

Dorchester Reporter

"The News and Values Around the Neighborhood"

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50¢



Old Reliable
The '40s PCC car

T moving ahead on trolley line upgrade

BY BILL FORRY
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

It's moving at a slower pace than some would like, but preparations for retrofitting the MBTA's "Hi-Speed" trolley line that links Mattapan and Ashmont via Milton continue to advance this month with engineers seeking permits to drill dozens of "exploratory borings" along the 2.6-mile-long right of way in Boston and Milton this year.

T officials say the work is directly linked to its plan to eventually replace the existing fleet of 1940s-era

Presidential Conference Committee (PCC) cars with newer "Type 9" light rail vehicles currently in service on the Green Line. The heavier Green Line-style vehicles, which will double the passenger capacity on the Red Line extension, require reinforced infrastructure along the trolley's right of way.

In a letter sent to the Boston Conservation Commission on Feb. 20 in reference to 2 of the 42 borings planned by its contractors, the MBTA's director of Environmental Review and Permitting, Tess Pagan-

(Continued on page 12)



Green Line model
"Type 9" light rail



John Parsons, who attends St. Brendan's church, volunteers his time to hand-paint donor names on its walls, one of many ways that a committee is raising the funds needed to keep the worship space open.
Cassidy McNeeley photo

The goal: Keep St. Brendan's open

July deadline set for its fate

BY CASSIDY MCNEELEY
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

A grassroots effort to support St. Brendan Church has gained momentum in recent months, as volunteers have channeled their hours, their skilled labor, and their dollars into an all-volunteer effort to keep the Gallivan Boulevard worship space open and busy.

Most recently, the Friends of Saint Brendan group held a drawing on March 8 that drew hundreds of people and raised an estimated \$30,000. But much more needs to be done to convince the leaders of the archdiocese of Boston that the church and its premises can remain self-sufficient.

In 2022, it seemed likely that the church – one of two that make up St. Martin de Porres parish – would be closed through a process called "relegation." But, after an urgent appeal from its congregation, the church received a reprieve from Cardinal Sean O'Malley just days before its doors were scheduled to be shut permanently. Instead, he assigned a working group to work up a financial plan that would keep the church open.

Last summer, parish leaders agreed to attempt a one-year effort to revitalize St. Brendan through increased attendance, offertory collections, and ag-



gressive fundraising. With a July deadline looming, the friends' group – a 501(c)(3) organization that

(Continued on page 13)

BPS to seek state funding for new Columbia Point school complex

BY SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

The Boston Public School district and the Wu administration will be asking for state money to help with the funding of either a new school or a renovated school complex on what is now the McCormack School campus on Dorchester's Columbia Point that is in the middle of a phased, multi-year merger with Boston Community Leadership Academy (BCLA).

The combined school will house grades 7-12 in what BPS officials hope will be a "state-of-the-art" facility on Mount Vernon Street.

BPS Superintendent Mary Skipper told the School Committee about the plan to seek funding from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) at the committee's meeting on Feb. 29.

"I'm happy to announce that BPS plans to submit a Statement of Interest for a new core project at the BCLA McCormack 7-12 school through the MSBA," Skipper said. "One of my priorities that I share with the mayor is to provide students with state-of-the-art facilities and buildings where they can thrive. If selected, she said, BPS will design such a campus

(Continued on page 15)

'Squares + Streets' gets boost from BPDA vote

BY CHRIS LOVETT
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

Mayor Wu's overhaul of Boston's development process advanced last Thursday (March 14) with a key vote on her "Squares + Streets" planning and zoning initiative – the unanimous approval by the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) Board of Directors that sets the stage for a final vote by the Boston Zoning Commission.

Designed for mixed-use areas along main streets and near transit stops, the initiative would replace parts of the current zoning code, which is based primarily on size, with new guidelines more defined by function. Under the working code in these areas, many projects are approved individually through a public process for zoning exemptions. The framework approved by the BPDA board could be applied to as many as 18 neighborhood centers identified by the city, with six tiers of density and activity to be mapped later through a planning process. The zoning would also advance citywide goals, such as responses to climate change, or preserving

(Continued on page 11)

Coalition survey shows support for White Stadium rehab

A survey conducted by the Franklin Park Coalition (FPC) shows that significant support exists for a public-private proposal to renovate White Stadium, despite a lawsuit brought by some opponents seeking to block the project. The coalition said the survey drew responses from 700 people, nearly all of

whom are "residents in the neighborhoods surrounding Franklin Park." The majority of the respondents – about 52 percent – live in Jamaica Plain.

The survey, conducted between Feb. 20 and March 8, showed a majority of respondents support the project, with 32 percent indicating they are

"all for it" and another 24 percent "cautiously" supportive. A quarter said they "have some concerns," with another 20 percent "against it."

The coalition summarized that "park users want to ensure that the stadium does not infringe on their existing experience of the park. If concerns

are addressed, we believe there is an exciting path forward for a renovated White Stadium."

The coalition, which counts about 7,000 members among its group, is a leading advocate for Franklin Park and runs programming in the park throughout the year.

– REPORTER STAFF



All contents
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Police, Courts & Fire

911 call ends with cop shot, suspect arrested; vest eases harm to victim

An unnamed Boston police officer wearing a ballistic vest was shot in the chest Monday night shortly after 9:30 while answering a 911 call for a man with a gun on Esmond Street in the Franklin Park-Blue Hill Avenue section of Dorchester. The suspected gunman, 31-year-old Avery Lewis of Dorchester, was arrested at the scene immediately after the shooting, Boston Police said.

The officer's vest worked as intended and prevented serious injuries, police say. He was treated at Boston Medical Center and released, they added.

Lewis has been charged with armed assault with intent to murder, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery on a police officer, illegal possession of a firearm, illegal possession of ammunition, possession of a large-capacity feeding device, discharging a firearm within 500 feet of a building, possession of a firearm in the commission of a felony, trafficking between 36 and 100 grams of cocaine, and resisting arrest.

Transit Police arrested a "highly intoxicated" man with a gun at Andrew MBTA station at the conclusion of Sunday's St. Patrick's Day parade. Police say a sergeant monitoring parade-related crowds at the station around 3:15 p.m. noticed Joseph Richard Feeney, 26, of Medford, with the gun in a holster. Feeney has a license, but the sergeant "observed it when his friends had to assist him walking," Transit Police Supt. Richard Sullivan said.

It is against the law to carry a firearm while under the influence. At his arraignment in South Boston Municipal Court, Judge Paul Tresler ordered Feeney held in lieu of \$7,350 cash bail, court records show.

State moving to seize Simco's in tax dispute

The state Department of Revenue formally moved last week to seize the Mattapan landmark eatery Simco's for non-payment of \$736,000 in taxes and interest.

In a request filed in Suffolk Superior Court on March 14, the state stated that Simco's has tax debts dating back to 2019 in unpaid meals, withholding, and family-leave taxes, and that repeated efforts since last August to get owner Nicholas Fotopoulos of Milton to agree to a repayment schedule had to date resulted in only \$20,000 being paid from banks with which he has accounts.



Simco's on the bridge.

File photo

Simco's, located at 1509 Roslindale outlet a couple of months ago.

In 2022, the business agreed to pay \$195,680.72 to 20 employees to whom it had been paying less than the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 in 2019 and 2020. In a 2019 case separate from the state's, the city of Boston put an \$18,000 lien on the Blue Hill Avenue property for non-payment of property taxes and moved to take the property, according to Registry of Deeds records. That case remains in state Land Court, with a hearing scheduled for May 23.

-REPORTER STAFF

Dot Ave bridge to Southie to be demolished over next 3 weekends

A key bridge on Dorchester Avenue that carries motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians over the Southeast Expressway and MBTA tracks will be demolished beginning this weekend, according to T officials. The span, which links Dorchester and South Boston, has been closed since 2022 as repair work went on to a Red Line tunnel roof and an adjacent retaining wall on Von Hillern Street.

Now, demolition work will take place on the bridge itself over the next three weekends: March 23-24, March 30-31, and April 6-7. It is scheduled to be replaced with a new bridge with work slated to "begin in spring



An MBTA image shows the Dorchester Avenue bridge that connects South Boston and Dorchester.

2024," according to a T statement. The project carries an estimated cost of \$34.5 million. It's the most extensive repair project to the bridge since it was built in 1925. It was last rehabilitated in 1975. "Neighbors should expect increased construc-

tion noise from heavy equipment and machinery," the agency said in a press release.

Red Line train service will be suspended between Broadway and Ashmont - and North Quincy - for all three weekends. When it does

re-open to people and traffic later this year, T officials say, the topside will "appear very similar to the existing bridge before the roadway closure began."

Go to MBTA.com/DotAveBridge for more details.

March 21, 2024

Boys & Girls Club News 17	Dorchester Reporter (USPS 009-687)
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Dorchester Day Parade Committee hosts an ice cream sundae party with the Easter Bunny on Sat., March 23, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Leahy-Holloran Center, 1 Worrell St., Dorchester. \$5 per person, with all proceeds benefiting the Dorchester Day Parade. 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. this Thursday, March 21. The film, which explores the implications of Boston's decision to build the Seaport District along its coast at sea level, will be 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 p.m. See jfklibrary.org.

March 20 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. The event is scheduled for 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. To attend the virtual public meeting, visit the 2024 Zero Net Carbon Zoning webpage to access the Zoom link: bit.ly/48B6Xhh.

First Parish Dorchester will host a Community Dance this Saturday, 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 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.

Ward 13 Democrats will convene on March 30 at 9:30 a.m. at The Daily Market, 110 Savin Hill Ave. to elect 12 delegates and 4 alternates as representatives to the 2024 State Democratic Convention. Registered and pre-registered Democrats in Ward 13, 16 years old by Feb. 15 may vote and be elected as delegates or alternates during the caucus. The 2024 Convention will be

in person at the DCU Center in Worcester, MA on June 1st. Those interested in getting involved with the Ward 13 Democratic Committee should email Ward13Dorchester@gmail.com.

Join Boston Urban Wilds staff for a spring clean-up in the Mattapan's Mattahunt Woods this Saturday, March 23, from 1 to 3 p.m. (Rain date: March 24). Email Nick at Nicholas.long@boston.gov to sign-up.

