



Seth Daniel photo

St. Brendan's kicks off St. Patrick's Day festivities

• Irish Step Dancers Colleen Ward, Bridget McHugh, Mairead McHugh, and Ella Connolly, all of Connolly Academy of Irish Dance in Hanover, were the stars of the evening at the St. Brendan's Church and School fundraiser in Florian Hall last Friday night (March 8) that launched the run to St. Patrick's Day. See Page 12.

• Boston's annual celebration of St. Patrick's Day – along with commemorative events to recall the liberation of the city from imperial British troops in 1776 – is well underway and will culminate Sunday with the traditional parade in South Boston starting at 1 p.m. The Irish-themed parade typically brings in hundreds of thousands of spectators and will result in road closures and restricted hours for neighborhood bars and select stores. See Page 6.

Lawyers argue merit, legality of White Stadium proposal

Ruling expected by month's end

By SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

Superior Court Judge Sarah Ellis put a hold on the White Stadium pro soccer and public school renovation plans last Wednesday during a preliminary hearing in the Civil Division of Suffolk Superior Court on but pledged to decide before the end of the month if the proposal can move forward or not.

The gravity of the matter was not lost on Ellis, who noted the packed and emotionally charged courtroom as she received assurances from the city that no demolition of the stadium inside Franklin Park would proceed until her decision is announced.

"By March 13 let's have a response filed by the plaintiffs, and by March 15 we'll have a deadline for the defendant's

to file their response, upon which I will take the matter under advisement and endeavor a decision as soon as possible," Ellis said, thanking the standing-room-only crowd of officials, litigants, and neighbors who had gathered to hear the controversial matter.

She had requested a longer time originally, taking the matter under advisement with a March 22 deadline, but city attorneys protested, saying they had already started a process to hire a contractor for partial demolition of the facility.

"The city does have a problem with that," said the attorney Sammy Nabulsi, who noted the city wanted to continue the process of vetting construction managers and contractors and having public meetings but conceded that "there's not going to be any demolition in the month of March."

Ellis said the city could do whatever

(Continued on page 11)

You can't take my backyard, she said – and so they didn't

By SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

Dorchester resident Carla B. Monteiro nearly lost her backyard.

And were it not for dogged research, an expensive, years-long legal fight, and an against-all-odds win in court by the use of a unique law in her favor, she might be staring out her back windows at a multi-family house instead of the BBQ grill and her son's basketball hoop that are there now.

Her story has had a long run.

It began on Oct. 7, 2019, when Monteiro pulled into her driveway off Dorchester's Hansborough Street behind her Harvard Street home that sits across from the former state hospital and her son pointed to a City of Boston notice on their fence. On reading it, Monteiro learned that Shanti Acquisitions had purchased her backyard, where the company planned to build a three-family building on the 4,000 square-foot lot where her son had

(Continued on page 6)



Carla B. Monteiro fought for, and won a Squatter's Rights case in reclaiming her backyard on Harvard and Hansborough Streets in Dorchester. Seth Daniel photo



Dennis Lehane giving his author talk on March 3.

Screen shot from BPL presentation

Lehane confronts 'this deep rage inside me'

By CHRIS LOVETT
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

Transitioning from the solitude of writing to the teamwork of TV production, Dennis Lehane took on a different role on March 3 at the Boston Public Library in Copley Square: as a storyteller in a room full of people.

Sharing the platform in Rabb Hall with BPL President David

Leonard, Lehane was on hand for an "author talk" about his latest novel, "Small Mercies."

It's a fictional story that unfolds during the explosion of racial acrimony and violence at the start of desegregation in Boston's public schools in 1974. But there was also a non-fictional backstory, about a Dorchester native currently based in California who starts

writing the book amid the upheaval of the Covid-19 pandemic, while working on a TV project in New Orleans.

"We were staying in this haunted mansion in the heart of New Orleans, and I was just like writing away. And I was transporting myself very quickly to 1974 Boston," he recalled. "It was wonderful."

(Continued on page 20)



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Police, Courts & Fire

Alleged assailant on Henderson principal ruled competent for trial

A Suffolk Superior Court judge last week declared Laurette LeRouge, 19, competent to stand trial on charges that she beat the principal at Dorchester's Henderson K-12 Inclusion School into unconsciousness in 2021, the Suffolk County District Attorney's office has reported.

However, Judge Michael Coyne also set a March 29 hearing at which LeRouge might change her current not guilty plea to counts of assault and battery on a person over age 60 and on a public employee.

LeRouge was initially charged as a juvenile, which would have kept her name from being made public, but the DA's office persuaded a grand jury to indict her as a "youthful offender," which made her name public and made her eligible for an adult sentence should she go to trial and be convicted.

Boston Police arrested three teens - 14, 15, and 16 - on charges they used a loaded gun to rob another teen of his phone and sweatshirt at 157 Washington St. in Dorchester shortly before 2 p.m. last Thursday (March 7). Police say the victim - who walked more than a mile before flagging down an officer on patrol - identified the suspects, and responding officers found them in the fourth-floor hallway of the building - one floor up from where they allegedly robbed the victim. All three, too young to have their names released, were charged as delinquent for armed robbery, illegal possession of a firearm, and illegal possession of ammunition, police say.

A federal judge last week sentenced Fernando Bost, 32, to eight-and-a-half years in prison after he pleaded guilty to robbing the RJ Smoke and Convenience store at 844 Blue Hill Ave. in Dorchester on March 29, 2023 - just 35 minutes after he'd held up a store in Brockton.

Both prosecutors and Bost's attorney agreed on the length of the sentence, while a prosecutor tried to persuade US District Court Judge Allison Burroughs not to impose a shorter sentence and Bost's attorney tried to persuade her not to impose a longer one.

In his sentencing memorandum, assistant US Attorney Luke Goldworm acknowledged that Bost had "endured a challenging childhood fraught with instability and potential abuse" but said Bost failed to take advantage of "any potential opportunities to better himself or change direction" during and in between his spells behind bars.

Bost's attorney, Joshua Hanye, though, pointed to Bost's "swift acceptance of responsibility" this time around as proof he is, finally, willing to change.

Universal Hub reported that a man was sliced in the arm and chest on Thetford Avenue and Evans Street in Dorchester shortly before 2:40 p.m. on Monday, March 11. The victim ran to Washington Street - after accepting some towels from a utility worker - before police found him. His injuries were not considered life threatening.



Courtesy photo



Seth Daniel photo

Readying time for The Mix restaurant

Construction is moving steadily along at the new eatery, according to partners Levi Samed and Jarvis 'Lobzter King' Adams. The new operators have been working since late last year on the former home of Ashmont

Grill to renovate the space and rebrand it.

The work inside is coming to a close, they report, adding that they hope to have a soft opening some time before the end of this month. Inside, a new mural of 'The Mix'

flanked by a lobster is featured on the walls. It's a piece of art created by the renowned Boston muralist Rob 'Problak' Gibbs.

The restaurant will specialize in grilled lobster tail and southern

comfort food, but will also venture into unique comfort foods, and likely add a sit-down breakfast option as well. The final operating plan, however, is still being worked out.

One-day Dublin House suspension for machete incident on hold for now

BY UNIVERSAL HUB

The Boston Licensing Board voted last Thursday (March 7) to suspend the license of the Dublin Pub at 7 Stoughton St. in Dorchester for one day over the way a patron was sliced with a machete last August - then voted to hold the punishment in abeyance until the end of August to give the bar a chance to prove it's taking steps to keep it from happening again.

That will include having to file a detailed security and operations plan for consideration by the board at a hearing on March 26, the board said.

At a hearing last month, the pub's owners and head of security said they didn't realize anything had happened inside until police showed up en masse after the victim showed up at Bos-

ton Medical Center, and patrons spilling outside onto Stoughton Street began getting into a series of fights.

Board members said last Thursday that they didn't buy that for a second, in part because the victim himself testified last month he had been sliced in the arm inside the bar by someone involved in an argument that he wasn't part of, and because a police officer testified that she had found a pool of blood - with the imprint of a shoe in it - inside when police arrived shortly after 12:30 a.m. on Aug. 29.

Board member Liam Curran said he saw "a purposeful decision try to cover this up."

Board members added they were particularly concerned that when the police did arrive, they at

first had some trouble getting admittance to the bar - which by then had closed for the night, but employees were still inside - and then didn't get much cooperation from bar employees, some of whom stayed glued to their phones even in the middle of what had turned into a stabbing investigation.

"They should have known something hap-

pened inside," board Chairwoman Kathleen Joyce said.

Police had cited the bar for the following violations: Assault and battery with a dangerous weapon (machete), patron on patron assault and battery (the stabbing), failure to keep loiterers from the sidewalk in front of the bar's entrance and failure to notify police of a serious incident.

March 14, 2024

Table with 2 columns: Content (Boys & Girls Club News, Opinion/Editorial/Letters, Obituaries, Business Directory) and Details (Dorchester Reporter, USPS 009-687, Published Weekly, Postmaster: Send address changes to: 150 Mt. Vernon St., Suite 560, Dorchester, MA 02125)

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On Sat., March 16, from 1 to 3 p.m., the Dorchester Historical Society will join with the Jamaica Plain Historical Society and the Grove Hall Branch of the BPL to present "Getting It Together in Franklin Park: The Past and Future of a Boston Landmark." The event will be presented in person at the Grove Hall BPL branch, 41 Geneva Ave., Dorchester and also via Zoom. Register at jphs.org/events.

View a screening of a new film "The Inundation District" during an in-person forum at the Kennedy Library that will convene at 6 p.m. on Thurs., March 21. The film explores the implications of Boston's decision to build the Seaport District along its coast at sea level, followed by a panel discussion about the threats of climate change with Joe Christo, managing director of the Stone Living Lab, and Sanjay Seth,

chief of staff and senior advisor for Climate and Equity in EPA Region 1, moderated by filmmaker and Boston Globe reporter David Abel. The post-film conversation will be available for both in-person and virtual attendees, and will begin streaming at approximately 7:20 PM. See jfklibrary.org. First Parish Dorchester will host a Community Dance on Sat., March 23, from 6 to 9 p.m. Includes square dances, international dances, couples, individual and line and circle dances. This event is for all ages from children to seniors. A caller leads dancers through the steps to make it fun for novices and experienced dancers. Refreshments provided. Suggested donation for adults \$10, children free. For more information call 617-981-5201.

The BPDA plans a virtual meeting for Thurs., April 4, at 6 p.m. to discuss a

proposal by EJS Investments, Inc. to build a 5-story, 42 unit mixed-use building at 819 Cummins Highway. The building will include ground-floor retail, 25 parking spaces, and 46 bicycle spaces. See bit.ly/819-cummins-highway for more info. Mayor Wu and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department will host the 2024 Mayor's Cup Street Hockey Tournament in partnership with the Boston Bruins Foundation during the April school vacation week. The tournament will begin on Mon., April 15. All games will be played at Joseph Moakley Roller Hockey Rink on Columbia Road in South Boston. Teams will compete in three age groups: Mite (ages 6 to 8); Squirt (ages 9 to 10); and Pee Wee (ages 11 and 12). Please note that pre-registration for teams is required with a limit of eight teams per regional division. Visit boston.

gov/sports to register. The Ward 15 Democratic Party Committee holds its monthly meeting on Sat., March 16, 9-10:30 a.m. All are welcome and can join the zoom webinar using the link: tinyurl.com/DemsWard15. The Ward 12 Democratic Committee will host its annual ward caucus to elect delegates and alternate delegates to this year's state convention this Saturday, March 16. The caucus will take place at Twelfth Baptist Church Second African Meeting House, 150 Warren St., Roxbury. Doors open at 9 a.m., and the caucus will be called to order at 10 a.m. For more information, contact via email at bw12dems@gmail.com.

SEND IN EVENT NOTICES TO NEWSEDITOR@DOTNEWS.COM

New arts, co-working 'third space' eyed for Blue Hill Avenue building

By SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

Community members and the newly picked SIDE Presents arts organization have begun a 'community brainstorming' session for the layout and design of a unique flex space that will occupy the ground-floor of the new building planned by DVM Housing Partners for 1028-1044 Blue Hill Avenue.

Mattapan resident Dariela Villon-Maga, the owner of DVM, told the Greater Mattapan Neighborhood Council (GMNC) Monday night that they are preparing to start construction on their first building and want to get a head start in planning for the flex space on the ground floor of the 12-unit affordable home-ownership building.

"We expect to start construction by the end of April," said Villon-Maga. "We're very intent on figuring out early what our commercial space approach will be."

The city has designated Villon-Maga as the developer of three city-owned vacant lots, including 1028-1044 Blue Hill Ave. The other two buildings will be within eyeshot, an 8-unit structure with 700 square feet of commercial



VIEW FROM BLUE HILL AVE



space at 1039 Blue Hill Ave. and a 10-unit building with 1,000 square feet of space at 1015-1019 Blue Hill Ave.

