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Carney Hospital's parent Steward files for bankruptcy

Carney workers talk of unpaid bills, delayed care, and anxiety

BY DEBORAH BECKER
WBUR REPORTER

Nearly four months after Steward Health Care's financial problems erupted publicly, casting a cloud over its Massachusetts operations, the company filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protections in Texas on Monday.

In recent weeks, the state had ramped up efforts to prepare for changes at Steward facilities, including Dorchester's Carney Hospital. Some elected officials have questioned whether Steward executives enriched themselves and their investors while neglecting hospitals that serve many elderly and low-income

(Continued on page 4)



Gov. Healey, speaking on Monday. SHNS photo

Dot Ave. facility remains open; pols take a wait-and-see stance

BY REPORTER STAFF
AND STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

The operator of the third largest hospital system in Massachusetts, and one of the state's largest employers, declared bankruptcy early Monday morning. Steward Health Care, which operates eight Bay State hospitals including Dorchester's Carney Hospital, and has been sinking under a pile of debt to vendors and its de facto landlord, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in Texas, seeking the legal protection to restructure its debt while leaving its hospitals open.

The company said it does not expect any interruption to day-to-day operations and that the bankruptcy filing was "a necessary" step. (Continued on page 5)



FLORAL FAREWELL – Outgoing Neighborhood House Charter School Executive Director Kate Scott was showered with kind words and flowers at the Fancy Hat Brunch on April 27. With her are Tanisha Cooper, with the microphone, and Aniko Jones. Story, page 12. Seth Daniel photo

How to renovate, and use wisely, landmark facility in historic park?

BY CHRIS LOVETT
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

In the late 19th century, Boston's largest open space was renamed Franklin Park, after a "founding father" who advanced science by flying a kite in Philadelphia. If Benjamin Franklin can be credited with inspiring the park's spring festival, the name change was, above all, a ploy to help fund the public treasure by tapping his estate.

Over the next two centuries, the mission of the 485-acre "country park" designed by Frederick Law Olmsted would evolve, with some active uses fed by streams of revenue, as with the conversion of a sheep meadow into a golf course. And, just as its namesake found a way to harness electrical current, city officials would seek more outside cash-flows, whether private or philanthropic.

For the construction of White Stadium in 1945



White Stadium in Franklin Park.

Robin Lubbock/WBUR photo

to serve Boston Public Schools (BPS) athletic programs, the city turned to a charity, the George Robert White Fund. Established by White's will in 1919, the fund supports capital projects that "would create works of public utility and beauty for the use and enjoyment" of Boston's inhabitants.

In 2013, when the stadium managed by the BPS was in serious disrepair, John Fish, the head of Suffolk Construction Co., one of Boston's leading contractors, pro-

posed raising \$45 million for renovations. These would have transformed the complex into a year-round venue, with new facilities for sports and tutoring, leased by the White Fund to a new outside manager. Fish even committed \$5 million of his own money.

Less than two years later, the city had a new mayor, Marty Walsh, and Fish had a new mission as a lead organizer with the group making plans to host the 2024 Summer Olympics in Boston. (Continued on page 11)

Dot's 'Emme' Finnigan brings grit to diamond play

BY SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

If there's one thing that has defined Emmerson "Emme" Finnigan's softball career at Fontbonne Academy or one of her many neighborhood teams, it's a consistently dirty, grass-stained uniform, a testament to her gritty style of play in stealing bases or diving to stop a ground ball.



But a case could also be made that the 17-year-old's legacy will be about longevity and hardiness. If all holds through the last few weeks of the season, she will have played from start

At shortstop, Finnigan has been known to get dirty, to dive for every ball, and to frequently make "SportsCenter" highlight-type plays.

Photo courtesy Fontbonne Academy

to finish in all 86 high school games — from her freshman to senior year of play.

"She literally goes for each and every ball," said Fontbonne Head Coach Jacqui Losi, who has overseen Finnigan's development the last three years. "That girl is not afraid to get dirty... She practices like she plays — all out, all the time."

(Continued on page 14)



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Second man arrested in '23 case where five took gunshot wounds

Boston Police have made a second arrest in a 2023 shooting on Stratton Street that left five people with gunshot wounds. Micah Ennis was taken into custody on May 1 by a task force that included Boston and State Police, plus US Marshals. He was arrested on Ellingwood Street in Roxbury, according to BPD. Another 25-year-old man from Dorchester - Gianni Williams - was arrested last October and charged in the same incident, which took place on Sept. 17. All of the victims in that shooting survived.

Transit Police arrested a 27-year-old man last Friday morning at the Ashmont T after an officer asked him to stop smoking in the station. Instead, police say, the man "became hostile, combative and assaulted the officer" - all while packing a steak knife in his waistband. Dorchester Municipal Court records show that Jaylin Irie Smith Thompson, already wanted on other warrants, was charged with assault and battery on a police officer, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, carrying a dangerous weapon and resisting arrest. A judge ordered him sent to Bridgewater State Hospital to determine if he is competent to stand trial. His next court date was scheduled for May 23.

In an unrelated incident at the station on April 26, police say a 51-year-old man was assaulted by a group of five juveniles after he asked them to extinguish their marijuana cigarette. The man was with his six-year-old son at the time of the attack, police say. Detectives with the Transit Police arrested two suspects on May 3. The investigation is "ongoing," police say.

Several Transit officers were needed to break up a "large affray amongst juveniles" at JFK-UMass station on May 1, police say. Four of them were arrested during the melee, including one who, police allege, was wielding a "knife disguised as a pen."

Boston Police arrested a 62-year-old Mattapan man on April 24 after they say they watched him steal two packages from a front porch on River Street. The officers assigned to Area B-3 were on patrol "to address the uptick in package thefts throughout the district," a BPD account says. The suspect - Robin Allen - stopped in his tracks when he saw police approach him, according to the police report. The stolen packages were returned to the rightful owner and Allen "was placed under arrest and charged with larceny from a building, and trespassing. He was arraigned in Dorchester District Court."

In another "package theft" incident, two additional suspects were taken into custody in B-3 on April 30, according to Boston Police, who say the district's "anti-crime unit" spotted the two who are suspect in "a surge of package thefts" in the vicinity of Washington Street and Morse Street. Mark Graham, 57, and Manee Ruiz, 49, will face larceny charges in Dorchester court. Ruiz, police say, was wanted on warrants in Boston and Cambridge.

Carvalho tapped to lead police accountability office

Former state Rep. Evandro Carvalho will serve as the executive director of Boston's Office of Police Accountability and Transparency (OPAT), which oversees the BPD's internal affairs review process and investigates complaints of police misconduct, among other duties.

Carvalho, who lives in Dorchester, is an attorney and former prosecutor who served in the Legislature representing

Dorchester and Roxbury. Most recently, he served as the general counsel for the Supplier Diversity Office of Massachusetts. A graduate of Madison Park Technical Vocational high school, UMass Amherst, and Howard University School of Law, he emigrated to Boston from his native Cape Verde at age 15.

"I want to thank Mayor Michelle Wu for this incredible opportunity to continue to serve the peo-

ple of Boston in this new capacity," said Carvalho. "This office is incredibly important for the future of policing in the City of Boston that is diverse, fair, and treats everyone with respect and dignity."

"I look forward to working with Mayor Wu, BPD Commissioner Michael Cox, other elected officials, community leaders, and the people of Boston to continue the vowed commitment for the Boston Police Department to



Evandro Carvalho New role at BPD

be the best in the nation." Carvalho lives in the Ashmont area with his wife Ashley, their daughters Eliana and Anaya, their son Evandro Jr., and their dog, an energetic boxer named Bruno. -REPORTER STAFF

Mattapan plumbing-supply co-owner faces prison time for falsifying office tax returns

The co-owner of Economy Plumbing and Heating Supply on Morton Street in Mattapan last week admitted that he filed false federal tax returns from the company over four years so he could buy \$10 million worth of gold bars and silver ingots, the US Attorney's office in Boston

announced last Thursday (May 2).

Claudio Poles, 78, of Dorchester, acknowledged his guilt in a plea agreement filed on May 1 in US District Court. Federal officials said the office would recommend a sentence of one year in federal prison, restitution of \$2.96 million

to the IRS, and a fine, at a plea hearing before a judge on May 9. The judge can disregard the recommendation.

According to prosecutors, Poles began diverting money from Economy's accounts and filing bogus personal returns in 2019. According to an "information" filed by prosecutors, Pole left off \$2.8 million in revenue off Economy's tax return for 2021. Between 2019 and 2022,

the government charged, he reported losses on his 1040 forms when, in fact, he was making enough of a profit to buy even more gold and silver.

At the same time, he would use money from Economy's accounts to buy precious metals, writing in the memo lines of the checks that they were for "boilers," "materials" and "p&h supp," according to the charging document.

-REPORTER STAFF



A Hartmann's mountain zebra native to Angola was born at the Franklin Park Zoo on April 24, the first of this species born at the Dorchester facility and the first foal born to Khumalo, 5, and Khomas, 6. He is doing well and is active, weighing 69 pounds. Photo courtesy Zoo New England

May 9, 2024

Boys & Girls Club News 19
Opinion/Editorial/Letters..... 10
Obituaries..... 22
Business Directory..... 16
Days Remaining Until
Mother's Day..... 3
Memorial Day..... 18
Dorchester Day..... 24
Flag Day..... 36
Independence Day..... 56
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The 118th Dorchester Day Parade is set for Sun., June 2, at 1 p.m. (rain or shine) along Dorchester Avenue between Richmond Street and Columbia Road. See dotdayparade.org for more info.
DorchFest, Dorchester's version of "porchfest," returns for the third consecutive year on Sat., June 1, in the Ashmont-Adams neighborhood. See dorchfest.com for schedules and locations.
A pair of public meetings - one virtual, the other in-person - will be held this month to kick-off the Fields Corner 'Streets+Squares' zoning initiative. The virtual meeting is set for Tues., May 14, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. See Page 15 for link. The in-person meeting is Sat., May 18, from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at VietAID, 42 Charles St., Dorchester. RSVP at bit.ly/RSVP-FieldsCorner.
Boston Centers for Youth & Families, the City

of Boston's Public Facilities Department, and the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services will host a community meeting to explore options for the design of a new community center in the Grove Hall section of Dorchester via Zoom on Wed., May 15, at 6 p.m. See Boston.gov/BCYF-Grove-Hall for more info.
The 44th annual Ashmont Hill Yard Sale takes place on Sat., May 18, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Shoppers will find everything from furniture to potted plants, toys to household items, books to collectables, and more - all at clean-out-the-attic/base-ment/carriage house prices. Stroll through the neighborhood to enjoy the Victorian architecture and lush gardens that distinguish this pocket of Dorchester. Participating houses will have maps showing all selling locations. Ashmont Hill is located between Peabody Square/Ashmont Station

and Codman Square. Info: 617-288-6626 or cadmanjoe@aol.com.
The Dorchester Historical Society and DotOUT present David and St. Russell, the "Renovation Husbands," at an in-person event as part of the society's annual meeting on Sun., May 19, at 2 p.m. at Boston Collegiate Charter School, 11 Mayhew St., Dorchester.
DotFest, a community carnival to benefit Dot House Health, will be held on Thurs., May 16, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the DotHouse gymnasium, with honorees Mary Rtuong, Nam Pham, and Jeff Hirsch. Go to DotFest.org to learn more.
Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll will deliver the keynote address at UMass Boston's 56th commencement ceremony on Thurs., May 23, on the UMass Boston Campus Center Lawn. Degrees will be conferred on approximately 3,757 undergraduates,

graduate, and doctoral students in the Class of 2024. For more information on commencement, see umb.edu/commencement.
Haitian Heritage will be celebrated this month with several events, including the annual Unity Parade on Blue Hill Avenue from Mattapan Square to Franklin Field, set for Sun., May 19, at 1 p.m. A flag raising and breakfast, hosted by Council President Ruthzee Louijeune, will be held on City Hall Plaza on May 17 at 10 a.m. And Haitian Americans United, Inc. will host a groundbreaking ceremony on Mon., May 20, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the future home of the Toussaint Louverture Cultural Center at Lovejoy Wharf next to North Station in Boston. See hauinc.org for more info.

SEND IN EVENT NOTICES TO NEWSEDITOR@DOTNEWS.COM

New South Boston Center honors late BHA chief McGonagle

By **CASSIDY MCNEELEY**
REPORTER STAFF

Congressman Stephen F. Lynch held a press conference on Monday at the Mary Ellen McCormack Housing Development to announce \$850,000 in federal funding that he had secured to establish the William “Billy” McGonagle Community Center as part of a new YMCA facility in South Boston.

The center will part of a new 17,500-square-foot facility on the site of a defunct boiler plant in the McCormack complex. The new federal funding is in addition to a \$1.75 million grant that Lynch secured in 2022. Construction is expected to start later this year.

McGonagle, who grew up in the McCormack development, went on to lead the city’s Boston Housing Authority (BHA), which owns and manages the housing development, which is also called “Old Harbor.” He died in 2019 at age 67 shortly after his retirement from city government but remains a revered figure to friends and former colleagues.