The Morrissey Boulevard Commission will meet in person on Tues., April 23, at 6 p.m. at the Cristo Rey Boston High School, located at 100 Savin Hill Avenue in Boston, with virtual participation available via Zoom. At the meeting, MassDOT says, "the study team will present a summary of background information being used to develop alternatives for future mobility and climate resiliency in the Morrissey Boulevard corridor." See DotNews.com for more info or visit the study mass.gov/k-circle-morrissey-study.

SEND IN EVENT NOTICES TO NEWSEDITOR@DOTNEWS.COM

April 2 meeting set for review of plans for Byrne play space

By **CASSIDY MCNEELEY**
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

An extensive renovation project at the city-owned Byrne Playground in Dorchester's Clam Point neighborhood is progressing, with final designs expected by this summer and construction expected to start in the fall.

The park, which was established in 1939, is well overdue for comprehensive improvements to its playground, courts, spray area, and green spaces. Planning for the estimated \$1.85 million project has been underway since last August, according to Nellie Ward, the project manager for the city's Parks Department.

"The community loves the park as it is, but it just needs updates," said Ward. "It's important to preserve the existing programming and use of the park, but also to show the community that they're getting what they deserve and that [the Parks Dept.] supports and has listened to the needs and desires of the community."

Two community meetings were held in recent months and another is planned for Tues., April

2, at 6 p.m. The virtual meeting, to be held via Zoom, will present the latest plans for the re-design.

At a meeting last November, Ward presented initial feedback from walk-throughs held last year and also introduced a survey to gather input on the community's view of the park's character and programming. Ward told the *Reporter* that the survey helped their team decide which renovations should be prioritized, re-designed, or abandoned.

"The results of that survey were used in the second community meeting," she said. "A lot of times we can have a community meeting and there is just one person who is very vocal, and it can sort of paint the picture of how the whole park is being used. It really helps to have this kind of anonymous place where people can say what they think and feel."

The survey revealed a desire for larger green spaces, more picnic tables and trash cans, and a refurbished water spray-ground.

"We found that there is too much paving, folks



The Byrne Playground in Dorchester's Clam Point section will be refurbished in a \$1.85 million project that will be discussed during an online meeting on April 2. *Cassidy McNeeley photo*

want more green space, and there is a lot of support for having a half-sized basketball court," Ward said.

The survey also showed areas of disagreement in the community such as the possible addition of a designated dog park.

"We want to do what the consensus of the community wants," Ward told the *Reporter*. "In general, if we have a split community like that, it's better to go with not making a change than to make a big change for the way the park is used."

Since less than 50 percent of park users who took the survey

supported the addition of a dog park, that move was overruled.

In February, the team presented three design options based on the site assessment and survey to the community.

Paul and Denise Doherty are two of many community members involved in this project. The couple has lived in Clam Point for more than over 45 years and sees the park as the "centerpiece" of the neighborhood. They said that working with Ward has been great so far.

"Nellie Ward has been terrific dealing with the neighbors and keeping

us informed," said Paul. "The parks department has been really great to us, and I really think we're going to end up with something that's going to be the pride of the neighborhood when it's done. I think a lot of people are going to be jealous of us."

He is particularly excited to use the upgraded pickleball courts that he pushed for in the park. He is also responsible for the park's message board and the free community library. Denise is more excited to see the revamped playground which she and her grandchildren visit often.

"Their main message to us, and I certainly feel this way," she said, "is that they have listened to everything that we said, and I really feel that we are involved and a part of this."

For her part, Ward said that she hopes that the renewed park will be "a better place for kids to play and a better place for folks of all ages to get to have mixed-use ... and feel welcome and safe."

Details on how to join the April 2 meeting can be found at boston.gov/calendar/byrne-playground-design-meeting-3

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Irish Pastoral Centre celebrates lively St. Patrick's Day luncheon

By SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

The Irish Pastoral Centre (IPC) hosted its annual St. Patrick's Day luncheon in Florian Hall on Friday afternoon (March 15), serving several hundred guests with generous portions of corned beef and cabbage along with the talents of local Irish step dancers.

The IPC holds the fundraiser every year on the Friday before St. Patrick's Day to help raise money for the Centre mission, which is to give a warm welcome to all immigrants seeking help, according to director Mary Swanton.

Sighle FitzGerald, Ireland's consul general in Boston, said her government supports the IPC because of the important work it does in Dorchester and across Greater Boston. "Reflecting on St. Patrick, it is a story of migration," she said.

"Many did not make it past Deer Island even with their dreams of success in the US so close, but never realized."

Later, FitzGerald presented a letter and certificate of appreciation to Father Dan Finn, a founder of the IPC, from Michael Higgins, the president of Ireland.

The letter recalled a time when they met, and congratulated Father Finn on his recent 80th birthday.

Mayor Wu stopped by and added to the celebration, saying the Irish American story is one of "hope and determination. It is, literally, what built Boston brick-by-brick."

The afternoon was highlighted by the corned beef and cabbage boiled dinner, and the step dancing from the students at Dorchester's Petrocelli School of Irish Dance.



Della Costello helped to run the raffle.



Siblings Neil, Bevan, and Killian Doherty provided the fiddle music.



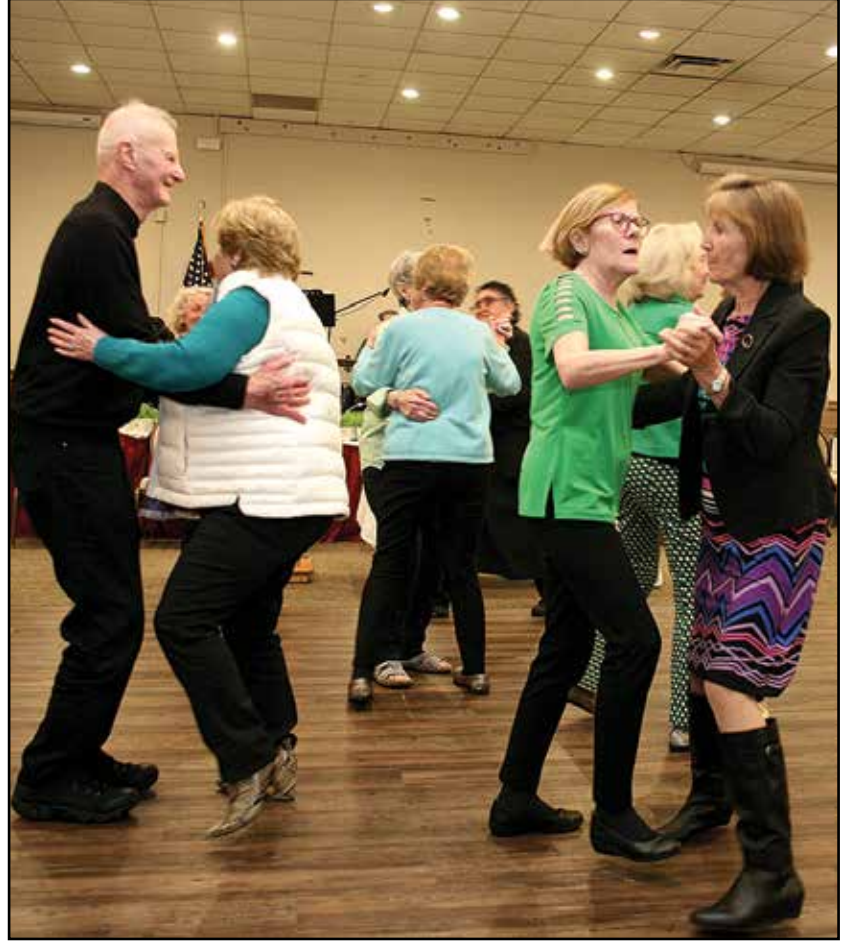
The Irish Viking, Patrick Keane.



Irish Consul General Sighle FitzGerald, Father Dan Finn, Mayor Wu, Mike Carey, IPC Director Mary Swanton, City Councillor John FitzGerald, and Neil Hurley.



At left, Raegan Keane, of the Petrocelli School of Irish Dance, performed a special unique Irish step dance using a broom and some fast footwork. Center, Young dancers from the Petrocelli School of Irish Dance. Right, Patsy Dineen, at center, left in green attire, celebrated her birthday and the holiday with a swinging time on the dance floor. Far left, Father Dan Finn got into the swing of things.



The best table dinner guests at the affair enjoyed the event together. From left, and Maurice and Eileen O'Connor, Noreen and Pat Driscoll, and Pat and Nora Goonan.



Joe Driscoll and Anna McAuliffe.



Mairin Keady and Lois McMullin enjoyed catching up at the dinner.



Marybeth, Maria, Jim, and Therese Monahan, of Lower Mills. Jim and Therese both grew up in Mission Hill, where Jim once pitched a no hitter for Mission High School with only one good arm.



Anna Kealey, whose Irish heritage goes through Prince Edward Island, and Lucy Fair. Seth Daniel photos

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**LET'S GET REAL
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BC High taps Zukauskas as new head football coach

Hall of Fame alumnus, veteran NFL lineman

Boston College High School has named Paul Zukauskas, who graduated from the Dorchester high school in 1997 and eventually played five seasons in the National Football League, as its new head football coach.

A standout athlete on the BC High gridiron, Zukauskas later was a four-year starter at Boston College. He was inducted into the BC High Hall of Fame in 2006.

"I would first like to thank [Athletic Director] Tom Conley, Principal [Adam] Lewis, and President [Grace] Regan for giving me the opportunity to return home to Boston College High School as head football coach and give back to the community that shaped me," Zukauskas said in a statement.

"It's a chance to inspire the next generation and impart the



Paul Zukauskas, who played five seasons in the NFL, has been hired as the new head football coach at Dorchester's BC High, where he was a standout player in the 1990s. Above, Zukauskas greeted student-athletes at the Morrissey Boulevard campus last Friday. BC High photo

lessons I've learned both on and off the field. I'm excited to contribute to the legacy of BC High football, foster a culture of excellence, and help young men achieve their dreams,

just as this school helped me to achieve mine."

Throughout his five-year professional career – which included stints with the Browns and the San Francisco 49ers

– Zukauskas appeared in 43 games. In 2009, he returned to Boston College as a graduate assistant and was part of the football coaching staff that led the Eagles to two bowl appear-

ances. He went on to serve as the head coach of the Lawrence Academy football team from 2011 – 2017.

