

Dorchester Reporter

"The News and Values Around the Neighborhood"

Volume 41 Issue 16

Thursday, April 18, 2024

50¢

A 'WHIRLWIND' YEAR

Eng reflects on 12 months running the T

By COLIN A. YOUNG
STATE HOUSE
NEWS SERVICE

When he was announced last spring as the new general manager for the much-assailed transit agency, Phillip Eng declared that it was "time for a new way of doing business at the MBTA."

In a wide-ranging conversation on April 9 with the MBTA Advisory Board, Eng reflected on his first year leading the T — covering the agency's hiring spree, its focus on eliminating slow trains that plague commutes, the renewed emphasis on safety, and responding to local officials with specific concerns about T service in their communities.

"It has been a whirlwind year. And today marks the, I guess, Day 365 of my first year," Eng said, as House Democrats unveiled plans to steer more resources to the T. He added, "It has been a



MBTA General Manager Phillip Eng: "I know we can continue to improve and deliver differently." *SHNS photo*

tremendous amount of change in one year. And at the same time, there's so much more that I know we can continue to improve and deliver differently."

A significant part of the change, the general manager said, is "about the culture shift of the MBTA" that might not be as tangible to riders

as things like slow zones. Eng, a longtime engineer and former president of the Long Island Railroad, said the MBTA workforce and its management team are looking to do things differently.

That different way of thinking has proved fruitful, Eng said, when it comes to the T's effort to shut down segments

of four subway lines in phases in order to fix safety problems and eliminate speed restrictions by the end of this year. The T had a "record-setting" number of diversions in place in the first three months of the year to allow that work to take place, and Eng said the track work is "on pace."

(Continued on page 14)

'Change' show connects 22 artists with strong Dot ties into one room

By SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

The art scene in Dorchester received an infusion of new and interesting talent from the neighborhood put on display Saturday night at the 'Change' show hosted in Ashmont's The Local Hand store.

With an emphasis on artists with "strong connections" to Dorchester, co-curators Franklin Marvel and Cat Armistead worked with shop owner Michaela Flatley to unearth some of the newest artistic talent from the neighborhood — many with stories as pleasant as the art they create.



Jaypix Belmer in front of artwork from 2008. *Seth Daniel photo*

There's Dominique Chouteau, who started her art career working at home during the pandemic and occasionally staring out the win-

dow of her Melville Park home at the gas tank at Malibu. It was an exercise that brought out a series of fantasy-like pen and ink drawings dubbed 'Dorchester Stories.'

Then there are the twins Wilson and Elson Fortes, who grew up in Dorchester and honed their drawing skills doodling 'Dragon Ball Z' cartoon characters on the tables at Madison Park High School when they were bored. That was an exercise that gave birth to creative careers in graphic design and a notable side hustle as painters.

Not to leave out Alejandra Spruill, who grew up in Roxbury (Continued on page 16)

White Stadium plan calls for multiple shuttle sites, parking limits in wide area

By CHRIS LOVETT
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

At a virtual White Stadium workshop for Dorchester residents on April 10, city officials and consultants summarized plans in progress for transportation of spectators to professional women's soccer games — and what these could mean for other Franklin Park visitors and residents in surrounding neighborhoods.

The proposals include multiple shuttles coming from Fields Corner and its T station and other sites. The plans also call for new resident parking restrictions to keep spectators from driving and parking on nearby residential streets.

Using satellite parking and shuttles, transportation experts said during the highly anticipated meeting that they believe they can minimize game-day traffic significantly.

Project consultant Brian Beisel, associate principal and manager of Transportation Permitting at Howard Stein Hudson, explained: "A big part of this for people that are new to the process is that there is no on-site parking, so anyone who wants to drive will be parking at off-site facilities, and then we will shuttle them into the area."

Under a plan backed by Mayor Wu, Boston Unity Soccer Partners (BUSP) would contribute \$50 million (Continued on page 4)

Wu begins talks with lawmakers on tax bill

By SAM DRYSDALE
STATE HOUSE
NEWS SERVICE

After filing a measure with the city council in the first week of the month, Mayor Wu last week continued her campaign to increase taxes for commercial properties, in an effort to protect residential owners from seeing a substantial increase in their own taxes.

Commercial values in downtown Boston are declining as more businesses have adopted work from home, leaving offices vacant. That trend could lead to a cumulative revenue shortfall of over \$1 billion for the city in the next five years, the Boston Policy Institute and The Center for State Policy Analysis estimated in their recent report "The Fiscal Fallout of Boston's Empty Office."

Wu warned that a decline in commercial real estate value, which spins off tax revenues that fund a large part of the city's budget, would shift that tax burden onto homeowners and landlords.

"Even small shifts can have an impact on the (Continued on page 6)

Council revisits inspector general position — Page 6

Race is on for mayor of Dorchester

By CASSIDY McNEELEY
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

There is competition once again in the race for mayor of Dorchester this spring, with two residents from the Polish Triangle competing for the title now held by Lily Rose, the dancer, model, and transactivist chosen

last year, and the choice spot at the head of the Dorchester Day Parade on June 2.

Christopher McCoy, 57, and Maeghan Driscoll, 25, have launched spirited campaigns to raise the most money for the Dot Day celebrations and earn the title.

Even though the two Dorchester residents are technically competing for the title, McCoy doesn't see it that way. "I know that I'm running against somebody, but I think we're running together is what's important," said McCoy. "The more (Continued on page 16)



Christopher McCoy
Civic activist



Maeghan Driscoll
Wants to be involved



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Police, Courts & Fire

Man held on drug trafficking charges

Members of the District C-11 (Dorchester) Drug Control Unit arrested David Dillard, 19, of Boston, on drug trafficking charges on Mon., April 8. Officers were on patrol near 157 Washington St. at 10:30 a.m. to address ongoing community complaints about drug use and drug dealing.

Officers believed that street level drug transactions were occurring and attempted to stop the main suspect. As officers approached him, he reached into his vest and began to sprint away. A foot pursuit ensued, and officers were able to apprehend the suspect and later find discarded fentanyl and crack cocaine.

Dillard was placed under arrest and charged with trafficking of class A and possession with intent to distribute class B. He is expected to be arraigned in Dorchester District Court.

Man struck by commuter train in Mattapan

On April 15, at approximately 7:30 p.m., an adult male was trespassing on the right of way at the MB-TA's Blue Hill Avenue station in Mattapan and was hit by a train, Transit Police (TPD) reported. The man was not run over, sustaining non-life threatening injuries. He was transported to a local hospital for treatment. Transit Police detectives are investigating the facts and circumstances surrounding the incident.

Police probe shooting on Vesta Road

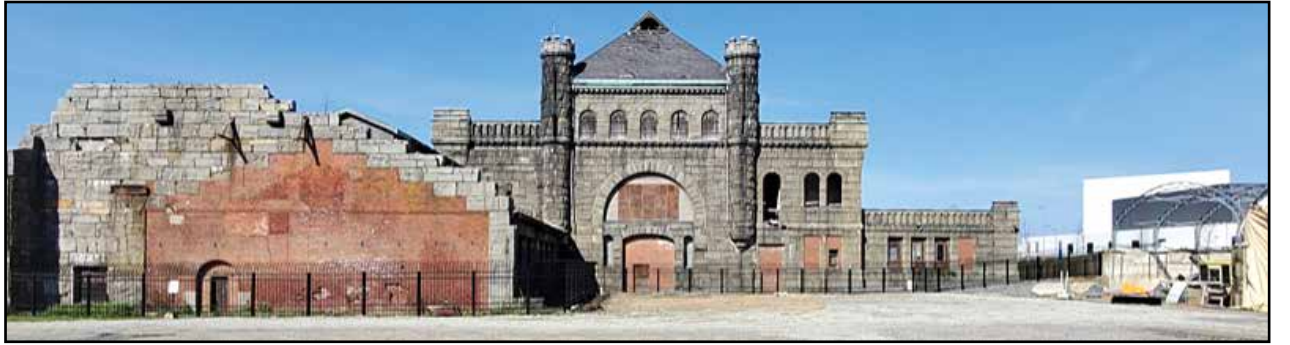
BPD officers found a male victim on Vesta Road near Blue Hill Avenue with gunshot wounds on Sunday around 5 p.m. The victim was transported by ambulance to the hospital for treatment. They are investigating, but no suspects or motives have been announced.

Firearm recovered on Mattapan street

At about 10:46 p.m., on Sat., April 6, officers assigned to the Anti-Crime Unit of District B-3 (Mattapan) arrested Kamarra Freeman, 33, of Lincoln, on firearm related charges.

Officers were on patrol around Blue Hill Avenue and Baird Street when they observed a motor vehicle fail to stop at a red light and proceed to take a right turn from the center lane. Officers began to follow the vehicle onto Baird Street. At that point, the vehicle stopped and parked in the middle of the road, preventing the free flow of traffic.

The driver argued with officers when they asked for his license, resulting in his arrest. While he was being handcuffed, officers in the area noticed a holstered firearm in the passenger seat that was later determined to be a FN firearm with ten rounds in the magazine.



The iconic Calf Pasture Pumping Station on Columbia Point. Boston Landmarks Commission photo

Panel pushes landmark status for Calf Pasture Pump Station

By TAYLOR BROKESH REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

The Boston Landmarks Commission has recommended that the Calf Pasture Pumping Station on Columbia Point be designated an official Boston landmark. A virtual public hearing will be held next Tuesday (April 23) to consider the proposal for the site, which is already listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Rosanne Foley, executive director of the BLC, said the designation process entailed "ten registered Boston voters" initially filing the petition in August 2018. A study report released early this month outlined the location's history and significance to the city.

The pumping station is located on state-owned land at 435 Mt. Vernon St. on what is now the UMass Boston campus. According to the city of Boston's records, the tax-exempt property is valued at \$4.6 million, although its market value is likely much higher.

The university has long indicated that it is interested in re-using the building and surrounding

land, potentially for academic purposes. A 2021 "request for proposals" to seek a development partner has to date not resulted in any action on the site. A spokesperson for the UMass Building Authority said this week that the process is "on hold until the Landmarks Commission completes its work," at which time UMass will "re-assess next steps."

In the BLC study, the commission said that the Calf Pasture Pumping Station - named so because it was once a grazing field for cows - was built in 1883 and consists of three buildings: the actual pumping station, the Gate House, and the West Shaft Entrance. Altogether, these buildings made up one of the country's first effective modern sewerage systems, and one of the most wide-reaching, as it was able to divert sewage from 18 cities and towns after the explosion of urban growth between 1830 and 1860.

Before the station was built, an 1872 report from Boston's Board of Health claimed that "large territories have

been at once and frequently enveloped in an atmosphere of stench so strong as to arouse the sleeping, terrify the weak and nauseate and exasperate everybody."

The site was in use for 85 years until 1968, when the Deer Island Sewage Treatment Plant across the harbor replaced it. The buildings, Romanesque Revival in architectural style, now sit empty, with most of the windows filled in with bricks.

Approval as a landmark would protect the site "from physical changes that might compromise its integrity," according to the BLC's website. The commission

contends that the site is significant because "the Pumping Station Complex represents significant achievements in technology, social reform, and architectural design in the late 19th century."

"Anyone can submit feedback about the site under consideration for landmarking: the owner, the commissioners, the general public, anyone opposed to or in favor of landmarking the property within the 21 days prior to the hearing and at the hearing," Foley said. People can submit comments either at the hearing or at bit.ly/CPPS-Report-Feedback.

Anyone interested in learning more about how the landmark designation process works, Foley said, should visit boston.gov/landmarks.

April 18, 2024

Table of contents for the April 18, 2024 issue, listing sections like Boys & Girls Club News, Opinion/Editorial/Letters, Obituaries, Business Directory, and a 'Days Remaining Until' section for various holidays.

UPCOMING CIVIC MEETINGS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Advertisement for the Edward M. Kennedy Institute event 'Fixing the Filibuster' on Thursday, April 18, 2024, featuring Sen. Jeff Merkley and Mike Zamore. Includes QR code and event details.

The Morrissey Boulevard Commission will meet in person on Tues., April 23, at 6 p.m. at the Cristo Rey Boston High School, located at 100 Savin Hill Avenue, with virtual participation available via Zoom.

The Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the US Senate will host a conversation about "Fixing the Filibuster" with US Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-Colorado) this Thursday (April 18) at 6:30 p.m. Could restoring the talking filibuster fix the gridlock in the US Senate?

correspondent Abdallah Fayyad. Light refreshments and a book signing will follow the discussion. Go to emkinstitute.org to register.

The Boston Home Center will host a Housing Resource Fair on Sat., April 27, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Berkshire Partners Blue Hills Boys and Girls Club, 15 Talbot Ave., Dorchester.

Mayor Wu and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department will host the 2024 Mayor's Cup Street Hockey Tournament in partnership with the Boston Bruins Foundation during the April school vacation week. Visit boston.gov/sports to register.

A community cleanup 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 Cooper and Eliot Park in Norwood, and the West Street Urban Wild in Hyde Park.

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. 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 Freeport St.

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.

The BPDA will host a discussion of the Boston Environment Department's newly released draft NetZero Carbon Zoning in a virtual meeting on Tues., April 23, at 6 p.m. See bit.ly/3xmYTUq to join the meeting.

SEND IN EVENT NOTICES TO NEWSEDITOR@DOTNEWS.COM

Codman civic finds compromise with new chicken restaurant

By **SETH DANIEL**
NEWS EDITOR

By populating his menu with fewer fried food options and more salads and Mediterranean fare, a Codman Square restaurateur has successfully worked with neighbors to refine his concept and present a new plan for the space at 560 Washington St. that was formerly occupied by Oriental House Chinese Restaurant.