“Billy was affiliated with BHA for 92 percent of his life, whether he lived here or worked here,” said his wife Ellen, who spoke at Monday’s



A rendering shows the McGonagle Community Center facility in the foreground of a re-developed Mary Ellen McCormack housing complex. Image courtesy Dongik Lee. Below: William “Billy” McGonagle. WBUR image

event. “I took the kid out of the project and then he worked his way all the way to administrator.”

McGonagle started his career with the BHA as a junior groundskeeper and was appointed its administrator in 2009 by former mayor Thomas M. Menino. From his first day to his last, McGonagle was determined to improve public housing, Ellen said. Most notably, he was a key player in the desegregation of projects in South Boston and Charlestown. The community center built in his



name will further what he hoped his legacy would be – one of inclusion.

“This new YMCA will help enrich the lives of neighborhood children and families,” said

Lynch. “It will create a safe space for residents and promote training and educational opportunities for them as well. It also is entirely fitting and reassuring that this new facility will forever be associated with our friend Billy McGonagle to honor his memory and the wonderful work he did throughout his life.”

Lynch, who knew McGonagle as a kid, also grew up in public housing. Without it, he said, his family would have been homeless. Today, the BHA has more than

42,000 families on its waiting list.

“We have over 180,000 families statewide all in the same situation my family was in: waiting, hoping,” said the congressman. “They call it housing insecure, but you’re worried about being homeless. It’s a desperate situation. Knowing this federal money and eventually this larger project will go to addressing that need is heartwarming to me and I want to thank everyone who is part of this.”

Lynch also thanked a tenant task force led by Carol Sullivan for driving the effort to establish the center that will bear McGonagle’s name. “This was a request that came from the people who live here,” he said, “to their elected leaders to the state representative and the senator, to the city councillor, to the mayor, to the governor. And then it came up to Washington, D.C.”

Sullivan added: “This is a very exciting day for the tenants. What the YMCA is going to bring here for our tenants is outstanding. It’s going to be state-of-the-art, something we have never seen before.”

David Shapiro, CEO of Greater Boston YMCA, said the new communi-

ty center would be like “a new town square, a hub for the community, a world-class asset that everyone here deserves. “That’s game changing,” he said.

The McCormack development dates back to the late 1930s. It’s named for the mother of one of Lynch’s predecessors in Congress, the late Speaker of the US House John W. McCormack.

WinnCompanies CEO Gilbert Winn called Lynch the “godfather” of the development. “Real estate development and community development are getting more complex, expensive, and harder,” said Winn. “The federal support that the congressman brings will be the chief reason this succeeds. But it can’t be done alone. It can’t be done just with the private sector and the federal government. The state support has been excellent, and the city support has been unbelievable.”

“On behalf of families living in public housing, I’m so happy that the McGonagle family could have a part in this,” said Lynch. “They watched firsthand the incredible impact Billy had on everyone in need of public housing and that need is certainly more important today than ever.”

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Carney workers talk of unpaid bills, delayed care, and anxiety

(Continued from page 1)

patients. Steward executives deny this.

Yet some long-time Steward workers say the company's challenges have been evident for years. Many of its Massachusetts hospitals have experienced staff reductions over the past two years, according to state data. Interviews with several current employees — and complaints filed with the state Department of Public Health — paint a picture of flagging investment in facilities, administrative dysfunction and, in one case, an alleged rat infestation.

Dallas-based Steward continues to employ more than 16,000 people across its Massachusetts facilities, according to unions representing Steward workers, who say they are providing medical care amid a fog of uncertainty about the future. Some employees say they are doing their best despite challenging circumstances, hoping new operators will take over — and soon.

'Rat and fly problems'

At Carney Hospital in Dorchester, an anonymous staff member filed a complaint last August alleging problems such as “unpaid bills, unavailability of supplies, surgical cancellations and rat and fly problems.” It was among 11 complaints about Carney filed with the state over the past year, which WBUR obtained through a public records request.

Carney is one of seven active hospitals in eastern Massachusetts operated by Steward, one of the nation's largest private, for-profit hospital networks. (An eighth facility, Norwood Hospital, closed because of flooding in 2020. The company recently shuttered New England Sinai Hospital in Stoughton.)

Most of Steward's Massachusetts patients are covered by Medicaid or Medicare, the government insurance programs that serve mainly low-income, elderly, or disabled patients. The company has said low reimbursement rates for these programs are a big reason behind its financial difficulties. There are other hospitals that serve similar patient populations, but none appear to be in as dire straits as Steward.

The anonymous employee at Carney was not the only one to mention rats. A complaint the same month from the Massachusetts Nurses Association, the union representing Steward nurses, also reported an alleged rodent infestation at the facility, which operated 91 inpatient beds and provided inpatient and outpatient services for some 10,000 patients last year, according to the state's Center for Health Information and Analysis.

State records indicate both complaints were “reviewed and filed.” State health officials said the local board of health completed an investigation. The nurses' union said the hospital brought in exterminators and the issue was resolved.

Another complaint, also filed in August, said a patient attending a routine medical appointment at Carney slipped on a hospital floor and was transported to another hospital, where the patient died. State health officials said that complaint was referred to the hospital's accrediting organization, The Joint Commission, for further review and investigation.

It remains unclear what led to the patient's fall. In a separate incident

in 2021, a state investigation found understaffing at Carney Hospital's emergency room and a lack of employee training contributed to a patient death, according to *The Wall Street Journal*. At the time, the hospital said it hired more staff and fixed the problems highlighted by the probe.

Steward declined to comment for this story. Carney hospital administrators did not respond to efforts to contact them.

From nuns to private equity

Carney was once a very different hospital from what it is today, according to Carl Odom, a cardiopulmonary technician who has worked there for more than four decades. It was founded in 1863 as a Catholic hospital and remained true to its origins for much of its history. Odom remembers when the hospital was run by nuns of the Daughters of Charity order.

“They might have been wearing habits and things, but they should have been wearing Brooks Brothers suits,” Odom said. “They were sharp.”

But a changing health care industry required them to adapt. By 2010, Carney had become part of Caritas Christi Health Care, a Catholic hospital chain. It had accumulated debt, developed a significant pension shortfall, and needed millions of dollars in renovations. Steward stepped in.

Steward was created when the private equity firm Cerberus Capital Management acquired Caritas Christi. The deal came with high hopes. Led by former cardiac surgeon and Caritas Christi CEO Ralph de la Torre, Steward leaders had ambitions to strengthen the chain's six hospitals, provide quality health care in underserved communities, and save thousands of unfunded pensions for former Caritas workers.

“They were our only rescue,” Odom said.

At first, Odom remembers an infusion of money and an agreement to unionize workers with the Service Employees International Union 1199.

“Initially it was very good,” Odom said. “The people [Steward] brought in to support us, the hospitals, we could call them and even the vice president would be here.”

But after just a few years, Odom, who is a union steward, said the atmosphere began to change. It became more “corporate,” with more pushback from management during contract negotiations. The hospital's workforce was reduced, he said, and large equipment purchases were delayed. Odom said clinicians felt pressure to see more patients.

In 2016, Steward reached a deal to sell its hospital real estate to Medical Properties Trust, a real estate investment firm. Steward rented back the facilities and the deal paved the way for a massive expansion into other states. The company soon moved its headquarters from Massachusetts to Texas.

After that, Odom said he noticed more concerning signs. When he tried to get supplies for his lab, long-time vendors had stopped extending lines of credit. “People started saying they couldn't get supplies anymore because there was a credit hold,” Odom said. “So, we had to find new vendors — maybe

small companies who couldn't give us a full order but would at least give us some supplies.

“After a few months though, even the little companies would say no.”

Despite this, Odom said he never witnessed anything that posed a risk to patients.

Another hospital, similar concerns

North of Boston, at another Steward hospital, employees described a similar pattern of early investment followed by years of declines.

Holy Family operates 262 beds at facilities in Methuen and Haverhill. The hospital provides inpatient and outpatient services to nearly 200,000 people a year, according to the state Center for Health Information and Analysis. It offers cancer care and psychiatric beds, among other care, and its emergency rooms are always busy, according to people who work there.

When Steward first took over more than a decade ago, there were improvements, some employees said. Steward merged the two facilities, which had been separate hospitals, and appeared committed to building up the hospital, the employees said. But after a few years, doctors described an increasingly complex corporate chain of command that appeared focused elsewhere.

“I would say that years ago, you began to see the shift in priorities,” said Dr. Paula Muto, a general and vascular surgeon in North Andover who is affiliated with Holy Family. “It started off with money coming into Holy Family and we were building and building, and then [Steward] got bigger and bigger buying up more practices and expanding across the country.”

By December of last year, Dr. Vartan Yeghiazarians, president of the medical staff at Holy Family Hospital, said serious problems were evident: Vendors weren't being paid, and equipment became harder to get, causing medical procedures to be delayed or cancelled.

“I think that's when we started noticing that things were really off,” Yeghiazarians said.

When Steward publicly acknowledged its financial problems in January, Yeghiazarians reached out to other doctors to discuss the hospital's future. “We have a big medical staff, about 50 doctors,” Yeghiazarians said. “So they all showed up for a meeting at my house.”

The doctors now meet regularly, in-person and online. They call their group Merrimack Valley Community Doctors. They've met with local, state, and federal officials about what might happen at Holy Family, as state officials repeatedly call for Steward to leave the state. They've also been in touch with colleagues at nearby Lawrence General Hospital, to prepare for any potential loss of health care services.

“I think our collaboration shows our dedication to the community and the patients,” Yeghiazarians said. “I believe that with a new model, whatever that may be, I think things will change very quickly, swiftly and for the better. We're going to be in a much better place six months from today.”

'Like the captain on the Titanic'

A significant concern for Steward

Hospitals now is retaining staff and patients. Some workers have left Holy Family because of the uncertainty surrounding Steward's future, according to Yeghiazarians, and patients are worried, too.

“A lot of people in the community were reading about what was happening, and they were not happy,” Yeghiazarians said. “They started migrating out and went other places for their care. So, we're going to have to regain the trust of patients.”

Yeghiazarians said he's confident the hospital will navigate these headwinds because of its long history in the community.

At Carney Hospital, the last few months have also been difficult. Like many health care facilities, Odom said Carney has a shortage of workers. And the news of Steward's financial problems may be making patients reluctant to come. In recent weeks, several non-Steward hospital leaders have publicly reported increased patient numbers which they attribute to some people choosing to avoid Steward facilities.

In February, monitors from the state Department of Public Health began visiting Steward hospitals daily. Odom said conditions have improved as a result, but staff morale remains low. Odom described staff members as “numb,” but hopeful the state, or another operator, can keep the hospital open.

“This is a lower income community and are you going to take away another thing that the community needs like health care?” Odom asked. “People already wait months to see a doctor, and it's only going to get worse if you take away this place.”

A coalition of labor groups, health care leaders, and officials has held rallies and meetings at several Steward facilities this month urging elected officials to keep the hospitals operating. The group created a petition calling for the transition of Steward hospitals to new nonprofit ownership. Gov. Healey has urged Steward to make an orderly transition from Massachusetts.

Muto, from Holy Family, thinks Steward should leave the state soon. She described a hospital executive at a recent staff meeting as sounding “like the captain on the Titanic telling passengers to remain in their cabins until it's their turn to get on a lifeboat.”

Muto said Steward's problems show how the nation's health care system needs to evolve. She said the role of hospitals has changed with more outpatient treatments, and health care costs increasingly shifting onto patients through high insurance deductibles. She also worries there are few guardrails on for-profit investment in health care, such as private equity firms whose clients include pension funds and retirement accounts.

“It's not just about fixing Holy Family,” Muto said. “We have to genuinely look at our system, honestly and say, ‘How can we make this better?’”

This article was first published by WBUR on April 30. The Reporter and WBUR share content through a media partnership.

Owners of Meetinghouse Hill three-family win OK to expand it

BY REPORTER STAFF

The Zoning Board of Appeal on Tuesday approved plans to expand a 3-family house at 16 High St. on Meetinghouse Hill to nine units, following a hearing that turned into a mini-debate about the future of Dorchester's other residential hills - Jones, Popes and Savin.

The building's owners - Hongan, Inc., a group of investors from Canton and Dorchester - agreed to designate one of the units as affordable, with it going to a family making no more than 70 percent of the Boston-area median income, their attorney, Ryan Spitz, said.

Jim Milke of the Meetinghouse Hill Civic Association tore into the proposal,

saying the Dot Block project and other nearby projects are bringing several hundred new apartments and condos to the area - and that, already, owners of the new buildings are having trouble finding people to actually move into the new units.

Milke said that Meetinghouse, Jones, Savin and Popes hills are all “family friendly” areas, that the “value of these hills adds value to the rest of Dorchester” and that the apartments would help to erode that fundamental nature on Meetinghouse Hill.

He added the rear of the building “looks like it came out of a Home Depot design supply store.”

Meetinghouse Hill resident Cait Davison raised the issue of gentrification, arguing that the building would further increase property values - and home insurance rates - that would help drive out the hill's Black and Brown residents. Davison said she worries Meetinghouse Hill is becoming “no longer affordable to the Black and Brown families who proudly live there.”

Two zoning-board members took the residents' critiques to heart, if not enough to vote against the project.