"Paul proudly wore an Eagles uniform for eight years – four on Cotter Field and four at Alumni Stadium – and continually exemplifies Jesuit principles in his athletic and coaching pursuits," said President Grace Cotter Regan. "BC High football has a long and storied legacy, and I am confident that Paul will continue that tradition for the next generation of players. I look forward to our program's future with Paul at the helm."

Zukauskas serves as a board member of Project D.E.E.P., the Dorchester Educational Enrichment Program, a nonprofit that aims to foster the educational, athletic, and social growth and development of middle school children of all races, creeds, and ethnic backgrounds throughout the Dorchester community.

A Weymouth native, he resides in Milton with his wife Claire and their three children, Molly, Maeve, and Michael.

Mattahunt Center welcomes new director Raymond Heath

Raymond Heath has been named director of the BCYF's Mattahunt Community Center in Mattapan. Born and raised in Dorchester, Heath is the former program supervisor at the Gallivan Center and an alumnus of the Marshall



At left, Raymond Heath school and community center in Dorchester, where he was a student and member in his youth.

Heath got his start at Boston Centers for Youth & Families through his mentor, JD Dawson,

the former Marshall school director, who made the facility a sanctuary for kids like Heath.

"He was a community person who made kids feel like we belonged," Heath said of Dawson. "I want to give kids a safe place to express them-

selves, have fun, learn new skills with a sense of community. There's nothing compared to being at a community center that's the lifeblood of the neighborhood. I'm grateful for the opportunity to do the work I love and thankful for getting

the privilege to serve the Mattapan community in any way I can."

A ribbon cutting for the newly renovated Mattahunt facility is scheduled for Thurs., April 25, at 11 a.m., with Mayor Wu expected to preside.

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

Mother Caroline students explore health careers at Boston Children's Hospital

Mother Caroline Academy in Grove Hall has launched an immersive career development program for middle school students at Boston Children's Hospital. The week-long Science, Technology, Education, and Healthcare Career (STE-HC) Camp took place from March 4 to March 8, offering seventh- and eighth-grade students exposure to future careers in medicine.

The program follows a successful pilot program completed last March. Mother Caroline Academy serves students who are eligible for free and reduced-price lunch programs.

The program curriculum included hands-on, practical experience with operating room simulations at Boston Children's Immersive Design Systems lab, as well as ultrasounds and live demonstrations. Students met with physicians and hospital lead-



8th grade students learning how to provide oxygen to a patient. From left, Naaysha Lerick (Dorchester), Harmonie Johnson (Dorchester - Grove Hall) and Meliah Nelson.

Photo courtesy Mother Caroline Academy

ers, along with students from Harvard Medical School and MIT. They also met with

Mother Caroline alumna Shinikha Paige, class of 2000, who works as a program manager at Boston Children's, and former Mother Caroline teacher Sarah DiMare Atwood, now a nurse at Children's.

"Education outside the classroom is critical for empowering girls and preparing them for potential future careers," said Marie Louise Greenidge, Mother Caroline Academy's Interim Head of School. "This program helps to level the playing field, giving students from less-advantaged socioeconomic backgrounds the tools and experiences they need to pursue these essential careers."

"We're appreciative of this collaboration with Boston Children's and hope to expand it in the future to include more educational opportunities."

- REPORTER STAFF



Matilda Curd and Mairead Manning

Two Dot dancers have roles in Boston Ballet's 'Cinderella'

Dorchester neighbors Matilda Curd and Mairead Manning have been performing in Boston Ballet's production of "Cinderella" this month. This is Curd's second role and Manning's seventh with the company. They were cast as urchins in the "Nutcracker" last December.

Only 20 students out of over 5,000 Boston Ballet School students were selected to participate in the show, which opened March 14 at the Citizen's Bank Opera House in Downtown Crossing. The girls will perform on March 22 and 23 at 7:30 p.m.

Curd is a third grader at the Perry School in South Boston and a long-time

student at the Boston Ballet School and Ms. Linda's School of Dance. She will also be performing in "Willy Wonka" with Main Stage Theater in South Boston on March 23.

Manning is a sixth grader at Boston Collegiate School where she regularly earns honor roll. She is an active member of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester and she qualified for the Boys & Girls Clubs National Swim Championships in St. Petersburg, Florida this coming April. Manning also plays chess with the Boston Public Library's Lower Mills Chess program and has competed twice at the US Amateur Team East competition in New Jersey.



The Pueri Cantores New England Youth Choral Festival combined choir, with Bishop Robert P. Reed, Mass Celebrant, Dr. Alfred Calabrese, conductor, and Richard J. Clark, archdiocesan and Cathedral music director and organist.

St. Agatha's Choir featured at Holy Cross Cathedral Mass; three Dot singers participated

Fifteen singers from the St. Agatha Parish (Milton) Youth Choir, including three Dorchester youth, participated in the Pueri Cantores New England Youth Choral Festival and Mass on March 9 in the South End's Cathedral of the Holy Cross.

The event brought together nearly 100 young singers from Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire, and under the direction of Dr. Alfred Calabrese, the combined choir sang liturgical chant as well as works by Bach, Fauré, and Mozart, at the 4:30 Mass at the cathedral

with Bishop Robert P. Reed as celebrant.

Pueri Cantores is the international student choral organization of the Roman Catholic Church.

Directed by Julie Fay, the St. Agatha Youth Choir includes Dorchester residents Edward Zeinswood, Cyrus Zeinswood, and Matthew Gorski.

"It was a fantastic experience for our singers," said Fay, St. Agatha's music director and organist. "To be able to sing with so many others from around New England and feel that camaraderie and experience the joy of a common musical lan-



St. Agatha Parish Youth Choir, with Julie Fay as director, includes Dorchester residents Edward Zeinswood (front row, far left), Cyrus Zeinswood and Matthew Gorski (back row, far right).

Photos courtesy St. Agatha Church

guage and purpose was a wonderful opportunity."

The prelude concert and Mass were broadcast on the Cathedral's YouTube channel and can be viewed at <https://tinyurl.com/38ampt7s>.

The St. Agatha Parish Youth Choir is made up of singers in grades 3 and older from area public

and Catholic schools, as well as homeschooled students. The Youth Choir sings for the parish's 9:30 a.m. Mass most Sundays of the school year. For more information about the St. Agatha Parish Youth Choir, contact music director Julie Fay at musicdirector@stagathaparish.org.

YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE

DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Handstand at Malibu



This week, we are looking for information. This illustration of a man performing a handstand at Malibu Beach moves us to ask if anyone knows how the beach got its name. Send your answer to info@dorchesterhistoricalsociety.org

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

Flynn's right: Southie's parade needs a re-set

Our friends and neighbors in South Boston have grown accustomed to disruptions and some measure of bad behavior from the hundreds of thousands of people who descend on "the town" each year for the St. Patrick's Day-themed parade through their streets.

But, in the aftermath of this year's events, there's a growing sentiment that the parade – along with the throngs of people that it attracts – has become more than just a nuisance. It's a public safety hazard.

Ed Flynn, who represents South Boston on the City Council, spoke out about his own frustrations, and those of his constituents, on Monday, the day after "almost a million" people, by his count, overwhelmed the neighborhood.

"If we are not able to meet basic standards of decency and respect the South Boston neighborhood, the parade should be moved out of South Boston indefinitely," Flynn wrote in a post on social media.

He added: "We must make major changes and implement a zero tolerance for public drinking, any form of violence, fighting and destruction of property, and other quality of life issues."

In an interview with WBUR, Flynn suggested that the parade might be moved downtown, where spectators congregate for rolling rallies to celebrate victories in sports. Other parades, like the city's annual Veteran's Day parade, are also held in the City Hall area. And if the re-located parade route remains a safety hazard, it might be an option to put it on pause.

Based on reports gleaned from official sources and first-hand accounts from friends who attended – or attempted to attend – Sunday's parade, Flynn's assessment rings true. The crowds that flooded into South Boston on Sunday tipped everything into a dangerous situation. Among the 12 reported arrests, police reported that two firearms were recovered from men who were so inebriated they needed assistance to walk. Fights and assaults were rampant. One high school student was jumped and beaten so badly he needed to visit the emergency room. Another young man was "sucker-punched" and left with a broken jaw.

Even where the throngs did not turn violent, the volume of people packed into a tight section of the city was way too much. The T's Broadway station was so jammed that the Red Line cars couldn't stop at the platform. People felt unsafe. Public drunkenness was pervasive and relatively unchecked.

One resident who lives on the parade route told us that she wanted to leave the neighborhood for the day but felt it necessary to essentially "shelter in place" to protect her property. "I'm too afraid to leave," she reported.

This is no way to celebrate the rich history of our city. Perhaps it's time to consider splitting up the dual holiday. Celebrate Evacuation Day in Southie, home to Dorchester Heights, the pivotal historic site from which the liberation of Boston was achieved on March 17, 1776. The date – arguably more important than the saint's day in the Boston context – can still be a celebratory event, but more localized and, perhaps, less of a draw for those whose object is over-the-top drinking.

From the Irish American perspective, it must be noted that the boorish behavior by some who invade the city on St. Patrick's weekend is an affront to those of us who claim Irish ancestry. People who see the need to get plastered to the point of inebriation aren't celebrating a heritage; they're making a mockery of it.

The Irish community, South Boston, and the entire city deserve better. Our elected leaders should follow Councillor Flynn's lead in making the changes needed to preserve public safety and the best traditions of our city's neighborhoods.

-Bill Forry

Healey: Pot pardons will impact 'hundreds of thousands' in state

By SAM DORAN
STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

Gov. Healey's plan to pardon all misdemeanor marijuana possession convictions will impact hundreds of thousands of people, she told a crowd at the Grand Staircase on March 13 and represents "the most sweeping cannabis pardon ever proposed by any governor in the United States."

The governor had not yet filed the actual pardon recommendation with the Governor's Council, but she said it will "pardon all misdemeanor convictions for marijuana possession on record in our state." Final approval power rests with the elected council, which under its rules cannot vote on the matter until at least seven days after it receives Healey's request.

Healey said her move makes Massachusetts "the first state to take action" since President Joseph Biden in 2022 asked the nation's governors to follow his lead on pardoning simple cannabis possession convictions.