Boston Fried Chicken owner Aftab Ali presented his original a plan for the space in March, with hopes of making the square his second location. He had been advised by the landlord to make peace with the community first due to a long-time commitment by Codman Square Neighborhood Council members to limit fast food operators there. They had fought off an approach by Popeye's Fried Chicken a few years ago.

While there wasn't support initially for Ali's concept – a replication of his fried chicken shop on Blue Hill Avenue – he and CSNC members reported at an April 3 meeting that they had reached consensus on an alternative plan – with the name now being either Boston Chicken or Ali's Chicken, and the menu having substantially less fried food and more healthy options.

"We've been talking and we agreed to the recommendations from the Council," said Ali at the session in the Great Hall, where he brought samples for neighbors to try. "We're doing that now and changing



Members of the Codman Square Neighborhood Council and visitors gathered in celebration with restaurateur Aftab Ali on April 3 after the agreement on his restaurant concept for the Square. *Seth Daniel photo*

the name and making changes to the menu and the exterior and interior, too. There will be dine-in available with about 20 seats. I'm here to gain your support."

Another key change was to upgrade the store's façade before opening, and to renovate the dining room for sit-down meals in a fast casual concept. Ali said he has agreed to those requests.

With those concessions, he earned the council's support, according to community members who noted his willingness to work with and not fight them.

CSNC President Cynthia Loesch-Johnson noted that this was a very happy ending.

"There is going to be some fried chicken but only about 15 to 20 percent of the menu," she said. "He is changing the name for Codman Square and changing the menu for Codman Square," she added. "Will you be able to purchase

fried chicken? Yeah. But there are options like falafel, gyros, and salads also. You asked for Mr. Ali to be a good neighbor and he is."

THE NOTEBOOK

• Mayor Wu was supposed to attend the April 3 meeting, but circumstances prevented her from being there in person. However, she did Zoom in to speak with residents and answer questions. She pledged to attend the ribbon cutting this spring on the Codman Square Park renovations and answered some questions – particularly about security plans for Boston Caribbean Carnival this summer.

"It's important to have a plan for each of the events," she said. "Some might be better in an enclosed space, especially in the early morning or overnight hours. We're working on that and don't have a definitive answer yet, but we'll be back." Typically, the early morn-

ing J'Ouvert Parade – which begins overnight – musters on Talbot Avenue and in the accompanying neighborhoods off Codman Square. Last year, eight people in the parade were shot when multiple gunmen fired indiscriminately into the crowd. Other violence in and around the parade on Blue Hill Avenue has also occurred in recent years.

• City officials announced at the meeting they would be piloting Electric Vehicle (EV) curbside charging stations in neighborhoods around Codman Square, as well as setting up stations in the municipal parking lot. The curbside pilot would include 30 locations across the city with each station being able to charge four cars at one time, and with a fast charge (19.9 kW). The pilot stations nearby will be at Mother's Rest Park on Claybourne Street, Erie-Ellington Playground, and Puddingstone Park on Seaver Street.


The station in the municipal lot will have 10 plugs available for drivers to use while they are shopping or running errands.

"The demand for charging locations is growing exponentially," said Matt Warfield, from the city. "We're doing this so that folks have the confidence to own an EV if they want to."

• The Squares + Streets zoning change process for Codman Square will officially kick off on May 4, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Great Hall. Members of the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) team and city officials will gather for an open house style event.

• Police activity picked up over the last month as opposed to previous months when things were very quiet. Police reported responding to a loud and raucous party on March 30 at a business at 650 Washington St. around 4:30 a.m., where police found 50 or 60 people gathered, one of them with .380 calibre handgun loaded with eight rounds. The matter is being followed up by police and licensing officials.

On April 3, a 29-year-old vandal from the Codman Square area was arrested when he reportedly created "art" on the Lowkey Cannabis Dispensary. In the early afternoon, the man came into the shop looking for a job but he was turned away. Outside, police say, he began spray painting the front of the building. When confronted by officers, he said, "Hey, it's just art." That didn't fly with them.

 **Virtual Public Meeting**

Net Zero Carbon Zoning Proposal

APRIL
23
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/3xmYTUq

Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864

Meeting ID: 160 476 1664

Project Description:

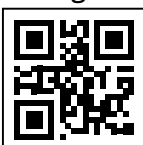
Please join the BPDA and Boston's Environment Department to discuss the newly released draft proposal for Net Zero Carbon Zoning. The NZC team will walk through the draft proposal and invite questions and comments. Come learn about one of the City's sustainability initiatives.

Tuesday 4/23 from 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

To attend the public meeting, please visit the 2024 Net Zero Carbon Zoning webpage to find the Zoom link: bit.ly/3xmYTUq


mail to: **Astrid Walker-Stewart**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
phone: 617.918.4496
email: astrid.walker-stewart@boston.gov

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Codman Square Health Center

White Stadium plan calls for multiple shuttle sites, parking limits

(Continued from page 1)

to modernize the facility, originally built for Boston Public Schools (BPS) athletic programs in 1945. The redeveloped facility would still be used by local students, but the stadium, with its capacity expanded to 11,000 seats, would also be used by the new Boston franchise in the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL), with an expected 20 games a year from the spring through mid-fall.

Beisel identified possible pick-up locations for shuttles south and west of Boston, as well near Route I-93 to the north and east arriving at Franklin Park along Columbia Road. "But there are facilities in this area," he added, "that will make it efficient for people that are driving to just use these shuttles, instead of driving into the neighborhood and seeing if they can get lucky and find a space that's not going to be intended for them to be using."

The satellite parking would be made available with purchase of tickets for NWSL games. To provide access for 6,500 spectators, there would be 25 shuttles per hour, for two hours before a game and two hours after. There would also be shuttles from the Orange Line and from the Red Line, at Fields Corner Station. Planners expect 49 shuttle trips to the stadium from the east in Dorchester, but with more trips coming from areas west of Franklin Park.

Beisel said the Orange Line stops at Green Street and Stony Brook were within "walking distance" of White Stadium, a 0.7-mile interval he equated with going from a parked vehicle to a seat at Gillette Stadium. "So, it's certainly not as pleasant and as nice a walk as it is from Green Street to the stadium," he acknowledged, "but this is what people do when they go to large events, and they're used to it, and it's not out of the ordinary."

Beisel estimated that 40 percent of the soccer spectators at White Stadium would use shuttle parking, with an equal share using public transportation, and 5-10 percent making trips on bikes. There would also be a secured area for personal bikes that could be retrieved after a game, as well as a valet service for Bluebikes.

For fans using rideshare trips, plans call for a drop-off and pick-up area near Seaver Street and Humboldt Avenue. That location would also be used for navigation systems, to keep rideshare trips away from other locations.

Along with a ban on spectator parking in Franklin Park, there would be restrictions and enforcement on streets in some of the surrounding neighborhoods: from the Southwest Corridor to the west, all the way to Warren Street in Roxbury and Washington Street north of Erie Street in Dorchester.

The city's deputy chief of streets for transportation, Nick Gove, said there would be an exemption to the game-day parking ban in those areas for vehicles with resident stickers, and that residents could also apply for game-day permits.

"Additionally," he noted, "we're proposing a new program which will allow visitors to obtain a placard or a hang tag, regardless of vehicle ownership. So long as they live on a street in the White Stadium walk area, we're proposing one visitor permit per household issued annually."

Because resident stickers are available only for vehicles registered in the city, the president of the Hancock Street Civic Association, Marti Glynn, told the project team that the neighborhood parking restrictions would be a "huge problem" for students from other states or other residents.

"They register their cars outside of the city to avoid insurance costs and excise tax," she said. "How are you going to deal with them in terms of resident parking?"

Gove said there could be more relief for neighborhood residents with vehicles from the expected end of the moratorium on expansion of the city's resident parking program. "Our intent with this proposal is not to be punitive to residents and their visitors," he said. "We're really trying to make an accommodation there."

Dorchester resident Barry Lawton said he expects some spectators to look to park vehicles along American Legion Highway, which leads from Blue Hill Avenue into Roslindale.

Gove said parking enforcement within Franklin Park would be handled by the Boston Police and Park Rangers, with additional help from "traffic ambassadors." But Glynn questioned the ability to distinguish soccer spectators from drivers who would still be allowed to use spaces within the park for visiting the Franklin Park Zoo or playing golf.

"The zoo is open from July 1 through the end of October, from 9 a.m. till 10:30 at night because of their bright lights exhibit," Glynn said. "It's extremely popular when that exhibit's going on. There are cars

in every parking lot in the zoo, and there are cars all up and down Circuit Drive, I would say, to the end of the golf course, for sure."

In its January 31 comments filed for the project's Article 80 review by the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA), the Franklin Park Coalition raised concerns about the possible effect of spectators on access for other visitors. "We are concerned that the soccer games will have a negative impact on the many other community uses of the park during weekends when park use is highest," the group wrote. "Indeed, we fear that park festivals will have to move elsewhere (a major loss for surrounding communities) and that general usership of the park will decline substantially on game days."

According to the BPDA, the city's lease with BUSP will place a priority on use of Franklin Park for city and community events, including the Caribbean Kiddie Carnival, BAMS Fest, Puerto Rican Festival, the BAA Half Marathon, and Boston Public Schools (BPS) graduations. The next highest priority would be for BPS athletics and NWSL games.

The coalition also raised concerns about arrangements for transportation and parking. "We hope no approvals are given," the group urged in its comment, "until a comprehensive traffic circulation plan and neighborhood parking restrictions program are developed and vetted."

In a comment letter on the project from earlier this year, Zoo New England's president & CEO, John Linehan, called for BUSP to do a study of peak traffic conditions on Saturdays in the summer, when Franklin Park is also used for special events. He said that studies of traffic impact should extend to roadways surrounding Franklin Park. Linehan did not oppose the project, but he concluded that, "because of the potential for 'significant negative impacts in the area,' approval by the BPDA would be premature without further study.

During the April 10 workshop, Beisel said the current plan would continue to undergo changes, even after the project is completed and soccer games are underway. "We're going to look at this on a game-to-game basis, especially in the very beginning," he said, "to make sure we're getting this to work as well as possible and finding any issues and rectifying it as quickly as we can."

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'Change can't wait,' Pressley tells supporters at re-election rally

BY TAYLOR BROKESH
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

US Rep. Ayanna Pressley already launched her re-election campaign on April 3, but that didn't prevent her from throwing what she called a "campaign rally and celebration" last Saturday at the headquarters of IBEW Local 103 on Freeport Street.

Speaking to a roomful of union members, educators, students, families, and neighbors, the congresswoman - who to date faces no opposition - congratulated supporters for championing the causes they cared about and thanked them for voting her into office six years ago.

"You defied the odds, built coalitions, challenged the status quo. You made history," she said. "You did that."

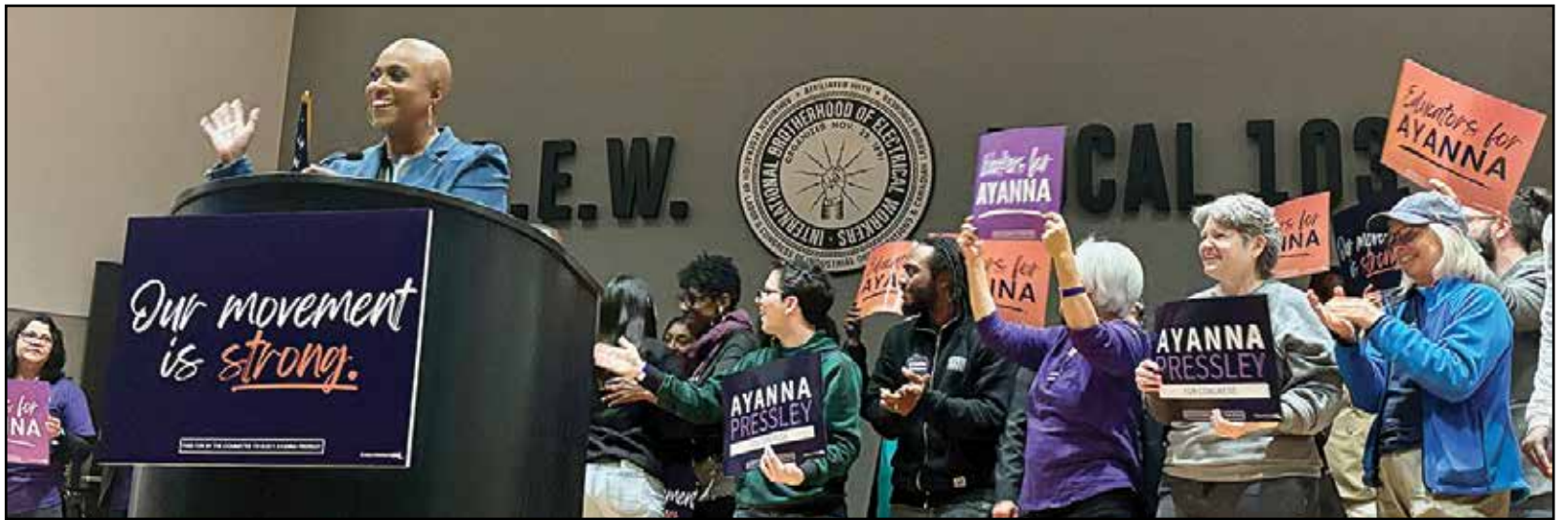
Pressley was first elected to the US House in 2018 after serving nearly ten years as a Boston city councillor. Her campaign against the 7th district's incumbent representative, Michael Capuano, who had held the seat since 1999, was part of a historic wave of women of color elected to the House that fall, which included Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York City.

