# Dorchester Reporter

"The News and Values Around the Neighborhood"

Thursday, January 7, 2021 Volume 38 Issue 1 50¢



Nobody Hurt; \$500,000 in Damages - A two-alarm fire broke out on the second floor of an occupied three-decker at 26 Crescent Ave. on Tuesday morning around 9:15. A half-hour later, the Fire Department reported "major overhauling being done" and noted that all residents had been safely evacuated from the building. The cause of the fire, which resulted in an estimated \$500,000 in damages, remains under investigation. **Boston Fire Department photo** 

# Virtual meetings next week on waterfront zoning plans

By KATIE TROJANO REPORTER STAFF

The Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) will host two virtual public meetings next week to discuss its latest plans for zoning changes in waterfront neighborhoods, including Dorchester.

The proposed Coastal Flood Resilience Overlay District will apply to areas of Boston that could be inundated during a major coastal storm event, defined as a one percent chance flood event, with 40 inches of sea level rise.

Under the proposal,

developers and property owners would be required to take additional steps to limit the natural damage and displacement that could happen in parts of the city that are at risk for coastal storm flooding and sea level rise.

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# Walsh extends limits, citing critical points with Covid numbers

By KATIE TROJANO REPORTER STAFF

Mayor Walsh on Tuesday extended the pause on "Phase 2 step 2" reopening restrictions until at least Jan. 27, warning Bostonians that the city has now moved into "one of the most serious points in the pandemic so far."

He warned that "if the numbers don't improve, we'll have to look at more restrictions. We need people to continue to do everything to make sure you keep yourself and others safe.

"We'll beat this thing if everyone continues to buckle down," he said.

On Monday, 4,431 new cases and 2 deaths were confirmed, bringing Boston's totals since last March to 41,847, and 1,020, respectively. The average number of positive daily tests in the city, based on a 7-day moving average, is 413, up 3 percent compared to the week before. According to the same metrics, the city is testing roughly 4,561 people a day, a number that Walsh said has decreased since the previous week.

"If you notice our individual day number is at 413, that's with fewer tests," he said. "So, we can make an assumption that if we had more tests, we'd have higher rates in the city."
(Continued on page 12)

## Shots in arms next week for state's first responders

By Chris Lisinski STATE HOUSE **News Service** 

Massachusetts first responders will begin receiving COVID-19 vaccinations next week, while some of the state's oldest residents will move up in line to access the crucial immunization, state officials announced on Monday.

Marking another milestone in the sometimes-bumpy vaccine rollout, Gov. Baker said the more than 45,000 police officers, firefighters, and EMTs in Massachusetts will gain access to the first doses starting Jan. 11.

"These men and women put their lives on the line regularly back before we had Covid-19, and for the last 10 months, they've kept on working the front lines, protecting and caring for residents across Massachusetts," Baker said.

(Continued on page 15)

# Mayor signs law that sets up new police oversight office

By Katie Trojano REPORTER STAFF

Mayor Walsh has signed an ordinance establishing a City Hall office that will give teeth and subpoena powers to a new civilian review panel charged with investigating police misconduct. The Office of Police Accountability and Transparency (OPAT) is the last plank in a three-pronged police reform package devised in response to the police murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

The office will provide intake services and investigators to support the nine-member Civilian Review Board and the Internal Affairs Oversight Panel (IAOP), which replaced an earlier board that critics said lacked power to pursue complaints against officers.

"Now is the time to act with urgency to dismantle systemic racism across our city," Walsh during a signing ceremony on Monday that was streamed online. "The

Office of Police Accountability and Transparency will support lasting, generational change by rooting out impropriety and ensuring the type of enhanced oversight that leads to greater community trust. This is an important milestone, but it's only the beginning."

A task force appointed by Walsh and led by former US Attorney Wayne Budd recommended the new oversight apparatus last summer. The city

(Continued on page 4)

# Health community offers final salutes to Dr. Geiger

By Daniel Sheehan REPORTER STAFF

When the trailblazing physician Dr. Jack Geiger died at his Brooklyn home last Monday at the age of 95, his passing prompted strong reactions in the Boston

where he helped pioneer the neighborhood health center movement decades ago.