An old conviction for cannabis possession can form "a barrier to jobs, getting housing, even getting an education," Healey said.

"For some, it's also simply more than that, a difficult memory, a burden, something they live with every day," she added. "All for doing something that isn't even cause for arrest today. That doesn't sit right with me, it's not fair, it's unfinished business. Knowing we have the power to lift that burden, we should do something about it."

The governor said her administration worked with the Trial Court and the Probation Service in forming the blanket pardon, and credited deputy legal counsel Adam Hornstine with taking on a significant role. Multiple Governor's Council members also told the News Service last Tuesday that the administration, including legal counsel Paige Scott Reed, solicited their input in advance.

Two council members stood on the steps with Healey for Wednesday's big announcement — Councilors Paul DePalo and Marilyn Petitto Devaney, who told the News Service she was "over the moon."

"People will remember her. She'll have a legacy, this governor, for doing this. I just think it's a wonderful, compassionate thing that she did," said Devaney, of Watertown.

Pardon recipients will have an option to request a certificate of pardon, though that will not be necessary, the governor said. Healey did not provide reporters a clear answer of how long it could take for criminal records to reflect the change, both saying it would be



Gov. Maura Healey announced details of her proposed blanket pardon for simple cannabis possession at a Grand Staircase press conference last week joined by Attorney General Andrea Campbell, left, and Cannabis Control Commission Acting Chair Ava Callender Concepcion, right.
Sam Drysdale/SHNS photo

"automatic" and saying, "it's just a matter of taking time to go through and update the records."

"Remember, people will not need to do anything. You will be pardoned. And you will have that cleared from your record," she added. As for the number of people wrapped up in the blanket pardon, the governor referred to "hundreds of thousands" and said the approximate figure was "extrapolated" from data. "Not a specific number, but the number's huge," Healey said.

"We know there were 68,800 between 2000-2013 but records could be going back decades further," press secretary Karissa Hand said.

"Black people have carried the enormous burden of a biased criminal legal system for decades," said Attorney General Andrea Campbell, who joined Healey at the press conference. She referenced how "a disproportionate number of those who have been arrested and convicted for marijuana possession are Black and Brown people."

The Massachusetts mega-pardon "will inspire other states to follow," Campbell added.

The state's former top prosecutor, Healey opposed cannabis legalization in 2016 along with Republican Gov. Charlie Baker. On Wednesday, she referred to herself as "willing to evolve."

"The reason we do this is simple – justice requires it," she said.

Looking Up Longfellow Street

Biden on Gaza: Generosity or weakness?

By EDWARD M. COOK
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Recently, I sent a question to two of our oldest and dearest friends, Dr. Susan and Dr. Omar Razzaz. Susan is a New Jersey girl who was my husband's housemate when John and I met and she had just started dating Omar, a doctoral student at Harvard. Omar is the former prime minister of Jordan, whose mother was born in Gaza.

My question was about President Biden's efforts to provide food and tents to Gazans by parachute and the construction of a seaside pier to bring in supplies. I asked, "Were these efforts by Biden generosity or weakness?"

Their reflections on my question were thoughtful and emotionally charged. Susan conceded that an argument could be made that delivering 125,000 meals to a population of 2.3 million was an act of generosity, but she immediately contrasted that with the billions of dollars in military aid provided to Israel by the US to bomb civilians. She added, "How ironic it is to offer food and temporary shelter to people that you just made homeless!"

Regarding the building of a temporary port, it was noted that Gaza has had a port but, like the whole coastline, that port is controlled and blockaded by the Israelis. The fact remains that it is easier to bring large containers of supplies by land routes. In his New York Times column on March 16, Nicholas Kristoff commented on Biden's supply plan, "To Netanyahu and most of the world, it looks like weakness."

It does not take much imagination to extrapolate that most of the Arab and Muslim world views Biden as spineless for not insisting that Israel allow trucks in large numbers to enter Gaza by roads now blocked by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). Said Palestinian-American journalist Rami Khouri in an Instagram post: "UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, estab. 1949) is the most efficient food distributor in Gaza, and the United States is trying to destroy UNRWA because Israel asked it to the Americans defunding UNRWA is a criminal activity,

because it has massive implications for the well-being and even survival of Palestinians in Gaza."

Susan also said, "Personally, if I were a Gazan, it would be difficult to be thankful for a sandwich and a tent from someone who killed my family members and destroyed my home. If I were a Gazan, I'd prefer to have access to my own port and be allowed to live in my house and farm my land."

I find this reasoning compelling.

I have maintained previously in this space that there are a multitude of reasons for Biden to detach himself from Netanyahu. US Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York, the majority leader in the Senate and the highest elected Jewish person in US history, has now called for Israelis to remove Netanyahu by holding elections soon.

Susan points out that "The US doesn't need to use words to 'tell' Israel to stop: halting the flow of military support would result in a stop." Khouri agrees, "If the US is serious about helping reduce civilian suffering in Gaza, it has very, very simple, quick ways to do it, which is to lay down the law with the Israelis and say, 'You have to stop obstructing the delivery of food and medicine and other things into Gaza, or else we're going to stop the delivery of arms and funds and diplomatic protection at the UN.'"

Kristof recalled that in 1982, President Reagan, reacting to Israeli bombings of Palestinians in southern Lebanon, said he told Prime Minister Menachem Begin that "it had to stop or our entire future relationship was endangered. I used the word holocaust deliberately and said the symbol of his war was becoming a picture of a 7-month-old baby with its arms blown off." Twenty minutes later, Reagan added, "he called to tell me he'd ordered an end to the barrage and pled for our continued friendship."

Now that we are in the 2024 election season, Biden's detachment from Netanyahu seems even more imperative. As Nancy Reagan was fond of saying, "Just say no!" It would be a disaster of global proportions if Biden were to allow Netanyahu to drag him down to defeat in November, an outcome that would suit the Israeli leader completely.

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Finally, it's time for the US to stop pulling the strings in Haiti

By BRIAN CONCANNON
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Haiti's deepening crises have so far been resistant to the Biden Administration's proposed solutions, but that is because the United States resolutely blocks the easiest solution of all – ceasing the interference that generated the crises in the first place. Haitians have demonstrated their capacity to negotiate and compromise to get their democracy back on track, but each time the United States has blocked the plans in order to promote its friends at the expense of Haiti's democracy.



Brian Concannon

Haiti's government is led by Prime Minister Ariel Henry, who was installed in 2021 by the Core Group, a collection of countries led by the United States that does not include Haiti.

Henry has no constitutional legitimacy. His reign has brought Haitians an unending series of deepening economic, security, and political disasters. The recent armed group takeover of much of Port-au-Prince is the latest in the series, but probably not the last.

Henry followed the directions that the US Embassy gave him, so no matter how much horror his regime inflicted on Haitians, the State Department propped him up persistently enough for his term to extend longer than that of any Haitian prime minister in at least 40 years. The armed group takeover prevented Henry from returning to Haiti and that made him no longer useful to the United States, which has tossed him aside. Henry announced last week that he will resign when a new government is named, but challenges in forming a new government might extend his record streak for weeks or months.

Shortly after Henry's 2021 imposition as prime minister, a broad-based collection of Haitian civil society came together to propose the Montana Accord, which would have created a consensus-based transitional government to stabilize Haiti and run fair elections within two years. The United States rejected the proposal on the pretext that the two-year timeline was too long. That was 31 months ago, and Haiti now has no elections in sight.

This dire situation was not only predictable, but it was also predicted. Haitian-American officials, Haitian civil society, members of Congress, and other experts had been warning for years that the US propping up of Henry would lead to increasing tragedy for Haitians. Many of these voices came from Massachusetts, including Boston City Council President Ruthzee Loui-jeune, US Rep. Ayanna Pressley, US Sen. Ed Markey, and Massachusetts's Haitian American community. The Biden Administration ignored these pleas and stood resolutely by its friend, until the armed groups – many with connections to his government and PHTK party – rendered him no longer useful. The US quickly pivoted to a new structure that would maintain its control over Haiti but with new faces with less baggage.

The State Department announced meetings in Jamaica under the auspices of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) to establish a replacement for Henry. The department insisted from the start that anyone participating in the transitional government must agree, in advance, to support the deployment of a Multinational Security Support (MSS) mission led by Kenya.

The proposed MSS may be the most ill-considered mission in the long history of ill-considered armed foreign interventions. Henry proposed it to the UN Security Council in 2022. The stated purpose was to combat gangs, but Haitian observers contend the mission



Haitian-American activists aligned with the Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti called on the Biden administration to support Haitian-led efforts to advance democratic institutions and leaders during a protest last year. IJDH photo

would primarily serve to buttress Henry's regime against growing popular protests. Haitian civil society opposed the mission, repeatedly insisting that the first step toward security must be a transitional government with the legitimacy to organize elections and determine how the international community can best help Haiti.

Delays in finding a country to lead the mission led to a year's long delay in the UNSC even voting on the proposal. Even then, although the Security Council approved the mission last October, it did not want to be associated with it. The authorizing resolution insisted that the mission not be an official UN mission, that the organization would have to take responsibility for it because it would need to apply too much "robust use of force" on Haitians.

The countries that the Biden administration first tapped to lead the mission, including Canada, Haiti's Caribbean neighbors, and Brazil, knew enough about Haiti to refuse to lead the mission, precisely because it was propping up a hated regime and would lead to disaster. The Biden administration, likely concerned about election-year cell phone videos of troops shooting indiscriminately in crowded neighborhoods – as happened with the last foreign intervention in Haiti – refused to send US troops.

Last August, Kenya – 7,500 miles away with no diplomatic relations with Haiti, but in need of the hundreds of millions of dollars that the United States offered – agreed to lead the mission. But the exploratory delegation that Kenya sent to evaluate conditions in Haiti quickly realized how deadly the planned mission would be for Haitians and Kenyans alike, and proposed to limit its scope to protecting public infrastructure.

The United States was not open to renegotiating the deal, and Kenya withdrew its proposed limits. But Kenya's High Court blocked the deployment as unconstitutional. Ariel Henry then opened the door to the armed group takeover when he flew to Kenya on March 1 to sign an accord that Kenya's president, William Ruto, hoped would overcome the court's objections. Kenyan lawyers insist that the agreement itself is illegal and are continuing their challenge. In the meantime, Kenyan officers who had volunteered for the mission are changing their minds. The Kenyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced on March 12 that due to the lack of a government to work with in Haiti, it was suspending deployment.

