arguing that shifting them to District 4 would further dilute and divide the Black vote and hurt the neighborhood. While he publicly denied taking his own electoral future into consideration when making that argument, Precinct 14 voters overwhelmingly voted for him over Roslindale's Kevin Hayden in last fall's race for Suffolk district attorney.

Arroyo, who is up for reelection this fall and likely will face at least two challengers, was unsuccessful in throwing overboard a District 5 precinct that contrib-



The City Council's latest districts map, which Mayor Wu approved on May 26.

uted to his DA loss last fall: Ward 20-Precinct 8, which is also Hayden's home precinct, stays in District 5. Arroyo and District 6 Councillor Kendra Lara had repeatedly insisted that shifting that precinct into District 6 would unite West Roxbury in Lara's district, despite public documents and a number of local residents noting that it is a Roslindale precinct.

With 14-14 staying in District 5, Arroyo ended up voting with

nine other councillors in voting for the map put together by At-Large Councillor Ruthzee Louijeune. Signed by Mayor Wu days later, the map showcased the legislative and navigational skills of Louijeune, a Hyde Park-Mattapan native who kept her head as Councillor At-Large Julia Mejia and District 3 Councillor Frank Baker seemingly lost theirs.

Redistricting is a oncea-decade exercise in a redrawing of the nine city council districts. The result is a physical map, but is also the final act in a drama that largely existed in the minds of councillors and various groups within City Hall's orbit.

If it passes legal muster, the map, endorsed by the council's conservatives and most of its progressives, will stand in elections over the next decade.

Mejia and Lara, who had her own map that didn't touch the line between Districts 4 and 5, were the "no" votes.

The background to this maneuvering was the ruling by a federal judge who threw out a map the council passed last fall and noted that a lawsuit against it — funded by Baker and three other councillors who alleged that race was illegally predominant in councillor discussions – had a likelihood of success.

At the center of the lawsuit were largely white precincts in Dorchester's Neponset and Adams Village, which were shifted from District 3 to District 4. Florian Hall, which hosts some of the area's most conservative voters, was part of the shift.

The night before the 10-2 vote, councillors kept sparring over which precincts would go where, and Arroyo and Mejia, both lobbying against changes Louijeune was seeking, brought Wu's name into the spat. Arroyo said that under the map passed in 2012 and in effect in 2021, Wu lost District 5 to acting Mayor Kim Janey in the mayoral election, while a map that removes District 5's Mattapan precincts, including Ward 14-Precinct 14, would mean Wu wins the area. (In fact, Wu won District 5 in 2021,

per a *Reporter* review of results.)

During the discussion, Mejia tossed into the mix a conspiracy theory, as she readily termed it, claiming without evidence that under Wu, City Hall attorneys tasked with defending last fall's map, opted against doing so.

Baker, who isn't running for reelection, couldn't resist bringing up the lawsuit, either, saying he would be happy to continue bankrolling it. "Don't forget, we won," he said, "You guys were wrong."

The Dorchester councillor, who spent most of last fall steaming over the changes to District 3, appeared to keep his temper mostly in check when inside the chamber. Outside in the hallway, it was was a different story.

At one point during public testimony, District 3 candidate Barry Lawton criticized Baker, who had left the room, saying, "He took his ball and went home." At that point, Baker rushed back into the Council chamber. "Yeah, you missed the good stuff," Lawton said.

Baker asked him to step outside into the hallway and left the chamber, followed by



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June 1, 2023

THE REPORTER

District 2 Councillor Ed Flynn, the Council's president. When Lawton stepped outside, Baker yelled, "You want to talk [expletive]?"

Flynn sought to block Baker from coming close to Lawton, telling Baker that the two of them could speak the next day. "I've called him numerous times, he hasn't called me back," Lawton said. Baker's aide, well-experienced in taking a teapot off the stove, managed to guide the councillor back to his office at the other end of City Hall. Speaking with reporters later, Baker misleadingly downplayed the incident: "It wasn't a big confrontation."

While Baker raged outside, Louijeune kept things moving inside, eventually making changes to her map based on public testimony and comments from her colleagues. When in later meetings Mejia kept asking about why the lines between District 4 and District 5 were seeing changes, Louijeune patiently explained the ripple effect of District 3 needing to see fewer changes, per the judge's order.

District 2, which under redistricting needed to lose population as District

3 needed to gain it, gave up precincts in the South End, by the Ink Block development, to District 3. Little Saigon (Ward 16-Precinct 1 and Ward 16-Precinct 3) are both united within District 3. Lower Mills stayed split: District 3 kept Ward 17-Precinct 13, while District 4 kept Ward 17-Precinct 14.

To make up for some population loss, District 4 did pick up Ward 15-Precinct 1, where Columbia Road intersects with Quincy Street, from District 3, and Ward 14-Precinct 5, where the P. A. Shaw Elementary School is located, from District 5.

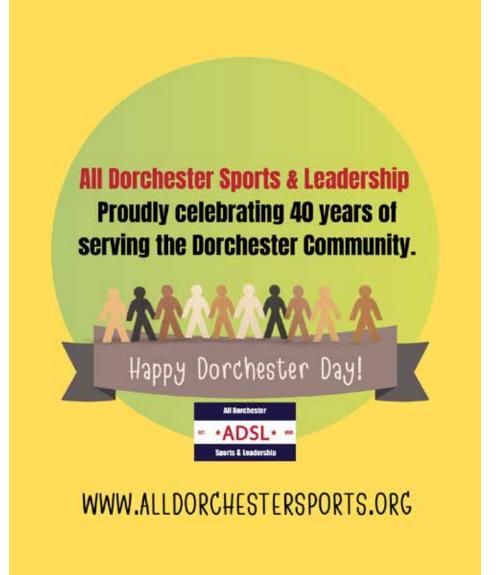
The latest map, similar to the map from last fall that was blocked by the judge, is largely a status quo map. Most residents don't live in new districts. No incumbent councillors will be forced to face off against each

other in the same district. Some neighborhoods were united, others were divided.

To hear some councillors tell the story after the 10-2 vote, they had drafted the mapmaking equivalent of "War and

Peace." Upon closer inspection, their markings, indicating the shifting of precincts, were more akin to scribbles on Tolstoy's margins. In the end, it all came down to one precinct.







Classes for all ages and abilities

bostonballet.org/school

Financial Aid Available

Volunteer coaches bring youthful feel to ADSL softball league play

By Cassidy McNeeley Special to the Reporter

New coaches are stepping up to the plate to continue the success of the All Dorchester Sports and Leadership (ADSL) Softball League, a program that consistently welcomes more than 200 female athletes of various ages and skills to compete in an inclusive and positive environment.

ADSL offers a variety of opportunities for community members, such as after-school programs, summer drop-ins, and baseball. While baseball will always be known as "America's pastime," softball continues to gain popularity. And as the sport grows, the opportunities for female athletes increase, and so does the demand for coaches.

After struggling to find enough coaches, ADSL committee members reached out to the community for volunteers. Craig Crowley, a Boston police officer and veteran, responded to the request and now coaches the minor league team, the Nightingales, with his own youth coach, Mark Foley. The pair met over 30 years ago at Little House, a center for youth on East Cottage Street in Dorchester.

"All the kids are from the neighborhood, my daughter, and his daugh-



Keira Flynn, who coaches ADSL softball, is shown with players (1-r) Julia Keane, Molly Dolan and Olivia Poles at Toohig Park. *Photo courtesy Keira Flynn*

ter are on the team, so it's kind of come full circle. I'm coaching Mark's kid and Mark's now coaching one of my kids again," said Crowley.

Both men have lived in Dorchester all their lives and were taught by their mentor and Little House coach, John Madjerec.

While Crowley has coached baseball in the past, this season is both his and Foley's first-time working in the ADSL Softball League. They plan on continuing to coach as long as their daughters want to play.

"You only have so many years to be involved in the kid's stuff," said Foley.

This season, the Nightingales team is primarily composed of players with little to no softball background, which only further inspires Crowley and Foley to provide their players with a positive experience.

"Out of our 16 girls that are on the team, maybe three or four played prior to now. So, our whole thing is everyone gets a hit, everyone plays the field, everyone has fun," said Crowley.

"They always ask what the score is but at the end of the day, we want to build their self-confidence."

Most of the teams in the league are coached by parents. However, the Falcons, a major league team, get to learn from two local softball players. Riley and Keira Flynn are sophomore players at the Boston Latin School who share the same last name but are unrelated.

The 16-year-old coaches grew up playing in the ADSL league and are now players in the senior division. When they are not at bat or on the pitching mound, they are working with the next generation of Dorchester's female athletes.

"I like coaching just as much as I like playing. I think it's really fun and I just love seeing the little kids go through what I went through," said Riley, who recognizes that her pre-teen players are old enough to connect with her but young enough for her to be a role model.

Like the Nightingales, many players on the Falcons are new to the sport. Keira and Riley are passionate about introducing these young players to the sport that has become such a large part of their identities.

"I think that it's fun to be able to see the girls progress because we also have a lot of people on our team who just started playing this year. So, they really knew nothing, and we already see them start to enjoy softball and get better," said Keira.

Alissa Sweeney's daughter Caitlin plays in the same division as Keira and Riley. The 15-year-old took up softball in middle school when Covid led to the cancellation of her softball season.

Because ADSL is inclusive of all skill levels, her daughter had the opportunity to begin and eventually excel in a new sport.

"There's not really a ranking with the players; they all get to play so they get a lot of at-bats. That helps, just seeing the pitches thrown at you and learning the game. That all helps with getting you to the next level," said Sweeney, whose daughter now plays on the BLA Varsity Softball team.

Kevin George, the league's president, coach-

es Caitlin. He sees ADSL as much more than a soft-ball program. Because it is a house league, there are no tryouts, meaning anyone who wants to play is welcome. This theme of inclusion stretches beyond the diamond and the outfield and seeps into the community.

"Softball brings the community together," said George. "You go down there on a Saturday morning and you'll see on both sides of the field and the outfield as well, parents and grandparents and siblings watching the games. It is an incredibly good thing for the community, it really is."

George coaches his daughter in the senior division. He and the other volunteers recognize that the league allows families within the neighborhood to establish close bonds with one another. Without the group effort of coaches, players, and families, they feel that ADSL Softball would not be what it is today.

"The league is absolutely generational, and that's why the key is to keep this going," said George. "I was really thankful for the new coaches this year, Craig and Mark, and Riley and Keira because we want this league to be operating 50 years from now."



Lè w pale sa vle di ou djamn. Aprann plis nan mass.gov/MoreToTheStory



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Reporter's People in and around our Neighborhoods

Dot's Fiona Weir will represent Boston and New England at Ireland's Rose of Tralee

BY UENDI BIBA SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Fiona Weir, a nurse at Boston Medical Center and a resident of Dorchester was presented as the 2023 Rose of Tralee for Boston and New England at the Irish Cultural Centre of Boston on May 13. She was selected for the honor from a pool of 14 candidates by a panel of $judges\, and\, will\, represent$ the Irish community in her home city and across the six-state region at the esteemed Rose of Tralee International Festival in Ireland's County Kerry in late summer.

One of the three judges of the event summarized their deliberations this way: "We were impressed by every woman we spoke with today, and every one of them would have been a fabulous representative of Boston and New England in Ireland this summer. Our stand-out contestant was Fiona, whose connection to Ireland, commitment to compassionate care through her nursing job at BMC, and touching relationship with her grandmother won us over. She will be an outstanding contestant at the International Festival, and we'll be eagerly watching and hoping for her to bring the crown home.'

The 23-year-old Weir



From left: Greenhills co-owner Dermot Quinn, Fiona Weir, and Sean Weir.

Photo courtesy Weir family

will travel to her grandparents' home in August for the week-long festival, which is billed as a "global celebration of Irish culture." Her participation in one of Ireland's most celebrated events will feature her showcasing her Irish heritage through step dancing and sharing stories passed down to her by her grandmother, Roseleen Weir, who serves as her granddaughter's biggest inspiration.

"I am so honored and excited to be able to represent the Boston Irish community in Tralee this summer," Weir told the *Reporter*. "I have always wanted to join the Rose of Tralee [community], and after years of reading about the inspirational

women who take part in the festivities, I decided it was something I, too, wanted to be a part of."

Weir's sense of her Irishness has a clearly drawn significance in her life. Her grandmother emigrated from Ireland's Co. Leitrim and faced various challenges upon arriving in Boston that she has shared with her granddaughter.

Those deep roots drove Weir's interests from a young age. She dedicated herself to fiddle lessons and Irish dancing that stirred her passion for Irish music, dance, and a sense of community over the years, which included time as a student at Boston Collegiate Charter School.

Her nursing respon-

sibilities at BMC are focused on providing healthcare to the city's homeless population, a segment of the city's population that she knows well. During her high school years, she served for four years on former Mayor Martin Walsh's Boston Youth Council.

Weir calls the backing of her neighbors in Adams Corner overwhelming. "My Dorchester community has shown an outpouring of support through positive messages, words of encouragement, and luck that makes me so excited to represent them," she said. "From phone calls to taking pictures with neighbors, I know that heading over to Tralee in the summer, I will have



Fiona Weir, right, with her grandmother Roseleen, who is a native of Co. Leitrim, Ireland.

Photo courtesy Weir family

the best group of people rooting for me from just over 3,000 miles away."

Her father, Sean Weir, describes the Rose of Tralee contest as a "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity" for someone like his daughter to represent Boston and New England.

"I sincerely hope that they have a truly enjoyable experience. I also hope that the overwhelming pressures that seem to exist these days, where everyone feels the weight of expectations and obligations, do not overshadow their ability to fully embrace this unique moment in their lives. This is a one-time opportunity. Enjoy it while you are present in it," said Weir, who also

expressed his gratitude to Dermot and Cindy Quinn from Greenhills Bakery for their support of Fiona's quest.

For her part, Fiona hopes her experience will inspire women everywhere to seize their own opportunities. "You won't know until you try, so just go for it!

so just go for it!

"Leading up to, and following, my time in Tralee, I hope to continue giving back to the Irish community by attending local benefit dances and participating in parades and other summer festivals. I aim to raise awareness and recognition for the Rose not only in Boston and New England, but also at a national level," she said.

Manning sisters perform roles in Boston Ballet's 'Sleeping Beauty' Production runs through June 4 at Opera House

Siobhan and Mairead Manning of Dorchester have landed roles in the Boston Ballet's "Sleeping Beauty" production, which opened on May 25 and runs through June 4 at the Citizens Bank Opera House downtown.

One of the sisters will dance the Queen Page role and the other will perform as the Enchanted Fairy Page. Mairead previously

danced roles as the Village Child and a Sicilian Soldier in Boston Ballet's Don Quixote and as a Reindeer and a Polichinelle in the Ballet's "The Nutcracker" while Siobhan was the Lamb in 'The Nutcracker.'

Both girls noted they have had the time of their lives participating in these professional productions while continuing their regular classes at the Boston Ballet School.

-REPORTERSTAFF

Siobhan and Mairead Manning are having fun participating in ballet productions.



YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE

DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Edward Everett School on Sumner Street

The city of Boston built the immense brick schoolhouse shown here in 1876 as a replacement for the original wooden Everett School building on Sumner Street, which opened on Feb. 25, 1856.

The illustration on the front page of the newspaper accompanied a story about the Everett School Association's reunion on Feb. 6, 1894, at the Old Dorchester Clubhouse a few blocks away from the school. The story said the school "is commodious and attractive, but its generous arms cannot hold all who throng to them. Primary schoolhouses are utilized on both Dorchester and Savin Hill avenues, and yet, so eager is the desire



Today's illustration comes from the *Dorchester Beacon* dated Feb. 17, 1894. The artist would have been standing at the corner of Willis and Stoughton Street.

to get an education, that every square foot of room is growing more precious."

The school was named for Dorchester native Edward Everett, who served in public life as a congressman, governor of Massachusetts, and US Secretary of State in President Millard Fillmore's administration. He also took time to serve in academic life as president of Harvard University. (In perhaps his most notable moment in public life, Everett gave a two-hour speech just before Abraham Lincoln took two minutes to deliver his Gettysburg Address.)

Building schools was an ongoing endeavor in Dorchester in the second half of the 19th century, among them them: the William Stoughton School (1855) on River Street; Christopher Gibson School (1857) on School Street; Thaddeus Mason Harris School (1861) on Adams Street; the Edmund P. Tileston School (1868) on Norfolk Street; and the Minot School (1886) on Neponset Avenue.

The archive of these historical posts can be viewed on the blog at dorchesterhistorical-society.org. The Dorchester Historical Society's William Clapp House and James Blake House are open to the public on the third Sunday of the month from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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Editorial

The Reporter turns 40 this year

The *Dorchester Reporter* family is celebrating our 40th anniversary this year.

Founded by my parents, Ed Forry and Mary Casey Forry, in a spare bedroom of my childhood home on Richmond Street, the newspaper started as a monthly publication in 1983. I was ten years old. My sister Maureen was five.

The inaugural edition of *The Reporter* – published in September – carried a greeting on its cover underneath a headline that said, simply, "Hello!"

"This is the very first edition of a new monthly newspaper that will be delivered to your home at the beginning of every month. The main goal of *The Reporter* is to provide information to you— news about your church, your school, your neighborhood, your local merchants.

"We'll also have advertisements for local businesses, and a classified section telling you about local yard sales, flea markets, help-wanted, items for sale, and the like."

The name flag atop the front page read simply: *The Reporter*. Under the flag was the same mission statement that we carry today: "The News and Values Around the Neighborhood."

In just a few years, *The Reporter* went from monthly publication to bi-weekly and then weekly. Gradually, the paper added staff — including a few people without the Forry surname. In 1984, the business moved into proper quarters, a third-floor suite at the corner of Minot and Adams Streets, above the old Gerard's. In 1987, *The Reporter* moved into a building that once housed a "First National" corner store at 304 Neponset Ave. That building has since been renovated as an up-to-date multi-family home. We moved into our current office space on Columbia Point in 2001.

