

Dorchester Reporter

“The News and Values Around the Neighborhood”

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Peterson Desir behind the controls of a Red Line car near Ashmont station. The 33-year-old motorman is one of 23 new heavy rail drivers who have taken jobs at the agency in recent months.

Cassidy McNeeley photo

Two new MBTA train and bus operators talk about their trips to the driver's seat

BY CASSIDY MCNEELEY
REPORTER STAFF

Peterson Desir has been riding the Red Line since he was a kid, and for the last several months, the 33-year-old Dorchester native has had the best seat on the train – the driver's chair. He is one of 23 new heavy rail drivers who have been hired and trained by the MBTA as part of a larger push to fill open jobs throughout the agency.

“Once I saw there was an open house, I just shot my shot,” Desir told the *Reporter*. “About three to four months later I got the email and I thought, it’s an opening, why not take a chance. The T has always been in the back of my mind because I always knew there were great opportunities here,” he said. “A big move why I wanted to come here was for more security for the future.”

Desir officially entered the program last fall after spending ten years working with the Department of Youth Services. He

received classroom instruction, hands-on experience, and engaged in extensive safety protocols alongside 22 other drivers who completed the program, the largest class in 18 years.

Phillip Eng, the general manager of the T, points to Desir and his classmates as signs of progress as the agency seeks to staff up across the board.

“The skills and expertise that these motor persons have gained at the Training School will contribute to the MBTA’s mission of providing safe and reliable service,” he said. “We can see from their enthusiasm that they embrace public service and they’re excited to be part of our team.”

While job opportunities with the MBTA are considerable, Desir was looking for a specific role. “Choosing the Red Line was fairly easy because I rode the Red Line my whole life. It’s what I know,” he said. What he didn’t know was

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Obed Ferdinand on board an Ashmont-bound bus that he drives.

Cassidy McNeeley photo

Fields Corner’s Halina Nguyen serves up victories on and off the tennis court

BY SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

Halina Nguyen was eight years old when her mother first drove her from Fields Corner over to Blue Hill Avenue’s Sportsmen’s Tennis and Enrichment Center (STEC) for a Friday night clinic known as Volley Against Violence. Inside, everything was new and unknown, and coaches told Nguyen to stand on the baseline of the tennis court.

“It was my first time even holding my racquet,” said Nguyen, a 16-year-old sophomore at Boston Latin School (BLS). “I remember the coaches told us to stand on the baseline and I didn’t even know what the baseline was. I was really scared. Everyone here was so experienced and I felt like I



Halina Nguyen

was the only one that didn’t know anything.”

STEC has since become a second home to Nguyen, who has risen to be one of the best high school players in the state and among the most promising young tennis talents in New England. She has played first singles for the last two years on the top ranked BLS girls’ team that includes her sister, Lilian, and other friends from STEC as well.

Looking back on those first days, she said, makes her glad that her mother and father – Hai and Linh – encouraged her to play the game, even if it has become the game she loves to hate.

“I feel like I really like tennis no matter what I say when I’m

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Landmarks panel challenges Wu on city’s ‘interference’ in its official duties Sends letter; director later fired

BY SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

In a communication addressed to Mayor Wu that is rife with potential consequences for development in Boston, including the controversial renovations proposal at White Stadium in Franklin Park for part-time use by a professional soccer team, members of a city commission charged with overseeing historic preservation in Boston took sharp issue with her administration’s approach to a number of controversial projects, including the stadium plan, and warned that the city’s “disregard” for state laws governing the commission threatens to undermine its work.

The remarkable show of dissent by all 16 current volunteer members of the mayorally appointed Boston Landmarks Commission (BLC) board was followed days later by the abrupt dismissal of the executive director of the panel, Rosanne Foley, a Dorchester woman who has led the group since 2015.

Foley, who was appointed to the post by former mayor Marty Walsh, was terminated last Friday, 12 days after the commissioners sent their letter.

Foley’s dismissal came a week before her boss, Rev. Mariama White-Hammond, the city’s Chief of Environment, Energy and Open Space, had been set to step down. In a move last week foreshadowing an administrative shakeup in the department, Wu announced that White-Hammond, a Dorchester

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‘Defenders’ press White Stadium legal challenge

BY SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

Taking on the title of Franklin Park “Defenders,” 20 citizens and the Emerald Necklace Conservancy (ENC) announced Tuesday they plan to move ahead with a lawsuit challenging the re-development of White Stadium in Franklin Park for part-time use by a women’s professional soccer team.

The lawsuit, which includes long-time activists Louis Elisa and Dr. Jean Maguire, was dealt a defeat in March when Judge Sarah Ellis denied their request for injunction and temporary restraining order to prevent the city of Boston from moving forward or starting construction work at the stadium. However, the Franklin Park Defenders, who gathered in front of the North Gate at White Stadium on Tuesday afternoon, say they will continue with the underlying legal challenge on the grounds it violates the Public Lands Protection Act (Article 97) and the George Robert White Fund Trust.



Jean Maguire spoke at a Tuesday press conference next to Renee Stacey Welch. Seth Daniel photo

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Police, Courts & Fire

Life, no parole for murderer of teen at '21 Carnival scene

A Suffolk Superior Court jury on Monday convicted Omara Shears, 46, of first-degree murder in the death of Javare Sommerville-Adams, 17, as the teenager was standing at Blue Hill Avenue and Columbia Road enjoying the Carnival celebration on the morning of Aug. 28, 2021, the Suffolk County District Attorney's office reported.

The verdict means a sentence of life without parole. According to prosecutors, Shears and Sommerville-Adams didn't know each other and had no connection save that the two wound up standing in front of Stash's for a few moments before Shears plunged a knife into the teen's neck.

As Sommerville-Adams crumpled to the sidewalk, Shears put on a ball cap and sauntered away toward Seaver Street: "Video then showed Shears interacting with members of his family while holding a knife in his hand."

Sommerville-Adams was rushed to Boston Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead, the DA's office reports.

In a statement, DA Kevin Hayden, who attended the reading of the verdict, said: "What guilty verdicts can do is bring survivors of homicide victims the knowledge that justice has been served and an offender has been held accountable for their actions. But what verdicts can never do is erase the pain and loss and grief of losing a loved one.

"I'm grateful for the jury's service and verdict in this tragic and inexplicable act of violence - which ended the life of a young man enjoying a city festival - and my office will remain at the service of Javare's family as they continue to process their terrible loss."

Boston Police who initially stopped a driver for speeding in the area of Washington and Erie streets last Friday night wound up arresting him for the gun with the "extended magazine" and the 22 bullets loaded into it they found in his car. Police say that on approaching the car around 10:15 p.m., they noticed that Tynigel Belgrave, 26, also wasn't wearing a seat belt. And then, police say, they "observed in plain view what they believed to be the grip of a firearm."

The officers ordered Belgrave and his passenger out of the car. "Officers recovered a firearm from inside the vehicle, and placed both occupants into handcuffs," the report says. The firearm was later determined to be a Glock 26 with one round in the chamber and twenty-one rounds in an extended magazine." After further investigation, the second occupant was released from the scene.

Belgrave was charged with illegal possession of a firearm, illegal possession of ammunition and illegal possession of a high-capacity feeding device, police say.

In 2019, a Suffolk Superior Court jury acquitted Belgrave of shooting a man on Vesta Road in Dorchester but convicted him of illegal possession of a firearm and ammunition. Five days after his acquittal on the shooting charge, before he was sentenced on the gun charges, he pleaded guilty to being an armed career criminal when he was arrested and was sentenced to 4 1/2 years to 6 years in state prison.

Wu, Healey to join UMass Boston leader at Vatican summit about climate change

A Massachusetts delegation led by Gov. Healey, Mayor Wu, and UMass Boston Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco will travel to the Vatican next month to attend an international climate summit assembled by Pope Francis.

The international conference, set for May 15-17, is organized by a committee co-led by Suárez-Orozco. Massachusetts Climate Chief Melissa Hoffer is also scheduled to speak, along with Healey and Wu.

Hoffer will report "from the front lines," with the governor scheduled to discuss "Governing in the Age of Climate Change" and the mayor "Governance, Health and Energy," according to a statement released by UMass Boston.



Mayor Wu with UMass Boston Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco during a press event in Dorchester last month. Seth Daniel photo

"It is an immense honor to be invited to address the Vatican Climate Summit alongside incredible Massachusetts leaders like Climate Chief Hoffer, Mayor Wu, and Chancellor Suárez-Orozco," Healey said in the statement. "Massachusetts is a global leader in the fight

against climate change and the transition to a clean energy economy, and that's in large part thanks to our innovative elected leaders and universities like UMass Boston.

"This is a global problem that cannot be solved by any one nation alone,

and we look forward to collaborating with the mayors, governors, academic institutions, and scientists on solutions at the summit. We are deeply grateful to His Holiness, Pope Francis, for hosting this important gathering and for his leadership in bringing people together to address climate change."

Wu added: "As a coastal city known for our climate leadership, Boston serves as proof of what's possible through focused planning and determined coordination. I'm grateful for the opportunity to share Boston's progress on climate action and learn from other mayors and leaders taking needed action for our brightest future."

- REPORTER STAFF

Dot Ave. 'Open Streets' set for May 5

The city's Open Streets series—the half-day, car-free events launched in 2022—will start its third season in Dorchester next month. Mayor Wu said that the first of six Open Streets events

this year will be held on Dorchester Avenue on Sun., May 5, from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This year, streets will close to vehicular traffic at 9 a.m. and reopen at 6 p.m. The 1.1-mile

section of Dot Ave closed to vehicles will stretch from Ashmont Street to Linden Street.

Other Open Streets dates are Sat., June 22, on Blue Hill Avenue in Roxbury; Sun., July 21

in Jamaica Plain; Sunday, Aug. 11 in Hyde Park; Sun., Sept. 15, in East Boston; and Sun., Oct. 20, in Allston-Brighton.

For more information, go to boston.gov/openstreets.

Mattapan assembly planned for this weekend

The non-profit Boston Ujima Project is hosting a slate of events from this Friday (April 26) to Sunday that is aimed at unifying, give a voice to, the Mattapan neighborhood.

Participants will learn how the project inspires collective power and responsibility through its work while also highlighting local institu-

tions, like the Mattapan Library, Urban Farming Institute, and Mass Audubon. They can also take a tour by bike with the Mattapan Food and Fitness Coalition to "explore the vibrant community and scenic routes" of the neighborhood.

To RSVP, visit bit.ly/Mattapan-Assembly.

-TAYLOR BROKESH

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City of Boston and DCR host a site walk from 10 a.m. to noon this Saturday (April 27) at Moakley Park to discuss coastal resiliency plans. Gather at McCormack Bath House, Carson Beach. A virtual workshop is planned for April 30 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Register at bit.ly/CRB_MC. See editorial, Page 8.

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. Hosted by the Massachusetts Affordable Housing Alliance, the event raises money to help more people access homeownership. 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, Murl'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.

MeetBoston hosts a Regional Career Fair on Tues., April 30, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Boston. Jobseekers interested in the hotel, restaurant, casino, and hospitality industries are encouraged to attend. See meetboston.com/career-fair for more info and to register.