But after a call from US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken, Ruto reversed course the next day and said the mission was back on. Republican leaders in the US Congress present another obstacle by their refusal to appropriate funding for the mission until they receive better justification for the expenditures.

Meanwhile, the Jamaica talks are stalled. On March 11, CARICOM announced that seven sectors had the

right to name a member of the Presidential Council if they agreed to accept the MSS and provided their nomination within 48 hours. Although most sectors named their candidate quickly, one has so far refused to participate, and another has named two. A week later the Council is still not operational, with the most recent 24-hour deadline having expired on March 16.

The expected next steps are the US naming, perhaps through CARICOM, other sectors to designate a Presidential Council member. That process may succeed sooner or later, but it is unlikely to put Haiti on the fast track to democracy, for several reasons.

One is that the US has signaled clearly that it will continue its persistent control of Haiti's government by imposing its conditions on the Presidential Council. A legitimate, broadly supported, sovereign transitional Haitian government might request foreign police assistance. But a government allowed to form only if it accepts a US-imposed occupation force originally designed to prop up a hated, repressive government is not sovereign.

Such a government may not be legitimate or broadly supported either. The Montana Accord and the Fanmi Lavalas party had for principled and practical reasons persistently opposed the MSS since it was announced. But they were faced with the bad choices of reversing their popular stand or sitting out and letting sectors with no chance of winning fair elections rig the rules for the next one. So, they named their Council member on the hopes that such a flawed process might nevertheless produce a modest democratic opening.

In the end, only Haitian voters can decide whether this compromise was justified. But in the meantime, many of the groups' supporters will be alienated by the choice.

With the US pulling the strings, some sectors granted a seat at the table will conclude, astutely, that their most likely path to power is through appointment by the State Department rather than election by Haitian voters. They will have little incentive to compromise toward fair elections, and significant incentives to quietly sabotage the process in the hopes that things will break down enough for their opportunity to arise. This concern is magnified with a large, seven-member presidency, a dynamic that presages a long, drawn-out path to elections that may not be very fair.

The armed groups themselves are trying to push into the negotiations. They are getting help from former US Ambassador to Haiti Pamela White, who told Fox News on March 17 that the armed group leader Guy Philippe, who finished a US federal prison sentence for drug money laundering last September, "is someone that can help with situation and I believe we should be dealing with him."

There is an alternative: Let Haitians negotiate and compromise with them-

selves to come up with a process that has support outside the US Embassy compound in Haiti. The US could jump start this process today by dropping its insistence on the MSS and on its proxies having a seat on any transitional government.

When allowed, Haitians have a history of coming together to make their way out of a crisis. Haiti won its independence in 1804 by defeating Napoleon, with little outside help. In 1986, when the US finally withdrew its support from Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier, Haitians eventually wrested power from the military, established a new Constitution, and held fair elections. In 2006, they voted their way out of the crisis created by the 2004 ouster of elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide by the United States, France, Haitian elites, and Guy Philippe.

Skeptics will say that the past two centuries of US policy to Haiti provide little reason for hope that the US will seize the current opportunity to allow democracy in Haiti. Haitians will point out that President/Slaveowner Thomas Jefferson's refusal to recognize the second independent nation in the Americas in 1804 (reversing the pro-sovereignty position of his predecessor, Quincy's John Adams, a slavery opponent) lasted 60 years. Haitians will keep connecting dots through the 1915-1934 Marine Occupation, our support for the Duvaliers (until Baby Doc, like Ariel Henry, was dumped when no longer useful), and the 2004 coup d'état, right up to today.

The skeptics are probably right that Haitian democracy and sovereignty will never be given by the United States. But during St. Patrick's holiday time in Boston, it is worth reflecting on how Haiti's democracy and sovereignty might be seized in the long run. Ireland, the original English colony, suffered seven centuries of occupation and forced underdevelopment, followed by decades of economic dominance after partial independence. But the Irish kept fighting for true sovereignty, in the home country and by developing political power in the diaspora. Today, Ireland is not yet completely free – the United Kingdom still clings to Northern Ireland – but the parts of Ireland that are free constitute one of the fastest-growing economies in Europe, with a per-capita Gross Domestic Product exceeding the United Kingdom's by some measures.

There are reasons to believe that Haitians have a chance to seize their democracy back, too. Haiti has a long and rich tradition of community organizing, but underdevelopment, repression, and outside interventions have left the organizing historically fragmented within the country and isolated from the world outside. But the advent of social media, and a new generation skilled in its use, is allowing broader organizing in Haiti and connections abroad that facilitate the delivery of news, analyses, and calls to action directly from anywhere in Haiti to a worldwide audience. The Haitian diaspora in the United States is blossoming in numbers, education level, economic success, and professional attainment, all of which are inexorably transforming into political power.

The Biden Administration now faces a choice. It can, like President John Adams, embrace an opportunity to have a stable, prosperous, but not subservient neighbor. Or it can, like President Jefferson and his successors, continue to ensure that Haiti remains unstable and poor. If the Administration does not want to listen to Haitians and Haitian Americans, perhaps it will listen to Thomas Jefferson, when he wrote: "I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, that His justice cannot sleep forever... Nothing is more certainly written in the book of fate than that these people are to be free."

Human rights lawyer Brian Concannon is the executive director of the Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti.

Zoning Board OKs condos at St. Matthew's convent site

The Zoning Board of Appeal last Tuesday (March 12) approved a developer's plans to rehab the former St. Matthew's convent at 43-45 Stanton St. in Dorchester and add a four-story addition in its rear to

create 14 condos. Two of the units in the new structure, proposed by Ricky Beliveau's Volnay Capital, will be sold as affordable.

The proposal originally went before the board last November, but the

panel voted then to defer any action to give Beliveau and neighbors more time to try to reach agreement on the size of the project and some parking issues.

At last week's hearing, the attorney Marc LaC-

asse said that Beliveau and his architect had made a number of changes, including reducing the number of parking spaces from 19 to 16, which allowed them to be based in the rear of the building, rather than

the current street-side front parking lot, which will now instead be a landscaped area with a walkway to the building's main entrance.

To satisfy BPDA planners, he added, the design of the roof of the

four-story rear addition was changed from flat to pitched.

Residents who testified, however, said the changes were not enough and called on Beliveau to eliminate the top floor of the addition and go down to eleven units, with two still sold as affordable.

Stanton Street resident Milton Jones said he would like to welcome the new residential units to the neighborhood but said the addition "sticks out like a sore thumb as it hovers" over nearby houses on a narrow street full of homes like his - built in 1890, with "a historical flair and charm." He added: "It's not in the best interest of the neighborhood."

Board member Katie Whewell moved to approve the proposal, which required variances because it did not meet its lot's zoning for, among other things, amount of parking, for being a multifamily building, for having a higher than allowed "floor to area ratio" and for being too tall - 4 stories and 45 feet tall rather than 2.5 stories and 35 feet tall.

She said she was happy to see the original convent building kept in place and that Beliveau was able to work with the BPDA on the roof issue.

Board members voted 5-2 to approve the project. Aiken and Alan Langham voted against.

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'Squares + Streets' gets boost from BPDA vote

(Continued from page 1) were removed from the affordable housing, retail, and cultural spaces.

In January, the BPDA announced four locations for the initiative, starting with Roslindale Square and Cleary Square in Hyde Park. The next locations would be in Dorchester's Fields Corner and Codman Square. Another Squares + Streets zoning plan has already been drafted, as an outgrowth of Plan Mattapan. Though scheduled for a vote at the March 14 meeting, the Mattapan guidelines

were removed from the agenda. A spokesperson for the BPDA says it plans to have those guidelines taken up at the board meeting next month.

BPDA Deputy Director of Zoning Kathleen Onufer said the districts would be zoned for uses that typically make an area feel "vibrant and welcoming," with alignment of form and use, and more predictability about what can be developed. "Underpinning much of this reform," she told board members, "is a

shift to a more form-based approach to zoning regulations across the code, rather than relying, as is currently the case, on the 'belt and suspenders,' if you will, of not only dimensional constraints, but also things like floor-to-area ratio."

Wu's initiative has support from Abundant Housing Massachusetts, a group that favors more density of development in all Boston neighborhoods. In a statement last December, the group said, "Modernizing our zoning

code with reforms that reduce the need for variances while enhancing simplicity and predictability are long overdue and should be implemented without delay." Through a prepared statement and direct testimony, District 7 City Councillor Tania Fernandes Anderson and Councillor At-Large Julia Mejia called for putting off a decision on the zoning framework to allow for more review. But there were comments in favor of the measure from District 8 (Beacon Hill, Back Bay, Fenway, Mission Hill) Councillor Sharon Durkan and District 5 (Hyde Park/Roslindale) Councillor Enrique Pepén.

Pepén hailed the initiative as an "opportunity of bringing more diverse businesses and spaces to

our neighborhoods" and as a way "to bring more families to our district."

Durkan told the board that growth in Boston's population depended on growth in its built environment and relief from the cost of a tight housing market. "Not only does the targeted approach of squares and streets respect the current fabric of what makes our neighborhoods so special," she said, "but it prioritizes community input on what changes to this fabric will benefit the neighborhood." The BPDA's director of planning, Aimee Chambers, said the mapping of districts would come after discussion with residents and stakeholders.

"So, we've not come into this process with any specific plan as to how

these districts should be mapped in any location," she explained. "What we are doing is looking to really work in concert with residents and stakeholders, both to develop recommendations on the planning side" and possibly combine those with city resources or programs.

Board member Dr. Theodore C. Landsmark called the "Squares + Streets" framework an "important step" that would not preclude addressing issues raised by councillors who favored putting off the vote.

"I think BPDA is exponentially better at that than perhaps it has been in prior decades," he added. "And I think, with this process in particular, that is just really critical to continue, to make it worthwhile for people to engage in these planning processes."

Fields Corner meeting takes up plan

Representatives from the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) made an appearance at the March meeting of the Fields Corner Civic Association (FCCA) to discuss the Fields Corner Squares + Streets planning initiative – an exercise that could transform how the neighborhood looks over the coming decades.