In 1994, with the advent of the Internet, Ed Forry registered the name DotNews.com, and that has been our online home ever since. Today, other digital and social platforms bring *The Reporter*'s work to readers all over Boston's neighborhoods and far beyond. But the print product you're holding now remains essential.

Keeping a family-owned, independent neighborhood newspaper afloat, healthy, and relevant in 2023 requires a persistence and commitment that is worthy of some recognition. We intend to mark the milestone by doing what we know best: publishing stories. In this instance, that means a look back at the Reporter's origins. (See Chris Lovett's retrospective in today's Dot Day section.) We'll also celebrate with a party at our favorite local brewery, Dorchester Brewing Company.

I'll close with a bit of news: My wife, former state Sen. Linda Dorcena Forry, has recently assumed the role of associate publisher of *The Reporter*. Linda has had an ownership stake in our company – Boston Neighborhood News, Inc. – for as long as I've owned it, circa 2010. But Linda did not have any formal role at the paper, even in the five years since she transitioned from elected office to the private sector.

That has changed over the last few months, as Linda launched her own consulting company. The Reporter will be one of several businesses that Linda will assist. Her focus here will be on business development, diversity, equity and inclusion, and special projects. I am delighted to say that her talent, insights, and network are already boosting our efforts week-to-week. Ed Forry remains a daily presence at The Reporter at age 78. My sister, Maureen Forry-Sorrell, is a key part of the operation, too, with a focus on marketing, digital, and special projects. We are fortunate and grateful to have a team of dedicated journalists and staff who share our goal to produce high-quality journalism in Boston's neighborhoods for years to come.

- Bill Forry

The Reporter

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Gintautas Dumcius, Managing Editor
Seth Daniel, News Editor
Barbara Langis, Production Manager
Jack Conboy, Marketing Manager
Maureen Forry-Sorrell, Advertising Sales
News Room Phone: 617-436-1222, ext. 17
Advertising: 617-436-1222 x14
E-mail: newseditor@dotnews.com

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Hundreds of graduates gathered outdoors during UMass Boston's commencement ceremony on Dorchester's Columbia Point on Thursday, May 25.

Max Larkin/WBUR photo

UMass Boston graduates leave campus with some wisdom, and some cash, to boot

By Max Larkin WBUR Reporter

At last Thursday's undergraduate commencement ceremony at the University of Massachusetts Boston, more than 2,500 new graduates prepared to leave the Dorchester campus with a spring in their step — and an extra \$1,000 in their pocket.

Quincy billionaire Rob Hale, the ĈEO of Granite Telecommunications, announced the cash gift to each UMass Boston graduate following his commencement address to students, which came after another address by US Sen. Elizabeth Warren.

The surprise gift came with a catch.

"The first five hundred is for you—it's a celebration of all you have done to be here today," said Hale, a noted philanthropist and a co-owner of the Boston Celtics. "The second five hundred is a gift for you to give to somebody or somebody else or another organization that could use it more than you."

Each graduate who walked across the stage received two envelopes holding \$500 apiece. After the ceremony, Morisha Pierre, a nursing graduate, shared her reaction toward the gift: "I danced; I was happy," she said.

UMass Boston's student body is among the state's most diverse. In his opening remarks, Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco said the 16,000 current students come from more than 130 countries and speak over 70 languages — and that nearly 60 percent are

the first in their family to get a college degree.

In her commencement address, Warren told the graduates they are entering "a world that is full of anger, strife and grief" — citing the warming planet, the more-than-daily frequency of mass shootings in the U.S., and the political impasse over the debt ceiling.

"Surely, you face more challenges than most any graduating class in history," she said. "And yet, I am here today to counsel: choose hope."

Warren did not stray too much into policy or politics in her address. After the ceremony, students said they do indeed feel hopeful about their future.

Emerson Thomas came to the US from the Caribbean island of Dominica and was previously enrolled at Bunker Hill Community College before transferring to UMass. He graduated Thursday with a bachelor's of science in management.

Thomas acknowledged that "the world is going through a phase of economic uncertainty."

"Things are more expensive: food, living, rent," he said. "America is the land of hope, you know," adding that he'll "cherish forever" the memory of his graduation day.

Many students said their confidence about the future depends on having weathered college years overshadowed by the pandemic. Today's seniors were in their first year of college when the onset of the pandemic forced a move to remote learning in 2020.

With the future of Boston hard to predict, a good dose of boosterism could mean a lot

By Lawrence S. DiCara Special to the Reporter

The 1970s prepared me for the issues we face in the current era. The *Wall Street Journal* has confirmed that office landlords across the country are filing abatements, seeking relief from their property tax assessments which were premised upon much higher occupancies, much higher rents' and lower interest rates.

Boston, or any jurisdiction in Massachusetts, is dependent upon property taxes for a far greater percentage of total revenues than in other parts of the country. The number in Boston is over 70 percent. About two-thirds of those revenues come from non-residential properties. It is possible that, if commercial values are reduced, more of the burden will fall upon those who live in the city who have had relatively low property taxes for decades.

Nicholas Blum, an economist at Stanford, is predicting reduced business activity in the billions of dollars. It's really quite simple – fewer people, fewer lunches, fewer dinners, less shopping, reduced property values, less taxes. Professor Stijn van Nieuwerburgh of Columbia University's Graduate School of Business projects a significant decrease in commercial real estate values as a result of the huge shift in work patterns in US cities.

Professor Arpit Gupta of NYU's Stearns School of Business suggested that there could be an "urban doom loop." If, as he predicts, commercial property values will be reduced by 40 percent, we are all in trouble. He sees an "office real estate apocalypse" ahead.

These articles I have referenced were all written long before the banking crisis that many expect will drag commercial real estate values down even further. My contemporaries at City Hall thought the 1970s were bad, but we did not have that far to topple!

That is why I have suggested, on more than one occasion, the need to proactively market Boston – both

its downtown and its neighborhoods. It is essential that we work with business groups, including the Downtown BID and the Greenway BID, to engage in the types of boosterism that other communities have successfully undertaken. People who are restaurateurs have explained to me that lunch is busy Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday and absolutely dead the rest of the week. Accelerated tourism is needed to prop up those businesses that have survived.

What is our future? Is remote work a good thing for younger people, or for any of us? Some have suggested, given that so many people are working in part from home, that "hybrid places – where people work and also live and play" will recover more quickly. Some have suggested the future of work "is undefined." There is great uncertainty as to what a "workplace" means anymore, or what workplace attire means, if it means anything at all. I would not want to be a manufacturer of ties.

Those of us who are committed to Downtown Boston remaining the center of commerce for New England need to encourage residential conversions of those downtown buildings that can be successfully retrofitted. Difficult though it is for someone who has been coming downtown on a daily basis for over 50 years, 9-to-5 commuters are less central to the future of downtown.

When I ran for mayor of Boston 40 years ago, I gave a speech entitled "The 24-Hour City." To create a 24-hour city downtown, we must change laws regarding liquor licenses. For Boston to recover, there must be more people downtown. They may not be the same people as before, but they will eat and drink and listen to music. However, people will not come into a city at all until the random violence taking place - with limited visible police presence - is addressed.

We must transform our Downtown Business District into a place where people not only work, but also live and gather to enjoy parks and entertainment venues.

West Side Stories

Discarded mattresses are a big headache for residents

By SETH DANIEL News Editor

If anyone needs a soft spot to sit on during the Dorchester Day Parade, or for any of the other upcoming community events, look no farther than the sidewalks. There's no shortage of mattresses littering the main thoroughfares and side streets of our West of Washington hamlets that would offer a soft landing for any parade-watcher.

This latest inundation of worn-out bedding comes courtesy of a short-sighted, statewide effort last fall to get mattresses out of the trash stream.

I guess kudos is due to those who had the big idea to clean up the waste stream, but as is so often the case, these statewide efforts are made for, and by, people in the suburbs with little thought given to how things work in the city.

The same silly story played out many years ago with computer monitors and old televisions – "Dump 'em in Dorchester, no one cares" was what I pictured people saying back then.

The new mattress regulations went into effect last November, and if there was a betting line on the outcome at the Encore casino, I could have collected and doubled down because there was no doubt in my mind that eventually the sidewalks, vacant lots, and even the parks, would be teeming with dumped mattresses carcasses that after decades of being accepted as trash on the curb, suddenly were not.

In just the last few weeks, I've seen them all over our community, along Blue Hill Avenue, in Fields Corner—and even on Dorchester Avenue. Many front yards and side yards are also littered with them; though on private property, that's hardly ideal.

The City of Boston has tried to get ahead of the problem by allowing residents to make appointments to get mattresses picked up for free. This is a noble effort, but the results are missing the mark. Anyone who dumps or leaves a mattress in their yard likely isn't the kind of person to make an appointment for a pickup. Too many people are content to push it across the street or simply let it languish where they tossed it.

I don't believe that this problem is all on the residents. I think a lot of these mattresses are coming from the suburbs and being dumped in our neighborhoods due to the usual suburban attitudes about Dorchester – particularly on the western side.



A state regulation last November ended the practice of residents leaving mattresses on the curb to be taken away as trash. This mattress and box-spring set that was abandoned last week in Fields Corner is an example of what has since November been a consistent problem in many parts of Dorchester: People dumping mattresses for someone else to deal with.

Seth Daniel photo

Some might be from suburban residents themselves looking to avoid fees and figuring "Boston will take care of it," but others could be dropped off by debris removal companies looking to save a buck in tipping fees at the yard.

It's Dorchester – no one cares, right? Wrong!

This is an attitude that reaches far beyond mattresses. In just in the last six months, when I've left the house early in the morning, just on my block, I've found car batteries, old tires, a circa 1930s Frigidaire "icebox" (with the door still on), and a pile of ancient, broken yard tools left there in the overnight hours.

But the mattress dumping problem far surpasses those curiosities, and too often it's left to residents to take care of it. The adage for the city is "If you touch it, it's your problem." So, most people just leave the mattresses and hope it just goes away. Otherwise, they have to make an appointment to dispose of someone else's trash.

These are the sorts of things that too often that aren't considered in big statewide environmental regulations that might work just fine in Wrentham or Sudbury but leave those of us in the city picking up the pieces, or in this case – the mattresses.

As more of us live to be 100, we need a city that is ready for that

By Brenda Rosa Special to the Reporter

As I reflect on my grandfather living to 100, thoughts flood my mind with the recipe for living a long and healthy life. He lived in Boston for more than 50 years after moving to the US from the Cape Verde Islands for work opportunities and better health protection for his wife and children and became a part of the vibrant immigrant community throughout Dorchester.

He passed away in 2022, but I feel good knowing that he lived a long and fulfilling life and enjoyed all his favorite things, including beer, dessert, and television. Nonetheless, is this the secret to living longer and healthier in the city?

The World Health Organization reports that cities are vital in enabling people to live longer and healthier. They focus on eight domains for increasing the health and well-being of aging populations, including housing, transportation, health, outdoor access, social engagement, and employment.

Arecent study by the Stanford Center for Longevity projects that many of us – including half of today's five year olds – will live past 100. We should plan our cities with the expectation that we will live for a long time. Boston's culture needs a re-direction toward an aging-friendlier framework, from birth to older age, demanding a multigenerational approach.

By 2030, it's projected that 130,000 people over the age of 60 will reside in Boston. Older adults serve critical societal roles as consumers, workers, caregivers, and volunteers.

The city of Boston recently opened a new senior center in East Boston that is a hub for aging adults and caregivers. This facility features accessibility, an outdoor space, social engagement, and more. By forming social connections, older adults can combat loneliness and social isolation, which have been shown to lead to major declines in physical and cognitive health. Expansions to current community centers throughout the city can provide access for all ages, including aging adults, and lead to richer, healthier lives.

Medical advances and new technologies are driving the trend toward longer lives, but many will face barriers preventing or limiting access. But the beauty of developing aging-friendly cities is that, in the process,



Brenda Rosa with her late grandfather, Antonio Gomes, who died at age 100.

Photo courtesy Rosa family

we are actually creating cities for all ages and abilities. Curb cuts are helpful for wheelchair and cane users, but also for strollers and children learning to ride bikes. Multigenerational community programming engages people of all ages while increasing generational cohesion. Revitalizing parks and green spaces promote positive connections to nature for all ages.

Boston's Age Strong Commission is already leading the Age-Friendly Boston initiative, which focuses on everything from food access to housing to transportation. Yet more can be done in partnership with, and separate from, the commission, including right here in Dorchester.

My grandfather was not alone in living to 100. The United Nations projects 3.7 million centenarians will be alive by 2050. So, let's create a Boston, and a Dorchester, where we want to raise our children in and grow old in. A place that facilitates social and economic engagement throughout the lifespan, with good health care and entertainment.

Brenda Rosa, MSW, is a Dorchester resident, a graduate of the Boston College School of Social Work (this month), and a career civil servant.



Everyone's House Has a History Curious to know about yours?

Request a House History from the Dorchester Historical Society!

Our volunteer researchers use extensive online resources to look for information about the original owner, year of construction, previous occupants, and more, for houses in Dorchester and Mattapan. A written report documents their findings for you.

Go to www.dorchesterhistoricalsociety.org and click House History dropdown to request individual house research and see completed histories.

Two founders are deeply rooted in the neighborhood

By BILL FORRY EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Dot Block, the large mixeduse community along Dorchester Avenue near Glover's Corner, is set to welcome its first residential tenants in a couple of weeks. When they move in, they'll be close neighbors of the two architects most responsible for the project's design: Kevin Deabler and Eric Robinson.

The college buddies-turned-business-partners own and manage RODE Architects, one of Boston's most well-respected architectural firms that is also the most prolific in terms of the number of projects they've worked on in Dorchester.

That, too, it seems, is by design.

Deabler and Robinson attended North Carolina State together and stayed tight as their early careers took flight. Robinson was the first to discover Dorchester, moving into a Savin Hill fixer-upper with his wife in 1999. Deabler bought a house on the same street a few years later. In 2005, they started collaborating on small local projects -think bathroom renovations – in Dot. Today, their firm is headquartered on Albany Street in the South End and has blossomed into a regional company with 35 employees.

In April, RODE promoted longtime employees Ben Wan and Jessica Haley to principal positions, a nod to the duo's contributions with an eye toward leadership continuity and aspirations to grow the company footprint beyond New England.

But even as RODE ramps up for expansion, the company remains deeply rooted in Deabler and Robinson's home neighborhood. RODE has its fingerprints on some of the most critically acclaimed and important new buildings in this part of the city over the last decade, most notably Dot-Block. Other significant projects include work at the Port Norfolk marina and associated buildings on Ericsson Street that is expected to start this year; the Dorchester Brewing Company building on Massachusetts Ave; the Meeting House, a residential building on Hancock Street that faces the larger DotBlock complex; a proposal for a 41-unit, mixeduse complex at 1420 Dorchester Ave.; and the Dorchester Fieldhouse, which will be a state-of-the-art indoor recreational facility run by the Boys and Girls Clubs of Dorchester, an organization that both Deabler and Robinson have supported personally for years, in partnership with the Martin Richard Foundation.

"We're very proud of the fact that so much of our work is with the first big influential projects to happen in Dorchester and they're continuing to, and they will into the future," said Deabler in an interview with the *Reporter* in April. "But we are also trying to use what we've learned here—the design process that we use, the way we work with our community through a development process—because that is sorely needed in other parts of the region."

If RODE buildings have a signature, it has less to do with the "look," as it does with the



Eric Robinson, left, and Kevin Deabler are the co-founders and principals at RODE Architects, which derives its name from the first two letters of each man's surname. The business partners met in college at North Carolina State and formed their company in 2005. *Bill Forry photo*



The RODE team offered several different renderings of the Neponset Wharf project over a long community process for the waterfront site in Dorchester's Port Norfolk section. Construction on the long-awaited project, which won approval from city officials in Jan. 2022, has not yet begun.



RODE architects designed the future Dorchester Fieldhouse on Mt. Vernon Street.

process that they've adopted through 17 years of being in the trenches in their own neighborhood.

As Robinson says: "The sensibilities that started RODE, which was this sort of notion that we just wanted to make our own neighborhood better. That's still number one today. It's something we've held onto—talk about all politics is local, right? So is architecture and design. It's all hyper-localized for the projects that we're working on."

As residents, there's an added pressure on Deabler and Robinson that comes with how they design and execute the buildings that carry a RODE stamp. But, they are also keenly watching how other projects that they aren't responsible for are carried out.

"I feel like we do feel ownership to protect Dorchester from a design standpoint," said Robinson. "Being involved in as many projects as we have been involved with, which started with really the biggest one, obviously, DotBlock. It was big, and it had a lot of aspects to it, but we feel we want to be protective of the neighborhood and make it the best it can be. I drive around and I can't believe how many projects and things we've touched in the neighborhood. I think about it a lot, and we hear about it a lot when we're at our local coffee shop and somebody will say, 'Hey, this looks pretty good; good job.' They were kicking our teeth in during the approvals, but they sort of in hindsight trusted us a little bit to deliver.'

Matt Malloy, the co-owner of Dorchester Brewing Company and a Dorchester resident, hired RODE to design the brewery's expansion project, which eventually earned the building a prestigious award from the national American Institute of Architects.

"It's clear they truly, deeply care about Dorchester and the impact great design can have on pulling a community together and setting up our neighborhoods for success for years to come," said Malloy. "Through their passion and relentless efforts, they achieve what many simply can't."

As RODE does business in other cities and states, Deabler said they are carrying the message of what has worked well in their own hometown with them. Both men seem to enjoy debunking the sort of bigoted stereotypes that sometimes greet the D-word, Dorchester,

"It's also kind of fun," he said, "to get out there go to a place like Portsmouth and say, this is what we're doing in Dorchester. And they're like, Dorchester? We're kind of like an apostle for Dorchester, getting out there and speaking about how great the neighborhood is as a place, as part of the city. That has been one of those probably loftier goals: changing Dorchester's stigma over time."