For the first building's commercial space, she said they have partnered with SIDE, which has been headed up by Therlande Louissant and Marlyn Urquiza since 2019. According to their presentation, SIDE is "about curating experiences that are not only fun and inclusive but also deeply rooted in Black and Latinx art and culture given our proud Dominican and Haitian roots."

The plan is to create flex space in the 1,550 square foot commercial unit that would likely include a 20-person, members-only networking lounge space, a 500-square-foot co-working space, and a 500-square-foot lobby and gathering area. There is also a small rear outdoor patio in the portfolio.

"We're trying to put a lot into a space that is 1,550 square feet, but we think we can fit it all in," said Louissant. "We wanted everything, but we were reeled in a little bit...but we did keep things we felt were really necessary."

The space would be for

creative artists and those looking for co-workings space or a "third space" where art shows, presentations, events, and small parties could form along an area of Blue Hill Avenue that has long been devoid of energy. They hope to create synergy between many people in one small space.

"We hope it is a home away from home and becomes that space to gather for other creatives and you feel that vibration," said Louissant.

GMNC members and those on the call were invited to give design input, picking out things they liked for the space and things they didn't - including a popular rolling glass garage door, a Haitian themed indoor design, and a less popular co-working cubicle setup.

Miriam Gee, of Co-Everything consultants, said they are taking input to create a 3-D rendering and floor plan that would be put out to the public for fundraising to build out the space. They have a deadline of late April to create the design, she said.

Construction on the first building is expected to be completed in late 2025. The commercial space has not yet been named, said Gee.

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Virtual Public Meeting

Zero Net Carbon Zoning Proposal

MARCH
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 Meeting ID: 160 305 9552



Project Description:

Please join the BPDA and Boston’s Environment Department to discuss the newly released draft proposal for Zero Net Carbon Zoning. The ZNC team will walk through the draft proposal and invite questions and comments. Come learn about one of the City’s sustainability initiatives.

Wednesday 3/20 from 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

To attend the public meeting, please visit the 2024 Zero Net Carbon Zoning webpage to find the Zoom link: bit.ly/48B6Xhh

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Boston reparations task force won’t complete work by end-of-year target

BY LANEY RUCKSTUHL AND RIPA SHENOY
 WBUR

The task force charged with making recommendations to city leaders regarding possible reparations for Black Bostonians will not complete its work by the end of this year as originally planned, its chair said last week.



Joseph Feaster

Attorney Joseph Feaster, who oversees the task force, said the group is still gathering research in what is the first of three phases involved with creating its final report. “Unfortunately, the timeframes that were set forth in the ordinance were a bit ambitious,” Feaster said.

Mayor Wu appointed the task force last February to consider reparations for the descendants of enslaved people. Boston is one of the largest American cities undergoing such a review, with groups in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Detroit, St. Louis, Providence, and Northampton, Mass. also working to identify their respective cities’ ties to slavery and explore reparations.

In Boston, a city ordinance created the group and stated that its members should serve through the end of 2024, unless otherwise determined by the mayor.

The ordinance outlined that the group’s first phase of work – to research and document the city’s role in slave trade – was to be done by last June. However, the task force did not appoint researchers until last December. “While some people may be anxious, we’ve been at this for 400 years,” Feaster said. “So,

I think I can take a year in order for us to do the appropriate research.”

In an emailed statement, a city spokesperson said the Wu administration continues to support the effort “to ensure that Boston delivers just and comprehensive recommendations. As the task force and research partners move forward with their critical work, the City understands that documenting Boston’s role in the trans-Atlantic slave trade and the legacies of slavery requires significant consideration, time, and resources,” the spokesperson wrote.

At a task force meeting in February, several attendees during public comment asked the task force to hold more community meetings about its work. And a group of activists has also been calling for additional opportunities for public input.

“There is no way that we will be able to achieve a substantive, robust, transparent reparations process with only the engagement of the task force,” said the Rev. Kevin Peterson, who leads the People’s Reparations Commission, a grassroots group calling for economic reparations. “The task force needs the energy, the creativity from community members who are in the grassroots, who can provide them with insights they’d never be able to achieve.”

Feaster said he did not support the task force deepening its community engagement efforts until its research phase concludes. “I don’t need to have that conversation until such time as I have the benefit of the researchers giving me some guideposts on how we approach the issue,” he said.

This story was published by WBUR on March 8. The Reporter and WBUR share content through a media partnership.



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5 Tips to Help Improve your Credit Score in 2024



Establishing credit is one of the most important keys to achieving financial health and creating generational wealth.



A good credit score shows you have a track record of borrowing money responsibly and is important to landlords, mortgage lenders, financial institutions and more. The higher your credit score, the lower your interest rates will be on credit cards and loans, helping you save money over time.

Building a credit history from scratch can feel challenging since you need credit to build credit. If you don't have credit, you're less likely to be approved for loans and credit cards, limiting your ability to make major purchases that create financial stability for yourself and your family.

How can you build credit without having credit?

First, what does it mean to build credit? All consumers have a three-digit score between 300 and 850. You want your score

to be as high as possible, as lenders look at credit scores to make loan and credit decisions.

A credit score consists of your payment history, available credit, total balances, the mix of credit type, length of credit history, and the frequency and amount of new credit you're applying for.

If you don't have a credit history or you're rebuilding your credit, your credit score will likely be on the lower end. Here are a few simple steps, including some you may already be doing, that can help start the year off on the right foot and improve your score:

1) Report rent or bill payments and pay on time. Ask a service provider, such as a landlord, to report payment activity to the credit bureaus. Also remember to pay bills on time. Paying your utility bills, rent, cred-

it cards and loans on time can demonstrate fiscal responsibility to lenders.

2) Apply for a store or gas card. Retailers and businesses often approve applicants with little credit history for a card. Store cards usually carry a higher interest rate, but payments still become part of your credit profile. Remember to try to pay off the balance each month to avoid raking up interest.

3) Open a bank account and consider a new-to-credit card: Although checking and savings accounts don't factor into your credit score, lenders can review them to see how fiscally responsible you are. And in the case of Chase Freedom Rise, which is designed for new-to-credit customers, having a Chase checking account increases your likelihood for approval.

4) Become an authorized user or joint account holder. Ask a trusted family member or friend to be added to their credit card. You'll get an extra card with your name on it, and activity from that card will be reflected on your credit report over time. Be sure this person has a good history of on-time payments and low credit utilization – if they have bad credit habits, it will reflect on your credit, too.

5) Find a co-signer. Apply for credit jointly with someone who already has an established credit history. Remember, the co-signer is putting their credit on the line for you, so keep up with your payments and don't overspend.

These options can help you demonstrate your creditworthiness, and you may start seeing your score rise sooner than you might expect.

Resolve to build credit in 2024

It's never too late to build -- or rebuild -- your credit. As you make your resolutions for the new year, put credit building near the top of your list. Not only will good credit help you have a happy new year in 2024, you'll see your hard work pay off for many new years to come.

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You can't take my backyard, she said – and so they didn't

(Continued from page 1)

played basketball, learned to ride a bike, and the family had hosted barbecues and parked their vehicles for nearly 10 years. The notice seemed to indicate she needed to get off the property.

What could all this be about? she asked herself. But instead of fretting or just giving up to an official city notice, she burned the midnight oil that night, researching and learning about “adverse possession,” which is sometimes called “squatter’s rights,” until 3 a.m. And in the morning, she hired a lawyer, Sheryl Furnari, of Bay State Law Group.

“This was the kind of case in law school you look for that is the perfect situation for adverse possession,” said Furnari. “It’s something I read about in first-year law class... [In this case], the reality is that the defendant never saw the land and bought it at an estate sale for pennies on the dollar from an heir to the owner that didn’t care.

“It was the perfect case,” she continued. “I had the perfect witness - an elderly man speaking from his bedroom over Zoom who told the court he had cut the grass, trimmed the apple trees, planted the garden, and had been taking care of the lot all that time.”

The attorney for Solomon Chowdhury, who controls Shanti Acquisitions, Julie Barry, told the *Reporter* that she was willing to talk about the case, which has been fully decided, but later did not return several emails or phone calls seeking comment on the matter.

For Monteiro, the case highlighted a relatively obscure property law very much applicable in the western parts of Dorchester and in Mattapan where many privately owned vacant lots still exist. These lots, which were abandoned in the 1960s and 1970s, usually after fires had burned the homes to the ground, were without substantial



A photo of the heavy equipment Caterpillar that was driven onto Carla B. Monteiro's backyard during the Land Court case in 2021.

Photo courtesy Carla B. Monteiro

value for 30 or 40 years after the fires, but in the 2020s, with real estate in high demand, they have become very desirable.

While most of the lots are city-owned via foreclosure and are being dispersed under a special, equitable process, others are privately owned, and many times by heirs who have no idea they own them.

In this case, Furnari said, the granddaughter of a former owner appeared out of nowhere in September 2019 and sold the land to Shanti Acquisitions as part of an estate sale for the Gloria Watts family that included a package of five lots. According to evidence produced for an Appeals Court hearing, a family named Poindexter moved into Monteiro's current home in 1968, a time of extraordinary tumult in the neighborhood. The house next door on Harvard Street burned down in 1971, and the owners disappeared. The Poindexters then cared for the lot and eventually bought it from the city as part of a Boston Yard Sale program.

The lot in question, situated on Hans-

borough Street, was owned by the Watts family until a fire claimed that house in 1978, and they also disappeared. The Poindexters also took care of that lot, but because the city either overlooked the property or taxes on it were kept current, it was never offered for purchase. Nonetheless, the Poindexters mowed the grass, planted trees, tended a vegetable garden and, eventually, put a fence around the entire property.

That fence was brought into question by the city in 1996, when they cited the Poindexters for building without a permit and took them to Land Court. The case was eventually settled in 1997, and the result was taking out a permit and making the fence fully legal. That small legal action later proved to be a big break in the Monteiro case.

When Monteiro purchased the house from the Poindexter family in 2010, she in turn took care of the lot, did some landscaping to it, and improved it – all the while believing it was her property.

“I was told by the realtors everything inside the fence belonged to [the Poindexters],” said Monteiro. “I asked that over and over, and as a first-time homebuyer I didn’t know to look at parcels. It wasn’t until nine years later someone showed up and claimed that lot was their property. Those that don’t know about their property rights just lose property like this and don’t know what to do, even though they took care of it.”

Furnari notes that a key advantage in Adverse Possession cases is if a defendant has taken care of a property for at least 20 years without permission of the property owner. Monteiro had only been there 9 years in 2019.

“We had to really connect the dots,” said Furnari, “because the person before Carla owned it so long. Most people don’t know it but there is a process called ‘tacking,’ where you can add previous owners that cared for the property before the current owner to get the minimum 20 years. It’s very rare to be able to show and connect those dots.”

Together, Monteiro and the Poindexters had put in more than enough time to use that law, but finding the Poindexters wasn’t easy. Remarkably, Monteiro located and got the cooperation of a son, Thomas, who had lived in the home with his widowed mother for decades and had cared for the lot himself.

“We maintained our home and grounds since April 1968 and all the acquired property, to the abutting lot [on Hansborough Street], not ours, including removal of construction and other buried debris from improper backfill and infill after the houses that were there were demolished,” he both wrote to the court, and testified to in a 2021 Land Court trial that ended in support of Monteiro’s position.

But the legal fight wasn’t the only battle that she was waging. She alleged that she had been harassed and intimidated by agents of Shanti Acquisitions while the case was ongoing. She said the company brought in heavy equipment, like a Caterpillar, and parked it in Monteiro’s backyard. They also rang her doorbell and told her to move her

and her family’s cars or they would be towed away. She and Furnari said they threatened to cut down her trees. The harassment ceased only after the judge in the original case issued an order for it to stop, Furnari said.

“There was a lot of aggressive behavior toward me trying to intimidate me so I would pull out of the case. There were rumors and all sorts of shenanigans,” said Monteiro.

“I think [Chowdhury] didn’t do his due diligence before buying the land and then wanted to do whatever he wanted,” said Furnari. “He started putting construction vehicles on the land and that’s when his attorney lost control of things. He didn’t have a lot of respect for me.”

But both judges had respect for the case, with the Land Court judge pointing out the fence as a key indicator that the land should belong to Monteiro, and the Appeals Court judge agreeing.

“We affirm,” read that court’s decision in the most simple way.

Monteiro can now rest easy that her backyard will remain her own, and not a development project of Shanti Acquisitions.

“I never wanted to give up my land; it had a lot of sentimental value because I had worked 80 hours a week to save up and went to so many homebuyer classes,” said Monteiro in a recent interview with the *Reporter*.

“I was a single mom. I didn’t know owning a home was possible but worked really hard to accomplish that goal. I didn’t know I was buying a lawsuit that would dominate my life for years...It was just another sliver of land to him (Solomon Chowdhury), but not to me.”

Over the course of the case, many of Monteiro’s neighbors supported her, coming out to abutter’s meetings and helping her at every turn. Former City Councillor (and now the state’s attorney general) Andrea Campbell and state Rep. Russell Holmes also had her back, which the City of Boston at the time did not. It supported the Shanti bid.