Board member Hansy Better Barraza said the project's required variances - which included height, number of parking spaces and overall size com-

pared to its lot dimensions - were not by themselves onerous given the lot's relatively large size of 11,500 square feet. But she said the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services should begin working with Meetinghouse Hill residents on their concerns, in particular the issues of gentrification raised by Davison.

Board member David Aiken said a project to go from three to nine units wasn't enough to block the variances it needed, but acknowledged the residents had raised global, citywide issues that need addressing.

Dot Ave. facility remains open; pols take a wait-and-see stance

(Continued from page 1)

sary measure to allow the Company to continue to provide necessary care to its patients in their communities without disruption.”

Gov. Maura Healey stressed that care will continue at the Steward hospitals throughout the bankruptcy proceedings, and that the action brings Steward one step closer to getting out of the state — as Healey has repeatedly called on the company to leave Massachusetts.

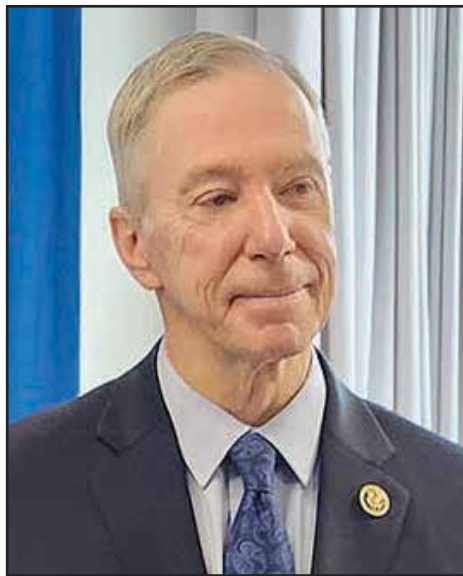
“The hospitals that were open yesterday remain open today,” Health and Human Services Secretary Kate Walsh said. “The providers who were employed yesterday remain employed today and the community care that you could access yesterday, you can access today. Today’s bankruptcy filing does not change that. What bankruptcy does mean is that a federal court in Texas will be working with Steward creditors, our legal representation and others to address their financial challenges.”

State government will also send legal counsel to represent the Bay State’s interests in the Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings in Texas, Walsh said.

In the hours since the bankruptcy filing was announced in a middle-of-the-night press release, the state launched a website (mass.gov/stewardresources) with resources about the situation and set up a hotline for concerned patients and health care providers. The hotline is 617-468-2189 (local) or 833-305-2070 (toll-free).

Healey repeatedly called for patients to continue their appointments at Steward hospitals.

“We want people to hear from the Department of Public Health that it is safe to get care at Steward facilities, the facilities are open,” said DPH Commissioner Robbie Goldstein. “If you’re having chest pain, if you’re a pregnant



US Rep Stephen Lynch: “I’m especially concerned about Norwood Hospital.”

person about to deliver, please go to the hospital that’s closest to you, the hospital that’s in your community.”

State officials are also working to review the proposed sale of Steward’s physician network to for-profit OptumCare. The proposed deal is to sell Stewardship Health Inc., the parent of Stewardship Health Medical Group Inc., which employs primary care physicians and other clinicians across nine states, to OptumCare, a subsidiary of UnitedHealth Group.

The state’s Health Policy Commission (HPC) said in late March that once all required information has been provided about the sale, the HPC will have 30 days to assess potential impacts of the transaction. Steward’s CEO Ralph de la Torre said the delay in that deal with OptumCare is one of the reasons for their bankruptcy filing.

The News Service asked Gov. Healey about Steward blaming their bankrupt-



US Rep Ayanna Pressley calls Steward bankruptcy “a damning indictment.”

cy in part on the delay of the Optum deal.

“You know, one of the good things about bankruptcy is that Steward and its CEO and its management team will no longer be able to lie,” she said. “Transparency is really important here, and that’s why we look forward to seeing what is in the various documents that will be before the court, because we need transparency. We need clarity about debts and liabilities as we assess opportunities and restructuring as we go forward.”

Congressman Stephen F. Lynch told The Reporter he is closely monitoring the latest moves by Steward.

“I have four of the Steward Health Care hospitals in my district,” said Lynch, who represents the 8th district of Massachusetts. “I’m especially concerned about Norwood Hospital, which is under construction and not quite finished yet. There are also five

other hospitals across the state that they own. It’s a huge number of beds within the state so that would affect all those communities as well.”

When asked about the Carney in particular, Lynch said that “all of these hospitals are in the same boat, unfortunately.”

“Once you claim that bankruptcy, it sort of gives you some breathing space to try to figure things out,” Lynch told the Reporter. “At the end of the day, though, I’m not so sure there are enough assets there to satisfy all of the creditors. That’s problematic.”


He added: “We’ll have to wait and see how this proceeds. It might give us the ability to force some consolidation and mergers between healthy hospitals and the hospitals currently held by Steward Health Care but it’s too early to say.”

In a statement issued Monday, US Sen. Elizabeth Warren blamed the Steward meltdown on “private equity vultures looting our health care system.

“After years of disastrous decisions, CEO Ralph de la Torre should be fired, along with Steward’s entire executive team,” she said. “Regulators need to seek all possible means to claw back the riches sucked out of these hospitals. No matter where they try to shift the blame, Steward executives are responsible for this crisis.”

Rep. Ayanna Pressley said Steward “has failed the tens of thousands of patients and workers” and called the filing for bankruptcy “another damning indictment of our for-profit healthcare system in America.”

“This is a public health crisis for our communities—especially for the vulnerable patients who receive their care at Carney Hospital... and we must do everything we can to keep Steward hospitals open and care accessible,” Pressley said.



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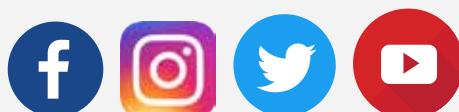
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Bike lanes, timing discussed at third Morrissey Commission hearing

By TAYLOR BROKESH
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

A range of options for re-designing the Morrissey Boulevard corridor were presented at a public meeting of the Morrissey Boulevard Commission last Thursday night (May 2) at Boston College High School in front of a crowd of roughly 70 people, with another 50 participating virtually.

The Morrissey Commission was formed by state law last year to devise a plan to rehabilitate Morrissey Boulevard and Kosciuszko Circle that emphasizes climate resilience and safety for all users while fostering a stronger sense of community. The plans were split into three zones: the north zone, from South Boston's Preble Circle to Bianculli Boulevard at the entrance to UMass Boston; the central zone, from Bianculli Boulevard to Freeport Street; and the south zone, from Freeport Street to Neponset Circle.

The major focus of the central zone is to improve flood resistance, while other infrastructure improvements are the focus of the north and south zones. Some of those changes revolved include re-configured intersections to better handle traffic patterns



The third Morrissey Commission meeting on May 2 debated potential options for the redesigned Morrissey Boulevard corridor at Boston College High School. Taylor Brokesh photo

and, notably, reducing the roadway's existing three lanes to two to accommodate bike lanes, or even center bus lanes in certain sections of the roadway. For the central zone, potential options include adding a tide gate, raising the road by at least six feet, and creating a sloped natural berm to serve as a flood wall, though how high that may be has not been discussed.

Mayor Wu, who has appointed serving on the commission, including Arthur Jemison, director of the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA), has called on state officials to make sure Kosciuszko Circle is included in the commission's scope. In a section of Thursday's presentation, the circle was discussed briefly, with MassDOT officials

noting that a separate project is underway to study the rotary and related I-93 exchanges. In a slide shown at the meeting, MassDOT said it is "targeting Fall of 2024 to present the deficiencies and potential concepts for the public to offer opinion."

Jake Wachman, state Sen. Nick Collins' designee on the commission and chair of the Columbia-Savin Hill Civic Association's government affairs committee, made a motion to "extend the commission for an indefinite period of time" after the presentation concluded and commissioners were able to give their thoughts.

"We've got to have the time to get this right," Wachman said. "I feel like MassDOT's usual way of doing things is running up against the

law and the reason why this commission was created."

Wachman's motion, seconded by former city councillor Frank Baker, was not officially adopted, but most commissioners in attendance seemed to agree that more time would be necessary to finalize granular plans.

State Rep. Dan Hunt, a member of the commission as well, urged the audience to keep in mind the legislation that created the commission. "I think we're getting a little bit ahead of ourselves as far as the rules that exist within our use," he said. "I believe that the secretary [of Transportation] is committed to a fourth meeting, and that, if needed, Sen. Collins and I, along with [Rep.] David Biele, who created this legislation, could simply extend it out."

The legislation directed the commission to complete its work by June 2024, a deadline that the group itself highlighted in its first meeting last November.

There were other concerns raised by commissioners besides the timeline. City Councillor John FitzGerald voiced his reservations about the removal of a third vehicular lane in each direction to accommodate dedicated bike lanes. Instead, he suggested the bike lanes be situated on top of the natural berm area. Earlier attempts to re-engineer Morrissey Boulevard, including an earlier public process led by the Dept. of Conservation and Recreation, were stalled to inaction in 2017, in large part because of disagreements over the travel lane issue.

Jemison, the BPDA director, suggested that work begin as soon as possible on the smaller-scale aspects of the project so that some of the current-day problems along the corridor could be alleviated.

Some attendees raised concerns about specific elements of the emerging plan, while others questioned the necessity of bike lanes and more family-friendly natural areas if, as one community

member put it, "families can't even afford to live here."

Don Walsh of the Columbia-Savin Hill Civic Association stressed the importance of considering the impact of an estimated 10,000 new housing units that are expected to be added to the corridor and nearby neighborhoods—and how that will impact traffic flows.

By the meeting's end, much remained unclear, including when the next meeting would be held. The commission originally set forth a plan to hold four public meetings prior to the June deadline. Councillor FitzGerald advocated for a "meeting 3.5" to be held, perhaps on a smaller scale among local civic associations and members of the commission, but nothing has yet been announced.

MassDOT also proposed several methods of "City of Boston Public Engagement" to discuss the project details further, including community walks, chats with planners, and in-person and virtual office hours.

Further information about the project and future events related to the commission can be found at mass.gov/k-circle-morrissey-study.



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Maximizing Your Branch Experience



In a world of online tools that let you make banking transactions with the touch of a button, the idea of visiting a branch might seem unnecessary.

However, if you haven't visited your local branch recently, you might be surprised by what it has to offer. Your branch is much more than a place to deposit and withdraw money – it can offer the opportunity to build valuable relationships with people who can help you achieve financial independence.

Diedra Porché, Head of Community and Business Development at Chase, talks about how the bank model has evolved to maximize the branch experience for customers; how connecting with your local branch team can help you think differently about money and investing for your future.

Q: How can a customer feel connected to a bank branch?

I love that question because we ask ourselves the same thing every day. Being part of the community means meeting with local leaders to find out what they need from us and then designing our branches around that. For example, at some of our community branches we have what we call a living room where



we can host financial workshops, small business pop-up shops or nonprofit organization meetings. We also hire locally. You feel much more connected talking about financial aspirations with people from your community who went to the same high school, place of worship or maybe frequented the same recreation center down the street when they grew up.

Q: How can I build a relationship with my bank?

Customers should feel comfortable sharing their goals, needs and wants with their banker. Also, it helps to remember the Community Manager is there to help solve

your finance challenges and build a roadmap for success. You might have a short-term or long-term goal to open a business, build your credit, become debt-free, buy a home, or save for retirement, and our community team can help. At Chase, we strive to make dreams possible for everyone, everywhere, every day. Your financial future starts with building those relationships.

Q: How can customers change negative perceptions they have about managing their money?

Far too often, customers are intimidated when they visit a bank. Our goal is to demystify banking and money myths empowering people to make the right decisions. For example, a big myth is assuming you need a lot of money to have a bank account. You don't! Another myth is you need to carry a balance on your credit card to build credit -- actively using your credit card can demonstrate that you can use credit responsibly, but carrying a balance won't necessarily improve your credit score. Finally, having an understanding of mobile and online banking safety is key. There are so many safeguards and protections in place to guard your personal information and funds.

Q: What's an easy step one can take to shift their financial behavior right now?

Cultivating self-awareness is a good first step. Start by tak-

ing inventory of your spending. Be honest with yourself about what you need and what you want. Too often, people confuse the two, which leads to bad decisions. Rent is something you need to pay. An extra pair of shoes is something you may want but before you buy them ask yourself if that's the best use of your hard earned money. Too often, our beliefs and our fears shape our financial realities. If any of those beliefs are limiting your financial behavior, it's important to question and examine them, and then decide you're open to learning something different.

Q: What's one perception about banking that you'd like to change?

I think folks are surprised there are so many resources available and accessible both at our branches and online, it's always a good idea to visit a nearby branch and speak to a Community Manager or banker. Outside of what we offer in-branch, our teams also work with local neighborhood partners who provide a variety of services to support the community, businesses and residents. I had a unique piece of feedback from an employee who started with the bank and had lived in the same community his whole life. When he visited his local community branch, he said, "Diedra, when I walked in, I felt dignified." Every time I recount that story, it warms my heart because that's what we want -- we want our centers to belong to the community.

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

'Parties from Above' brings day of happiness for kids hit by loss

BY SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

Last Saturday morning at a function hall on Blue Hill Avenue, Shiaka McIntosh dove into a pile of blue balloons that stretched from the floor to the ceiling and retrieved a cluster to be placed around the hall.