The Morrissey Boulevard Commission will meet in-person next Thursday (May 2) at 6 p.m. at a location to be determined, with virtual participation available via Zoom. This meeting was originally set for April 23, but was re-scheduled due to "building maintenance" at the Cristo Rey School. At the meeting, MassDOT says, "the study team will present a summary of background information being used to develop alternatives for future mobility and climate resiliency in the Morrissey Boulevard corridor." See DotNews.com for more info or visit the study mass.gov/k-circle-morrissey-study.

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. Prospective homebuyers and current homeowners can meet with lenders, agents, city staff, and nonprofit partners. Register at bi.ly/2024BHCFair.

The BPDA will host a virtual public meeting on recommendations for changes to the Citywide Additional Dwelling Unit (ADU) zoning policies on Wed., May 8, at 6 p.m. See Page 3 for details on how to join the meeting.

A BPDA virtual meeting on the Zero Net Carbon zoning proposal will be held on Monday, April 29 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. See page 3 for meeting details.

SEND IN EVENT NOTICES TO NEWSEDITOR@DOTNEWS.COM

E-vehicles, super-cleaner truck added to Water and Sewer fleet

By Cassidy McNeeley
Reporter Staff

The Boston Water and Sewer Commission on Monday unveiled a fleet of 37 environmentally friendly electric vehicles and a state-of-the-art sewer system cleaner at an Earth Day-themed event at their headquarters in Roxbury.

“Our goal is to make sure all the residents and businesses in Boston get nice clean water, no issues,” said Dolores Randolph, BWSC’s director of communications. “We have a crew 24/7 to make sure that happens.”

The 37 electric vehicles and the sewer system cleaner, called the Genesis, will make the agency’s work more environmentally friendly, Randolph said.

Stephen Mulloney, a spokesman for the pseudo-public agency that was established in 1977, said the new fleet is already in service.

“We have a thousand daily tasks of all kinds, from emergency repairs to an endorsement team that goes out and enforces our environmental laws,” said Mulloney. “It’s exciting that 37 are now electric. The chargers are also quite



compact and it’s a good footprint for our garage.”

Sixteen of the new vehicles are Ford F-150 Pickup Trucks and 21 are Ford Mach-E Hatchbacks. The vehicles are powered in the BWSC garage by 40 chargers, including two fast chargers, resulting in an average of 1,485 gallons of unleaded gas and \$4,800 saved per month.

Peter Hunt, the agency’s chief information officer, explained that electrically charged vehicles don’t just save money but also directly contribute to the planet’s health.

“A lot of the savings aren’t just financial; its environmental cost,” said Hunt.

The Genesis is a specialized truck that uses

pressurized water and suction power to clear blockages and pipes. It’s the first of its kind in Boston and will help clean approximately 1,538 linear miles in the city’s collection system while saving water and ratepayer dollars. This includes 710 miles of sanitary sewer, 670 miles of storm drain, 155 miles of combined sewer, and 3 miles of combined sewer overflow pipe.

Sekou Brown, the superintendent of Boston Water and Sewer, was excited to demonstrate how the Genesis truck works. While the older trucks got the job done, the task was much more complex and used around 60 to 80 gallons of water a minute.

Instead, the Genesis



The Genesis, a specialized truck acquired by the Boston Water and Sewer Commission, will help clean the city’s sewer and storm drains while saving water and money, according to agency officials. At right: Part of the BWSC’s new fleet of electric vehicles get charged up at a Roxbury garage.

Cassidy McNeeley photos

claims the preexisting water in the sewer and then uses it to clean the system. This means that, unlike older vehicles, the Genesis does not have to leave the work site to refill its water supply.

Not only does this feature save water but being able to keep the truck on site throughout the job directly reduces carbon emissions.

“Recycling is the name of the game with this machine. We don’t have to hook up to the hydrant, we don’t have to go back and forth,” said Brown.

The Genesis will use 90 gallons of water a minute, all of which will

be recycled and reused. This improvement will save 96,000 gallons of water a week and almost five million gallons a year valued at around \$100,000.


Like other sewer cleaners, the main goal of the Genesis will be to prevent sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs), which can be hazardous to people’s health and the environment.

“We can get anywhere in Boston that we need to,” the superintendent said about the truck, which also has 4 axles and weighs approximately 86,000 pounds. “You give me your street name and I’ll come to you.”

Part of what makes the truck accessible to all areas, including narrow Dorchester streets, is the remote-control system.

“The operator could be standing where you are and operating every system on the truck,” explained Brown. This also keeps BWSC employees safe when on the job, he said.

Industry experts predict that with its unique features then Genesis will be a game-changer in the water and sewer world. BWSC members hope to see more vehicles like this introduced to the city in years to come.

 **Virtual Public Meeting**

Please be advised that the Zero Net Carbon Zoning public meeting has been rescheduled to Monday, April 29.

Zero Net Carbon Zoning Proposal

APRIL
29
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/3xmYTUq

Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864

Meeting ID: 160 352 4594

Please join the BPDA and Boston's Environment Department to discuss the newly released draft proposal (April 29) for Zero Net 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.


Monday 4/29 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

Scan QR Code to Register



 **Virtual Public Meeting**

Citywide ADU Zoning

MAY
08
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Zoom Link:

bit.ly/ADUZoningUpdates

Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864

Meeting ID: 161 641 2312

Project Description:

Please join the BPDA Planning team for a conversation on zoning for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)! In this meeting, we’ll discuss the zoning and design analysis that will inform future draft zoning recommendations to allow for the development of ADUs on owner-occupied residential parcels. We hope to see you there!

Mail to: **Adriana Lasso-Harrier**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
Phone: 617.918.4367
Email: Adriana.lasso-harrier@boston.gov

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Dorchester Reporter
"The News and Values Around the Neighborhood"

A food forest takes root on a Jones Hill side street

By TAYLOR BROKESH
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

A quiet transformation is happening on some of Boston's many vacant lots with the help of hardworking neighbors and the Boston Food Forest Coalition, a nonprofit community land trust that is working to turn empty patches of land into vibrant gardens, primarily in Dorchester, Mattapan, and Roxbury.

One of the city's newest food forests can be found on Everett Avenue on the side of Jones Hill near Uphams Corner.

Hope Kelley, a member of the coalition, said that food forests are meant to mimic the functions of a natural ecosystem, just on a smaller scale. "They are inspired by this style of land management called permaculture, which focuses on viewing the whole ecosystem rather than its individual parts," she said. "It also focuses on — especially at our sites — growing perennials and specifically edible perennials, as opposed to just annual crops that you would find in public parks or urban farms."

Kit Binns, a Dorchester resident and one of the stewards who has been working on the Uphams Corner Food Forest since the beginning in 2016, explained that the Everett Avenue project came to be with a lot of grassroots organizing.

"Somebody invited Orion [Kriegman, founder and executive director of BFFC] to the Jones Hill Association to talk about food forests, and the



This photo shows the food forest on Everett Avenue on Jones Hill under construction. It is one of Boston's several food forests, which are a kind of urban garden that provides a host of environmental and social benefits across the city and its neighborhoods.

Boston Food Forest Coalition photo

problem was, the lot was owned by the city," Binns said. "The problem with these kinds of vacant lots is, will they be used for income-restricted housing, or open space? Both of these are laudable causes. But in this case, we don't have much open space in the Uphams Corner area."

Binns explained how a pro bono architecture company, COG Design, helped to draw up the blueprints for the site, and a nonprofit called Restoring Roots helped to actually



landscape the area. And during that time, BFFC became a land trust, meaning the city could officially transfer the land directly to the non-profit.

"So, by 2021, we actually had the first summer of plantings," he said.

Kelley said the contents of each food forest — of which there are ten in the Boston area, with an 11th on the way — are determined by what each community wants. For example, she said, the Savin Hill Wildlife Garden contains plants that mostly serve insects, birds, and pollinators. The Everett Avenue lot, on the other hand, grows lots of fruits, such as pears, strawberries,

blueberries, honeyberries, and Concord grapes, but also herbs such as thyme and chives.

"Another thing about food forests is that they're built with longevity in mind," Kelley said. "So, some of the species we plant on these sites, Uphams or otherwise, might not produce for a few years, or five years, or longer."

Kelley explained that food forests serve three distinct purposes all at once.

"Environmentally, these spaces provide green space that has climate impacts, specifically in parts of Boston that have been underinvested in," Kelley said. "You know, Boston has a history of racist mortgage lending practices, which has made it so that certain neighborhoods, specifically Dorchester and Mattapan and Roxbury, have not had the same investment in public green space, which means that those neighborhoods are measurably warmer in the summer. So, we're trying to build 30 food forests by 2030 with the idea being that, although these parks are small, as we build more and more of them, collectively, they'll form this kind of green corridor, and this will have the effect of a broader ecosystem with beneficial climate impacts."

The other purposes, Kelley said, include the very basic one of access to food, and equally as crucial, creating a sense of social connection among residents.

"Neighbors who collaborate

on these parks are folks who often have lived in the area for decades and didn't know their neighbors. And now they do," Kelley said. "And now they have this kind of third space that they're able to come together in."

Binns said working as a steward requires some effort, but that the payoff is wonderful: knowing that this space belongs to you and your community truly does bring people together.

"It requires some effort, attention, and concern," Binns said, "but if people think in general the idea of parks or open spaces in particular are good places to support, and they really enjoy that, or beyond that, if they want to learn about how plants feed off each other and help each other, then there's really an opportunity to understand that better."

Kelley said there are a number of ways to get involved with the Food Forest mission. Residents can sign up to volunteer at any food forest in the city, request a food forest in your neighborhood, or sign up for the newsletter at bostonfoodforest.org. You can also follow BFFC on Facebook or Instagram at [@bostonfoodforest](https://www.instagram.com/bostonfoodforest).

"I don't think people are all necessarily on their own when they do this," Binns said. "Some effort is required, but on the other hand, there is a lot of support, and they're a kind of unusual type of space that I think people are beginning to learn about."

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New coalition seeks to unite Caribbean communities

By **SETH DANIEL**
NEWS EDITOR

Leaders of a new Dorchester-based organization are hoping to unite local Caribbean-connected communities that have existed on islands – literally and figuratively – with a focus on keeping its constituencies engaged year-round in political and civic advocacy.

Members of the Boston Caribbean American Association (BCAA) announced the group's formation on April 18 at an event held in an empty storefront on Dorchester Avenue near St. Mark's Church.

Robert Wint, the president of BCAA, was joined by about a dozen other members all hailing from or holding strong ties to Dorchester. He said they have been meeting to discuss the idea since 2020.

"For the Caribbean community, we're always trending in the spring and summer, in the warm months," said Wint. "When Carnival is here or Caribbean Heritage Month [in June] we're a hot topic and everyone wants to know about us. Then it comes around and it passes and then they put us away. That's not going to happen anymore. We're going to be here



Members of the new BCAA group include Councillor Brian Worrell, President Robert Wint, Samuel Cedenno, Gary Kerr, Michelle Plummer, Cassandra Mayhew, Markell Graham, Kwame Elias, and Syvlan Cedenno.

year-round to engage culturally and politically and civically."