Local residents and community activists, using the hall from which Pressley began her first congressional campaign, talked about how policies that Pressley has supported have benefited them, in particular, her steady support of labor. Their words were accompanied several times by her supporters chanting, "Get up, get down, Boston is a union town."

One speaker, Suzy Depina-Correia of Dorchester, an apprentice at IBEW Local 103 who dealt with crushing student debt after dropping out of school to care for her mother, took notice of Pressley's influence on her life.

"Even now, with an IBEW income, which most of you know is pretty generous for a third-year, I'm still straining to pay back my student loans on top of the regular household bills that I have to worry about," she said. "I'm an example of why we need people like Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley on our side. She's battling to forgive those student loans for all of us so we can stand with a little less weight on our shoulders."

Another Dot native, Darius Hines, a member of Local 223, noted how his presence at the event was far removed from the 17 years he spent in federal prison. Now a homeowner with two young daughters, he credited Operation Exit, the re-entry program set up by former Boston



U.S. Representative Ayanna Pressley (MA-07) celebrated her re-election campaign on April 13 at an event at the IBEW Local 103 headquarters in Dorchester.
Taylor Brokesh photo

Mayor Marty Walsh and his union - for getting him onto the right path.

"(Local) 223 gave me that chance," Hines said. "It put the belief in me that I didn't have to go

back. I didn't have to look over my shoulder. Now I just try to put forth what they put in me; everybody just needs a second chance."

Other speakers spoke

to reproductive care and access to abortion, housing access, and equality of education opportunities as issues that Pressley has taken on.

At the close of the

event, the drumline from Hamilton-Garrett Center for Music & Arts on Elm Hill Avenue hyped up the gathering before the candidate came on stage to thank her friends

and supporters and to urge everyone to keep the momentum going.

"Our movement is strong," Pressley said, "and change can't wait."



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Council revisits call for city 'Inspector General'

By Chris Lovett
Reporter Correspondent

Three Boston city councillors are backing a new effort to create a local Office of the Inspector General, following an unsuccessful attempt in 2019.

The measure's lead sponsor, Councillor At-Large Julia Mejia, said in an interview last week that "this is an opportunity for us to restore trust, given the fact that there have been so many different issues that have bubbled up to the top, from White Stadium to the Boston Police Department, the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) — all the issues around zoning."

In a release issued by her office two weeks ago, the proposed ordinance was described as a way "to bolster transparency, accountability, and efficiency in City government" through proactive and independent oversight. The measure is also being co-sponsored by District 4 (Dorchester/Mattapan) Councillor Brian Worrell and District 7 (Roxbury) Councillor Tania Fernandes Anderson.

"The ordinance aims to create a formal structure to audit and evaluate City policies, procedures, and protocols by providing a process to identify mismanagement, waste, and oversee complaints made against Boston City departments," Mejia said in the release. The proposed office could investigate employees and appointees in city agencies, quasi-governmental agencies and boards. There would also be investigative power over individuals, organizations, or businesses that receive city-granted funds or other kinds of benefits.

Similar offices exist in several other US cities, including New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Seattle, Jacksonville, and Hartford. Aside from the Office of the Inspector General for all of Massachusetts, the city has one agency for oversight, the Boston Finance Commission ("FinCom"), which was established in 1909 to "monitor the administrative and financial activities."

But Mejia insisted that a local Office of the Inspector General would have wider scope.

"From what I understand to be one of the biggest complaints from constituents," she observed, "is how oftentimes they don't feel heard or that there

aren't any real checks and balances to the decisions that are being made. And this gives them a vehicle."

To make the case for a new kind of oversight, Mejia also noted the council's recent approval of a reform of the BPDA, which would place its planning function from a quasi-independent agency to a line department, more directly under control of the mayor. The change was sought by Mayor Wu and advanced by her as a way to make decisions over development more predictable and inclusive. In the council's decision on the mayor's reform, Mejia voted present.

Along with reviewing 597 unadvertised contracts last year, the FinCom monitored planning and installation of bike lanes, as well as investigating complaints from contractors over missing payments and work assigned to a non-winning bidder. The FinCom also produced a report on bidding guidelines for the Boston school bus contract that it said could have reduced competition. The information was referred to the state Inspector General.

Like the proposed city Inspector General's Office, the FinCom has subpoena powers. But the commission's executive director, Matt Cahill, said that instead of being applied, the powers are understood as a threat to help obtain information. Along with Cahill, the FinCom has a board appointed by the governor and only two other staff members, with an annual budget of less than \$400,000.

In 2019, the FinCom opposed the ordinance for the Office of the Inspector General. But Cahill acknowledged that it would be "difficult" for the FinCom, with its small staff, to accomplish the work of the proposed agency.

"The ability to do what I think they're asking to do already resides with us," he said. "If they fund us better, we could do better or do more, but we just can't do it with three people."

The 2019 ordinance for the inspector general's office was filed by former City Councillor and current state Attorney General Andrea Campbell. The filing was triggered by a scandal, with a former BPDA employee agreeing to a guilty plea for accepting a \$50,000 bribe to help with a request for a zoning waiver. Just before Campbell filed her

ordinance, then-mayor Marty Walsh ordered an outside investigation of the city's Zoning Board of Appeal.

Before her finalized ordinance came up for a vote in December 2019, Campbell argued that there should be a new city watchdog agency "more expansive" than the FinCom and more locally focused than the State Inspector General's Office. She also noted that the new agency would do work the city was already assigning to outside investigators.

"Instead," Campbell said, "Boston taxpayers funded those investigations led by costly private attorneys, whose reports were not public, were not independent, and didn't lead to any transformative corrective action." As a later consequence of the bribery scandal, Walsh created new ethical standards for the Board of Appeal, in March of 2020.

As other areas that could be addressed by a "more expansive" city inspector general's office, Campbell suggested reports of discrimination and sexual harassment on the Boston Fire Dept., and the federal prosecution of overtime fraud on the Boston Police Dept. that would later result in multiple guilty pleas. Along with doing investigations, issuing reports and pushing for enforcement, Campbell argued that a Boston Inspector General could save resources.

"A city inspector general," she said, "can provide proactive and independent oversight of our government with actually a greater priority to look at the recipients of our contracts, for example, of our grants, to look for opportunities to reduce waste by finding more efficient ways to get things done."

To allow the Office of the Inspector General to be established without state approval, which is required for amending the city's charter, Campbell revised her initial ordinance. In her final version, the inspector general would be appointed by the mayor, in a process she described as "informed by the council and certain commissions" to create the independence of similar offices in other cities. After arguments by supporters and opponents, the ordinance was voted down by a count of 9-4. Among those voting against it was Wu, Campbell's fellow councillor at the time and future rival in Boston's 2021



Councillor Mejia
A way to "restore trust"

race for mayor.

In her remarks before the vote, Wu said that she agreed with the goals of the ordinance. "But, she added, "my concern is that I don't feel this goes far enough — particularly with some of the charter change fixes, that now this is a position that is directly appointed by the mayor, and I worry about independence in that model." Wu also maintained that the Inspector General's office would not have addressed problems with a zoning process that needed systemic reform and changes in structure.

When asked for reaction to the newly proposed ordinance last week, the mayor's press office responded, by email, "We are reviewing the proposal and look forward to a hearing."

Twelve of the 13 members voting in 2019 have since left the council. The only one remaining, District 2 (South Boston, South End, Chinatown) Councillor Ed Flynn, had initially voted for the ordinance to be considered, before voting in opposition in December 2019.

When asked for reaction to Mejia's proposal, Flynn responded with a statement by email. "Transparency and accountability are critical foundations of our city government, and having an independent Inspector General can further ensure integrity and efficiency in our city departments, as well as strengthen public trust," he said.

"I was supportive of establishing the Office of the Inspector General when it was first proposed in 2019, and I'm still supportive of the creation of this office. I look forward to discussing more in detail about this ordinance and working together with my colleagues on this issue."

Wu begins discussion with lawmakers on her tax hopes

(Continued from page 1) residential side, because commercial properties end up making up so much of our tax base," Wu said on GBH's Boston Public Radio on April 9. "So commercial properties paying a little bit less in taxes ends up being a lot more per resident in an increase."

The mayor's proposal would allow the city to lessen increases in residential property tax bills by temporarily levying that increased tax on commercial real estate for up to five years, ac-

ording to the mayor's office. It would need to be approved by both the council and the Legislature to go into effect.

State law allows a city to shift a maximum 175 percent of the tax levy to commercial real estate. According to Wu's office, the mayor's proposal would give the city the option to increase that shift to 200 percent following a significant drop in commercial assessments. The 200 percent shift would gradually return to 175 percent over five years.

"Because the impacts are felt so differently, because we're in the middle of a housing crisis, in order to avoid the default of doing nothing and having residential taxes go up, exacerbating the burden on residents, we are getting this tool to have if we need it," Wu said on the radio.

Wu is proposing an 8 percent, \$344 million increase in the city budget. She said about a quarter of that increase stems from dismantling the Boston Planning & Development Agency, which was self-funded, and putting it more directly in the city's budget. The significant budget

increase comes at a time when state revenues are struggling and the economy is uncertain.

Talking about looking to plug a "hole" in the budget left by declining commercial property value, Wu said she has started to have "some early conversations" with lawmakers about her home rule petition. First, however, it would need to make it through the city council.

Council President Ruthzee Louijeune referred the petition to the Government Operations Committee last week.

The *Boston Herald* reported that Councillor Ed Flynn has opposed

the proposed plan to raise property taxes on businesses. "The District 2 councillor who represents parts of downtown Boston and the South Boston waterfront, is concerned about whether an increase in commercial property taxes will negatively impact the already struggling downtown office market, where 20.1 percent of offices have become vacant with post-pandemic challenges and shifts to remote work," his statement said, according to the *Herald*.

The Republican Party said on Tuesday that Wu's budget aspirations shouldn't be subsidized by a take hike on businesses. "The mayor's perceived ace in the hole is her effort to persuade Beacon Hill to permit her to increase commercial real estate prices. However, a hike in commercial real estate rates will only result in fewer businesses operating in the city, reduced revenue for the ones that remain, and diminished income

for their employees as businesses struggle to balance their books. It's entirely counterintuitive," MassGOP Chair Amy Carnevale said.

"Mayor Wu needs to reassess her budget and city operations to identify areas where cuts can be made and savings achieved to rectify the shortfall before considering budget increases," she added.

Former Mayor Thomas Menino tried a similar approach in 2003, which was signed into law in 2004, to take pressure off of residents by shifting to a higher tax on businesses.

"People got two bills in the mail because they didn't know if this legislative item would pass or not," Wu said. "People had two bills, one that said, 'If it passes you pay this,' 'If it doesn't pass, you pay that.' We don't want to be in that situation at all. To have the maximum stability and certainty, we need this tool proactively."

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Reporter's People

News about people in and around our Neighborhoods

City Ballet, Tony Williams Dance Center Present "Ballet Banquet"

BY REPORTER STAFF
City Ballet of Boston, under the artistic direction of Tony Williams, is presenting "Ballet Banquet," a celebration of dance, including stage premieres by choreographers Gianni Di Marco and Morgan Brown Sanborn at the Strand Theatre this month on April 26, 27, 28.

With dancers from City Ballet of Boston and youth dancers from the Tony Williams Dance Center, the performances will feature six distinct contemporary works.

They open with "Ben's Trumpet," a vibrant jazz-ballet piece based on the children's story book, "Ben's Trumpet," by Caldecott Honor Award-winning author and illustrator Rachel Isadora. "Sleeping Beauty: The Awakening," is an abridged version of the classic ballet choreographed by Gianni Di Marco, followed by "Baba Ghanoush," choreographed by Tony Williams.

Following them are two stage premieres, "The Gathering," cho-

reographed by Gianni Di Marco, and "Tableau," a three-movement work choreographed by CBB company member Morgan Brown Sanborn. The program will also include "Slanting Sun," choreographed by Marcus Schulkind.

Says artistic director Williams, "Ballet Banquet is more than just a performance; it's a celebration of the transformative power of dance. We aim to connect with our audiences on a profound level, inviting them to experience the



City Ballet of Boston under the director of Tony Williams will present 'Ballet Banquet' April 26-28 at Dorchester's historic Strand Theatre. *Courtesy Photo*

emotion, beauty, and athleticism of ballet through a diverse repertoire that challenges and delights."

The performances take place on Fri., April 26

at 7 p.m.; Saturday at 3 p.m.; and Sunday at 3 p.m. Tickets start at \$20 and are available at cityballetofboston.org. This program is sup-

ported in part by grants from the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture, Roger and Rachel Brunswick, and the Cinnamon Fund.

YouthBuild Boston chooses Dot native Danyson Tavares to lead organization

BY REPORTER STAFF
YouthBuild Boston recently announced the appointment of Danyson Tavares — designer, educator, and community changemaker — as its new executive director.

Tavares, a Dorchester native who grew up on Holden Street, will lead the nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting career pathways in the building industry for Boston's youth of color.

With his extensive background in architecture, and a longstanding commitment to community engagement and advocacy for universal design access, Tavares



Dorchester native Danyson, executive director of the YouthBuild Boston job training program.