The balloons and 'Bluey' cartoon party supplies were part of a huge celebration for Kingston, a young boy turning two whose mother was lost to gun violence last year, and whom McIntosh chose for her 'Parties from Above.'

"Kingston is my godson, my sister's baby, and my sister passed two years ago due to gun violence when she was 23. Kingston was only five months old," said Bria Reid, who takes care of her nephew.

"Shiaka has been amazing. I didn't know how I would do everything for Kingston to have a great birthday, but she came out of nowhere and blessed us. She's been an angel to this family."

McIntosh isn't a professional party planner. She is a certified nursing assistant (CNA) who loves putting together celebrations in her off-hours. "Parties from Above" came from her experiences in 2016 when her son's father, community leader Marcus Anthony Hall,



Kaira during her "Party from Above" last December at the 1102 Blue Hill Ave. function hall – a Care Bear party for her 11th birthday.

Photo courtesy Mahogany Payne

was murdered in a Mattapan barber shop while their son, then 4, was getting a haircut.

McIntosh said she understands the pain kids feel after losing parents to gun violence, drug overdoses, or medical illnesses.

Marcus "would always rush around to get the cake and



Shiaka McIntosh and Cleon Byron decorating the hall last Saturday morning for a 'Bluey' party hosted for Kingston – a young boy turning two who lost his mother to gun violence when he was only five months old.

make sure everything was just right, but it changed after he was killed," she said. "Now my kids' birthdays are fun, but it's not the same. There's no more of him helping. I know what it feels like for my kids and I want to help these other families with that. Birthdays are always a reminder of, 'I wish my mom or dad were there.'"

McIntosh has done 20 parties in the last six months. Some have been in private homes, but more recently she has been hosting events at the new function hall and community

center at 1102 Blue Hill Ave., owned by Cleon Byron. While she uses her talents for paying customers there as well, Byron frequently donates the space for the parties.

"Just seeing the smile on those kids' faces when they leave, that says it all and that's enough," he said. "To be able to help out someone in a tough situation to have some happiness is enough."

One of the first parties at the hall was for Kaira, a granddaughter of Mahogany Payne, who is raising Kaira and had

a "Party from Above" last December. Payne lost two sons to gun violence, and her daughter – Kaira's mom – died in 2023 after a battle with congestive heart failure. Kaira's father died in 2022 from complications after taking a pill that he didn't know was laced with Fentanyl.

"Kaira was very close to both her mom and dad and lost them so close together," said Payne. "I didn't know what we would do and Shiaka reached out on Facebook and offered this party. Kaira wanted a Care Bear party and I tell you that party was seriously 1000 percent and then some. Talk about a party from above, this was magical and miraculous for us."

Everything from the cake to the DJ to the décor was taken care of. "I kept trying to bring things or buy stuff and she kept saying 'no, no, no,' it's all being donated," Payne said.

McIntosh said she's working on becoming a registered non-profit and hoping to find ways to offer more parties to more kids.

"I'm also thinking about foster kids who probably never had a party in their lives and a child whose parent might have died of cancer," she said. "I want that one day to make them all feel special."

Sister Margaret Leonard, LSA, former executive director of Project Hope was feted last Friday at her retirement party at Florian Hall. After her more than 40 years in Dorchester, Sr Margaret will reside with the Sisters of St. Anne in Marlborough, MA. Pictured are: Linda Dorcena Forry, Sr. Margaret, Clayton Turnbull, Linda Turnbull, Marie St Fleur, Rev Doc Conway and Jeri Robinson.

Ed Forry photo



'Fallen' Engine 16 firefighter cited in Maryland ceremony

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation hosted its 43rd Memorial event in Emmitsburg, Maryland, last weekend. This year's tribute honored 89 firefighters who died in the line of duty in 2023, and 137 firefighters who had died in previous years, including one firefighter from Dorchester/Mattapan Engine 16 on Gallivan Boulevard.

Lt. Edward Bergdoll, 60, died on Oct. 26, 2022, due to complications of leukemia, deemed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to be a line of duty death via occupational cancer – one of the leading causes of death for firefighters. Bergdoll served on Engine 33 in the Back Bay and then



Lt. Edward Bergdoll

for many years out of the Gallivan Boulevard station.

"National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend is a time for our nation to pause and reflect on the heroic efforts and selfless service of the fall-

en firefighters we are paying tribute to this year," said the group's CEO Victor Stagnaro. "We will always remember the bravery, commitment, and sacrifices of each of these 226 heroes—and their families."

YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE

DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Marlton Downing

Henry Marlton Downing was born in 1852. He changed his name to Marlton Downing for his work as a journalist and author. After he and Sarah Thayer married, they moved in with her parents on Wesley Avenue, later named Dillingham Street, on Savin Hill (the street was later demolished for the construction of the Southeast Expressway). The couple had at least seven children.

As a young man, Downing was a mariner, serving on voyages to India and South America. He later became a marine editor for the *Boston Daily Post*. In the 1890s,



HENRY MARLTON DOWNING

he was a journalist for *The Boston Globe*, and the newspaper sometimes published short stories by him of about a thousand words each. He was a co-author of "*The Young Cascarillo*, and *Colonel Thorn-*

dike's Adventures; a Story of Bark Hunters in the Ecuador Forests and the Experiences of a Globe Trotter" (Boston, 1895). He also wrote plays that were produced by local groups.

By 1895, the family had moved to Chaplin, Conn., where Downing took up farming. He died in 1927.

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

Editorial

Slow-motion Steward collapse no accident

It finally happened: Steward hit the iceberg that many of us here in Dorchester have seen looming ahead and filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

Long before Steward's existential crisis became fodder for headlines and deep-dive stories in regional media, readers of *The Reporter* were well aware that all was not well at the Dorchester Avenue campus of Carney Hospital. There have been increasingly ominous — and documented — signs for a few years now that the hospital's corporate overlords in Texas were tightening the tourniquet and bleeding the place dry.

In a March 2023 column titled "Carney's parent company is neglecting a neighborhood asset," we warned that "Steward has hollowed out its marketing presence and laid off public-facing employees who used to engage the Dorchester and Mattapan communities. And there has been virtually no effort to tell the public why they should turn to Carney for their health care needs, which makes its prognosis for attracting new patients and, therefore, new revenue, bleaker by the day... Unless Steward starts investing more resources into recruiting patients along with new staff, it's hard to see a viable path forward."

That's not to say that Carney has always been an oasis of tranquility in Massachusetts' health care maelstrom. Far from it. Dorchester's hospital has always been "on the bubble" in some respects—going back long before Ralph de la Torre and his private equity raiders entered the equation. It's always been a blue-collar facility where the dedicated staff are much like the patients they serve — hard-working, neighborhood-oriented, many of them newly minted Americans who put in long hours and pay union dues.

It has never attracted or sought the C-suite crowd that flocks to the downtown hospitals. But Carney always got the job done, close to home, without pretensions, and—for many years—with excellent quality rankings from national watchdogs and a reliable emergency department. Its adjacent medical office building—named for Sr. Elizabeth Seton, a nod to the Catholic nuns who ran the place efficiently for decades—has provided convenient care for a whole range of specialties since your grandmother was seeing her pediatrician.

Whatever the flaws and foibles of past owners, including those habit-donned Daughters of Charity, one thing they never did was squelch on their bills or leave their patients wondering if the joint was going to be open come Dot Day, while they floated across the Mediterranean on their yachts.

That's precisely the predicament now caused by Dr. de la Torre and his crew, who literally sold the land out from under the Carney—and all of their other properties—and then squandered the profits.

In the meantime, Dorchester and Mattapan—the two communities most dependent on Carney's services—would do well to brace for more bad news. And that won't be confined strictly to those of us who still turn to the Carney for medical care. The economic impacts of a full or partial collapse at the Dot Ave. campus to the scores of businesses who serve Carney's hundreds of employees each week will be profound.

What's happened here isn't just another sad story about a well-meaning business running aground; it could very well be a crime.

In filing Chapter 11 on Monday, the Steward brass have finally leaned into their real identity: They're confidence men who insinuated themselves under false pretenses for the express purposes of enriching themselves at the expense of this neighborhood and dozens more like it across the nation. Our elected officials, particularly those who have the power to probe and prosecute, should expedite proceedings to bring them to justice and "claw back" whatever dollars can be reclaimed to stanch the bleeding they caused.

— Bill Forry

TO LITERACY and BEYOND The need for science-based instruction

By CAROLINE ROSE
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Anthony walks into my 8th grade ELA class each day like he owns the place, as if he is the mayor of the class. When he enters the room, everyone lights up in laughter. In contrast, Liam comes in more like a storm. Sometimes he is fun and playful, but more often he is teasing and taunting. These two boys couldn't be more different, yet they have something in common: they both struggle with reading.

For Anthony and Liam, school is an uphill battle. In math class, they struggle to understand the syntax and structure of a word problem, ultimately missing the problem they are intended to solve. In science, background knowledge and metacognition elude them when they are reading about a new concept. In civics, the vocabulary is so complex that their energy goes toward understanding each word, rather than the meaning of the text as a whole. By the time they arrive in my class, English language arts (ELA), they are exhausted.

Throughout the day, this fundamental struggle looks and feels different. Anthony sits in my class trying to pronounce words and understand them. He works hard, yet he takes twice as long as his peers to do the same task. Liam often puts his head down when he is overwhelmed or confused. Since he is reading so far behind grade level, school has been a struggle for him for a long time, and some days, it seems like he has given up. Both of them are nearing the end of 8th grade and preparing for high school, but, academically, both are woefully unprepared.

Anthony and Liam are more representative than not. According to the results from 2023 ELA MCAS, the statewide assessment of students' reading and writing, one in every five 8th graders is below or "not meeting" expectations; in other words, not demonstrating knowledge, skills, and understanding that are expected for an 8th grader.

In 2022, even more students in Massachusetts were below so-called "NAEP Basic," the National Assessment of Educational Progress term for results showing partial mastery of prerequisite knowledge and skills fundamental for proficient work at each grade level. This data poses the question: Why are so many 8th graders in Massachusetts struggling to read and write?

Whether Liam and Anthony are reading at grade-level (or higher) by 8th grade matters. Numerous studies link reading level and long-term success, especially for students living in poverty. Reading



Caroline Rose

correlates with college attendance and completion rates, incarceration and recidivism rates, as well as financial security. Without the ability to read, these students are going to struggle to graduate from high school, go on to college or careers, and participate in the workforce and civic society.

It is not for lack of trying. Liam and Anthony both receive interventions to help them move toward grade level. Liam is working on decoding through a program intended to help him build accuracy, fluency, and automaticity in his reading. Anthony is working on building his reading skills, too, through targeted work at breaking down text structures and building his vocabulary. The interventions are not nearly enough. Despite our best efforts, the gap between where they are and where they need to be is still wide.

There is a way to break through: Implementing the science of reading-based literacy instruction as early as possible. It is the best set of tools to teach kids how to read. For my 8th graders, I explicitly teach grammar, syntax, and text structure. We work not just on text comprehension, but language comprehension, to ensure that they are building a larger schema of knowledge to apply to all texts they read.

A stronger start to a student's reading education could make all the difference in the upcoming years. Typically, 3rd grade status is considered the most meaningful benchmark for literacy and students' ability to read in elementary school. It determines how they will perform in middle school, high school, and beyond. Two bills currently under consideration in the Massachusetts House (H.4423) and Senate (S.2653) would mandate that districts implement a science-based reading curricula and interventions, as well as literacy-related professional development.

By passing this legislation, Massachusetts would join the 37 other states and Washington D.C. with laws and policies related to science-based reading instruction.

Caroline Rose is an 8th grade English language arts (ELA) teacher at Boston Collegiate Charter School in Dorchester. She is a 2023-2024 Teach Plus Massachusetts Policy Fellow.

Counting the cost of workplaces dangers

By AL VEGA
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

On March 26, 2022, Peter Monsini, 51, was operating a piece of heavy machinery for JDC Demolition Company, Inc. at the Government Center parking garage in Boston, when the floor underneath his machine buckled and he fell nine stories to his death. Following the incident, OSHA conducted an inspection and cited JDC for 11 violations, 8 of which were deemed "willful" and 2 "serious." They were fined \$1.1 million.

In 2023, unfortunately, there were even more workers who suffered a tragic fate like Peter's. In total, 62 workers in Massachusetts died from workplace injury and illness, with five of them being firefighters who died from occupational cancer. It's all outlined in a new report published by Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health (MassCOSH) in collaboration with the Massachusetts AFL-CIO.

Our report highlights several concerning statistical trends. Too many employers continue to disregard occupational health and safety, and the incidents are almost always preventable. We hope this report is a call to action for all of us to prioritize worker health and safety.

Most fatal injuries were concentrated in the construction industry, a trend consistent with previous years. In 2023, 22 workers died on the job, four times higher than any other industry and more than twice as many as died the year before.

Transportation incidents, including motor vehicle crashes and construction workers struck by vehicles or equipment, remained the leading cause of death from injuries in Massachusetts in 2023. With 23 workers killed, these incidents contributed to 40 percent of all deaths from injuries.