Fields Corner is one of four areas in the city where the zoning reform plan will be piloted. BPDA planners Taylor Mayes and Ben Zunkeler told the group that "we will be kicking off planning in late April at the latest. A formal kick-off event will usher in a series of opportunities for neighbors to engage more directly," said Mayes.

There will be office hours and maybe an office space in Fields Corner for the period, which lasts six to nine months. The initiative will focus on Dorchester Avenue from Freepoint Street to Park Street.

"Residents would help us choose from the six 'S' zones and we would use some of these in some combination in Fields Corner," said Zunkeler, who noted that each district would be different, but "have a consistent palette" citywide.

One feature of the plan is the elimination of some parking, something that worried merchants on the call.

"We do want walkability, but for businesses to operate we need people to come in and visit businesses, and that's going to require parking," said Tran Le, of Pho Le Restaurant, who said the city seems to be pointing to private property owners to provide parking in this plan. "I can't see what direction the city wants to take towards parking."

Mayes said the point was valid but noted that everyone needs to remember the plan is part of "moving the city in a direction that is carbon neutral."

District 3 City Councillor John FitzGerald said that now is the time to get involved in the process, warning that many

development projects will be "by right" and not require community discussion or review under the Fields Corner Squares + Streets program.

"If you don't participate now and don't give input on this process now, you will be stuck with it in the years ahead," he said.

– SETH DANIEL



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T moving ahead on trolley line upgrade

(Continued from page 1) Paganelli, requested a hearing at the commission's next available meeting to explain why it needs to do the tests.

"The exploratory borings are needed to develop geotechnical design recommendations for potential new or modified substructures for bridges, station improvements, retaining walls, and overhead catenary system pole foundations," wrote Paganelli. Elsewhere in the filing,

the T official wrote: "This information will be critical in developing design and construction options and for cost estimating purposes."

The MBTA has thus far committed \$127 million to "transform" the rapid transit line, which is currently at 15 percent design status. T officials tell the Reporter that the boring work planned for this year will help finalize the design of "stations and structures needed to support the larger, higher capacity light rail vehicles."

In a statement to the Reporter, MBTA general manager Phil Eng said the T "is committed to ensuring a safe and reliable mass transportation network, including the Mattapan Line. Over the last year, we have made great strides to begin reversing years of deferred maintenance and repairs. While much of the early work has been repairing and replacing tracks, we have maximized production by including targeted station and power improvements at the same time."

Eng continued: "Last fall, we prioritized the Mattapan Line, eliminating all 22 speed restrictions in this corridor, allowing trains to run at full speed again, and shortening travel time



A rendering shows the potential look of a new Milton station on the MBTA Ashmont-Mattapan trolley line. MBTA image

while giving riders a more comfortable trip. We know we have a long way to go, but repairing the track is a key building block to all the other needs along the corridor. We continue rebuilding trolley cars as we evaluate how to best deliver projects with available funds that can provide meaningful results sooner rather than later."


T officials say that work to overhaul the 80-year-old PCC cars is continuing this season, with a third refurbished car expected to join two others already in service by "late spring." Two additional cars are now in "varying stages of overhaul work."

For all that, state officials have already decided that the vintage, orange-colored PCC vehicles will be phased out in the coming years. The Type 9 LVR cars that will replace them will dramatically increase the passenger load capacity. The current 1940s era trolleys can seat 40 people but can fit up to 130 passengers on a tightly packed trip. The Type 9 cars only have four additional seats but

have much more standing room and can carry a maximum of 212 people per car, according to the MBTA.

The newer vehicles have other advantages. They are more dependable in winter months and won't be as noisy as they rattle through the neighborhoods, T officials have said.


The MBTA first announced plans to swap out the PCC cars with Type 9 LVRs in 2019. At the time, the T said it planned to continue running the vintage cars for another 8-10 years before transitioning to the larger vehicles. In the interim, the agency budgeted about \$8 million to repair the PCC cars to keep them running until the line was equipped to carry the newer, heavier fleet. At public meetings held in 2022 and 2023, MBTA officials re-affirmed their intent to follow through on that plan and offered updates on evolving engineering plans and cost estimates for retrofitting the nine station stops along the line.



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Their goal: Keep St. Brendan's church open

(Continued from page 1) is not affiliated with the archdiocese – is planning more fundraising events. If the goals are met and the church remains open, the group will be charged with continuing to maintain adequate attendance, offertory income, and fundraising for the next three years.

“We’re approaching our 90th year and we have a long history,” said John O’Toole, one of the leaders of the Friends group who is also an alumnus of the parish school. “Our Cedar Grove community is tied deeply with St. Brendan’s. It’s not just a building to us. It’s the role it fills for the community from cradle to grave, from baptism to death, all these important life moments that take place in the parish.”

O’Toole’s sister, Beth Emery, is also leading the push for donations and programs that keep the church active and relevant. “What we realized through this effort,” she said, “is that so many people have deep roots in St. Brendan’s. So, we’re projecting what our activities are for next year, what things can we do to keep improving on our goals, surpassing our metrics, and achieving success and attendance. We want people to come back to the church — and they are.”

There’s also clear evidence of a renewed commitment inside the church itself, where John Parsons — a longtime congregant and painter — has been donating his labor and time to brightening the space with fresh coats of paint. He has already repainted some of the church’s statues, including one that depicts the church’s namesake saint and another, a gift from the parish school’s classes of 1971 and 1972, that depicts St. Patrick. He has also made re-

pairs to the altar and can be found most days hand-painting the names of donor families onto the walls of the church, part of an ongoing fundraising campaign. For \$500, each name is painted in gold on a marble-ized wall near the altar.

“When I was four, I was in that church and that was the most awesome, beautiful place in my life at the time,” said Parsons, who grew up in the parish, attended the school, and became part of an “inter-parish family” when he married his wife, another St. Brendan’s native. “I think it’s the ground of my inspiration for a lot of paintings.”

Parsons said he can feel that his efforts — combined with those of scores of other volunteers — has energized the community.

“I hope the archdiocese keeps its word, because I think we’re holding up on our end admirably,” Parsons said. “I’ll go as far as to say that on paper it looks like the worst thing that’s ever happened to us, but I

know it’s not. And in some ways, I would have to say that it’s part of a real revitalization here.”

Frank Doyle, a board member of the Friends group who serves as a liaison to the archdiocese, agrees. He says there’s an appreciation for the cardinal’s willingness to allow the church community to find a way forward.

“The church, in many ways is the anchor to the community; it certainly is here at Saint Brendan’s,” said Doyle, who has lived in the parish for 40 years. “More of the plan has to do with how to rebuild the connection with the pastor and the church and the community. To develop new ways of attracting and re-attracting people to the Catholic faith and our parish community.”

Doyle points out that St. Brendan is not the only congregation in the city facing hardships.

“There’s been a lot of things going on with the Catholic Church over the last 20 years which has for many reasons diminished the faithful

or at least perhaps the commitment level of the faithful to the church. I think that all of us have a kind of responsibility to try and help rectify that or change it back to what the tenets of the faith are,” he said.

O’Toole adds: “What the parish offers is so important to this neighborhood. We’ve been through a lot, but we’re very resilient. And we’re really hoping to see this through.”

For more information on the effort to keep St. Brendan’s open, see friendsofsaintbrendan.org.



John Parsons at work in the St. Brendan’s church sanctuary this week. Cassidy McNeeley photo

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
SUFFOLK DIVISION
24 NEW CHARDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
Docket No. SU24D0351DR
DIVORCE SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION and MAILING
KATHLEEN SCOTT
vs.
DUANE SCOTT

To the Defendant:
The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown of the Marriage. 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: Kathleen Scott, 377 Central St., Avon, MA 02322 your answer, if any, on or before 05/02/2024. 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: March 7, 2024
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate
Published: March 21, 2024

LEGAL NOTICE

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. SU24P0520EA
ESTATE OF:
MARY F. JACKSON
DATE OF DEATH: 11/30/2023

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Donna P. Forbes of Boston, 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 Donna P. Forbes of Boston, 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 21, 2024

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257 Washington Street

APRIL

3

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/496q1nQ

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Meeting ID: 161 978 6819

Project Proponent:

Draco & Toscano LLP

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Close of Public Comment Period:

4/12/2024

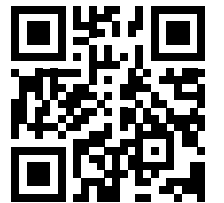
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Yet another 'no way' vote to more fried chicken in Codman Square

**BY SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR**

"Fried chicken" outlets need not apply in Codman Square. The operator of a franchise that offers that poultry preparation was spurned by the Codman Square Neighborhood Council (CSNC) at its March 6 meeting as members voted to oppose Boston Fried Chicken operator Aftab Ali's plan to replace the Oriental House Chinese food take-out restaurant at 560 Washington St.

The civic group's leaders cited existing food options in the square, which includes Kentucky Fried Chicken and McDonald's, as a key reason for the naysaying. The council previously moved to block another fried chicken chain, Popeye's, which sought to open at a different Washington Street location.

The Oriental House business is up for sale after its long-time owner

passed away recently. Ali and his brother have operated their first Boston Fried Chicken location at 999 Blue Hill Ave. for the past two years.

In a statement to the Reporter, CSNC President Cynthia Loesch-Johnson said: "There was concern about the fried chicken being an additional unhealthy option in the community, and the owner not being invested in enhancing the storefront or investing in the community based on what he shared about his other location. There was not support for this establishment in Codman Square."

Loesch-Johnson said Ali is welcomed to pitch a different approach to the business that would address the concerns brought by CSNC, and the Council agreed to hear him out. "Stay tuned," she said.

For his part, Ali said he came to the council at the

behest of the landlord, who didn't want "another Popeye's" situation.

"I know the community is concerned about the food coming to the community," he said. "The reason I'm here is that I want to do more with this location. I know it's fried chicken, but I have other things like gyros, hamburgers, and salads. The big thing is fried chicken, that is true... The food I'm bringing is not more unhealthy than the one that exists there now." He also noted that fried chicken items make up about 20 percent of the proposed menu.

He told the council members gathered at the Great Hall and on Zoom that, if approved, he intended to open in about four months and have 30 seats for dine-in customers - in addition to a takeout business. While his location on Blue Hill Avenue is almost primarily fried chicken, he said he inherited that

and wanted to do more in Codman Square.