That sort of synergy between their mission and that of other Dot institutions may be why RODE was drawn to one of its next huge projects: the \$60 million Dorchester Fieldhouse, which was approved by city officials late last year. The facility will be "transformational and forward looking," according to Robinson.

"The building is very modern and contemporary," he said. "We could have done a simple box, right? But that was not very aspirational. This is one of those moments where the architecture and the process elevated. They want a world class facility; that needs to be represented in the architecture, too. And we are humbled to be part of that process. When shovels start going in the ground, we're gonna be standing there proud that we were part of that.

"For the club, for BPS, and for the foundation, I think you're combining the will-power of what we're trying to say about our children," added Deabler, who says that "all the elements are there for the field house to "exceed expectations."

"And that was one of the goals," he said. "It wasn't the primary goal from an architectural standpoint, but I think that once it lands and gets built, people will point at it and say, 'that was an amazing process.' And you're seeing the sort of evidence of that through the architecture. And that's gonna be a powerful moment for the neighborhood, for the people who will use the facility."

Also on the near horizon: Neponset Wharf, a development that will transform a pair of dilapidated buildings at the end of the Port Norfolk peninsula, adding open public space, housing units, and a restored marina to the site.

"It's an amazing example of a super forward-looking project in our own backyard to deal with climate change, sustainability... that the city is facing," said Deabler. "I mean, it is real. We're seeing it on all our projects throughout the city where we're dealing with resiliency issues.

"And I think that the project is like a microcosm of all the different aspects that we have to deal with in one project. It's a big project, but I think it was done so well from the creative sort of aspect of it and providing real public access to the waterfront... We're proud of the architecture and it'll be seen, we all know, from 93. It's going to be anchoring that peninsula. It will be built and we want it to be successful to represent Dorchester moving forward."

As Dot Block readies for its first tenants, 'intertwining' is the developer's keyword

(Continued from page 1) stories up overlooking the scene as well.

The ground level retail spaces— which are not yet occupied —are also meant to benefit the residents as much as the neighborhood.

"There's a lot of activity around us," he said in noting that they envision three retail spaces right now. "There are a lot of family-owned restaurants and businesses and we're trying to intertwine with existing neighborhood businesses. It could be a restaurant. We're not sure yet, but that would be a great use."

Because the development kicked off right as the pandemic hit, interior space design and programming had to pivot with the monumental lifestyle changes imposed by Covid spread, particularly the huge shift to working from home or using a hybrid home-of-fice schedule.

Ouellette said that as home workspace became more important, they re-shaped the lobbies to include booths and places for social gatherings in the evenings, but workspaces during the day. The same is true in the units where there are designated spaces in the large living rooms for a computer desk workstation.

"The work from home – that influenced the decision on amenities for the project and how the lobbies flow. The move to work from home was the largest influence on the project from a design standpoint as it evolved," he noted.

Ouellette said that the prominence of pets, particularly dogs, before and after the pandemic pushed them to locate grooming and pet wash stations prominently in the development. It was by no means an afterthought, he said.

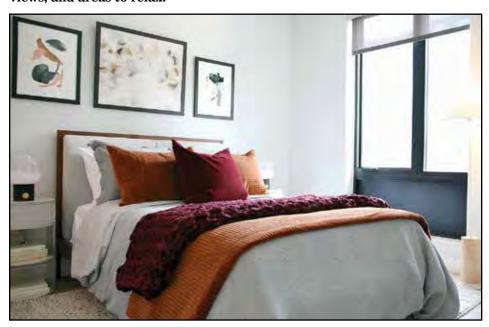
The units are well appointed, with lots of glass to take advantage of natural light and the cityscape outside on busy Dorchester Avenue, cozy Greenmount Street, and residential Pleasant Street. In the model units, Dorchester-themed swag is prominent, and every resident gets a move-in gift of 'Dorchester' wooden coasters via Chopstick Value, owned by Savin Hill's Elaine Chow.

The units feature a washer and dryer, a spacious kitchen, a large island for cooking and eating, and roomy closet spaces. The unit types run from studios to three-bedroom units, with an average rental price of between the low \$2,000s to the mid \$4,000s, based on apartment size and location within the building.

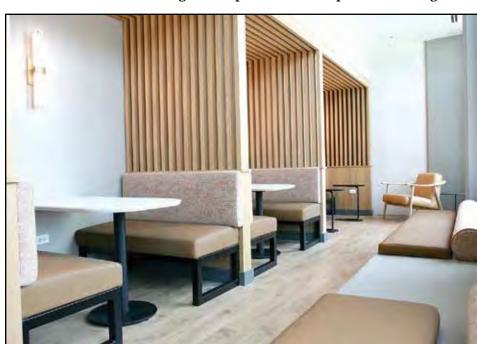
Phase 2 of Dot Block is



The living rooms in Dot Block units have large glass windows for great outdoor views, and areas to relax.



Bedrooms in the units are light and spacious with ample closet storage.



As the project evolved through Covid-driven lifestyle changes, developers said they made the lobbies flow with social and workspaces. The work from home element evolved to be a prominent part of the public spaces and the apartments in Dot Block.



To bring a neighborhood feel to Greenmount Street, units facing the street have entrances at street level to intertwine the three-deckers across the street with the new apartment community.



Dot Block General Manager Chelsea Nason shows the workstations that are now essential for each unit as residents so often need the option to work from home.



The lobby of the Pleasant building features comfortable couches and floor-to-ceiling views of the landscaped parkway.



Spacious cooking areas also feature islands for prepping or eating. Here, dinner is seemingly about to be served, and the chopsticks are a reminder of the many Vietnamese restaurants within walking distance of the new apartment community.

still well into the future, but the rough plans include more than 200 units of housing and additional retail opportunities. For now, though, Ouellette said they are focused entirely on welcoming new Dot Block residents.

"It feels great to get here. It feels like it's where it should be, and we are intertwined and really positioning ourselves in the neighborhood and in Dorchester on a whole," he said.



Harvard Street Health looks to close on former Franklin Park Theatre

By Seth Daniel News Editor

The Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Center (HSNHC) last Friday filed plans with the Boston Planning and Development Agency for a revamp of its Blue Hill Avenue campus. On the same day, the health center learned that its bid at a public auction for a building abutting their campus that at one time was the Franklin

recently served as the New Fellowship Baptist Church, had been accepted.

Charley Murphy, the health center's president, hopes to close on its purchase of the 616 Blue Hill Ave. building within 30 days. The price was not disclosed.

"We are taking two, three, or four weeks to do due diligence to make sure everything is

Park Theatre, and most in line, and we will close within 30 days if it all goes well," Murphy said, adding, "with an eye to the future, we wanted to acquire it now."

> The old theatre and church has been in disrepair and under court-ordered receivership for some time. If the acquisition goes through, the building would be placed into the second phase of the campus construction project. The theatre



The Phase 1 remake of the Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Center campus features a new health center building on Old Road and Ellington Street. That plan was filed last week with the BPDA. Future phases will focus on Blue Hill Avenue buildings.

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HSNHC had its bid offer accepted at public auction last Friday to potentially purchase the old Franklin Park Theatre and New Fellowship Baptist Church building at 616 Blue Hill Ave. If they close within 30 days and acquire it, the building would be demolished as part of Phase 2 of the health center's campus plan. The theatre property towers five stories in the back of the property between Old Road and Blue Hill Avenue. Rendering courtesy of isgenuity

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Homes are sold by lottery. Only qualified applicants may enter. The property is deed-restricted; owner-occupancy requirements apply. Income and asset limitations apply. Requirements: First time homebuyer. Homebuyer will need to complete an approved homebuyer education course prior to closing. Preferences: Boston Residency preference. Preference for one (1) person per bedroom. Income limits for qualified buyers are based on 80% and 100% Area Median Income Limits as defined by HUD. Please note: Persons with disabilities and those with limited English language proficiency are entitled to request a reasonable accommodation.

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entrance occupies only one storefront on Blue Hill Avenue, but the brick building rises to five stories behind the entrance.

Murphy said that in the center's Phase 2 plans, they have already detailed the demolition of the existing health center building and building anew with their partner, The Community Builders (TCB). That building will have health center space on the ground floor and affordable housing above it. If the theatre purchase goes through, Murphy said they would demolish it at the same time as the existing health

center and proceed with the same model – health center operations on the ground floor and affordable housing above. Phase 2 is at least three years down the road, he said.

"There are a lot of possibilities if we do close on the theatre building, probably offering additional services or working with a partner to offer physical therapy perhaps, and any other specialties to meet the needs of the community," Murphy said. "We have not sat down and made any plans for it yet, but it's a nice option to have."

Before that building entered receivership, the

39 ¼ x 64 ¼

city's Inspectional Services Department (ISD) had worked closely with the church to try to shore up the failing structure. But it was eventually put into receivership and some repairs were made, specifically to the roof. It was then cleaned up for the auction.

In a related matter, the first phase of the HSN-HC's overhaul plans formally entered the BP-DA's small project review process last Friday. The first meeting is scheduled for June 20 at 6 p.m.

Phase 1 proposes to redevelop parcels located at 8 Old Rd., 14 Ellington St., and 16 Ellington St. with the new construction of a 42,300-squarefoot health center with clinical, laboratory, and pharmacy sub-uses. Most neighbors are acquainted with the proposal already, as it has been shopped around in pre-filing public meetings sponsored by the health center.

Murphy said the potential new building combined with Phase 1 and all the ongoing investments in Blue Hill Avenue and Franklin Park bring some real excitement to that neighborhood.

"The timing is perfect with the health center going up, and potentially this second building going up across from what will be a new-look Franklin Park entrance and ongoing changes to infrastructure on Blue Hill Avenue – all at similar times," he said. "It puts a new face on Blue Hill Avenue."

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Hundreds feted for their service at Boston EMS annual banquet

annual awards banquet in-person for the first time since 2019 at the Venezia Restaurant in Dorchester on May 24. More than 100 Boston EMS personnel were honored for their bravery, dedication, and lifesaving care between the years of 2019 through 2022. Additionally, 44 former members celebrated their retirement, and another 75 were feted for years of service milestones.

Dorchester's Mackenzie Mills won a Medal of Valor along with her co-worker Čassandra Cohen. These awards are given to members who, at the risk of their own lives, go above and beyond the call of duty. The Medal of Honor went to Captain Anthony O'Brien.

Mayor Wujoined Chief of Department Jim Hooley, Boston EMS Medical Director Dr. Sophia Dyer, and Boston Public Health Commission Executive Director Dr. Bisola Oiikutu to present awards for the heroic actions.

"Our Boston EMTs embody what it means to be public servants through their dedication to providing lifesaving services and compassionate care whenever they get a call, said the mayor. "I'm so grateful and proud to celebrate all of our awardees honored this National EMS Week.'

The program was emceed by John Tobin, former Boston City Councillor and current Northeastern University



Dorchester's Mackenzie Mills (center, third from left) was honored with the Medal of Valor award at the EMS banquet. She is shown here with, from left: Cassandra Cohen, Boston EMS Medical Director Dr. Sophia Dyer, Boston Public Health Commission Executive Director Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, EMS Chief Jim Hooley, and Mayor Michelle Wu. Photos courtesy Isabel Leon/City of Boston

Boston EMS Chief Jim Hooley welcomed hundreds of guests to the banquet on May 24, the first EMS banquet since

"After the last four years, serving the rising needs of our community, it was a momentous evening focused on honoring our own," said Hoolev.

- REPORTER STAFF

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4	2	750	\$2,340	100%	0	0

Minimum Incomes Maximum Incomes (set by owner + based on $\overline{\#}$ of bedrooms (set by HUD/MOH + based on household + Area Median Income (AMI)) size + Area Median Income (AMI)) Household # of 60% AMI 60% AMI 100% AMI 100% AMI bedrooms size \$58,900 \$98,150 0 34,600 2 \$67,300 \$112,200 3 \$75,700 \$126,200 37,333 52,000 4 \$84,100 \$140,200 \$90.850 \$151.450 5 45,066 62,400 \$97,600

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Applications are available during the application period for 21 days, from June 1, 2023 to June 22, 2023.

To request an online application or to have one sent by email visit https://bit.ly/WoodburyAppReqForm or call **617-567-7755.**

After careful consideration and an abundance of caution, the City of Boston has decided to cancel the in-person application distribution period. If you cannot complete the application online, please call us at 617-567-7755, to request that we mail you one and to ask us for any support or guidance you might need to complete the application.

We will be holding 1 virtual informational meeting on Wednesday, June 7, 2023 at 6 pm through the following link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81654447861?pwd=RUdMa3ZBZzhqTGpBNk9CZ3NQNlhxUT09 Meeting ID: 816 5444 7861

Passcode: 545249 Or call: 929-205-6099

DEADLINE: Applications must be submitted online or postmarked no later than June 22, 2023. Mailed to: Metro Management, 80 Border Street, 3rd Floor, East Boston, MA 02128

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For more information, language assistance, or reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities please call 617-567-7755 or email WoodburyAptsLottery@ebcdc.com





Notice is hereby given by Always Open Towing at 18 Talbot Avenue, Dorchester, MA 02124 in pursuant to M.G.L. c.225, section 39A, that the following vehicles will be for sale at a private auction on June 15, 2023 at 8 am to satisfy the garage keeper's lien for towing, storage and notice of sale:

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By Cassidy McNeeley SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

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In 2023, Hyman's grandson, Alan Issokson, is keeping the H. Levenbaum Insurance Agency on track as the company's president. For his part, he credits that success to how Levenbaum employees have always treated the clients they work with.

'We've always been a place where people can go, regardless of where they're from and what their educational background is," said Issokson. "They can come and ask questions and we're going to give them information and we're going to hopefully put them in a situation where they understand what they're spending their hard-earned money on."

Issokson grew up in Randolph but has been a regular in Fields Corner since the mid-1970s. As a kid, he would situate his grandfather's office by the Coca-Cola sign painted along the brick wall of the old Murray Drug building. In 1994, he joined his grandfather as a member of the agency team.

Issokson's love for Dorchester stems from his childhood memories and enriches his work with community residents and businesses. He believes that Dorchester has a unique combination of energy and vibrancy



Alan Issokson, president of H. Levenbaum Insurance Agency, and grandson of its founder. Cassidy M. Neeley photo

and he strives to emulate that spirit within the agency.

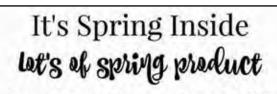
"Whether it's Geico or Progressive, they make it seem fun with all of their ads and they make it seem very simple. But in so many insurance cases, it's not. And in so many cases, they're breaking it down to simply price,' Issokson said.

Unlike these larger companies, the independent Levenbaum agency, which also has an office in Marshfield, emphasizes the importance of customer care, he said.

"We've never really needed to change, whether we were doing things

with paper or doing things with computers," said Issokson. "At the end of the day, we were still on the phone or at a counter talking to people about what they needed and helping them understand what they were buying."

It takes generations of hard work and dedication to be able to celebrate a 100th anniversary of anything. "You see businesses large and small struggling, and some of those places are not around anymore. And 100 years later, you know, we're still here. I think it's kind of remarkable," said Issokson.



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Epiphany School marked 25th anniversary at gala



Pictured above are Diane Patrick, Former MA Governor Deval Patrick and Sarah Patrick.

Dorchester's Epiphany School celebrated its 25th anniversary with a gala event that was held on May 12 at the Boston Public Library. Over 250 people attended the event.

Launched in 1998, Epiphany has always provided full scholarship along with wrap-around support to the entire family. Central to the school's success is their extended school day, with breakfast, lunch, and dinner in the Middle School and year-round programming for all its students from newborns to 8th graders.

"At Epiphany, we provide every student with a great education that

puts them first. A rich and engaging academic curriculum and class-room experience is at the center of what we do," said Principal Michelle Sanchez, PhD. "The many support structures Epiphany offers for the physical, social, and emotional well-being of students and families put the student in a situation where education can be their top priority."

In addition to the Dorchester middle school campus with 90-100 students, several years ago Epiphany opened its Early Learning Center that serves 60-70 infants, toddlers, and pre-school-age children

and their families, where scholarships remove the perverse incentives that marginalize fathers and lock families into poverty.

"Twenty-five years ago, Epiphany was about forty children in two grades and a few very determined adults. Today, Epiphany is an Early Learning Center and a Middle School with abiding support. We are breaking the cycles of poverty, training the next generation of great urban educators, and helping Epiphany-inspired schools all over the world," said the Reverend John H. Finley IV, co-founder and Head of School.



The Epiphany Dancers performing Rhythm Nation by Janet Jackson.

Photos by Craig Bailey/Perspective Photo

Notice of Public Meeting

Notice is hereby given that a Community Outreach Meeting for a Proposed Cannabis Establishment is scheduled for...

Date: Thursday, June 22, 2023

Time: 6:00 pm
Location: Online (Zoom)

Three ways you can join the Zoom meeting...

1. Go to https://tinyurl.com/1102ABlueHill

2. Go to www.zoom.us/join
Enter this meeting ID when prompted: 841 4561 6237
Click "join."

3. Go to Zoom link: https://us05web.zoom.us/j/84145616237?pwd=eVJORFIrT Hk2MWo0NDNheFgwcnRJZz09

The proposed retail cannabis establishment will be located at:

1102A Blue Hill Avenue, Dorchester, MA 02124

There will be an opportunity for the public to ask questions and share comments.

If you have any questions about this meeting or have comments about the proposal please contact: Cleon Byron, CEO/Owner of the retail establishment, at cleonmbyron@gmail.com.





Daniel Driscoll - Neponset Health Center

398 Neponset Ave, Dorchester • (617) 282-3200

Geiger Gibson Community Health Center

250 Mount Vernon Street, Dorchester • (617) 288-1140



Welcoming
the community
starting JUNE 16!

FARMER'S MARKET Ann hfaith fair

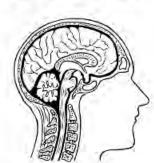
In partnership with



Learn more at HHSI.US/Farmacy

ARE YOU OVER 60?