Other members and officers include Kwame Elias (communications), Cassandra Mayhew (secretary), Michelle Plummer, Syvlan Cedenno, Samuel Cedenno, and promoters Markell Graham (Clean Crew Entertainment), and Gary Kerr (Scoops Way Promotions).

Elias said there are major projects in the community – like the Blue Hill Avenue changes and the White Stadium renovation proposal – that they would like to address, while noting that they want to have Town Hall forums

during election season to discuss the Caribbean community's concerns.

"We are the biggest population group and have grown in number since 1980, but we seem to always be number three when it comes to upward mobility and opportunities," said Elias. "Many of us came here and stayed and we're raising children in these communities. I've seen the arc of advancement, but that arc hasn't risen high enough, and we'd like to change that."

Later in the formal speaking program, he said: "We're not in competition with anyone else, but where there is an opportunity that can



BCAA founding members Cassandra Mayhew and Michelle Plummer. *Seth Daniel photos*

help our community, we will be the vehicle that brings the message to the community with our political officials."

Wint cited demographic statistics showing that Caribbean Americans make up nearly 9 percent of Boston's population, including Spanish-speaking people from the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico and French- and Kreyol-speaking Haitians. While those groups have been invited to the table, BCAA officials said they are already better organized as a community and those from the diaspora of Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada, Monserrat, and other islands have been less organized and unified.

Historically, while there are great similarities among all Caribbean communities, those like Jamaica and Barbados and others share a British, English-speaking colonial past that formed a unique culture and took a different migration route to the United States.

Gary Kerr, owner of Scoops Way, a well-known promoter in the community, is a welder and a 27-year Local 7 Ironworkers member. He and Graham, another well-known promoter, are concerned about difficulties in bringing that unique heritage to Boston as it has become hard to secure performance spaces. Both worry about the future for their children in Dorchester and Mattapan for their children.

"We first came together during the pandemic to do something for the community and try to find places to have prop-

er events the right way with permits and police presence and security," Kerr said. "It's a fight now to bring our culture to our people. We don't want to use people's backyards and we don't want shootings; we want things done the right way to showcase our culture."

Kerr, who came from Trinidad in 1993, said he is taking a big step on May 26 to host Trinidad's top performer, Kes the Band, on City Hall Plaza – a "legit," permitted event they hope will kick off a series of summer events and civic engagements under the BCAA umbrella.

Graham, who came from Jamaica as a youth, grew up in Dorchester and lives in Mattapan with his family. He said the BCAA group was formed by the frustrations of promoters like them. They noticed that as venues like Three C's, Cavalier, and Conway Cricket Club have closed, their culture, music, and prominence have also faded. It's not something they want their Boston-born children to experience.

Because promoters have such a large reach and popularity in the Caribbean community, many joined BCAA to help broaden the organization to being about more than events.

Last Thursday night's kick-off was the coming out of the new, evolved organization one year in the making. Already, City Councillor Brian Worrell has backed the group, and said he was particularly excited, given his Jamaican and Badian background.

"I'm inspired by what

I'm seeing going on here and it warms my heart," he said during the event. "I grew up in the Caribbean culture, so this organization is very important to me...What I often don't see at City Hall or the State House is the Caribbean community showing up about the budget, White Stadium, education, or housing. This is the role I'm hearing that this organization wants to play...It's music to my ears."

Wint said the priority list includes quality of life issues, more opportunities for Caribbean restaurants to operate with liquor licenses, and increased political attention focused their way. He said they are interested in things like White Stadium, and Council elections. However, he acknowledged that while many in the Caribbean community come out for national elections, they don't pay enough attention to local and state elections.

That, he said, will also change.

"Since 1980 we've seen our numbers grow as a people, but while we've come far, our impact could be a lot more and I'm hoping this group can change that," he said over the microphone. "We can't compete with each other...All of our stories are singular, but our destinies are shared... We must, must embrace unity. Individually we might face challenge, but collectively no one can break us."

Some of the follow-up events planned for Caribbean Heritage Month and beyond by BCAA include:

- 'Salute' by Scoops Way Promotions on City Hall Plaza, May 26, with Kes the Band (Trinidad).
- June Block Party by BCAA in Dorchester, (TBD).
- Caribbean Comedy Show in the Seaport, (TBD)
- Clean Crew Productions Breakfast event, June 16 (Rhode Island)
- Family Picnic in the Park – Dorchester (TBD)
- Caribbean Heritage Breakfast – July 1 at the State House.
- BCAA Civic Town Hall – this fall (TBD)

BLACK LIVES MATTER

CODMAN SQUARE HEALTH CENTER
STANDS WITH OUR COMMUNITY
IN FIGHTING RACIAL INJUSTICE



Codman Square Health Center

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

Two Red Cross 'Heroes' hailed at agency's fundraiser breakfast

Boston Police Department Sgt. Det. John Burrows and Officer Awan Freeman, shown with Fire Commissioner Paul Burke and Police Commissioner Michael Cox, were named Red Cross Heroes during the recent 2024 Boston Heroes breakfast, an annual fundraiser for the Red Cross of Massachusetts.

Both Burrows and Awan served as medics in the military before joining BPD and have



since witnessed gunshot or stab wound victims whose lives could have been saved with immediate care prior to first responder arrival.

They began training fellow officers on controlling life-threatening bleeding by packing wounds and applying tourniquets. Now, they have taken that training to the public, teaching Stop the Bleed courses in community centers and offices around Mattapan

and Dorchester.

"The Red Cross is incredibly grateful to everyone who donates their time, energy and funds to make this event a success," said Holly Grant, CEO of the Red Cross of Massachusetts. "We would not be here without the support of our corporate partners like State Street, not to mention the business and community leaders that serve on our Leadership and Heroes Councils."



IBEW's Antonellis honored by Jewish labor committee

A prominent Jewish-led labor group honored IBEW Local 103's Lou Antonellis at its annual Labor Seder on Sun., April 7. The union's business manager and financial secretary was recognized for his dedication "in diversifying the building trades and his pursuit of improving the wages and working conditions of electrical workers in New England."

Antonellis exemplifies the new generation of labor leadership in the

Boston area," said Stuart Applebaum, president of the New England Jewish Labor Committee, which is just one part of a national nonprofit organization that brings Jewish community leaders, labor leaders, elected officials, and community activists together to promote social justice.

For the last 90 years, the Committee has encouraged collaboration between the trade union and the Jewish community.

This year's Labor Seder was held at the Temple Israel in Boston.

"My heartfelt thanks to the Committee for this tremendous honor," said Antonellis. "Our union is deeply committed to building the most inclusive workplaces that we can, where every person has the opportunity to build a family-sustaining career as a highly skilled electrician."

—CASSIDY McNEELEY

Alvin Ailey Dance Theater due back in town on May 1

Marking 65 years and its status as one of the world's most popular dance companies, the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater returns to Boston's Boch Center Wang Theatre next week for a five-show run featuring three distinct programs, including two Boston premieres and a performance highlighting Alvin Ailey's vibrant choreographic genius through excerpts of his best dances.

As part of the company's visit, Celebrity Series will host "Revelations for Everyone," a free, public workshop, where company dancers will teach excerpts of Alvin Ailey's signature work as well as his popular dance, "Night Creature." The Revelations event takes place on



Chalvar Monteiro and Jacquelin Harris in Amy Hall Garner's CENTURY. Paul Kolnik photo

Wed., May 1, at 7 p.m. at the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center, 1350 Tremont St., Roxbury.

Performances at the

Wang start on May 2 at 8 p.m. with the masterpiece Revelations closing every show. Go to celebrityseries.org for more info.

Dot actor has the lead role in award-winning 'A Strange Loop'

By TAYLOR BROKESH
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

The Pulitzer Prize- and two-time Tony Award-winning musical "A Strange Loop" is starting its Boston run this Friday (April 26) with a cast that includes Dorchester actor Kai Clifton in the lead role of "Usher." The character is described as "a young artist grappling with desires, identity, and instincts he loves and loathes in equal measure" while dealing with "a grinding job guiding families in and out of theater performances."

The musical runs through May 25 at the Calderwood Pavilion at 527 Tremont St.



Kai Clifton

The show focuses on "the Black queer writer's inner thoughts [turning] to an artistic endeavor: writing a musical about a Black, queer writer." Most of the show involves Usher wrestling with his thoughts, which are portrayed by other cast members: Grant Evan, De'Lon Grant, Jonathan Melo, Zion Middleton,

Davron S. Monroe and Aaron Michael Ray.

The production is directed by Maurice Emmanuel Parent, the co-producing artistic director for the Front Porch Arts Collective.

The New York Times described it recently as "a show that allows a Black gay man to be vulnerable onstage without dismissing or fetishizing his trauma, desires and creative ambitions."

Tickets start at \$25, and there are discounts for students, seniors, veterans, and people under 35. It runs for an hour and 40 minutes with no intermission. More information is at bostontheatrescene.com.

YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE

DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY
The developer George Douse

George N. Douse was a well-known builder of housing in Dorchester during the first three decades of the 20th century. He is pictured at the right in today's illustration.

In 1912, he developed a series of three-deckers on Monadnock Street. In 1915, he acquired 51 lots of land on Whitten, Redwood, Althea, Clematis, and Center streets and Dorchester Avenue, where he built single and two-family homes. He bought 10 more lots in the same area the following year. On Sept. 10, 1916, the *Boston Globe* stated, "The development of the Whitten estate by George N. Douse is proving one of the most important undertakings that has been experienced in the Dorchester District."

Douse indulged himself at the dinner table and became proud of his stature. He was pictured in the media eating with other members of a US Fat Men's Club. A story on the New England His-



torical Society website notes that to join the New England Fat Men's Club you had to weigh at least 200 pounds. An article in the *Globe* on July 15, 1929, reported Douse's weight as 480 pounds and his shirt collar at 36 inches in circumference. It is probably not surprising that

George died two years later at the age of 53.

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

Editorial

A chance to plug into coastal resiliency plans

Officials in charge of a city-led project aimed at protecting Dorchester and South Boston from flood waters associated with rising sea levels will host a pair of public meetings, including an in-person tour, over the next week. And while the two events are focused on the coast along Day Boulevard, they offer an ideal opportunity for city residents to plug into urgent improvements all along our waterfront.

On Saturday, the public is invited to tour the area around Carson Beach and Moakley Park, where city and state officials will offer on-the-spot guidance about the possible infrastructure safeguards that could be built out to keep high-water events from inundating amenities – like Moakley Park – and nearby apartments, homes, and businesses.

The event will kick off from the McCormack Bathhouse at Carson Beach and include four stops along the beach and Day Boulevard between the MWRA facility in South Boston (next to a popular “bark park”) and the State Police barracks by Kosciuszko Circle.

“We’ve set it up as a bit of a self-guided tour with four tables that folks can visit on their own time and get a stamp at each table,” said Hannah Wagner, who is the project manager for the “Resilient Moakley Park Connectors” effort. “There might be prizes and refreshments as well.”

There will also be a follow-up virtual meeting held via Zoom next Tuesday, April 30, at 6 p.m. for folks who cannot make it on Saturday, or to follow up with questions.