"It's a really good spot," he said. "I want to open up a better place and put money into it to make it better." He added that he would "consider" changing the name, so that 'fried chicken' isn't on the sign.

Neighbor Dana Richardson said if a restaurant is located in Codman Square, he wanted the owner listen to the community about the menu offerings.

"I'd like you to really involve the suggestions from the community," he said. "There are a lot of us that don't want to travel distances to get the food we want. We don't just like fried chicken around here."

The lack of support follows a lukewarm reception last fall from the council for a plan to relocate the Domino's Pizza franchise in Fields Corner to the former Citizens Bank property

in Codman Square. That plan was withdrawn earlier this year.

The Popeye's proposal to locate in Codman Square resulted in a years-long legal battle between some neighbors and the national chain while the storefront, though built out with more than \$1 million in investment, remained vacant until the lease ran out last year. Popeye's never opened.

She noted that 72 percent of judges come from a police or district attorney's office background, and she'd like more public defenders to get a shot at the seats, and for the Council to dig into those with law enforcement backgrounds.

"We need the right people to vet these judges and people trying to become judges and ask them simple questions," she said. "If they say 'no,' then I say 'no.' We need to change these courts."

Codman Square Notebook

• A bid for Governor's Council - Stacy Borden, of Grove Hall, appeared at the CSNC to announce her run for District 4's seat on the Governor's Council. A newcomer to politics, Borden said she grew up in Roxbury, lived in Dorchester, and fell into drugs and incarceration when she was younger. Having found a new path in life running a re-entry program from her home, she is now pursuing the Council post, which, most importantly, vets and decides yes or no on nominated judges for state courts.

"It's probably the most important position that affects our community, particularly Black and Brown people," she said. "There has never been a person of color on that board and that's out of line."

Borden needs 1,000 signatures before April 30 to get on the ballot.

• The police beat for Codman Square has remained quiet for the third month in a row, and no one is unhappy about that. Police did report one concerning firearm incident on Alpha Road on Feb. 15.

Around 5:23 a.m., police said a 22-year-old man from Lawrence was going down the street knocking on doors. Police responded and found him on a front porch. Upon seeing them, police said, he dropped a .38 caliber firearm that was fully loaded. The resident of the home had no idea who he was. Police believe he was likely trying to commit a home invasion and he was charged with five felonies.



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Kennedy, Cameron	Keeler, Julie M	56 Westglow St	02/28/24	690,000	Dorchester
Bailey Irish Co LLC		20 Fairmount St	02/28/24	1,815,000	Dorchester
Johnson, Lateia M		36 Goodale Rd	02/28/24	385,000	Mattapan
Murphy Hill Group LLC		11 Richmere Rd	02/26/24	550,000	Mattapan
Jacques, Claudith M	Michael, Erisner	70 Wildwood St	02/28/24	1,015,000	Mattapan
Pham, Tuan	Nguyen, Ruby	48 Coffey St #1C	02/29/24	450,000	Dorchester
Levy, Denise J		22 W Main St #22	02/26/24	539,900	Mattapan
Marowitz, Abel N	Carpino, Anthony C	48 Boutwell St #1	02/26/24	885,000	Dorchester
Keen Re Solution Inc		19-21 Dewey St	02/27/24	750,000	Dorchester
Nguyen, Long	Nguyen, Tuyet T	86-88 Bernard St #86	02/27/24	550,000	Dorchester
Pacini, Steven J		5 Bellflower St #3	02/27/24	902,250	Dorchester
Perez-Guzman, Erick		106 Glenway St #3	02/28/24	450,000	Dorchester
Chen, Xiangyi		Ronan 953 LLC	02/28/24	979,000	Dorchester
Liang, Reece	Guo, Lisa	19-23 Clapp St LLC	02/29/24	827,500	Dorchester
Zho, Bo	Yu, Peiwen	Droknars Forge LLC	02/29/24	1,000,000	Dorchester
Marchese, Stefano	Meo, Milena G	Rnan 953 LLC	02/29/24	580,000	Dorchester
Lalishvili, Irakli		19-21 Moseley St LLC	02/29/24	85,000	Dorchester
Greenburg, Jeffrey S	Luncey, Holly A	32 Pearl St LLC	02/29/24	69,500	Dorchester
Nelson, Christopher M	Odell-Nelson, Erin W				
Huag, Jing					
Maureen E Reedy Irt	Armstrong, Maureen R				
M & M Fairmont LLC					
Castle Rock Norfolk LLC					
Rosenfield, Anna M					
Lamisere, Alvin	Meus, Marie				
Truong, Cuong	Diana, Ngoc -				
Salcedo, Rosanna M					
Kelly, Brain P	Oregan, Samantha E				
Barnes, Vesper G					
86-88 Bernard LLC					
3-5 Bellflower St LLC					
106 Glenway LLC					
Ronan 953 LLC					
19-23 Clapp St LLC					
Droknars Forge LLC					
Rnan 953 LLC					
19-21 Moseley St LLC					
32 Pearl St LLC					

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BPS to seek state funding for new Columbia Point school complex

(Continued from page 1) “that will be embedded in the Columbia Point community and connected to the UMass Boston campus as part of our community hub school strategy.”

Mayor Wu highlighted the new partnership with UMass Boston to support the combined school during her State of the City address in January.

Ondrea Johnston, who is the head of school at the BCLA-McCormack, said Skipper’s announcement had brought a “sigh of relief” from her governing board and families.

“A new building will give us things we’re missing from the school now, like an auditorium,” she said in an interview with the *Reporter* last Friday. “We have to ask the Dever Elementary next door now to use their auditorium. We wouldn’t need to do that in a new building.”

“Our kids want to form a baseball team, and we have a co-op now with South Boston, but it lacks athletic facilities for students to practice,” she noted. “The one thing we’re missing is we don’t have a baseball facility where you can practice or play. A new building gives us those options to get these kinds of things.” Other “dream” amenities and programs, she said, include a theatre and a library.

The Statement of Interest (SOI) that Skipper announced is the first step in a process to obtain state funding. Last December, BPS successfully won state designation to fund the construction of a new school to house the merged Shaw and Charles Taylor elementary schools on the Dorchester/Mattapan line.

A School Committee vote on the BCLA-McCormack plan was expected to be taken on Wednesday of this week, with the City Council asked to vote on it later this month. The SOI would next need to be submitted to the MSBA by April 12 – leaving extended community discussions for later in the process if the state accepts the plan.

A new school facility on Mount Vernon Street has been the topic of discussion since 2019, when BCLA began its merger with the McCormack Middle School by migrating its students – class by class – to the Dorchester campus. Currently, there are about 600 students in the McCormack building, with only the current senior class still attending school at the Hyde Park campus (the former Hyde Park High School).

BPS says a new facility is needed to house the merged school communi-

ty’s existing enrollment and to accommodate an expected additional demand to serve a growing Columbia Point population stemming from the planned Dorchester Bay City (1,970 units) and life sciences development. BPS also points to Boston students who travel outside the neighborhood or opt for charter or parochial high schools as prospective enrollees at a new or renovated school campus.

The details of the new UMass Boston partnership have not as yet been fully laid out, but Skipper also nodded to it during her Feb. 29 presentation.

“It checks a lot of the boxes of a model and ideal as we go forward, and the UMass component is novel,” she said.

Delavern Stanislaus, chief of capital planning for BPS, said that in looking at BPS students living in Dorchester and in South Boston, only 21 percent attend grades 7-12 nearby. Most travel as far away as Charlestown High School or Brighton High School, or over to Excel High School in South Boston, or enroll in Boston Collegiate Charter School in the Polish Triangle. Many also choose all-

male parochial schools like Boston College High School or private schools outside of Boston.

Stanislaus said that BPS believes the Columbia Point area can support a high school with as many as 1,600 students and that “there will be a higher demand for high school seats from Dorchester and South Boston students – and a draw for others from around the city.”

But not everyone is convinced on that point, with School Committee members Brandon Cardet-Hernandez and Chantal Lima Barbosa being two of the unpersuaded.

“I am struggling to understand how we’re using demand data to inform the choices,” said Cardet-Hernandez during the Feb. 29 meeting. He wondered if the plan still was relevant, and if there were enough students interested in such a school to justify it.

Skipper said the Columbia Point community has already bought into the plan, particularly because it offers an option to keep kids close to home for their entire educational pathway. And, like Stanislaus, she said that BPS believes it

will bring back students that left for charters or parochial schools.

“This is sort of an ‘if you build it, they will come [situation],’” said Skipper. “I think it’s an interesting question because we’re not just looking to meet demand but create demand.”

Cardet-Hernandez said he thinks it will take more than just a building to bring students back to BPS.

“I suspect we’re not just losing families and students because of buildings; we’re losing them because of instruction,” he said. “I don’t want us to put all our eggs in a facilities basket when, at the core, families are making decisions and are smart enough to know it’s not just the wrapping paper, but what’s inside the box.”

Back at the school, Principal Johnston said the school community craves the “dedicated spaces” for things most high schools have. “That’s what excites me the most, having a place to build things,” she said. “We’re trying to form a band and we really want to form a band, but I need a band room to house the band... It’s those dedicated spaces.”

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- **April 6 - 7**



Red Line passing under Dorchester Avenue Bridge while under construction

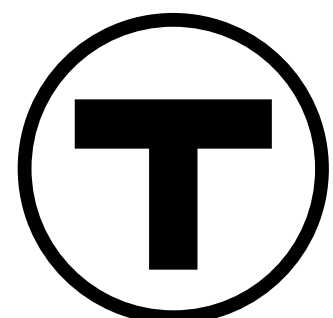
Construction of the new bridge, with sidewalks and bike lanes, will begin in Spring 2024. The bridge is located between Von Hillern and Kemp Streets.

Neighbors should expect increased construction noise from heavy equipment and machinery.

The MBTA appreciates your patience while we work to complete this critical safety project.



Building a better T.
[MBTA.com/DotAveBridge](https://www.mbta.com/DotAveBridge)





BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF DORCHESTER



BGCD Members Go to Drumlin Farm with Elevate Youth: See details below.



BGCD Marr-lins Swim Team Captures Division 2 Championship at Sectionals: See details below.