Holmes said in an interview this month that he was proud of Monteiro for fighting for her land – comparing it to other women of color around the country who stood up to the power structure and prevailed.

“She did the appropriate thing and fought for her land and the court agreed with her,” he said.

“The fact that Carla would not allow that to happen is an example for us to learn from and to make sure our community knows their rights and is as prepared as she was,” he continued. “This is a story of wealth, and not losing wealth, and certainly not letting wealth be taken away.”

Monteiro said she grew up in Fields Corner with no yard and playing in the street. The child of a single mother at a time when single mothers were often discriminated against, she recalled her family being evicted because her mom didn’t have a husband. It was why she decided to buy a house at a young age and worked steadily to that goal until she got the property on Harvard Street, where she provided a home on the second floor for her mother and sister and rented out the third floor. The two vacant lots, including the lot in the court fights, were something she hoped to build on in the future – with the dream of reserving one of the units for a single mom who needs a break.

When she saw the sign posted on her fence saying that Shanti Acquisitions intended to build on top of her dream, she said it became more than her fight. She spent in excess of \$20,000 to make that point but believes strongly that it was worth it.

“This fight was bigger than me,” she says. “I thought about my neighbors and the community and Black people who, in the past, couldn’t buy houses in another area – and the people who have had their land taken by others over and over. I hope this case gives hope for people to fight and not give up.

Wishing You a Happy
St. Patrick's Day

Senator Nick Collins & Family

St. Patrick's, Evacuation Day festivities underway

By **BILL FORRY**
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Boston's annual celebration of St. Patrick's Day —along with commemorative events to recall the liberation of the city from imperial British troops in 1776 — is well underway and will culminate Sunday with the traditional parade in South Boston starting at 1 p.m. The Irish-themed parade typically brings in hundreds of thousands of spectators and will result in road closures and restricted hours for neighborhood bars and select stores.

On Friday morning (March 15), a free public ceremony is planned to mark Evacuation Day, which remains a Suffolk County-wide holiday on March 17, although it is no longer observed as a "day-off" for schoolkids or workers.

On that date in March 1776, British occupiers fled Boston under the menace of cannons mounted by colonial rebels atop Dorchester Heights—which was at the time part of the town of Dorchester. Friday's ceremony will be held at 10 a.m. at the Edgerley Family South Boston Boys & Girls Club, 230 West Sixth St.

The event is typically held at the Dorches-



A current view of South Boston's Thomas Park and the Dorchester Heights Monument tower, which is currently being restored. According to the National Parks Service (NPS), the \$30 million rehabilitation work "includes structural upgrades, masonry restoration, and improvement of the monument's foundation, superstructure, exterior enclosure, roof, interior stairs, HVAC, plumbing, and electrical systems."

NPS photo

ter Heights Monument, but has been re-located since the monument itself is undergoing a \$30 million restoration project. According to the National Parks Service, which owns and manages the monument site, the work will be completed before by March 17, 2026, during the nation's 250th birthday year.

On Saturday, a St. Pat-

rick's Day brunch will be held at St. Teresa of Calcutta church, 800 Columbia Rd. Now in its 15th year, the event serves as a benefit for the Mary Ann Brett Food Pantry and honors men and women of distinction. This year's honorees include former Boston City Councillor Frank Baker and Latoyia Edwards, NBC10 Boston news anchor. The event

will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the parish hall.

Also on March 15, the Dorchester-based Irish Pastoral Centre will host a celebration of St. Patrick's Day at Florian Hall, 55 Hallet St., Dorchester. The event begins with a Mass and blessing of shamrocks at 11 a.m. A corned beef dinner will be followed

by music and dancing with Erin's Melody until 3 p.m. Pre-registration is required and tickets are \$30. Go to ipcboston.org.

The annual St. Patrick's Day Breakfast hosted by state Sen. Nick Collins will take place at the Ironworkers Local 7 Union Hall on Sunday, the holiday. The event will be broadcast to a wider audience with NECN

and NESN and WROL Radio beginning at 9:30 a.m. A live TV broadcast will begin at 10 a.m. Invited guests include Gov. Maura Healey, US Sen. Elizabeth Warren, and Mayor Michelle Wu. Sunday's parade in South Boston begins at 1 p.m. at Broadway Station. The parade, which dates back to 1901, ends at Andrew Station.

This past Monday, (March 11) Dorchester's John F. Kennedy Library welcomed Ireland's prime minister or "An Taoiseach," Leo Varadkar, who delivered an address to a packed audience in the library's Stephen Smith room.

The Kennedy Library will also host a free St. Patrick's Day program for kids 5 and up on Sat., March 16, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. featuring the Greene-O'Leary School of Irish Dance. The event is part of the library's ongoing Celebrate series. Go to jfklibrary.org/celebrate or call 617-514-1644 to register.

Also this weekend, the Irish Cultural Centre in Canton hosts a two-day celebration with Irish music, food, arts and crafts and more. See irishculture.org for a full line-up and ticket information.

Sláinte!

Happy St. Patrick's Day to our friends and neighbors, from the MCCA.

GLORIA LARSON
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**MASSACHUSETTS
CONVENTION CENTER
AUTHORITY**



Dot artist 'gbfree' finds stride with a unique neighborhood art series

By SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

Dorchester's George 'gbfree' Freeman was shopping in the Seaport a year ago and stopped in his tracks when he noticed a store promoting the neighborhoods and destinations of Boston. "Whatever I do, I tell a story of where I'm from," he said. "I went into a store that had souvenirs ... from every neighborhood but Dorchester, Roxbury, and Mattapan. It was glaring, and I was mad initially."

Infuriated by the omission, the artist began creating his 'Neighborhood Series' of paintings to tell the stories of places left out of the store's "official" Boston story - places like the former Caribbean Cultural Center (Three C's), Simco's on the Bridge, the Lee School with its Boston Neighborhood Basketball League (BNBL) and Boston Raiders connections, WILD AM radio station, and Chez Vous roller rink, to name just a few.

"These are places I frequented all the time as a kid and wanted to keep alive in my art," he said.

The results of his work were displayed last Saturday on Blue Hill Av-

enue in Grove Hall at The Muse Gallery, where Freeman gathered with family and friends to right what he saw as wrong and tell his own neighborhood stories.

Known as 'gbfree' and creating his paintings under the 'FromStreet-2Canvas' company, he grew up on Arbella Road on the Dorchester/Mattapan line and went to school in Wakefield via the METCO program. His family, including his 104-year-old grandmother, Elide Charles, still live on Arbella Road and his time in the neighborhood has formed a great deal of who he is, he said, just as many of his neighborhood places are slipping away from memory.

While his mother, Florence Charles, and his sister, Ciyata Freeman, said he had been drawing since second grade, and had encouraged him to show his work, his artistic talent was something the 37-year-old Freeman said he kept "under wraps." He mostly stuck to pursuing a career in finance, with a keen interest in fashion and design.

In 2020, he was living in California pursuing his career when the

pandemic hit, and he suddenly was out of a job. There was nowhere to go but home, he said, and he came back to Dorchester and found his stride in the art world by beginning to draw on a friend's walls.

"His walls were blank, and he told me I should just do my painting on them," said Freeman. "I started doing canvases and hanging them up. People would come by and see them and comment on them. Some people would ask if I was selling them. I sold my first one and realized there was something there."

With a style that in equal parts resembles street art, pop art in the Roy Lichtenstein style, and art in high-quality graphic novels, Freeman paints only in black, white, and one other color. For his Neighborhood Series, he used yellow highlights.

The Series is his third show, with the first being about his artistic influences, and the second being a Black History timeline from 1692 to 1992. In addition to the sites mentioned above, the current show, already a big hit, also focuses on places like the former



Top, a painting by George 'gbfree' Freeman of the former Caribbean Cultural Center (Three C's) on Blue Hill Avenue. Below, Freeman in front of other art works. Seth Daniel photos

Brigham's Ice Cream shop in Mattapan Square, Roxbury's No Books, No Ball program, Skippy White's record store, Muhammad's Mosque

#11, a portrait of Mel King, of James Brown at the Boston Garden in the 1960s, of Melnea Cass, and Wally's Jazz Club in the South End.

Freeman said he donates a portion of all the sales from his art back to programs of his choice in Dorchester, Mattapan, and Roxbury.

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GG

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Reporter's People News about people in and around our Neighborhoods

SCI Youth Grant Pitch Contest off and running with 12 teams

The SCI Social Capital Inc. 2024 Youth Grant Pitch Contest (YGPC) is officially underway, featuring a record number of 12 youth teams from both the city of Boston and the Greater Boston area, including two from Dorchester: the Greater Love Tabernacle Youth Ministry from the Greater Love Tabernacle and the Mental Health Ambassadors & Pioneers from the Boston Project Ministries.

In total, approximately 100 youth involved in the 2024 YGPC want to support the mental health and well-being of the youth in their communities by developing a



The Greater Love Tabernacle Youth Ministry from Dorchester has a youth team in the 2024 SCI Youth Grant Pitch Contest. Pictured are the participating youth, their two volunteer coaches, their two advisors, and two of the youths' supportive parents. Photo courtesy of SCI Social Capital

community-focused project. Though the emphasis will be on projects that support youth mental health initiatives, project ideas that support the community in other ways are welcome.

Also participating this year are 29 volunteer coaches who are professionals from a variety of local startups, companies, and nonprofits such as GATO, United Healthcare, Microsoft, Draft Kings, and The Network For Social Jus-

Through six coaching sessions scheduled during February and March, these dedicated coaches have been guiding young people in the development of their community projects and pitches.

The program will finish up on April 6, when SCI will host the in-person Pitch Event at the Microsoft NERD Center. Some \$11,000 in grant funds will be awarded to at least seven of the participating youth groups.

VietAID celebrates Lunar New Year on Charles Street

The VietAID organization held a lively, multi-generational Lunar (Tet) New Year celebration at its Charles Street headquarters last month. With special guest Mayor Michelle Wu and performances from the Au Co preschool students and other, the event was a great addition to the Fields Corner Lunar New Year lineup.



Pictured are VietAID unofficial historian Joseph Nghia Truong; VietAID Board member Kim Thai; Mayor Wu; and VietAID Director George Huynh.



Also, Alice Dao of the Au Co Preschool at VietAID performs a traditional dance during the celebration. Photos by Isabel Leon/Mayor's Office

Dot Eagles' Tony Hurston cited as Youth Coach of Distinction

Tony Hurston, coach of the Dorchester Elite Eagles 14U national champions, was one of six individuals honored this month as a Youth Coach of Distinction at the 50th annual Big New England Football Clinic in Newport, RI.

Due to some tremendous personal losses, he and fellow Dorchester



Tony Hurston

coach Terry Cousins nearly didn't coach last fall. They reconsidered, though, dedicating their seasons to their parents' memories.

Hurston's 14U Eagles capped off their season by becoming the first Boston team to win the Pop Warner National Championship, defeating Delaware

County Pennsylvania, 20-0, in the Super Bowl last December in Florida. Over the last 28 years, Hurston's teams have finished second at nationals six other times and have also won 25 state championships and 19 New England Regional championships.

Recognizing that youth coaches mentor players

through a critical stage of growth and development, the BNEFC established the Youth Coach of Distinction Award in 2020 and present it annually to one youth football coach from each of the six New England states "who has a deep love of the game of football and who is dedicated to the betterment of the game

and the development of its young athletes."

Through an online nomination process, the BNEFC encourages the football community to identify worthy candidates in their youth programs who are "inspiring and encouraging, as well as patient, and compassionate."

YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE

DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

King Square

The intersection of Adams Street, Neponset Avenue, and Parkman Street is known as King Square. The image in the photo at left scene comes from a postcard that was postmarked Sept. 11, 1912, with the title "View of King Square, where Neponset Avenue begins." It shows the square looking south from where Gibson Street ends at Adams Street, with Neponset Avenue veering off to the left. The street with the trolley car is Adams Street and the building to the left of the trolley car as the viewer sees it is 359-365 Adams St. The house disappeared from the maps between 1918 and 1933 and was replaced by a Beacon Oil gas station, among other names it took over the following years. The three-decker at the



right side of the photo at left, 349 Adams St., does not appear on the 1910 map but does appear on the 1918 map. Tax assessing records show that in 1911, a Michael Maynes had a "house erecting" there, and in 1912, occupants had moved in: John W. Connelly,

38, lawyer; Charles H. Spear, 43, machinist; and Arthur M. Fraser, 23, machinist.

The building in the photo at right with the awning at the corner of Adams Street and the north side of Parkman Street had a bakery on the



first floor. That image shows the first floor of the building a few years earlier, when Chamberlain's Pharmacy occupied the storefront on the left of the building and a bakery occupied the storefront on the right side.

