

# Dorchester Reporter

"The News and Values Around the Neighborhood"

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50¢

## The poet's 'Dot Girl' on recovery: 'Un-silencing' of trauma is key step

Speaking to the turmoil of a childhood in Neponset

BY CHRIS LOVETT  
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

Before she began reading from her debut collection of poetry, "Dot Girl," Linda Carney-Goodrich shared an explainer about complex post-traumatic stress disorder.

Standing before about 50 people on hand March 23 for her launch party at the Menino Arts Center in Hyde Park, she said, "I do this in part because I want to use my personal story as sort of an extended metaphor, because I believe that unprocessed trauma lives in our bodies, but not just in individual bodies, but also in families and on streets and in neighborhoods and in towns and cities, and in countries and in our institutions



Linda Carney-Goodrich discussed her newly-published collection of poems "Dot Girl" during a launch party at the Menino Arts Center in Hyde Park on March 23. The 55-year-old Dorchester native took her audience back almost half a century to her sometime-tumultuous childhood in Neponset.

Chris Lovett photo

– and that un-silencing ourselves is an important step in recovering."

With the early selections from "Dot Girl," the 55-year-old poet took her audience back almost half a century to her childhood in the Neponset section of Dorchester. It was a childhood some-

times roiled by family strife and abuse that led to Carney-Goodrich being placed in foster care. Added to that were conflicted memories of growing up Catholic in St. Ann's Parish. But she could also find release, whether through a bike ride, a poetry program at

the Murphy Community School, or the waters of Dorchester Bay.

The first poem in her collection, "Where the Water Meets the Sky," is about the girl and her friends night swimming at Tenean Beach, before the waters were (Continued on page 13)

## Wu moves to blunt tax burdens for city homeowners

'New normal' for revenue drop?

BY CHRIS LOVETT  
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

Faced with a sharp downturn in office property values in Boston, Mayor Wu is trying to cushion the blow of rising tax bills expected for owners of residential property.

Last week, she announced plans to file a home rule petition with the Boston City Council that would allow for the shift in the tax burden to be reduced and slowed down temporarily. If the measure were to be approved by the council and at the State House, an increase in the higher tax commercial rate, for properties losing value, would result in smaller decreases in quarterly bills, while owners of residential property would still have tax increases, though for smaller amounts.

Like other cities around the country, Boston has experienced a fall-off in demand for commercial space, mainly due to the shift to remote and hybrid work that spiked during the pandemic. The resulting decline in foot traffic in downtown business areas has also contributed to more vacancies for (Continued on page 10)

## City grants are helping new merchants pay for their working spaces

BY SETH DANIEL  
NEWS EDITOR

Finding a place to do business in Boston isn't easy these days, but five entrepreneurs in Dorchester and Mattapan can breathe a little easier this spring thanks to a city grant program that will help them pay for rent and other needs.

The names of the winners in the city's second round of its SPACE grant program – they receive awards of up to \$200,000 along with key technical support – were named this week at a City Hall event.

The competitive program, formally named "Supporting Pandemic Affected Community Enterprises," debuted last year with 24 grantees awarded a total of \$2.83 million that came as a direct result of recommendations from small business owners. Of those grantees, 10 are open (Continued on page 11)



Yanique Shaw  
Flower company entrepreneur

## Four years in, UMass Boston puts the chancellor officially in charge

Friday ceremonies will showcase Dot campus

BY BILL FORRY  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Marcelo Suárez-Orozco will be officially installed as the ninth permanent chancellor of UMass Boston this Friday (April 5) in a ceremony that will be held, in part, on a newly built campus Quad. Hailed as the new "centerpiece" of the Dorchester Bay campus, the walking paths and green space have replaced what was once the university's hulking red-brick Science Center and a crumbling parking garage that was long a symbol of dysfunction and decay.



UMass Boston Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco, who began his duties on the Dorchester campus in 2020, will be officially installed on Friday, April 5. UMass Boston photo

The day-long program of pomp and circumstance comes nearly four years

after Suárez-Orozco first arrived in Dorchester. His tenure on the Colum-

bia Point started in lonely fashion at the height of Covid protocols, but even when his fellow humans resurfaced, the 67-year-old Argentina native held off on planning a formal event to mark his official duties.

The completion of the Quad, he says, is the right moment for a "proper celebration."

"It's really to use the excuse that I have to be installed to really gather us for a moment of reflection, and for a moment to celebrate and announce a new chapter

(Continued on page 9)

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Police, Courts & Fire

Boy, 15, charged in armed robberies at three convenience stores last week

Boston Police arrested and charged a 15-year-old boy last Friday with the armed robbery of three convenience stores on Blue Hill Avenue and Harvard Street that week just after he entered a fourth store.

The teen, too young to have his name released, reportedly started the robbery spree at Century Convenience, 766 Blue Hill Ave., on Tuesday around 8:45 p.m. He is alleged to have robbed the store at gunpoint, stealing "all the money from the cash register, and several marijuana products."

On Wednesday, police say, the same teen walked into the RJ convenience store at 844 Blue Hill Ave. around 6:55 p.m. and stole "money from both cash registers and several marijuana products." On Thursday, police charge, the same teen stole cash from Express Market at 124 Harvard St. around 2:10 p.m.

The teen's streak ended Friday, according to detectives who were driving down Harvard Street around 4:35 p.m. to see if anybody might have any additional surveillance video related to the Thursday robbery. According to their account, they spotted a person walking into the Mini-Central convenience store at 140 Harvard St. who matched the description of the robber: Tall and dressed all in black, including a black ski mask.

The detectives "stopped the suspect inside the store and placed him into handcuffs." After a search, they found a replica handgun matching the one described in the earlier robberies, police say. The teen was charged with being delinquent for three counts of armed robbery while masked.

A man arrested on gun charges was later charged with a March 24 shooting in Peabody Square that left another man with life-threatening injuries. Police say officers responded to 567 Talbot Ave. shortly after 9 p.m. on March 24 to find a man with multiple gunshot wounds. Police say Irvin Woods, 27, of Dorchester, was initially arrested on March 29 on charges of illegal possession of ammunition, illegal possession of ammunition, driving without a valid license and driving with an open container of alcohol. He has since been charged with the shooting as well.

A 37-year-old Dorchester man was charged with assault and battery after, police say, he brandished a knife and chased victims who were playing basketball at Roberts Playground on Saturday afternoon (March 30). Omar Stephenson was arrested by B-3 Police who were called to the scene at Dunbar Avenue around 5:30 p.m., according to a BPD report noting that the suspect had become "aggressive" and attacked one victim after he was not allowed to join a game. Officers recovered a 12-inch hunting knife from Stephenson, who was later arraigned in Dorchester District Court.



A "little kids" Easter Egg Hunt at Savin Hill Park drew hundreds of eager kids and their families on March 24. The free event included face-painting and activities organized by DotArt and a visit from Mayor Wu and her family. Mayor's Office photo by Jeremiah Robinson

Fuel assistance deadline is extended to May 10

Bostonians who need help to pay their heating bills have more time to apply for assistance, according to the anti-poverty agency that administers a federally funded grant program. Eligible households can get up to \$1,950 through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, an increase of \$600 from last year. The deadline is now May 10.

Taste of Dorchester returns on April 25

Eighteen restaurants will serve all kinds of food for a good cause at the 16th annual Taste of Dorchester event on Thurs., April 25, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the IBEW 103 Local headquarters at 256 Freepoint St. Taste of Dorchester, hosted by the Massachusetts Affordable Housing Alliance, raises money to help more people access homeownership. Other Taste events include silent auctions and musical performances.

This year, the restaurants involved are Chill on Park, Clarke's Cakes and Cookies, DW Brewpub, El Barrio Mexican Grill, Family Affair, Fresh Food Generation, Irie Jamaican Style Restaurant, Kapow Thai Cuisine, Lower Mills Tavern, Lucy's American Tavern, Muri's Kitchen, Shanti Taste of India, Sweet Teez Bakery, Tavolo Ristorante, The Bowery Bar, The Ice Creamsmith, Top Shelf Cookies, and Yellow Door Taqueria.

You can buy tickets at the early bird price before April 12 at mahahome.org.

-TAYLOR BROKESH

ready received 19,204 grant applications this season—but can still accept more.

"This will allow us to help residents who are struggling with heating costs, and who are stretched thin overall by cost-of-living expenses like food, rent, and childcare," said ABCD President and CEO Sharon Scott-Chandler.

"We encourage residents to check into their eligibility. Even for

those who can't get the maximum amount, some fuel assistance will allow them to reallocate their money to other areas of need."

The grants are awarded based on household size and annual income. Many people mistakenly believe they don't qualify when, in fact, they do. Residents of Boston, Brookline, and Newton can apply by calling ABCD at 617-357-6012.

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UPCOMING CIVIC MEETINGS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Advertisement for 'Fixing the Filibuster' event on Thursday, April 11, 2024, 6:30pm EST. Features Edward M. Kennedy Institute logo, QR code, and photos of Sen. Jeff Merkley and Mike Zamore. Includes text: 'Light refreshments and book signing will follow the program. Free to attend.'

Advertisement for Boston Day on April 15, featuring neighborhood cleanup in Franklin Park, BPDA virtual meeting on April 4, and Mayor's Cup Street Hockey Tournament. Includes text: 'SEND IN EVENT NOTICES TO NEWSEDITOR@DOTNEWS.COM'

# Next step for low-income T riders: Half-priced fares

By CHRIS LISINSKI  
STATE HOUSE  
NEWS SERVICE

Tens of thousands of MBTA riders are about to gain access to half-priced fares. Years after public transit advocates launched a campaign to roll out a widespread low-income fare at the T, the agency's board of directors stamped its approval on a formal plan that will provide an option to riders who earn less than their peers but do not qualify for one of the more narrowly tailored existing programs.

"This is an amazing day," Transportation Secretary Monica Tibbits-Nutt, who long pushed for a low-income fare expansion when she served on the MBTA board's predecessor, said. "This is 10 years in the making."

The program will likely launch this summer, according to MBTA General Manager Phil Eng.

Riders who earn less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level – which in 2024 is about \$30,120 annually for a single person or \$62,400 for a family of four – will qualify for MBTA fares at half the usual cost.

Yinchun Liang, a Charlestown resident, home care worker, and advocate with the Chi-

nese Progressive Association, said the prices of the T's monthly passes can be especially daunting for riders who rely on the system every day.

"The cost of living is increasing very rapidly. Our wages are staying stagnant, which takes a toll in our daily lives," Liang said through an interpreter. "For a low-income family like ours, it is really challenging to afford the \$90 monthly pass."

The reduced fares will apply to all travel across the MBTA's network, including commuter rail, ferries and the RIDE paratransit service.

The original proposal excluded the RIDE's premium service area, but board members agreed via an amendment that Tibbits-Nutt offered to add that into the mix, too. "It's everything," the secretary said after the meeting. "We've got it all now."

Activists who have spent years fighting for the change showed up in force to last Thursday's meeting, clad in red or blue T-shirts reflecting their organizations, and they broke into vocal cheers right as the vote closed.

MBTA officials have estimated the program could cost roughly \$25

million in fiscal 2025, then rise to between \$52 million and \$62 million per year once fully implemented by fiscal 2029. Once demand ramps all the way up, the T projects about 62,000 train, bus and ferry riders will take advantage, plus 28,000 people who use the RIDE paratransit service.

They said that expanding the option to the RIDE premium service would add another \$4 million annually to the cost and impact about 45,000 trips.

Supporters pointed to Gov. Healey's election as a key turning point for the idea of a widespread low-income fare at the T. Healey and lawmakers

agreed to put \$5 million into the current year's state budget to fund the groundwork for standing up the program, and the governor proposed another \$45 million to cover its costs in her fiscal year 2025 spending bill.

It's not yet clear if the House and Senate, which will debate their own budget rewrites in the next two months, will agree to steer money toward the T for the new fare option.

"For the low-income fares to work well, the House and Senate must ensure that funding is included in the final state budget," Transportation for Massachusetts Executive Director Reggie

Ramos said. "We look to Beacon Hill to ensure ongoing, consistent, and permanent revenue support for the low-income fare program through the coming years."

Asked how the T would find funding if the Legislature does not greenlight the additional investment, Eng replied that the agency is "moving forward" using the \$5 million already appropriated and is "optimistic" lawmakers will be on board.

"Should they not, the T will find a way to continue to balance all of our needs. We know how important this is," he said. "But I'm really optimistic that the \$5



"This is an amazing day," said Transportation Secretary Monica Tibbits-Nutt, above. This is 10 years in the making." She pushed for a low-income fare expansion when she served on the MBTA board's predecessor.

million there was intended to be followed up with other funding sources."

## Cartwright joins the race to succeed Doyle as SJC Clerk

Allison S. Cartwright, an attorney and public defender, announced her candidacy for Clerk of the Supreme Judicial Court in Suffolk County on Monday. She will seek to replace Maura Doyle, who announced in February that she will not seek re-election in November.

Cartwright joins current Boston City Councillor Erin Murphy, who is also a candidate for the elected position. Murphy

can run for the county seat without giving up her council position; however she would be expected to step down from the council if she wins the clerk's job, which administers critical functions within the court system and oversees the admission of lawyers to the Massachusetts bar.

Cartwright, who presently supervises 75 public defenders through the Committee for Public

Counsel Service, pointed to her 30-plus years of experience as an attorney and manager.

"Ensuring the working class and poor people have access to justice and be able to navigate the court system has been my life's work," Cartwright said.