SIGN UP TO CONTRIBUTE TO A STUDY OF BRAIN HEALTH AND SLEEP ACROSS THE LIFESPAN AT BOSTON UNIVERSITY



Now enrolling for a 3 visit study including 2 magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and electroencephalography (EEG) scans and an overnight sleep study. You can earn up to \$600 for full completion of the study.

Scan the QR code or contact us for more information

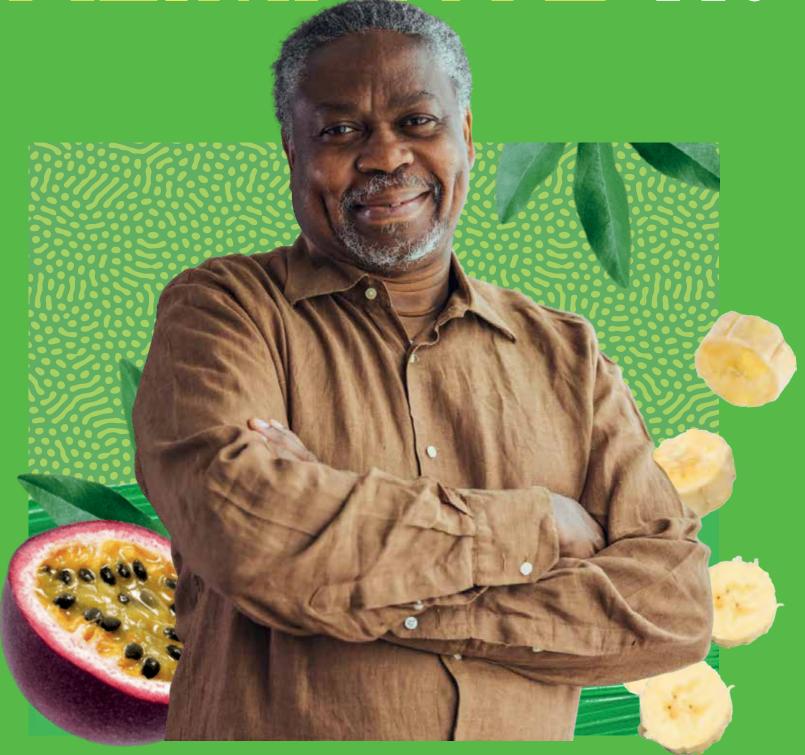


617-358-8160 | LNLAG@BU.EDU

Boston University College of Engineering

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OGMANTE BIDJE ALIMANTE W.



Konnen si w kalifye pou SNAP.

1.800.645.8333





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BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF DORCHESTER

f y in You Tube



BGCD Keystone Club Volunteers at Run to Remember Boston Road Race: See details below.

CONNECT THE DOT: BGCD Keystone Club Volunteers at Run to Remember Boston

Road Race: Over the Memorial Day weekend, members of BGCD's Keystone Club volunteered at the **Annual Run to Remember Boston** Road Race. The Run is a tribute to fallen Law Enforcement Officers and First Responders, and celebrates all First Responders. The race consists of half-Marathon and 5K courses with over 9,000 participants. This is the 8th year that our Keystone Club has volunteered at the race, with this year's responsibility to hand out snacks to all the runners at the conclusion of the Race. It was a beautiful day for all who participated, and BGCD is thankful to have been a part of such an inspirational day.

To learn more about BGCD's Keystone Club, please contact Mike Joyce at mjoyce@bgcdorchester.org.

FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE: BGCD Members Take Part in MFA Boston Community Arts Initiative:

Earlier this month, the members of BGCD's Museum of Fine Arts Class attended a ceremony at the Museum that included the installation of a new piece of artwork which our members helped to create through the Artist Project. This collaboration is part of the Museum's Community Arts Initiative which works with 12 local youth programs throughout the year to introduce young people to the Museum's collections and the artmaking process. Our members, along with youth from the other organizations worked with the Teaching Artist to design and create the final product. Congratulations to our members who were thrilled to see the piece installed.

For more information on the Fine Arts program please contact Katy Farrar Sullivan at kfarrar@bgcdorchester.org.



BGCD Members Take Part in MFA Boston Community Arts Initiative: See details below.

DID YOU KNOW:

BGCD To Partner with GirlStart for STEM Education for Girls: Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester is excited to partner with GirlStart, a nationally operated program that provides STEM Education for Girls. This free program will run from 6/26 to 6/30 for Girls in Grades 3 to 5. The time of the program will be from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. and this will include a special field trip for the girls at the end of the program. The program is open on a first come basis and will be offered during the period between school closing and the Summer Camp beginning.

To register please visit - bit.ly/ DorchesterGirlstart23.

For additional information please contact Education Director, Joel Figueroa at jfigueroa@bgcdorchester.

UPCOMING EVENTS

BGCD Dance & Baton Teams in the Dorchester Day Parade June 4

Night to Shine Semi-Formal June 9

BGCD Dance Team Recital June 11

Juneteenth Celebration
June 14

Last Day of School

617.288.7120 | 1135 Dorchester Ave. | www.bgcdorchester.org



*All participants will receive a \$25 gift card after completion of their visit. To complete the visit, participants must create an account, give consent, agree to share their electronic health records, decide whether they want information about their DNA, answer health surveys, have their physical measurements taken (height, weight, blood pressure, etc.) and give blood and urine samples, if asked.

All of Us and the All of Us logo are registered service marks of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.





Memorial Day draws respectful crowd to Vietnam Memorial

By SETH DANIEL **News Editor**

More than 100 people gathered at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Monday morning to recite the names of the 80 service members from Dorchester who lost their lives in service to their country during the war in Vietnam.

Ed Pimental, who served as master of ceremonies, noted that it was the 36th annual Memorial Day event at the Morrissey Boulevard memorial since it was dedicated on peaceful plot of land overlooking Dorchester Bay.

Many Gold Star families attended, as did numerous Vietnam veterans and representatives of the neighborhood veteran's posts. As Richard Dobbyn and Frank Cahill read off the 80 names, carnations were placed for each name at the foot of the granite memorial.

Jordan Mitchell led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance before the US National Anthem, the South Vietnamese National Anthem, and "God Bless America" were played. The exercises concluded with "Taps" before a silent crowd.

New flags were put in place this year at the Mein 2019.



Master of Ceremonies Ed Pimental kicks of the exercises Monday morning, with Richard Dobbyn



Twin Sisters Ann Bruso and Pat Collins laid down carnations for their family member. They were one of several Gold Star Families in attendance.



Dorchester Vietnam Veterans and Gold Star families posed for a photo in front of the Memorial after the 36th annual Memorial Day exercises. Seth Daniel photos



Lisa Zinck, Diane Zinck, Mia McCarthy, Denis McCarthy, Chloe McCarthy, and Stacie McCarthy pose in front of the new weeping willow tree planted on the ground of the Dorchester Vietnam Veterans Memorial dedicated to the late Joe Zinck, who passed away in 2019. He was a Vietnam Veteran and a founding member of the Memorial Committee.





Old Dorchester Post American Legion #65 salutes one of the lost servicemen.



Veteran Ken Gordon salutes after commemorating one of the names



Janis Duffy, Ed Pimental, Jean Zinck-Holmes, Jay Holmes, Mike Griffin, Jim Griffin, and Carole Pidgeon.



names.

Terry Kelly, Jerry O'Connell, and Bob Morrison.



 $Khang\,Nguyen, of\,the\,Vietnamese\,American\,Community\,of\,Massachusetts, with\,South\,Vietnamese\,veterans\,Ro\,Pham\,\,and\,\,An\,\,Tran.$

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School Committee says yes to Shaw-Taylor merger

(Continued from page 3) the merger process the worked. Lorena Lopera questioned the district's approach to community engagement. "We can continue to ask the community what they want, but then if we're going to go back and say, 'but we're going to do it this way,' I think that erodes some of the trust that we know we're trying to build," she said.

For his part, Cardet-Hernandez asked for more clarity. "That is not a healthy precedent, as we're talking about multiple mergers to be like, we'll figure it out as we go," he said.

Another committee member, Stephen Alkins, asked about school improvements for the current Shaw-Taylor students, who will likely not see the benefits of a new building. "We know that it's going to take time for new buildings to be constructed, so we want to make sure that their facilities and their resources are guaranteed throughout this. Whether that's financial or that's psychological, social supports are needed to support the community through this disruption," Alkins said.

Shaw and Taylor teachers respond

Two teachers from the Taylor school spoke during a public comment period about the needs of their students. The Taylor and the Shaw need the same resources that schools in all small suburban, predominantly white, neighborhoods receive," said Taylor K2 inclusion teacher Rhesa Cumberbatch. "I definitely hope that that is being brought into consideration as you guys make this merger.'

Kristin Leslie, the Taylor art teacher, asked the committee to maintain a sense of urgency to improve her students' school experiences. "You're only in fifth grade once. You're only in first grade once," she said. "I did see that all plans do have quite a while where students would be in the bigger classes but in the same dilapidated facilities."

Leslie said her students wanted the district to provide better facilities, supplies, and opportunities for accelerated learning and sports.



The PA Shaw school is a single-strand school (meaning it only has general education classrooms and no inclusion classrooms) limited to grades K-3 and having fewer than 200 students.

Reporter file photo

Neither teacher shared an opinion about the merger itself.

In contrast to earlier meetings, Shaw families, educators, and students did not speak during public comment time.

In a phone call, Shaw K2 teacher Carla Johnson said that she didn't show up to comment because it felt to her as if the district and the school committee had already decided to merge the two

For her, the vote brought a mix of hope and grief.

"For those of us who were really fighting to keep the Shaw the Shaw, it just feels like we're going to be swallowed up into a bigger school," Johnson said. "Î hope that's not the case because the community that we've created is really strong and powerful and beautiful. "

The district says mergers are necessary

The district has 8,000 fewer students today than it did in 2013, according to the merger planning. However, it has not reduced its capacity for students. Reducing seat capacity by consolidating classrooms is important, district officials say, because staffing shortages have led to classrooms led by long-term substitutes or teachers without the appropriate licensure. As consolidation goes on, the district will need fewer teachers, allowing them to more easily fill those positions with licensed educators. Fewer teachers also saves money.

In Boston, most schools get the majority of their funding through a "weighted student formula" which allocates money according to the number of students district officials have decided should equal a fully enrolled classroom.

When a school has fewer students than is expected, the district will allocate less money for it. Less money would make it difficult - if not impossible – to meet basic budgetary needs like paying teachers, so the district provides "soft-landing" funding to make up the gap.

Three-quarters of Boston schools received "soft-landing" funding in fiscal year 2022, according to the district $\,$ budget. In the 2022-23 school year, soft landing accounted for about \$350,000 of the Shaw and Taylor budgets combined.

Merging the Shaw and the Taylor will save roughly \$300,000 each year, according to the BPS proposal. That would leave a roughly \$50,000 gap in funding. Nonetheless, district officials have committed to reinvesting this money into the Shaw-Taylor community.

Cardet-Hernandez raised questions about the reinvestment. "We are having a separate conversation during the budget cycle about clawing back funds, potentially in the next year," he said. 'What's the length that we're making this commitment to the community for? And what can they count on?"

Despite the impending end of pandemic-era federal funding, Nate Kuder, BPS's chief financial officer, said the merger wasn't about the budget. "We're not looking to sort of use this as a way to save money. This is an opportunity for us to strengthen the school community. The biggest thing here is for us to think about is: What is the right model for the school."

What about the required **Racial Equity Planning Tool?**

The Build BPS/Green New Deal Coalition published its own completed Racial Equity Planning Tool (REPT) for the Shaw-Taylor merger in the absence of one published by the district, which is required to

The district is required to complete a REPT when making any major decisions, but an internal memo from Sept. 30 revealed that the REPT had not been "authentically used" by the district on the decision to merge the Shaw and the Taylor.

At the May 14 meeting, Charles Grandson, the district's chief equity officer, said a completed REPT was coming. "There's a commitment to publish the results of the equity analysis in the coming weeks," he said, explaining that it will be housed on the district's REPT dashboard when it is launched.

This article was reported and produced in partnership with the Boston $Institute for Nonprofit Journalism. \ The$ author, Emily Piper-Vallillo, is a writer and researcher who holds an M.Ed from the Harvard Graduate School of

Brotherly love gives impetus to Jim Brett's work

By Ed Forry ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER

When President Biden named Jim Brett last year to the Presidential Committee for People with Disabilities, the appointment continued a commitment that Brett has been living with for most of his life. This spring, Biden added to the honor by naming him chair of the commission.

That dedication is rooted in his love for his born Brett sibling who was disabled as an infant. In an interview with Boston Irish Magazine, Brett said that he pledged to their mother that he would always look after his eldest brother and be an advocate for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

"He was the oldest in the family, and \boldsymbol{I} was the youngest, so we were very, very, very close," he said. "And I was the last in my family to get married. So, we lived together on Grant Street with my mother. When she passed in 1981, he lived with me for a short period of time. And then he went through the state system for housing, and eventually wound up in a beautiful group home in Scituate. So I always had said to my mother – you know, she worried about her son – I said the whole family would take care of him, which we did.

"I made a commitment that I would use my voice to be an advocate for people like my brother who had nothing, no services. When he was born in 1934, they would take people like him and say to the mother, 'We'll, put him in an institution put a roof over his head, three meals a day. And, not to worry about your son because he is not going to live long.'

"And here's my mother, with a sixth-grade education coming from Sligo saying to the doctor, 'He's coming home and we're going to have more children. They're going to be proud of his life. and he's going be part of their lives.' And the doctor told my mother, 'You shouldn't have more children because it's a very difficult pregnancy. If I put your son in an institution, the burden will be lifted.' She just said. 'There's no burden to him. You know, I'm going to have more children,' and then she had him, he either stayed

five other kids.

"I told my mother, If I run for office, I'll be a voice for people like my brother who had no one advocating for him. So, I spent my career in the Legislature advocating for services of people with disabilities, intellectual, developmental."

The Presidential Committee has 21 members from across the country. Brett was first appointed as a member by George W. Bush in 2004 and later served under President Obama, including a previous term as chair from 2011 to 2013.

He described his brother Jack as living with an intellectual disability: "He had an IQ of maybe 35, so as a practical matter, he could talk, he could walk, he could clothe himself, but he couldn't hold a job. He couldn't add. He'd get somewhat confused if different colors appeared. I mean he had his limits. And that's why someone like him would not be employable because he wouldn't know the time of the day to report to work, wouldn't know how to get there.

"And for someone like

home or – at the time in the 30s and 40s, they had institutions, or back in the 50s, 60s, and 70s, they had what they call workshops. But for people like my brother who couldn't function in an everyday job, the work in these shops was piecemeal, with some type of compensation. It was basically something to get him to be out of the house and be with other people, but it wasn't a job because he couldn't hold a job " Jack Brett lived until the age of 77, passing away in 2010, but the family's support was inspiration for Brett's work on the committee.

"It inspires me to remember that there are an awful lot of people like my brother who have no one advocating for them; many are sitting at home. They don't have somebody helping them find some meaningful employment, helping them get access to dental care or healthcare.

"There is a major discrimination out there when it comes to people with disabilities; they're not treated equally. So, for the last ten years, I've been working with dental schools, urging them to adopt at least one new course to diagnose and treat people with disabilities. It's been a battle, but it's something that I'm proud of and it has been accomplished. If they do go to a dentist, they may not have dental insurance, they may be on Mass Health, which doesn't reimburse enough for the dental costs.

"Beyond that, there is major discrimination on how people with disabilities are treated in healthcare, transportation, housing. Those are issues that I've been working on for 30, 40 years."

Brett continues to be hopeful that his efforts will produce needed changes. "The awareness is becoming more prevalent with the medical community. But we are going to spread it beyond the dental, spread it to all the hospitals. We will try to do what we did with the dental schools and create a new course on how to diagnose and treat disabled people. How do nurses and doctors and other primary care people treat people with disabilities? It's a major problem. We've been working on healthcare



Jim Brett

disparity involving people with disabilities. And we're making progress, but we have a long way to go."

Brett invites healthcare workers willing to help to reach out personally to him: "I will get them in touch with other people who are involved in this movement. I have never seen a class of individuals discriminated against as much as people with disabilities are."

Jim Brett is president and CEO of the New England Council, a non-partisan alliance of businesses, academic and health institutions, and public and private organizations throughout New England aiming to promote economic growth and high quality of life in the six-state region. The Council has its headquarters at 98 North Washington St., Boston 02114. Phone: (617) 723-4009

RECENT OBITUARIES

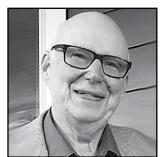


Phyllis FELD, (Belsky) of Gloucester, formerly of Mattapan. Phyllis is survived by her brothers Larry and wife Elaine, Gerry and wife Evelyn; her son Jonah and wife Gillian; and her three grandchildren. She is predeceased by her parents Max and Ida; her husband Jerry; and her son Gabriel. Donations may be made to your local arts association.

GALES, Valerie Maxine, 57, of Mattapan, formerly of New York, Daughter of Mamie



"Ruth " Gales and Bobbil Gales. She is preceded in death by her mother Mamie Ruth Gales and her brother Nathaniel Gales. Valerie is survived by her children Natheena Gales-Semedo, Valerie Gales, Nakema Gales, Justina Gales, Richina Gales and Adema Gales. Husband Adam Mayombwe. Grandmother of 4. Sister of Bobby Gales, Donnice Gales, Vivian Gales, Fredericka Golston and Kelly Stone. She is also survived by a loving host of other relatives and dear friends.