Photo courtesy YouthBuild

brings a valuable perspective and broad expertise and credentials to his new role.

Tavares joined YouthBuild Boston in 2022. As Project Development Manager, he has spearheaded affordable housing projects and community initiatives, laying the groundwork for design education courses. He is actively involved with the Boston Chapter of the National Organization of Minority Architects and American Institute of Architects and has been an adjunct faculty member at Boston Architectural College, Wentworth Institute of Technology,

and Rhode Island School of Design.

Before joining YouthBuild, Tavares earned both a bachelor and master of Science in Architecture from Wentworth, with a focus on the role of architecture in community building.

"I am deeply committed to our work helping Boston's young people find their pathway to professional and personal success in the building industry and can't wait to work with our talented team to propel YouthBuild into our fourth decade of success and impact," said Tavares.



The Mildred Avenue Senior Citizens drop-in celebrated the 103rd birthday of Anna Coleman last Thursday, April 11. She is the oldest known resident of Mattapan. Coleman has lived in Mattapan more than 40 years and worked for Harvard University in the food service. She is still very active in the community, and especially in the Mildred Avenue seniors' group, which meets in the community center from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday. If she isn't dancing, watching a movie, or reading, then Anna is socializing with her friends there. The Mildred Avenue seniors formed a little over one year ago and the group has blossomed since then, growing in popularity and numbers.

Seth Daniel photo

Boston Collegiate holds 10th grade Career Fair

Boston Collegiate Charter School in the Polish Triangle held a Career Fair last month for 10th graders in the school to begin to be exposed to career opportunities from professionals in the area like Congressman Stephen Lynch.

The school has a comprehensive program of college and career exploration that begins when students enter in 5th grade. By the time they reach 10th grade, they have visited colleges with their advisories and spoken to professionals as part of lessons that focus on engineering, social science, and more.

During sophomore year, the career exposure kicks up with an opportunity to meet professionals in a range of fields at a Career Symposium.

The event began with a little speed-meeting, with professionals stationed throughout the lunchroom. Students had 30 minutes to circulate and meet with five professionals.

This year's career sym-



More than 50 professionals gathered to meet with Boston Collegiate 10th grade students.

Photo courtesy Boston Collegiate Charter School

posium gathered more than 50 professionals from a range of career fields, including finance, internal medicine, graphic design, engineering, and more.

US Rep. Lynch, a co-founder of the school, came out to see the proceedings in action and enjoy meeting with students and sharing his experience with labor unions and in public service.

"I loved making connections and talking to so many people who do the job I want to do," said student Rotchel Gaston. "I spoke with a social worker, and I really connected with her. I hope I can do an internship with her next year."

Boston Collegiate Charter School serves 700 students in grades five through 12 from across the City of Boston.

YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE

DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In the 1830s a syndicate was formed with facilities at Commercial Point to make a profit from whale and cod fishing. The following paragraph is from the chapter on "Captain John Codman, William D. Codman, John & Richard Codman" in "Other Merchants and Sea Captains of Old Boston" (Boston, State Street Trust Company, 1919).

"Their goal was to whale in the Pacific, Indian, and North Atlantic oceans. The ships bought by the company were the "Charles Carroll," of Nantucket; "Courier," "Herald," and bark "Lewis." They equipped twenty schooners, of which two — the "Belle" and "the Preston" — were built at the Point. The syndicate purchased not only the wharf, but also quite a tract of land in its immediate vicinity, where they put flakes for the drying of their codfish. They also built some cooper-shops and a store for the supply of



The whaling ship Charles Carroll
An illustration

sailors' outfits and ship chandlery. The store was built from the material that came from the granary building which formerly occupied the site of the present Park Street Church in the city proper."

William C. Codman's remarks are cited in William Dana Orcutt's "Good Old Dorchester." (Cambridge, 1893), 178-179:

"I well remember the arrival of the 'Charles Carroll.' The wharf at the Point was lined with carriages coming from

great distances, containing relatives or friends of the Jack Tars [who had been away for 4 years]. When every sail had been furled, they were allowed to go ashore. Anxious parents, brothers and sisters awaited them. The Jacks climbed over the side to rush to their relatives' embraces..."

Dorchester Historical Society's William Clapp House and James Blake House are open to the public on the third Sunday of the month from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Editorial

Dr. de la Torre, we were wrong about you

It was just 16 years ago when a brash young Cuban American surgeon came into our neighborhood with a promise to save our neighborhood hospital.



Carney Hospital, along with seven other hospitals owned by the Boston Archdiocese under the banner Caritas Christi (“Charity of Christ”), had been struggling financially for many years, and Dr. Ralph de la Torre, at left in 2011, was recruited to take them over and plot a new, brighter course.

He hired a healthcare consultant from Wellspring Partners to help him find options for that future, and at a public meeting in May 2008 they outlined four options for the Carney: revitalization, conversion to a psychiatric hospital, change of ownership, and closure.

The Dorchester Reporter began its coverage of that meeting this way: “Caritas Christi Health Care CEO Ralph de la Torre surprised a Coalition to Strengthen the Carney meeting last week when he strode in and told the audience that Carney would not close or change its service mix in any major way. Instead, he said, it will embark on a major fundraising, recruitment, and reinvestment effort to reestablish its image as a competitive healthcare provider.

“We have decided that Carney will stay as an acute care facility,” said de la Torre to loud applause at the Sheet Metal Workers Hall on Adams Street. “That decision really comes from the work the people in this room have done. This community has made this possible.”

The doctor took control of the hospital and began making some investments, then 30 months later, he came up with a new scheme: Convert the non-profit hospital organization to a for-profit business. And we bought into his strategy. Our February 2011 editorial was titled “Bright new day dawns at Carney” and the text enthusiastically supported de la Torre:

“The future seems to be bright both for the Carney and the new owner. In a Boston Globe Magazine cover story last Sunday, de la Torre was described as ‘a major player in Boston’s medical community.... He stunned the medical world by getting a private equity giant to buy a group of debt-drowning community hospitals, but that’s just step one of (his) plan to build a model for the nation.’

“Key to the Carney’s future is de la Torre’s vision that his model, called an Accountable Care Organization (ACO), is the future of American healthcare, wherein most people will receive their care in relatively lower cost community health settings from integrated networks of physicians and community hospitals that share resources and reduce costs.

“In an interview with the Reporter last year (2010), de la Torre said, ‘I think that Carney has been successful. Sometimes, you just have to have faith in an institution. You have to look at its heart and have faith and say, ‘You know what? I think that it’s going to be successful if you make the investment.’ And that’s what we did with Carney. We looked at it, we looked at the heart of the institution, the people, the value to the community, and said, ‘You know what, if you make this investment, if we make the investment, it’ll be successful,’ and we were right.”

Mea culpa, mea maxima culpa. We were wrong about you, Ralph. The course you pursued has impoverished healthcare options in our neighborhood. Long live Carney Hospital, the venerable, healthcare-giving, life-saving facility that sits right here in the middle of our neighborhood.

– Ed Forry

The Reporter

“The News & Values Around the Neighborhood”
A publication of Boston Neighborhood News Inc.

150 Mt. Vernon St., Dorchester, MA 02125

Worldwide at dotnews.com

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Next Issue: Thursday, April 25, 2024

Next week’s Deadline: Monday, April 22 at 12 p.m.

Published weekly on Thursday mornings

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Zoning board’s murky rules engender mistrust, while incentivizing corruption

BY BILL WALCZAK
REPORTER COLUMNIST

“Change moves at the speed of trust” is a maxim attributed to the author Stephen Cove. It best captures Mayor Michelle Wu’s laudatory goal, yet challenge, in updating Boston’s zoning code. There is a long history of distrust in the City’s planning and development processes by neighborhood groups that is born of decades of experience whereby developers demonstrated their power to overrule the zoning code to serve their interests. Historically, given how mayors secure taxes in Boston, the developers’ interests have often aligned with the mayors’ budgetary interests, at the expense of neighborhood residents.

The zoning regulations that Wu is currently advocating is called Squares + Streets, an initiative mainly focused on business districts and nearby neighborhoods that seeks to increase housing density as well as promote small businesses and arts and culture within designated districts. The proposal envisions a short planning process of six to nine months for Squares + Streets districts. It has been a very contentious process, with community civic groups advocating for delays to work out issues of concern, and the mayor and Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) Director Arthur Jemison saying that they’ll work out any problems during the process of implementing the new regulations. “Trust us.”

Wu ran for mayor in 2021 largely on changing how development happens in Boston. In 2019, she published a 76-page document as chair of the City Council’s Committee on Planning, Development & Transportation entitled “Fixing Boston’s Broken Development Process: Why and How to Abolish the BPDA.” The document’s introduction states that our “neighborhoods [are] transformed by an onslaught of zoning variances and special approvals,” and that “the BPDA gives concentrated control over development to the mayor of Boston with little to no accountability, giving well-connected developers outsized access to influence decision-making and incentivizing an unhealthy political interdependence.”

The document is an excellent primer on how development happens in Boston and discusses the failures and opportunities with respect to a reform of the process. Critical to Wu’s strategy is the creation of a Planning Department to do master planning, thereby avoiding “a hodgepodge of piecemeal measures with the potential for abuse: zoning variances issued by the Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA) and Planned Development Areas (PDA) approved by the BPDA Board.”

The document is very critical of the ZBA, stating that it “serves as the city’s de facto planning body, the stakes of each vote are high enough to incentivize corruption,” and “through exceptions to zoning granted by the ZBA ... these special approvals drive up land values for specific parcels through a haphazard process and promote speculation by developers who aim to leverage influence to capitalize on investments.”

It further states that “without comprehensive planning and zoning to set clear, community-informed rules for development, Boston is setting citywide develop-



The “monstrosity” on Pearl Street in Dorchester. Bill Walczak photo

ment policy through case-by-case exceptions.”

Most civic activists will tell you that the ZBA is the most frustrating department they deal with in City Hall, and that its actions devalue community participation. A very high percentage of projects require variances, which leads to a process whereby abutters and community residents review the plans for suitability in their communities. Communities often have near unanimity opposing granting variances for developments based on reasonable concerns, but they are then unanimously approved by the ZBA. This leaves community residents bewildered at their powerlessness, and a commonly held belief that developers control City Hall, which is a major source of distrust in the development process.

With that in mind, it was a surprise to me that Wu decided to largely ignore the reform of the ZBA in favor of proposing Squares + Streets as her foray into zoning reform. Allowing the ZBA to continue to define the values of properties and override the wishes of communities was not a good way to ask for community support for changes in zoning.

Community suspicion that nothing was changing in the parcel-by-parcel development process that leads to repugnant ZBA decisions has resulted in a reluctance to support a major change in zoning such as Squares + Streets, even if many of the proposed changes make sense.

The mayor often points out that the last time there was zoning reform was 1965 and that our code is thousands of pages, far in excess of what exists in other cities. She states regularly that it is nearly impossible to build a “triple decker” today because the code forbids them without variances.

But in some sections of Boston, three-deckers are regularly being demolished in favor of 8-12 unit condo buildings. Dorchester’s Pearl Street has become an emblem for such development, where appropriately zoned 1-3 family houses are being bulldozed for condo development. Neighbors on nearby streets have great fear that the ZBA will just continue to allow variances that result in demolition of the remaining 1-3 family buildings in favor of condo developments, which in parts of Dorchester is referred to as the *Southbostonization* of the neighborhood. These overbuilt

structures clash with the remaining houses on the street, making a statement about poor urban design, and letting residents see them as harbingers for additional demolitions. One such new building on Pearl Street is locally referred to as “the monstrosity.”

Squares + Streets has prompted the BPDA to look to greatly expand the number of people engaged in the planning and review processes for new developments, including increasing the numbers of renters, residents of public housing, and others to be involved in reviewing development proposals, which sounds like a good idea. If this is the case, the City must invest in an extensive training program for people to understand the development process.

I’ve been involved in civic activism for over 50 years and still know precious little about the regulations that guide this process. Community activists, overwhelmingly volunteers, cannot be expected to successfully engage with the lawyers and architects employed by the developers, which is perhaps a reason why communities are overruled so often.

When I was growing up in New Jersey, there was a saying for this type of thing – it’s called bringing a knife to a gun fight.

In her 2019 document, Wu stated the following: “The stakes of each vote [of the ZBA] are high enough to incentivize corruption.” With the price of housing approaching among the highest in the US, the ability to get a zoning variance in Boston to turn a single family house into a four-unit condo development can make the developer very rich, very quickly. Yet the rules that guide the ZBA in making such decisions are murky at best – they incentivize corruption. And the adoption of Squares + Streets is unlikely to significantly reduce the number of projects going to the ZBA, which has bred distrust in the system for planning and development.

The mayor should not be surprised that the distrust of the BPDA and the development process has created consternation toward Squares + Streets, despite its positive attributes. She wrote about her own distrust in 2019, and *change does move at the speed of trust*. Reform the ZBA and create community engaged comprehensive planning for neighborhoods and perhaps Boston’s activists will feel a lot more trusting.

Central Boston Elder Services celebrates 50 years, sets a \$400k fundraising campaign

By SYLVIA EXANTUS

A crowd of enthusiastic supporters gathered recently at the Boston headquarters of Central Boston Elder Services to celebrate this vital institution's golden anniversary. For 50 years, CBES has been a pillar of the community, providing high-quality supportive programs and services to hundreds of thousands of older adults and younger disabled residents in Dorchester, Mattapan, Roxbury and all of Boston's neighborhoods.