All of this is part of a \$2.1 million engineering study that is funded mainly by grant dollars steered to Boston by Congress and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). With a smaller matching amount from City Hall, the Wu administration is leading the effort and looping in counterparts from the state’s Dept. of Conservation and Recreation and the Mass Water Resources Authority (MWRA), which own critical land along the “flood pathway.”

The scope of this planning effort is around Moakley Park— and points directly north and south— thus the “connectors” name. Wagner says various options to contain flood waters— from berms and retaining walls to other landscaping features— are all on the table, but not yet finalized. That’s the point of this exercise, she says.

“These two meetings are intended to give context and introduce the project and get some high-level feedback,” she said.

The city hopes to nail down its engineering plans by 2026, and have a shovel-ready project that will then need to be funded for a far bigger sum. This “connectors” project is one, relatively small piece in a complex system of climate resiliency plans underway in this section of the city. Part of the urgency is driven by the reality of climate change and more frequent and disruptive flooding events. But it’s also driven by the imminent explosion in development growth in this area, with Dorchester Bay City – a massive complex of buildings and related road improvements – now approved next door. Other projects include the sluggish but still-ongoing state-led Morrissey Boulevard Commission, which is also having a meeting next week. The third in a series of commission meetings was moved from this week to Thurs., May 2, at a site to be named later.

Now is the time for local stakeholders to get active and vocal on the coastal front. This weekend’s city-led workshop at Carson Beach offers a helpful and welcome place to get connected.

–Bill Forry

Recalling a decades-old campaign to gain fertility rights in our state

BY MEG CAMPBELL
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

The recent Alabama Supreme Court decision that ruled frozen embryos to be children is shocking. The decision has shut down or jeopardized in-vitro fertilization (IVF) treatments for Alabama women and brought back vivid memories of the fight for IVF coverage in Massachusetts.

I happened to be present 35 years ago at the creation of “An Act Providing a Medical Definition of Infertility,” the state law that requires health insurers to cover all aspects and diagnosis of infertility, including IVF treatment. Massachusetts was the first state to offer such comprehensive coverage. In 2021, 5.4 percent of babies born in Massachusetts were via IVF treatment compared to the national average of 2.3 percent.

In 1987, I was research director for the Joint Massachusetts Health Care Committee, working for Sen. Edward Burke, a Framingham Democrat who chaired the committee. The senator and I discussed the backlash he was subject to from anti-abortion activists who spread themselves on the floor in the hall outside his office underneath oversized placards of bloody fetuses. A practicing Catholic, Sen. Burke was a reliable pro-choice vote who told me, “I really see myself as pro-family, not the way the people in the hallway paint me. Keep an eye out for legislation I could sponsor that might help there.”

Karen Sweet and Catlin Donnelly, volunteers with RESOLVE, a peer support organization for persons experiencing infertility, pitched the legislation that Sen. Burke would sponsor. They explained that health insurers viewed infertility akin to elective cosmetic surgery, and they wanted to change that. I had a flashback to my own experience with health insurance denying me coverage and I was primed to help.

A decade before, while living in Dallas, I made my first pre-natal appointment. I was working as a community organizer where I was one of few women on staff and the first to need pregnancy coverage. My obstetrician told me that insurance would not cover my pregnancy.

I had assumed that if I had health insurance, then it would cover my prenatal and delivery care. I telephoned the company and was informed that pregnancy is “elective” and therefore not covered except through a separate rider, which was not mentioned in any of the materials provided by the insurance agent when I signed up.

When I said I would like to buy that coverage, I was told I couldn’t, because now my pregnancy was a pre-existing condition. The hospital alerted me that the baby and I would not be discharged unless

the bill was fully paid on a credit card.

During my long labor at Dallas Presbyterian Hospital, I lay exhausted in the delivery room, when I heard my doctor say, “There’s fetal distress. Heart rate dropping. We need to do a c-section.” He sounded alarmed.

“We don’t have insurance,” my then husband blurted out. “Then we’ll wait,” said my doctor.

I was panicked that my baby was in distress, so with the might parents summon to lift cars when their children are pinned underneath, I pushed out my child. I went home within 24 hours so as not to incur costs for a second day. The nurses discouraged breastfeeding and loaded me up with cans of free formula.

Ten years later, while meeting with the RESOLVE representatives at the Massachusetts State House, they did not need to convince me. I suggested they buy Judy Meredith’s “Lobbying on a Shoestring,” which they did, then followed its strategy.

The advent of new technology – mail merge – meant that Bob Sweet was able to send personalized letters to each state senator and representative. “A man who needs back surgery because his golf game may be compromised can get that covered, but a woman who needs fertility treatments in order to have a family has to pay for it herself,” the letters argued.

Sen. Burke championed the bill, calling it pro-life legislation. Constituents spoke passionately about how IVF offered them hope, overcoming the opposition of lobbyists from the health insurance industry and the Catholic Church, many of whose members were already comfortable bypassing the church’s position against any form of contraceptive or birth control. They had reconciled their faith with the need to have some control over the size of their families.

Despite a high percentage of legislators identifying as Catholic, including Senate President William Bulger, the bill moved forward through multiple committee readings and was passed without floor debate in the Senate or House. In October 1987, the legislation landed on Gov. Michael Dukakis’s desk. Only six years after the first IVF baby was born, Massachusetts residents had gained access to this new medical technology through their health insurance. No one could block the dreams of those who wanted to start a family in Massachusetts.

But in Alabama, and in many other states restricting women’s access to reproductive rights through judicial or legislative means, access to IVF has become precarious or shut down. Infertility is a medical condition, and health insurance ought to cover its diagnosis and treatment for everyone.

Meg Campbell is a Dorchester resident.

Traffic signals and turn options could improve the everyday chaos at K-Circle

To the Editor:

The state has queued up planning on two separate but connected projects in Dorchester: Morrissey Boulevard and Kosciuszko Circle. Both require imaginative solutions. Let’s talk about K Circle and the nearby ramps at Columbia Road and I-93.

K Circle is a nightmare for motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists. A critical (but partial) solution is to divert traffic from K Circle to lessen the congestion. One way to do this is to re-institute the left-hand turn directly off east-bound Columbia Road traffic onto 93 north.

The first step should be to calculate the percentage of vehicles travelling east on Columbia Road who must make a U-turn around K Circle to get on I-93 north. Next, the traffic engineers should investigate a traffic signal/lane configuration that would allow for a left turn signal from Columbia Road to I-93 north at the existing traffic signal.

There are three east-bound Columbia Road lanes at this point. The right lane is a dedicated right-turn entry to I-93 south. The middle lane can remain for traffic headed to K Circle, aiming only for South Boston or Morrissey Boulevard, not I-93. The left lane could have a left-turn signal for entry to I-93 north. Alternatively, the left lane could be a combination left-turn to I-93 north and also be used by traffic headed to K Circle. This would depend on how the traffic studies determined the need for accommodating two lanes of traffic going east to K Circle as well as how allowing the mixed left-turn/straight-ahead traffic would affect the west-bound traffic coming from K Circle.

The use of carefully planned traffic signals is the key. The old left-turn directly to I-93 north from Columbia Road east-bound consisted of vehicles simply queuing up in the underpass, which caused a backup that blocked vehicles exiting I-93 south-



Approaching K-Circle from Day Boulevard.

Reporter file photo

bound and attempting to turn left onto Columbia Road east-bound when they had the light. Likely, another reason for prohibiting that turn was the belief that two lanes were required going east to K Circle, and that there was not enough space to create another lane. Both of these assumptions need to be challenged. Are two lanes needed under I-93 toward K Circle? If so, is there not room to create another east-bound lane by eliminating the underutilized pull-over on the right under I-93?

Finally, if the relatively modest changes I suggest are not workable or would not substantially lessen the load on K Circle, could we not boldly plan for a serious re-engineering of the entire I-93-ramps-and-K Circle mess, one that would eliminate the structural pillars dividing the east/west Columbia Road traffic under the expressway to give more space at this intersection?

Above all, we need to think broadly and imaginatively about dealing with traffic in this critical area as Dorchester Bay City is developed.

Christopher Binns
Upham Avenue

The Reporter

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State's Steward meetings should be open to the public

By BARBARA ANTHONY

Recently the Healey administration's Department of Public Health (DPH) announced it was hosting five invitation-only virtual meetings with hospitals, community health centers, and others in communities where Steward hospitals are located. The meetings, as reported in the *Boston Globe*, will "focus on meeting the needs of the patients and providers in our communities." Presumably, the focus will be on continuity of patient care in these communities.

None of the five meetings about Steward will be open to the public or the media.

Both the Massachusetts Hospital Association and the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers appear to be joining DPH in co-sponsoring these virtual community meetings. The *Globe* reported that the "hosts said they are trying to limit the size of the sessions to encourage frank and open discussions."

While even virtual meetings can't accommodate every member of the public, there are technical means to livestream such gatherings so interested and affected residents can at least listen to the proceedings. Given the potentially enormous consequences of the Steward situation on health care across the state, the closed nature of these meetings and the exclusion of media are unfathomable.

Why doesn't state government trust the public to learn about potentially critical events that will affect where and how they receive healthcare. The decision to exclude the public is a poor policy decision and should be revisited.



Carney Hospital President Stan McLaren spoke before the Lower Mills Civic Association on March 21, 2023 in St. Gregory's gymnasium. The Massachusetts Nurses Association is planning a community forum in this same gymnasium on Thurs., April 25 at 6 p.m. to discuss the crisis facing Steward Health Care and Carney.
Bill Forry photo

It is worth noting that there was another invitation-only committee, chaired by high-level state officials, that met during the early days of COVID around nursing home issues. Those meetings were also not open to the public and the media were excluded.

During the meetings, some non-government attendees called on state officials to make nursing homes a top priority as those officials grappled with the pandemic. Nursing homes were not a top

priority early, though that changed once deaths among residents escalated. And because those invitation-only meetings were not public and there were no media reports about them, Massachusetts residents were unaware that such impactful decisions were being made.

While news of the Steward crisis has only become widely known in the past several months, we know that behind the scenes that DPH had been monitoring Steward and trying to obtain financial information for a number of years. Questions remain regarding what state regulators knew about Steward's situation and whether those regulators had the tools to adequately address mounting concerns. What is clear is that the time for secrecy around Steward has long passed and serves no public benefit.

The public at large in cities and towns around the state that are impacted by the threat of Steward hospital closures or sales have a right to know how officials are planning to address continuity of patient care in their communities. Yet the public – which will ultimately experience the fallout from any hospital closures or sales – is not going to be allowed to witness these state-sponsored proceedings.

There is no reason to shield these meetings from public view. Organizers should reverse their decisions and allow the public and the media access to these proceedings.

Barbara Anthony is a senior fellow in healthcare at Pioneer Institute, a Boston-based public policy think tank.

Debunking the myths about organ donations

By MENEN CRAWLE
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

More than 100,000 people in the United States are currently on the national organ transplant waitlist. Patients anxiously await the phone call to inform them that a stranger made a decision to donate and will save their lives through organ donations.



Menen Crawle

However, amid these noble intentions, misconceptions often cloud public perception about such donations. These myths hinder informed decision-making and lead individuals to say "no" to donations based on false information. Combating these widespread inaccuracies and debunking them with facts is critical if we are to build a culture where

the decision to donate is considered a fundamental human responsibility.