HOWARD, Alfred E., P.E., 89, of Dorchester, Arlington, and Nova Scotia... Brother, John, and sister, Maryellen. With his first wife Bea, he nurtured five children, Louise Healey, Stephanie Leggeri, and Margot, Michael and Matthew Howard. With wife Jane (Algmin) he was dad to Dorothy Tully and Ross Howard. He is survived by Bea and Jane, plus all the children; spouses, Bob Healey, Audrey DeMasi Howard and Arvonn Tully; grandchildren, Dominic and Anthony Leggeri, Samantha Santiago, Thomas and Sydney De-Masi, Olivia Hohler, and Eleanor and Claire Tully; and great-grandchildren,



The Capt. Benjamin Stone, Jr. statue at Grand Army of the Republic burial plot in Cedar Grove Cemetery as seen on Memorial Day, May 26, 2023. Stone was chosen by his fellow Dorchester neighbors to lead them into battle with the Massachusetts 11th Regiment, Company K. Stone was mortally wounded at the Second Battle of Bull Run, Virginia, in August 1862. He was one of 97 Dorchester men who were killed in combat or died from illness while serving Bill Forry photo the Union cause in the Civil War.

most passionate about

giving generously and

volunteering her time

to many charities; most

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate & Family Court 24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114 BOSTON, MA 02714
(617) 788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
DOCKET NO. SU22P2690EA
ESTATE OF:
MARIA M. HARVEY
DATE OF DEATH: 09/10/2022

To all interested persons: A Petition for S/A - Formal Probate of Will A Petution for 5/a - Formal Propale of with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Kenrick Harvey of Boston, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other reflet as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Kenrick Harvey of Boston, MA personal day Personal Personal Propagations. pe appointed as Personal Representative (s of said estate to serve Without Surety on th

of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration. IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a mo, the return day Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/14/2023.

of 06/14/2023.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal

the administration directly from the Persona Representative and may petition the Courting any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of

administration.

Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.

Date: May 3, 2023

Vincent Procopi

Register of Probat

Rachel and Dominic Leg-

geri; plus nieces, nephews

and cousins across Cana-

da and the United States.

MACRELLI, Maria E. "Dolly" (Vega), 96, of Dorchester. Wife of the late Ferdinand "Fred" Macrelli. Mother of Robert Macrelli and his wife Ellen of Dorchester, Donald Macrelli and his wife Cathleen of Dorchester, and Edward Macrelli and his wife Joan of Brockton. Sister of the late Eugene Vega. Grandmother of 4 and the late David; great-grandmother of 4. Also survived by a large and loving extended family and many dear friends. Maria was a longtime parishioner of St. Brennotably Rosie's Place, Pine Street Inn, and The Society of St. Vincent de Paul. (OConnor FH)

RYAN, Pauline E. (Mc-Carthy), of Weymouth, formerly of Dorchester. Mother of John E. Ryan III of Quincy, Dennis Ryan of Weymouth, Mark Ryan of Brockton, Maureen Flaherty of Weymouth, Sheila A. Miller of Weymouth, and the late Paula Sluhocki. Sister of Catherine Judge of New Hampshire; and predeceased by her siblings: Julia Lorenz, John McCarthy, Mary Hogan, Joseph McCarthy, and Francis McCarthy. Cherished grandmother to 14 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Please consider a donation in memory of Pauline

dan's Church. Dolly was to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, 450 Brookline Ave., Boston, MA 02215-5450.



TIBBO, Mary L. (Earle) of Westwood, formerly of Dorchester and Lynn. Wife of the late John Phillip Tibbo and mother of the late Cheryl Ann Bodeau. Sister of the late Thomas, Billy, and Bobby Earle, and the late Virginia Densmore. Mary is survived by her daughter, Karen Shero; and son-in-law, Ray, of Westwood; her son-in-law, William Bodeau of Brownfield, Maine; her brother, Charles Earle, and his wife Mary, of Quincy; her 5 grandchildren; and 1 great-granddaughter. Donations to Good Shepherd Community Care, 160 Wells Ave., Newton, MA 02459, or to the National Kidney Foundation, 209 West Čentral Street, Suite 207, Natick, MA 01760, would be appreciated.

TEVNAN|TEVNAN

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A quiet place on the banks of the Neponset River

Contact the office for information on the cost of

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8:00 to 4:00, and Saturday 8:00 to noon. The

Cemetery grounds are open year round 7:00 am

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LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE & FAMILY COURT SUFFOLK PROBATE & FAMILY COUR' 24 NEW CHARDON STREET 24 NEW CHARDUN STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
CITATION GIVING NOTICE
F PETITION TO EXPAND THE
POWERS OF A GUARDIAN
DOCKET NO. SU21P0137GD
INTHE INTERESTS OF:
ROSALIE LEVENSON
of DORGHESTER, MA

RESPONDENT
Incapacitated Person/Protected Person
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has beer filed by Mass. Dept. Of Mental Health of Westborough, MA in the above captioned Westborough, Ma in the above captioned matter requesting that the court: Expand the powers of a Guardian of the Respondent. The petition asks the Court to make a determination that the powers of the Guardian and/or Conservator should be expanded, modified, or limited since the time of the appointment. The original petition is on file with the cour

The original petition is on file with the court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 06/29/2023. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the netting. If you fail to file you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date action may be taken in this matter withou action may be taken in this matter windou further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorner must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date. after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-name person's right to make decisions abou person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both The above-named person has the right to asl for a lawyer. Anyone may make this reques on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer one may be appointed at State expense.
Witness, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.

Vincent Procopio Register of Probate

Date: May 12, 2023

LEGAL NOTICES

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT SUFFOLK DIVISION
24 NEW CHARDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
Docket No. SU23D0916DR
DIVORCE SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION and MAILING STEPHEN D. POWELL

ELKA Y. GIBBONS-POWELL

To the Defendant:
The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown. The Complaint is on file at the Court. An Automatic Restraining Order has een entered in this matter preventing ou from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon: Stephen D. Powell, 13 Thompson St., Hyde Park, MA 02136 your answer, if any, on or before 07/12/2023. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also equired to file a copy of your answer, f any, in the office of the Register of his Court. Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First

ustice of this Court. Date: May 17, 2023

Vincent Procopio Register of Probat Published: June 1, 2023

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT SUFFOLK DIVISON CITATION Docket No. SU18P2304 SEAN ANGELIS DWYER-JONES

To all interested persons: Apetiton has been filed by: De'Aundra Jones-Adams and John E. Adams, 60 Thetford Avenue, Dorchester, MA 02124 requesting: The Court authorizes this petition for removal of the minor child from the Commonwealth and to enter such orders as it deems appropriate to promote the best

interest of the minor child.

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have the right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before 10:00 A.M. on **June 7, 2023.** This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken

without further notice to you.

Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court. Date: May 10, 2023 Vincent Procopio

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DOTDAY 223



The Road to the Reporter

Before starting this newspaper, Ed and Mary Forry published yearbooks

By Chris Lovett SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

You can never know Dorchester well enough, especially on deadline.

Ed Forry learned that lesson again, on his tenth time as publisher and editor of the Dorchester Day supplement to the weekly Dorchester Argus-Citizen. The year was 1983, and the insert's red-white-and-black cover saluted a high point of the preceding twelve months with a lead photo of President Ronald Reagan hoisting a one-dollar mug of Ballantine Ale in Adams Village. A forgettable photo op for the rest of the country, it made, for all its contrivance, a historic splash in Dorchester.

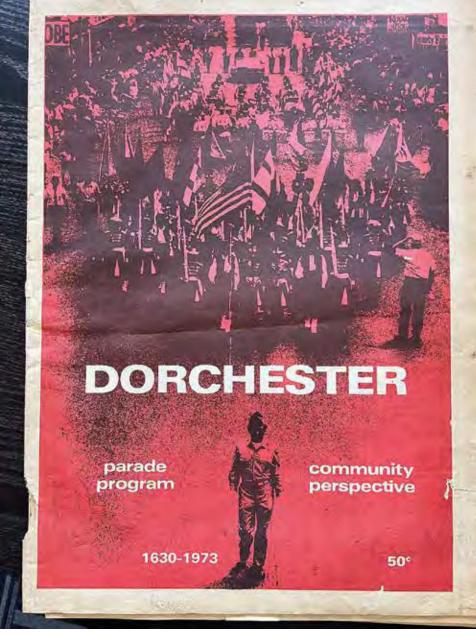
The only problem was the headline just above the photo. It was supposed to say A Presidential To a stat The Eire Pub.But, instead, the pub's locally familiar name was misspelled, as in the name of a canal or Great Lake.

If not a lack of knowledge, the gaffe betrayed journalistic haste, or maybe the speech habits of Boston, where Eire-the Irish word for Ireland – commonly, but erroneously, rhymes with "eerie." By the time the front-page typo was flagged, the supplement had already sped through the printing presses downstairs, in the basement of the Harwich Lithograph plant in Hyde Park.

A lifelong resident of Dorchester, and proud of his Irish heritage, Forry acted as if he should have known better. He asked for all copies of the supplement with the tainted cover headline to be thrown out, and he offered to pay for a new printing run, with the corrected spelling. "If it were buried inside or something, it's one thing" he recalled telling a plant manager. "I can't live with that. I'll be a laughingstock."

Four decades later, Forry looks back on the correction as "one of the great moments." He and his wife, the late Mary Casey Forry, took charge of the supplement in 1974, one year after it had been started by the Harwich weekly newspaper chain. With a roundup of news highlights from the previous twelve months and a scattering of photos (many without captions), the supplement was a way to sell more advertising while sporting the neighborhood brand in a display of community spirit, just in time for the

annual celebration of Dorchester Day. In his first try as editor, and deter-



A Dorchester Day "parade program" published in 1973 by Boston Neighborhood News, Inc., the company that Ed and Mary Forry started that year. The couple launched the Reporter in Sept. 1983.

mined to produce something better, Forry christened the supplement a "Dorchester Yearbook." By the fall of 1983, the Forrys would take their experience and commitment to another level, by starting what would become their own weekly paper, currently known as the *Dorchester Reporter*. But the supplement had its own lifespan and mission, inspiring Dorchester Day sections in the new weekly, but also as the yearbook that aged into a time capsule.

Long before his career in community journalism, Ed Forry had to learn that Dorchester went far beyond the range of family, friends, and schoolmates. Even with a declining US Census count in 1970, the total for tracts in Dorchester -including Mattapan - outnumbered the populations of every city in the state outside of Boston.

While growing up, he mapped himself in his surrounding neighborhood, Codman Hill, and St. Gregory's Parish,

based in Lower Mills. "You didn't think of yourself as from Dorchester," he re $called. \ ``You thought of your self as from$ a parish or, even more minutely, from a neighborhood within the parish."

That changed when Forry was still a student at Boston College and working part of the year as a US Post Office letter-carrier. He covered ground from Lower Mills and Adams Village to predominantly Jewish neighborhoods near Blue Hill Avenue, from the border of Mattapan around Morton Street to addresses within a few blocks of Grove Hall. As a result, a world divided into smaller parts began to look like a larger whole.

"I became very familiar with Dorchester as a collection of very similar neighborhoods that didn't need to be divided and shouldn't be divided," he said. "They should be thought of as one.'

In 1965, Forry also took to the streets when he cut classes to join the march from Roxbury to Boston Common led by Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. The purpose of the event and the civil rights leader's address to the state Legislature was to highlight another divide - racial inequality in northern cities, whether in schools, housing, or employment. In Boston, the divide was already being challenged by leaders of the Black community, who met strong resistance from political leaders and voters who were overwhelmingly white.

Forry made his first contribution to the supplement in 1973, after he started working for the Argus-Citizen as a regular columnist-in addition to his full-time work for the local anti-poverty agency, Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD). And he was covering more neighborhood territory by volunteering to handle media relations for the Dorchester Day Celebrations Committee. By this time, Boston's racial divide was even more in the forefront, and Black parents had already filed a lawsuit in federal court that would result in a school desegregation ruling the following year.

Even before the ruling, the demographic flux in Dorchester and adjacent neighborhoods was accelerating. A mortgage program, introduced in 1968 to remedy racial inequality in access to home ownership, replaced the boundar-

(Continued on page 4B)



The Boston City Singers performed on the stairs of this grand home in the Ashmont-Adams section of Dorchester during DorchFest 2022. Photo courtesy Erin Caldwell

Saturday's DorchFest 2.0 will be bigger, more diverse

By Cassidy McNeeley SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Over 3000 people piled in and around the porches and patios of the tight-knit Ashmont Adams neighborhood on a hot Saturday afternoon last June to sing along and dance to diverse musical acts in the inaugural DorchFest.

The second installment – set for this Sat., June 3 from noon to 5 p.m.— is expected to draw an even bigger crowd, with dozens of homeowners hosting bands and performers for the day.

The artists get an hour to perform on the family's porches or in their yards. While other festivals like this exist in Somerville and Jamaica Plain, Dorchfest is unique in its ability to pay its performers this year while encouraging a greater sense of community.

Erin Caldwell, who led the charge to launch the Dorchester event last year, teamed up with friends and pitched the idea to their neighborhood association.

"I had moved from JP, which had a porch fest and I just kind of wanted to bring that kind of energy to this neighborhood," said Caldwell, who is now the Dorchfest committee chair.

Last year, musicians were invited to complete an online form to be considered for participation, helping the all-volunteer

(Continued on page 21B)

DOT DAY



COMPLETE GUIDE TO SUNDAY'S PARADE JUNE 4 • 1 P.M. Along Dorchester Ave. from Richmond Street to Columbia Road

4 Star Dance Studio **Bay Cove Human Services** Big Sister Association of Boston **Boston Bowl** Boston Climate Action Network Boston Emergency Medical Services, Honor Guard **Boston EMS** Boston Fire Department Boston Fire Department Honor Guard Boston Little Saigon Boston Party Adventures Characters and Party Sleigh **Boston Police** Boston Wailers Drum Squad **Boston Windjammers** Boys and Girls Club of Dorchester Brandy Fluker Oakley, State Representative Brian Worrell, Boston City Councillor, District 4 Cape Verdean Association Boston Carney Hospital Champion T.K.D. Christopher Worrell, State Representative Codman Square Health Center Disabled American Veteran's Honor Guard Disabled American Veteran's Vehicles Dorchester Food Co-Op Dorchester Little Leagu Dot Not For Sale DOT OUT East West Mortgage LLC Erin Murphy, City Councillor at Large **Estrellas Tropicales** Fileds Corner Main Street Firhouse Dixie First Baptist Church Frank Baker, City Councillor Franklin Cummings Tech, Formerly Franklin Institute of Technology Hobos Jazz Band Hot Tomales Brass Band James T. Murphy, Chief Marshal Jennifer Johnson, Candidate for City Councillor District 3





John Fitzgerald for District 3 City Councillor Julia Mejia, City Councillor At Large Katrina Kincade, Miss Massachusetts Scholarship Organization Kenny School Marching Band Lilly Rose Valore, Mayor of Dorchester Mather Elementary School Matt Patton for City Council Michelle Wu, Mayor of Boston National Lancers New England Chic Modeling New Magnolia Jazz Band Next Birthday Project Nick Collins, State Senator Quincy-North Quincy High School Marching Band Ragtime Ensamble Robert Burke For Congress Roberto Clemente 21 Dancers Roisin Dillon, Little Miss Dorchester Roma Band Musicians Ruthzee Louijeune, City Councillor At Large Ryleigh Mahoney, Co-Young Miss Dorchester San Simon New England Savannah Washington, Co-Young Miss Dorchester South Shore Joeys Spartan's Drum and Bugle Corp Stajez Suffolk County Sheriff's Department Honor Guard Tempo Rhythym Steel Pan Band

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The New Liberty Jazz Band

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of Massachusetts

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Worcester Sound & Lights

117th Dorchester Day Parade Sun., June 4, 2023



Joel Richards, Candidate for City Council District 3

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 **James T. Murphy, U.S. Army**

We also congratulate our 2023 Mayor of Dorchester

Lily Rose Valore

Little Miss Dorchester - Roisin Dillon Young Miss Dorchester - Savannah Washington and Ryleigh Mahoney

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June 1, 2023

Young Miss Dorchester Co-Winner Savannah Washington, Little Miss Dorchester winner Roisin Dillon, and Young Miss Dorchester Co-Winner Ryleigh Mahoney at First Parish Church on May 13. Photo courtesy Annissa Essaibi George

Little Miss, Young Miss Dorchester crowned

A new Little Miss Dorchester and two Young Miss Dorchester co-winners were crowned at the annual Little Miss/Young Miss Dorchester contests on May 13 in First Parish Church on Meetinghouse Hill.

Contestants had to complete an application and write a brief Dorchesterthemed essay that they were asked to read, or recite, at the contest. Little Miss (ages 7-9) and Young Miss (ages 10-12) Dorchester is open to Dorchester residents only.

This year's Little Miss Dorchester winner was Roisin Dillon, and the Young Miss Dorchester co-winners were Savannah Washington and Ryleigh Mahoney.

All the contestants and winners will appear prominently in the Dorchester Day Parade on June 4.

Former City Councillor Annissa Essaibi George coordinated the contest once again - a contest that returned in 2022 after two years of Covid hiatus.

-REPORTER STAFF



Little Miss Dorchester 2023 Roisin Dillon being interviewed after the May 13 contest by Courtney Cole, of WBZ-TV.

A conversation with Dorchester 'Mayor' Lily Rose Valore

By Cassidy McNeeley SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

The mayor of Dorchester's seat is a honorary position that is awarded each year by the Dorchester Day Parade Committee to help raise funds and awareness for Sunday's parade.

As he prepared to end his tenure in the position earlier this year, "Mayor" Ryan Collins, reached out to his friend, Lily Rose Valore, a dancer, model, and trans activist who has been named this year's honorary chief executive.

A native of the South End, Valore began visiting Dorchester at age 18 and immediately felt at home in the queer community that thrives here. She has now lived in Dorchester for more than five years and performs at various bars. Her support from Dorchester residents inspired her to seek the honorary mayor position and use the platform to give back to the community.

"They support all of what I do," said Valore. "I felt like it was almost my duty to kind of take the role and find a way to give back, which for me is raising money. And I had, like, four fundraisers and we raised a little over \$4,000 for the parade."

The *Reporter* had the opportunity to speak with Valore this week about her love for Dorchester and the parade.

Q. What has living in Dorchester been like?

A. Something that I've been longing for since childhood and since my mom and I kind of parted ways has just been a form of acceptance and safety. And so, I think that what it [Dorchester] offers is just, you know, kind of walking out and seeing all types of people and seeing a community that felt safe enough to express themselves openly.