CBES empowers our seniors to age in place with dignity and grace in the communities they helped to build. Its birth is tied to community-based action and legislative initiatives spearheaded by its elderly founders. The first group of clients, known as the "the originals," numbered about 200. Fast forward to 2024! The number served annually by CBES is now approximately 10,000!

CBES services are vital to the well-being of our residents, our neighborhoods and our city. They include Home Care Programs, Elder Protective Services, Adult Foster Care, Boston Allied Partners, Disability Assistance, Clinical Assessment & Eligibility, Little Necessities Programs, Elder Hunger Prevention, Residence Service Coordination, Senior Care Options, Veterans' Services, and more.

Every day the need for services grows. As huge numbers of baby-boomers age, the senior population of Boston is predicted to increase 50 percent by 2030. According to the US census, by 2034 there will be more retirement-aged people than school-aged children in America.

We are thankful for the federal, state and city funds we receive



Key board and committee members gathered on March 28 for the Kickoff Celebration for CBES's 50th anniversary year, which features a \$400K fundraising campaign and an Oct. 28th Gala & Expo. From left, Selwyn M. Eccles, board vice president; Beverly Gray, co-chair, 50th Anniversary Fundraising Committee; Sylvia Exantus, executive director; Monika Wahi, chair, 50th Anniversary Fundraising Committee; and Royal Bolling Jr., board chair. *JB Photography*

to provide essential support and services to our seniors. But more funding is needed.

A campaign to help us meet our needs – CBES is launching a \$400,000 fundraising campaign to bolster the organization's effort. Every dollar raised helps to keep seniors and those with disabilities out of costly nursing facilities, saving significant tax-payer dollars. Along with supporting critical existing programs, the funds raised will provide:

- Equity and inclusion initiatives that reach all those we serve. Right now CBES works with residents speaking 40 languages. All must be included and treated equally. Digital equity and literacy programs must be expanded and more equity-inclusion programs developed;
- Programs that reduce the social isolation that soared during the pandemic – CBES needs to

expand community-based activities such as movie nights and barbecues and develop more social opportunities;

- Support for the CBES Little Necessities Fund that funds critical needs such as power lift wheelchairs, beds, air conditioners, and more;

- Advocacy and support for accessibility for those with physical disabilities and challenges in buildings and institutions in Boston and beyond.

Over the past 50 years our seniors have proven over and over that they are strong, resilient, and talented, with so much still to give. Please help us support them! You can go to centrboston.org or call (617) 277-7416 for giving information.

Sylvia Exantus is the Executive Director of Central Boston Elder Services.

Of Boston's participatory budget blues

By GREG MAYNARD
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

While Boston made history in 2021 by electing the first woman and first person of color as mayor of Boston with a thumping majority, an even greater majority of voters supported a binding ballot question that greatly expanded the City Council's formal budget powers. The vote also created a participatory budgeting process.

As Boston begins its third budget procedure since that ballot question passed the participatory part of the process is still in the planning stage. Changes sought by the process's strongest community advocates have been repeatedly rejected by the Wu administration, and major differences between Boston and communities where the program has been successful have emerged. What is participatory budgeting? Here is how Tony Saich, the director at Harvard's Kennedy School's Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation, defines it: "Participatory budgeting refers to processes through which citizens help to decide how to allocate public monies, empowering them to identify community needs, work with elected officials to craft budget proposals, and vote on how to spend public funds."

This process has been implemented by thousands of local governments in Europe and almost 200 local governments in Canada and the United States, including two of Boston's neighbors, Somerville and Cambridge. The best-known example is Paris, which devotes 5 percent of its capital fund – more than \$30 million a year – to participatory budgeting.

A significant factor in Paris's success has been the support of the city's mayor, Anne Hidalgo, who is best known for closing large swaths of her city to car traffic, a policy that bubbled up from the participatory budgeting process.

Mayoral support was also important closer to home in Somerville, where Joe Curtatone launched participatory budgeting. There the program was part of his aggressive experimentation with innovative urban governance, which also included one of the nation's first 311 programs and a famously vigilant parking enforcement office. Boston has been slow to implement participatory budgeting, so it remains to be seen if the program will

enjoy the same success as it has in Paris or Somerville.

The Wu administration proposed an ordinance to create the Office of Participatory Budgeting in December 2022, more than a year after voters approved the ballot question, and efforts by advocates and city councillors to make changes to the ordinance failed.

In last year's process Wu vetoed a proposal to increase participatory budgeting's budget from \$2 million to \$10 million. A board for the office itself was not appointed until November 2023, nine months after the ordinance was passed. The board's first meeting was held in December, more than two years after voters approved the ballot question.

Participatory budgeting's slow rollout is not for a lack of community support. After the ballot question was passed in 2021 the Better Budget Alliance – a coalition that includes many of Boston's broad array of progressive organizations, including progressive issue advocacy groups, community development corporations, and activist membership groups – was organized and since its launch BBA and its coalition members have pursued the goal of creating an ambitious and muscular participatory budget process through community organizing and education and direct participation in the city's legislative and budget processes.

After suffering defeats of efforts to amend the ordinance and spend more in 2023, BBA's work in 2024 faces new challenges, with Boston grappling with declining commercial property tax revenue and a proposed tax increase.

That hasn't dissuaded the alliance from aiming high. The group recently laid out its demands for this year's budget process in a letter signed by 40 Boston community leaders. The major item is a \$40 million allotment for participatory budgeting in the upcoming FY25 budget. BBA also delivered hundreds of postcards from residents who want to see a well-funded participatory budget process.

Add participatory budgeting to the council's increasingly crowded dance card as the 2024 budget process officially gets underway.

Gregory Maynard is the executive director of the Boston Policy Institute, Inc, a recently launched non-profit corporation focused on the issues facing Massachusetts and Boston. Find out more at BostonPolicyInstitute.org.



St. Mary's Center
for Women and Children
Change comes from the Center

Beautifying Families' Apartments with the Boston Bruins



St. Mary's Center for Women and Children, a multi-service organization supporting women, children, and families experiencing homelessness, recently welcomed the wives and girlfriends of the Boston Bruins to our main campus in Dorchester to transform four transitional housing apartments for families.

In partnership with the Boston Bruins Foundation, the wives and girlfriends of Bruins players raised over \$26,000 to purchase new furniture, decor, kitchen supplies, and more for four young families living in transitional housing. St. Mary's Center's transitional housing program provides supportive housing units for 12 young families who have previously experienced homelessness on the road to permanent stable housing, with a focus on young moms and children from ages 18 to 22, leaving the Young Parenting Living Program.

The Bruins wives and girlfriends spent two days on St. Mary's Center's Dorchester campus, assembling furniture and beautifying the apartment units, while also enjoying the opportunity to learn more about St. Mary's Center's critical work with women, children, and families experiencing homelessness. The families and staff of St. Mary's Center are incredibly grateful for this partnership and for the tremendous generosity from the Bruins wives and girlfriends and the Boston Bruins Foundation.

To learn more about St. Mary's Center, please visit www.stmaryscenterma.org.

Check out more!



Change comes from the Center

Dot boy gets a Celtics wish granted – sneakers and all

A Make-A-Wish come true

By SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

Tairih King’s neighbors thought something was amiss last Thursday afternoon when a massive but suspicious motorcade pulled up to the family’s Dorchester home, but what was happening before their eyes was simply the granting of a young man’s wish.

Nine-year-old Tairih and his family were being treated to a Boston Celtics game against the New York Knicks, a meet-and-greet with Celtics star Jayson Tatum and others, and transportation to and from the game by the US State Department’s Diplomatic Service motorcade – all courtesy of the Make-A-Wish Massachusetts and Rhode Island Foundation.

“Jayson Tatum is one of my favorite players of all time except for Michael Jordan,” said Tairih from his home this week off Talbot Ave. near Ashmont. “What made me wish for him is I wanted to see him play and meet him. That was my dream. Now that I got my wish, I want to make sure everyone else gets their wish too. One of the coolest things I experienced there was the golden ball that was signed by the entire Celtics team.”

Tairih, along with his father, Shawn, mother, Kueen, and brother, Tavaj – learned that his wish was to be granted at a recent Make-A-Wish Foundation event. He had gone through a tough round of treatment for Hodgkin lymphoma at Dana Farber’s The Jimmy Fund Clinic, and with him now cancer-free, the magical night at TD Garden was just what the family needed.

“At this side of the journey, it was just such a blessing,” said Shawn King of how he, Tairih, and the family had been given the royal treatment at the game – after having mystified their neighbors with the massive motorcade that whisked them off to the North End.

“One of our neighbors saw the motorcade and our kids looking out at it and called to let me know that something bad might be happening,” laughed Kueen. “She was nervous because there were people in the yard and so much was happening. Our neighbors do look out for us.”

Tairih got to meet Tatum and his young son Deuce in the tunnel at the Garden before the game and he then got to hang out with Jayson for a while. As a bonus, he



was given a game-used pair of Tatum’s size 14 custom Nike shoes. “I was impressed because he actually pronounced my name really, really well,” said Tairih [‘Tye-ree’]. “Nobody in the world has my name.”

The King family presented Tatum and his family with specialized ‘Prayers over Pity’ sweat-shirts that they use to raise money for other families going through childhood cancer journeys via the K & K Family Foundation.

Said Celtics President Rich Gotham: “Seeing the look on Tairih’s face – both when he learned that his wish would be granted and as he took in each moment of the experience – that’s what it’s all about. The fact that we get to create moments like this for families who are going through something so difficult is a big part of why many of us at the Celtics do what we do.”



Tairih King, 9, (left and second from right) of Dorchester, had his wish to meet Celtics star Jayson Tatum granted on April 11 in the TD Garden by the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Massachusetts and Rhode Island. King had just completed treatment for Hodgkin lymphoma and it was a great outing for the whole family. He is pictured here with his father, Shawn, his brother, Tavaj, Tatum, and his mother, Kueen.

Sean Holleran, CEO of Make-A-Wish Massachusetts and Rhode Island, thanked the Celtics for being such a good partner on Tairih’s wish. “It can’t be easy to pull off an experience like his when there is so much that goes into a game, but this was a dream come true for Tairih,” he said. “The anticipation of his wish and the wish experience itself brought so much joy and hope when Tairih and his family needed it most.”

Holleran noted there are 650 other children who are eligible and awaiting their wishes to

be granted. Tairih, who attends Cabot Elementary in Newton via the METCO program, said he intends to work hard at basketball now, playing in Tony Richards’s ‘No Books, No Ball’ league in Roxbury where he’s a sharpshooter known as ‘Swaggy T.’

His future wish is that he can make it to the NBA, where he will help the kids who haven’t been granted theirs. “When I’m in the NBA, I’m going to give \$1.2 million to Make-A-Wish,” he said.

The family said they have, at the request of their son, started

their own foundation to help other families going through cancer treatments. Knowing the tough realities of such a crisis, they felt it only appropriate to pay it forward. They plan to have a Cancer-free fundraiser for Tairih at Chez Vous Skating Rink on April 28, with all proceeds going to help other families. “We felt compelled to do that,” said Kueen.

To learn more about how individuals, businesses, and community groups can help build hope for wish children, visit massri.wish.org/worldwishmonth.

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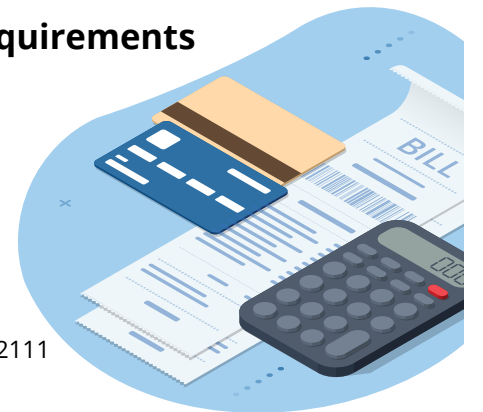
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Conservatory Lab school study: Connection to music leads to better student outcomes



Students' instruments stored at a music classroom at Conservatory Lab.

BY VANESSA LEE
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Can music class help curb absenteeism in city schools? The answer, according to a recent study and anecdotal evidence from one public charter school in Dorchester, is "yes."

The survey, conducted by EdVestors, an organization promoting "equitable, meaningful education," examined the influence of arts education within the Boston Public Schools (BPS) system between 2011-2019 and found that over a full school year, each student enrolled in an arts course saw an increase of a third of a day in attendance, translating to 9 additional days of instruction for a classroom of 25 students.

Ruth Mercado-Zizzo, vice-president of Programs and Equity at EdVestors, told the Reporter in an interview that researchers analyzed arts access and absenteeism data to determine their correlation, utilizing a sample size of more than 300,000 individuals over that 11-year period. She asserted that incorporating art into education yields positive impacts on emotional and youth development outcomes.

"Access to art increases a positive school climate and also creates a sense of community, where more

families and parents will feel more engaged in the school community," she said.

Conservatory Lab, a K-8 school on Columbia Road, incorporates music class into each school day as a tool for learning. EdVestors points to it as a prime example of how arts can lead to better outcomes that reduce absentee rates, which have spiked since the pandemic.

Not only did Conservatory Lab show improvements in attendance rates, but the school also experienced an increase in overall academic achievement. The state designated the Conservatory Lab as a school of recognition—the only school in Massachusetts so named—due to the growth it saw from students' Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) scores.

"I think the opportunity for students to concretely see themselves improving with music helps [with attendance]," said Nicole Mack, executive director of the charter school. "The students get really excited about opportunities to showcase their skills, and that's a daily part of their day." Being physically present in school naturally contributes to academic success, she

noted.