These posts can be viewed on the blog at dorchesterhistoricalsociety.org. The Society's William Clapp and James Blake Houses are open to the public on the third Sunday of the month from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Editorial

Ireland's top leader calls for Ukraine aid, Gaza ceasefire

St. Patrick's Day is Sunday, but in Greater Boston the annual celebration of Ireland's patron saint is a month-long affair with dinners, brunches, galas, Masses, festivals, and private parties that dominate the social calendar in a state where one in five people claim Irish ancestry. Boston isn't the only American city with an outsized Irish identity, but it remains—arguably—the most influential one. The US Ambassador to Ireland, Claire Cronin—is a Brockton native. President Biden's hand-picked special envoy to Northern Ireland is former Congressman Joseph Kennedy III.

And so, it was not a surprise to see that Ireland's Prime Minister Leo Varadkar made Boston his first stop on a week-long visit to the United States this week. On Monday evening, the Taoiseach—the Irish word for his office—addressed a dinner crowd of about 400 guests at Dorchester's John F. Kennedy Library.

In his speech, Varadkar made all the customary references to President Kennedy's family ties to Ireland and the Kennedys' distinct role in advancing peace on the island of Ireland. But the Taoiseach also used his platform to telegraph the urgent message he intends to deliver later this week when he visits with President Biden and Congressional leaders.

Varadkar recalled a speech that JFK delivered to a joint session of Ireland's assembly in 1963, a few months before his assassination, in which the American president urged Ireland to be “the protector of the weak and the voice of the small.”

“We're mindful of the challenge he set for us, to speak out against injustice without fear or favor,” Varadkar said before pivoting to the most urgent matter facing Ireland and other European leaders: the ongoing war of Russian aggression in Ukraine.

“As a country with our own history of being invaded, we stand publicly and openly against Russia's unprovoked and imperious invasion of Ukraine,” said Varadkar, who described it as a “battle between freedom and tyranny.”

The Irish PM said he planned to thank President Biden personally for the United States' leadership in aiding Ukraine. But in remarks that seemed squarely aimed at Republicans who continue to resist new aid packages, he said: “Some would like to ignore the conflict, but fail to realize this conflict will ignore them. Ukraine is facing an adversary that will not stop there... If Ukraine falls, so too will a shadow fall across Europe.”

Next, Varadkar renewed his previous call for an “immediate ceasefire” in Gaza, a step beyond the Biden administration's current position for a six-week, temporary ceasefire that our president articulated during last week's State of the Union address.

Varadkar advised: “From our own painful history in Ireland, we know the ceasefire does not mean surrender. Nor does it necessarily mean peace. And it certainly doesn't mean weakness. A ceasefire doesn't mean forgiveness either, but it does present a glimmer of hope.”

And he warned: “If we're not consistent, if we do not see and respect the equal value of a child of Israel and a child of Palestine, then the rest of the world, particularly the global south, which after all is most of the world, will not listen to us when we call on them to stand by the rules and institutions that are the bedrock of the civilized world.”

Of all the speeches and toasts that will be offered in this St. Patrick's season, it's likely that the most meaningful one will be that offered by Ireland's leader, overlooking Dorchester Bay. - **Bill Forry**

'Cherish Act' can be a lifeline for Higher Education in state

By FRANKLIN ORTIZ
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Massachusetts prides itself on being a leader in education, and our public colleges and universities should be no exception. Yet, after years of disinvestment, many top-quality educators are fleeing, and without immediate intervention from Beacon Hill, the problem will only get worse. This is happening just as we are launching an effort for debt-free commu-



Franklin Ortiz

nity colleges that we hope will bring more students to our campuses. Decades ago, our public higher education institutions were praised for their excellence, drawing in educators passionately committed to molding the minds of the next generation. But for the past 20 years, lawmakers have taken a different path, aggressively slashing funding and shifting the financial burden onto students and faculty. The institutions that were once celebrated for their dedication to education have fallen victim to financial neglect.

The consequences of this disinvestment have reached every corner of our campuses, from college dining services to tuition hikes. Once-thriving institutions now face dilapidation, and the academic environment has suffered. The result is institutions with outstanding staff and faculty, but without the resources to adequately educate and serve our students, the future citizens, and workers of the Commonwealth.

Whether you're a tenure track professor, an adjunct professor, or a staff person, the compensation and benefits offered by other states often overshadow what Massachusetts has on the table. The choice isn't just about picturesque campuses or cultural attractions. The salary, the benefits, the continuity,

and the stability, just don't compare.

The challenges extend beyond simply attracting applicants. Our public colleges and universities need to attract high-quality candidates who are not just qualified but are also diverse, equity-minded, and committed to the mission of public higher education here in Massachusetts. While more than fifty percent of private college graduates relocate within four years of graduation, almost three out of four graduates of the state's public colleges and universities stay and work in Massachusetts. If we want to retain educators who are invested in our communities and our economy for the long term, then they need to earn enough to be able to live here.

This financial shortfall translates into a struggle to attract and retain educators. Talented faculty members, enticed by more competitive offers from other colleges or good-paying jobs in the corporate world, are choosing alternative career paths. I've seen this reality up close. As both a UMass Boston graduate and now an academic advisor, I've witnessed the struggle to attract and retain top-notch talent to our state.

This is why professors support the Cherish Act, a comprehensive bill laying the groundwork for transforming Massachusetts into a hub of world-class public higher education.

The Cherish Act is more than a set of policies; it's a lifeline for public higher education. It's about enabling people from all walks of life, in every community, to build successful and fulfilling lives through accessible, quality education. It's about addressing economic, social, and racial equity gaps that persist within our public higher education institutions and our state.

Recruiting a talented cadre of educators to public higher education in Massachusetts is a critical issue, and the Cherish Act is the antidote. By investing in our public higher education system, we aren't just securing the future of our students; we are also reshaping Massachusetts as an academic pacesetter, welcoming educators who bring diversity, innovation, and commitment to the classroom and adequately investing in one of our most important engines for opportunity and economic growth.

Franklin Ortiz is a Hyde Park resident, a UMass Boston graduate and academic advisor, and a member of the Massachusetts Teachers Association.

Lawmakers need to pass the VOCA Bridge to avoid a loss of services for crime victims

By LIAM LOWNEY
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Victim service programming in Massachusetts is a lifeline resource to survivors of crime in the aftermath of trauma. Service providers are a crucial support to victims and survivors by providing crisis intervention, safety planning, assisting in navigating the criminal legal system, and supporting their emotional, mental, and physical needs in their healing journey.

Today, however, funding for victim service providers is critically low, risking agencies' abilities to maintain the lifesaving supports that survivors rely on both in the immediate aftermath of crime and in the longer term.

The Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance (MOVA) supports more than 100 victim service programs that provide free of cost direct services to survivors through grant funding. As a result of reductions in federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grants nationwide, MOVA is facing a significant funding gap to support programming in fiscal year 2025. MOVA-funded programs will experience drastic reductions in their grant awards on July 1 unless a continued state investment is included in the annual state budget.

Reduced dollars to MOVA will impact funding to services that support all victims of crime, including children's advocacy centers, sexual assault programs, domestic violence programs, homicide bereavement programs, victim legal assistance services, elder abuse programs and other services to historically marginalized and underserved crime victims who are disproportionately impacted by crime.

MOVA and the victim services community have been advocating before the Legislature for the last several years to fund the VOCA Bridge, a multi-year funding request to bridge the gap in federal cuts to maintain victim services and meet the increasing demand for victim assistance. House and Senate leaders have supported this need by providing \$40 million over the last two fiscal years which has avoided devastating cuts to programs. We know first-hand that this funding has kept agencies open

and functioning, and we are asking legislators once again help us ensure that every survivor in the Commonwealth has access to high-quality services that are trauma-informed, culturally-responsive, and reflective of diverse communities.

Despite having less funding available in the last year, MOVA-funded programs served the highest number of crime victims in our agency's history. In Suffolk County, more than 16,000 individuals were served by victim service agencies, including the nineteen programs that seek to meet the needs of Suffolk County survivors, including the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center, Casa Myrna Vasquez, Inc., and the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute.

The consequences of funding cuts will be far-reaching, touching not only the lives of individual survivors but also reverberating throughout entire communities. Marginalized populations disproportionately impacted by violence need culturally specific programming that values diversity, understands racial inequalities, and develops services and supports to meet the unique needs of each community. Culturally specific services are among the many programs at-risk of significant cuts without the VOCA Bridge.

Fully funded and operational victim services programs are not just important to victims in the moments they face violence; they also help to prevent future violence by working to address its root causes. Violence prevention work is likely to be lost as programs maximize outside funding to fill in the gaps of direct service. In addition, without adequate supports in place to serve crime victims, there is a larger potential for long-term social and economic consequences. The Commonwealth as a whole suffers in this scenario and it will take years beyond the VOCA bridge commitment to repair.

As the Legislature considers the development of the state's annual budget for fiscal year 2025, I implore legislators to pass the VOCA Bridge and invest in the work of programs statewide that provide lifegiving resources and services to crime victims every day.

Liam Lowney is the executive director of the Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance (MOVA)

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Lawyers debate merits, legality of proposal for White Stadium

(Continued from page 1)

it wanted, but cautioned her decision could change everything. “There is no injunction today that enjoins the city to stop its process, but any contract you enter into prior to my decision – you do so at your own peril,” she said.

The 90-minute hearing sought to flesh out the “true meaning” of a 75-year-old will, the necessity of the pro team to get cleats on the ground by 2026 or face financial ruin, and even an obscure legislative action in the 1950s that may or may not have declared White Stadium a “school building and schoolyard.” All manner of minutiae were laid out before the court.

The hearing was the result of a lawsuit filed last month by the Emerald Necklace Conservancy (ENC) and 20 residents against the City of Boston, the George Robert White Fund Trustees, and Boston Unity Soccer Partners – the lead group on a proposed public-private renovation of the dilapidated city-owned stadium that would be shared by a women’s professional soccer team and Boston Public School (BPS) students.

Opposition to the matter has been forceful from residents surrounding the park and community members afraid of being displaced by the pro team. But it has strong support from Mayor Wu – who has listed it as a top priority of her administration.

In court, both sides made what seemed to be powerful arguments.

“White Stadium is in need of repair — no doubt — and has been for decades,” said the attorney Ed Colbert, for the ENC and other plaintiffs. “It’s indisputable... But what’s the urgency today and why wasn’t there any urgency back then? The stadium should have been repaired and it’s embarrassing it wasn’t, but there is no irreparable harm getting it right today.

It “can’t come later after the fact when demolition has already happened,” he added. “It will be too late and there would be no remedy.”

Colbert and a panel of two other attorneys made the case that the current project would be illegal based on the last will and testament of George Robert White, whose money bequeathed to the city allowed it to purchase the land and build the stadium in the 1940s. Colbert said that transferring the property’s use – in this case through a lease and renovation agreement – would violate White’s intentions.

“If this project were to go forward... and the transfer of the site is made to a for-profit pro sports team as the plan leads us to believe,” he contended “they will have violated the terms of the White Charitable Trust and it would no longer be for the exclusive use of Boston residents.”

The plaintiffs also cite their interpretation of the 1972 Public Lands Protection Act, or Article 97 in the Massachusetts Constitution – contending that the city and Boston Unity needs to go through a prescribed process, which would add a great deal of time that Boston Unity says is “onerous” and would result in “killing the project by delay.”

“It’s the law,” said Colbert. “There are lots of laws some people might find onerous or inconvenient, but it’s important not to lose any public lands or parks in our state.”

On the other side of the debate, the attorney Gary Ronan, of Goulston & Storrs, spent 45 minutes attempting to debunk those arguments and present the city’s evidence that neither the will, nor Article 97, applied to this situation.

“You heard from them that this stadium is going to be conveyed, or sold, or transferred to a for-profit entity,” he said. “That’s simply not happening... The question is whether the City of Boston can renovate its sports stadium that is in terrible shape... The City has a tremendous opportunity here to create a wonderful facility to be used by and benefit of the City of Boston students



Community members signed on to the lawsuit were present in great numbers on Wednesday in the courtroom, with former School Committeewoman Jean McGuire (second from left) taking in the action.

Pool photos by Jonathan Wiggs/Boston Globe



The attorney Ed Colbert argued the case in Suffolk Superior Court on Wednesday for the plaintiffs, the Emerald Necklace Conservancy, and 20 residents.

and used by the public... That is a public benefit.”

He also noted the property would remain under the ownership of Boston Public Schools, and under the auspices of the White Fund and that Boston Unity would only be leasing the property on very strict terms and would be contributing \$30 million to the \$80 million renovation project at its own risk.

“To talk about it as though they are taking away something from the public and student athletes is just inaccurate,” he said.

Ronan contends Article 97 does not apply because in the 1950s, the Legislature voted to grant a waiver to the 14 acres containing White Stadium, thus taking it out of Article 97 consideration and leaving the rest of Franklin Park under its protections.

“The state said the entire 14-acre site should be determined to be a school building and yard and shall be improved, altered, and expanded in the same manner as a school,” he said. “What is it not? It’s not an open park the residents of Boston have access to.”