April is National Donate Life Month. I am the multicultural community outreach coordinator for one of the nation's largest organ procurement organizations, which recognizes that this as an important time to celebrate and remember the thousands of organ donors across the country and throughout New England who have made so many life-saving transplants possible. During this month, we take special care to build awareness of and educate the community about donations and dispel the falsehoods that can stand in the way of the gift of life.

Myth #1 "Lots of people die every day so there should be plenty of organ donors. I'll let someone else donate."

Fact: The primary reason for the nation's long transplant waitlist is that very few people die in a manner suitable for organ donation. It is estimated that only one percent of all US deaths, and under three percent of all US hospital deaths, meet the stringent medical requirements for potential donors. A potential donor must have suffered a devastating brain injury and been declared dead in a hospital ICU while on mechanical ventilator support. The potential donor must also be free of cancer, infection, and have had good organ function. Because the opportunity to be a donor after death is so rare, it is especially important that as many of us as possible say "yes" to donation.

Myth #2 "If doctors know I am a registered donor, they won't try as hard to save me."

Fact: The reality is that a patient's donation status is never considered by medical professionals when they are trying to save lives. Their focus is on providing the best possible care to a patient. To be considered as donors, brain-injured patients must have received excellent medical intervention in attempts to save their lives. Because patients must be ventilated, stabilized, and in a hospital ICU at the time of death to be considered as donors, any medical professional who does not appropriately treat a patient to the fullest extent possible prior to his or her death would be putting the opportunity for a donation at risk.

Myth #3 "I'm too old or have too many medical problems to be an organ donor."

Fact: Each potential donor is evaluated on a case-by-case basis. When someone dies in a hospital on a ventilator, medical professionals will factor in the overall health of organs, medical history, and the specific needs of the possible transplant recipient. Except for certain cancers, there are no automatic disqualifying health conditions or ages for donation. Individuals with chronic illnesses and those of advanced age routinely become organ donors and save the lives of others.

Myth #4 "Only the rich and famous can get an organ transplant."

Fact: Last year, there were nearly 40,000 transplants in the US resulting from deceased individuals who became donors, the 13th straight record year for donation and transplants in a row. Over 55 percent of those receiving transplants had coverage through public insurance programs and over 50 percent of all transplant recipients were non-white, representing a wide range of diversity, races, and ethnicities.

Looking Up Longfellow Street

Gluten Free in Southie

By ED COOK
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Gluten intolerance is a condition common throughout northern Europe, but especially common in Ireland. Anyone who visits Ireland will notice that every restaurant menu specifically indicates items that contain gluten as a warning to customers. So, it is not surprising that South Boston, long associated with Boston's Irish population, has a restaurant, Capo Restaurant and Supper Club, that features "gluten free Tuesday."

A disastrous illness landed me in the hospital for most of a week a few years ago. The ailment, which was never given a name or diagnosis, caused terrible trauma to my lower gastro-intestinal body parts. It seems to have caused the onset of gluten intolerance for me as a follow-on result. Gluten is protein found in wheat, barley, and rye. People who do not have the affliction of gluten intolerance sometimes dismiss it as a peripheral condition for others, or as "woke" medicine. They do not know that even a tiny amount of gluten can take someone out of action for a day, and that more than a little can cause intestinal pain, diarrhea, and vomiting, sometimes to horrendous degrees.

Socially, alerting dinner hosts to your intolerance can become an extension of your paranoia. Did you know that soy sauce is thickened with wheat flour, as are clam chowder, most commercial soups, some recipes for mashed potatoes, many commercial ice creams, and many other foods that have no apparent need for flour? Accepting a dinner invitation requires asking the host to read every label, buy GF flour, be watchful of every recipe.

To avoid this imposition, to avoid causing a fuss, many times I have not raised my gluten concern and attended dinners where I ate only the salad and side vegetables.

The computerized system that allocates every available organ to the listed transplant patient considers factors such as time waiting on the list, medical urgency, distance from the donor, body, and blood type. The computer does not know how much money patients have, or how famous they might be.

Being well informed of the facts of how donation and transplant occurs is a necessary first step in making the decision to donate life. Unlike other aspects of health care, transplants can only occur when someone says yes to the life-affirming donation question.

It is easy to register your decision to be a donor either through a state driver's license renewal process, the Apple iPhone health app, or at RegisterMe.org. The old saying still holds true, "To the world you may be one person; but to one person you may be the world."

Menen Crawle works at New England Donor Services (NEDS), a leading non-profit organization that coordinates organ and tissue donation across Massachusetts and New England.

At first, the elimination of gluten was a great disruption to my lifestyle and that of my family. An individual does not become gluten paranoid, whole families become gluten paranoid. GF-affected families learn to read every food label and the meaning of "cross contamination." McDonald's french fries fried in the same oil as gluten-coated fish, hash browns cooked on the same grill as gluten pancakes, etc.

For many years before gluten paranoia invaded my life, I made my own bread: whole wheat, Irish soda bread, no-rise bread, baguettes, banana, corn and zucchini breads, etc. Since barley is a main ingredient in beer, this took away a favorite beverage as well. Over the years, a host of gluten free food items have appeared on store shelves: pastas, breads, pastries, etc. There are even some decent gluten-free beers. In addition, many restaurants have begun adding gluten free menu options.

Some restaurants, like Venezia, in Dorchester's Port Norfolk neighborhood, will provide GF pasta in place of regular pasta. Downtown, upscale Davio's has a wide selection of GF-identified menu items on the regular menu. All Legal Seafoods restaurants serve *all* of their fried food gluten free, along with GF bread. Even Dorchester's little Via Cannuccia on Dot Ave. has a selection of menu items identified as gluten free.

But living in Dorchester, it is wonderful to have Capo twenty minutes away on Broadway in Southie for a Gluten Free Night every Tuesday. For those of us who have celiac disease or gluten intolerance their menu is a chance for freedom. Pizza that doesn't have a crust like cardboard! Freshly baked focaccia and garlic bread! GF fried calamari, eggplant parmesan, gnocchi, ten homemade pasta dishes. The whole typical Italian restaurant menu, gluten free guaranteed every Tuesday. For those of us in Dorchester with gluten issues, "Southie is my hometown!"

Landmarks panel challenges Wu on city's 'interference' in its official duties



Rosanne Foley being administered the oath of office in 2015. Mayor's Office photo



Mariama White-Hammond, the city's Chief of Environment, Energy and Open Space, is leaving office on Friday of this week and Brian Swett, who had worked as Boston's climate chief from 2012 to 2015, will succeed her.

We, the undersigned Commissioners, are all residents of the City of Boston with an interest in ensuring that all policies and priorities of the City are advanced appropriately. We do not believe that historic or cultural priorities should take precedence over the City's other priorities, just that historic and cultural resources should be considered in line with applicable law, including the Commission's enabling legislation and Article 85. The Commission's work over the years has helped to save numerous historic resources in many City neighborhoods. The Commission has worked towards preserving Boston's historic resources, one of its greatest values, and creating innovative projects that build on historic resources. The goal of the Commission is to help move projects and development forward while respecting and preserving historic resources.

The Commission asks for cooperation from the City administration in order to fulfill its legislative mandate. We believe that all of the City's goals can be balanced and furthered while respecting laws, rules and regulations, including those that pertain to the Boston Landmarks Commission.

Thank you,

Members of the Boston Landmarks Commission:

Bradford C. Walker
Bradford C. Walker, Chair

Commissioners:

Justine Orlando, Vice-Chair
John Amodeo
David Berarducci
John Freeman
Susan Goganian

Jeffrey Gonyeau
Christopher Hart
Richard Henderson
Jeffrey Heyne
Kirsten Hoffman

Angela Ward Hyatt
Felicia Jacques
Lindsay Mac-Jones
Anne Renehan
Lynn Smiledge

An excerpt from Landmark Commission members' letter to Mayor Wu.

(Continued from page 1) resident, would leave office on April 26 and be replaced by Brian Swett, who had worked as Boston's climate chief from 2012 to 2015.

As to the BLC letter sent to the mayor, it was dated April 9, and signed by chairman Bradford Walker, vice-chairman Justine Orlando and 14 other members, including Dorchester residents Jeffrey Gonyeau and John Amodeo.

"The Commission was created to protect the City's historic resources and advance recognition, understanding and enjoyment of those resources," the three-page missive stated. "We, the undersigned Boston Landmark Commissioners, have observed in recent years a disregard by the City of Boston administration for the Commission's legislative mandate and established procedures and guidelines.

"We are concerned that this disregard may impact the Commission's ability to fulfill its legislatively defined objectives and could create a public impression that the Commission's mandates and processes do not apply equally across all districts and properties."

The letter points to six specific concerns but leads that section with the city's efforts to re-purpose White Stadium for use by the

professional soccer team franchise. The commissioners say they have been presented with half of the \$80 million renovation project's scope, the part proposed by Boston Unity Soccer Partners for the stadium's west grandstand and note that the Wu administration has taken the view that the city's renovations to the east grandstand are not within the "purview" of the BLC.

"The Commission's enabling legislation and established regulations expressly requires Commission approval of all alterations to Boston Landmarks," the members wrote, noting that all changes to Franklin Park, including White Stadium, need BLC approvals under state law. "The Commission is legislatively required to review the entirety of the proposed project and the Commission's enabling legislation prevents ISD from issuing a permit for any project that is a Boston Landmark prior to approval by the Commission," they asserted.

Two other specific cases, including the Hotel Buckminster in the Fenway and City Hall downtown, were also cited in the letter as instances of "interference" from the administration.

In the case of the Buckminster, the commissioners complained that a 2023 petition to designate the Kenmore Square property as a historic landmark was going through the normal review process until someone from the city administration "instructed Commission staff to pull the Hotel Buckminster's designation from the Commission's agenda on July 25, 2023."

The letter said the panelists were not given a reason for the instruction but noted that the "public impression" was that the owner of the property - who has proposed to demolish most of it and redevelop it into a 215-foot lab building - had made the request.

"The City administration lacks the authority to pull any item from the Commission's agenda or insert itself in the Landmark designation process," the members maintain.

The issues with landmarking Boston City Hall also involved administration "interference," the letter asserted, with a study report that was crafted by the landmarks panel. The members indicated the administration had told them to extend the comment period for the study report, which they did out of deference to the administration.

However, things took

a wrong turn when the report was headed for a vote, they said.

"After the extended period of public comment closed, members of the administration directed Landmarks staff to not place the item on an agenda, and to make changes to the report, and wrongly claimed that the process of drafting a study report for City Hall was flawed," the panel group told the mayor in their letter.

"The process with respect to Boston City Hall should not have deviated from the Commission's standard practice," they noted.

Other cases cited include the redesign of the Arborway roadway, adherence to the Article 85 demolition delay legislation, and appointments to the Landmarks Commission itself.

The members closed their communication to the mayor with this comment: "We do not believe that historic or cultural priorities should take precedence over the City's other priorities, just that historic and cultural resources should be considered in line with applicable law, including the Commission's enabling legislation and Article 85."

Wu's office, asked for comment on the letter by the Reporter, said a meeting between Mayor Wu and the chair of the Landmarks Commission was being scheduled.