Abigail Kelling, a grade 8 humanities teacher at Conservatory Lab, said that her students are passionate about music at school. Among the 8th graders, she said, more than half of the students applied to go to Boston Arts Academy for high school this year.

"It definitely feels like part of what kids want to take away and like to continue doing," she added.

Additionally, she said, music teachers at the school are good at building projects that are interdisciplinary with academic subjects. In the past, a strings teacher did a whole unit of Afrofuturism that Kelling was able to build from with students in the science fiction English unit.

Macaulley Whitlock, a music and strings teacher for pre-K through 8th grade, noted that students become "really excited to bring their instruments home to practice," which, he added, in turn motivates them to return to school eager to engage in musical activities with their peers and learn new concepts, consequently leading to improved attendance rates overall.

Brendan Dieck, a fifth-grade humanities teacher, believes that music gives students a boost in



Conservatory Lab student playing the cello during a school concert.



Conservatory Lab students playing the cello during a school concert.

confidence, especially for those who struggle with academics.

"It gives them the little push they need to persevere in classes they may find more challenging," he said.

Conservatory Lab hopes to showcase more

performances for students to display their musical skills. "Performances are very motivating to students and to families. You can't help but feel proud," said Mack.

For her part, Mercado-Zizzo suggests that if other schools are con-

Vanessa Lee photos siders using arts as a strategy for school improvement, they should "definitely look into hiring certified teachers and partnering with arts organizations or communities in their neighborhood" for expertise.

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BAA cites local recipients for its Gives Back Grants

The Boston Athletic Association (BAA) has announced the beneficiaries of the Spring 2024 edition of the BAA Gives Back Grant Program. Thirteen nonprofit organizations across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will receive support to further their

programming.

With a record number of applications as the program enters its second year and third grant cycle, the recipients cover a range of organizations that advance the BAA's mission of promoting a healthy lifestyle through sports,

especially running.

Local Awardees included All Dorchester Sports and Leadership (ADSL), Boston United Track and Cross Country, and Roxbury Community College – Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center. "We have significantly expanded into our com-

munity with our programs post pandemic, so we value those who understand the importance of supporting organizations like ours who provide out of school and afterschool programs," said Candice D. Gartley, executive director of ADSL. "This year is on track to be another highly successful year for

ADSL - and the BAA's generosity will play a large part in that success. Our work would not be able to continue without their support."

Added Michael Turner, executive director of the Reggie Lewis Track & Athletic Center, "With this grant, we can continue to serve our community and empower

individuals to pursue their athletic passions, ultimately building healthier and stronger communities together."

Since the BAA Gives Back Grant program launched in Spring 2023, nearly \$400,000 has been distributed through three rounds of funding.
- REPORTER STAFF



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Ventura softball field, playground closed until June 30 for renovations

The Ventura softball field at Lower Mills VFW Post Park will be closed until the end of June for playing field renovations. “DCR is committed to providing access to safe outdoor recreational opportunities for all,” said Commissioner Brian Arrigo. “These investments in our baseball and softball fields across Massachusetts will improve the safety, access, and overall experience for players and visitors to our permitted fields.”

While closed, the park will be undergoing \$75,000 in renovations including enhancements made to the field, spectator seating, and dugouts. Field work will improve the outfield turf with aeration, fertilization, and the removal of tripping hazards. Additionally, the top layer of the infield



\$75,000 in renovations will be made to Ventura Softball Field at Lower Mills VFW Post Park including improvements made to the infield. Cassidy McNeeley photo

will be removed. DCR will then install two inches of new infield mix to provide a higher quality of play and complete the project with new lines and bases.

Teams who typically play on Ventura have been relocated to nearby fields while the project is underway.

In addition to the softball field, the park's playground will be closed during working hours every Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. On days when construction is inactive, community members can utilize the playground at Post Park as usual.

Fencing will be placed around the work area to ensure the safety of all parkgoers and the half-basketball court at Lower Mills will remain open.

— CASSIDY McNEELEY

Pizza franchise eyes Fields Corner site; some merchants are balking

BY SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

A pizza chain's plans to open up shop in a vacant Dot Ave storefront is getting a cold reception from others in the Fields Corner business district, including the Main Streets organization that is charged with helping merchants.

A Papa John's franchisee received a permit to renovate the old BOS Burger location at 1501 Dorchester Ave. at a cost of \$280,000. Work at the retail location, owned by an LLC controlled by Brendan Feeney, began two weeks ago, drawing attention to the new business.

The chain restaurant must also get a “common victual-

lers” license from the city before opening, which the director of the Fields Corner Main Streets (FCMS) says the group will oppose.

“We’ve never stood up against a common victualers license in my history here and we don’t take that lightly, but I think...this product is not additive to the district,” said Jacky West Devine, the director of FCMS. West Devine discussed the issue at last week’s meeting of the Fields Corner Civic Association (FCCA) and asked for residents there to assist in opposing the restaurant’s plans when they come before the Licensing Board soon.

“It feels like a tough time for a corporate franchise to come

in when businesses here are vulnerable. If you want Papa John’s in Fields Corner, I’m sure there is one that will deliver with Uber Eats. It’s not something we feel we need,” she said.

Another vocal opponent is Brian Chavez, who owns and operates Antonio’s Hi-Fi Pizza, directly across the street from the proposed Papa John’s site. Chavez was the operator of the BOS Burger, which closed in October 2021. He told neighbors at the civic meeting that he continued paying rent on the property until this past February even though it wasn’t operational.

“There are already three pizza shops in the Fields Corner

district and four if you count Pizza 24 on Adams Street,” he said. “I’m all for business and for competition but having another pizza shop proposal directly across the street from my shop is kind of disheartening...especially when it’s a corporate franchise.”

A request for comment from the Reporter more than a week ago to the media relations team for Papa John’s has not been answered. A Papa John’s franchise operated on the outskirts of Fields Corner in Glover’s Corner for several years but closed more than three years ago.

Chavez and West Devine said food businesses in the district are still struggling to recover

from Covid-19 shortfalls, along with increasing food costs and inflation. Neighbors seemed in support of the opposition for the most part, but hoped it wasn’t too late given that construction has started.

West Devine said it’s not too late to block the common victualers license, describing that as “the nail in the coffin” for the proponent’s case.

She said she’s compiling a list of local food operators trying to find a location in Fields Corner – including a Moroccan venture – to present to the building ownership. Perhaps, she said, those options would work for them when they see opposition to Papa John’s.

City inspectors are noting an uptick in illegal clubs, parties

BY TAYLOR BROKESH
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

City officials are pointing to a worrying trend of more and more illegal parties and nightclubs that pose a number of health and safety concerns to patrons and neighborhood residents.

According to the Inspectional Services Department (ISD), 30 illegal gatherings were broken up in just the past year by law enforcement and the ISD for safety code violations, with almost half of the cases brought from Dorchester locations.

“These parties have always happened,” said Flavio Dareiga, chair of the Investigation and Enforcement team at the ISD. “Unfortunately, we only hear about them when first responders or the BPD respond to them.”

When sites are found to be out of compliance, Dareiga said, officials usually work with the property owners to get them the proper permits to hold their events. But in cases where violations keep piling up, ISD might shut down the premises and impose costly fines.

“We just want to make sure folks are doing these things safely,” he said.

Dareiga and ISD’s Lisa Timberlake noted the various things that ISD inspectors and police officers look for at questionable locations. Are there proper means of egress should a fire break out? Are food and drink being served illegally, that is, for cost without the proper permits? Are underage attendees being served? Is there staging set up without safety measures in place? Is the site crowded beyond its permitted capacity? Is food stored safely?

One nightclub that they cited a few weeks ago for illegalities was operating in the basement of the Grove Hill Convenience Market on Blue Hill Avenue. Timberlake said that more than 100 individuals were gathered there, in a space with a legal occupancy of 16 people. The inspectors also uncovered multiple sanitary and safety code violations.

These sorts of parties are also happening on private properties, like homes, Timberlake said.

The city maintains a “problem properties” listing of places that they keep an eye on if complaints are made too often.

Dareiga said that the uptick with this issue is likely tied to the era of pandemic-driven social restrictions. When bars and restaurants shut down, he said, backyards and basements became the places where people

gathered. Timberlake added that one alternative to hosting parties or nightclubs in unsafe or out-of-code locations would be the rental of a neighborhood venue.

“A few years ago, the city kicked off neighborhood block parties,” Timberlake said. “The neighbors can come together and host a block party, and the city has funds that can contribute

to that. They can also provide a police detail or X-Y-Z, whatever you need to ensure the safety of the community. If you need health permits, like if you’re going to have hot dogs or food like that, there are a lot of things that we have here in place.”

It may seem like the city is trying to put a damper on people’s mood, Timberlake said,

that isn’t the goal. “We’re here to help, we’re not here to hurt anybody or be the fun police,” Timberlake said. “We just want to make sure everybody is safe.”

Dareiga recommends calling the BPD if you are concerned that a nightclub or party might be illegal. You can also find out more about the block party program at boston.gov/blockparty.



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Eng reflects on 12 months running the T

(Continued from page 1) the way we are getting ourselves set up to go into each of these different outages and do the work," he said. Eng noted that the changes have helped the

T get the work done, but they have also helped the T get more and lower-priced bids on track improvement program work. He said contractors are more interested in bidding on T work if they know the agency is committed to getting the work done within the window called for.

"And we're seeing that actually on our Track Improvement Program. The contracts we've put out the bid, we've seen more competition than we anticipated a year ago," Eng said. "And we've seen really good pricing in terms of pricing that actually is consistent with our engineer's estimate, in some cases below the engineer's estimate."

Eng said he thinks competition is up and prices are down "because the industry is seeing that it's a much more engaged owner, an owner that is

making field decisions, timely decisions, and allowing them to get in and do the work they need to. And then when we're done, delivering the results that we've promised to the public."

The general manager talked about this month's diversions on the Blue Line, which he said will allow the T to address all Blue Line issues before the Summer Tunnel is closed for two months again this summer for its own restoration work. He said the T got a lot of work done last year mostly during overnight hours and weekends but shutting sections of the line down for days at a time as the T is doing this year allows workers to tackle more state-of-good-repair work on top of eliminating the speed restrictions.

"So, you'll see a different kind of result, you'll

see one that lasts longer. And when speed restrictions do come back, we can get back in and take care of them more quickly," Eng said. He added, "That will be the new norm. And that's the new expectation that our folks have, which is why it's important to rebuild our internal capacity - our maintenance folks, our track workers, our power electricians, and our station folks. That is something that is day in and day out, just really standard operating: maintenance, basic maintenance, corrective repairs. And we're excited about the new hires, because they are the basis for us to be able to train them the way we want to have them skilled, and they will be the future leaders of this agency."

Most of the questions from MBTA Advisory Board members were related to local issues - a representative from

Harvard flagged that parking availability is becoming an issue again as commuter rail ridership returns; a member from Whitman had concerns about safety at stations; the mayor of Haverhill shared frustrations about an MBTA project that will close a station in her city; and a Boston official was interested in talking about bus lane enforcement.

Quincy Mayor Thomas Koch, who chairs the advisory board, had nothing but positive things to say about working with Eng over the last year. "I think he's the right guy at the right time. There's an old saying that the times make the man or woman, or the man or woman make the times. I think there's a probably a combination of both there, Phil," Koch said. "It's great to have a true railroad guy at the helm with all the challenges we have."

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Local Real Estate Transactions

Buyer	Seller	Address	Date	Price	
Hammer, Sara	Deleon, Mario R	92 Claybourne St	Dorchester	03/26/24	\$805,000
Tavares, Eder		89-91 Tonawanda St	Dorchester	03/28/24	1,050,000
Tan, Yuxiao	Deng, Lixia	44 Bellevue St	Dorchester	03/29/24	950,000
571b Washington LLC		571-B Washington St	Dorchester	03/26/24	915,000
Lowkey Realty LLC		571-B Washington St	Dorchester	03/29/24	1,200,000
Angle, Phoebe S		66 Kenwood St	Dorchester	03/29/24	750,000
Do, Quang D		85 Homes Ave	Dorchester	03/29/24	880,000
Enobakhare, Silverius O		31 Selden St	Dorchester	03/27/24	1,200,000
Coughlin, Lauren	Coughlin, Timothy	43 Auriga St	Dorchester	03/29/24	650,000
Pierre, Wilgens		48 Savannah Ave	Mattapan	03/25/24	600,000
Oneal, Stephen		255 Itasca St	Mattapan	03/28/24	760,000
Wanamaker, Garrett	Wanamaker, Lisa	101-103 Rossester St #101	Dorchester	03/29/24	845,000
Mai, Lam X	Nguyen, Nhu N	39 Torrey St #1	Dorchester	03/29/24	305,000
Haigh, Douglas		299 Savin Hill Ave #3	Dorchester	03/29/24	600,000
Lee, Patrick		227 Centre St #3	Dorchester	03/29/24	510,000
Delru Realty LLC		80-88 Wales St #4	Dorchester	03/28/24	560,000
Brill, Michael S	Cox-Orrell, Katherine J	18 Evans St #2	Dorchester	03/28/24	602,000
Crawford, Andrew	Grosse, Ayla	13-17 Park St #3	Dorchester	03/28/24	1,030,000
Stanton, Bradford	Stanton, Isabella	5 Rice St #3	Dorchester	03/29/24	729,000
West, Joel	Walsh, Hannah	19-21 Moseley St #1	Dorchester	03/29/24	840,000
Lee, Kyoung J		24 Bradshaw St #3	Dorchester	03/29/24	660,000
Hedemann, Gabriel J					
Powell, Norma A	Powell, Gassell G				
Boyd Rt	Steele, Caroline B				
Blackwater Invs LLC	Lhm Funding T				
571b Washington LLC					
Denniston, Elaine K					
Scibelli, Frederick M					
Corbett, Anthony W					
Scandone John Est	Scandone, Lawrence				
Dennis F Roach RET	Dupont-Hurley, Iris				
Shirley J Welcher RET	Welcher, Shirley J				
Tate, Jill F	Tate, Richard E				
39 Torrey Street 1 Rt	Hp Land TLLC Tr				
Rdm RETsavin HI Sub-T	Mendel, Judith R				
Smith, Colin S					
Celiberti Realty LLC					
18 Evans Street LLC					
Kondaveeti, Bhavish					
Five Rice Street LLC					
19-21 Moseley Street LLC					
29 Edwin Street LLC					

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BCLA/McCormack school on Point is renamed the Ruth Batson Academy

Honors longtime educational activist

BY SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

The Boston School Committee voted unanimously on April 10 to change the name of the merged BCLA/McCormack 7-12 school on Columbia Point to the Ruth Batson Academy in honor of the Roxbury woman who fought for equitable education in Boston through the 1960s and 1970s.