Shortly after, he delivered a zinger to the court, saying all kinds of organizations lease property from the White Fund. “The ENC leases a building [the Curley House in Jamaica Plain] from the George Robert White Fund,” he exclaimed.

“I suppose they would argue they are doing a service with their non-profit work,” said Ellis. “Oh, I’m sure they would,” said Ronan with a smile. “There is no difference in the will between for-profit or not-for-profit... as long as the property is being used for the use and enjoyment of the residents of Boston.”

Outside in the hallway afterwards, parties clashed on different viewpoints and public relations professionals from both sides rushed to get their points of view in front of members of the media.

At one point, BPS Cross Country Coach Hatim Jean-Louis teed off on those suing the city and Boston Unity.

“Not anyone here looks like any of the kids in the district,” he said, exasperated. “It’s one side. Who spoke with the kids and what they need? Suing the city is hindering White Stadium and the

were gathered in the hall, and a yelling match ensued.

“I’m a BPS parent with multiple kids and I’m going to tell you something, they have \$50 million...,” said Caliga.

“I’m here to serve the kids,” said Jean-Louis.

“We’re trying to help the kids,” said another litigant.

“When?” exclaimed the coach.

“Now,” said Caliga.

“Where have you been the last 10 years?” asked Jean-Louis. “The city kids don’t know who you are.”

“I’m telling you, you are fighting the wrong people,” said Caliga.

The exchange was broken up by a court officer who came out to disperse the loud crowd because it was disturbing other courtrooms.

Dorchester’s Louis Elisa, who is a member of the project’s Impact Advisory Group (IAG) and a plaintiff in the lawsuit, said he didn’t think the city and Boston Unity were being forthcoming.

“Now more than ever the request for an injunction is necessary because it seems the proponents are not being realistic when they give times about the improvements and things taking place there,” he said. “They’re not thinking through what is going to happen for real. They said the only time they will use it is for four hours with set-up and break-down and I say they’re not being genuine.”

On the other hand, Caroline Foscatto, president of the Soccer Unity Project based in the South End, said, “I’m really excited about the opportunity to bring a professional women’s team back into the city to have our young women have representation and be able to have these role models right in their neighborhoods. It would really give BPS the state-of-the-art facility they’ve deserved for decades.”

future of Boston... The people making these decisions, do they look like BPS? I don’t see it.”

That comment drew the ire of Carla-Lisa Caligua and other community members attached to the lawsuit who

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St. Brendan's community holds successful \$10K fundraiser

By **SETH DANIEL**
NEWS EDITOR

The St. Brendan's Church and School community held a well-attended \$10K raffle fundraiser in Florian Hall last Friday night (March 8) – with entertainment and plenty of socializing to accompany the big raffle.

Beyond just having a good time, the event was meant to draw attention to the considerable progress the St. Brendan's Committee has made toward accomplishing the goals given to the community by the Archdiocese of Boston to keep the doors open.

St. Brendan's church had been set for closure – the onetime parish was merged with St. Ann's in Neponset and given the name St. Martin de Porres Parish – before parishioners launched a vigorous protest against the move, which resulted in Cardinal Sean O'Malley allowing the church to stay open if the community met three key goals, including improving attendance, increasing the offertory donations, and fundraising successfully.

Community leaders John O'Toole told the audience on Friday that

“we have made substantial progress towards our goals,” and Beth O'Toole Emery added, “Being here tonight is a great show of support for St. Brendan's. We want to stay open. We can stay open. We can definitely do this.”

John Parsons shared that he has fully restored the altar, and to raise funds, the committee is adding names of families and loved ones who donate to the cause.

“You'll see a lot of names of people being remembered,” he said, with others noting that Parsons himself has raised \$45,000 toward the effort.

Life-long parishioner Rosemary O'Brien, who was in the first class at St. Brendan's School, encouraged everyone to attend Mass regularly.

“Please keep up this effort and please keep coming to church,” she said. “The more you go, the more you will like it. God Bless.”

The night was graced with the talents of four students from the Connolly Academy of Irish Dance in Hanover, who performed their routines as the raffle got underway.



The St. Brendan's Committee gathered on Friday night with parishioners from the church. Front row, from left: Dottie Dunford, Rob Madden, and Jean Donovan. Back, Dottie O'Brien, John O'Toole, Beth O'Toole Emery, Frank Doyle, John Parsons, Lisa Zinck, and Patty McMahon. *Seth Daniel photos*



A group of parishioners from St. Brendan's Church gathered for last Friday's \$10K fundraiser. Committee Chair John O'Toole said new people and young people have invigorated the effort with new energy and new ideas.



Rob Madden and Jean Donovan.



Maura Doyle with Larry Feeney.



John O'Toole



Rosemary O'Brien



John Parsons



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LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE & FAMILY COURT SUFFOLK PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT 24 NEW CHARDON STREET BOSTON, MA 02114 617-788-8300

CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME
Docket No. SU23C0638CA
IN THE MATTER OF:
AALIYAH BRUNO

A Petition to Change Name of Minor has been filed by Aaliyah Bruno of Boston, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:
Aaliyah Bruno Ortega Ramirez

IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Suffolk Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of **03/27/2024**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 5, 2024
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate

Published: March 14, 2024

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Some 200 new citizens celebrate 'very happy day' at JFK library

BY VANESSA LEE
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER
About 200 people became US citizens during a naturalization ceremony at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum last Wednesday presided over by

US District Court Judge Myong Joun.

The featured speaker was Yvonne Garcia, chief of staff to State Street Chairman and CEO Ron O'Hanley.

"My parents immigrated from the Dominican Republic in 1961 looking to pursue the American dream. They did not speak English," Garcia said. "But one thing they did know was that they came to this great country to raise a family fueled by commitment, providing their children with the gift of an edu-

cation." Judge Joun, whose parents emigrated to the US from South Korea, shared similar sentiments. "My parents were tenant farmers who could not afford to pay for their children's education," Joun said. "So, they sold everything to buy plane tickets to come to this country."

Joun acknowledged that he was there as the federal judge because his parents were determined and courageous enough to move to the US. "On this special day, I wish that America becomes home to you and your family, and that you thrive and prosper here, just as my family did."

Delcio Carvalho, a native of Cape Verde who was sworn in as a citizen at the ceremony, said it



The scene inside Dorchester's JFK Library last Wednesday afternoon as a group of roughly 200 men and women celebrated their new citizenship status. *Vanessa Lee photo*

took him more than two years to obtain a green card and five more to earn citizenship. "It feels great," said Carvalho,

who is married to an American citizen. He waved his certificate with a smile. "Finally," he said. Among the hundreds

of people gathered in the Stephen Smith room were friends and family of new citizens, including Vanessa French, whose sister — a native of Honduras — became a citizen. "I'm super, super ex-

cited!" said French, noting that with her new citizenship, her sister will progress in her professional career as a Spanish teacher. "It's a very happy day," she said.

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Local Real Estate Transactions						
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21 Blanche St Nt	Hayes Jeanne M Est	21 Blanche St	Dorchester	02/21/24	476,000	
Kidane, Yared N	Houder, Cecilia	22 Whitman St	Dorchester	02/20/24	633,000	
Pujols, Bibiana M	Wynn Yvonne S Est	593 Walk Hill St	Mattapan	02/22/24	415,000	
Richards, Gem E	Vonncl Corp	15 Landor Rd	Mattapan	02/21/24	725,000	
Suppappanya, Chaynee	Dias, Matthew S	23 Cheverus Rd #2	Dorchester	02/23/24	500,000	
Fulton LLC	Ogunsanya, Festus	5 Sutton St #1A	Mattapan	02/23/24	115,000	
Silver, Amanda M	19-23 Clapp St LLC	19-23 Clapp St #8	Dorchester	02/21/24	859,000	
Yankauskas, Kellie	Ronan 953 LLC	9-11 Greenmount St #1	Dorchester	02/22/24	635,000	
Moriarty, Oisín	3-5 Bellflower St LLC	5 Bellflower St #2	Dorchester	02/23/24	775,000	
Nguyen, Ngochan T	Nguyen, Han N					
Barry, Emily A	Huynh, Thu					
Gebremedhin, Tirhas	Hayes, James A					
	Francis, Jaylah A					

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Uphams Corner listed on Register of Historic Places



This undated image, most likely taken in the early days of the 20th century, shows Columbia Road looking northeast with the Pierce Building in the background behind a streetcar.

Photo courtesy Dorchester Bay EDC

The National Park Service (NPS) designated the Uphams Corner neighborhood a historic district last week and listed it in the National Register of

Historic Places. The decision came after a series of meetings last year.

The neighborhood's cluster of late 19th and early 20th century com-

mercial and residential buildings – 24 in all – were deemed historically significant and worthy of preservation, as well as assets such as the Dorchester North Burying Ground. The buildings include the Strand Theatre, the S.B. Pierce Building, the Upham's Corner Market, the Comfort Station, and the Dorchester Savings Bank.

The buildings are constructed in architectural styles such as Gothic Revival, Panel Brick,

Renaissance Revival, Romanesque Revival, Colonial Revival, Mission Revival, and Art Deco. They are now eligible for certain funding incentives intended to encourage preservation.

After Dorchester was settled in 1630, development of the Uphams Corner commercial district began to accelerate fol-

lowing the 1897 expansion of Columbia Road, which allowed for travel by streetcar and connected Uphams Corner to most of Boston through the Emerald Necklace. Large commercial buildings such as the Pierce

Building, Dorchester Bay EDC's home and a historic keystone of the Uphams Corner business district, were created as the anchors of the neighborhood.

– REPORTER STAFF

LEGAL NOTICES

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate & Family Court 24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Docket No. SU24P0355EA
ESTATE OF: MARGARET MARY WALSH
DATE OF DEATH: 01/29/2024

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Barbara Walsh of Dorchester, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Barbara Walsh of Dorchester, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) 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.m. on the return day of 04/19/2024.

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 Representative and may petition the Court in 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: March 8, 2024
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate
Published: March 14, 2024

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate & Family Court 24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Docket No. SU24P0466EA
ESTATE OF: DONALD LEO CARROLL
DATE OF DEATH: 01/05/2024

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Diana C. Loschiavo of Dorchester, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Mark Loschiavo of Dorchester, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) 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.m. on the return day of 04/04/2024.

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 Representative and may petition the Court in 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: February 29, 2024
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate
Published: March 14, 2024

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT SUFFOLK PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT 24 NEW CHARDON STREET BOSTON, MA 02114
NOTICE AND ORDER: PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN OF A MINOR
Docket No. SU23P0683GD
IN THE INTERESTS OF SURVIVE UNIQUE SPEED OF Boston, MA MINOR

Notice to all Interested Parties
1. **Hearing Date/Time:** A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on 03/28/2023 by Quilda B. Monteiro of Boston, MA will be held 03/26/2024 09:00 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing

Located at 24 New Chardon St., Fourth Floor, Courtroom 2, Boston, MA 02114

2. **Response to Petition:** You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to: File the original with the Court; and Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. **Counsel for the Minor:** The Minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. **Counsel for Parents:** If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.

5. **Presence of the Minor at hearing:** A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.

THIS IS A LEGAL NOTICE: An important court proceeding that may affect your rights has been scheduled. If you do not understand this notice or other court papers, please contact an attorney for legal advice.
Date: February 9, 2024
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate
Published: March 14, 2024

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE & FAMILY COURT SUFFOLK DIVISION 24 NEW CHARDON STREET BOSTON, MA 02114
Docket No. SU24D0228DR
DIVORCE SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION and MAILING
CHERYL JONES vs. CLINTON JONES

To the Defendant:
The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown allow plaintiff to resume the former name of Cheryl Fletcher, prohibit defendant from imposing any restraint on plaintiff's personal liberty. The Complaint is on file at the Court. An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you 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: Cheryl Jones, 23 Owens St., Mattapan, MA 02126 your answer, if any, on or before 04/05/2024. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.
Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 21, 2024
Stephanie L. Everett, Esquire
Register of Probate
Published: March 14, 2024

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Councillors take up issue of city student practice schedule at Lewis Track Center

By Cassidy McNeeley
Reporter Correspondent

On Monday of this week, a hearing held by City Councillor Henry Santana's Committee on Education to take up the issue of how the city's student-athletes can reclaim priority time slots for practices at the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center in Roxbury attracted its sponsoring councillors, city officials, representatives of the Lewis Center, and Jackie Jenkins-Scott, interim president of Roxbury Community College, which operates the facility.

Missing in action: a representative from the Boston Public Schools (BPS) administration.

"You may sense I am frustrated. It's in no way [due] to the panelists in front of me," said Councillor-at large Erin Murphy, a co-sponsor of the hearing. "This is such an important conversation where we have a room full of colleagues who all found the time to be here." She added that she was hoping to talk with BPS athletics officials on how the city can find ways to be "more com-

mitted to our students."