"The shared work of the City and the Landmarks Commission in preserving and promoting the vibrant history and culture of Boston's neighborhoods is part of what makes the City such a wonderful place for residents and visitors," said a spokesperson for the mayor. "We are reviewing the letter and believe it highlights areas to improve communication

and collaboration."

Alison Frazee, director of the Boston Preservation Alliance (BPA), said her organization received the letter and included it in its weekly newsletter, noting it "very much supports the contents of that letter and the concerns of the Landmarks Commission."

"I think we have had concerns with other administrations in the city that did not prioritize historic preservation," she said. "We are really seeing here unprecedented actions of this administration trying to interfere with existing processes or avoid them altogether and that is troubling."

"We have a lot of concerns about White Stadium and making sure the Landmarks Commission process is followed and adhered to as legally required," she said.

Foley, who previously headed-up the Fields Corner Main Street program, has worked on historic preservation issues in the city since the 1970s and has been a leading voice in Dorchester's arts and culture community for many years. In her Landmarks Commission role, she directed the city's review of permits to demolish or preserve properties in Boston. The commission is also charged with identifying and protecting historic districts and select properties deemed historic by its members. Although it is funded and housed at City Hall, its rules are governed by the state law that authorized its creation in 1975.

Commissioners who signed the letter were not aware of Foley's firing until contacted by the Reporter on Monday.

Reporter executive editor Bill Forry and associate editor Tom Mulvoy contributed to this report.

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Franklin Park 'Defenders' press legal challenge to stadium plan

(Continued from page 1)

"This park is a symbol of what is right about Boston," said Maguire, who was attacked and stabbed by an unknown suspect in 2023 only yards away from the spot where she spoke Tuesday. "We need to keep the things that are right about Boston in place. These trees breathe... This place needs to be kept for all of us forever."

Elisa, who is president of the Garrison-Trotter Neighborhood Association, noted there is a great deal of distrust of the plan because important details have yet to be shared. In the face of that, he said the community is rallying to defend the park as they did when the city abandoned it in the 1980s.

"I'm a member of the defenders of Franklin Park and not just White Stadium, but the whole park because all of Franklin Park is under siege by them because they want to slip all kinds of things here and there from the west to the north to the east side of this park," he said.

"We have the city's word, but we also have 35 years of their willful neglect as well," he said.

Jamaica Plain activist Renee Stacey Welch said she grew up near the park on Montebello Road and continues to find peace and solace there - something she fears will be taken away by the professional sports franchise and, perhaps, other events.

"Today we fight to preserve our lives and our memories we've had here," she said, leading off the press conference and getting a little emotional. "We are not saying we don't want an improved Franklin Park and renovated White Stadium. We do. But not with a for-profit professional soccer team... The city has a long history of leaving our children behind and this is another way



Above: Louis Elisa, a co-founder of the Franklin Park Coalition, said the city has given them their word, but that word isn't worth much after 35 years of willful neglect of Franklin Park and White Stadium.

Right: Dr. Jean Maguire and Karen Mauney-Brodek, president of the ENC, begin a walking tour of Franklin Park and White Stadium on Tuesday.

Seth Daniel photos

of doing that."

Roxbury's Derrick Evans, also a plaintiff in the lawsuit, said they are standing up for schoolchildren, residents, and those who have tried to review the project - including the Boston Landmarks Commission (BLC) whose concerns about White Stadium were made public this week by the Reporter through an letter to the mayor about not following the state laws governing the commission.

"I'm here to stand up against Wu tyranny," he said. "I'm here to stand up for the Boston Landmarks Commission and their director who just on Friday was fired as the director."

ENC President Karen Mauney-Brodek said the next steps in the lawsuit will probably be discovery and fact-finding.

"There still isn't information about whether there are events in addition to the soccer games that would take place and even how profits would be shared," she said. "In the end, though, this case is about self-determination and the community being able to decide what they want."

She added that a key part of the suit revolves around Article 97, which she maintained applies to the project since the beginning of review meetings in January - something the city disagrees with. She also said they believe the city needs to go through state environmental reviews, known as MEPA. She also said she believes a full BLC process needs to be followed. The suit is pending in Suffolk Superior Court's civil division.



Renee Stacy Welch, of Jamaica Plain, said the Franklin Park Defenders will proceed with a lawsuit that seeks to stop the re-development of White Stadium. Seth Daniel photo



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Halina Nguyen practices up to eight hours a week during the spring sports season with BLS and STEC



coaches, while also participating in USTA tournaments on the weekends. She said it's a lot, but the



drive to win is her inner motivation.

Seth Daniel photos

Fields Corner's Halina Nguyen serves up victories on and off the tennis court

(Continued from page 1) plays out on the court, really mad at tennis," she said with a laugh. "I feel a lot of people can relate to being frustrated with how they play, but still really like the sport. With a sport like this, I've devoted so much time to it, it has become part of who I am."

Two of her coaches at STEC, Marton Balla and Harshana Godamanna, have been working with Nguyen since the beginning and she said she is still learning from them daily. Balla said he admires how Halina balances a rigorous academic load at BLS, where her interests are math and science, and a high-level commitment to tennis. He said that balance has formed an intensity that

even during practices.

"Halina can get intense on the court, but she also has a great sense of humor," he said. "It is so much evident when Halina, her two sisters, and their tennis friends practice on their own next to the court that I'm teaching on. They compete hard and they comment on each other even harder. Sometimes it's impossible not to watch the intense rallies or to tune out the funny comments to one another. I hope one day when she thinks back to her teenage years, she'll remember those practices and smile."

Nguyen attended Neighborhood House Charter School until the

fifth grade, then spent a year at the Murphy School before landing at BLS. She said her parents have devoted a great deal of time and money to her tennis pursuits over the years – sometimes driving to United States Tennis Association (USTA) tournaments that are four hours away and staying all day.

"I could be there for hours – sometimes eight or nine hours in a day. It's a lot," she said. "But I still remember the first tournament I won with the USTA playing 'green ball.' I really loved the feeling of winning, and that feeling is still my inner drive to get better and keep winning."

While in spring sports season with BLS, Nguyen

can spend up to eight hours practicing per week for her high school, and then playing in the evening at STEC, and competing at tournaments around the region on the weekends. That devotion has paid off in that BLS has been one of the best teams in Division 1 girls' tennis behind Nguyen the past two years.

Last year, they went undefeated and finished at the top of the state power rankings – only to lose a heartbreaker in the semi-finals of the state tournament. They hope to avenge that loss this year.

Outside of high school competitions, Nguyen was chosen this past December by STEC to play



Halina Nguyen, 16, of Fields Corner, has surged to be one of the best young tennis players in New England, and a top singles star for the top-ranked Boston Latin School (BLS) girls team.

in their second college showcase – where she competed alongside some of the best high school and college players from New England and Washington, D.C., as college coaches looked on. It was a rare opportunity, but one that she took full advantage of, Nguyen said. "I think I played really well in the showcase," she said. "I got a lot of sleep and felt really fresh and energetic. There were so many people watching and so I loved the adrenaline jolt, and it was a thrilling event."

While still too young to be contacted directly by college coaches, she said she got plenty of affirmation when the coaches talked to her parents. "It was very nice to get that kind of attention. It lets me know I'm on the right path to be able to play college tennis," she said.

But of all the opponents she's played over the years, her most worthy adversary has been her father. A recreational

tennis player with a good serve and strong volley, Linh Nguyen said he was the one who helped her hone her game and sharpen her mental focus.

"Every time we played, he would ask me if I thought I could beat him and I said I could, and then he'd beat me and I'd go really crazy," his daughter recalled with a laugh. "I watched him play and he looked so easy to beat but wasn't. I had better technique, but he had so much more experience. It always felt like I was one point away and then he would win, make the loss ten times worse."

Now, when she's on the court and facing down a challenge, she said she thinks of those matches with her father on the courts in Dorchester. "He definitely helped me with my mental game," she noted. "I still get frustrated a lot playing others, but after playing my dad, it can't get much worse."

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Two new MBTA train and bus operators talk about their trips to the driver's seat



Obed Ferdinand of Mattapan is now driving buses on various MBTA routes in the system. "Going through the [training] program ended up giving me more confidence," he says.



Peterson Desir grew up riding the Red Line rails and now he's maneuvering trains through his home neighborhood. "I just shot my shot," Desir told the Reporter. *Cassidy McNeeley photos*

(Continued from page 1) that, unlike the new Orange Line trains, the Red Line is made up of five different car models, all of which he would have to master.

Desire just saw that as another opportunity. "I appreciate that because I feel like it will make me a better motor person and, hopefully, an inspector because of all the trains I have to learn," he said, adding that learning how to drive and maintain five train types proved to be manageable with the leadership of the program's instructors.

"The trainers were amazing," he said. I trained with about six different instructors, and I took a little piece from every single one of them to soak into my repertoire of what I'm going to bring to the Red Line. Every single one was patient, and showed me what I would be facing."

After the weeks of training, when the time came for Desir to make his debut trip out of Ashmont Station, the "first ride jitters" came as expected, the confidence his trainers had instilled in him quickly took over and smoothed his transition from student to driver.

He now works the night shift but has dreams of advancing in his role at the T as an inspector, guard master, and, one day, an instructor.

There are other benefits to taking a job on the T now, he said, including free public transportation, competitive wages, insurance, education benefits, and a signing bonus of up to \$7,500.

Obed Ferdinand is another new T man who was intrigued enough by the recruitment postings to sign on as a trainee.

"The MBTA has a lot of training and the opportunity to grow within," said the 47-year-old Mattapan resident. "Starting off coming in was a little intense because I didn't know what to expect. Going through the program ended up giving me more confidence."

Ferdinand has now been a bus driver for over eight months. Learning how to drive the bus was the easy part, he said. Learning how to deal with the public proved to be much more challenging.

"With the public, you have to be ready for all types of scenarios or any issues that come up," he said. They include working to de-escalate issues that may arise among the riders behind as well as providing assistance to people with various disabilities as they come aboard and exit, ideally after a comfortable ride.

"When I was going through training it was like why do I need to know this? Am I ever going to use this? All that

I'm supposed to be doing is driving a bus," Ferdinand said. But he soon learned that his job was much more than that; he had an integral role in the life of the neighborhood. "A lot of people don't have vehicles but at the same time, we all need to feed our families. Me getting them from point A to point B is helping the community."

His routes differ daily but he enjoys getting to serve all parts of the city. In some neighborhoods, he gets to utilize center lane bus lanes — which the City of Boston and the MBTA plan to implement along a three-mile stretch of Blue Hill Ave. into Mattapan Square.

The plan has been controversial but count Ferdinand among those who favor the idea. "The lane contributes to people getting to their destination a little quicker," he said.

Like Desir, Ferdinand credits his success thus far to the MBTA instructors, saying that they prepared him for just about anything that could happen while he was on the road.

Both men encourage other Bostonians to explore job opportunities on the T. Desir said that the program is for "anyone who's in a state where they don't know what they are doing and want

to find something that's secure and build a career." He added: "There's a certain pride that comes

with knowing that you're the one getting people to and from where they need to go every day."

Those interested in working at the T should visit mbta.com/careers.