In addition to Boston, Suffolk County includes Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop. Doyle, who has held the position for



Allison S. Cartwright 28 years, is currently the longest-serving elected official from Dorchester. – STAFF

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### Federal Flood Hazard Zoning Updates

APRIL

4

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

**Zoom Link:**  
[bit.ly/FloodHazardZoningMeeting](https://bit.ly/FloodHazardZoningMeeting)

**Toll Free:** (833) 568 - 8864

**Meeting ID:** 161 321 0996

**Project Description:**  
Please join the Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) for a virtual info session to learn more about the zoning updates to Article 25. These updates are required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in order for Boston to maintain its status as a National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) community.

BPDA staff will give an overview of affected neighborhoods and discuss the benefits of purchasing flood insurance if your property or business is located in a flood zone. The presentation will be followed by an open discussion session to ask questions about the changes. All are welcome to join!

mail to: **Rachel Elm kies**  
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phone: 617.918.4480

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Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary



Jascha Franklin-Hodge, chief of streets for the city (second from left), kicked off the meeting on Monday night at the Brooke Charter School. At right, a streetscape of Snowden Way shows the current street lights, sidewalks, and curbing that were built out several years ago. In a surprise to many, they did not meet code for the city when the developer tried to transfer them to public way status. *Seth Daniel photos*

## Harvard Commons residents at odds over street ownership

BY SETH DANIEL  
NEWS EDITOR

Members of the city's Public Improvement Commission (PIC) convened a rare hearing at Dorchester's Brooke Charter school on Monday night in hopes of breaking a stalemate involving ownership rights of residential streets laid out as part of the Harvard Commons development. The streets and other infrastructure like lights, sidewalks, and sewers – specifically on Senator Bolling Circle and Snowden Way off of Harvard Street – are currently privately owned and not under the control of city agencies, meaning that individual homeowners themselves must foot the bill to pay for repairs and upkeep.

On Monday, commissioners from PIC and Boston's chief of streets heard directly from frustrated residents, most of whom indicated that they want to end the confusion and have the city of Boston take full ownership of the streets and infrastructure. By becoming public ways, the streets would be maintained and paid for like most city streets – using public tax dollars.

Monday's hearing was an initial step in what is known as a "Betterment Process" – which has become a rarity in older cities like Boston, which doesn't often add new streets to its atlas.

Jascha Franklin-Hodge, the chief of streets and chair of the PIC, said on Monday that the group took the unusual step of meeting in a neighborhood setting to respond to an extraordinary demand to resolve complaints.

"We believe on the advice of our attorneys that we have sufficient public interest and support in pursuing the Betterment Process and allowing it to proceed," said Franklin-Hodge. "We are not dictators," he added. "Our goal is not to exercise our authority unilaterally... Betterments are not commonplace."

There will be a cost to homeowners to transition their streets to the public rolls. Current estimates reveal it to be between \$2,000 and \$2,400 per homeowner based on a formula calculated using property frontage. The charge would be attached as a lien to resident tax bills, and owners can pay up front or stretch it over 10 to 20 years at 7 percent interest.

The clear majority of the 54 homeowners who turned out and voted on the matter – roughly 80 percent by the Reporter's count – want their streets to "go public." However, there were voices of dissent from several people, including residents who have filed a pending lawsuit against the city and Cruz Construction, whom they blame

for not getting the streets made public already.

Cruz, the developer who built out the homes and the new streets over the last 15 years, did not respond to a request for comment from the *Reporter*. Critics say Cruz is to blame for not telling homebuyers about the private way status – and they want it to pay the fees.

"No one ever told us we would have to pay for the road," said Marjorie Codrington, of Snowden Way, during public comment on Monday. "To me all this is illegal, or maybe I'm foolish... We were deceived, and we need someone to protect us. If the city and its government isn't going to protect us, who will?"

But other neighbors disagreed, saying, basically, that they felt it was time to swallow the bitter medicine and lock in current costs before they increase.

"It's an insurance policy to mitigate the expenses – protection," said resident Mark Koeck. "In a nutshell, this has been going on for five years... This didn't happen overnight and didn't surprise people. When Marjorie said she felt 'foolish,' well so do I. But there's a time to cut bail and move on, but not everyone can."

According to state Rep. Russell Holmes, the current dispute began when one of his constituents called in a

request to fix a sidewalk that had buckled in 2019. When Holmes asked the city to fix it, they said it was a private way, and the repair was the responsibility of the homeowner.

Holmes argues that the best course of action is to move forward with a change to public ownership. He hailed Monday's vote by residents as "the right decision."

Those adamantly against the vote include residents Aalana Feaster, Darien Spruill, Lenora Cruz and Etlyn Steele. Together, they filed a lawsuit last month in Suffolk Superior Court to try to slow down the process. The case is pending.

Feaster said the PIC was rushing the process and should hold off until after their complaints are heard in court. She explained they would like the street to be public, but believe the developer, Cruz, should foot all the costs – particularly since they received city and state grants in the past to bring the streets up to code and public.

"We are saying ... allow the courts to make a decision and then we can revisit it, but you're speeding it up, so the process here gets decided before the courts have decided," she said. "That is problematic."

Feaster said they will file an injunction to stop an April 11 acceptance vote by PIC.



## Transition your legacy skills to the legal market

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 Social Equity Program, visit [masscannabiscontrol.com/equity](https://masscannabiscontrol.com/equity)

# Bill Raynor, standout as basketball player and coach, shares his story in new memoir

## Counselor at Cristo Rey tells readers ‘Why Black Men Nod at Each Other’

By TAYLOR BROKESH  
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

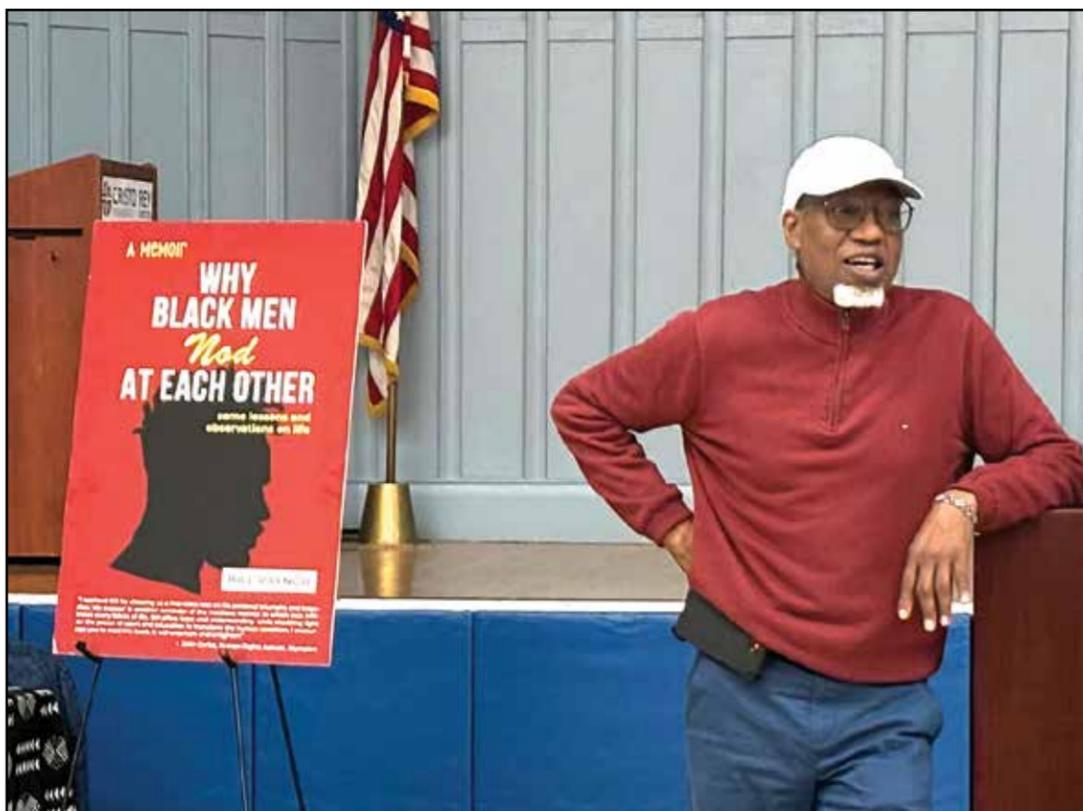
Bill Raynor, a celebrated basketball player and coach, poet and educator, marked the release of his memoir, “Why Black Men Nod at Each Other,” last week at Cristo Rey Boston High School in Savin Hill in front of friends, colleagues, and former teammates.

Raynor grew up in Mission Hill through the 1960s, earning acclaim as a key member of championship teams at Catholic Memorial High School in West Roxbury and in varsity play at Dartmouth College, from which he graduated in 1974 with a degree in education.

After some international travel, including to Senegal and France, he returned to Boston to coach at his high school alma mater, where, he said, he “fell in love with coaching.”

Over the next 40 years, Raynor went on to coach at St. Mary’s of Lynn High School, Harvard University, Brown University, College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, and Mass-Bay Community College. Now retired, he devotes two days a week as a student counselor at Cristo Rey.

Rosemary Powers, the president of Cristo Rey Boston High School, was at the book launch to support her colleague.



Bill Raynor discussed his memoir, *Why Black Men Nod at Each Other*, during an event last week at Cristo Rey Boston High School in Savin Hill. Taylor Brokesh photo

“We are just so thrilled to have Bill at Cristo Rey,” she told the *Reporter*. “He inspires the kids every day. I’ve heard him tell them, ‘Always drive to do better. Look how big the world is.’ He has such a presence on our campus.”

Major themes in the memoir, Raynor said, come from his

days as an athlete and from the viewpoint of a coach.

“One of the great things about participation in sports is that it’s a great equalizer in terms of breaking down the barriers that we have,” Raynor said. “You know, we’re separated by religion and race and economic status, but

through athletic competition, many times those barriers are broken down and people get a chance to see each other as people and see the value of each other. And oftentimes, I don’t think we appreciate each other’s differences, but in sports, we look at them as something to embrace.”

Similarly, Raynor said, the memoir draws from his experiences growing up in a tumultuous period in Boston, with school desegregation and racial strife at the center of community life. He recalled how, when he was in his twenties, a childhood friend was killed by police in a case of mistaken identity.

He explained that the title of his memoir comes from a question he received from a white student he coached at Holy Cross when they were at Logan Airport en route to a game, and how he seized the opportunity for a teachable moment with his response.

“Nodding at each other is acknowledgment,” Raynor said. “It says, ‘I see you.’ It says that, even though I don’t know who you are, or I’ve never seen you before in my life, I know that we share something. It could be the guy who got off the plane in a three-piece suit, and he’s a CEO, and he’s walking to baggage claim, and it could be the Black janitor pushing the cart, and they pass each other, and give each other a nod. This shows you how powerful and how insidious race is in everything that we do.”

You can buy “*Why Black Men Nod at Each Other*” and Bill Raynor’s poetry collections at [raynorbooks.com](http://raynorbooks.com).

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Photo by Brooke Trisolini.

# Chase offers helping hand to minority businesses

By **CASSIDY MCNEELEY**  
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

Seven small business owners celebrated the completion of a four-month program run by JP Morgan Chase at the bank's Mattapan Square branch last month. The Coaching for Impact initiative offers participants support for business development, technical matters, networking, and accessing capital resources, all with the goal of closing the racial wealth gap.

The program's latest cohort included entrepreneurs from Hillside Harvest, Charles Advisory Group, The Child and Family Wellness Center, The Pearl restaurant in South Bay, the Duplessy Foundation, Gourmet Kreyol, and Barry Jackman Accounting Services.

Enrollees in the program, which is run by Johnny "JC" Charles, vice president of business banking for JP Morgan Chase, were given the opportunity to work with a senior business consultant.

"My background is in social policy and management," said Charles. "I left the nonprofit sector to do something meaningful. My passion lies in both my community and business ownership. So, when the opportunity came up, I jumped on it."

A first-generation Haitian American and proud Bostonian, Charles has been on the job with Chase for more than two years and has led three Coaching for Impact classes. "The whole



**A group of small business owners celebrated the completion of a four-month program run by JP Morgan Chase at the bank's Mattapan Square branch on March 20.**  
*Cassidy McNeeley photo*

point is to develop a relationship with the individual and not really push products and services," he said. "All of it is non-traditional."

"Historically, to sit down with a banker you're talking about a product or service," he said. "When you sit down with me, it's all about how is your business doing? What do the operations look like? How can we come up with smart goals?"

At last Thursday's celebration, which was catered by the Pearl, Charles noted that the name Mattapan means "good people, good place to sit. ... As we celebrate one another, let us also walk in appreciation and gratitude of those who walked before us."

Nagib Charles, the founder and president of

Charles Advisory Group and no relation to the JP Morgan Chase executive, was one of the graduates. He established his company last year to offer operational support to life science companies.

"I am just leaning into anyone who I can help," said Nagib. "That looks a little different for everybody. But fundamentally if you got a space, or want a space, or managing a space, I can probably help you out at some point."

His services include design and planning, maintenance and operation, equipment procurement and management, compliance and safety oversight, and space optimization.

"Without Johnny, I don't know if I'd still be here," Nagib told the Reporter. "I don't feel like I graduated *per se*. It's a

moment. I will continue to reach out to them in the same way that I did two months ago. It doesn't stop here. I'd like to keep it going."

With the help of Johnny Charles, Nagib was able to connect with Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corp. and continue to remain involved in the community where he

was raised and where his mother still lives.

Other graduates included Nathalie Lecorps, the owner and operating of Gourmet Kreyol, a food truck that prepares Haitian cuisine. Lecorps was born and raised in Miami, where she watched her parents run their Haitian restaurant, Gourmet Kreyol, for twenty years.