As the hearing moved along, the focus moved back and forth between talk of the situation at the Lewis Center, the need for more venues for the city's track and field athletes, and the worn condition of the facility itself.

In December, the Reporter revealed that, among other examples, Dorchester's TechBoston Academy indoor track team had to conduct practices in its school's hallways and staircases and through its doors despite the fact that the 200-meter indoor Mondo Super X track at the "Reggie," the center's street name, was mere miles away.

When the center was built in 1995 as a state-wide facility, the city's schools were led to believe that practice and competition times would be a priority for the community first. Some 30 years later, that belief bears no relation to reality.

Jenkins-Scott explained that more than 17,000 public high school students compete at the center between November and March every year, which this year

means that the center has been hosting two meets a night, the first one kicking off at 4 p.m., the second at 7:30. "Serving all of our constituents effectively is certainly a balancing act and we are always open to hearing new ideas on how we can improve access and operations," she said.

The situation at the "Reggie" for BPS athletes is that their set-aside practice time is between 2 and 4 p.m., when they have to leave as state-wide competitions get underway.

Ted Loska, a longtime teacher and coach at BPS, with an emphasis on swimming and track, said that even though the center isn't booked until 4 p.m., he and his BPS track and field athletes are usually kicked out by 3:30 p.m. "This leaves out all the schools that don't get out at quarter of two and have to travel halfway across the city," he said. "There are potentially talented kids who come from TechBoston and a couple of other places that don't get out until 3:30.

"What I would like to see is a way to accommodate those athletes so

they can access a track where they can practice."

Sean Nyhan, a teacher at the Condon School and a track coach at Boston Latin School, agreed that timing is a key issue. Speaking via Zoom, he pointed to the fact that most teachers, himself included, are still in school at 2 p.m.

District 7's Tania Fernandes Anderson, a hearing co-sponsor with Murphy and District 6 Councillor Benjamin Weber, said she was eager to learn how the 13 councillors could help set

up the accommodations that Loska was asking for.

She suggested that the council could help alleviate the pressure the Lewis Center faces every day by asking proprietors of other training facilities in the city – the TRACK at New Balance as well as the facilities at Harvard and Boston University – what they are doing for the community.

Michael Turner, the executive director of the "Reggie" explained that since these other locations charge hundreds of dollars per hour in rent, high schools look to utilize the free state facility at the Lewis Center.

The Globe reported that Turner said he is working

to establish relationships with Boston's for-profit track centers to explore more opportunities for meeting state and city demands.

He also noted that with so many athletes and little funding, the "Reggie" has been unable to make much-needed renovations. He said the most crucial needs include replacing the roof and HVAC system, work that will require over \$20 million. He added "The track is on its last legs."

Said Jenkins-Scott, "This center is important to the whole state. Next year it will celebrate its 30th anniversary and there has been no major investment in it."

Council okays funding of 'cold storage' facility for food pantries

The City Council last week unanimously approved a measure in which the city would shift federal Covid relief money originally targeted to increasing the composting of garbage to leasing a 5,500-square-foot cold-storage facility to give food pantries and soup kitchens a central place to store refrigerated foods, including food "rescued" from restaurants and markets.

City Councillor Gabriela Coletta (East Boston, Charlestown, North End), said city officials realize they're not going to be able to build out the extra composting systems to handle more garbage before the federal grant runs out in 2026.

In contrast, she said, the city has a chance now to lease a large cold-storage facility that Amazon is giving up on Northampton Street to solve a problem getting meat and vegetables to residents who need them: Food pantries and organizations such as ABCD and the YMCA, which distribute food to people who may not be getting enough to eat, sometimes face delays in deliveries of refrigerated food for redistribution, which means they might not have the food in time for their once-weekly - or even less frequent - distribution days.

With their own central food repository, though, the groups that run the programs could be assured they could pick up food they were promised on time for the days they are open.

"This is huge, this is transformative," Coletta said, calling on her colleagues to pass a measure approving the

change in the use of the \$2.5 million immediately, so that the city can sign a lease before the landlord rents the space to somebody else.

Proposals typically go to a council committee for study first, but Councillor Tania Fernandes Anderson (Roxbury) said there was just no time for that, because the cold-storage space might otherwise not only be rented to somebody else, but also have the refrigeration system dismantled.

City Councilor Ed Flynn (South Boston, South End, Chinatown, Downtown), who has tried to put the brakes on such suspension of normal council rules, at least for measures he doesn't support, said that he supported immediate passage of this measure.

Flynn recalled the generations of problems Irish immigrants had because of their own lack of food security after the Great Famine of the 1840s and said he agreed residents deserve good nutrition. He said in addition to remembering the Irish, he has seen residents in his district, in particular in Chinatown, "who go without nutritional meals because they don't have the money."

– REPORTER STAFF

BPDA hearing to discuss 'zero-net carbon' zoning

The Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) and Boston's Environment Department will host a virtual discussion on Zoom regarding the recently unveiled draft proposal for zero net carbon zoning on Wed., March 20, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Throughout the meeting, the city-led team will present an overview of the draft proposal, inviting participants to pose questions and offer comments.

The Wu administration has committed to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. As a first step, officials have craft-

ed a zoning amendment to enhance and propel the city's efforts toward decarbonization goals by mandating zero net carbon emissions for new construction projects under large project, Article 80 review.

This includes reinforcing reporting on embodied carbon, streamlining the green building review process, and reducing redundancies with citywide environmental policies.

To attend the virtual public meeting, visit the 2024 Zero Net Carbon Zoning webpage to access the Zoom link: bit.ly/48B6Xhh.

– VANESSA LEE



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Warren and Markey keep pressure on Steward as possible suitor emerges

By ALISON KUNITZ
STATE HOUSE
NEWS SERVICE

Southcoast Health announced last Friday that it is considering buying a Fall River hospital owned by financially floundering Steward Health Care, with the goal of preserving care for patients and preventing the facility from potentially closing. Steward also owns Dorchester's Carney Hospital.

CEO David McCready said his organization has a "strong interest" in acquiring St. Anne's Hospital.

"St. Anne's patients and employees are part of our community; they are our family members, friends, and neighbors," McCready said in a community message Friday, which was posted on the not-for-profit health care system's website. He said his company's message to Steward is: "The best

option for St. Anne's Hospital, its patients, its employees, and our community, is for St. Anne's to join the Southcoast Health family."

In a separate letter concerning Steward, US Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey on Friday demanded that CEO Ralph de la Torre explain "years of mismanagement, private equity schemes, and executive profiteering" at the for-profit company

he leads.

The senators wrote that Steward has hundreds of millions of dollars in debt, "raising questions about unpaid vendors, patient care, and job losses for front-line health care workers, while creating ongoing uncertainty about whether hospitals will close, and if not, how they will be restructured."

"You are attempting to make a last-minute deal for your remaining assets

that would let you walk away, while leaving Gov. Healey and the Executive Office of Health and Human Services to scramble for a solution to preserve care," the senators wrote to Steward's CEO.

Southcoast Health operates three hospitals in Massachusetts, including Charlton Memorial Hospital in Fall River, St. Luke's Hospital in New Bedford, and Tobey Hospital in Wareham. The system's next step is to conduct "thorough due diligence" to determine whether any type of acquisition with Steward

is feasible, McCready wrote.

A Steward spokesperson, asked if the company was also interested in the transaction, did not directly address a deal for St. Anne's Hospital.

"Steward Health Care is working with state officials and others to transition ownership of the Massachusetts hospitals in a way that everyone agrees is best for patients, our employees, and the Commonwealth," the spokesperson said in a statement to the News Service.

Celebrate Women's History Month and Honor Trailblazing Women

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Pressley re-appointed to House Oversight panel

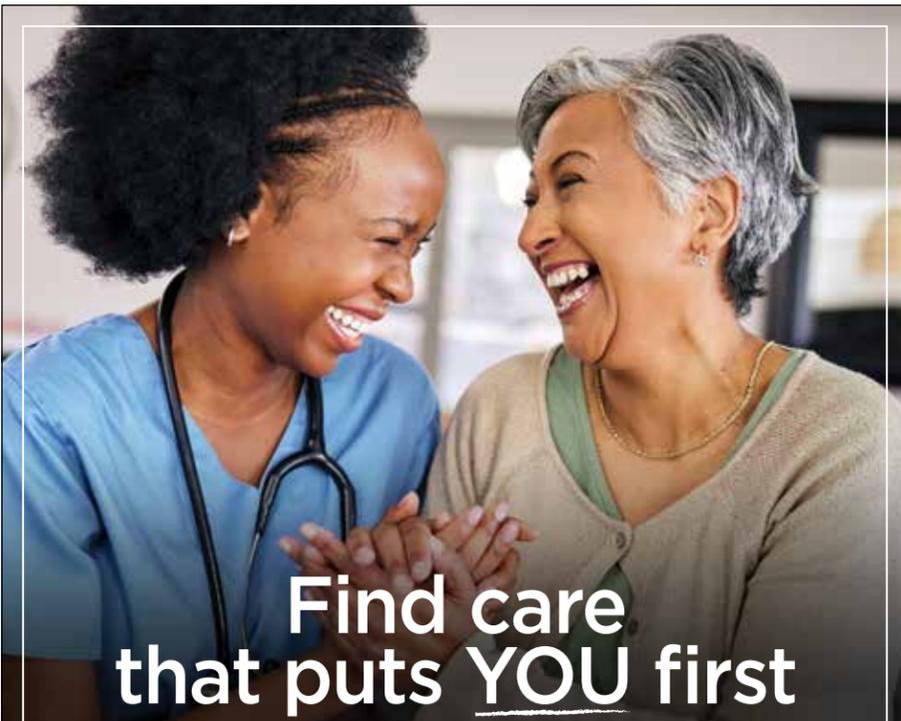
US Rep. Ayanna Pressley has been reappointed to the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability for the 118th Congress, where she will serve on the Subcommittees on Health Care and Financial Services and Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Government Innovation.

"The House Oversight Committee has historically been a venue for making sure government works for the people, and we made history in the 116th and 117th Congresses taking

on critical issues like childhood trauma, abortion access, voting rights, Medicare for All, and more," said Pressley.

"With this chaotic Republican majority using the Committee to pursue sham impeachment inquiries and play political games, I look forward to continuing my work on House Oversight, under the leadership of Ranking Member Jamie Raskin, to center the people and spotlight the issues that folks in the Massachusetts 7th care about."

- REPORTER STAFF



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BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF DORCHESTER



BGCD Members Go Cross-Country Skiing for February Outing with Elevate Youth: See details below.

CONNECT THE DOT:
BGCD Members Go Cross-Country Skiing for February Outing with Elevate Youth: For the month of February, Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester's outing with the Elevate Youth team was to the Weston Ski Track to try Cross-Country Skiing. Our members received all of the equipment and lessons prior to heading out and trying the sport. The participating members had a great time learning these new skills! Elevate Youth's mission is to empower youth to explore the outdoors alongside mentors, sharing awe and the richness of our natural world. Thanks to our friends from Elevate Youth for providing these monthly outings. For the month of March we're excited for a group to travel to Drumlin Farm for more fun outdoor adventures. For more information about partnerships at BGCD, please contact Mike Joyce at mjoyce@bgcdorchester.org.

FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE:
BGCD Dance Program Hosts Winter Dance Recital for Members & Families: This past week, Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester's Dance Program held a Recital for parents, members and friends to showcase the routines each class had been working on during the current winter session. The Recital was well attended with over 120 guests in the crowd and 65 members performing. Congratulations to all the BGCD Dancers who performed at the Recital - your hard work showed through every dance! Under Social Recreation Director, Shannon Zarnoch, the following classes were offered during winter session: Hip-Hop Dance, Intro to Dance, Contemporary Dance, Jazz and the Dance Team. Classes will return this Spring starting March 18th. For more information on Dance at BGCD, please contact Shannon Zarnoch at szarnoch@bgcdorchester.org.



BGCD Dance Program Hosts Winter Dance Recital for Members & Families: See details below.

DID YOU KNOW:
BGCD Keystone Members Create Jared Boxes for Boston Medical Center: Recently, 14 members of Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester's Keystone Club came together to help create 75 "Jared Boxes" for children entering long-term care at Boston Medical Center. A Jared Box is a plastic shoe-sized storage box filled with small gifts, toys, games, crayons, coloring books, and fun activities. Each box contains items selected for a specific age and gender. The boxes are given to children in the hospital to provide a special, fun diversion.

Upcoming events for the Keystone Club include assisting with the Challenger Sports program and hosting a Boston Marathon waterstop. For information on the Keystone Club, please contact Teen Director Declan Hall at dhall@bgcdorchester.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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Dennis Lehane confronts ‘this deep rage inside me’

(Continued from page 1)

So, the book just flowed right out of me. It came out in six months and was the most pleasant writing experience I’ve had in probably thirty years. Which is weird, because, if you read the book, it’s pretty dark.”