Principal Ondrea Johnston said the school community, which began its merger in 2021, settled on the name Ruth Batson Academy in June 2023.

"At first we were trying to pick a piece of the BCLA school and the McCormack School and put them together but finally we decided we needed to put that aside and come up with a completely new identity, and they said we needed a whole new name as opposed to trying to put two school names together," Johnston said at a March 27 meeting.

"Because of our vision of developing students that are community leaders...we thought it was fitting to name the school after Ruth Batson in celebration of her advocacy



Ruth Batson

for equitable education for all," she said.

A middle school bearing the name of John W. McCormack, a long-

time congressman from Dorchester and Speaker of the US House from 1962 to 1971, stood on Columbia Point for many years until the 2021 merger brought in Boston Community Leadership Academy (BCLA) from Hyde Park to form a 7-12 high school.

"I think we had such a powerful presentation from School Leader Johnston...for the thorough process they went through and the amazing decision they made in choosing to name BCLA/McCormack after Ruth Batson, who was just

such a deep community member and did so much for our schools as a tireless advocate," said Supt. Mary Skipper prior to the April 10 vote. "It is an honor for us to put this forward."

Batson, a BPS alumna from the Edward Everett Elementary and Girls Latin High in Dorchester, was the first woman

of color to pursue a seat on the elected Boston School Committee. She was an advocate locally and nationally for equity in schools, and helped to

found the METCO program. She died in 2003. Congressman McCormack died in 1980.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
Suffolk Probate & Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL APPOINTMENT OF SUCCESSOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE
Docket No. SU21P2377EA
ESTATE OF:
BEULAH ROACH
DATE OF DEATH: 07/09/2021

To all interested persons:
A Petition has been filed by: Adonica Chaplain of Hyde Park, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order that Adonica Chaplain of Hyde Park, MA be appointed as Successor Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve With Personal Surety on the bond and for other such relief as requested in the petition. 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 05/08/2024. 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 date, action may be taken without further notice to you. The estate is being administered under formal 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 recipients 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. Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court. Date: April 11, 2024
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate
Published: April 18, 2024

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PLYMOUTH PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
52 OBERY STREET, STE. 1130
PLYMOUTH, MA 02360
Docket No. PL23D1632DR
DIVORCE SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING
LIONEL GONZALEZ
vs.
RAMONA D. ZAPATA

To the Defendant:
The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown. The Complaint is on file at the Court. An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.
You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon: Lionel Gonzalez, 165 Carl Avenue, #A6, Brockton, MA 02302 your answer, if any, on or before 06/03/2024. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court. Witness, Hon. Patrick W. Stanton, First Justice of this Court. Date: March 27, 2024
Matthew J. McDonough
Register of Probate
Published: April 18, 2024

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
Suffolk Probate & Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Docket No. SU24P0171EA
ESTATE OF:
EUSTAN C. MARSHALL
DATE OF DEATH: 03/31/2019
To all interested persons:
A Petition for Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment has been filed by Joan Phillips of Powder Springs, GA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Joan Phillips of Powder Springs, GA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration. IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/16/2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you. UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court. Date: April 8, 2024
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate
Published: April 18, 2024

Seeking RAMON son of Violet Mendez, born in 1936 in Panama.

Last known address was 15 Boyden St Dorchester.

If you are Violet's son or know where he is, please contact Mary Kate Egan Tel: 781 917 3971

mkegan@publicguardianservices.org

MOH Income Restricted Rental Opportunity
Four Corners Plaza
10-20, 22 and 32 Bowdoin Street, Dorchester, MA 02124
35 Income-restricted Units
31 Income-restricted UNITS IN THE LOTTERY

# of Units	# of bedrooms	Rent	Maximum Income Limit (% AMI)	# built out for mobility impairments	# built out for Deaf/hard of hearing
2	2	30% of Income	30%	1	-
3	3	30% of Income	30%	-	-
3	Studio	\$1,558	60%	-	-
9	1	\$1,670	60%	1	-
13	2	\$2,004	60%	-	-
1	3	\$2,315	60%	-	-

4 Units are Homeless Set-asides

# of Units	# of bedrooms	Rent	Maximum Income Limit (AMI)	# built out for mobility impairments	# built out for Deaf/hard of hearing
4	2	30% of Income	30%	-	-

4 Homeless Set-aside units will be filled through direct referral from HomeStart. For more information, please contact us at the email address or phone number below. For direct referrals, please visit <https://www.homestart.org/bostonbsa>

Minimum Incomes (set by owner + based on # of bedrooms + Area Median Income (AMI))			Maximum Incomes (set by HUD/MOH + based on household size + Area Median Income (AMI))		
# of BRs	30% AMI	60% AMI	Household Size	30% AMI	60% AMI
Studio	-	\$44,490	1	\$31,170	\$62,340
1	-	\$44,460	2	\$35,640	\$71,280
2	\$0	\$53,310	3	\$40,080	\$80,160
3	\$0	83,340	4	\$44,520	\$89,040
			5	\$48,090	\$96,200
			6	\$51,660	\$103,300

Minimum Incomes Apply. Minimum incomes do not apply to households with housing assistance (Section 8, MRVP, VASH) or for the units in this development that include a project-based voucher.

Applications are available during the application period for 47 days, from April 18, 2024 through June 3, 2024.

Applications are available in person on the following days, dates, and times in the following place(s)

Day	Date	Time	Location
Monday, Wednesday, Friday	04/19/2024 - 06/03/2024	10 AM - 4 PM	95 B Washington Street, Dorchester, MA 02121
Tuesday, Thursday	04/18/2024 - 06/03/2024	10 AM - 7 PM	95 B Washington Street, Dorchester, MA 02121
Saturday	5/18/2024	10 AM - 2 PM	95 B Washington Street, Dorchester, MA 02121
Saturday	6/1/2024	10 AM - 2 PM	95 B Washington Street, Dorchester, MA 02121

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

In-person and virtual informational meetings will be held on the following dates/times/locations

Day	Date	Time	In-person Location	Virtually
Thursday	04/25/2024	3 PM - 5 PM	31 Erie Street, Dorchester, MA 02121	https://bit.ly/3JdU2rd
Saturday	05/11/2024	10 AM - 12 PM	122 Dewitt Drive, Roxbury, MA 02120	https://bit.ly/3TQxc33

DEADLINE: Applications must be submitted online or postmarked no later than Thursday, June 3, 2024. Mailed to 95B Washington Street, Dorchester, MA 02121

- Selection by Lottery.
- Asset & Use Restrictions apply.
- Preferences Apply.

For more information, language assistance, or reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, please call 617-445-1412 or email fourcornersplaza@winncoco.com.

City of Taunton Income-Restricted Homeownership Opportunity
68 Church Green Townhomes
68 Church Green
Taunton, MA 02780
30 Income-Restricted Homeownership Units

# of Units	# of Bedrooms	Estimated Square Feet	Price	Maximum Income Limit
4	2-Bedroom	981	\$216,000	80%
26	2-Bedroom	981	\$282,000	100%

Maximum Income Limits (set by HUD + based on household size + Area Median Income (AMI))

Household Size	80% AMI	100% AMI
1	\$68,500	\$94,220
2	\$78,250	\$107,680
3	\$88,050	\$121,140
4	\$97,800	\$134,600
5	\$105,650	\$145,368
6	\$113,450	\$156,136

*2024 Area Median Incomes for Taunton-Mansfield-Norton, MA FMR

Maximum Asset Limit
\$75,000
Asset Limit does not include retirement. Does include Real Estate

Applications are available during the application period for 60 days, from Monday, April 8th, 2024 — Saturday, June 8th, 2024

To request an online application or to have one sent by email, visit www.68ChurchGreenLottery.com

To have a hard copy of the application mailed to your mailing address, please call (617) 639-3064 Ext 712 | US Relay 711, email 68ChurchGreen@MaloneyProperties.com, or visit www.68ChurchGreenLottery.com and use the 'Contact Us' form at the bottom of the page.

We will be holding 2 informational meetings over Zoom on the follow dates/times:

Wednesday, May 15th, 2024 & Wednesday, May 29th, 2024 at 12pm
<https://maloneyproperties.zoom.us/j/89969822463?pwd=nCzigNXmXo3dyqIq83PEQLgChCy4Rw11>
Meeting ID: 899 6982 2463
Passcode: 029654
One tap mobile
+13126266799,,89969822463#,,,*029654# US (Chicago)
+16468769923,,89969822463#,,,*029654# US (New York)

DEADLINE: Applications must be submitted online or postmarked no later than Saturday, June 8th, 2024
Mailed to: Maloney Properties, Inc., 27 Mica Lane, ATTN: 68 Church Green Lottery, Wellesley, MA 02481

- Selection by Lottery.
- Asset & Use Restrictions Apply.
- Preferences Apply.

For more information, free language assistance, or reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities please call (617) 639-3064 Ext 712 | US Relay 711 or email 68ChurchGreen@MaloneyProperties.com

'Change' show connects 22 artists with strong Dot ties into one room

(Continued from page 1) business."

and Dorchester and invested a lot of her time as a young person in art programs and then majored in film at Emerson College, only to choose to be an attorney as an adult. Now, she has dedicated the year to getting back to her artistic roots.

"Sometimes the law is really sad, really sad, but my pictures make me happy," she said, pointing out her photography on the wall last Saturday. "I always kept shooting through law school...I said in 2024 that I was going to make it my mission to get myself out there as an artist."

And that's what she and 21 other artists with those strong Dorchester connections did on Saturday in a packed store on the ground floor of The Carruth building. "I think this is exactly the kind of thing I was hoping we would do here," said Flatley, who opened her doors in May 2023. "It fulfills all the reasons I wanted to open this

She noted that for the last 10 months, her store has been promoting locally made products and gifts but highlighting one artist at a time with solo shows. 'Change' was the first multi-artist show hosted by The Local Hand, and Flatley said it was also the largest event they've had to date. She realizes there needs to be more of this kind of energy.

"You don't know what you're missing until you do something different," she remarked as the crowds grew on Saturday. "The thing that occurs to me is that I want to do more group exhibitions and not so many solo shows...This is dynamic and exciting and allows artists to talk to other artists while showing their work to the public. You don't have that dynamic with a solo show."

Marvel and Armistead said they received a Massachusetts Cultural Council grant to put on the show at The Local



Paul Losordo, with artists Lilianna Marquez, Nora Valdez, and Dominique Chouteau.

Hand, and that allowed them to rent out the space and provide a stipend for all 22 emerging artists. It also allowed them to feature something with unique energy in Dorchester.

"We went after this grant because we really wanted to give artists an opportunity to show their work where maybe they don't have that opportunity where it isn't a pay to play situation," said Armistead, noting that 100 percent of sales will go back to the artists.

"We wanted to really focus on emerging artists here with connections to Dorchester because it's underrepresented for shows like this and allows artists to get an opportunity," said Marvel. "We are finding so many in the neighborhood."

Both said it's also important for the public to come by the store before 'Change' ends on Sun., June 2, which is Dorchester Day.

"We need more people to come look at the art and purchase the art and see what Michaela is doing here," he said. "We need to keep this alive."

Added Elson Fortes, "Now is a really good time in Boston for this because you're seeing more work and many more artists."



Molly Flanagan, Yari Dudley, Artist Alejandra Spruill, and Caswell Ellis.



'Change' show curators Franklin Marvel and Cat Armistead with Local Hand storeowner Michaela Flatley on Saturday night, April 13. Seth Daniel photos



Twin brothers and painters Wilson and Elson Fortes both have work on display in 'Change' at The Local Hand shop in Ashmont.

Race is on for mayor of Dorchester

(Continued from page 1) we make, the more we can contribute back to the community."

Driscoll said she wants to help the community and get more involved at the same time.

"I definitely want to be more involved in the community and hopefully in the future can run for an actual position like City Council," said Driscoll. "Politics have always piqued my interest and I do like to be a leader."

McCoy is originally from New York but has lived in Boston since 1993. In 2000, he and his husband moved from Fenway to Dorchester where they bought a historic single-family home in the Polish Triangle. It

was the neighborhood's rich history and diverse community that attracted them to Dorchester.