In 2021 she brought those flavors to Boston and set up the city's only Haitian food truck.

Since then, she has had an impact on the city's Haitian community by providing meals to migrant shelters and job opportunities for Haitian community members.

"Right now, we're focusing on feeding the migrant families that are in the shelters," said Lecorps. Her next goal is to find the first permanent home for her business, where she can offer sit-down dining alongside the already existing food truck and catering services.

She said that Charles has helped bring her business success and she knows he will play a role in her ability to acquire her brick-and-mortar space.

For his part, he notes that small businesses are the key driver of building wealth in communities of color and that he hopes to continue to support entrepreneurs like Nagib and Lecorps.

## Non-profits can seek grants from DA's office

Non-profit organizations in Suffolk County can apply for grants of up to \$10,000 through District Attorney Kevin Hayden's Community Reinvestment Grant (CRG) program.

Last year, Hayden's Community Reinvestment Program delivered the largest amount of funding to community partners in Suffolk County CRG history, with grants ranging from \$4,000 to \$7,500 totaling \$260,000 to 45 nonprofit organizations.

Grants up to \$10,000 will be directed to nonprofits that provide pro-

gramming designed to prevent youth violence, substance use disorder, or substance use treatment in Boston, Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop. State law allows prosecutors to distribute up to 10 percent of assets seized in narcotics prosecutions to community-based organizations for crime prevention and substance use treatment.

The deadline for submissions is April 25 and grant recipients will be announced on May 20. More information on the CRG program can be found at [suffolkdistrictattorney.com](http://suffolkdistrictattorney.com).

## Saturday, April 6

Join your neighbors for the  
**40th Annual**

### Savin Hill Parks Cleanup

from 8:30am - 3:00pm

three locations:

**Savin Hill Park**

at the top of the hill

**Pattens Cove**

at the end of Davitt St



### Wildlife Garden

along Savin Hill Ave

Some tools provided.

Bring yourself and a love for our parks!



## 2024 ANNUAL BOSTON CITIZENSHIP DAY

REGGIE LEWIS TRACK AND ATHLETIC CENTER

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

### RECEIVE FREE LEGAL HELP WITH YOUR CITIZENSHIP APPLICATION

**You must:**

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- Be a lawful permanent resident for 5 years or 3 years if married to a U.S. citizen

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SCAN THE QR CODE OR CONTACT:

(617) 694-5949 OR  
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CITY of BOSTON



Immigrant Advancement

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

## BGCD Marathon team, 18 strong, training hard for big run

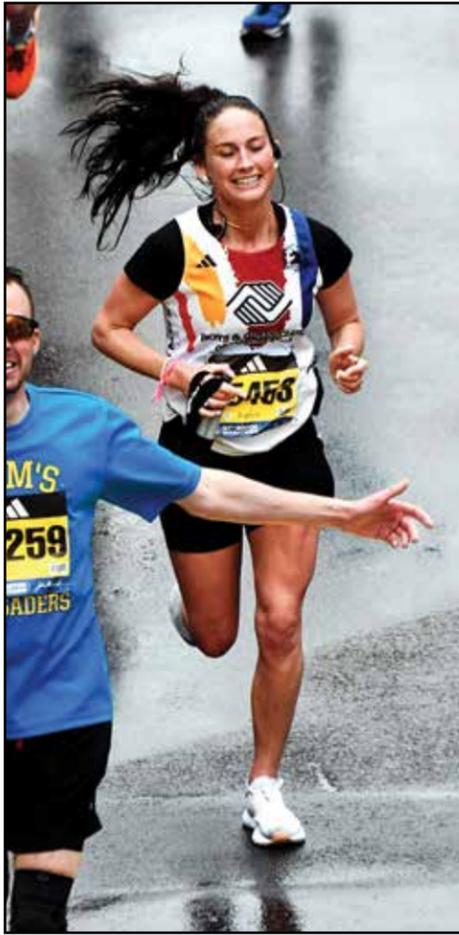
By Cassidy McNeeley  
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT  
Less than two weeks and 26.2 miles separate 18 runners of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester (BGCD) team from the Boston Marathon finish line on Monday, April 15. While their run will officially start in Hopkinton, their journeys with BGCD mostly began some time ago.

One runner, Aisling Kerr, who was born and raised in Dorchester, describes herself as a “lifelong member of the club.” She joined the club when she was four years old and is now a proud alumna.

“It’s been probably one of the most important organizations in my life,” said Kerr, now 29. “Wherever life takes me, whatever I end up doing, when I look back on it, all I know is I wouldn’t have been able to do any of it without the club.”

BGCD aims to connect young people and families in an environment that emphasizes diversity, growth, and success. The organization has been in existence in the community for half a century with the opening of the Marr Clubhouse in 1974 followed by the addition of the McLaughlin and Denney Clubhouses in the early 2000s.

Kerr says that it was her parents, who emigrated to Dorchester from Ireland, who introduced her to the club through Saturday morning swim lessons. From there, she dived into just about everything the club had to offer, from the Marlin Swim Team to the Keystone Club. This month, she



**Mackenzie Vlachos**

will lace up her sneakers as a way to help ensure that other children – like her 25 years ago – will be able to do the same. “Myself and my friends, we all grew up together there and we’re so lucky. My family has gotten so much from the club over the years,” Kerr told the Reporter. “Every little bit helps and every little bit counts. I always say to people that \$5 covers a membership for one kid for a year.”

While she is a BGCD vet, some of her mates on the marathon team, such as Craig Welton, are new to Dorchester. The club’s new chief development officer is a city councilor in Peabody and an

adjunct college professor. Before coming to the neighborhood for work, Welton was with Best Buddies International as the state director for Massachusetts and Rhode Island for more than ten years.

“Even though I’ve just been working with the club for the last nine months in an official capacity, long term I’ve been familiar with the club and the impact that they have in the community,” said Welton, “particularly the impact that they have in the community to support kids of all abilities.”

Welton is no stranger to the marathon scene and has run Boston eight



**Rob Dalto**

times. “I have a lot of people who have supported me in the past in running. So, I was able to reach out to a number of people who made donations,” he told the Reporter.

“I get to see the impact every day with the kids. It’s kids of all different backgrounds, all different abilities. It’s really a special place to be able to see that all come together under one roof.”

Another member of the BGCD marathon team, 36-year-old Rob Dalto, has completed 24 marathons, including all six major US marathons in both 2023 and 2024. He is a senior director at Databricks in New York City and a former colle-

giate athlete.

Last year, Dalto’s presence on social media took off when he posted a TikTok vlogging his experience running Boston after “accidentally qualifying” for the race. In the video, Dalto is seen taking a detour through Dunkin’, accepting a White Claw on the streets of Natick, high-fiving Wellesley College students, and proudly crossing the finish line at 655 Boylston St.

Dalto has more 31,000 followers on TikTok and 24,700 on Instagram, and he’s using those platforms to support to Dorchester cause.

“I got in contact with the Boys and Girls Club of Dorchester, and they saw that I like using running as a vehicle to have an impact on the community. The outcomes these clubs are able to create is really correlated to the effort the staff put into the club,” he said. “It’s just really clear to me that these folks really care about making a national class experience and club in Dorchester.”

Former Division I Syracuse University soccer player Mackenzie Vlachos is also running on behalf of Team BGCD. After graduating in 2021,

she signed on as an early education teacher at BGCD, where she teaches K1.

When she decided to run Boston, Vlachos didn’t know that BGCD had a team of their own. She will be running with the organization for the second time this month.

“The training is long and hard, but it gives you a little bit of extra boost knowing that when I’m running, I am doing it for a lot of the kids I work with,” she said. “I’m making an impact in a lot of their and their family’s lives, and it makes it feel much more special.”

Like Welton, working at BGCD gives Vlachos the chance to see firsthand how these fundraising efforts can impact the club.

“It’s kind of like a home away from home for a lot of children,” she noted. “It’s just a place for them to come and have fun. The most important thing is just like being there for all of our members and making sure they are happy.”

*Those interested in supporting these runners and BGCD can do so by logging onto [givingain.com/campaign/bgcd2024](http://givingain.com/campaign/bgcd2024).*

### YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE

DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Harry B. Whall  
(1868-1920)



Harry Bertram Whall (at right) was born in Dorchester in 1868 to Charles and Mary Whall. Charles was an expressman, a person who collects and delivers goods. Mary was a milliner, a hat maker. In the early 1890s, Harry lived in Lower Mills, then moved to 300 Ashmont St. for a few years and later moved to 389 Ashmont St., in the section of the street between Burgoyne Street and Adams Street. He worked in real estate, though starting in 1900, he was listed for a few years as the president of the US Steel Company, that possibly was located in Everett. It was not the US Steel that was formed by Andrew Carnegie, J.P. Morgan, Charles Schwab, and Elbert H. Gary in 1901. Whall’s advertisements with houses for sale were common in the Boston newspapers of his day.

He was prominent in public affairs, serving two years in the Common Council of Boston, and representing the

twenty-fourth Suffolk District in the Massachusetts Legislature in 1899 and 1900.

In 1895, Harry married Fannie Longfellow Baldwin. By 1910, Harry and Fannie must have divorced, because Fannie was not listed at 389 Ashmont St. in the 1910 US Census. Records show that Wall married Lillian Clarry in 1914, that Fannie died in 1917, and that Harry died in 1920, leaving his wife and a four-year-old daughter.

*These posts can be viewed on the blog at [dorchesterhistorical-society.org](http://dorchesterhistorical-society.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.*



Six women leaders and an organization that helps homeless women were honored as trailblazers at the Massachusetts Trial Court’s 4th Annual Women’s History Month Celebration and Conference at the Edward M. Kennedy Institute in Dorchester on March 27. More than 200 women attended the event which featured an awards ceremony and afternoon conference, which featured award-winning author Jennifer De Leon who spoke about her books “White Space” and “Don’t Ask Me Where I am From.” Shown above, left to right, are: State Rep. Tyler, Department of Corrections Commissioner Carol Mici, Chelsea Superintendent of Schools Dr. Almi Guajardo Abeyta, Fitchburg District Court Probation Officer Diamily Titus, Massachusetts Trial Court Chief Justice Heidi Brieger, and Rosie’s Place President/CEO Leemarie Mosca.

*Photo courtesy Massachusetts Probation Service*

## Editorial

## Stadium plan has merit, deserves fair hearing

The March 22 decision by Suffolk Superior Judge Sarah Weyland Ellis to reject a motion by opponents who sought to halt work on a project to renovate White Stadium handed a victory to the Wu administration and the Boston Unity Soccer Partners, owners of a private professional soccer team that has pledged \$50 million to help modernize the decrepit city-owned facility. But, the ruling is also a win for residents across the city, particularly Boston student-athletes who have long been denied access to a state-of-the-art sports facility in the heart of the city.

In a statement praising the judge's decision, Mayor Wu said: "For decades, Boston student athletes and community members have watched plans for revitalizing this historic facility come and go without tangible progress."

We agree. That is why we support Mayor Wu's decision to leverage the financial support needed to make what she calls a "generational investment" that could transform White Stadium into an asset that Bostonians from all walks of life can enjoy, use, and compete in.

The idea has its share of critics. Some argue that the plan is moving too quickly and hasn't accounted for traffic drawn to the pro soccer team's games. Others say that student-athletes who presently use the stadium during football season will be negatively impacted. Still others say that Franklin Park was never intended to be used for private enterprise—and that the public is at-risk of being displaced. These are not unreasonable critiques.

And yet none present insurmountable obstacles. The benefits of fixing a stadium that will be used by Boston kids and other residents for the majority of the year outweigh the reservations that animate the most vocal of opponents. A survey conducted by the Franklin Park Coalition, which engages stakeholders and programs events at the park year-round, indicates that there's considerable support for the stadium project to move forward—even among those of us who might find fault with specific elements of the pro soccer team—or don't know enough about it. In fact, only 20 percent of the 700 people who participated said they were definitely against the idea. That leaves four-fifths who are at least open to it, if some of their concerns are addressed.

Mayor Wu should be commended for advancing this proposal to this stage, even in the face of more outlandish critiques that have portrayed this project in the most negative light possible. One over-the-top opponent went so far as to compare Judge Ellis's ruling to the infamous Dred Scott decision that upheld chattel slavery in the 1850s. How absurd and unhelpful.

There are those who suggest, quite cavalierly, that the Wu administration should just pay for stadium improvements without the private partnership dollars that cut the city's costs in half. But that's the sort of pie-in-the-sky thinking that's left our kids with a leaky, paint-chipped, run-down, third-rate stadium for generations. This proposal is at once a fiscally-prudent and bold step forward to make significant improvements that will benefit *our kids*—including thousands of student-athletes, a great many of them first-generation Bostonians, who play soccer.

The mayor and her team have put Boston in a prime position to score big with this proposal. Now, it's time to hear more from the Boston Unity Soccer Partners, whose executive team can and should fully explain the benefits they intend to bring to our neighborhoods.

We've invited those partners to make their case for their side of the project—and how it will impact of communities in the near and long term. So far, city officials and neighborhood allies have done that heavy lifting. It's up to the BUSP squad to make the final sale to the people in our neighborhoods who might not be on their side of the pitch just yet.

-Bill Forry

## A salute to the women who are telling the stories of Black Boston

By CHRIS WORRELL

The press, especially at the most local level, continues to play a vital role in our democracy. The stories written by hard-working journalists across our country shape public opinion and, often, can drive incredible change.