“Small Mercies” is disturbing on multiple fronts. Its protagonist, Mary Pat Fennessy, is a single mother in a South Boston public housing development whose daughter, Jules, is about to start her senior year at South Boston High School, the epicenter of the clash over what the neighborhood calls “busing.” The night before the first day of school, Jules goes out with friends and never returns home. What people who knew what happened try to cover up is that she was murdered by a neighborhood gangster, in a criminal act meant to cover up something else.

On yet another front, Mary Pat learns that a Black coworker, Calliope Williamson, has lost a son who was killed in a racist attack near the border of South Boston and Dorchester, at what was then known as Columbia Station. In her first reaction to the attack, when seeing it reported in a newspaper, Mary Pat is quick to blame the son, Augustus “Augie” Williamson, for either dealing drugs or, at best, disregarding common sense about Boston’s racial boundaries after dark. What she doesn’t know at this point is that the attackers were Jules and her friends. What would take longer to sort out is how her daughter’s role was more conflicted.

As the story develops, so does Mary Pat’s thinking. At the beginning, she’s ready to demonstrate against “busing.” She’s at home with norms of racial distancing and hostility to more privileged outsiders who look down on her neighborhood. “As a project rat herself,” Lehane wrote, “Mary Pat knows all too well what happens when the suspicion that you aren’t good enough gets desperately rebuilt into the conviction that the rest of the world is wrong about you. And if they’re wrong about you, then they’re probably wrong about everything else.” In other words: She’s an outsider who thinks of herself as an insider.

When people in the neighborhood, including her own sister, close ranks in a code of silence about what happened to her daughter, Mary Pat realizes that she’s an outsider even in her “hometown.” The social contract of Southie pride and reciprocal loyalty is revealed as a cover for one more power structure, refined by privilege but enforced by violence.

Starting as a detective in search of straight answers, while distrusting neighbors and police, Mary Pat becomes an avenger of gathering force. Early on, at a bar, confronting a friend of her daughter who lied about what happened, she breaks his nose and piles on with a flurry of punches. If she’s part of a social construct, she’s also a human agent or, as Lehane put it, a composite of “fearsome women” from projects and three-deckers he remembered from when he was growing up.

“The image that I got that led me to start the book was I saw a woman beating the... out of a 19-year-old man in a bar,” said Lehane. “And I thought, ‘I like this lady. She’s cool!’”

Many books have been written about Boston’s racial divisions and the upheaval associated with the term “busing.” Among the most direct accounts is the acclaimed memoir “All Souls” by Michael Patrick MacDonald, who grew up in South Boston’s Old Colony public housing development. The book is a requiem for lives destroyed or derailed by turmoil in the schools, predatory gangsters, and drugs, but also a testimony to the long reach of trauma.

A son of Irish immigrants who was nine years old in 1974, Lehane grew up in a Victorian house in an area known to many of his neighbors as St. Margaret’s Parish. If that was a far cry from public housing in South Boston, it was still part of a whole city in



A scene of confrontation over busing in South Boston in the fall of 1974.

the grip of intense racial acrimony that sometimes erupted in acts of violence—even into the 1980s.

“I had always had this anger in me that I could never understand, because it didn’t fit with biography,” Lehane confessed. “My parents were great. I grew up well, loved. I was not abused in any way by anybody. Yet there was this – I had this hair-trigger temper, and it wasn’t just an Irish temper. It was like this deep rage inside of me. And, in writing this book, it all came out. It all came out.”

“And I understood it, finally. I was a very off nine year old, because I was like, ‘How dare you take my childhood?’ Because that’s what I feel like the summer of ‘74 did to you, when you’re walking around on the streets and you see KKK in Boston – believe me, and I did. Or you see, ‘Kill all the n-words in Boston,’ or you see people throwing rocks at buses with children in them. You can’t be a kid. You can’t. It stops. It stops right there.”

Though many of Lehane’s books have Boston settings—or something recognizably similar – he said that “Small Mercies” had a kinship with his first novel, “A Drink Before the War,” published in 1994, just a few years after Boston’s spike in youth violence. Even in the earlier book, Lehane plots neighborhood boundaries, whether physical, mental, racial, and economic, or between those with connections and those without. Here’s Lehane on a racial divide at close range, as applied by a white Dorchester detective, Patrick Kenzie, to himself and the Black cleaning woman, Jenna Angeline, whom he has been hired to locate after she mysteriously disappears:

“In my Dorchester, you stay because of community and tradition, because you’ve built a comfortable, if

somewhat poor existence where little ever changes. A hamlet. “In Jenna Angeline’s Dorchester, you stay because you don’t have any choice.”

A more nuanced view might also see a white Dorchester where connections are frayed, or a Black Dorchester that’s nurtured by choice. More important for Lehane is how a sense of boundaries can trump geography, for example, by writing off violence as a “Roxbury” thing. As Kenzie reflects, “Black Dorchester gives up its young on a pretty regular basis, too, and those in White Dorchester refuse to call it anything but the ‘Bury. Somebody just forgot to change it on the maps.”

As demographics change, fudging the map keeps “outsiders” at a distance, closing ranks in a hamlet where everybody knows your name – fortifying the status of being an insider. There’s only one more step to the distinction between perception and profiling, as unapologetically exemplified by one of Kenzie’s white friends: “When I drive through my neighborhood, I see poor, but I don’t see poverty.”

In the author talk, Lehane also brought the discourse on boundaries closer to home, within his own family.

“My father was against busing. My father was also against racism. That was a paradox that I think got swept away, and so, if you were against busing, you were clearly a racist,” he explained. “My father wasn’t against busing because he didn’t want his kids to mingle or to have African Americans in his neighborhood. We had African Americans in my neighborhood, but he was against busing because it was one more time that the powers that be came in and told the poor neighborhoods how life was going to be. And he remembered when you could see the ocean in Dorchester. And I grew up, going, ‘There’s an ocean?’ Because they dropped 93 right in. They didn’t drop 93 through Newton.”

Lehane acknowledged there were some in the neighborhood whose racial antagonism was less filtered or conditional. He also admitted that the father he admired for preaching equality could express anxiety about racial change in the neighborhood’s housing—that is, while blaming racist attitudes of other whites for hurting his property value. For a boy, as Lehane put it, the mixed messages were “very confusing,” but also a cue to proceed with caution, almost as an outsider blending with insiders.

“To be nine years old and surrounded by everybody in your tribe who thinks this is fine, yeah, your tribe, pretty much everybody you hang out with, all the houses you go visit. Not all of them, but a lot of them,” he explained. “And, so, you feel like a spy from the very beginning.”

Eight years later, in 1982, and one parish away, a Black man, William F. Atkinson, was killed after being chased into Savin Hill Station by a group of white attackers who were just a few years older than Lehane. Many white residents in Dorchester,



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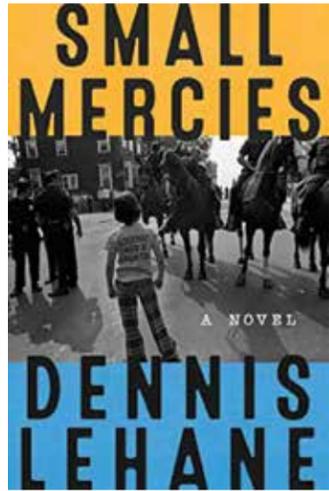
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including some in the Savin Hill neighborhood, were quick to publicly denounce the attack. Others tried to shield the attackers or bring up crimes against whites in Black neighborhoods. Lehane recalled a similar pattern.

“The thing that I remember – oh God – I remember this throughout my childhood,” he said, “was the ‘what-about-this?’ Constantly, you would say they’re throwing rocks at buses. ‘Well, what about that girl who was stabbed in Roxbury the other day?’ Right? But they’re throwing rocks at buses! ‘But what about...’ It was constant. It was a constant way to deflect, deflect, deflect.”



The violence at Savin Hill Station has its fictional counterpart in “Small Mercies,” with the attack on Augustus Williamson at Columbia Station. When Mary Pat goes to his funeral and tries to express condolences to his family, the attempted reconciliation misfires. Instead of a fellow survivor bonding in sympathy, she’s viewed as part of the problem. Up to this point, she doesn’t get it, still hemmed in by her inverted sense

of exclusion, cloaked as tribal solidarity—a mindset that caused her last husband to walk out on her.

“She’s in complete denial,” said Lehane. “The journey of the book is so that, by the end of the book, she understands exactly what he means. She has to come to terms with who she is.” She also illustrates what James Baldwin meant in his 1962 essay about the need for writing to engage with disturbing particulars: “Not everything that is faced can be changed. But nothing can be changed until it is faced.”

Fifty years after 1974, Lehane sees Boston’s desegregation remedies as flawed by planners and constrained by a US Supreme Court decision that ruled out any extension of mandatory busing to schools in the suburbs. And he does not see much progress toward quality education in the Boston schools. But he also maintained that the level of antagonism to desegregation in South Boston would have been the same in any other white community.

“Busing,” he said, “taught me this – not busing, but the reaction of busing: It is always in the best interest of the ruling class to keep the working class fighting amongst itself. I believe that to my heart and soul. One of the easiest ways to divide people is along racial lines.”

Lehane also knows that the divisions in Boston, whether in race or class, go back more than a century. That was the source of tension in another of his novels, “The Given Day,” which was set in 1919. It was a year marked by racism, xenophobia, low wages, labor unrest, terrorist actions, government crackdowns, the Boston police strike – and a deadly pandemic.

One of the main characters in the book, Danny Coughlin, is a second-generation police officer forced by the escalating labor conflict to know which side he’s on. He’s hardly an underdog in public housing and, in the early chapters, he mentally pledges allegiance to some idea of common good: “It was tied up in duty, and it assumed a tacit understanding of all the things about it that need never be spoken aloud. It was, purely of necessity, conciliatory to the Brahmins on the outside while remaining anti-Protestant on the inside. It was anticolored, for it was taken as a given that the Irish, for all their struggles and all those still to come, were Northern European and undeniably white, white as last night’s moon, and the idea had never been to seat every race at the table...”

Like Mary Pat early on, Coughlin, at this stage, is an outsider mentally positioned as an insider. But, for all the flux and shifting perspectives among his characters, Lehane described his own compass as anchored somewhere else.

“I can only write from the outside looking in,” he said. “That’s what I understand of the world. I was always an outsider. If you grow up working-class, you’re an outsider. If you grow up and people treat you differently when they hear where you’re from, that’s not nearly as bad as being treated differently because of the color of your skin, but you notice it.”

Amid the 21st century pandemic, Lehane finds his way to Mary Pat, following the path of his rage and writing a book that he described as an “exorcism.” Like Walter Benjamin’s “Angel of History,” he looks back and surveys the wreckage, just as he did with the smoldering prologue in “A Drink Before the War,” haunted in the 1990s by the late 1960s and early 1970s. Decades later, basking in enthusiasm for his work in television—including a possible adaptation of “Small Mercies” – he said the book could very well be his last, or at least the last to meet a publisher’s deadline.

“This book came from a place that my first book came from, which is that it came from a very pure place. It just flowed out of me,” he said. “And I wrote it because I needed to write it. And I thought that was wonderful. And the moment I finished it, and I turned it in, I was out of contract all over the world. And I thought: I’m good with this. And if I write another book again, it’ll be because it comes from the exact same place.”

Rep. Lynch secures funds for Southie’s McGonagle center

A new community center in South Boston’s Mary Ellen McCormack housing development will be named after the late William “Billy” Mc-

\$12.2 million.

“It is also entirely fitting and heartwarming that this new facility will be forever associated with William “Billy” McGonagle to honor his memory and to acknowledge the wonderful work he did throughout his life on behalf of families living in public housing across the City of Boston,” said Lynch.

McGonagle, who started his career as a janitor at the BHA and rose through the ranks to lead the agency for ten years, died in 2019 at age 67.

Other local projects that Lynch secured money for include \$1 million for the repair work at the North Jetty in Boston Harbor and \$500,000 for “improvements to Camp Harborview located on the Boston Harbor Islands,” which offers year-round, affordable youth development programs for over 1,000 Boston teens and their families, Lynch noted in a statement.



William McGonagle
Late BHA chief
WBUR photo

Gonagle, who led the Boston Housing Authority (BHA) under Mayors Menino and Walsh.

On Tuesday, US Rep. Stephen F. Lynch announced that he had secured \$850,000 in federal funds for the community center, which Lynch said was among 12 priority “community projects” in his district that received appropriations totaling

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Bid Documents, Specifications, and other pertinent information obtained March 13, 2024, at 5:00 PM on COMMBUYS Bid BD-24-1206-40000-40000-99538. Bids are submitted on the form(s) provided and/or stipulated in the Request for Proposal (RFP#44-24). Pre-bid Teams virtual meeting 03/20/2024, 11:00 AM to attend send email to jdellala@mbta.com prior to meeting. Bid Opening scheduled for April 9, 2024, 2:00 PM on COMMBUYS. Initial bid opening posted on COMMBUYS.

The Authority reserves the right to reject any or all Bids, or any part thereof.