The report also found that 18 immigrant workers died from work-related causes, their deaths accounting for a shocking 32 percent of all occupational fatalities from injury in 2023. This more than doubles the fatalities from 2022, when eight immigrant workers were lost on the job. In 2019 and 2020, meanwhile, immigrants accounted for just 13 percent of those who died due to dangerous work.

Beyond the numbers, we are seeing other concerning trends. Covid-19 continues to be an occupational disease, impacting the lives of many working families in our state. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health found an association between in-person work requirements and an increase in fatalities from the disease.

The death of a cannabis worker in 2022 from work-related asthma, meanwhile, has not resulted in prevention efforts in this industry, as multiple new worker asthma cases have been reported since then. The state sees billions in revenue, but that money is not being used to improve working conditions or hold employers more accountable for their workers' health and safety.

Child labor laws are also being rolled back in several states. Political leaders are ignoring decades of precedent and allowing young people to work dangerous jobs from which they were previously protected. Many states are choosing to risk the lives of their young people and allow some employers to hire inexperienced workers and justify paying them at lower rates to save on their bottom line.

We released this report as part of our Workers' Memorial Day commemoration, for which we gathered at the steps of the Massachusetts State House with labor advocates and family members of fallen workers to read the names of those lost on the job over the past year. Peter Monsini's partner, Alicia Anacleto, a member of our board of directors called on employers to do what's necessary.

"Family was everything to Peter," she said. "He was a man that was always there for his family or if he saw someone stranded on the side of the road, he would stop and lend a hand...Employers are cutting corners, not abiding by codes and safety protocols and something needs to be done so moms, dads, sons, daughters ... are able to return home to their families after their workday."

Al Vega is the chief of strategy and engagement at MassCOSH, a Dorchester-based organization that strives to ensure that all workers earn their living and return home alive and well.

The Reporter

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How to renovate, and use wisely, landmark facility in historic park?

(Continued from page 1)

Plans called for some of the events to be held in Franklin Park, interrupting some of its regular uses, but leaving behind improvements. By this point, according to the Walsh administration, Fish's earlier plan for the stadium had been "put on hold," because of "rising costs."

In 2018, three years after the Olympic bid had been terminated, Walsh found another source of funding to improve the park: \$28 million from sale of the city's Winthrop Square garage for redevelopment. An "action plan" for the park was completed in 2022, winning applause in the community, but also meeting pushback for proposed traffic changes. Though the plan called for improvements at White Stadium, it did not specify new uses or identify new partners.

By the time the plan had been formulated, Walsh had been succeeded by Kim Janey and then the current mayor, Michelle Wu. In April of last year, she invited proposals to "renovate, rebuild, and reimagine" White Stadium through a public-private partnership. That led to the proposal by the Boston Unity Soccer Partners (BUSP), announced later in 2023 with backing from Wu, to use the modernized stadium with expanded capacity—to 11,000 seats—for women's professional soccer games, in addition to BPS sports and other events. Under partnership with the city, BUSP would commit \$50 million for the project and maintain the facility in perpetuity, with Wu committing another \$50 million.

With the BUSP proposal still under review by the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA), the mayor is faced with concerns from surrounding neighborhoods over transportation plans for 20 soccer games a year and the effect on resident parking. Concerns are also being raised about access to the stadium area for BPS sports programs that would have to be relocated—despite the possibility of some new or expanded access for the schools.

By early April, city officials had to contend with one more proposal for a professional soccer venue—to serve the New England Revolution. Though located in Everett, the facility would increase traffic flow across the Mystic River around Sullivan Square in Charlestown. A measure in the Legislature to enable the project was swiftly opposed by officials in Boston, including Wu, who objected that the plan was drawn up and announced without their input.

For staunch advocates of Franklin Park, the White Stadium plan represents a new dilemma. After decades of neglect and disinvestment, they find themselves considering new possibilities and resources, as well as new demands on surrounding neighborhoods and student populations. At the same time, there's heated ongoing debate over plans to expand the Shattuck Hospital, at a former section of the park, as a center for treating mental illness and addiction.

According to Christine Poff, a longtime advocate and current staff member for the Franklin Park Coalition, hopes for progress started to rise about ten years ago. Under Wu, she sees an opportunity to address a disparity between the south side of the park—including the William J. Devine Golf Course and the Franklin Park Zoo—and the north side, including the Playstead, the Overlook (a possible site for a revived Elma Lewis Playhouse), the abandoned bear dens, and White Stadium.

"If we have a cornerstone or a hub, a resource like the stadium that is fixed up and drawing people," Poff reasoned, "maybe that is a catalyst for that side of the park to become more like the southern part of the park, because that has the golf course and revenue, and this

could be the stadium with revenue." Also boosting hopes was the mayor's announcement in January that she wanted to expand the park's maintenance staff, under a new administrator.

"The city is doing this stuff," said Poff. "Why wouldn't we work with them? If we could get a stadium fixed up maybe without the professional soccer team, that probably would be better, because the traffic parking is awful for the community. They're working really hard to figure out solutions. We're not going to fall in line a hundred percent behind it unless they really end up with real solutions that the community, the neighbors around the park, are okay with."

When the White Stadium RFP was announced in 2023, less than three months after BUSP had been organized as a Delaware corporation, a founding member of the coalition and longtime president of the Garrison-Trotter Neighborhood Association, Louis Elisa, was receptive, if caught off guard.

"I sort of worried that they tried to ram this down the throat of the community—the residents in Jamaica Plain and Dorchester and Mattapan and Roxbury," he said. "We didn't know this was going on. We didn't even know there was an opportunity to try and raise money, and we didn't know that there was an opportunity to match money; so when the mayor said that she had \$50 million to repair White Stadium, we said, 'Wonderful.'"

But in February of this year, Elisa had joined other community members in a lawsuit with the Emerald Necklace Conservancy to halt the stadium redevelopment. In March, a judge in Suffolk Superior Court ruled against them, finding the project consistent with the goals of the White Fund. The plaintiffs more recently vowed to continue their legal challenge.

A Brooklyn native who grew up taking bike rides to Olmsted's Prospect Park, Elisa had concerns about the traffic and parking for the soccer games, including plans for some of the shuttle buses to reach the stadium from a narrow two-way street. He also argued that the stadium plan and other uses of the park encroach too far on its ability to serve as a healing environmental refuge—from what its illustrious "schoolmaster," Ralph Waldo Emerson, referred to as the "din and craft of the street."

A former city councillor and candidate for mayor who would later advocate for development plans as an attorney, Larry DiCara recalls White Stadium from the 1960s, when he was a student at Boston Latin School, the leader of its "Victory Club," and manager of its football team—in addition to running in track meets.

"When I was there and I was in those locker rooms, it wasn't pretty," he said, "but it was functional. It worked. It was hot water in the showers. I know that from personal experience, and none of us had cars, so driving wasn't an issue."

Though DiCara described the transportation needs for professional soccer games at the stadium as "troubling," he acknowledged that a partnership with BUSP was an opportunity for Wu to make headway where her predecessors had faltered. "It is tempting," he said, "no doubt about it, absolutely. And I'm sure that the people behind the soccer team are well intentioned. I wouldn't question any of that stuff. And a part of me thinks the solution is to team up the women with the men and build a stadium at Everett or wherever."

The proposal for White Stadium also coincides with efforts by Wu to revamp the city's process for reviewing development proposals. That push has advanced with recent approval for placing the BPDA's planning component directly under the mayor, and with a zoning code amendment for the "Squares + Streets" program, paving

the way for more density in development around main streets and transit service.

Wu has advocated for the reforms as a way to have more proactive planning, engaging a cross-section of residents beyond the more established neighborhood associations, which are more dominated by white property owners. The reforms were also touted as a way to reduce regulatory hurdles for developers—hurdles that also provided leverage for neighborhood groups.

By DiCara's reckoning, the groups began to hold more sway after Ray Flynn was elected mayor in 1983. But Flynn and his successors would also try to finesse the city's regulatory process, by rethinking possibilities in development and the nature of community engagement. Despite having called for reforms in her 2019 plan to "abolish" the BPDA, Wu shares with her predecessors a pursuit of growth. But the post-pandemic Boston of 2024 is different from the Menino heyday before the "Great Recession," and from the development surge in the pre-pandemic years under Walsh, when projects were buoyed by low interest rates and, compared with 2024, lower construction costs. Unlike her predecessors, Wu has to worry about a slowdown in growth, coupled with a possible increase in the tax burden for residential property owners, threatening added pressure on renters.

One departure from earlier conflicts over development is the April 9 letter issued by members of the Boston Landmarks Commission, accusing the "City administration" in recent years of a "disregard" for the body's mandate to vet redevelopment projects with historic character. The first item in the list of grievances was White Stadium, a landmark facility in a landmark park.

Shortly after the letter became public, Wu fired the commission's executive director and Dorchester resident, Roseanne Foley, whose name does not appear in the letter. The commissioners are appointed by Boston mayors, but

their terms can overlap with changes in administration, allowing for more independent oversight, or dissent.

"I cannot imagine any mayor of Boston or—I speak personally—any person who has thought about being mayor of Boston off and on for decades being happy with that at all," said DiCara. "I mean, she's the mayor. She's the chief executive of the city. She appoints the members of the commission through all of these extensive processes."

In the case of White Stadium, as with a recently withdrawn proposal for relocating the John D. O'Bryant School of Math & Science to West Roxbury, constituencies found themselves reacting to a plan, rather than first building consensus. If that conflicts with the mayor's messaging about development reform, it stops short of a total break with her predecessors, who responded to pushback by either doubling down or backing off.

After concerns raised at meetings on the stadium proposal, the BPDA sent a letter to BUSP on April 19 asking for more details, including plans for transportation and parking. But Elisa added one more concern: Wu's comment in March that the city's \$50 million funding commitment for White Stadium would be used elsewhere if the partnership with BUSP fails to get approval.

"How dare she threaten us with our own money if we don't have it?" he fumed. "She can't have her way in terms of privatization of a portion of a public park, a state park, a legacy park, then she says, 'Well, we won't fix the park at all, we'll let the kids go without.' That, to me, was very annoying."

DiCara adopted a different perspective. He cited election results to note that voters who cared about preservation tended to support Wu. Based on his days as a city councillor, from 1972 to 1981, he also recalled when relations between neighborhood groups and four-term mayor Kevin H. White were even more strained than they would be under his successors.

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Neighborhood House Charter hails community, with hats on

By **SETH DANIEL**
NEWS EDITOR

Students, families, and neighborhood notables gathered at Neighborhood House Charter School's (NHCS) lower school on Sat., April 27, for their annual Fancy Hat Brunch – and to honor long-time executive director Kate Scott, who will be moving on to focus on family at the end of the academic year.

There have only been two leaders since the school was founded in 1995; Scott took over the role 12 years ago from founding Headmaster Kevin Andrews.

“This is an amazing community, and this is one of my favorite events, and it won't be my last Fancy Hat Brunch,” said Scott.

Added Chief Operations Officer Rick Grant: “Nobody knows what Kate has gone through to keep this organization alive and viable.”

The event was also a celebration of community and enjoying one another as mothers, guardians, grandmothers, and others joined together looking their fanciest selves in the Pope's Hill cafeteria. Special guests included Dorchester's Kwani Lunis of NBC 10 and state Sen. Liz Miranda.



Aniko Jones and Malissa Evans display their very fancy headwear.



Executive Director Kate Scott and her daughter Lily greeted special guest state Sen. Liz Miranda.



Jackie Levine, Cara McCarthy, chief schools officer, and Janice Lewis, board of trustees.



Dorchester residents Jhasmine and Jocelyn Estillore had a wonderful time at the brunch.

Workshops on self-care, jewelry making, and headband making were a hit, and they were followed by the annual fancy hat competition.

Seth Daniel photos

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Dot's 'Emme' Finnigan brings grit to diamond play

(Continued from page 1)

Losi's is a sentiment shared by her Dorchester travel coach, Dan Clark, who has seen a lot of players come through the neighborhood ranks, but none with the raw competitiveness of Finnigan.

"As the girls ADSL softball program boomed with interest and players, Emme was a standout with top talent," he said. "She is one of the most competitive players I have ever been around. She goes all out for every ball and always dives for a ball in her position at shortstop. Emme has a flair for the dramatic, making SportsCenter-highlight plays in the field."



Finnigan said she prefers playing in the field, but her hitting - from both sides of the plate - has improved greatly this year, she and her coaches said.

Photo courtesy Fontbonne Academy



Dorchester's Emme Finnigan, 17, is on track to have played all 86 of her high school softball games start to finish at Fontbonne Academy - where she has starred as a two-year captain of the team.

Seth Daniel photo

Finnigan, a three-sport athlete at Fontbonne with a long Dorchester family pedigree, said her style of play comes from following her older brothers, Braedan and Regan, around on the sidelines of neighborhood parks until it was her turn to shine. She recalls playing baseball with them nearly every day in the summers, and "hitting into the nets" consistently at their St. Brendan's area home-while their mother, Kim, watched over them and ran a local daycare and pre-school in Neponset.