However, the lack of diversity in journalism hinders Black storytellers from telling Black stories. In 2023, just six percent of working American journalists identified as Black, according to the Pew Research Center. Unsurprisingly, there is no data on how many Black Women there are in journalism, but for the sake of this discussion let's assume it's less than six percent.

Black women have long been relied upon as voices of wisdom and truth in journalism, yet their stories often go unread or unheard and their names unrecognized. Throughout American history, Black women have stuck their necks out, raised their voices, and created space for themselves when there was no space allowed for them.

Ida B. Wells was one such word warrior. In her 1892 pamphlet "Southern Horrors: Lynch Law in All Its Phases," she wrote, "Somebody must show that the Afro-American race is more sinned against than sinning, and it seems to have fallen upon me to do so." Her work to spearhead the anti-lynching movement was a direct catalyst for change.

Here in Boston – in our own time – Sarah-Ann Shaw was a frequent face in my house. As the first female African American reporter to be on television in Boston, there was only Sarah to tell our stories. She told the stories that we knew to be true, but never heard, because our narrative was constructed by people who were not us.

Sarah-Ann passed away three weeks ago, on March 21. She will be remembered as a truth-teller, and, as she self-described it, a bridge between Boston's ethnic and racial communities. She broke the glass ceiling for Black women in Boston journalism. Since then, we have seen a slow but impactful increase here in the number of Black women journalists.

My family had an unmatched love for Reverend Liz Walker, the first Black woman to co-anchor a newscast in Boston. In the '90s, Liz Walker was a household name, along with Carmen Fields who, according to Liz, was "the epitome of what it takes to make change," and practically a sister.

These women have since passed that torch to reporters like Callie Crossley of GBH, Karen Holmes-Ward from Channel 5, Kimberly Atkins Stohr from the Boston Globe, Amaka Ubaka from Channel 7 news, and many more. They are the current truth tellers who continue the legacy of greatness that their predecessors set before them.

One of the 5th Suffolk's own truth tellers is Danielle Johnson "Ms. HotSauce," founder and CEO of digital radio station Spark FM. Through her struggle to break into mainstream radio, Danielle discovered a



Danielle Johnson, state Rep. Chris Worrell, and Paris Alston at the recently held Black Excellence on the Hill Awards event at the State House.

Photo courtesy Rep. Worrell's office

market for a hyper-local, bona fide voice of the Black community in Boston. She bravely began her business in April 2020 and has since created a "community in the comment section." It has been almost four years since Spark FM went live, and the station now has over 25 shows per week and has featured hundreds of Black and Brown business owners, community leaders, and innovators.

Aside from the steadfast forms of print and talk journalism, the way we receive our news is forever evolving, and it is important that Black and Brown people are thriving in those spaces. One of those thriving journalists is Paris Alston. She is currently co-host of NPR & GBH's Morning Edition and The Wake Up podcast at GBH News, where she also does original, community-based reporting for her series "A Walk Down the Block."

In collaboration with NPR, WBUR, and GBH, Paris was the host of the "Consider This" podcast in 2020, when the conversation around racial justice was at the top of everyone's minds. Names like George Floyd and Breonna Taylor were at the core of practically every conversation and Paris had come to a realization that this was a new era of journalism, where Black journalists needed to "unapologetically" report the truth about Black issues. Since then, she has felt an urgent responsibility "to give a voice to the voiceless."

It gave me so much pride to acknowledge the crucial work of Danielle Johnson and Paris Alston at this year's Black Excellence on the Hill Awards, hosted by the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus. It is our role as elected officials to highlight the people in our community who exude what it means to be an excellent journalist. I hope that the work of these two incredible women will inspire the Black and Brown children of Boston to follow their dreams and make their communities proud.

Chris Worrell represents parts of Dorchester and Roxbury as the state representative from the Fifth Suffolk district.

### Letter to the Editor

## Park coalition's stadium survey 'falsely' optimistic

To the Editor:

The Franklin Park Coalition's initial results reporting about its White Stadium survey is falsely optimistic and therefore problematic because it did not fairly reflect community concerns in their widely published and quoted press release.

The coalition states that there was "substantial support" for the proposal. However, 32 percent "all for it" and 25 percent "cautiously support it" does not mean substantial support. Another 25 percent "have some concerns" and 20 percent are "against it," so the majority are not as enthusiastic as FPC claims.

Repeating that respondents substantially support this project is doing a great disservice to park users/neighbors. Perhaps a neutral third-party should have interpreted the survey instead of a FPC board member who could have let personal thoughts inadvertently interfere with that interpretation.

No one questions that the community wants park and stadium improvements as reflected in the Franklin Park Action plan. The survey could've elicited a more useful response by asking if people preferred the renovation to be with or without Boston Unity Soccer Partners (BUSP) involvement. If FPC wanted to know if people were "generally for or against" it, they should have provided only two choices: "for" or "against." The other two options muddied the result, especially in combination with not asking about BUSP.

The survey also would've been improved by asking more specifically how close people live to the park – one block, half mile, etc. instead of neighborhood names. The responses probably would have shown

more clearly that those who live nearby are most concerned. FPC should be listening to neighbors, not those who live far from the park who will reap the benefits but not suffer the consequences of this partnership. (I live two blocks from the park).

The survey did not ask enough about the city's review process: Did people know that there are two halves of the stadium proposal being run through separate processes, and that the city claims its "half" is exempt from much of this review? Or that the BPDA had already voted to rezone the land with minimal notice or community involvement? How the mayor threatens to disappear \$50 million for the stadium if the community doesn't support the proposal? That there was only one response to the RFP and it appears that no effort was made to solicit charitable donations, federal funds (it is a school project), Community Preservation Act funds, or other money to grow the \$50 million to renovate the stadium without obligation to a for-profit entity?

There were no questions about the Emerald Necklace Conservancy's lawsuit: Were people familiar with it? Did they support it? Do they understand what the Article 97/Public Lands Preservation Act is? Do they understand what bearing the George White Trust has on the use of the land or who serve as trustees?

In your future coverage, I hope you ask important questions that the Franklin Park Coalition omitted in order to derive a more accurate and nuanced assessment of how neighbors feel about this project.

Jennifer Uhrhane  
Jamaica Plain

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# UMass Boston puts the chancellor officially in charge

(Continued from page 1)

in the extraordinary history of UMass Boston. I call it, UMass Boston 2.0,” he told the *Reporter* last week.

“Our campus is a campus that in some ways, is built on a wound,” says Suárez-Orozco, who keeps a triangle-shaped chunk of concrete close at hand in his office – a piece of the substructure that fell from the now-pulverized underground garage. For years, the garage was an off-limits yet daily reminder of the deficiencies of the system’s Boston footprint.

“We had to finish that. We had to get in front of that. We had to get in front of the wound that was the original building, the drama that was the old garage. We dealt with the issues on some of the buildings that just couldn’t offer us the space our students deserve.”

While Friday’s festivities will train attention on the remarkable improvements to UMass Boston’s physical plant, it’ll also be a full-on butterfly moment for the chancellor, who has been stepping up as a more vocal and visible leader locally of late. Last month, Suárez-Orozco was front-and-center at the roll-out of Mayor Wu’s announcement of a \$24 million plan to address what officials say is a crisis in mental health among BPS students. And the chancellor and his administration will play a pivotal role in an emerging plan to re-invent the BCLA-McCormack school, a BPS facility that sits on land adjacent to the UMass Boston campus on Columbia Point. Mayor Wu made the UMass Boston commitment to support BCLA-McCormack—which the School Committee last week voted to re-name in memory of Boston civil rights leader Ruth Batson—a prominent part of her 2024 State of the City speech.

In the interview with the *Reporter*, Suárez-Orozco spoke expansively about his past experience in a similar partnership with district schools in Los Angeles when he served as the dean of UCLA’s Graduate School of Education and Information Studies.

“I grew a network of university-assisted K12 schools in the most underserved communities in Los Angeles,” he said. “South LA, the historic African American neighborhood in Los Angeles. MacArthur Park. This is all refugees and new arrivals. I was responsible for the Robert F. Kennedy School complex—this was the largest school, when it was built, in the country. ... I was responsible for how does the university deploy its extraordinary resources to support the work of teachers, to support the parents. We reimagined what a community school is,” he said.

Can Boston expect to see UMass Boston and its chancellor replicate that sort of university-assisted model through the Batson school? In a word: Yes.

Last year, spurred by a conversation with former US Rep. Joe Kennedy III, Suárez-Orozco led a visit to the RFK School that was built on his watch for a “learning tour” that included Boston School Superintendent Mary Skipper and other top aides to Mayor Wu.

“We spent a day in LA visiting the network of schools that I put together. This was an extraordinary initiative. This is a demographic where 20 percent of the kids went to college. Today, over 90 percent of these kids, all kids of color, go to college.”

“We don’t need to reinvent the wheel,” he said. “And furthermore, I made all the mistakes in LA. We don’t have to remake the same mistakes here.”

Other closely watched initiatives that will ring-out in Suárez-Orozco’s Friday remarks include plans for more space to house UMass Boston’s fast-growing School of Nursing and Health Science. The elimination of the old Science Complex on the core campus has created even more demand for new space to house classes and offices for the program.



The rendering above shows what the fully completed Quad on the UMass Boston campus will look like with mature trees and vegetation. The green space and walking paths have replaced what was a former Science center building and a desolate, concrete plaza that covered a parking garage that had long been closed off because of structural defects that made it unsafe. At right, UMass Boston Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco greeted visitors in the simulation lab at the Manning College of Nursing and Health Sciences during the announcement of \$3 million in funding sponsored by Rep. Lynch earlier this year.

Spurred in part by an unprecedented \$50 million gift from donors Donna and Robert Manning and federal funds secured by US Rep. Steve Lynch, the campus is proceeding with a study that will advise Suárez-Orozco and the UMass Building Authority on its next steps.

“Ours is a nationally ranked program. We produce more nurses than any other nursing school in the Commonwealth. It’s not enough. We need to grow the program and to grow the program, we’re going to need to engineer new facilities,” he said. “I’m waiting to get the final report that was commissioned with the support of Congressman Lynch. The current facilities here are wonderful, but we need more space.”

There are site options on the present footprint of the Dorchester campus—and even some thought given to leasing space in the former Globe complex across Morrissey Boulevard, known as the Southline building. One place that is unlikely to house university programs, however, is the massive Dorchester Bay City development that will be built on UMass-owned waterfront land on what was once the Bayside Expo Center. Once it is built out, UMass Boston and the system at large will benefit from the lease agreement that is expected to generate roughly \$200 million over the next decade. However, Suárez-Orozco does not anticipate being a tenant there.

“I want something that makes sense,” he said on April 4. “Dorchester Bay City, it’s unlikely that in the current footprint that is being envisioned, we’d get a piece because we would be treated like anybody else, just another tenant. And I’m thinking, I can get a better deal.”

He added: “I want to make clear that I see Dorchester Bay City as an equity endeavor for our campus. Finally, our students are going to have the opportunities that the students on the other side of the river take for granted: internships, scholarships, pathways to work. ... And to me, having our students have the same opportunities that are taken for granted elsewhere is fundamentally an equity position.”

Don’t expect to hear any surprise announcements about a fresh round of student dormitories on Columbia Point, either. While the existing 1,100-unit dorms named for his predecessor, Dr. Keith Motley and wife Angela, are “spectacular, with the best views of Boston” in his estimation, there’s “no concrete plans to expand the dormitory space.”

Instead, expect to hear more passion-

ate talk about his campus’s ascendancy and evolving mission in an era of skyrocketing tuitions at other universities in the Boston market.

“We have a noble vision here. And to me, the most important algorithm here is – let’s call it “distance travel.” How far do you get from where you start? That’s it to me. Forget about US News and World Report. Forget about all the fancy rankings.

“What about the kids that show up here now from Haiti? Or from the Dominican Republic. Or from the other islands, from Central America, from Latin America, from Africa, from Asia, with a dream where the families put everything for.”

That’s what brought Marcelo Suárez-Orozco—himself a refugee from an oppressive Latin American dictatorship as a young man—to Dorchester Bay in the first place four years ago.



“I felt this university was – and is – the best kept secret. It began with a crime and with a wound. And it has to be ready. It has to be taken to the next level. “So, I jumped, man. I jumped.”

## Neighborhood Workshop: Dorchester

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# Wu moves to blunt tax burdens for city homeowners

(Continued from page 1)

retail and restaurant space, a trend already driven by the shift to e-commerce and food delivery apps starting before the pandemic. For many owners of commercial property, the drop in its value coincides with expiring leases and a need to renew financing – made more difficult by higher interest rates. Based on figures from the last quarter of 2023, the commercial real estate firm CBRE described a “challenging landscape” for owners of Boston’s vintage office space, aside from more desirable “blue chip” properties. “With demand still well below historical levels, an elevated cost of debt and all-time high vacancy rates, rents and subsequent cash flows are under intense pressure,” CBRE observed, but also noted, “Even with these challenges Boston office vacancy rates rank amongst the lowest of major US markets. This is due to the city’s strong employment base and diverse economy resulting in more resiliency than other large markets.”

According to a February report by the Boston Policy Institute, an expected 20-30 percent decrease in the value of office space by 2029 will saddle the city with a cumulative revenue shortfall of \$1.2 billion to \$1.5 billion. “And” researchers warned, “with no clear prospect for recovery, such shortfalls could persist for decades, triggering a long-term decline in public services and economic vitality.”

Among Boston’s residential properties, some of the sharpest increases in value in recent years, with resulting jumps in tax bills, have been at the lower end of the housing market, including much of Dorchester and Mattapan. But officials say residential owners won’t see the expected shift in the tax burden on their bills until the beginning of 2025, after a major revaluation by the city’s Assessing Department.