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For Dot Pee Wees, a Street Hockey Mayor's Cup

The Dorchester Pee Wee Division (11–12-year-olds) put together a Street Hockey team during vacation week and then went out and won the Mayor's Cup. The team was put together by Nate Robbins and coached by teenager James Linnehan.

The first-round game, which the Dot team won, 9-5, against South Boston, was closer than it read on the scoreboard. In the final, also against Southie, Dorchester came back from 1-0 to dominate, 12-1, and take home the Cup.

All Dot mite teams joined Cup competition

Five teams participated in the annual Street Hockey Mayor's Cup at Garvey Park during school vacation. For many, it was their last Mite-level event, as they move up next year. The Gold team took home the Street Hockey championship in a 3-2 thriller over Hyde Park in a game that was decided in the fourth round of a shootout after regulation and overtime

ended in a tie. Cam Holmes scored the game-winner in the shootout after Goalie Danny Ryan saved all four Hyde Park attempts. Special shoutout to the Lady Chiefs who made it all the way to the semifinals.

The Pee Wee's – Back row, from left: Brendan Pugsley, Colin Byrne, Will Miller, Brady Robbins, Owen Higgins, Johnny Ryan, Matthew Stock, Liam Yandle, Aidan Hartman, and Coach James Linnehan.

In front: Assistants Declan Cellucci, Kyle Ruddy and Connor McBride, player Landon Healy and Assistant Coaches Dylan Noto and Anthony Noto. Not pictured: Noah Flynn, who played both games on Monday.

The Mites – Shown from left: Coach Rob Picariello, Rocco Mullane, Desi McLaughlin, Danny Ryan, Mason McDonagh, Thomas Picariello, Sean Lucas, Colin Flynn, Aidan Hartnett, and Cam Holmes.

Photos courtesy Boston Parks & Recreation



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Maison Rouge LLC	Phoenix Jr Edwin Est	Brown-Phoenix, Denise	31 Alexander St	04/05/24	650,000	
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B T Holland Dev LLC	12 Ashland St LLC		12 Ashland St	04/04/24	2,100,000	
Ayele, Alzar	Estrada, Connie		5 Semont Rd	04/05/24	950,000	
Waggoner, Brandon	Huynh, Hoa	Saenz, Maria S	41 Welles Ave	04/03/24	805,000	
Nogueira, Luis	Saenz, Karen J		139 Fairmount St	04/05/24	910,000	
Carpenter, Lewis G	Su, Xin R		367 Savin Hill Ave	04/01/24	1,230,000	
Juice, Michael	Guilfoyle Julia M Est	Warn, Nancy C	35-37 Magdala St	04/05/24	870,000	
Josephs, David A	Williams, Rov	Williams, Patricia M	24 Wellington Hill St	04/03/24	230,000	
Brooks, Arlen	48 Hosmer LLC		48 Hosmer St #2	04/02/24	385,000	
Cortinas, Abel B	Thayer, Abigail E		98 Pleasant St #1	04/01/24	560,000	
Lakes, Audrey	Magnolia St Rlty Invs LLC		176 Magnolia St #B	04/03/24	232,000	
Palmieri, Valentino	Lakes, Audrey		176 Magnolia St #B	04/03/24	485,000	
Kleinman, Noam	Rooslyakov, Maksim		944 Dorchester Ave #18	04/01/24	590,000	
A Work In Progress LLC	Burton, Lafrancine J		80 Elm Hill Ave	04/01/24	1,250,000	
Harold, Justin	19-23 Clapps St LLC		19-23 Clapp St #7	04/03/24	815,000	
Das, Anuka	29 Edwin St LLC		24 Bradshaw St #4	04/03/24	650,000	
Gonzalez, Brian	Dp Homes LLC		3 Melville Ave #6	04/03/24	700,000	
Cunningham, Sean R	5 Rice St LLC		5 Rice St #4	04/03/24	649,000	
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Casey, Anton	84 Granite Ave LLC		84 Granite Ave #3	04/05/24	635,000	

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Carney crisis prompts Thursday rally, meeting at St. Gregory's

By MICHAEL P. NORTON
STATE HOUSE
NEWS SERVICE

Fearing hospital closures and service reductions, a coalition is planning standouts over the next week at Steward Health Care hospitals in Massachusetts and is calling on elected officials to help secure new hospital owners, saying "failure is not an option."

A rally is planned for Thursday afternoon (April 26) outside of Carney Hospital. Organizers are also planning a "community forum" that same evening at 6:30 p.m. at St. Gregory's auditorium, 2214 Dorchester Ave. in Lower Mills.

According to the Massachusetts Nurses Association (MNA), the "Our Community | Our Hospital" coalition is also

promoting a petition calling for the transition of Steward hospitals to new nonprofit ownership and a commitment to ensure the continuation of care services for 200,000 people in Steward zones. Other rallies are planned outside Steward hospitals in Taunton, Brockton, Methuen, Haverhill, Fall River, and Brighton.

"The loss of any of these facilities will deliver a devastating blow to the entire health care infrastructure in the Commonwealth, particularly to some of the most vulnerable and marginalized patients and families," the petition says. "Patients will be subjected to dangerous delays in care, be forced to travel longer distances for care, and for many, to go without care altogether."

The coalition says it in-

cludes labor, community and faith-based groups, but a complete list of member groups was not immediately available. The MNA has been involved with outreach and the union 1199 SEIU is also listed as a contact on the coalition's website.

State officials have sharply criticized Steward's management and say they are working behind the scenes on contingency plans to safeguard health care. But the coalition, citing an April 30 Steward loan agreement deadline, says that "communities remain in the dark on long-term solutions to protect the future of care across the Commonwealth."

Last week, nearly every member of the Massa-

chusetts Congressional delegation — including Reps. Stephen Lynch and Ayanna Pressley—signed onto a letter sent on April 19 to the heads of Steward Health Care, UnitedHealth Group, and Optum Health casting serious skepticism that Optum's purchase of the floundering Steward's physician network will benefit the Bay State.

A slew of state and federal lawmakers has raised concerns with a potential sale of Stewardship Health to for-profit insurer Optum since it was announced about four weeks ago. But in Friday's letter spearheaded by Rep. Lori Trahan, lawmakers said they are worried that UnitedHealth is seeking to acquire Steward's

physicians to offset lower operating margins at Optum, "potentially compromising the autonomy of physicians who may be pressured to prioritize efficiency over personalized care."

"The absorption of doctor practices is part of a vast, accelerating consolidation of medical care, leaving patients in the hands of a shrinking number of giant companies or hospital groups," the letter, signed by every member of the delegation except U.S. Rep. Richard

Neal of Springfield, said. It later added, "There is also a worry that Optum may direct patients from the expanded physician network to its own urgent care or surgery centers, potentially disregarding what is best for patients."

A Steward spokesperson did not have a response Friday afternoon and Optum's spokespeople did not immediately respond to News Service outreach.

Reporter staff contributed to this report.

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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: Jose M. Zapata Villar, 55 Lawrence Ave., Boston, MA 02121 your answer, if any, on or before 05/20/2024. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.
Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 18, 2024
Stephanie L. Everett, Esquire
Register of Probate
Published: April 25, 2024

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE & FAMILY COURT SUFFOLK PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
24 NEW CHARDON STREET BOSTON, MA 02114
617-788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME
Docket No. SU24C0147CA
IN THE MATTER OF: DOMEL DANIEL FRANCISCO
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Domel Daniel Francisco of Boston, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:
Domel Daniel Francisco
IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Suffolk Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/02/2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.
Date: April 18, 2024
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate
Published: April 25, 2024

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Fields Corner gathering recalls Vietnam's 'Black April'

BY VANESSA LEE
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Traditional Vietnamese music filled a dimly lit room at Dorchester's VietAID Community Center last Saturday as hundreds of people entered the space. Blue waves were cast onto the ceiling while candles flickered at every seat in remembrance of the soldiers who lost their lives during the Vietnam War.

The 1975 Vietnamese Diaspora Commemoration Initiative hosted the event, called the "Intergenerational Cultural Commemoration Event" ('Chương Trình Tưởng Niệm, Liên Thế Hệ'). It featured art performances, visual exhibitions, traditional cuisine, and speeches from elected officials and community leaders.

The gathering paid homage to "Black April," a reference to the fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975, which marked the end of the US involvement in the war. The capture of Saigon by communist forces of North Vietnam triggered a mass migration of Vietnamese people, a large number of whom settled in Dorchester.

The initiative, led by Dorchester-based artist Trần Vũ and mental health clinician Linh-Phuong Vũ, aims to honor the legacies of families affected by the war. They are planning to create a permanent memorial within Boston's Little Saigon district in Fields Corner.

"We want to create a space for Vietnamese



State Rep. Tram Nguyen addressed a packed room at the VietAID Community Center last Saturday as hundreds of people attended a commemorative event marking the anniversary of the fall of Saigon in 1975. Vanessa Lee photos

At right, the attendees included many men and women who fled the communist regime in Vietnam and re-settled in Dorchester.

people where we can respect and honor our journey here, as well as acknowledge how much we have made a name for ourselves in the New England area," Linh said in an interview with the Reporter.

Saturday's event was intergenerational and inclusive, welcoming individuals from different generations and accommodating bilingual attendees.

It started off with a lion dance performance by



young students from the Vovinam Quang Trung, a non-profit martial arts school and training center in Boston. After that event, Vietnamese veterans led the flag salutations for both Vietnamese and American flags, followed by a moment of silence to honor the soldiers who fought in the war. Many lifted candles from their seats, eyes closed in a moment of respect. As the Vietnamese

national anthem began playing, everyone in the room stood up, with many citizens offering salutes to the soldiers.

The finale featured speeches by Trần, Linh, and other notable figures such as Rep. Tram Nguyen (D-Essex), the first Vietnamese American woman to serve in the Massachusetts Legislature. She arrived in the US at age 5.

"It has been 49 years,

almost half a century, since the communists forced many of us out of the country," Nguyen told the crowd. "But they never extinguish our desire for democracy, liberty, and freedom."

Nguyen delivered congratulations to the initiative in recognition of their "dedicated work, bringing together all generations of the Vietnamese diaspora to commemorate the impact and legacies of war."

Other attendees included state Sen. Nick Collins, and City Councillor John FitzGerald.

Tammy Ho, who is partly of Vietnamese descent, attended the event to further explore his cultural heritage and to honor the elders who have played significant roles in his life.

"It's always inspiring to meet experienced people that come from similar roots as mine," he said.

Tran, one of the two chief organizers, said she and Linh aimed to create interactions between different Vietnamese generations, given that the Vietnamese community is "very complex." Kevin Tran, who also spoke at the event, said it is "very difficult for the younger generation to comprehend and sympathize with what our parents went through."

To bridge gaps between the generations, Linh wants to be able to preserve and archive these stories through her initiative. She hopes to honor and hear everyone's collective stories.

"Because then, we can use that to educate," Linh said.

The initiative is organizing a Givebutter campaign. The goal is to raise \$100,000, contributing to a larger budget of \$500,000 for the construction of a permanent memorial in Boston's Little Saigon Cultural District by 2025.

Learn more about the campaign at givebutter.com/1975VietMemorial.