For Finnigan, the diamond is her happy place. "I like to get dirty, I don't know why," she said with

a laugh during a recent interview. "I like fielding the best - 100 percent - and diving for the ball at shortstop. I think I'm stronger in the field than hitting, but the fielding, when I make a good play, it just always makes me happy."

While starting out in Savin Hill baseball on co-ed teams where she was often the only girl on the field, Finnigan learned to challenge the boys and to be tough. When she was nine, she began playing in ADSL softball and in the RBI league - eventually playing on the Drifters travel team as well. It was there, she said, that her coaches, including Dorchester's Katie Nolan - also a coach at Fontbonne - helped shape her into the player she is now.

"She has a great ability to keep teams on their toes, whether it be her trick plays or pure talent. She is always seen as a threat to opposing teams," said Nolan. "Emme is the true definition of a student athlete, always making sure her studies come first and working hard to get good grades to be able to excel on the field."

After attending the Murphy School for grades K-4, and then Boston Collegiate Charter School for grades 5-8, Finnigan moved on to Fontbonne. As a wide-eyed freshman, she soon found herself on the field with older girls - whom she credited with instilling confidence in her.

"They helped everyone out," she said. "The juniors and seniors. If any freshmen made a mistake, they would help them fix it and not be rude about it."

That experience has made her into the kind

of leader she has become on and off the field. As a two-year captain of the team, Finnigan has led by example and is the kind of player the coaches said they can trust to run drills during practice if they're focused elsewhere. Finnigan said she takes the "field general" role very seriously. Hanging out with teammates has probably been her most cherished memory.

"People look up to you and it's a very important role," she said. "I think team bonding is one of my favorite things. We go get ice cream together when we win after the games. It's fun to talk and do team activities like that. That's probably what I've enjoyed most."

Her mom said watching Emme has brought her comfort. "No matter what is going on at any given moment in life, watching her takes me to a place of happiness," she said. "She just has this natural talent and presence on the field. I will always be her biggest fan."

Finnigan said it has been a great ride, and she still cannot believe that she has played in every game of her high school career, but conceded that she enjoyed every moment. Now, she's in the middle of choosing colleges and where she might continue her softball career. But she often thinks back to that freshman from Dorchester and what she would tell her after four years of high school experience.

"I would tell myself to keep playing with confidence and keep working hard because even if you fail, there will be times when you succeed," she said. "I would tell myself that you can't succeed unless you fail a couple of times."

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Owner of Port Norfolk parcels files for bankruptcy ahead of auction

By **SETH DANIEL**
NEWS EDITOR

A stalled re-development project along Dorchester's Port Norfolk peninsula that would bring new housing and a modern marina to the neighborhood took a new turn this week when one of the development partners filed for bankruptcy to stave off a public auction of the land that was set for Tuesday.

CPC Ericsson Street LLC, whose principal is Ryan Sillery of City Point Capital, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy just hours before the Paul Saperstein Company was to begin auctioning off the property to bidders on the waterfront site.

Gary Cruickshank, an attorney for CPC Ericsson, confirmed the filing on Tuesday afternoon to the Reporter.

"The case was filed at noontime today to stop a 2 p.m. auction," he said. "We're going to reorganize and work with all parties in a way that will make everyone happy."

According to the filing in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Massachusetts, CPC Ericsson identified one creditor in their filing: Crowd Lending Fund One LLC, of A Street in South Boston. Liabilities were listed as between \$1 million and \$10 million. Filings in



A rendering shows the 24 Ericsson St. project, also known as Neponset Wharf. RODE Architects image. First proposed in 2017, the re-development won key city approval in 2022, but has not advanced since. The land owner filed for bankruptcy on Tuesday.

the case are due May 21.

Saperstein said the auction was postponed due to the bankruptcy filing but could be scheduled again for a later date. The auction was originally planned on April 10, but it was postponed. Another auction last summer was also postponed.

Rise Together, a co-developer on the project, filed suit in Suffolk Superior Court against CPC Ericsson in February for failure to pay a Connecticut-based consultant, who had previously filed suit against Rise Together last year.

The two companies have plans to build four buildings to include 120 residential units, office space, and a marina on

the roughly 3.6 acres on four lots next to the popular Venezia restaurant.

The project — known as Neponset Wharf— was approved by the Boston Planning and Development Agency in Jan. 2022

after an extensive review process and several revisions to the original plan, which was first introduced in 2017. The

project would also bring enhanced public access and green space to the waterfront area.

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CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU24P0270EA

ESTATE OF: PATRICIA M. MULLIN a/k/a: PATRICIA MARY MULLIN DATE OF DEATH: 10/16/2023

To all interested persons:
A Petition for S/A - Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Patrick L. Mullin of South Weymouth, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Patrick L. Mullin of South Weymouth, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/04/2024.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.
Date: April 30, 2024
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq. Register of Probate
Published: May 9, 2024

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

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU24P0794EA

ESTATE OF: GERARD G. LORQUET a/k/a: GERARD J. LORQUET, GERARD LORQUET DATE OF DEATH: 08/22/2015

A Petition for Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment has been filed by Giovanni LH Lorquet of Mattapan, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order 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 the return day of 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 day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
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Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.
Date: April 12, 2024
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq. Register of Probate
Published: May 9, 2024

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Local Real Estate Transactions

Buyer	Seller	Address	Date	Price		
Francisco, Peguero J	S-46 Greenwood Street Rt	Stamatos Family Prop LLC	46 Greenwood St	Dorchester	04/19/24	\$1,150,000
Marble, Michelle H	Cerveira-Hajjar, Albertin	Ansello, Marie	1241-1251 Adams St #F605	Dorchester	04/18/24	565,000
70 Westville House LLC	70 Westville Inc		70 Westville St	Dorchester	04/17/24	925,000
Koci, Altin	Boyd Rt	Steele, Caroline B	46 Saxton St	Dorchester	04/19/24	800,000
Perello, Martinez E	Moloney, John V		21 Welles Ave	Dorchester	04/18/24	1,250,000
867 Wa Holdings LLC	Goodman, Judy H		867 Washington St	Dorchester	04/18/24	700,000
Canavan, Thomas	Feeney, Aidan G	Feeney, Lauren	115-117 Elmer Rd	Dorchester	04/19/24	1,260,000
Vital, Lionel	La Santa-Leiva, Ruby A		23 Hansborough St	Dorchester	04/16/24	1,100,000
Lyons, Virginia C	Biddy, Melinda		20 Wilcock St	Dorchester	04/19/24	1,125,000
Catanese, Angelo	Lynn, Patricia A		1162-R Washington St	Mattapan	04/18/24	620,000
SI24 Investments LLC	1st Landing Invs LLC		93 W Selden St	Mattapan	04/17/24	608,543
First Landing Invs LLC	Roberts, Glendora		93 W Selden St	Mattapan	04/17/24	580,000
Bay Flow LLC	Brown William Est	Ramsey, Bertha	658 Walk Hill St	Mattapan	04/16/24	497,000
Nguyen, Nghia T	Milne, Honah L		121 E Cottage St #8	Dorchester	04/17/24	685,000
Patterson, Ariel	Gevitz, Kathryn A		838 Dorchester Ave #3	Dorchester	04/17/24	705,000
Bantermghansa, Chanont	Packer, Alison	Packer, Andrew	136 Sydney St #6	Dorchester	04/16/24	865,000
Kwon, Tae H	8 Oakhurst Realty LLC		8 Oakhurst St #6	Dorchester	04/16/24	535,000
Hogstadius, Ann-Charlotte	Keenan, John J		188 Boston St #3	Dorchester	04/17/24	615,000
Housemasters Rt LLC	Asset Backed Securities C	Wells Fargo Bank NA Tr	32 Westmore Rd	Mattapan	04/18/24	537,600
Fogg, Alayna	84 Granite Ave LLC		84 Granite Ave #2	Dorchester	04/18/24	630,000
Belanger, Joseph F	84 Granite Ave LLC		84 Granite Ave #1	Dorchester	04/19/24	519,000
Daya, Annika	19-23 Clapp St LLC		19-23 Clapp St #2	Dorchester	04/19/24	785,000

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Tierney Center helps families to gain foothold, thrive in Old Colony setting

BY **CASSIDY MCNEELEY**
REPORTER STAFF

The late Joseph M. Tierney, who served as Boston City Council president in the 1980s, grew up in the sprawling Old Colony public housing development in South Boston. He died in 2009, but his legacy lives on at the Tierney Learning Center (TLC) located at The Anne M. Lynch Homes at Old Colony.

“My father was someone who never forgot where he came from and realized the importance of community programs like this,” said Tierney’s daughter, Deirdre Tierney Pulgini. “They really made a difference in his life. Being the first to go to college, then to law school, and then deciding his life would be about public service and helping others. I feel as though his legacy and mission are carried on here.”

The center opened in 2012 to provide Old Colony families with the resources needed to learn, grow, and connect on a no-cost basis. The center operates with the support of The Beacon Communities Charitable Fund and offers services from early childhood education to senior programming.

“Our families understand that there is support and that we care about their children, and we care about them as a whole and as a unit,” says Jennifer Boylan, the community engagement director of program implementation at Beacon Communities. “We want to make sure the entire family thrives and feels supported,” she said.

There is a diverse population of more than 1,400 living at Old Colony, many of whom need assistance in furthering their children’s education and their families’ economic mobility. The youth enrichment programs at TLC allow for both.

One of the most popular youth services is the YMCA After School and Vacation Program, which is licensed by the state’s Department of Early Education and Care. Currently, 45 children ranging in age from 5 to 13 are enrolled in the after-school program, where they get homework help and participate in activities that encourage physical and emotional wellbeing.

Pulgini’s son Jack, who lives in Southie, is one of many involved in the afterschool program. The recent Boston College graduate and his friends tutor students who need extra support. So far, they have received positive feedback from both the children’s families and their schools.

“Beyond that, they are making connections with the kids, building



Students in Sandra Gomez’s class enjoy snack time after playing basketball outside.



The Joseph M. Tierney Learning Center named after the former Boston City Council president is located at 125 Mercer St. in South Boston.

Cassidy McNeeley photos

relationships, and providing so much more,” said Pulgini. “They are mentors and role models. I know my father would be so proud of Jack’s commitment to the children at The Tierney.”

It is Jack and his friends and the Tierney staff’s commitment that make the center such a special place, said Boylan. “It’s remarkable to see how many kids stay throughout the entire time,” she said. “It’s amazing to see how many families, even after they age out, still come back. Their kids come back to check in and at the end of the day, that is what you want.

Our return rate speaks for itself. All the kids who are eligible to stay, stay.”

One reason the kids return year after year is because of the various events held at the center, which include Halloween parties, Friendsgiving, Christmas celebrations, fun runs, and trips to Canobie Lake Park.

While the center celebrates happy times, knowing that each kid comes from a low-income household, they also prioritize discussing life’s adversities as well. This is done through Doc Wayne, a non-profit organization that utilizes a sports-based curriculum

to address mental health. “Doc Wayne is a social-emotional, really recreational learning. They are there to support the kids during the after-school program,” Boylan told the Reporter. “They’ll do chalk talk where they pick a topic and it’s a discussion they have with the kids. If any are having a hard time, the interns, counselors, and therapists know how to de-escalate and support them.”

The most recent sport Doc Wayne has used to help TLC kids is swimming. While this may seem like just another regular activity, given



Jennifer Boylan, left, and Deirdre Tierney Pulgini in the atrium of the Joseph M. Tierney Learning Center.

Old Colony’s proximity to the ocean, “a lot of the kids did not know how to swim. ... We wanted to be able to give that resource,” said Boylan, in, she added, a safe, supportive environment.

In addition to sports, TLC prioritizes art and implements art projects throughout each of its programs to encourage creativity and imagination in all age groups.

Milagros “Milly” Peña has lived in South Boston for over 22 years and has worked at the Tierney since 2012. While she is the assistant resident service coordinator for Beacon Management, she is also passionate about her role as an art teacher.

“This is their place, this is where I’m going to protect them and teach them and guide them not only in their education but through life,” said Peña.

Sandra Gomez holds the same title as Peña and together the two appear to be the heart of the Tierney. “Milly has seen the program blossom and has been part of the growth and has been an amazing team member in making the kids feel like this is home,” said Boylan. “Sandra has been here for around five years. The kids really respect them and trust them, and they have such passion and love.”

A recent addition to the center is the teen programming that targets young adults ages 14 to 18 every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. and offers volunteer and employment oppor-

tunities, homework help, and college application assistance.

“This is a group of people we really needed to try to engage and grow and that’s been relatively new over the past couple of years,” said Pulgini. “To have a place that really supports the families through education and programming helps them realize their potential and break the cycle of poverty.”

In addition to youth and teen services, the center partners with ABCD Head Start to provide full-time educational programming for preschoolers and toddlers. Adults can also use various resources including technology and training programs, food links, and family support programs.

Services do not stop with the adults; senior residents also take part.

“This place is such a resource and I think the staff here is interwoven into the fabric of the community and has such a deep understanding and a deep trust,” said Pulgini. “It helps people realize what they can achieve. We believe in you; we’re going to hold you to a standard, but we believe in you.”

The Tierney and Beacon staff member hope that everyone who utilizes TLC services feels empowered. Boylan said, “They can do whatever they want. Their dreams are possible, and we are here to help them make them possible.”