Under the current law, tax rates for commercial, industrial, and personal property in Boston can be set higher, up to 175 percent of the share of total valuation. For residential property, the rate would have to be no lower than 50 percent of the total share. Without legislation to change the limits on rates, and without new revenue or budget cuts, a drop in value for commercial property would require a shift of the tax burden to the residential class. Under the home rule petition, the levy on commercial property would have a ceiling rate of 200 percent, then declining over a period of three years.

At a briefing on March 28, Wu described the home rule petition as needed because the shift in values “could significantly increase” the property tax on homes and apartment buildings, which would also affect affordability. “What we are trying to avoid here,” she said, “is a more sudden, dramatic and concentrated shock to residential property owners, which would hurt residents and businesses alike.”

Among those expressing support for the home rule petition during the virtual briefing was Symone Crawford, the executive director of the Dorchester-based Mass. Affordable Housing Alliance (MAHA). The grassroots organization tries to expand access to affordable housing, with more than 2,500 buyers and homeowners graduating from its classes every year.

“We know firsthand that homebuyers and homeowners are struggling with rising costs,” said Crawford. “We have home prices that are just phenomenal right now. We have interest rates, insurance premiums are through the roof, and just general housing costs. So, this makes it especially important that we act quickly to stabilize the real estate taxes for our families.” Expressing support for the measure as “a senior citizen on a fixed income” was Shirley Jones, the president of the Meetinghouse Hill Civic Association. “This increase in this property tax will be extremely devastating,” she said during the briefing, “and I’m



**A vacant commercial space near Boston’s Downtown Crossing is adorned with signs referencing office and retail footage for rent.** Chris Lovett photo

so very grateful that the mayor is being proactive and taking actions to protect residents like myself throughout the city from these potential increases.”

Veronica Barros, who owns a three-decker in the Bowdoin-Geneva neighborhood with her father, told *The Reporter* that her tax bills have already been rising, with the property assessed at \$1.2 million. She said they’ve owned the property for decades and currently rent one floor below market level to an immigrant family.

“We’ve gotten a surprise with taxes already this year,” she said. “When I got that bill, I froze. I got this feeling in the pit of my stomach. You sit down and have to take a breath. It’s hard to swallow and infuriating.”

Even with a tax exemption for owner-occupancy, she says she struggles to pay bills and keep up with needed repairs.

“You look at these properties and people think it’s a cash cow,” she said. “The reality is people are struggling to stay and live in Boston and keep their houses up and deal with higher prices everywhere. A lot of these houses are people struggling with families. Many people try to split the taxes among family, but it’s a big, big bill for one person to pay even if there is rent coming.”

Barros added, “We came from Cape Verde and everyone owns their own house here. They bought their houses at a good time. Today, it’s hard for us to all get by.”

District 4 (Dorchester/Mattapan) City Councillor Brian Worrell mentioned one homeowner at a senior center in Grove Hall who told him her tax bill had gone up by \$700. He says many longtime owners have faced similar increases, with even steeper climbs in the future without the kind of relief sought by the mayor.

“And if this is not adopted, I believe it could get somewhat out of control,” he said, “so I think this is a very thoughtful measure, easing us into those tax increases that are going to come just because we live in a city that people love. People want to buy here, which helps, which is increasing the market value on our home, which is then reflected in our tax bills.”

In its study, the Economic Policy Institute maintained that increasing the tax burden on residential property would be “a more promising path,” but its researchers also cautioned that could require a tax increase from 25 to 30 percent. “For individual homeowners and multi-family properties,” they wrote, “an increase of that size would mean higher tax bills and also reduced home values, as potential buyers reckon with the increased cost of ownership.”

In 2004, after an earlier slump in commercial property values, former mayor Thomas M. Menino also tried to spare residential owners the full brunt of the shift in the tax burden.

As a result of the measure approved at the State House, an expected 40 percent tax increase for the average single-family home was limited during the first year to 14 percent. Without the measure, the tax increase for three-family homes would have been 56.5 percent. Wu said her proposal was modeled on the same legislation.

In 2004, the measure that brought relief for homeowners stirred complaints from small business and property owners: a tax adjustment that could be absorbed by owners of high-end commercial property could have a different effect in neighborhood business centers.

The tax adjustment in 2004 came after a national economic downturn with increases in office vacancies, while residential values were at least holding steady. Helping to make the downturn shorter and less painful were low inflation and the lowest interest rates in 40 years. Commercial property owners are currently faced with different conditions and what Greg Vasil, the CEO of the Greater Boston Real Estate Board, described as an “unsettling downward transition” in a world changed by the pandemic.

“We are deeply concerned that increasing commercial tax rates to recoup lost revenue will only take us closer to the urban doom loop being seen in many other American cities,” Vasil said in a statement issued March 28. “Businesses have carried a tremendous fiscal burden for the city and pushing them harder at a time when their buildings have lost value is fiscally irresponsible. This is a time unlike any other in the last 30 years and piling more financial burdens on a struggling industry is no solution at all.”

Another way to ease the tax burden would be to reduce overall revenue to less than the ceiling allowed under Proposition Two-and-a-half. Since the measure was approved in 1980, the city has never collected less than the maximum amount. And Wu said it was “just not realistic” to solve the budget problem through cuts in spending. “We would not be able to deliver city services at a basic level that we know our constituents and residents deserve,” she said.

Though city officials emphasized that the tax rate adjustment would be revenue-neutral and temporary, the Boston Policy Institute warned, “This is not a short-term challenge but the arrival of a new normal, where annual tax collections in 2029 and beyond will be roughly \$500 million below the current trend.” And the Institute noted that Boston’s revenue stream, unlike those of many other cities faced with similar downturns, is “unusual” for its “outsized dependence on commercial property,” as opposed to other sources of revenue – sources that can also be less stable than the property tax.

The limits of the revenue stream were also cited by Wu during the briefing. “So, there is a bigger picture question about the city’s reliance on property taxes,” she acknowledged. “It is unusual for a city to have nearly three-quarters of its tax revenues come from property owners, and in this case, mostly commercial property owners, for Boston in order to continue to support affordability.”

Worrell said it would “take more than one piece of legislation” to determine the best revenue mix from future development and even new growth areas such as the app-driven gig economy.

“We do need to find other revenue sources, that we’re not always going back to the same well and drawing from it,” he said. “But I just also want to acknowledge the fact it was our property tax revenue that kept us stronger than most cities during economic downturn.”

*Reporter News Editor Seth Daniel contributed to this article.*

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# City grants are helping new merchants pay for their working spaces

(Continued from page 1)

and operating and 7 have signed leases.

This week, Mayor Wu announced that the second round nearly doubled last year's total in awarding \$4.575 million to 37 grantees across the city.

"Our team has ensured that this pool of awardees reflects the diversity of talent in local entrepreneurs and small business owners," said Segun Idowu, the city's chief of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion. "I know that our city will benefit richly from the growth of these companies, the addition of new jobs, and the inclusion of so many who were at one time left out of important programs like the SPACE grant."

One of the new grant winners is Yanique Shaw, proprietor of The Boston Flower Co., which she plans to open in an unfinished retail space in The Loop building on River Street near Mattapan Square. She is set to begin work on the large floral studio, retail and community workshop space "any day" with hopes of opening in the early fall.

"Before the pandemic I attended a floral workshop and it sparked my interest," said Shaw, 36, noting that she was a member of the Encore Boston Harbor casino marketing team at the time. "I made a one-year plan to be able to leave my job and pursue my work in floral design. I was also very fortunate to freelance for bigger floral designers in Boston who let me come in and helped me get started. Now, I'm expanding. I never thought I would even be in this business. I feel crazy for doing it, and crazy if I didn't do it."

The grant is something that, combined with existing business loans, will help her graduate from operating out of her garage in Randolph to having a bonafide store and community space in Mattapan.

"It will certainly keep me from having to take out additional business loans," she said, as her voice echoed through the now-empty storefront. "The grant will just alleviate a lot of stress for me and help to put aside money for rent...It will help me with my inventory to do 'shop local' and support local businesses. I think there



**Raquel Semedo, born and raised in Portugal with roots in Cape Verde, came to Boston five years ago and dreams of using her SPACE grant to open up Lisboa Café and Mini-Market – to bring the food and pastries of Portugal to Dorchester, specifically Uphams Corner. Seth Daniel photo**

will be no better way to use that money to spread around the local dollar."

The idea will be to have about 60 percent of the retail store sell local products from small businesses in the area – a big 'shop local' initiative – and to set up her floral studio for weddings, corporate events, walk-ins, and daily deliveries. In the back of the store will be a large space for workshops on everything from creative classes to engineering seminars, or "whatever piques the community's interests."

While Shaw was growing up in Roxbury and attending Melrose Public Schools through the METCO program, her mother established a hair salon, Symmetric Hair and Nails, on Blue Hill Avenue in Mattapan. Like Yanique, she built the salon from the ground up.

"When I first saw the space, it was

hard for me to grasp the vision, but my mom was with me and she has operated a salon on Blue Hill Avenue for 26 years and she built that from the ground up, too," said Shaw. "She told me I had to do it."

And now Yanique is one 'stem' closer to a grand opening.

From flowers to *filhós*, a Portuguese pastry, Raquel Semedo isn't quite as far along in finding a space, but the 38-year-old Dorchester woman has her own dream of operating Lisboa Café and Mini-Market, a Portuguese bakery and mini-market, mapped out in her head. She was also named as a grant-winner this week.

With Cape Verdean roots, but born and raised in Portugal, she left home at the age of 24 and earned a degree in the United Kingdom focused on travel and tourism. After working in restaurants and managing hotels there, she came to Boston five years ago and has made it her goal to start her business in Dorchester.

"I'm very focused on Uphams Corner now because there is such a large Portuguese and Cape Verdean population, but I haven't been able to find a space there," she said. "I'm looking at different places now, but I really want to do this in Dorchester."

"Every time I look for a nice place to go, I feel like I look downtown or the Seaport," she continued. "I want to bring something here you would find there – a space you would think is in the Seaport but is in Dorchester."

To get people in the door, she envisions a high-end café that specializes in Portuguese pastries like *filhós* and other delicacies that she said she has yet to find in Boston. Likewise, the market would offer Portuguese products like cheeses, warm breads, sweet breads, and bacalao.

"It fulfills my heart to provide other people great moments and great times," she said. "I go out myself and I understand how important it is to provide these moments to people, and here in Dorchester." She hopes she can be an inspiration to other women looking to create businesses.

"Especially being a woman and minority, I'm doing this myself and sometimes it feels lonely," she said. "You have to keep going on even when you're not feeling as motivated."

Other winners from Dorchester and Mattapan include:

- **SIDE Presents** – a production company headed up by Therlande Louissant and Marilyn Urquiza since 2019. Recently, there were tapped to create a 1,550-square-foot commercial workspace and networking lounge in the new development soon to be constructed at 1028-1044 Blue Hill Ave. by DVM Housing Partners. The plan is to create a flex space commercial unit that would likely include a 20-person, members-only networking lounge space, a 50-square-foot co-working space, and a 500-square-foot lobby and gathering area. There is also a small rear outdoor patio included.

- **Oasis Vegan Veggie Parlor**, a restaurant operation by Jahrieffe Mackenzie. The popular restaurant and smoothie bar has operated off and on at 340 Washington St. in Four Corners since 2017.

- **Salvaged Roots Hair & Beauty, Inc.**, is a natural hair salon and beauty brand founded by Shanita Clarke. The salon is currently located at 190 Washington St. near Columbia Road. Artisan made Salvaged Roots products are also sold in the salon and online, including Revive and Crown Oils, Whipped Body Butter, and Loc Bombs.

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# Top politicians are uneasy about Steward-Optum deal

By CHRIS LISINSKI  
STATE HOUSE  
NEWS SERVICE

Elected officials are voicing skepticism about a planned deal whereby Steward Health Care's physician network would be sold to for-profit insurer Optum, questioning whether it might do more harm than good as Massachusetts grapples with fallout from Steward's financial upheaval.

A day after regulators announced they would review a potential sale of Stewardship Health to Optum Care, House Speaker Ron Mariano said that the "proposed sale of Steward's physician group to Optum has the potential to significantly impact the competitiveness of the health care market in Massachusetts and cause

further disruption during a period of acute instability in the health care system."

Steward, a for-profit, private equity-backed system that operates several hospitals in Massachusetts, has become one of the biggest bogeymen for policymakers since its financial woes burst into public view in January.

The company filed paperwork with the Health Policy Commission on March 26 signaling plans to sell its physician network to Optum Care, a subsidiary of the national giant UnitedHealth Group. Parties did not disclose financial details, but the sale could provide relief for Steward amid financial precarity or serve as a precursor to offloading hospitals down the road.

Steward, whose leaders have faced calls to leave the state from Gov. Healey and others, noted in one of its filings that it expects to disclose transactions concerning "certain of its acute care hospitals and other provider operations in the next 12 months."

The sale of Steward's physician network will not proceed until the HPC and other regulators complete a review of the proposal, according to HPC Executive Director David Seltz.

"As described in the notice, this is a significant proposed change involving two large medical providers, both in Massachusetts and nationally, with important implications for the delivery and cost of health care across Massachusetts," Seltz said on Tuesday.

"Details of the proposal will be reviewed by the HPC to examine potential impacts on health care costs, quality, access, and equity."

Mariano, who has voiced his disdain for Steward and its decision to shutter a hospital in his hometown of Quincy, called on the HPC to consider the "vulnerability" of Steward's remaining hospitals and a federal antitrust probe as it examines the deal.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported last month that the US Department of Justice is conducting an antitrust investigation into UnitedHealth Group.