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BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF DORCHESTER



BGCD Partners with Elevate Youth for April Vacation Bird Watching: See details below.



BGCD Hosts New Inclusion Floor Ball Program with MA Special Olympics: See details below.

CONNECT THE DOT:

BGCD Partners with Elevate Youth for April Vacation Bird Watching: During the April School Vacation week, Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester partnered with our friends at Elevate Youth to enjoy a day trip to the Cape to explore the marshes and beaches while also taking some time to bird watch. Elevate Youth's vision is to spark a lifelong love of the outdoors through equitable access and routine immersion in nature as a way to foster agency and lead holistic, healthy lifestyles. Our members enjoyed this special day and are now looking forward to an upcoming fishing trip in May and to Thompsons Island in June. Thanks to our friends at Elevate Youth for making these outings possible and for fostering an appreciation and love of nature and outdoor exploration. For more information on partnerships with BGCD, please contact Mike Joyce at mjoyce@bgcdorchester.org.

FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE:

BGCD Hosts New Inclusion Floor Ball Program with MA Special Olympics: Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester is excited to share highlights from the new Floor Ball program being offered in partnership with Massachusetts Special Olympics and supported by the Boston Police Department's Bureau of Community Engagement.

The Floor Ball program is part of the Martin Richard Challenger Sports program which also includes Soccer, Basketball, Swimming, Rugby and the upcoming Baseball season. Floor ball is being held every other Sunday at 10am.

For more information on BGCD's Inclusion programming or the Martin Richard Challenger Sports program, please contact Erin Ferrara at eferrara@bgcdorchester.org.

DID YOU KNOW:

2024 New England Women's Leadership Awards: 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Keystone Judge Baker Center 5k
May 4

Elevate Youth Fishing Trip
May 11

NEWLA 2024
May 20

*More info: bgcdorchester.org/newla

Alumni Reunion
June 1

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RECENT OBITUARIES

Bertha J. (Pascucci) Glavin
June 28, 1926 ~ April 11, 2024
(age 97)

Bertha (Benedetta) Julia Glavin, 97, beloved wife of the late Martin E. Glavin, died peacefully in her sleep in the early hours of Thursday morning, April 11th, 2024.



Born in June of 1926 at her home on Meeting House Hill in Dorchester, she matriculated from the Mather School, America's first free public school, in its tercentenary year. Mrs. Glavin went on to study at the Jeremiah E. Burke High School and was graduated early at the age of sixteen in 1943 to aid more quickly in the war effort. She served as President of the Mather's Home and School Association and did much to enhance the school, including establishing a needed library. She served as Secretary of the Dorchester Historical Society alongside her husband Martin, who was its President, where they strived to make it a much more welcoming space for the community. They also worked together on Boston's 1976 Bicentennial Committee, which included their meeting Queen Elizabeth II during her visit to Boston. They enjoyed volunteering as tour guides at the Massachusetts State House, and they once served as co-chairpersons for the Dorchester Day Celebration.

Mrs. Glavin's full obituary can be read at Alfred Thomas Funeral Home website; <https://www.alfreddthomas.com>.

The Dorchester Reporter mistakenly misspelled Mrs. Glavin's name in our previous edition, and regrets the error.

Eileen and Dave Murley of Barnstead, NH; Margaret and Frank Schadt of Wilmington, DE; Elaine Conley Pierce and Michael Pierce, of Chestnut Hill; and Jean Conley and Stephen Tripoli, of South Dartmouth. She was predeceased by a niece, Joan Conley, of Woburn, and a nephew, Edward Conley Jr., of Reseda, CA. She is also survived by several grandnieces and nephews.



CURRAN, Rita L. (Skamarakas), 76, originally from Dorchester. Rita was the wife of the late Francis K. Curran; and was the daughter of the late Anthony E. and Rita (Murphy) Skamarakas. She worked at Harley Hospital in Dorchester. She also worked as a secretary for Teradyne Corporation in Boston. She is survived by two brothers, John Skamarakas and his wife Susann of Everett and Edward Skamarakas and his wife Leone; an aunt, Betty Ingram; many nieces, nephews, extended family members, and friends. Rita was the sister of the late Irene DeVivo. Donations in Rita's memory may be sent to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, PO Box 849168, Boston, MA 02284 or via dana-farber.org/gift

HARRINGTON, Veronica J., 90, of Milton, formerly of Dorchester. Sister of Geraldine (Harrington) Brogna and her late brother-in-

LEGAL NOTICE

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

CITATION ON PETITION
FOR FORMAL APPOINTMENT
OF SUCCESSOR
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE
Docket No. SU22P0333EA

ESTATE OF:
GERALD ALSTON, SR.
Date of Death: 11/04/2021

To all interested persons:
A Petition has been filed by: Gail McKenzie of Boston, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree and Order that Gail McKenzie of Boston, MA be appointed as Successor Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

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 **05/24/2024**.

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.

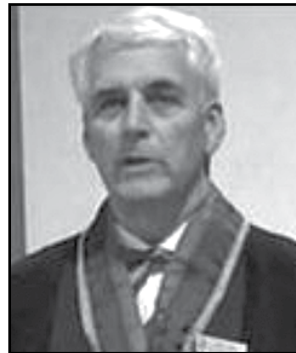
The estate is being administered under formal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but recipients are entitled to notice regarding the administration 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 8, 2024
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate

Published: April 25, 2024



law, Alexander J. Brogna of Milton; and her niece, Helen Brogna of Canton and her partner, Edward Goodwin. She was the daughter of the late Jeremiah, J. Harrington and the late Helen W. Harrington of Milton; and the sister of the late Helen W. Harrington, Jr.



LYNCH, Dean J. of Weymouth, formerly of Milton and Dorchester. Born in Reading to the late James Lynch and Jean (Mullen) Lynch. Dean was a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America. His career included the famed Lock Ober's restaurant where he was Chef, Food and Beverage Director. When he left Lock Ober, he started Schroeder's Restaurant on High Street in Boston which he operated for 16 years. He was also proprietor of Mass Video Partners / Blockbuster Video, L&L Products, and Boston Chicken. He held culinary and management positions at King's Bay Yacht & Country Club, Chez Vendome, The Eden Roc in Miami as well as the Bay Tower Room in Boston. Later on, he worked as an adjunct professor of Culinary Arts at Newbury College. Surviving Dean is his wife Joan of Weymouth, son's Clinton of Stoughton and Jordan

LEGAL NOTICE

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

CITATION ON PETITION
FOR REMOVAL
Docket No. SU22P0333EA
ESTATE OF:
GERALD ALSTON, SR.
Date of Death: 11/04/2021

To all interested persons:
A Petition has been filed by: Gail McKenzie of Boston, MA requesting that Marshall Alston of Boston, MA be removed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate. Also requesting that: Gail McKenzie of Boston, MA be appointed as Successor Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond.

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 **05/24/2024**.

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.

Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.
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Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
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of Quincy. His brother Wayne Lynch and wife Nina of South Carolina, his sisters Sandra and husband Gerbin Swart of Florida and Jill and Thomas Tucker of Andover, MA. He was predeceased by his son Grant Lynch. Expressions of sympathy may be made to MSPCA - Angel, Attn: Donations, 350 South Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02130.

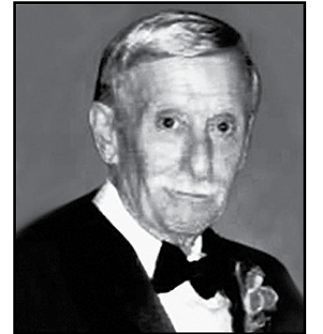


MacDONALD Ruth Carrielle (Cogswell), of Medford, formerly of Dorchester. Wife of the late James B. MacDonald Daughter of the late William R. and Fay Madeline (Bourgios) Cogswell. Mother of Dennis R. MacDonald and his wife Kathy of Thornton, NH, Daniel J. MacDonald and his wife Connie of Stoneham, Cindy Thomas and her husband Joseph of Cape Coral, Florida and Julie MacDonald. Grandmother of 10. Great grandmother of 17. Aunt of many nieces and nephews. Ruth is predeceased by all of her siblings. Ruth leaves her dear friend and, Charlie MacMillan.



McDONOUGH, James J., 81, of Dorchester and Milton. Survived by his wife Celia M. (Connell) McDonough; and their five children and spouses, James W. McDonough (Suzie), Brian P. McDonough (Ann), Brendan P. McDonough (Luisa), Matthew M. McDonough (Tricia) and Anni G. Zukauskas (Thomas). Son of the late James W. and Mildred J. (Rice) McDonough. He was predeceased by his sister, Rita T. McDonough and brother, Robert G. McDonough and survived by his sister, Jean L. Costa and brother, Richard B. McDonough (Joan). Grandfather of 12. Great-grandfather of 1. Also survived by many nieces, nephews and dear friends. A graduate of Northeastern University and Suffolk University Law School, Jim worked in the state legislature and private

practice, before becoming a counselor in the Suffolk County House of Correction. Please consider making a donation in memory of James to Project DEEP, project-deep.org



PALANO, Dominic J., 74, of Easton, originally of Dorchester. He was the husband of Mildred "Millie" (Jarvis) Palano. Son of the late Joseph and Josephine (Spadaro) Palano. US Army veteran. He was the proprietor of Jayro Auto Parts in Whitman. After retiring he took a position with Easton Middle School as a custodian from 2004 to 2011. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, Council 238 of Easton. He is survived by his three children, Joseph A. Palano and his fiancée, Jillian Hobart of Weymouth, Jason J. Palano and his wife, Gina of Cranston, RI and Jennifer C. Wartski of North Caldwell, NJ; seven grandchildren; and a goddaughter. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews. He was the brother of the late Dolores Gibbs and Rose Palano of Easton. Donations in his name may be made to Beacon Hospice, 182 North Main St., Fall River, MA 02720.



WILLIAMS, Mary (Flaherty) of Dorchester, formerly of An Cheathru Rua, Co., Galway, Ireland. Wife of the late Thomas Williams. Mother of Michael Williams and his wife, Pamela of Burlington, Maura Abreu and husband, Peter of Braintree, Kevin Williams BFD and his wife, Maureen of Dorchester and Deirdre Williams of Dorchester. "Grandma" of 8. Sister of Matt Flaherty of England, Helen Conneely of Dorchester, Padraic Flaherty and Delia Garvey, both of Ireland and the late Michael and John Flaherty. Also survived by many nieces, nephews and friends. Donations in Mary's memory may be made to the Irish Pastoral Centre, 540 Gallivan Blvd., Boston, MA 02124 or at ipcboston.com



CONLEY, Marion Louise, 97, of Duxbury, originally from Dorchester. Daughter of the late Patrick J. and Mary (Farrell) Conley, she was the youngest of six siblings and is predeceased

by all of them. She graduated from Boston University's Sargent College at the age of 20 and worked as a gym teacher in West Hartford, CT, for three years before returning to Boston. She was a teacher, referee and coach of girls' sports for many years at Dorchester High School before becoming a guidance counselor there in 1968. She retired from the Boston Public Schools in 1989. She is survived by her five nieces: Mary Colburn and her late husband, John, of Columbia, MD;



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

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