Since then, McCoy has become very involved in the community. Today he holds various civic roles including being a member of the board of directors at DotHouse Health and the president of DotOUT.

"The rationale for putting myself in the honorary mayorship is just to give back on a different level and different platform," McCoy told the Reporter. "I would like to encourage people to give back to their community in whatever way they can and stay engaged in the community. You can sit back and say you wish things were

better, but you can only enact change by getting involved."

In addition to his volunteer work, McCoy works for Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center as the Antimicrobial Stewardship Associate Director and the PGY2 Infectious Diseases Residency director.

"I like to run on fumes, it's just always the way I've operated," McCoy said. "There are tons of opportunities for engagement whether it be civic groups, charity organizations, volunteer opportunities, I think really encouraging that is important."

If elected to this honorary position, McCoy hopes to help preserve Dorchester's unique

community. "I don't want to see Dorchester become an elite neighborhood where only well-off people can live," he explained. "I want it to remain this welcoming neighborhood for people of all colors and incomes and preserve the diversity."

While McCoy has spent the last two decades in Dorchester, Driscoll was born and raised in the community. She is also very involved in the neighborhood and is a part of the McCormack Civic Association as well as the manager and part-owner of the Dot Tavern.

Driscoll displays her ability to lead at the Dot Tavern where she oversees the bar's marketing

and helps put on various events. She is especially proud of her efforts to support other small businesses in the community.

"Since I've been young it's always been a goal of mine to have my own business, specifically something in the restaurant and bar industry," said the St. Ann's Parish native. "When I see other people doing it, I just like to support them because I understand their struggles. This last year I've appreciated small businesses a lot more because it's a lot of work."

In addition to her time at the tavern, Driscoll spent ten years working at McKenna's Cafe in Savin Hill and has felt a lot of support from this neighborhood in her

running so far. For her fundraising efforts, she has hosted brunch at the Harp and Bard, had trivia nights at the Dot Tavern, and will be hosting a Kentucky Derby party in May.

If elected Driscoll, like McCoy, hopes to improve the home she already loves so much. "I want to use it to be a good middleman between the community and actual politicians," said Driscoll. "I've talked about more trash cans in the neighborhood. Speed bumps are a big thing. Stuff that isn't probably important to real politicians but good for the neighborhood." Donations can be made to both candidates online on McCoy and Driscoll's GoFundMe pages.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF DORCHESTER



Team BGCD Crosses the Finish Line at 2024 Boston Marathon: See details below.

CONNECT THE DOT:

Team BGCD Crosses the Finish Line at 2024 Boston Marathon: On April 15th, BGCD had a team of eighteen runners who participated in the 128th Boston Marathon! Each of our runners crossed the finish line with pride as they accomplished this incredible undertaking. It was a day filled with great camaraderie as family and friends and all the spectators on the course cheered them on from Hopkinton to Copley Square in Boston. Our runners have spent the past six months fundraising on behalf of the Club and helping to raise over \$160,000 to support our children and families. It's the dedication and support of individuals like this who allow us to continue this vital work. Congratulations to our runners on such an amazing accomplishment and for doing it on behalf of our Clubs! If you would like to support Team BGCD, visit givengain.com/campaign/bgcd2024.

FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE:

Announcing Our 2024 NEWLA Honorees! BGCD will host the 31st Annual New England Women's Leadership Awards (NEWLA) on May 20th at the Seaport Hotel, Boston. This year the Club will recognize Cara Belvin, Founder & CEO of Empower; Allison Feaster, VP of Team Ops & Org Growth for the Boston Celtics; and Huang Vu, Family Engagement Specialist for BGCD. Each of our honorees were carefully selected among dozens of candidates and chosen on their merits and accomplishments. The event will be emceed by award winning WBZ news anchor, Lisa Hughes and chaired by BGCD Alumna Carline Durocher alongside Honorary Chair Chantel Mayo. This is a great way to support BGCD and to be inspired by the work and generosity of so many. Visit bgcdorchester.org/newla to learn more about sponsorships opportunities.

Presenting our 2024 Chairs & Honorees for the **New England WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP Awards 2024** MONDAY, MAY 20

Event Chair **Honorary Chair**

Cara Belvin
Founder & CEO, Empower

Allison Feaster
VP of Team Operations & Organizational Growth, Boston Celtics

Huang Vu
Family Engagement Specialist, Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester

Carline Durocher **Chantel Mayo**

For sponsorships, visit www.bgcdorchester.org/NEWLA

Announcing Our 2024 NEWLA Honorees! See details below.

DID YOU KNOW:

BGCD Alumni Reunion to be Held on June 1st: BGCD's Alumni Association is hosting a Reunion event on Saturday, June 1st to help celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Club! The day will consist of food, raffles and our 3rd Annual Bruce Seals 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament and other family fun activities. Our Committee asks for everyone to fill out a form via Google Forms to register for our Alumni Association and the Reunion event. The form can be filled out at <https://forms.gle/Fid7QCAVZocgHq8T8>. We'll keep those who have registered up to date on plans for the event. We look forward to a great celebration and to see so many familiar faces. Alumni are a vital group of supporters made up of past members, parents and staff who are dedicated to supporting the efforts and programming at BGCD. For more information, please contact Mike Joyce at mjoyce@bgcdorchester.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Teen Rollerskating Trip
April 26

Keystone Judge Baker Center 5k
May 4

Elevate Youth Fishing Trip
May 11

Spring Dance Showcase
May 17

NEWLA 2024
May 20

*More info: bgcdorchester.org/newla

Alumni Reunion
June 1

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



Free College

For eligible Massachusetts residents.

If you're age 25 or older and thinking about starting – or returning to – college, the new Free College program makes it easy. It funds your tuition and fees and also provides assistance for books and supplies. And Quincy College makes it convenient.

We offer dozens of Associate's degree and certificate programs... you can take classes online or in person... and our top-notch faculty will deliver the education and training necessary to prepare you for the job you want.

There's never been a better time to experience the value of a Quincy College education.

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RECENT OBITUARIES



BURNS, Veronica Ann (Graham), 75, in Moorsetown, NJ, formerly of Wakefield and originally from Dorchester. Wife of the late Edward Thomas Burns. Mother of Edward J. and Brian M. Burns. Mother-in-law of Samuel C. Rodriguez. Survived by 3 grandchildren; her brothers, John Graham and wife, Paula, Robert Graham and wife, Mary Lou, Bernard Graham and wife, Sarah; her sisters, Mary Graham Fortin and husband, Larry, Theresa Melanson and husband, Tom, predeceased by the late brother, Daniel Graham and his living wife, Nancy and her late brother Timothy Graham and his late wife, Paula; and many nieces and nephews; along with longtime friends. Memorial donations may be made to The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research.



GLODDY, Anna (Fiumara), 102, of Dorchester. She is survived by her children

Anna McDonough and husband Tom of Quincy, Alfred Gloddy of Florida, Nina Gloddy, also her caretaker, Boston, Ellen Ruggiero of Braintree and Denise DesLauriers Leshefsky and husband Mark of Plympton. Nonnie to her 11 grandchildren. She also leaves 11 great-grandchildren, along with a niece, nephews and many cousins. She was predeceased by her parents, Nunzio and Antonina Fiumara of Ali Superiore, Italy; her husband Alfred Gloddy, also her grandson AJ Gloddy, her sisters Josie Frongello, Nancy Cambria and Santa Tardanico. Please consider making an act of kindness in her memory, or if you wish a donation in her memory to My Brothers Keeper, 534 Washington St., Easton, MA 02356.



HOBAN, Carol A. (Moran), of Milton. Wife of the late James L. Hoban Jr.; mother of James L. Hoban III and his wife, Patty of Pembroke, Daniel L. Hoban of Providence, RI, and her daughter, Lynne Hoban of Quincy. Grandmother of 4. Great-grandmother of 3. Donations may be made in her memory to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital at stjude.org.

McKENNA, John J. "Jack", 75, of Dorchester. Captain, Boston Fire Department, Retired,



and former President of Boston Firefighters IAFF Local 718. Son of John and Catherine, and brother to Bill and Ron. He is survived by his wife Peggy (Ziniti) McKenna. His children Carolyn McKenna, Kerry McKenna, Candice McKenna, Karin McKenna, John J. and Christine McKenna, and Michael McKenna and his wife Stephanie O'Keefe. His 8 grandchildren; 1 great granddaughter. Brother of Ronald McKenna and his wife Marti O'Keefe McKenna, and the late Bill and Charlene McKenna. He leaves many brothers and sisters-in-law, cousins, nieces, nephews, and dear friends. Donations in the name of Jack McKenna may be made to the John J. and Nora Jennings Memorial Scholarship, c/o Boston Firefighters Credit Union, 60 Hallett St., Dorchester, MA 02124.



O'CONNELL, John J. "Jack", 65, of Ft. Lauderdale, FL., originally from Dorchester. Son of the late Helen (Tewksbury) O'Connell and John J. "Rocky" O'Connell. Brother of Catherine O'Connell of N. Weymouth and the late Baby Helen O'Connell. Nephew of the late Mary T., James V. and William I. O'Connell. He is also survived by his

friend Bill "Gus" Gustafson of Ft. Lauderdale



PETERSON, Carole Ann (Gallagher) of Quincy and Sarasota, FL. Originally from Dorchester, Carole was the daughter of the late Joseph J. and Dorothy M. (Page) Gallagher and wife of the late Fred Peterson. Carole leaves sisters, Denise Gallagher of Sarasota; Debbie (Gallagher) Osterman of Bridgewater; a brother, Paul Gallagher of Sarasota; eight nieces and nephews, fifteen grandnieces and nephews and an abundance of close friends and relatives. A successful executive in the insurance industry, shortly after retirement, Carole moved from Quincy and eagerly relocated to Sarasota in order to join family and further explore the next chapters of her life. Donations in Carole's memory may be made to Tidewell Hospice, 5955 Rand Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34238 or to a charity of your choice.

SLYVA, George E., of Milton and formerly of Dorchester. The son of the late Michael F. Slyva and Helen M. (Foley). Father of Bethany H. Slyva and her boyfriend Charlie DiRusso of Quincy, Garrent Slyva and his girlfriend Kara Zebrowski of Brainerd, Minnesota, and the late Jonathan Slyva. Brother of Joannie Auvil and her husband Leon of Braintree, and the late Michael Slyva of Boston. He also leaves many nieces, nephews, friends. George spent three decades as an assistant clerk for the Supreme Judicial Court for the State of Massachusetts.

STAUNTON, John, 84, of Cohasset, formerly

Bertha Galvin is dead at 97; born on Meeting House Hill

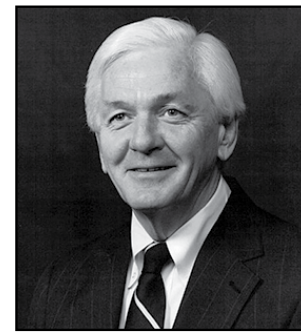
Bertha Julia Galvin, 97, a Meeting House Hill native and the beloved wife of the late Martin E. Galvin, died peacefully in her sleep in the early hours of Thursday morning, April 11, with her sons Matthew and Mitchell by her side.



Visiting hours will be held at the Alfred D. Thomas Funeral Home, 326 Granite Ave, Milton, on Thurs., April 18, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

A service will be held at the funeral home on Friday morning at 9:30 followed by a Celebration of Life Mass at St. Agatha Church, Milton at 10:30 am. Burial will follow at the Massachusetts National Cemetery in Bourne at 1:30 pm.

For a full obituary on her long and active life, please see alfreddthomas.com.



of Milton and Dorchester. Son to the late James and Mary (Walsh) Staunton. He was US Navy veteran. John is survived by his wife, Mary E. (Gallagher). He also leaves his daughters, Caitlin (Paul) Appleton of Cohasset and Megan (Frank) Selinger of Cohasset and his son John Jr. (Jessica) Staunton of Wellesley. John was preceded in death by his son James M. Staunton and his siblings, Richard M. Staunton (Carol) and Maureen Crowley (Brian), and is survived by James T. Staunton (Elaine) of Weymouth, Paul Staunton (Elizabeth) of Scituate, and Robert Staunton of Sandwich. Grandfather of 9. He had a successful career as a stock broker, starting in the Merrill Lynch training program and retiring as a Vice President of Tucker Anthony Wealth Management.



SULLIVAN, Anne M. (Adams), 101, of Dorchester. Wife of the late Thomas Sullivan, Retired BPD. Daughter of the late Thomas and Katie Adams. Mother to Linda Sullivan of Milton, Kathleen Sullivan-Sanges and her husband, Christophe of Milton, Judith Sullivan-O'Donnell and her husband, Robert of Quincy, Jean McClain and her husband, Dennis of Hyde Park, Ann Ierardi and her husband, James of Braintree and the late Thomas Sullivan, Jr. Donations may be made in her memory to St. Gregory Parish, 2215 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester, MA 02124.



WESSLING, Joanne M. (Heffernan), 78, of Weymouth, formerly of Dorchester. Daughter of the late Thomas C. and Mary (Sullivan) Heffernan. Mother of the late Elisabeth Wessling. Sister of Kathleen "Kathi" Heffernan and her husband Richard Ward of West Dennis, Carol Cunningham of Quincy, the late Thomas C. Heffernan, Jr., and the late Marybeth Heffernan. Joanne is also survived by many nieces, nephew, extended family, and friends. Memorial contributions may be sent in Joanne's name to Interfaith Social Services by visiting: interfaithsocialservices.org



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