"The HPC's statutory authority to review the health care impacts of this transaction should not delay state and federal antitrust authorities from doing their own rigorous review as we all seek to protect patient access

and affordability, communities, employees, and the overall health care system," Mariano said.

US Sen. Elizabeth Warren said that Optum already covers more than 10 percent of doctors in the country, making it the nation's largest employer of physicians. She continued: "After years of gross profiteering and mismanagement, Steward's latest plan raises more serious questions about the future of the Massachusetts health care system. My top priority is ensuring Steward's Massachusetts hospitals remain open. But Steward executives have no credibility, and I am concerned that this sale will not benefit patients or health care workers or guarantee the survival of these facilities. It would be a terrible mistake for Steward to be allowed to walk away while looting Massachusetts hospitals one more time."

A US Senate subcommittee plans to meet in Boston next week to explore the impact of for-profit companies in the health care industry, and the delegation has set their sights squarely on Steward.

Warren and US Sen. Ed Markey have repeatedly called on Steward Health Care CEO Ralph de la Torre to face questions at the hearing, seemingly without success.

"On March 7, we sent you a letter about these troubling transactions and Steward's role in this growing crisis, but nearly three weeks later, you have failed to provide us with any response," they wrote in a letter to de la Torre published on

March 26. "Investing in and operating a health care system includes a responsibility to the public, and you must answer for Steward's current financial insecurity and its impact on access to health care."

If regulators on the HPC determine the sale of Stewardship Health to Optum will inflict a significant impact on health care costs and the market, they can pursue a more expansive "cost and market impact review." But it's not clear how forcefully they could reshape the proposal.

Leaders of the agency for years have urged the Legislature to award them with greater muscle to little avail. At a state legislative hearing earlier this week about private equity in health care, Seltz said other states empower regulators to deny or impose conditions upon health care transactions.

"That is not something the HPC currently has authority to do," he said Monday. "Our process is really a public report at the end of the day."

Steve Walsh, president of the Massachusetts Health and Hospital Association, said that any sale of Steward's physician network "should center around the needs of patients and help stabilize — not further harm — the commonwealth's already fragile healthcare system, adding, "we believe a transaction of this magnitude must be subject to a stringent and transparent approval process that invokes Massachusetts' best oversight tools — the very same oversight that local hospitals are held to."



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CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME Docket No. SU24C0158CA IN THE MATTER OF: AALIJAH MICHEL JOHNSON-KIRKLAND  
A Petition to Change Name of Minor has been filed by Aalijah Michel Johnson-Kirkland of Dorchester, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: Aalijah Michel Johnson  
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Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: March 28, 2024  
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq. Register of Probate  
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# The poet's 'Dot Girl' on recovery: 'Un-silencing' of trauma is key step

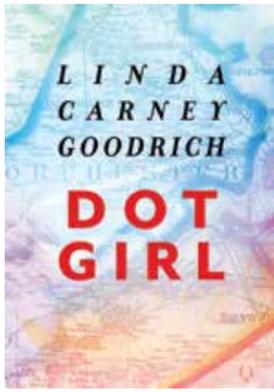
(Continued from page 1)

improved by the Boston Harbor cleanup. After sneaking out and dancing their way in silence, they reach the echo chamber under the Southeast Expressway at Conley Street, where they scream each other's names, like "angry owls." Rather than a cushion of sand on the beach, there's something else afoot: "Tiny pieces of glass prick our feet reminding us of pain we haven't felt." The air is "foul and alive," the water "bruised and murky," the kids already exhaling memories and looking up:

"You claim there is a spot where the water meets the sky, Where souls swim free and no one calls them home."

Carney-Goodrich spent even more time in the water at the Murphy School, where she was a member of the swim team. And this was around the time when a Dorchester woman who learned to swim at Tenean Beach, Karen Hartley, was making news for trying to go the distance across the English Channel. For Carney-Goodrich, the waters of the pool were enough to provide a refuge, a way for the body to hide, even "one of those lyrical things. And you're also able to float, so you're almost relieved of your body," she recalled.

"I think for some people with trauma, or at least for me, it was a really great feeling of safety, and to feel like part of the water, and then to be good at it, and then to have to breathe rhythmically. You think about arm over arm – that's bilateral. You have to do bilateral breathing, and you have to breathe deeply. And to swim lap after lap after lap, like many yards. You kind of have to go into a meditative state. And I think I did that." From the form and strokes of swimming, it was only a short distance to the rhythms of poetry, thanks to a teacher in another free program at the Murphy who exposed Carney-Goodrich to the writing of Langston Hughes. That also led to her first experience reading poetry aloud in public, at age 8, outside City Hall. The teacher also read a poem by her grandfather, and her mother bought her a dress for the occasion. It was a rare triumph shared by parent and child. Carney-Goodrich was the ninth of ten children born at St. Margaret's Hospital for Women in Dorchester. She remembers thinking of her parents as "scary figures," but also being part of a time and place where women's options were more limited and domestic violence was



not uncommon. Despite the family strife and emotional hazards, she credited her mother with an appreciation of poetry and for insisting on attention to schoolwork. That helped her get into Boston Latin Academy and, years later, college and, eventually, to receive a master's degree from Harvard School of Education. Growing up also meant learning about power and status, even at close range. In "Uncle Hugh," she picks up on the condescension of better-off relatives and relishes the sight of her father punching the dapper uncle with slick hair in the face ("We loved that we never had to see you see us again," she writes). Even more smarting was eye contact with Pope John Paul II as his motorcade passed along Neponset Avenue in 1979, looking her way after a shout by her mother:

"He meets my stare, his eyes, sapphire knives cutting away all that isn't mine."

I picture my family like ants crushed beneath his wheels."

Carney-Goodrich would eventually marry and have three children of her own, along with developing her talent as a performance artist and a home-based educator. It was only about twelve years ago when she sharpened her focus on poetry through a program at the Menino Arts Center (MAC) in Hyde Park, the neighborhood where she and her family live. She's currently the center's poetry coordinator. The MAC program introduced Carney-Goodrich to Boston's first poet laureate, the late Sam Cornish, which would later result in contact with his successors, Danielle Legros Georges and Porsha Olayiwola. Georges said she encountered Carney Goodrich by reading her poetry while judging submissions by local writers for display in City Hall. "As someone who grew up in Boston, I was particularly interested in poems that conveyed a sense of what it means to live in Boston, poems that painted a picture of some aspect of life here, poems that were *breathing life* into the city of Boston. Linda's poems were among them. She was writing what I'll

call *Boston poems* that at the same time were attuned to broad human questions, concerns, and desires," Georges explained in an email response. "I was stopped by the strength and a certain positive rawness of her poetic voice." Carney-Goodrich would later receive a grant to participate in the intensive poetry workshop in Wellfleet, MA, led by Marge Piercy, a poet she began reading in the 1990s. Instead of juggling the roles of poet, parent, and educator, Carney-Goodrich could focus on writing. "So, having uninterrupted time to think and having a class with Marge every day, it was serious," she said. "We were studying poems like the Beat Poets, and all these really old poems, and looking at line breaks. And it was such an amazing thing." Carney-Goodrich was also encouraged to look at collections of poetry, and how separate works come together as a whole. It was the "Uncle Hugh" poem that caught the attention of another Boston area poet, Anne Elezabeth Pluto, one of the founders and editors at Nixes Mate Review, whose Nixes Mate Books published "Dot Girl." Carney-Goodrich also acknowledged help with finalizing her poems from another poet, Eileen Cleary. Introducing Carney-Goodrich at the launch party, Cleary told the audience, "The work of making a first book is arduous. It is this creative feat. And the reason it's arduous is it's done for the very first time." Some of the poems in "Dot Girl" are about how a child processes the mixed messages of Catholic teaching, with its shifting boundaries between literal, figurative, and contradictory. In the mid-1970s, just after the beginning of desegregation in Boston's public schools, Carney-Goodrich was a seven-year-old kid, puzzled by signs with crosses in the neighbor-

hood that said "Let's SIN Together" (as in "Stay In Neponset"). Her mother explained the signs as meaning that Black families had to be kept out of the neighborhood. In her daughter's mind, that triggered a connection between rumors of racial violence against Black families and a rudimentary concept of divine retribution. In another poem, Carney-Goodrich is disturbed by having worn scapulars blessed by a priest at St. Ann's who molested her brother. And there are the nuns at St. Ann's, who insist that the wounds of Christ bleed forever in heaven. In the poems, Carney-Goodrich's mother can be either an ally or an antagonist, or a sum of unrealized potential, who never forgets having once been told that she could be a model. Carney-Goodrich explores the shape shifting in "My Mother's Eyes Were Birds," almost a catalogue of different bird's-eyes for different moods. "I absorbed her calls and flight patterns," Carney-Goodrich writes, even searching for eyes that she was told were hidden: "I yearned to hold them in my hands, to wear them like gems, to glimmer in her knowledge and wither in her stare."

In the book's later poems, post-traumatic stress is transformed into post-traumatic growth. The poet who started by addressing herself as a child addresses her father imagined as a teenager, before the years of rancor and boozy monologues in the kitchen. Though Carney-Goodrich never saw her mother after placement in foster care, there's a poem in which she imagines being visited by a mother who sees her daughter turned into something else. In a dream "clear like salt," she feels her mother's bones pushing through her face:

"We dissolve into bruised and startling



Linda Carney Goodrich signed copies of her book of poetry, "Dot Girl," in Hyde Park on March 23.

Chris Lovett photo

light We rise like moons  
With each task I  
bring you with me  
I say you are worthy of  
love or something close  
to it Your bones sigh in  
me We bruise like plums  
eat pain delicious We call  
each other home."

The last line could mean telling someone to come home, or it could also mean the mother and daughter, like birds of a feather, roosting in each other.

"I really meant that we call each other 'home,'" said Carney-Goodrich. "I try to show in the book, I try very hard, to show the strength of the little girl who grew up in this situation. But I also try to show some kind of transformation, at least. There was never really reconciliation with me and my family, or my mother. My mother died without ever really seeing me again."

Instead of a child's notion of freedom, a distance from which no one is called home, there's the closeness of a homecoming. The water at Tenean Beach – shallowed by mud rolls pushed out by the weight of the expressway – may be "bruised and murky," but the imprint of a bruise – the emotional stigmata of pain – can be reimagined on a plum, succulent and bitter-sweet.

In another one of the later poems, the bruised and shamed body comes out of hiding, different parts singled out for praise, even the neck whose pivots enable a swimmer to breathe. At a town pool, the body is a mother in the water with her children. Exhaling,

she shows them how the body can sink to the bottom, only to come up again for air.

Even the Catholic teaching about wounds that never heal resonates on the book's dedication page with a quotation from the early 20th century Spanish poet Federico Garcia Lorca: "In trying to heal the wound that never heals, there lies the strangeness." Lorca meant the struggle with darkness, the elusive quality of *duende* that made a poem extraordinary and original, with a purpose: to "baptize" those who behold it with "agua oscura" – another kind of murky water.

In her reading at the Menino Center, Carney-Goodrich wore a long forest green wool sweater. A seasoned stage presence, she punctuated her lines with moving arms and facial expressions, sometimes swept by ripples of long red hair.

The reading ended with the last poem in the book, "The Mothers of Dorchester Bay," who "float and rise" above the water, immortal, with bodies unblemished and eyes "unblackened." The voice here was stately, almost liturgical, even when the imagery was starkly mundane:

"Their dreams once tread upon shall be new and gleaming, snapping like sheets in the wind, strung tight between triple-deckers."

When it was over, Carney-Goodrich doffed her reading glasses. With her hair flung back, she looked drained yet renewed, like a swimmer reaching the surface.



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# Columbia-Savin Hill debates Pearl St. house conversion

**BY TAYLOR BROKESH**  
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

Members of the Columbia-Savin Hill Civic Association voted to support the potential change of occupancy certification from two to three units at 20 Pearl Street at Monday's general membership meeting.

James Christopher, the principal manager of 686 Architects, said at the meeting that the building has been taxed as a three-family unit since 2011, even though only two households occupy it. It was sold in 2023 as a three-family dwell-



**20 Pearl Street, Dorchester**  
The owner sought—and won—civic group's support to change the property from a two-family to a three-family dwelling. A ZBA hearing is set for April 30. *Google image*

with one abstaining. A Google Form was circulated at the meeting as a method of taking an up or down vote from the general membership.

The next day, the tally showed that a majority of people who voted supported the project. Thirty voted in support, 17 opposed the conversion, and 8 votes were ruled invalid, according to Kristine Hoag, a member of the civic group's executive board.

According to Hoag, the project will go before the city's Zoning Board of Appeals on April 30.

Other items on the civic group's agenda featured updates on both the Squares and Streets rezoning initiative from the city and the upcoming meeting of the Morrissey Boulevard Commission, set for April 23, at 6

p.m. at Cristo Rey Boston High School. Jake Wachman, chair of the group's Government Affairs Committee, urged as many people as possible to attend.

Wachman also serves as a member of the Morrissey Commission as state Sen. Nick Collins's designated member.

"The process itself has not been responsive to community input," he said. "And there's only two meetings left, and they haven't been that well attended. So, I think MassDOT needs to do better. We're going to hold them accountable."

The next general meeting will be held on May 6. See the website [columbiasavinhillcivic.org](http://columbiasavinhillcivic.org) for more details.

Follow The Reporter on Twitter @DotNews.

ing, though, Christopher said, changing the legal occupancy and installing a sprinkler system would bring no change to the floorplan.