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	21 1/4 x 40 1/4	23 1/4 x 40 1/4	27 1/4 x 40 1/4	30 1/4 x 40 1/4		33 1/4 x 40 1/4			
18 1/4 x 44 1/4	19 1/4 x 44 1/4	21 1/4 x 44 1/4	23 1/4 x 44 1/4	27 1/4 x 44 1/4	30 1/4 x 44 1/4	33 1/4 x 44 1/4	35 1/4 x 44 1/4		
	19 1/4 x 48 1/4	21 1/4 x 48 1/4	23 1/4 x 48 1/4	27 1/4 x 48 1/4	30 1/4 x 48 1/4	33 1/4 x 48 1/4	35 1/4 x 48 1/4		
18 1/4 x 52 1/4	19 1/4 x 52 1/4	21 1/4 x 52 1/4	23 1/4 x 52 1/4	27 1/4 x 52 1/4	30 1/4 x 52 1/4	33 1/4 x 52 1/4	39 1/4 x 52 1/4		
18 1/4 x 56 1/4		21 1/4 x 56 1/4	23 1/4 x 56 1/4	27 1/4 x 56 1/4	30 1/4 x 56 1/4	33 1/4 x 56 1/4	35 1/4 x 56 1/4	39 1/4 x 56 1/4	
18 1/4 x 60 1/4		21 1/4 x 60 1/4	23 1/4 x 60 1/4	27 1/4 x 60 1/4	30 1/4 x 60 1/4	31 1/4 x 60 1/4	33 1/4 x 60 1/4	35 1/4 x 60 1/4	39 1/4 x 60 1/4
18 1/4 x 64 1/4		21 1/4 x 64 1/4	23 1/4 x 64 1/4	27 1/4 x 64 1/4	30 1/4 x 64 1/4	33 1/4 x 64 1/4		39 1/4 x 64 1/4	

41 Hallet Street, Dorchester (617) 282-6900



Dorchester supporters of Justice for Southwest Georgia gathered for a group picture at Florian Hall on Monday, May 6.

Taylor Brokesh photo

Dorchester Democrats rally to keep Georgia 'blue'

BY TAYLOR BROKESH
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

To an outside observer, the event held at Florian Hall on Monday night (May 6) might seem a bit peculiar. Why were so many current and former politicians and prominent Democrats in Dorchester mingling with a delegation from rural, southwest Georgia? What could the two groups possibly have in common?

The answer: plenty. The gathering, dubbed "DotGeorgia" by organizers, was part fundraiser and part-celebration of a four-year-long alliance between the Boston neighborhood and their southern allies who run Justice for Southwest Georgia (JSWGA). The partisan group was born out of the 2020 election, when all eyes turned to Georgia as the presidential race – and contests

for two Senate seats – came down to the wire. President Biden ended up winning Georgia by a margin of 11,000 votes, and both Senate runoff races went to Democrats as well, Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff.

At Monday's event, Bobby Jenkins, the mayor of Cuthbert, Ga., told the story of how the JSWGA group came to be. A community organizer acquaintance from upstate New York, Thomas Brown, had reached out to him, saying he knew some volunteers interested in canvassing in Georgia, which led them to Kitty Cox of Newton, a data expert who had been volunteering with the Georgia State Democratic Party during election season. She in turn got in touch with her old neighbor in Dorchester Ed Cook, the Ward 15 Democratic Committee

co-chair, and told him about Brown's quest. He signed on as a recruiter in his Boston neighborhood and the "DotGeorgia" initiative gathered steam from there.

The self-funded coalition frequently canvasses in Georgia's rural Randolph County, where Cuthbert is located, and the surrounding counties of Quitman and Stewart. They held vaccine clinics in the early parts of the pandemic to smooth out the process of signing up for a shot, said Joyce Barlow, a registered nurse, three-time candidate for state representative, and a member of the Georgia delegation.

"And we must have liked Zooming so much, we just kept doing it," Jenkins said.

On Monday, the blues and jazz vocalist Gordon Michaels performed "Stand by Me," by Ben

E. King, "Georgia on My Mind" and "Lean on Me" by Bill Withers" encouraging the audience to join in. Boston's poet laureate, Porsha Olayiwola, a Dorchester resident, read her poem "A Whole Nation," which she said she had written after the Jan. 6 storming of the Capitol.

A host of politicians, current and former, showed up to give their support. Ex-Gov. Deval Patrick served as emcee, and City Councillors John FitzGerald and Brian Worrell, state Reps. Dan Hunt, and Chris Worrell, among others, attended the event, as did former state Sen. Linda Dorcena Forry (co-publisher of The Reporter).

"Democracy, if it means anything, has got to mean something to everybody, and has got to respond to everybody," said Patrick. "But that doesn't happen

just by wagging your finger."

He cited a statistic noting that about one-third of registered voters don't turn out to presidential elections, "not just because it's inconvenient, but because they don't think their vote matters." He added: "And the folks that persuade them that their vote matters, I am persuaded, are not the dazzling candidates, or just the well-organized campaigns, but it's the neighbor who goes next door."

Ed Cook organized the rally but was unable to attend due to illness. He caught up with the Reporter later to explain why he believes the work of JSWGA is significant to Massachusetts voters.

"A lot of people in Massachusetts wonder if their vote matters because Massachusetts will be blue, with or

without my vote, so to speak," Cook said. "But the work that Justice for Southwest Georgia is doing could keep an entire state blue. And for people who are Democrats, or people who just fear the reelection of Trump, this is a vehicle to have a direct impact that will make a real difference in the election."

Ward 15 Democratic co-chair Karen Charles said the fundraiser was livestreamed to make sure people back in Georgia understood the keen interest that exists in Boston to support their work. While exact totals hadn't been calculated yet, the team putting on the event estimated they'd raised over \$20,000 for the Georgia campaign coffers.

"Southwest Georgia," Charles said, "do you see how much Dorchester loves you?"



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Housing



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF DORCHESTER



BGCD Keystone Club Takes Part in The Baker Center SuperK Walk & Fun Run: See details below.

CONNECT THE DOT:
BGCD Keystone Club Takes Part in The Baker Center SuperK Walk & Fun Run: This past weekend, members of Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester's Keystone Club took part in the Judge Baker Center for Children and Families "Baker SuperK Walk & Fun Run" to kick-off Children's Mental Health Awareness Week. The 2nd Annual 5K Walk was held on the Charles River Esplanade and we are grateful to all who participated. Upcoming service projects include a trip to volunteer at the Food Pantry in Lawrence and then participate in the Massachusetts Special Olympic Summer Games June 3-9 at Harvard Stadium. Keystone Club builds leadership skills while serving the community through a variety of Club and community service based projects. For more information on BGCD's Keystone Club, please contact Declan Hall at dhall@bgcdorchester.org.

FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE:
Massachusetts Prosecution and Defense Bar donates \$25,000 to BGCD: This past November, the Massachusetts Prosecution and Defense Bars hosted an event to recognize the Paul McLaughlin/Peter Muse Trial Advocacy Program and Awards Ceremony. A donation of \$25,000 was made to BGCD in honor of these two remarkable lawyers, in whose memory the program was established.

We are deeply grateful for this generous donation, which supports our Clubs, and we eagerly anticipate the 2024 event on November 1st at Florian Hall.

For more information or to learn more, please contact Director of Development & Communications, Patty Lamb at plamb@bgcdorchester.org.



Massachusetts Prosecution and Defense Bar donates \$25,000 to BGCD: See details below.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Elevate Youth Fishing Trip
 May 11

NEWLA 2024
 May 20
 *More info: bgcdorchester.org/newla

Spring Dance Recital
 May 31

Alumni Reunion
 June 1
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Poll shows approval for city government, optimism going forward

Worries: Education and the cost of living

By VANESSA LEE
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

A poll commissioned by the Boston Public Institute (BPI) shows that most Bostonians are generally satisfied and optimistic about the city's future but are most worried about public education and the high costs of living in the state's capital city.

Roughly 600 city voters were asked to evaluate quality of life and city government's overall performance in the poll, which was conducted last month by SocialSphere, a firm hired by BPI. John Della Volpe, director of polling at Harvard's Institute of Politics is the founder and CEO of SocialSphere.

"Overall, the city is happy," Della Volpe said on Monday. "Most people are enjoying the quality of life," he said, while acknowledging that there is always "room for improvement."

The survey, conducted between April 8 and 14, solicited opinions in English and Spanish via landlines, cell phone, and texts.

The respondents were divided in their views of the Boston Public Schools, with more rating them as more "poor (13 percent) than excellent (3 percent)," according to the survey presented

at the briefing. While voters appreciate BPS teachers and BPS efforts toward diversity, equity, and inclusion, there are concerns about preparing students for life after graduation, financial management, and infrastructure, said Della Volpe.

Additionally, 53 percent of respondents said they've "recently heard something about BPS; the most common recalls are negative," according to the survey.

Some concerns include antiquated school buildings, student mental health issues, and a lack of parental trust in the system. A majority, including parents and younger voters, support the idea of modernizing BPS infrastructure, said Della Volpe. This includes

more than 60 percent of parents, millennial, and Gen Z voters.

Even with significant investments, such as BPS's expenditure of approximately \$31,000 per student, which is the highest in the state, education remains one of the primary concerns voiced by voters in the poll.

According to Della Volpe, even after pollsters provided follow-up details regarding funding per student, the majority of voters still believed that more resources should be allocated for students. About half of Boston voters see a "great need" for additional BPS funding.

Cost of living was another key area of concern raised through the poll, with 70 percent saying it was of "high importance." Sixty percent of the respondents said they intend to stay in Boston "over the long-term."

The poll also asked voters for their opinion

offers BPS students free admission to select muse-

should be extended to include non-BPS students



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WRA-5464	Laboratory Instruments Preventative and Corrective Maintenance Service	05/21/24	12:00 p.m.
WRA-5461	Purchase of Vacuum Circuit Breakers	05/23/24	3:00 p.m.
WRA-5462	Purchase of Emergency Battery Units	05/23/24	3:00 p.m.
7392	RFQ/P Cottage Farm CSO Facility PCB Abatement Design, ESDC/REI Services	06/12/24	11:00 a.m.

To access and bid on Event(s) please go to the MWRA Supplier Portal at <https://supplier.mwra.com>

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2	2	30% of Income	30%	1	-
3	3	30% of Income	30%	-	-
3	Studio	\$1,558	60%	-	-
9	1	\$1,670	60%	1	-
13	2	\$2,004	60%	-	-
1	3	\$2,315	60%	-	-

4 Units are Homeless Set-asides

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

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	30% AMI	60% AMI	Household Size	30% AMI	60% AMI
Studio	-	\$44,490	1	\$31,170	\$62,340
1	-	\$44,460	2	\$35,640	\$71,280
			3	\$40,080	\$80,160
			4	\$44,520	\$89,040
			5	\$48,090	\$96,200
2	\$0	\$53,310	6	\$51,660	\$103,300
3	\$0	\$3,340			

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

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

Applications are available in person on the following days, dates, and times in the following place(s)				
Day	Date	Time	Location	
Monday, Wednesday, Friday	04/19/2024 - 06/03/2024	10 AM - 4 PM	95 B Washington Street, Dorchester, MA 02121	
Tuesday, Thursday	04/18/2024 - 06/03/2024	10 AM - 7 PM	95 B Washington Street, Dorchester, MA 02121	
Saturday	5/18/2024	10 AM - 2 PM	95 B Washington Street, Dorchester, MA 02121	
Saturday	6/1/2024	10 AM - 2 PM	95 B Washington Street, Dorchester, MA 02121	


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

In-person and virtual informational meetings will be held on the following dates/times/locations				
Day	Date	Time	In-person Location	Virtually
Thursday	04/25/2024	3 PM - 5 PM	31 Erie Street, Dorchester, MA 02121	https://bit.ly/3dU2rd
Saturday	05/11/2024	10 AM - 12 PM	122 Dewitt Drive, Roxbury, MA 02120	https://bit.ly/3TQxcX3

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

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

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



LEGAL NOTICE

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

CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME
Docket No. SU24C0044CA
IN THE MATTER OF:
MARLON RAJESH SIDHARTHA
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Marlon Rajesh Sidhartha of Boston, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:
Marlon Rajesh Smith
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 **05/22/2024**. 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: May 3, 2024
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate
Published: May 9, 2024

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE
Docket No. SU24P0932EA
ESTATE OF:
ASHLEY AVREY BECKLES
a/k/a: **ASHLEY A. BECKLES**
DATE OF DEATH: 01/26/2024
SUFFOLK DIVISION

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Linda A. Beckles of Boston, MA. Linda A. Beckles of Boston, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.
The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
Published: May 9, 2024

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE & FAMILY COURT SUFFOLK DIVISION
24 NEW CHARDON STREET BOSTON, MA 02114
Docket No. SU21D2181DR
DIVORCE SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION and MAILING
KATHERINE DIANN HANDY-McLEAN
vs.
DENNIS J. McLEAN

To the Defendant:
The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown of the Marriage. The Complaint is on file at the Court. An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.
You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon: Katherine Diann Handy-McLean, 100 Msgr. O'Callaghan Way, Boston, MA 02127 your answer, if any, on or before **06/21/2024**. 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: April 25, 2024
Stephanie L. Everett, Esquire
Register of Probate
Published: May 9, 2024