RECENT OBITUARIES



AZAR, Mark A., 62, originally from Dorchester, long time resident of Quincy. Son of the late Acad "Archie" Azar and Beatrice Pearl (Stevenson) Azar. Former 19 year employee of FedEx, followed by 22 years with Eversource. Husband of Josephine (Borkowski) Azar. Brother of Frederick Azar and his wife Dottie of Easton, Janet Pino and her husband John of Florida, Stephen Azar of Quincy, Robert Azar and his wife Terri-Lyn of Wrentham, Stella Hooley and her husband John of Carver, Carol Webber and her husband Stephen of Westford, Thomas Azar and his wife Julie of Whitman, William Azar and his wife Laura of Florida, Marianne Goodnight and her husband Dr. James Goodnight of New Jersey, and Laura 'LuLu' Azar of Quincy. Brother-in-law of Anne Marie Cook and her husband Joseph of Weymouth, John Borkowski and his wife Brigitte of Quincy, Charles Borkowski and his wife Christina of Weymouth, DeeDee Queeney and her husband Jerry of Dorchester, and Edward Borkowski of Wrentham. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews, extended family members and friends. Memorial contributions may

be sent in Mark's name to Massachusetts Fallen Heroes by visiting mass-fallenheroes.org



BRADLEY, John E., 88, of Boston, formerly of Dorchester. Son of Lillian Lomasney Bradley and John F. Bradley. From a very early age, John worked as a Capital Police Officer in the House of Representatives in Washington, DC, while he went to law school. He was a member of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts and served as Captain from 2007 to 2008. He was a founding partner of the law firm Bradley, Barry and Tarrow, PC, headquartered in Boston and remained an active board member of the Dorchester Boys and Girls Club. Kindly make a memorial donation in John's name to The Marr Boys & Girls Club of Dorchester, 35 Deer St., Dorchester, MA 02125.

CONROY, Gail M. (Agnew), 83, of Milton, formerly of Dorchester. Wife of the late John F. "Jack" Conroy. Sister of Carole Rourke and her late husband Gerald of North Carolina, James "Jay" Agnew and his wife Pauline of Peabody, and the late Doreen Evans. Sister-in-law of Leo Evans, Sr. Mary Con-

roy SCH, Sr. Catherine Conroy SCH, Sr. Lillian Conroy SCH, Rev. Francis X. Conroy, Frederick Conroy, Margaret Conroy, and the late Thomas Conroy. Gail is also survived by many nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews. Gail had a nursing career in child psychology and behavior. Consider a donation to Paralyzed Veterans of America New England Chapter at newenglandpva.org, or a charity of your choice.



COSTELLO, James "Jimmy" Kevin, 54, of Hingham, formerly of Dorchester. He worked as a manager for the MBTA Ride. Jimmy is survived by his mother Arlene (Murphy) Costello and the late Jim Costello of Hingham. He is also survived by his sister Kris Costello and her wife Deb Malcolm of Seattle, Washington, his sister Susan Costello of Quincy, and his sister Patricia Cotter and her husband Donny Cotter of Foxboro. Donations in Jimmy's memory may be made to the Spinal Cord Society, 19051 Country Highway, Fergus Falls, MN, 56537-7609, or at scsus.org.



CRONIN, Claire M. (Christian), 81, of Dorchester formerly of South Boston. Wife of the late John F. Cronin. Mother of Nicole and her husband Matthew Feroli of Quincy, and Tracy Cronin of Dorchester. Daughter of the late Henry and Dorothy (Johnson) Cronin. Sister of Retired Boston Fire Commissioner Paul A. Christian and his wife Kathleen of South Boston, and Edward B. Christian and his late wife Jean of Florida. Sister-in-law of Barbara and her husband Harley Ostis of Stoughton, and Sabino DePascale of Dorchester. "Nina" of 4. She was past vice-president of St. William's Catholic Women's Guild and member of the Castle Island Association. Donations in Claire's memory may be made to Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center at giving.massgeneral.org, or please call an old friend, extend a smile and kindness to

a stranger, and let your family know how much you love them.



DiFONSO, Ida (Di-Mascio), 99, of Holbrook, formerly of Dorchester and Italy. Daughter of the late Domenico and Concetta (DiCenso) DiMascio. Ida was the wife of the late Panfilo DiFonzo. Mother to Del DiFonzo and his wife, Elaine of Abington, Connie DiFonzo and the late Flora DiFonzo. Ida was predeceased by her siblings, Altomino DiMascio, Gino DiMascio and Anna Tontodonato. Grandmother to 2; and great-grandmother of 2. She also leaves several nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made in her name to the American Heart Association, 93 Worcester St., Wellesley, MA 02481.



GRABOWSKI, Mary J. (Packowski), 95, of Dorchester. Wife of the late Henry J. Grabowski. Mother of Elaine M. Grabowski of Pembroke and the late Robert M. Grabowski. Grandmother of 4. Great-grandmother of 11. Sister of Jenny and her husband, Alfred "Buddy" Johnson of Weymouth and the late Joseph Packowski and his wife, Helen of Beverly.



HANKINS, Marion (Daniels), 89, of Dorchester originally of Sharon, PA. Daughter to the late William and Margaret Daniels. Marion was employed at Tufts University HNRCA as a Budget Administrator/Operational Coordinator for 42 years until her passing. Wife of the late Irvin Hankins. Mother of 4: Steven (deceased), Donna (deceased), Brian and Pamela. She leaves behind two children, Brian Hankins (Renee) and Pamela Swain (Victor); her brother Sanford Daniels (Martha); 9 grandchildren; several great-grandchildren,

brother and sisters-in-law, niece and nephews, cousins and a host of other friends.



KENNEY, Therese M. "Terry" (Baronie), 98, of Quincy, formerly of Dorchester. Wife of the late Edmund J. Kenney. Mother of Paul and his wife Carol Kenney of Milton, Robert and his wife Annette Kenney of Naperville, Illinois, Kathleen and her husband Michael Ryan of Amesbury, and Terry and her husband Albie Saccoch of Quincy. Sister of the late Molly Shine, Kay Shine, Frank Baronie, and Buddy Baronie. "Grammy" of 8. Great-Grammy of 3. Terry was a longtime cafeteria employee for the Boston Public Schools, and after retirement, worked as a cafeteria manager at B.C. High. Donations in Terry's memory may be made to VNA Hospice & Palliative Care at vnacare.org.



MULLEN, Patrick of Dorchester. Son of the late Paul and Ann Mullen of Dorchester. Brother of Neal Mullen and his wife, Eileen of Kingston, Julie Cacciatore and her husband, Steven of Whitman, Paula Mullen Vraibel and her husband, Robert of Dorchester, Leslie Connolly and her husband, James of Quincy, Daniel Mullen and his wife, Cheryl of Braintree. Pat is also survived by many nieces, nephews and dear friends. Donations may be made in Pat's name to baycovehumanservices.org/donate

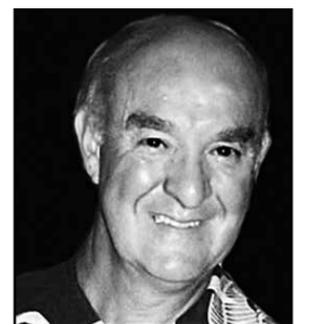


O'DONNELL, Julia "Sheila" (Lovett), 96, of Milton, originally from Dorchester. Daughter to the late Patrick and Julia (Sullivan) Lovett. Wife of the late Leo O'Donnell. Mother of Ellen O'Donnell of Kingston, Mary Montanari and her husband Bill of Carver, Sheila Scherer

and her husband Kevin of Dorchester, Ann Hart and her husband Tom of Walpole, Leo O'Donnell and his wife Jen of Kingston, and Stephen O'Donnell and his husband Emanuele Gilioli of Stoughton. Sheila leaves her sisters, Joan Lovett, and Ann Laflamme, and her sister-in-law Rita Lovett. She was preceded in death by her siblings Thomas Lovett and wife Rita; Mary Phelan and husband Arthur; Eileen Lebossiere and husband Louie; Margaret Losi and husband Joe; Charles Lovett and wife Carol; Daniel Lovett and brother-in-law Jerry Laflamme. Nana to 7. Great grandmother to 3. Sheila was also predeceased by her in-laws Charles O'Donnell and wife Lillian, Eugene O'Donnell and wife Mary, Sister Helen O'Donnell CSJ, Marion O'Donnell, and Mary Carey. She also leaves many nieces, nephews, and cousins.



PERRUZZI, Constance L. "Connie" (Cogliano), 97, of Dorchester. Wife of the late Daniel P. Perruzzi, Sr. Mother of Nancy R. McFeeley and her husband John of Norwood, Daniel P. Perruzzi, Jr. and his wife Gayle of Weymouth and Christopher A. Perruzzi and his wife Olivia of Newton. Grandmother of 5. Great-grandmother of 3. Connie is also survived by many nieces, nephews, extended family, and friends. Donations in Connie's memory may be made to The Carmelite Monastery, 61 Mount Pleasant Avenue, Roxbury, MA 02119.



WEITZ, Paul, 77, of Falmouth and Canton, originally from Dorchester. US Marine Corps veteran. Survived by wife, Susan (Peffer) Weitz; children, Jerry Weitz, Jonathan and Erin Weitz; 3 grandchildren; sisters, Susan Sellon and her husband, Raymond and Sheryl Hopper. Many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews. Paul was predeceased by his brother, Jerry Weitz; and parents, Wally and Gloria Weitz.



Cedar Grove Cemetery

A quiet place on the banks of the Neponset River

Contact the office for information on the cost of burial needs, memorial benches and memorial trees. The Cemetery office is open Monday - Friday 8:00 to 5:00, and Saturday 8:00 to noon. The Cemetery grounds are open year round 7:00 am to sunset - weather permitting.

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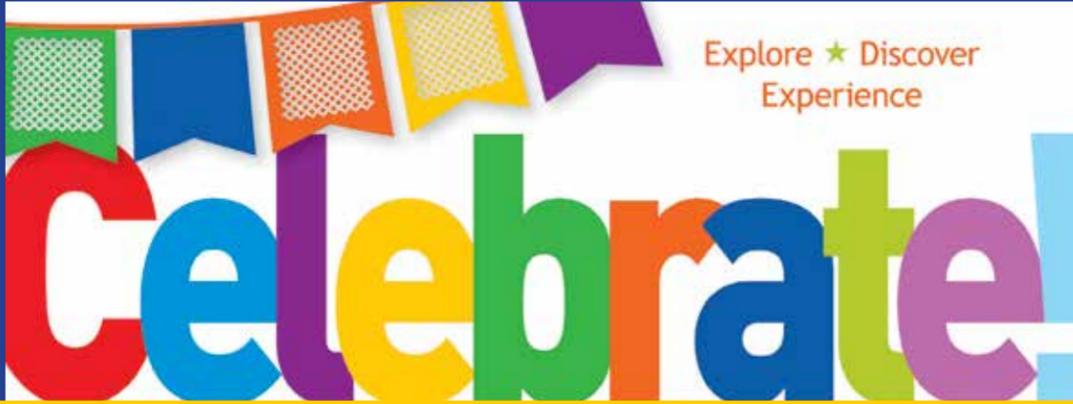
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Greene-O'Leary School of Irish Dance

Saturday, March 16, 2024

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m

St. Patrick's Day

Come enjoy a celebration of St. Patrick's Day. Exuberant dancers demonstrate athleticism, skill, and poise while presenting traditional and contemporary styles of Irish dance.



Save the Dates!



Bright Star Touring Theatre

Little Red and the Big Bully Wolf

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

The woods are scary enough without having to worry about a big bully howling in the shadows! Follow Little Red and meet her friends — the three little pigs, the Gingerbread Man, and more — as they learn to face their fears and stand up to the Big Bully Wolf. Learn to identify, report, and resist bullying as we follow Little Red on her journey to grandma's house. Funny, dramatic, and highly entertaining!



Gund Kwok

Come Dance with Chinese Lions

Saturday, May 4, 2024

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Bring the whole family to marvel at Boston's Gund Kwok, the only all-women lion dance troupe in the US. Using strong but light materials like bamboo and papier-mâché, the detailed costumes with beautifully choreographed movements empower Asian women to show their creativity, power, and strength through centuries-old Lion Dances and dynamic drumming!



Benkadi Drum and Dance

Saturday, June 15, 2024

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Juneteenth

The multicultural Benkadi Drum and Dance group returns to perform new dances showcasing traditional West African rhythms and movements. With vivid costumes, interpretive dance, and audience participation, join us in honor of Juneteenth!

Register: The *Celebrate!* series is appropriate for family audiences and children ages 5 and up. In order to optimize your comfort and enjoyment, reservations are recommended for all visitors to this free program. Visit JFKLibrary.org/celebrate or call 617-514-1644 or email JFK.celebrate@nara.gov to make a reservation. Children are seated on the floor with their caretakers. Space is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

With generous support from the Martin Richard Foundation and the Mass Cultural Council.



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