He said the new owners' intention is to rent the property as a three-family property.

"We have to take a stand, and the stand should be not even three," said Don Walsh,

a member of the civic association. "Zoning is set up to protect the quality of life in the community. And if that zone is set up for a two-family, anyone who buys that has no right to think they can make it a three, or a nine, or anything else."

The Planning Committee had previously approved supporting the project by a vote of 8-6,

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## Local Real Estate Transactions

Buyer	Seller	Address	Date	Price	
127 Intervale Street LLC	Cardoso, Antonio	127 Intervale St	Dorchester	03/15/24	\$1,050,000
Rust, Brenna L	Tahatdli, Shenell	66 Hartford St	Dorchester	03/15/24	680,000
Nguyen, Hoa	Andrade, Ernesto	30 Neponset Ave	Dorchester	03/13/24	870,000
Shotts, Joshua	Mlodzianski, Steven J	365 Centre St	Dorchester	03/15/24	1,300,000
Melo, Aneuris	Mccarthy, Milton D	22 Thetford Ave	Dorchester	03/15/24	785,000
Wedge River LLC	Willow Baker LLC	84 Willow Ct	Dorchester	03/15/24	2,750,000
Wedge River LLC	Willow Baker LLC	78 Willow Ct	Dorchester	03/15/24	2,750,000
Wedge River LLC	Willow Baker LLC	68 Willow Ct	Dorchester	03/15/24	2,750,000
Sarbaugh, Adam	Luscinski, Theodore R	2 Fields Ct	Dorchester	03/14/24	1,375,000
Sarbaugh, Adam	Luscinski, Theodore R	5 Baker Ct	Dorchester	03/14/24	1,375,000
1030 Morrissey LLC	345 Boylston St Nt	1030 William T Morrissey Blvd	Dorchester	03/15/24	8,250,000
Lauasato, Ken A	Garcia Rt	20 Jacob St	Dorchester	03/11/24	555,000
808 Morton LLC	Chisholm, Marquerite	808 Morton St	Dorchester	03/15/24	200,000
Garcia, Olga E	Inherited Prop Soln LLC	52 Hazelton St	Mattapan	03/12/24	740,000
Inherited Prop Soln LLC	Heughan, Myrna E	52 Hazelton St	Mattapan	03/12/24	635,000
Woolfson, Lara	Mercer, Jonathan E	7 Grampan Way #3	Dorchester	03/15/24	220,627
Hart, Gregory P	Sutton, Kiley C	241 Boston St #1	Dorchester	03/11/24	480,000
Kang, Rosa	Dickson, Andrew	49-51D Coffey St #51A	Dorchester	03/12/24	900,000
Rohani, Navid	52 Withington Street LLC	52 Withington St #8	Dorchester	03/14/24	640,000
Dipietro, Michael	19-21 Moseley Street LLC	19-21 Moseley St #3	Dorchester	03/14/24	870,000

# MBTA workforce expansion faces 'considerable obstacles'

By CHRIS LISINSKI  
STATE HOUSE  
NEWS SERVICE

The MBTA has made significant progress at hiring new employees in recent months, but analysts still see "considerable obstacles" in the path ahead, especially given the added costs of building out the workforce.

Between mid-2022 and February 2024, the T added more than 1,000 net new workers after being slammed by federal overseers for staffing shortages. A new analysis from the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation estimates that if the recent pace of additions continues, the agency could reach its fully budgeted headcount of 7,600 by the end of 2024.

MTF researchers found

that the agency's operating headcount "fluctuated" regularly after fiscal 2015, with gains followed by declines. More recently, the pandemic and concerns about an arbitrator's proposed pension changes – which ultimately did not take effect – created a significant shortfall before a hiring campaign featuring greater pay and benefits began yielding results.

The report warned the T "not [to] take future progress for granted" after recent success. By boosting pay and retention bonuses, authors said, the MBTA also committed to more than \$100 million in additional annual expenses at a time when the agency is bracing for operating budget shortfalls of hundreds of millions of dollars.

"Worryingly, there were 866 separations from the agency in FY 2023, the highest total to date, of which 579 were not retirement-related. Despite financial incentives that helped staunch separations over the past several months, it's worth noting that there are approximately 800 MBTA employees (12 percent) currently eligible for retirement," authors wrote. "Maintaining recent headcount gains could require even higher hiring totals should departures return to FY 2023 levels."

The T slashed weekday service frequency on the Red, Orange and Blue Lines in 2022 after the Federal Transit Administration said dispatchers were overworked, and those changes still have

not been fully reversed. MTF said a workforce assessment plan being crafted at the MBTA, which could be finished by the summer, should provide more specific information about the

status of staffing in some service-critical departments.

"The MBTA's workforce analysis will likely include a range of service levels tied to specific headcount numbers," the

report said. "The FTA imposed service restrictions before and could intervene again to direct the MBTA to deliver the level of service tied to the workforce assessment and actual headcount data."

## Neponset cleanup set for Earth Day

A community clean-up event hosted by the Neponset River Watershed Association will be held on Earth Day, Sat., April 20, from 9 a.m. to noon. Volunteers can join teams to clean up at any of nine locations: Tenean Beach, Squantum Point in Quincy, Riverside Avenue in Milton, Edgewater Drive, Granite Avenue, the Neponset Greenway Canopy Walk, the Blake Estates Urban Wild in Hyde Park, Bernie Co-

per and Eliot Park in Norwood, and the West Street Urban Wild in Hyde Park.

Two other locations, the Walpole Town Forest and the Canton Park and Ride, are already fully booked.

"The cleanup not only helps to get more people on the River but protects the space for wildlife and ensures a beautiful and safe Neponset for all," said Benni Marques, NepRWA Environmen-

tal Science Fellow and cleanup organizer. "It's important that we protect and clean up the river so that everyone can enjoy it."

The event is open to all ages, but children under 15 should be accompanied by an adult. Volunteers must sign a waiver before attending, which can be found, along with more information about the event, at bit.ly/NWRA-CleanUp.

-TAYLOR BROKESH

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Placement on the Waitlist will be by Lottery. Applications must be received or postmarked by April 18, 2024 to be included in the lottery. Applications received after the lottery deadline will be added to the waitlist on a date and time received basis.

Reasonable accommodations made.

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If mailing your application back, send to:  
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P.O. BOX 231104  
Boston, MA 02123-1104

Applications must be received or postmarked by April 18, 2024 to be included in the lottery.

Use and Occupancy Restrictions apply. Preferences apply. Households should contain 2-4 persons.

The phone/computer versions are in English, Spanish, Chinese, Portuguese, Haitian Creole, and Russian.

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91	3	30% of HH Gross Income	60%	11
22	4	30% of HH Gross Income	60%	5

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Household size	60% AMI
1	\$62,760
2	\$71,700
3	\$80,640
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5	\$96,780
6	\$103,920

Minimum incomes do not apply for this project.

Applications are available during the application period for 42 days, from 03/25/2024-05/05/2024.

Applications are available in person on the following days, dates, and times in the following place(s)			
Day	Date	Time	Location
Thursday	04/11/24	3:00pm-7:00pm	31 Liverpool Street East Boston, MA 02128
Saturday	04/13/24	10:00am-2:00pm	31 Liverpool Street East Boston, MA 02128
Thursday	04/18/24	3:00pm-7:00pm	31 Liverpool Street East Boston, MA 02128
Saturday	04/20/24	10:00am -2:00pm	31 Liverpool Street East Boston, MA 02128

To request an online application or to have one sent by email, visit <https://bit.ly/MavLandAppReq> or scan



We will hold our first informational meeting on April 10, 2024 from 10:00am - 12:00pm at Mattapan Heights, 249 River Street, Mattapan, MA 02126.

Join virtually, too, through the following link: <https://trinitydm.zoom.us/j/88459424115>

We will hold our second informational meeting on April 17, 2024 from 2:00pm - 4:00pm at Maverick Landing, 31 Liverpool Street, East Boston, MA 02128.

Join virtually, too, through the following link: <https://trinitydm.zoom.us/j/84475957107>

DEADLINE: Applications must be submitted online or postmarked no later than May 5, 2024. Mailed to 31 Liverpool Street, East Boston, MA 02128

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Associates degree of higher plus 2-4 years' experience or 2-4 years relevant experience in providing financial and housing counseling/coaching and foreclosure prevention services. HUD housing counseling certified or on track to obtain certification preferred.

Must have strong verbal and written communication skills, proficiency with Microsoft Office Suite, as well as experience with data management and reporting systems. Bilingual/multilingual a plus.

Salary low to mid 60's. Submit resume and cover letter with salary requirements by April 26, 2024.

Mail cover letter and resumes to Keyna Samuel, Codman Square NDC, 587 Washington Street, Dorchester MA 02124 or submit documents to [keyna@csndc.com](mailto:keyna@csndc.com). No phone calls please.

Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corporation is an equal opportunity employer. Local residents, bilingual/multilingual, people of color and women and members of the LGBTQ+ community are encouraged to apply.

# Delahunt remembered for work as prosecutor and congressman

By SAM DORAN

STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

Funeral arrangements for the late former Congressman William Delahunt have been set for this weekend, and Gov. Healey on Monday ordered that state and US flags fly at half-staff until Saturday night in memory of the Quincy Democrat.

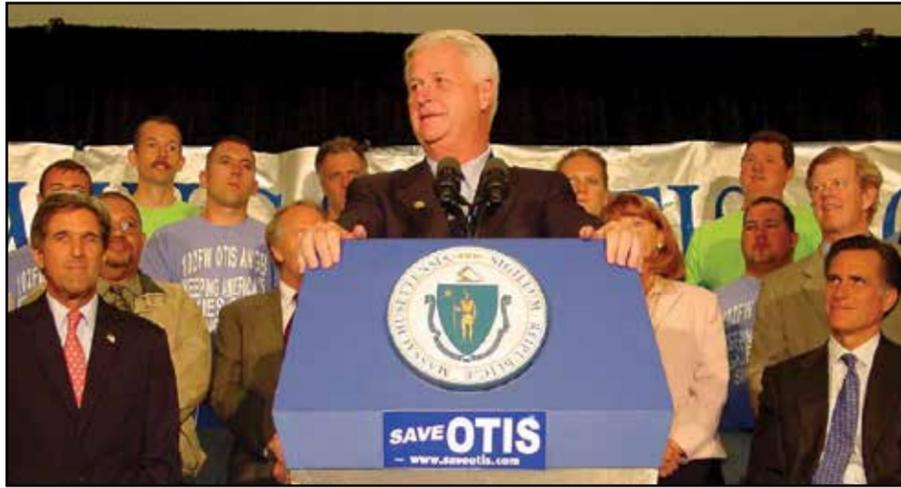
Delahunt died at home in Quincy's Marina Bay on Saturday at the age of 82 after "a long-term illness," a statement from his family said. The family added, "We could always turn to him for wisdom, solace, and a laugh, and his absence leaves a gaping hole in our family and our hearts."

A wake is scheduled for Friday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the United First Parish Church in Quincy (1306 Hancock St.), known as the "Church of the Presidents" for its status as the resting place of former Presidents John Adams and his son, John Quincy Adams.

A funeral Mass will be said on Saturday (April 6) at Saint Gregory's church in Dorchester's Lower Mills by Rev. Jack Ahern, the congregation's pastor and a friend of the Delahunts, the family said.

On Monday, the governor remembered Delahunt as "a person who made a tremendous impact here in the state." She said he "will be missed by many" and "was a friend to many."

In a statement, House Speaker Ronald Mariano of Quincy called Delahunt the "the epitome of what it means to



US Rep. William Delahunt speaking against the proposed closure of Otis Air National Guard Base, circa 2005, flanked by US Sen. John Kerry and Gov. Mitt Romney. SHNS file photo

be a public servant. From the Coast Guard, to local government, to the halls of Congress, Bill worked incredibly hard on behalf of the people that he served, and on the causes that he believed in. He always made Quincy and Massachusetts proud, and for decades, I had the privilege of calling him a good friend and mentor."

A graduate of Middlebury College (1963) and Boston College Law School (1967), Delahunt served on the Quincy City Council, then in the state House of Representatives from 1973 to 1975, when he started a more than 20-year career as Norfolk County's district attorney. The Quincy Democrat repre-

sented the state's 10th Congressional District from 1997 until he retired in 2011.

"Bill Delahunt believed in justice centered on equality and compassion—creating the country's first ever domestic violence prevention unit & championing citizenship for adoptions from overseas," US Sen. Edward Markey wrote last Saturday.

Jon Hurst of the Retailers Association of Massachusetts posted on X: "Bill Delahunt did work across the aisle better than just about anybody. The key D supporter on sales tax fairness making sure online played by same rules as local stores. Worked tirelessly

on the issue with Ds & Rs. Real friend of #mainstreet #smallbiz."

Former Boston Globe political reporter Frank Phillips called Delahunt one of the state's "most significant, brightest public figures," adding that he "created a whole new model for DA's offices."

"I admired Billy before I had ever even met him," former US Sen. John Kerry wrote on Sunday, "because there was already buzz about this young idealist revolutionizing the justice system in Norfolk County. So many things we take for granted everywhere today hadn't been done anywhere at all until Bill came along. "There's a lot we could all learn from his example: to take the work seriously without taking yourself too seriously, to always keep fighting but know when to take a hard-fought bipartisan deal that benefits the people you represent, and to trust your North Star. Bill lived that way every day of his 82 years."

And David Axelrod, senior advisor to President Barack Obama in the White House, remembered Delahunt as "a grand old pol in the best traditions."