Q. What are your favorite activities and groups within the neighborhood?

A. I really like going for walks and kind of just exploring Dorchester that way. So sometimes I'll do it with my friends, going to get coffee and doing the simpler stuff because my performances and mayor duties are pretty busy and kind of just around shows and cameras and all that.



Lily Rose Valore

Q. How do you successfully fundraise for the parade?

A. I used my performance and entertainment life as a way to kind of raise money. I did a little fundraising tour down the strip of Dorchester Avenue, and I was able to stop at every barthat supports me. So, I basically just kind of went to each place that ran my fundraisers and did like five numbers. We raised a lot of money through tips, my Go Fund Me, and proceeds from drinks as well.

Q. What are you hoping to do with this new platform?

A. My hope is with the role is to find ways to gear it toward youth and LGBTQ youth. So, I was looking at finding ways to do a few more events as the mayor and raise money for the Boys and Girls Club of Dorchester. We have some partners there and some people who want to partner with some performances and kind of gearing that money toward the kids.

Brewing Company unveils Pride shirt

Dorchester Brewing Company on Mass Ave. has a tradition of rolling out new merchandise each June to celebrate its Dorchester roots and Pride, Boston's annual celebration of our LGBTQ+ community. This year's Pride festival is on June 10 starting in Copley Sq.

This year's signature DBCo shirt features a pink flamingo in drag set upon a tie-dye pattern. Five dollars from the sale of each shirt will be donated to the Trans Emergency Fund, which provides critical assistance to low-income transgender people.

The shirts go on-sale on Thursday, June 1 at DBCo, 1250 Massachusetts Ave., Dorchester.



Big Sister Boston plan Dot Day float

Big Sister Boston will TV's Courtney Cole. be participating in Sunday's Dorchester Day Parade. The girl-serving organization will feature a trolley "float" filled with Big and Little Sisters and staff and a table with activities along the parade route. Big Sister President and CEO Annissa Essaibi George will be commentating the parade alongside WBZ-

"I'm excited that Big Sister Boston is returning to the Parade this year," said Essaibi George. "We're all looking forward to spending time with so many of our Bigs and Littles and their families and celebrating the Dorchester community!"

Among the those riding on the trolley will be

"Big Sister of the Year" Holly Durso Trinh and her Little Sister Avi. Matched in 2018, Holly and Avi have enjoyed a very special bond built on great memories. Big Sister staff, friends, and family are inviting the community to join them at their spot along the route at 983 Dorchester

The Road to the Reporter

(Continued from page 1B)

ies of discriminatory "redlining" with new boundaries. But the map that was supposed to help Black homebuyers led to racial steering and blockbusting. Within a few years, parts of Dorchester had a rash of foreclosed mortgages, with abandoned houses often giving way to vacant lots.

In his piece for the 1973 supplement, Forry touched on the "pressures of urban neighborhood life," which could take many forms, from declining attendance at church to a fire at a bowling alley, or a corner store that was no longer open at night.

"A robbery occurs in the shopping area 12 blocks away, and you feel a collective fear because that's where you and the kids were shopping just yesterday," he wrote. "Someone tries to sell a house, and word comes that there were no offers to buy at his price, and there were no mortgages available when the buyer did come around."

By June of 1976, the year-book took notice of the conflict over the remedies for school segregation imposed by federal court, under Judge W. Arthur Garrity. In his commentary, Forry denounced the loss of access to neighborhood schools, and the lack of voluntary desegregation options, as an "unjust demand" on Boston's white parents.

"One third of them have taken the painful method of protest which at least allows them their reputations," he wrote. "They have left the system." As the US Census would later confirm, they also left the city: between 1970 and 1980, Dorchester's white population would go from almost 70 percent to less than 50 percent, while its Black population would go from less than 20 percent to more than 40 percent.

The look of change was also apparent in many of the 1976 yearbook's photos, many contributed by Eugene Richards, a Dorchester native who was still on his way to becoming an acclaimed photographer. His first book, published three years earlier, drew on his experience as a VISTA volunteer and activist in the Arkansas Delta region, an area afflicted with poverty and racist violence. In 1972, he was back in Boston and taking photographs in his old but very changed neighborhood.

In the yearbook, the Richards contribution begins with a full-sized cover photo. The upper tier shows a platform with three uniformed veterans in ramrod salute, a middle tier with the photo of a deceased veteran flanked by patriotic bunting, and a lower tier, with two boys peering out from the shadow beneath the platform, one of them flashing a peace sign.

With its mix of ceremony and innocence, the photo makes for a composite: How Dorchester presents itself, how it's remembered, and how it is. On Page 20 of the yearbook, there's a group of Richards's photos surrounding text by his partner and creative collaborator (and also a Dorchester native), the late Dorothea Lynch. The people in the photos are diverse

racially, but also in other ways: the uniformed police officer with two kids decked out for a bicycle decoration contest, the girls in bathing suits over the street-wide gush of a hydrant, the befreckled princess in her first communion gown. After she's taunted by three boys on bikes, the yearbook shot has her sticking out her tongue –almost like a rogue shot in a family album.

Richards published a larger group of photos in his 1978 book Dorchester Days, but in 1976 he was struggling to get his work to a larger public. "This was not the work that would go to galleries and whatever," he said. "That's why, when you talk about Ed Forry, it was probably pretty unusual that anybody cared to publish pictures like that, or certainly about Dorchester." Nor did it hurt that, as Richards put it, Forry was a "very open and welcoming presence.

Richards acknowledged that some people found the photos in *Dorchester Days* edgy and even coarse. But some of the images reappeared at a renovated Ashmont Station in the 1980s, in a display that was, as he noted with pride, unmarred by vandalism.

During the yearbook decade, Dorchester, like the rest of Boston, was caught in an epochal switch from a declining industrial port to the burgeoning hub of a knowledge economy. Thanks to help from federally backed highways and mortgages, more and more of the Boston area's best paid workers would commute from single-family homes in the suburbs. That meant the onetime "streetcar suburbs" such as Dorchester, Roxbury, and Mattapan, would be left behind. In contrast with the new outposts, the old neighborhoods were defined by a cramped inventory of aging three-deckers, many contaminated with lead paint.

In the fall of 1976, the neighborhood brand suffered again when Dorchester Savings Bank, one of the state's largest thrifts, announced that it would change its name to "1st American Bank for Savings." Some of the negative local reaction would be registered in Forry's column for the Harwich chain. But, within a month, he was offered a job at the bank as its director of community relations.

Shortly after he came on board, the bank changed its tone – and the storyline – by rolling out "The First Fund for Dorchester's Future," which committed \$1 million for home mortgages. Within less than a year, according to The Boston Globe, the bank's new investment in Dorchester would be almost \$4 million. By the time of the 1979 yearbook, a full-page ad by 1st American would boast of helping more than 700 families buy homes in Dorchester over the previous 24 months.

When the fund was introduced, there were doubts that it would succeed. Forry recalls the cool reception for the program after the bank's president, Arthur F. Shaw, picked him up in his Lincoln Continental and drove to a meeting at St. Ambrose School

Hall near Fields Corner.

"And," said Forry, "the feedback was this: It's very nice that you want to lend us money, but the problem is, nobody wants to buy these houses. Nobody wants to buy in Fields Corner."

The next step was to combine the capital with courses and other events that would help buyers take on the challenge of ownership – as well as see the advantages of living and investing in Dorchester. It was a strategy that Forry said would evolve on a larger scale under the federal Community Reinvestment Act of 1977, which would require lenders to plow some of their earnings back to their base communities.

One participant in a "First Fund Forum" who also contributed articles to the supplement about housing in Dorchester was Bob Rugo. A recent arrival who grew up in Milton, Rugo was a planner at the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA). In 1975, he and his future wife, Vicki Kayser, bought their first home, a three-decker on Walton Street.

"We put in a sealed bid at \$14,100, and we couldn't get financing," said Rugo, "so Vicki and I each put in \$7,000." They also had to contend with a legacy of lead paint, but that didn't stop Rugo from highlighting Dorchester's old houses as worthy of preservation. The Rugos still live in the Ashmont Hill neighborhood, in the same house since 1983. In addition to his articles for the supplement, the city was producing research and creating posters that celebrated Boston's multi-family homes, not as look-alike containers, but as something more singular, with design features lending a touch of stately or rustic charm.

Citing one of the photos on the Dorchester housing poster, Rugo said, "You could see this eye-catching series of three-deckers going down to the water. And the other factor was economic: they were ridiculously cheap at the time."

That message was spelled out in a yearbook ad placed by the administration of Mayor Kevin H. White, touting threedeckers as the "affordable Victorians." By 1979, a vintage single-family at the corner of Percival and Bowdoin streets would become the first star of the popular PBS makeover series, This Old House—which made for another item in the yearbook. Another piece in the same edition hailed the transformation of a former garbage dump on the Columbia Point Peninsula into the waterfront mecca of the JFK Library.

What was good for the community was also good for a bank or a mayor seeking his fourth term in 1979. The same mindset came into play when Forry quickly organized the bank's fund in response to the fire that destroyed the St. William's Spanish Mission-style church in 1980.

Spreading word about the fund on local media outlets raised the bank's profile and helped the parish. Decades later, that approach would become known as "creating community," but Forry summed it up as a business other



Reporter co-founders Mary Casey Forry and Ed Forry.



An iconic photo by Eugene Richards graced the 1976 cover of the Forrys' Dorchester yearbook.

"The whole premise of what became our Community Reinvestment Act policy was: Act like you live here," he said. "Act as if the future of this neighborhood is important to the future of the bank, or the future of this bank is important to the future of this neighborhood. It's intertwined."

In one of his Dorchester Days images, Richards presents another composite, outside the S.S. Kresge department store on Dudley Street in Uphams Corner. In a store window to the left, an ad displays the groomed likeness of a white toddler in a gilt-framed portrait, tagged with a prize ribbon at 38 cents. On the other side of the photo, a few years older and bounding from shadow into light, a Black boy grips the reins of a coin-fed galloping pony—at 10 cents a ride.

Richards called the mechanical pony "a touch of romance and cowboy ethic in the middle of town," a throwback to the TV westerns of his childhood and a fantasy of hopping one of the freight trains that passed over Dudley Street. And the rider outside Kresge's, said Richards, was in a world of his own.

"Part of growing up in the inner city," he added, "is your imagination. I don't think anybody who grows up in the inner city doesn't want to leave it in some capacity."

That actually happened with another rider from Dorchester, Chris McCarron, who grew up five blocks from Ashmont Station. At 5-foot-3, with a barely passing grade average, he went straight from high school to Suffolk Downs. By age 22, he was a high-earning jockey in California and, eventually, a thoroughbred horse racing Hall of Famer. His story was told in one of the sports features contributed to editions of the yearbook by Paul Kenney, a local resident at the time who made his own try for the finish line in the Boston Marathon.

Another figure written about in the yearbooks who grew up in Dorchester was Ray Bolger. Renowned as the scarecrow in the *Wizard of Oz*, he was also choreographed by George Balanchine in the stage version of *Slaughter on Tenth Avenue*.

Some of the local figures who went on to fame – in places beyond Dorchester – told their own stories. Dick Sinnott, a newspaper reporter who became Boston's "city censor," did a roll call of neighborhood gangs, with turf names like the Chickatawbut Indians, the Greyhounds, the Wildcats, and the Dorgan Club—some of whose members joined the US Marines as a group after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

A longtime newscaster on Boston's Channel 5, Jack Hynes, wrote about his own presidential encounter. When he was a student there, he was let out of St. Gregory's School for a "fleeting glimpse" of Franklin Delano Roosevelt in Mattapan Square. Hynes recalled the names of people from the neighborhood who

went off to war and never returned, as well as others who left for destinations in Braintree, Hingham, Needham and Westwood.

Forry wrote about his own glimpse of Pope John Paul II driving into Dorchester at Kosciuzko Circle. A photo in the 1980 yearbook, taken from a window on Dudley Street almost right opposite Kresge's, shows the pontiff in a cape, raising his right hand. Behind him, perched on two different cars, are seven acolytes in trench coats and neckties and, further back, the composite face of Dorchester, crowding the corner of Columbia Road and Dudley Street, with some onlookers still waving back.

Forry might have relished the wording of the full-page ad placed in the 1979 supplement by The Boston Globe: "Dorchester is a great town. And it's our town." But even the city's largest daily would relocate, printing its last issue in Dorchester 38 years later. By then, many of the local banks that could have been counted on for ads in the yearbook no longer existed, including 1st American and the largest, The First National Bank of Boston.

After enough time, some of the yearbook ads look like a directory of vanished businesses and institutions: Delaney's Columbia Pontiac, St. Margaret's Hospital for Women, even Gerard's Sandwich and Ice Cream Shoppe and General Store, famed as the backdrop for political rallies in Adams Village. But, forty-five years after its ad in the 1978 supplement, the Ice Creamsmith is still doing



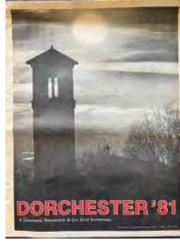
June 1, 2023

business in Dorchester Lower Mills.

And it was the ads by political figures that most resembled the pages of a school yearbook. The faces of congressmen, state legislators, and city councillors are almost all white men in jackets and ties. Forty-plus years later, some of the faces, even if recognized, look unexpectedly young.

The cyclical nature of the yearbook made it easier to branch off a timeline of events and convey something about the community's atmosphere or texture. The 1978 issue included Mary Casey Forry's diary about life in the week of the "Great Blizzard," complete with a relative showing up at her family's home in Lower Mills on horseback. Some issues listed Dorchester's "favorite things," such as dining and dancing at union halls, house tours, or the tables packed with two floors of bingo players at Ronan Hall, across from St. Peter's Church.

Ed Forry observed that, even as he was putting supplements



together, he imagined each of them as a snapshot that would be looked at in a distant future.

"I was very much conscious of that," he said, "thinking of it as, not just reporting about that year, but something that you could look back on, because reading all the histories of Dorchester, to me, was fascinating."

One other figure who shared that fascination was Rev. James K. Allen, an Idaho native who came to Dorchester after receiving a degree in theology at Boston University. In 1954, he become the minister of First Parish Church on Meeting House Hill, the oldest congregation in all of Boston, formed by Dorchester's first English settlers in 1630.

In 1980, coinciding with the 350th anniversary of the church and the settlement, the yearbook highlighted the milestone and Rev. Allen's discovery of what he believed were two missing pages from the handwritten final draft of the Declaration of Independence.

The pages were brought to Rev. Allen's attention in 1976



by a Dorchester man, George Berg, who reportedly found them in a pile of newspapers predating the Civil War. According to The Boston Globe, Berg's family ran a moving business and probably set aside the pile 50 years earlier, while clearing out one of Dorchester's old mansions. Rev. Allen even conjectured that the pages might have once found their way to a US senator from Dorchester, Edward Everett.

Just as two Secret Service agents from Dorchester could guide Ronald Reagan to the Eire Pub, there could have been, as Rev. Allen surmised, a thread running from Thomas Jefferson to someone from a Dorchester mansion who might have played music with him. Or did it matter more that some of the wording in the Declaration echoed the ardent support for independence that was formally pledged at a Dorchester Town Meeting?

If 1976 was a time of conflict, marking an end to one kind of life and the beginning of another, the same could apply to 1776, or even 1630. After

all, as The Globe noted, the two pages of the Declaration had been found underneath a newspaper dated June 11, 1853. And a look at that day's edition of The Boston Evening Transcript would have turned up a review describing a new volume about Dorchester's early history.

As updated in the 1980 yearbook, Rev. Allen was steadfast in his belief that the pages were an original in Jefferson's handwriting, though he was still trying without success to have that certified or disproved by experts. Despite the uncertainty, Forry gave the story prominence, even reproducing the two pages in a centerfold with a red background.

If nothing else, Rev. Allen showed that Dorchester history was a layered composite. As they appeared in the centerfold, the pages had the jagged edges of something that looked old and maybe fragile enough to disintegrate. Instead of typeset characters in straight lines, this Declaration of Independence was a cramped scrawl, with some words crossed out, others crammed between lines, or dangling over the margin. If it was monumental enough to be history, it was also a kind of snapshot, a signature of the moment – like news copy needing a watchful editor to check for typos.

 $(Chris Lovett \ is \ a former \ news$ director at BNN News and news editor for the Dorchester Argus-Citizen. He was a contributor who helped with production of the yearbook from 1977-83.)