CONNECT THE DOT:

BGCD Members Go to Drumlin Farm with Elevate Youth: For the month of March, Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester members took a fun trip with Elevate Youth to Drumlin Farm in Lincoln. While at the Farm, our members learned how maple syrup is made, took a tour of the grounds and visited the animal barns. For our Spring sessions, we will be partnering with Elevate Youth for exciting trips including Cape Cod, fishing, and camping. 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 at Elevate Youth for making these monthly opportunities possible. For more information about partnerships at BGCD, please contact Mike Joyce at mjoyce@bgcdorchester.org.

FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE:

BGCD Marr-lins Swim Team Captures Division 2 Championship at Sectionals: Congratulations to the members of Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester's Marr-lins Swim Team on capturing the Division 2 Championship at the recent Sectional Championship Meet!

The 2-day meet, which was held in Worcester, brings together all the teams from the Program Council league to close out the season. In addition to several upcoming Invitational Meets, 21 team members have qualified for the National Championship Meet in Florida taking place in April. Good luck!

For information on the Marr-lins Swim Team, please contact Aquatics Director, Doreen Manna, at dmanna@bgcdorchester.org.

DID YOU KNOW:

BGCD Partners with Museum of Fine Arts, Boston for Community Arts Initiative: Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester is excited to be one of 12 partners with the Museum of Fine Arts in their Community Arts Initiative (CAI). One of the many benefits of the partnership includes the opportunity to work with an Artist, and alongside the other CAI partners, to create a piece of artwork that will be installed in the Museum. Recently the Artist visited BGCD to work with our members on their contribution to the artwork.

We are anxiously looking forward to a special event in May for our Artists and their families to join us at the installation at the Museum.

For more information on the Arts at BGCD, please contact Katy Sullivan at ksullivan@bgcdorchester.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Video Game Club Mario Kart Tournament
March 22

Yout of the Year Celebration
March 28

New Balance Basketball Jamboree
March 29

Marr-lins Swim Nationals
April 12 - 14

Patriot's Day - BGCD Closed
April 15

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



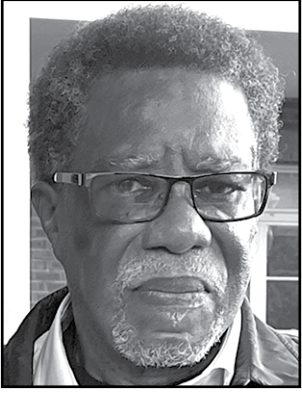
Make your community your business

The Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission's Social Equity Program (SEP) is a free, statewide technical assistance and training program that creates pathways into the legal cannabis industry for individuals most impacted by the War on Drugs.

To learn more about the Commonwealth's equity programming, visit masscannabiscontrol.com/equity



RECENT OBITUARIES



BRACK, Eduardo "Viejito" Antonio Charles, 79, of Dorchester formerly of Colon, Panama. Eduardo was loved by his kids and family. His daughters, the late Giovanni Charles, the late Shanica Charles, Suozette Charles, Erika Charles, Kira Drake, Shevan McDonald, Imelda Edwards and Carla Charles. His sons, Eduardo Charles Jr. and Luisito Charles. He was a loving grandfather to many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He also leaves a host of brothers, sisters, nieces, and nephews to cherish his memories. He worked at GM Motors for many years before retiring.



BROCK, Jarvis Dean, 86, of Milton and OFD. Husband of Doris T. (Ingersoll) Brock. Father of Theresa Brock (Paul) of NH, Doris Jack-

son (Bill) of Rockland, David Brock of Boston, Daniel Brock (Margaret) of Avon, and the late James Brock. Also survived 6 grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren. Son to the late Golden and Verley (Blanton) Brock. Dean worked for the USPS for over 40 years and is an honorable Veteran of the United States Navy.



GILL, Rita B. (Lydon), 98 of Dedham, formerly of Milton, and originally of Dorchester. Daughter to the late Bridget (Walsh) Lydon originally of Callowfeenish, Carna, County Galway, and Joseph Lydon of Letterfrack Ireland. Rita was married to the late Harold J Gill. She was the mother to Patricia Gill of Milton, Norma Gill of Milton, Stephen Gill and Susan DeSisto of Walpole, and Thomas and Suzanne Gill of Canton. She was the Grandmother of 5 and great grandmother of 2. She was predeceased by six brothers, John (Dorothy) Lydon, Joseph (Evelynn) Lydon, James (June) Lydon, Thomas (Lorraine) Lydon, Stephen Lydon, Martin (Mary) Lydon, and one sister, Mary (Joseph) Nee. She is survived by many nieces and nephews. Donations may be made in her memory to St. Jude Children's Hos-

pital at stjude.org. Upon completing school, Rita began her working career at the New England Telephone Company. Later, when her children were older, she worked twenty years for the Town of Milton as the Kitchen Manager at the Pierce Middle School.



JULIAN, Karen T (Iles), 73, of Canton, formerly of Dorchester. Wife of the late Albert Julian, Sr. Mother to Aleisa Fleming-Dunn and Patrick Dunn, Eric Benoit and Phua Khang, and Jason Benoit and Narelle Jordan. She was also stepmother to Paul Benoit and Joanna Benoit. Nana Birdie to 9. Great grandmother to 1. Survived by her brothers Robert Iles and John Iles and her sisters in-law Kare Anderson, Sally Iles and Karen Griffey. She is preceded in death by her parents William and Rita (Carr) Iles, her brother Kevin Iles and nephew Matthew Iles. Donations can be made in her name to the JB Keys to DMD foundation jbskeys.org/donate.html

PISCOPO, Clarinda (DeRosa), 86, of Dorchester. Wife of the late Bernard M. Piscopo. Mother of Rita Laughlin and her husband Walter of Canton, Sharon Maher of West Roxbury, Carolyn Walsh and her



husband Raymond of Braintree, Richard Cheverie of Halifax, Tamilyn Liesenfeld and her husband Bodo of Weston, Darlene Cheverie and her husband Gerald of Boston, Bernard Piscopo of Dorchester, William Piscopo and his wife Heather of Jacksonville, FL and the late Anthony Piscopo and Jenny Ryan. Clarinda is also survived by many loving grandchildren, nieces and nephews. She was pre-deceased by 3 brothers and 2 sisters. Contributions in Clarinda's memory may be made to The Cordwainer, 555 Cordwainer Drive, Norwell, MA 02061.



PUGSLEY, Mary Anne (Sullivan), 81, of Dorchester. Wife of the late Richard W. Pugsley, Sr. Mother of Marianne and her husband, Vincent Pastore of Reading, Andrea and her husband, Kevin Lema of Duxbury, Richard W. Pugsley Jr. and his wife, Donna of Pembroke, Jennifer and her husband, Edward McDonald of Kingston, Sean and his wife, Jennifer Pugsley of Dorchester, and the late baby Richard W. Pugsley Jr.; sister of Martin "Joe" Sullivan of Dorchester; sister-in-law of Dorothy

Miller of Abington, and the late Arthur Pugsley, Deacon Stanley Pugsley, Ernest Pugsley, Robert Pugsley, Charles Pugsley and John Pugsley; devoted "Grammie" of 18; great-grandmother of 3. Mary Anne is also survived by many members of the Ward Family. Mary Anne was a retired para-professional with the Boston Public Schools for 30 years. Donations in MaryAnne's memory may be made to the charity of your choice.



QUILTER, Raymond, 84 of Dorchester. He was born to the late Arthur and Constance (Fuller) Quilter in Belize City, Belize. Husband of Ethel (August) Quilter. Father of Richard Burns, Raymond Quilter, Sharette Quilter and Karen Quilter-Greer. Brother of Leroy Quilter, Earl Quilter, Glen Quilter, Eleanor Coons, Kent Quilter, Robert Quilter and the late Calber Quilter. He is also survived by 14 grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren, extended relatives and friends.



SCULLY, James F. of Southborough formerly of Needham. Husband of Claire (Magliozzi)

Scully. Father of Chelsie J. Rice and her husband Daniel of Roslindale and Jeffrey F. Scully of Dorchester. Brother of Kathy Scully-Hayes (JD), Patricia Gleason (Garrett), MaryEllen O'Malley (Joe), Susan Scully-Rose (Tom) and the late Margaret Crawford (Michael) and John Scully Jr. (Michele). Son of the late John C. and Barbara (Fougere) Scully. Also survived by several nieces and nephews and his late nephew Emmett O'Malley. Gifts may be made out to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in memory of Jim to support cancer research and patient care at: Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, P.O. Box 849168, Boston, MA 02284 or via Dana-farber.org/gift.



VOZZELLA, Rosemary Ann (Lynch), 85, of Hingham, formerly of Braintree, and Dorchester. Daughter of the late Rodman and Lillian (Eade) Lynch. Wife of the late John J. Vozzella. Mother of Cheryl A. Keller and her husband, James of Shelter Island, New York, Gail M. Vozzella of Houston, Texas and John J. Vozzella, III and his wife, Jennifer of Framingham. Grandmother of 7. She is also survived by many nieces, nephews, extended family members and friends. Rosemary was preceded in death by her siblings, Virginia, Catherine, James, John, Dorothy and Gladys. Memorial contributions may be sent in Rosemary's name, to Avondale House, 3737 Omeara Dr., Houston, TX 77025, by visiting avondale-house.org.



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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LEGAL NOTICE

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THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
SUFFOLK PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
24 NEW CHARDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
CITATION GIVING NOTICE
OF PETITION FOR
APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN
FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON
PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304
DOCKET NO. SU24P0408GD
IN THE MATTER OF
GLORIA BREWSTER
OF DORCHESTER, MA
RESPONDENT

Alleged Incapacitated Person
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Mass. Dept. Of Mental Health of Westborough, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Gloria Brewster is in need of a Guardian and requesting that (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond.

The petition asks the Court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 04/10/2024. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.
Witness, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate
Date: March 13, 2024

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The Hyde Park to Dorchester Supply Initiative aims to engage the Greater Boston community through robust conversations, guiding decisions for an essential additional substation with upgraded transmission capacity.

Eversource seeks to meet the city's energy needs during its transition to electrification and decarbonization. Together, we aspire to create a resilient, efficient, and sustainable energy future that benefits all our customers equitably.



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