"Shrewd, principled, tough when he needed to be but always good-humored, Bill knew how to cajole and bargain with others to get things done," Axelrod wrote on X last weekend. "He stayed on in Congress one term longer than he had planned, at the urging of his friend and mentor Ted Kennedy, to help @BarackObama win priorities like the ACA. ... A delightful, admirable man."

# BTU's Tang in bid to lead group's state organization

By CARRIE JUNG  
WBUR

The president of the Boston Teachers Union has set her sights on the top leadership role of the group's statewide parent organization, the American Federation of Teachers Massachusetts.

The bid by Jessica Tang comes as current AFT-MA leader Beth Kontos plans to step down from the role next month after six years in the position.

If elected, Tang, 42, would become the first person of color to helm the organization, which is one of two statewide teacher unions in Massachusetts.

"When I heard that Beth was not seeking re-election I definitely thought hard about whether this was the right path for me," Tang said in an interview on Monday. She added her decision to run was guid-

ed by a desire to fight for things like smaller class sizes and paid parental leave across more districts.

AFT-MA is the smaller of the two statewide teacher unions—MTA, or Massachusetts Teachers Association, is the other one—representing more than 24,000 members in school districts such as Lawrence and Salem.

A former BPS middle school social studies

teacher, Tang was elected BTU president in 2017, shortly before the union finalized a two-year contract with Boston Public Schools. At the time, Tang ran unopposed and was the first person of color, first member of the LGBTQ community, and first woman in three decades to lead BTU.

"We've made a lot of progress in Boston on things like getting lower class sizes or getting a school nurse in every school," Tang said. "My hope, if I'm elected, is to continue that fight."

The BTU, which in late February began negotiations on its next contract, represents more than 10,000 educators in Boston, including teachers, paraprofessionals, school nurses, and guidance counselors.

Tang says she's proud of such accomplishments

as negotiating three contracts, establishing a BTU back-to-school fair, and launching several new active committees like the New Educators Committee, which supports early career educators.

According to her campaign website, she is dedicated to such platforms as having a strong presence on Beacon Hill, making the AFT-MA an antiracist organization, and ensuring that educators are among the first stakeholders to be consulted for local and state education policy.

As of Monday, Tang is running unopposed for the AFT-MA leadership role. A group of AFT-MA delegates appointed from each local union will be casting their votes on May 4, so there would still be time for others to make a bid.

Kontos said she's stepping down so she can spend more time with family, as she's about to become a grandmother. She also wants to put more support behind other advocacy efforts such as equitable school fund-



Jessica Tang

ing and making Massachusetts school buildings more climate-resilient.

"I'll stick around and support the next person certainly," Kontos said, adding she believes union leadership should turn over regularly. "This was me saying it's time for somebody else."

If Tang is elected to become AFT-MA's new president, BTU vice-president Erik Berg would take the helm until elections are held to elect a new BTU leader.

This article was published by WBUR on April 1. WBUR and The Reporter share content through a media partnership.

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### LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
THE TRIAL COURT  
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT  
INFORMAL PROBATE  
PUBLICATION NOTICE  
Docket No. SU24P0628EA  
ESTATE OF:  
ROSE M. DeCORTA  
DATE OF DEATH: February 17, 2024  
SUFFOLK DIVISION

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Peter J. Hoy of Milton, MA a Will has been admitted to informal probate. Peter J. Hoy of Milton, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

Published: April 4, 2024



# BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF DORCHESTER



**BGCD Alumni Hadiatou B. and John F. Sworn in to Governor's Youth Advisory Council:** See details below.

**CONNECT THE DOT:**  
**BGCD Alumni Hadiatou B. and John F. Sworn in to Governor's Youth Advisory Council:** Congratulations are in order for two recent Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester Alumni who were named to the newly installed Governor's Youth Advisory Council.

Hadiatou B. and John F. were sworn in last week at a ceremony with Governor Maura Healey and Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll at the State House. Our nominees will help shape funding and policy decisions for the administration and are looking forward to representing their peers across the state.

Congratulations to these outstanding young leaders on their selection! To learn more about BGCD Alumni, please contact Mike Joyce at [mjoyce@bgcdorchester.org](mailto:mjoyce@bgcdorchester.org).

**FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE:**  
**BGCD Holds Youth of the Year Dinner Ceremony for Finalists:** On March 28<sup>th</sup>, Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester recognized 13 Youth as finalists in our Youth of the Year competition. Finalists and their families were invited for a special dinner ceremony to celebrate and receive their recognitions. All 13 Finalists were introduced by program staff who offered a short speech of each recipient's participation and impact on the Club community.

To close out the ceremony, we were thrilled to announce **Joel T. as the Club's 2024 Youth of the Year!** Joel will now head off to represent his peers at the State Youth of the Year. Congratulations to Joel and all of the Finalists on their accomplishments. We are all so proud of each of you and all you continue to bring to the BGCD community.



**BGCD Holds Youth of the Year Dinner Ceremony for Finalists:** See details below.

**DID YOU KNOW:**  
**BGCD Young Professionals to Host "Let's Roll" Rodman Ride for Kids Fundraiser:** Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester's Young Professionals Group is excited to host our "Let's Roll" fundraiser at Stats Bar & Grille in South Boston on Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup>. The event will start at 6 PM and will help us raise funds for BGCD's Young Professionals Rodman Ride for Kids Team. The night will be full of food, raffles, drinks, music and networking with other young professionals in the Boston Area.

Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at [bit.ly/bgcdletsroll](https://bit.ly/bgcdletsroll). All proceeds go directly to supporting our Rodman Ride Team. Please note, this is a 21+ event.

For more information on BGCD's Young Professionals Group, please contact Hailey Cummings at [hcummings@bgcdorchester.org](mailto:hcummings@bgcdorchester.org).

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Inclusion Summit @ Denney Center**  
April 11

**Young Professionals Fundraiser**  
April 11  
Scan below for tickets!



**Marr-lins @ Florida Swim Nationals**  
April 12 - 14

**Family Engagement Spring Fling**  
April 12

**Patriot's Day - BGCD Closed**  
April 15

617.288.7120 | 1135 Dorchester Ave. | [www.bgcdorchester.org](http://www.bgcdorchester.org)



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**LET'S GET REAL ABOUT GAMBLING**

# RECENT OBITUARIES



**BANYON, Wanda**, 65, of Mattapan. Born in Brooklyn, New York, she was the daughter to Beverly and Richard Banyon. She had 6 brothers and 4 sisters, 5 preceded her in death. Wanda Spent her days at Bay Cove Center where she also helped out her peers and staff. She leaves 5 siblings to mourn her death: Arrin Banyon, Denise Banyon, Shawn Banyon, Karen Frazier (Norm), Annette

Crumpton, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.



**BARONAS, Walter J., Jr.**, of Winona, TX, formerly of Dorchester. US Navy veteran. Walter was a long-term over the road truck driver. He is survived by his children: Gene Spiller (D'Ann), TX; Marguerite Dembro (Ritchie), NH; Maureen Corbett, ME; CaroleAnne Baronas, FL; LaDonna Narons

(Rusty), TX; Sonny Baronas (Julie), NH; Anne Marie Brewer (Paul), NH; Rhonda Hensley, TX; Dorothea Nichols (Danny), TX; RJ Baronas (Nikki), OR; 17 grandchildren; 17 great grandchildren; his two sisters, Linda Andrus, NY, and Susan Overton, MA, along with numerous nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents, Walter and Nellie Baronas, his sister Regina, his son David, grandson, Joseph, and his life partner, Barbara McAdams.

**FRAZIER, Rebecca**, 86, of Mattapan. Born in St. Helena Island, South Carolina, she was the daughter of Nathan and Henrietta Robinson. She served as Overseer in the ministry of the Kingdom Movement Church. Left to celebrate Rebecca is her husband of Overseer Louis Frazier,



their 7 children, Sheran Shephard (Ronald Shephard I), Pastor Angela E. Frazier-Atkins (Kevin Atkins), Renee Ware (Keith Ware), Louis Frazier Jr. (Tiffany Frazier), Pastor Dwayne Frazier (Regina Frazier), Dionne Thompson (Timothy Thompson), Tawanna Johnson (James Johnson), a bonus daughter, Apostle Henrietta Thomas (Apostle Matthew Thomas), 19 grandchildren, 8 great grandchildren, 4 sisters, 1 brother, 5 sisters-in-love. Also left to celebrate her legacy are a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, spiritual sons and daughters, and a community of believers who were touched by her ministry.

eighteen years. Wife of Paul F. Lydon. Mother of Louise and Michael Doucette, Paul and Sue Lydon, Julie and Eric Ralph, Jane and Peter Gannon, Christopher Lydon and Joy Bogen, and Megan and Jed Dolan. Grandmother of 14. Sister of the late Lawrence Donnelly and his late wife Mary, the late Paul Donnelly and his surviving wife Adelaide, and the late Brian Donnelly and his surviving wife Virginia. Louise is also survived by many nieces, nephews, in-laws, and friends. Donations in Louise's memory will be greatly appreciated to St. Mary of the Hills School, 29 St. Mary's Road, Milton, MA 02186.



so. US Army veteran. Son of the late Herbert J. and Frances (Dolan) McHowell. Father of Laurie Plantamuro of Salem, New Hampshire. Grandpa 2. Brother of Elaine Navratil of Arizona. Brother-in-law of Richard Caruso and his wife Carolyn; and uncle of Michelle Caruso Cabrera, Bethany Caruso, Richard Caruso and Kenneth Caruso. Ken also leaves many dear friends. Memorial contributions may be made in Ken's memory to The DAV of Woburn, 27 Glenwood Ave., Woburn, MA 01801.



**MAGUIRE, John J.**, 64, of Northbridge, formerly of Dorchester. John was a member of the Boston Fire Department. US Navy veteran. Son of the late John J. (BFD) and Katherine P. "Kitty" (Dorney) Maguire of Dorchester. He is survived by his son, Michael Maguire; and his former wife and Michael's mom, Mary Boyce Maguire, both of Dorchester. Also surviving are his sisters, Kathleen McGrath and her husband, Tom, Mary Beth Melody and her husband, Jack, Patricia Maguire and Ann Jordan and her husband, Kevin (BFD), all of Quincy. He is also survived by several nieces and nephews; his Maguire, McDonough and Dorney cousins; and many friends. Donations in memory of John may be made to the Death and Welfare Fund, Boston Firefighters Local 718, 55 Hallet St., Boston, MA 02124.



**MULLIGAN, Patrick J.**, 60, of Weymouth formerly of Dorchester. Son of Bernadette (Welsh) Mulligan of Weymouth and the late John J. Mulligan, Sr. Brother of Joanne Mulligan of Weymouth, Michael and his wife Patty of Marshfield, Maureen Meucci and her husband David of Braintree, Christine Richardson and her husband Michael of Weymouth, Charles and his late wife Laurie of Whitman, Kevin of Weymouth, Mark and his longtime partner Nicole of ME, and the late John J. Mulligan, Jr. Also survived by his loving aunt Jeanne Plant and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

**McHOWELL, Kenneth C.**, 82, of Woburn. Husband of Carol Caru-



**KHAN, Ann** of Dorchester.



**LYDON, Louise Joan (Donnelly)**, 86, of Milton, formerly of Dorchester. In her early years, she worked as a public health nurse and pediatric nurse, and years later, at WORK, Inc., where she spent

### LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS 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. SU24P0439GD IN THE MATTER OF: ALEJANDRO PENA of DORCHESTER, MA RESPONDENT Alleged Incapacitated Person

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Ana Rivera of Dorchester, MA; Martin E. Pimentel of Boston, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Alejandro Pena is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Ana Rivera of Dorchester, MA; Martin E. Pimentel of Boston, MA (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 05/01/2024. 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 27, 2024

Published: April 4, 2024



## Cedar Grove Cemetery

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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 NOTICES

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE & FAMILY COURT SUFFOLK PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT 24 NEW CHARDON STREET BOSTON, MA 02114 617-788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME Docket No. SU24C0144CA IN THE MATTER OF: LEGEND RYAN TAYLOR A Petition to Change Name of Minor has been filed by Legend Ryan Taylor of Boston, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: Legend Hugh Watson

IMPORTANT NOTICE Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Suffolk Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/25/2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court. Date: March 19, 2024  
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq. Register of Probate  
Published: April 4, 2024

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT SUFFOLK PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT 24 NEW CHARDON STREET BOSTON, MA 02114 617-788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR SALE OF REAL ESTATE BY A PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE Docket No. SU19P2709EA ESTATE OF: ELLA LOUIS SUMPTER Date of Death: 11/22/2018

To all interested persons: A Petition For Sale of Real Estate has been filed by: Marchelle Q. Sumpter of Fairburn, GA and Mark E. Sumpter of Dorchester, MA requesting that the court authorize the Personal Representative to sell the decedent's real estate at a private sale.

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 04/22/2024.

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. Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court. Date: March 25, 2024  
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq. Register of Probate  
Published: April 4, 2024



**SERRILLA, Carol A. (Chapin)**, of Quincy, formerly of Dorchester. She was the wife of the late Joseph F. Serrilla, Jr. Mother to Linda C. Shweiri of Halifax, Carol Ann Prance of W. Bridge-water, Rita Marie Paglicco of Bradenton, FL, Joseph F. Serrilla III of Brockton, and Dorothy Grandmother to 13 and great-grandmother to 12. She was predeceased by her great-grandson Eric Bigham.

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**Film**

## Wicked Queer: Boston's LGBTQ+ Film Festival

▶ 4/12–4/14



**Programs**

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Wicked Queer: Boston's LGBTQ+ Film Festival: Still from Queen Tut (2023), by Reem Morsi.