RECENT OBITUARIES



BERARDUCCI, Vilma Rita, 85. Daughter of the late Pasquale Berarducci and Assunta Pelini Berarducci and the sister of the late Ermada Berarducci. Vilma's life began in the North End and later Dorchester, where she was raised and educated. She earned her MBA at Suffolk, and a Master's of Fine Arts at Catholic University in Washington D.C. She taught school in the D.C. area. After returning to Boston, she successfully managed and maintained the family's real estate businesses. Vilma spent the last three years establishing a fellowship at Beth Israel Hospital in her sister Ermada's name and memory for research and hopefully a cure for osteoporosis. Donations can be made to: The Ermada Berarducci BIDMC Endowed Chair in Osteoporosis PO Box 130305 Boston, MA 02113-0006.

lem, Ret. Associate Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education for the Comm. of Mass. John is survived by his wife, Deborah Ann (Greaves) Bynoe of Salem; his son, Jon L.G. Bynoe of Salem; his daughter, Joclynn P. Bynoe of Salem and her longtime partner, Richard Ryder; his grandson; his great-nephew; his stepmother, Louise (Granville) Bynoe of Mashpee; his sister, Sandra Bynoe of Dorchester; his brothers, James Bynoe and his wife, Lisa of Roslindale and J. Kevin Bynoe of Roxbury; his nieces; and his extended family; and all the lives he has touched over the years. Donations may be made to Salem Park, Recreation & Community Services - C/O Travel Basketball League, 401 Bridge St., Salem, MA 01970 Attn: Kathy McCarthy



CAVICCHI, Theresa M. (Melanson), 91, of Brookline, formerly of Walpole and Dorchester. Theresa was the daughter of the late Harry and Salenier (Bourque) Melanson. Wife of the late Robert W. Cavicchi, Sr. Mother to Christine Adams and her husband, Ernie, Robert Cavicchi, Jr., Ayn Cavicchi and her partner,



BYNOE, John Leo Garvey III, 72, of Sa-

Sandra Kosta, Steven Cavicchi and his wife, Lisa, Scott Cavicchi and Jeanne Semrani. She was the grandmother of 4. Great-grandmother of 3. Also survived by sisters-in-law, Corinne Cavicchi, Margaret Cavicchi Cook; and her dear caregiver and friend, Aicha Chérif. Please consider donating to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Theresa's honor.



COLLINS, John J. of South Boston. Son of the late Vincent W. Collins Sr. and Margaret "Peggy" (McGowan). Brother of Vincent "Moose" Collins and his wife Claire of Braintree, Patricia Strumm and her husband Stephen of Weymouth, Francis Collins and his wife Susan of Dorchester. Also survived by several aunts and uncles, many cousins and friends. Retired employee of The MBTA.



FRANGIOSO, Dominic F. "Sonny" Jr.,

89, of Norwood and formerly of Mattapan. Son of the late Dominic F. Frangioso and Josephine (DiStefano). Husband of Joan (Loycano) Frangioso of Norwood and father of Nancy and her husband, Ken Dieselman of Reading and Janice and her husband, Brian Norton of Mansfield. Brother of Dolores Delaney of Holyoke and Richard Frangioso of Walpole. Grandfather of 4. He was president of D.F. Frangioso & Co, Inc. in Hyde Park for many decades. He was an active member of UCANE, receiving the "We Dig New England" Contractor of the Year award in 1985 and then served as president in 1988. Expressions of sympathy may be made in Dominic's memory to the American Cancer Society see cancer.org

GARDNER, Muriel B. (Dubey) of Watertown, 91. Wife of the late Aldery T. Gardner. Mother of Brian T. Gardner of Maine and Sean D. Gardner of Watertown. Sister of the Norbert Dubey, Albenie Dubey, Jr., Jeanne Johnndro and Fern Dubey. Grandmother of Daniel T. Gardner of Dorchester, Tony M. Gardner of Vermont and Michela J. Gardner of Dorchester. Also survived by her sister-in-law, Patricia Dubey; her former daughter-in-law Rita Persechini, and several nieces and nephews. Memorials in Muriel's memory, may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 309 Waverley Oaks Rd., Waltham, MA 02452 or atalz.org/
McCARTHY, Edward J "Eddie", 86, originally from Dorchester and a longtime resident of the North End.



Son to the late Joseph and Lillian McCarthy. He was predeceased by his brother Joseph and sisters Anne Dooley and Kay Slattery. He spent most of his career working in and retired from the Auditor's Office for the State of Massachusetts.



McNEALY John R. "Jack", 85, retired Army Colonel of Rindge, New Hampshire formerly of Mattapan, Vienna, VA and Mahone Bay, NS. He leaves behind his wife Kathaleen (Galland) McNealy; a son retired Army Colonel John Michael and his wife Jennifer McNealy of Falls Church, Virginia; a granddaughter; a daughter Michelle "Mimi" McNealy Langenderfer, Ph.D and her husband Retired Air Force Colonel Mark "Doc" Langenderfer. Jack is also survived by his sister Joan (McNealy) White of West Roxbury. He was the son of John E. McNealy and Mary A. White and the grandson of both

a Boston Fire Department Captain and a Boston Police Department Sergeant. He was preceded in death by a brother Paul F. McNealy and sister Anne Marie McNealy Lyons. He had a twenty-two year career as a Military Intelligence Officer. A two-time Vietnam veteran, he also served at West Point, The Presidio of Monterey (CA), the American Embassy in Paris, the Defense Intelligence Agency and the Pentagon. He later spent 16 years as a Senior Financial Adviser with Merrill Lynch. Donations in Jack's memory may be made to his favorite charity, Mustard Seed Communities, 29 Jaynes Ave, Medfield, MA 02052, mustardseed.com, would be appreciated.



VILLANUEVA, Nelsy (Kurs) of Dorchester, originally of Cuba. She attended College learning skills in chemical engineering. She worked for many years as a florist. Mother of Angelo Villanueva, Jr. and his wife, Susan of Hanson, Sonia Courage of Braintree and Roy Villanueva and his wife, Karen of Whitman. "Nana" of 11 and "great-nana" of Garrett a2. Nelsy was predeceased by her parents, Carmen and Luis Kurs, her husband, Angelo Villanueva, Sr. and siblings; Luis, Sonia and Rolando.



Cedar Grove Cemetery

SPRING PLANTINGS FOR LOTS AND GRAVES

Spring is here and Cedar Grove Cemetery is pleased to offer **spring plantings**. Our flower beds will consist of geraniums and assorted colorful annuals. We are continuing our **Adopt a Grave** program. Maybe your neighbor's grave needs sprucing up, or you have a favorite monument in the Cemetery that you would like to see decorated with flowers. Please contact the office (617) 825-1360.



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LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE & FAMILY COURT SUFFOLK PROBATE & FAMILY COURT 24 NEW CHARDON STREET BOSTON, MA 02114 CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L.c. 190B, §5-304 Docket No. SU24P0917GD IN THE MATTER OF: JAYLIN FOSTER of DORCHESTER, MA RESPONDENT

Alleged Incapacitated Person To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Brockton Behavioral Health Center of Brockton, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Jaylin Foster is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Joan Foster of Dorchester, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond.

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 05/30/2024. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court. Date: April 26, 2024 Stephanie L. Everett, Esq. Register of Probate Date: May 2, 2024

Published: May 9, 2024

LEGAL NOTICES

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate & Family Court 24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU24P0893EA ESTATE OF: JANICE MARIE WILLIAMS DATE OF DEATH: 02/08/2024

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Marc Williams of Boston, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Marc Williams of Boston, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/28/2024.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court. Date: April 26, 2024 Stephanie L. Everett, Esq. Register of Probate Date: May 2, 2024

Published: May 9, 2024

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate & Family Court 24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU24P0818EA ESTATE OF: JOSEPH E. GIROUX a/k/a: JOSEPH GIROUX, JR., JOSEPH EDWARD GIROUX DATE OF DEATH: 03/02/2024

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Michelle A. Richard of Saint Albans, ME requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Michelle A. Richard of Saint Albans, ME be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/29/2024.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court. Date: April 17, 2024 Stephanie L. Everett, Esq. Register of Probate Date: May 2, 2024

Published: May 9, 2024

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate & Family Court 24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU24P0805EA ESTATE OF: VERNA M. HIGHSMITH DATE OF DEATH: 05/15/2013

A Petition for Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment has been filed by Ethel Buggs of Stoughton, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order 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 the return day of 06/07/2024.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court. Date: May 1, 2024 Stephanie L. Everett, Esq. Register of Probate Date: May 9, 2024

Published: May 9, 2024



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Annual Seedling Sale!

Saturday, May 11, 2024
10 am – 3 pm
Fowler Clark Epstein Farm
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Come by and shop for your favorite seedlings: **squash, lettuce, tomatoes, peppers, flowers, and more!**

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urbanfarminginstitute.org

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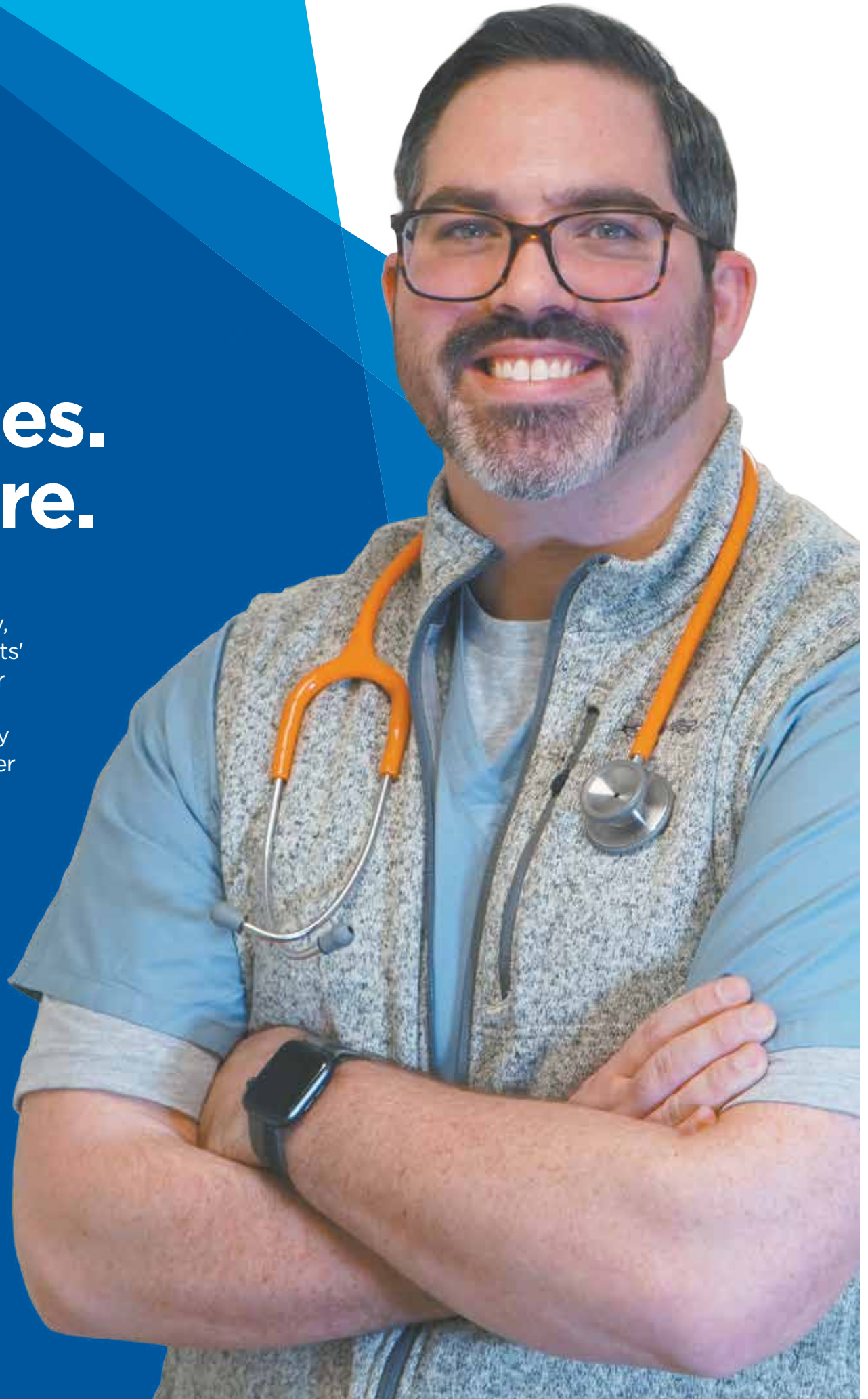


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Justin C. Griffin BSN, RN
Emergency Department
Clinical Nurse Educator

Read Justin's story at
bilh.org/nursingstory



Happy Nurses Week

Addison Gilbert Hospital
Anna Jaques Hospital
BayRidge Hospital
Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital - Milton
Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital - Needham
Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital - Plymouth
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Beth Israel Lahey Health At Home and The Herrick House
Beth Israel Lahey Health Behavioral Services
Beth Israel Lahey Health Hospital at Home
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