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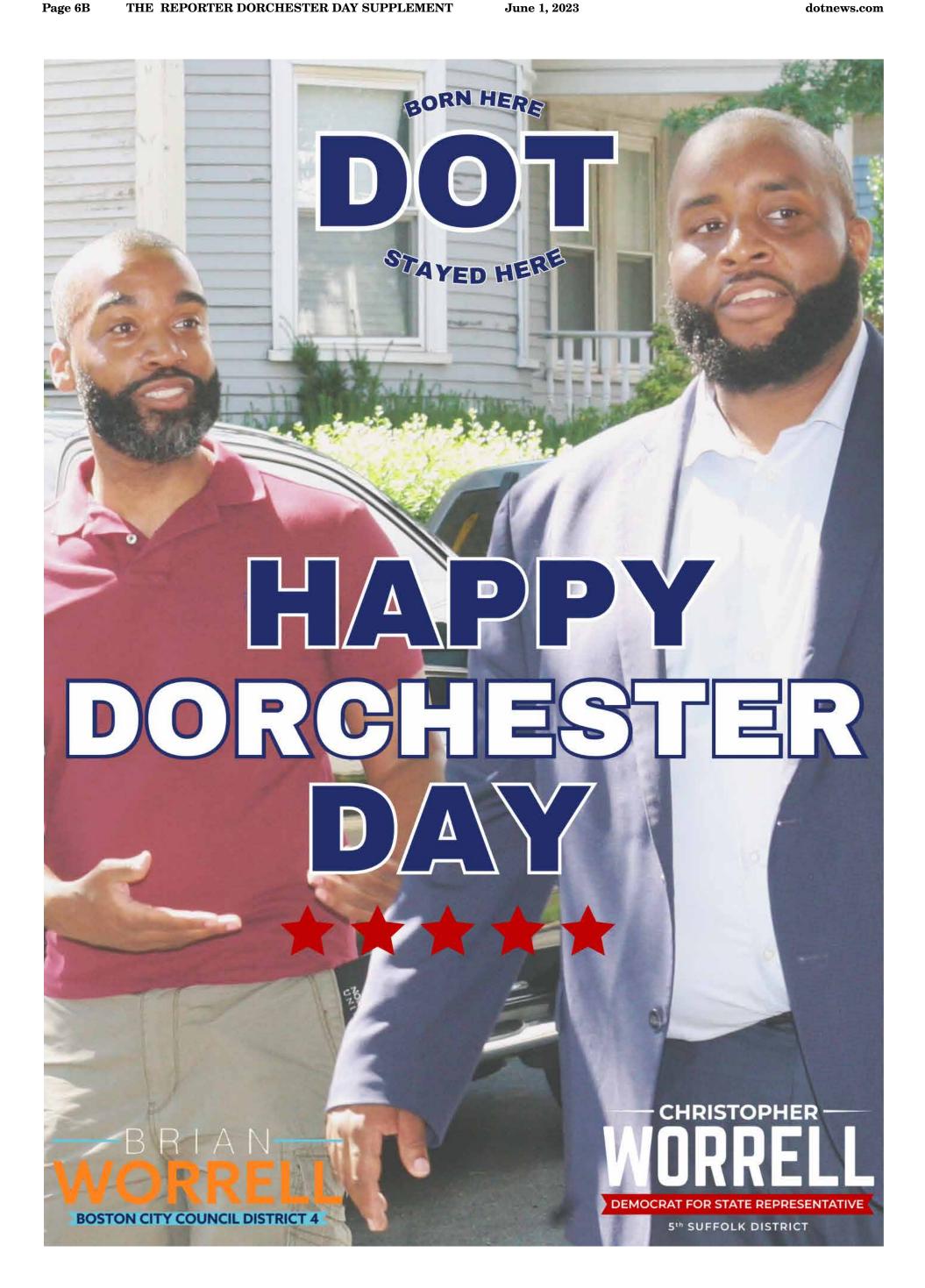
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Page 7B

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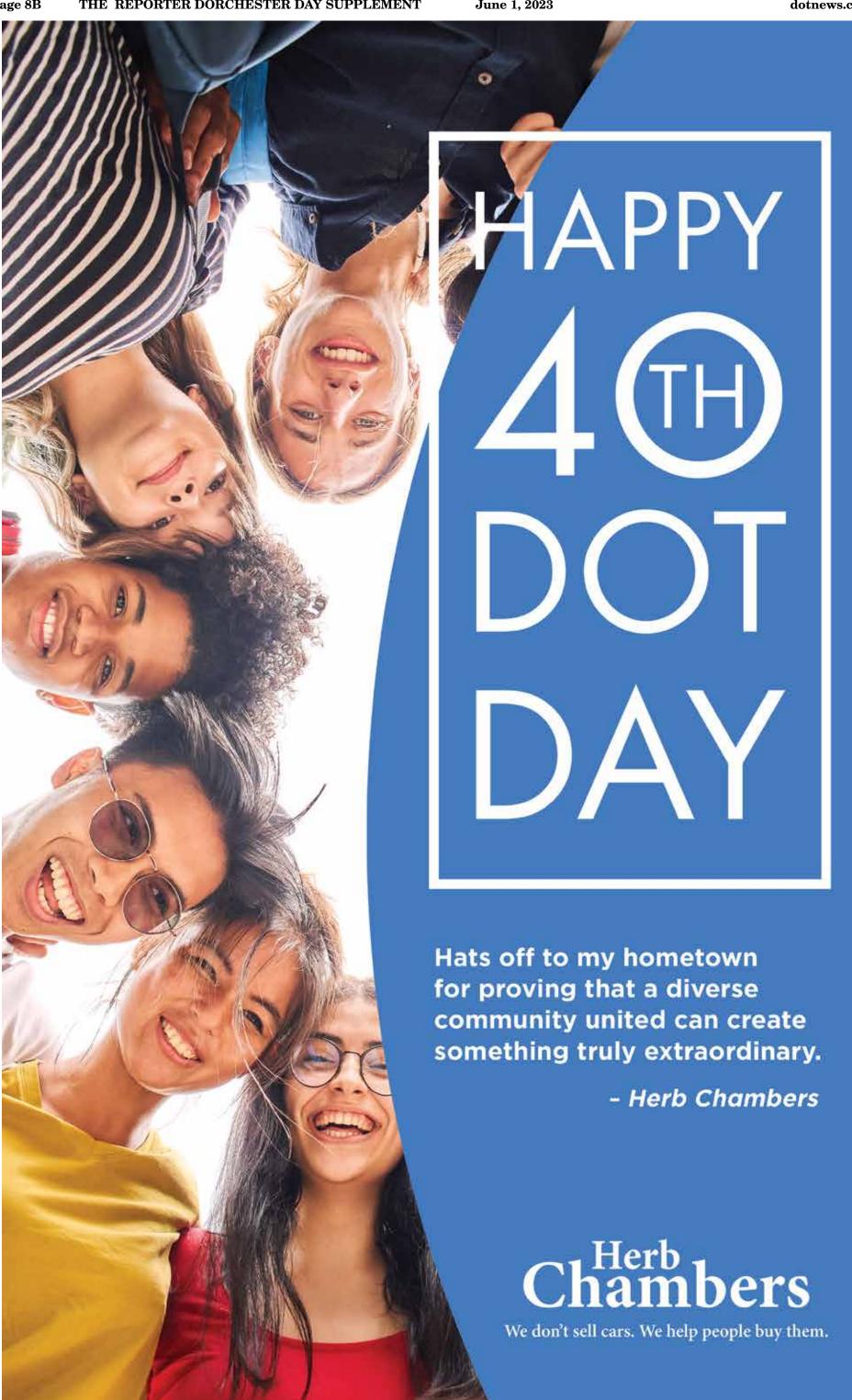
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June 1, 2023 Dot Day Parade 101: Tie on those Adidas and hit the Avenue

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 two-hour extravaganza. Plus, we were gay friendly before it was a thing. There's something for everyone in this parade.

For the folks that grew up here (OFD), the day is a walk down memory lane (and a 3.2-mile parade route). For some, it's a time to return to their 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.

Dot Day itself is steeped in tradition. Around for well over 100 years now, the parade started as a way to mark the foundation of Dorchester as a Puritan settlement back in September 1630.

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 the avenue 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.

The Dorchester Running Club 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



Dorchester-based photographer Mike Ritter captured this familiar scene along the Dorchester Day Parade route back in 2019. Mike's latest portrait exhibition —Beautiful Dot — will open at the Strand Theatre on Friday, June 23 from 5-8 p.m. DJ George Lumpkins will be spinning and there will be food and drinks from Fresh Food Generation. Go to mikeritterphoto.com Photo courtesy Ritterbin Photography for more info.

a bad way to snag a prime and well-hydrated spot in the shade along the parade route. The race starts at 12 p.m. Get more details at dotrunners. wordpress.com.

Getting there: The MBTA is your friend on parade day. 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 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 and Hecla streets. 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 Blend, formerly known as Peggy O'Neil's.

The glory of Dot Day is in its inherent ability to bring people together-often over brews and hot dogs. It's a day to get to know your neighbors and spend some time outside.

And even when the street cleaners come through, Dot Day isn't over.

Longtime families host postparade BBQs, so get to know your fellow spectators along the route and you're likely to score an invite.

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 mint-green or hot-blue Adidas Gazelles? Old-school sneakerheads, 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 tshirts 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.

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 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

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.

Caribbean Jerk Festival returns to Codman Square on Saturday

The Caribbean Jerk Festival will return to the grounds of Second Church in Codman Square this Saturday (June 3) for the fifth installment of the popular eating extravaganza.

Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corporation (CSNDC) will present the festival from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., with a rain date of Sat., June 10. This year's event will feature award- winning restaurants exclusively from Dorchester including Murl's Kitchen, Taste of Eden, Irie Jamaican Style Restaurants, Island Style Jamaican Restaurant, and Blue Mountain Jamaican Restaurant.

Guests are encouraged to



A scene outside of Second Church of Dorchester during a Carribbean Jerk Fest event. Photo courtesy Codman Sq. NDC

jerked chicken, tender oxtail,

sample delicious tantalizing sweet plantains, vegetarian options, and more delicious flavors from the Caribbean.

There will be music from Branches Steel Drum Orchestra and the electric mixing of DJ KEEF. Admission to the festival is free and open to all. Food tickets to sample food from participating restaurants can be purchased ahead of time or on the day of event. Tickets are \$25 for adults (five sampler plates) and \$10 for kids (three sampler bowls).

"The Jerk Festival celebrates mmunity members through. out Dorchester who make Codman Square a great place to live, work, play, and shop,' said Gail Latimore, executive director at CSNDC. "There has been a lot of excitement

to bringing the Jerk Festival back."

There will also be a variety of free kid's activities and lawn games. Visitors can shop with local Caribbean vendors and are invited to patronize participating brick and mortar businesses in the district that will be offering exclusive promotions that day and during the week following.

The Codman Square Caribbean Jerk Festival is sponsored by the Second Church of Dorchester, Neighborworks America, Rodney Realty, Thumbprint Realty, Rockland Trust, the United Way, and Mass Cultural Council.

Neponset Day outing is set for Saturday at Granite Ave.

As the school year comes to an end, Dorchester students are encouraged to turn in their pencils and notebooks and pick up their bathing suits and oars to begin summer with the Neponset Day celebration.

The Neponset River runsthroughoutanumber of towns in Massachusetts on its way from its headwaters in Foxborough to Dorchester Bay, where its mouth sits between Quincy and Dorchester.

Neponset Day, the free public family event, will take place at the Neponset II Park, at the corner of Granite Avenue and Hill Top Street on June 3.

Down the river, residents will be invited to celebrate the community's diversity while appreciating the natural habitats and wildlife. Food trucks, music, and vendors will be scattered near the marshlands from onset Da

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and open

Whether it's roaming around freshwater

wetlands as a part of environmental exhibits, kayaking with a free rental along the river, or cooling down on the spray pad, there is something for everyone to do at this event.

There is limited parking at the location, but additional parking can be found at Pope John Paul II Park less than a minute away. As the event celebrates the natural environment around Dorchester, residents are encouraged to take public transportation to Mattapan or Ashmont and then transfer to a train or bus to complete the rest of the journey.

Neponset Day is sponsored by the Neponset River Watershed Association and continues to look for volunteers and participants. Additional information can be acquired via email with NepRWA Greenways Director, Andres Ripley, ripley@neponset.org.

- CASSIDY McNEELEY

A grandmother gives her grandchildren a show-and-tell on her life in Dorchester

By Ed Forry Associate Publisher

Last month, Ellen Gilmore sent a message to our newsroom: "My mother, Elaine Gilmore, who will be celebrating a big birthday, decided that she wanted to give her grandchildren a tour of important places in Dorchester along with her narration as her gift to them.

"Both of my parents grew up in Dorchester and moved to Canton as their family was expanding," said Ellen. "My family has always had a very strong connection to Dorchester and she wants that to continue. Before my father died, he wrote his memoirs and called it "A Kid from Dorchester," with a limited number of copies printed and bound.

"As a result of my mother's request, this Saturday her children and grandchildrenwillbeinarentedbus driving through parts of Dorchester, with her narrating different places of importance to both our family and the city. She is also providing gift bags for everyone that include a Dorchester t-shirt and turtles from Phillips Candy House!"

In a follow-up message, Ellen wrote: "Our Discovering Dorchester tour! A fun time was had by all."

I met with Elaine Gilmore and some of her family that Saturday, and later she and I spoke by phone. Here's an abridged report on our conversation:

Reporter: What was your motivation for bringing the family to Dorchester last week?

Elaine: Well, we had talked about it, my husband and I, because while we were bringing up the children in Canton, we would be telling them stories about Dorchester. And we wanted them to see the places that we were talking about and why we were talking about them. Of course, it is different now. In our time in Dorchester, we didn't have cell phones, you know, and there were so many different ways of living. We wanted to show them that, and they thoroughly enjoyed it. They had the best time. They really did.

Reporter: What were some of the areas on your excursion?

Elaine: We had a gift bag with a variety of Dorchester t-shirts, from Dorchester Apparel. We also went to Phillips. We did all this in preparatory of the day. I had Phillips turtles for them. And I had read that Dorchester had the first playing cards – they didn't have any numbers on them, they just had the figures, King, Queen, Jack, etc.



Elaine Gilmore, 4th from right, in OFD shirt is pictured with some of her family after she narrated a $\textbf{``Discovering Dorchester'' tour of her native neighborhood. Below (l-r) she is shown with her microphone and the property of the property$ and headset; her personalized OFD certificate; and a view in the van of some of the family members. Photos courtesy of Ellen Gilmore



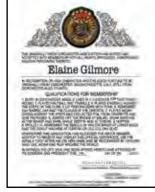
So we gave them each a pack of playing cards in their bag.

We took the tour in a 15-passenger van and started up around Phillips Candy House. From there we worked our way toward Fields Corner. We first drove around St. Ambrose area and Town Field, where my husband was from, and then we headed to the Adams library area where we lived with our kids for many years, then onto St. Brendan's and Gallivan Boulevard, where I was raised.

Our final stop was Cedar Grove Cemetery. In addition to the local importance of Civil War veterans buried there and the trolleys running through it, many members of our family are there, including my husband and grandson, my parents, grandparents, and even my greatgrandparents.

For many years we would attend the Memorial Day parade and I especially enjoyed their speakers at the event.

Reporter: How long did the ride take, and any highlights? **Elaine:** It took us a good hour and a half. We had the site of the first Howard Johnson's on Morrissey on the list, and we didn't get there, but that was definitely something that we talked about. One of the highlights was Walter Baker's Lenoxdale. Theirs was



Chocolate. Just going outside our house on Gallivan Blvd, at times we could smell chocolate coming from Lower Mills And I did mention, and I don't know whether this is true or not: When Walter Baker Chocolate moved down south, they found that the chocolate wasn't like it was when they were making it up here. What I had heard was the water. So, they had to send for Dorchester water to make the taste the same! I have never confirmed that story.

Reporter: Tell me about your dad, Dr Leo Fogel, DMD?

Elaine: My dad was a dentist, and he grew up in Dorchester. His father built houses in that area off Gallivan Blvd. My father helped my grandfather in building some homes on Milton Street, Lenoxdale Ave. and Myrtlebank Ave. summers while he was attending Tufts Dental School. His first office was in a building in Fields Corner, then when we moved to Gallivan Blvd., he used the front three rooms for his office and waiting rooms.

We had a car, a Plymouth, and of course. only one car. After I got my license, my job every night was to drive the car down to my grandparents' house, on the corner of Milton and



the only house around that I can remember that had a two-car garage Most of them didn't have any garages at all. But that was because my grandfather, Henry Fogel, built it. So I had to do that. Then in the morning, I would go down and get the car out of the garage and bring it back to Gallivan Boulevard.

Reporter: Do you recall what was located where the McDonald's is now at the corner of Granite Ave.

Elaine: Let me think about that. Yes, yes, I do. It was The Purple Cow [a drive-up eatery). And that name was from Gelett Burgess's poem: 'I never saw a purple cow, I never hope to see one. But I could tell you anyhow, I'd rather see than be one.'

Reporter: Do you remember the ballroom in Neponset Circle

Elaine: Yes. I do. It was the Riverview, it was a skating rink and a ballroom. My first date with my husband was a blind date to go dancing

at Riverview. He did not have his '47 Ford yet so we had to walk from my house (near the Supreme Market) to Riverview. I had heels on, I wouldn't want to do it today.

Reporter: Your husband Ed was from St Ambrose parish in Fields Corner, and served in the

Elaine: Yes, and he took good advantage of his time in the service. He went to Boston College on the GI bill, and then we bought a house with a VA mortgage on Delmont Street, right beside the Adams Library. My three children went to the Kenny School, which was right across from us on Delmont Street and then to St. Brendan's. The girls grew up in Dorchester and then we all moved to Canton.

Reporter: How many grandchildren joined you for the tour?

Elaine: We have seven grandchildren, but they weren't all able to make it. Included were only three: Paul, Beth, and Molly. One of the others

was in Italy, another in Toronto. And one of them had passed away in an automobile accident. He's the one buried in Cedar Grove. Also, my granddaughter Katherine had just had a baby three weeks old, so she couldn't make it.

Reporter: What was the reaction of the three who were with you? Elaine: Oh, they loved it. They loved it. And one of them had a friend with her and he reported to his parents when he went back. But they asked him, did you have a good time? And he said, 'Can you imagine the grandmother had earphones on and the microphone.'

Reporter: Did any of the grandkids ever live here in Dot?

Elaine: I've never seen such a generation that travels so much. My gosh. They're here, there, and everywhere. But they're all grown up and they're graduated from college and, you know, working and all that kind of thing. And no, they didn't come back to live in Dorchester. So that's why I was bringing them back there.

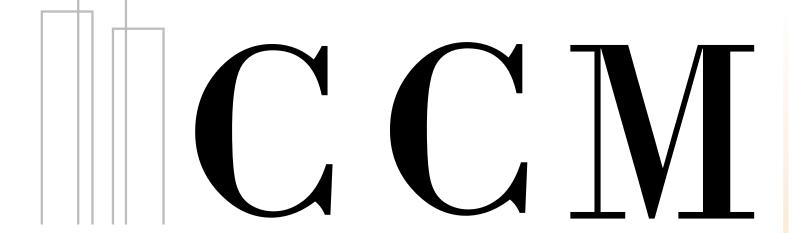
Reporter: There you go. Bringing them back to their roots, Elaine: Right. And you know that this would be the second time we would be back, because the first time my husband had contacted you, we had a big OFD party in Canton that was for everybody. One person had an OFD flag that we had on our house. We did Dorchester Trivia, hired an accordion player, and our very good friends from Southie picketed the house, parading with placards saying "Unfair To Southie." After a while we relented laughingly and let them in!!!!!!

Reporter: You have a lot of knowledge about your old neighborhood.

Elaine: I did a lot of research on it. I learned a lot more about Dorchester than I ever knew, and I really appreciate growing up in Dorchester. I'm a Dorchester person. Both my husband and I worked full-time at the Post Office, in the South Postal Annex. When he was in college, he worked full time on the night shift. I worked during breaks while at Emmanuel College. Both of us had to learn the "scheme" - that was all $the\,streets\,for\,each\,route$ in Dorchester!

Reporter: Yes, I worked for the Post Office too, back in the day, and became familiar with many streets all across Dorchester.

Elaine: Yeah. You know, I think we talked long enough. I think we're going to find out we're related!



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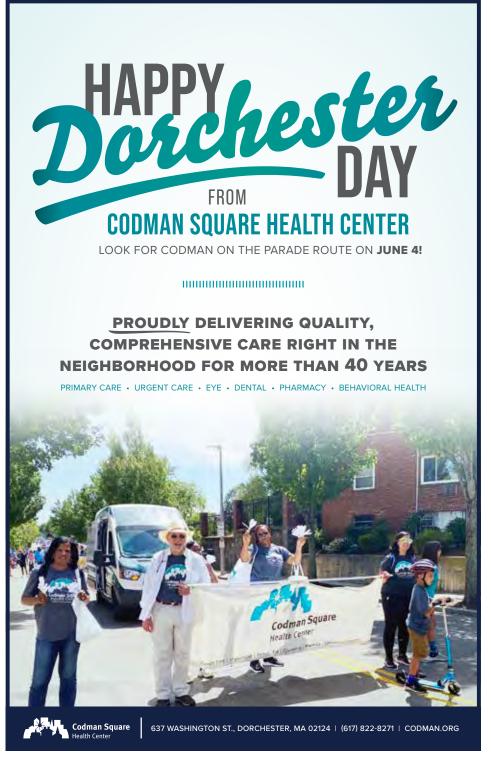


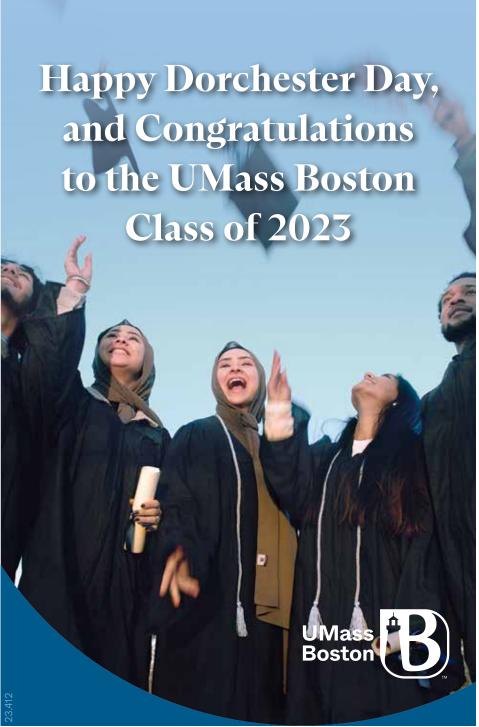
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June 1, 2023





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SENATOR NICK COLLINS

THE REPORTER DORCHESTER DAY SUPPLEMENT





HAPPY DORCHESTER DAY 2023!



A grand day for the Murray family

As US Army 2nd Lieu- brothers, USMC Captain and Courtney, daughter tenant John Murray Michael Murray and graduated from Harvard Army 1st Lieutenant grandparents joined in and took the oath as a Patrick Murray, both the ceremonies with 2nd lieutenant in the Harvard grads, their pride in their family's US Army last week, his parents - Tim, a Marine, tradition of service.

of a veteran - and their

By Cassidy McNeeley SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Less than one percent of the United States population serves in the armed forces today, but one hundred percent of Tim and Courtney (Burke) Murray's sons have signed on to serve in the military—each of them just after graduating from Harvard University, where they went through the Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC) program.

The youngest of the three brothers - 23-yearold John-graduated last week. A 2nd lieutenant, he will travel to the Fort Moore in Georgia this summer to complete infantry officer training. The oldest brother, Michael, 28, graduated in 2017 and is now a Marine Corps captain stationed in Quantico, Virginia. Patrick, 26, a 2020 graduate, a 1st lieutenant in the infantry, is stationed in Italy.

All three Murray men attended Dorchester's Richard J. Murphy School. All three attended Boston Latin School, with Patrick and John transferring to play ice hockey at Nobles and Greenough School in Dedham, from which they later graduated.

They are also following in their father's footsteps. Tim Murray, born and raised in Dorchester, enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1987 and served on active duty until 1991. After spending time in the reserves, he became a State Police bomb technician and, eventually, an explosive specialist for the Transportation Safety Administration (TSA).

Tim met and married Courtney Burke, the daughter of a US veteran. They credit much of their sons' $success \, to \, their \, Dorches$ ter community, which, John says, is oriented toward nurturing people who want to serve their country.

"Growing up in Dorchester playing sports, it seems like every single one of your coaches or your close teammates serves," he told the Reporter. "Whether they were in the military or they are a firefighter or a cop, it felt like no matter where you went in Dorchester, there was some sort of homage to service.

"All I wanted to do was be in a profession where you felt like you were part of something bigger than yourself, and that you were actually making a difference," he said.

While John had many role models to look up to when he was growing up, the biggest were his brothers Michael and Patrick. "They were always supportive of whatever I wanted to do," he said. "They were going to back me up on it. ... Their support and their willingness to back whatever I decide to do is what ultimately led me to choose that route and go to Harvard.'

Graduation day was an important occasion for John, his family, and his community. Prior to the official ceremony, Michael and Patrick privately rendered him the oath of military office, a moment John said he would remember for the rest of his life.

During the official ceremony's overall commissioning, the whole Murray family got involved. John's parents and grandmother pinned his bars on his uniform and his grandfather gave

The Murray brothers, from left: US Army 2nd Lieutenant John Murray, USMC Captain Michael Murray, and US Army 1st Lieutenant Patrick Murray in front of the John Harvard statue in Harvard Photo by Tim Murray Yard last week.

Right: Second lieutenant John Murray at the Harvard commencement

him his first salute.

For John, his march from the Murphy School to Boston Latin to Harvard Yard was a lesson about life's challenges and opportunities.

"Unfortunately, a lot of times kids growing up in Dorchester sell themselves short because they don't know any better or they come from a difficult family situation," he said. "But I think that me and my brothers just tried to be an example for what can happen if you stay focused and lean on your support system and maximize the opportunities that are given to you."





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ANSEO LE CHEILE - HERE TOGETHER

Ashmont Hill's yard sale features posters, lemonade, and cookbooks

By SETH DANIEL **News Editor**

Scurrying bargain hunters and eager front-yard shopkeepers couldn't be held at bay by oncoming rain a week ago Saturday (May 20) for the Ashmont Hill Yard Sale, a neighborhood tradition in its 43rd year.

Items and features ranged from wonderful posters of 1970s Dorchester to a

lightly used snowboard, an enterprising lemonade stand on Montague Street, and kitschy miniature village sets still in the packaging.

"This is a highlight of the year for all of us," said Bernadette Rucker of Ashmont Street. "I've been here 30-plus years, and I've participated in the yard sale every time. I love community and that's why I'm still here."

The heavy showers held off until later in the afternoon, allowing the event to go off without a hitch. Shoppers from inside and outside the neighborhood came in abundance, getting irresistible bargains and strolling the flower-lined streets with friends.

More than 40 homes participated in the sale this



Caught hunting for bargains on Harley Street were Jill Maneikis, Della Costello, and Flo Casper.



Keyana Floyd and Nyah Parker got ready for customers to come by.



From the Ashmont Nursery School, Miriam Fine, Steph Holding, Eleanor Fort, and Marion Tu.



William Pope and his sister, Cheryl Fletcher, load up a lightly used patio umbrella for a customer at their table on Ashmont Street.



Sister Gerry Stanton and Sister Jane McAndrews had plenty of unique items to sell at the yard sale.





These boots are made for walking. Travis, Landon, and Katie Lee made their best pitch to sell several pairs of cowboy boots at their yard sale.



Feeling entrepreneurial, these young businesswomen set up a homemade lemonade stand for shoppers to grab some refreshment as they hunted for purchases. From left, Esme Horowitz-Willis, Frankie Metcalfe, Cameron De La Cretaz, and, giving her best pose, Charlie De La Cretaz.



Elizabeth Pimentel, Natalia Urtube, Stanley Molever, and Milo Stella took a time out from selling on Ocean Street for a photo. Seth Daniel photos



Carlos Romay displays a framed "And you thought you knew Dorchester" poster from the 1970s, a sign of an effort by city and neighborhood leaders of the time to rebrand the neighborhood.



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Saturday's DorchFest 2.0 will be bigger, more diverse

June 1, 2023

(Continued from page 1B) organizing team to select a diverse set of musicians. Since the event was so successful, the committee did not have to seek out performers this year but instead received requests from many musicians.

"This year we actually never put out a formal call for applications. We invited everybody from last year and almost 100 percent of them came back," Caldwell said. "Then we started thinking about what genres were missing last year and started reaching out to people."

One of the returning artists is R&B musician Hakim Hakim. The Roxbury native applied online last year and hopes to be invited back annually. Like most musicians, Hakim Hakim said that he loves to be around other musicians who share his passion.

The audience, however, also plays a large role in the event. As diverse musical talents take the stage, an equally diverse audience enjoys the show.

"The event is definitely a reason for people to enjoy each other because when music plays and, people are just enjoying themselves, we forget the differences we have with each other as human beings," said Hakim Hakim. "You notice the



A scene from last year's inaugural DorchFest event. Over 50 homes are participating in Saturday's event.

*Photo courtesy Erin Caldwell**

next person enjoying themselves as you're enjoying yourself and you start to feel a sense of community."

One of last year's hosts and volunteers, Kera Washington, serves as a committee member. This year she will add the role of performer to her repertoire.

Washington is the founder and band leader of Zili Misik, an all-female group that performs an acoustic and electric fusion of roots music inspired by the African continent. The band calls their sound New World Soul and takes pride in bringing together a

diverse group of women. Washington hopes their music can unite Dorchfest attendees as well.

"Dorchester is one of the most multicultural neighborhoods in Boston, but also pretty segregated," said Washington. "Dorchester's Porchfest should reflect the diversity of Dorchester."

Like Washington, Deniz Ferendeci volunteered as a host last year and will be a returning host in June. Ferendeci moved from the South End to Dorchester four years ago. The community involvement he sees throughout Dorchfest is exactly what he hoped for when he moved to the suburban-like streets tucked within the city.

"My favorite memory was just looking at all the people, the blankets in our yard and people propped up against the fence and just seeing the smiles on people's faces," said Ferendeci.

Although hosting was an enjoyable experience, Ferendeci and his family hope to get the chance to appreciate the artists beyond their own yard. One artist they can hear is Jahriffe, a returning World Roots Reggae musician.

Jahriffe enjoys gigs like Dorchfest because they give him an opportunity to perform for a new audience and spread his message.

"My focus in music is to project positive music and to one day touch the hearts of all people of the world," said Jahriffe. "The music is to make everybody feel good and make everybody feel inspired."

At Dorchfest, Jahriffe and the other musicians can share their talents with people of all different identities. Unlike a normal gig, the artists have time to talk to their fans. This is something the jazz musician Frederick Woodward

appreciates most about the event. These discussions are beneficial to both the musicians and attendants.

"Dorchfest creates some pride in the community and kind of makes the residents a little bit closer. Nowadays, people don't know their neighborhoods," said Woodward. "I think it's just kind of a way of bringing the community together."

Each artist works closely with Caldwell and her committee to ensure their second year is an even bigger success than the last. This year's event includes Vietnamese traditional music, an Irish traditional band, and even a one-man band. As each year occurs, Caldwell and her team plan on further diversifying the talent.

"I hope that it continues to grow. I know that Erin has brought in more bands this year than last year, and I can't wait to hear them," said Washington. "I hope it Dorchfest continues to grow to other sections of Dorchester and I can't wait to be able to move all over Dorchester and hear music happening all day long."

For more about the festival's venues and performance times, see dorchfest.com.

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Dance team Estrella Tropicales, now 50, will twirl, whirl again in Dot Day Parade

By Seth Daniel News Editor

What started as a way to help kids connect to their culture during recess has become baton twirling and dancing journey for Estrella Tropicales dance team, which celebrates its 50th anniversary this year while also marching yet again as a decadelong participant in the Dorchester Day Parade.

Franklin Field's Joselina 'Jossie' Leon, 58, said the Estrella Tropicales (which means Tropical Stars) dance team has been a four-generation effort with her late grandmother, Felita Oyola, her mother, Reinelda 'Chickie' Rivera, herself, and her daughter, Jossie Leon, now the assistant coach. As they march up Dorchester Avenue on June 4, they'll be displaying special 50th anniversary shirts along with their baton and pom-pom talents over blazing beats from their mobile DJ.

"So, it started with me, my sister, and my cousin on the baton team in 1973," said Leon. "It was just us three and it just kept growing and growing and growing. The whole 50 years Estrella Tropicales has been going, I've been part of it. I always came back for the summer even if I was in Puerto Rico in the winters because in the summer, they did the parades and festivals. Here we are 50 years later. We are four generations in Estrella Tropicales, my late grandmother, my mother, myself, and my daughter."

The roots of Estrella go back even before the 1973 founding. Oyola, the founder who passed away in 2010, came from Puerto Rico to New York City in the 1960s and was a singer in clubs, on television, and on radio. When she arrived in Boston, she became a teacher's aide in the public schools. Seeing that the Spanish-speaking kids - many of them Puerto Rican - didn't know their culture, she started teaching them songs and dances and folklore during recess. When school was out and the lessons stopped, parents asked her to start a company to teach their kids and themselves.

"They all lived in the US and didn't know these things," said Leon. "The kids loved it and when school was out, the parents were upset, and they wanted her to continue doing this full time and to teach them also. They had all been born here and didn't know their culture. She opened up her house and created a space in the basement."

That space housed



June 1, 2023

The Estrella Tropicales, or Tropical Stars, are always a highlight as they march through the neighborhoods. After slowing down during the pandemic, the group is making a comeback in participations just in time for their 50th anniversary. *Chris Lovett photo*



An Estrella Tropicales coach leads the pom-pom girls through Ashmont during the Dorchester Day Parade. Chris Lovett photo



Assistant Coach Jossie Leon and Coach and Choreographer Joselina 'Jossie' Leon – of Franklin Field – represent two of the four generations of family that have participated in Estrella Tropicales baton and dance team since 1973.

Photo courtesy Estrella Tropicales

the original Tropicales, which focused on traditional songs, dance, and folklore from Spanish-speaking countries. At the same time, Oyola also performed in the Estrella Tropicales Band on Latin Night at the former Frolic Club on old Revere Beach.

Then Leon and her mother arrived from Puerto Rico, where Leon had been practicing baton on the town team for four years. Baton is considered a serious sport in Puerto Rico, and Leon helped her grandmother and mom get the Estrella Tropicales twirling and dancing team formed in 1973 when she was a child.

Though it was a modest affair at first with just Leon, her sister and cousin, they were able to leverage that into performing in the first Festival Betances Parade in the South End-which also celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. The rest is continuing history as the group has expandd to a pre-



current Coach Joselina 'Jossie' Leon and her sister, Wilma. The sisters and their cousin took to marching in 1973 to start the group. Baton is a popular sport in their native Puerto Rico.

Photo courtesy Estrella Tropicales



Estrella Tropicales founder Felita Oyola began the organization in a Boston schoolyard to teach Spanish-speaking students traditional songs and dances. Oyola passed away in 2010.

Photo courtesy
Estrella Tropicales

pandemic high of 164 baton twirlers, pompom girls, and flag team members.

The group is mainly for ages 4-18, but no one is shown the door if they want to continue marching in processions like the Dorchester Day Parade after age 18.

While there is still a core of Puerto Rican dancers, the group has expanded to all races and ethnicities. For those 25 and older, an alumnae group known as the OG's also marches and twirls with the crew. It seems, Leon said, that when girls find their place with Estrella Tropicales, they don't want to leave – even as adults.

"I treat these girls like they're my daughters," said Leon. "They don't call me 'Miss Jossie,' they call me 'ma.'... We have girls now in the group whose grandmothers were in the group. Some of the OG's have daughters dancing alongside them in the Estrella Tropicales. I always promised my grandmother we would keep that kind of legacy going, and we did."

Other groups have formed from Estrella Tropicales, like the Roberto Clemente Dancers, South End Dynamite, and Glamorous Divas – all of whom have directors who started with Estrella.

For Dorchester Day Parade veterans, there's no mistaking the Estrella Tropicales marchers coming down the street with their red, white, and blue sequined uniforms. Those colors have a purpose that go back to Oyola, who asked that they never take them away.

"She wanted those colors because they are the colors of her Puerto Rican flag, they are the colors of her American flag, and they are the colors of our two closest brother and sister countries – Dominican Republic and Cuba," said Leon.

For the group's 50th anniversary, however, those colors will be missing for just one year as a tribute to the milestone. In Sunday's parade, they will be wearing special 50th anniversary shirts and leggings, and for the Festival Betances in July they'll debut special gold-sequined dance uniforms.

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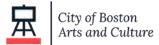
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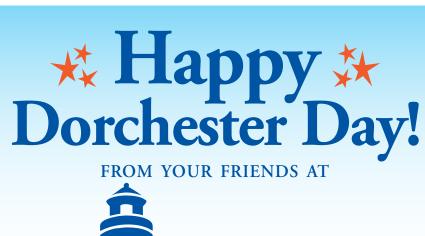




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