Together with Dr. Count Gibson, Dr. Geiger founded the first health center in the nation on

medical community, Columbia Point in 1965, establishing what is today the Geiger-Gibson Health Center. That, in turn, inspired the founding of medical treatment facilities in neighborhoods across the city.

(Continued on page 3)



The late Dr. Jack Geiger and Sandra Cotterell, CEO of the Codman Square Health Center. 2015 Bill Walczak photo

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# Coffee vendor PS Gourmet returning to Adams Village

#### By Daniel Sheehan REPORTER STAFF

A popular iced coffee chain whose Adams Corner location was shuttered by a fire in 2017 is set to make a return to the neighborhood in the coming weeks. John Lydon, who owns the property at the corner of Adams Street and Gallivan Boulevard where PS Gourmet will set up shop, said the "building is moving along" in its final stages of repairs and retrofitting since a separate fire displaced tenants including Windy City Pizza- in 2019.

We have new storefronts going up, with new aluminum and lettered signage, and we're finishing up some sewer and foundation improve-



PS Gourmet coffee store will open in newly renovated space at the high-profile intersection of Gallivan Bill Forry photo Boulevard and Adams Street.

ments— boring stuff," said Lydon.

"The shop likely would have opened earlier if not for Covid-related delays with equipment manufacturers," added Lydon, who estimated doors will open by the end of the month. "Aside from permitting, they are ready to open upon receipt of their equipment."

PS Gourmet will occupy the space that recently housed a pop-up golf equipment store, and which previously had been home to Rep. Dan Cullinane's campaign office and an old Metro PCS store. Top Shelf Cookies is slated to open in the old Windy City space later this year.

Of his new tenant,

Lydon said, "I like the owner, and they have a proven record of success in that area and with that demographic. We're happy to have them back."

The chain's owner, James Fallon, has roots in the area having grown up on King Street and attended St. Mark's Grammar School.

Sara Glennon, PS Gourmet's assistant to the owner, confirmed the shop is "hoping to open soon" and added that "people seem to be excited," referring to the dozens of times folks have asked her about the reopening date in recent days. "We're really happy to be back in the same neighborhood," she said.

# Codman Square Health Center receives \$50k grant to screen for colorectal cancer

Codman Square Health Center in Dorchester has been awarded a \$50,000 grant from the American Cancer Society and National Football League to focus on colorectal cancer screenings. The effort, which began last October, will run to the final months of this year.

The grants—made possible through the Society's partnership with the NFL

and the League's Crucial Catch campaign—are part of a Nationwide Grants for Empowerment and Equity (CHANGE) program that provides funding opportunities as part of the Society's commitment to reduce cancer disparities.

The American Cancer Society is committed to saving lives and addressing the burden of cancer

through early detection.

"Covid-19 has completely upended the way we have traditionally provided care," said Rachel Hindin, MD, at the Codman Square Center. "Colon cancer screening rates have dropped off notably since the start of the pandemic. We have remained connected to our patients by utilizing telehealth, but the ACS and NFL grant will enable us to provide more focused screening for our patients."

"For more than a decade my family and the New England Patriots have been avid supporters of the NFL's Crucial Catch: Intercept Cancer campaign," said Josh Kraft, president of the New England Patriots Foundation. "Together with the American Cancer Society, the Patriots have provided millions of dollars to help our community with tools to reduce cancer risk and to

better understand early detection to find cancers before they have a chance to grow and spread.

"The CHANGE grants will support the efforts of two outstanding health centers that are providing lifesaving services to those who live in and around Boston."

Since 2009, the NFL's Crucial Catch has raised more than \$22 million in support of the American Cancer Society. Funding raised since 2012 has supported the Society's CHANGE program. This program promotes health equity and addresses cancer early detection disparities through community-based cancer prevention programs that increase access to necessary cancer screenings. To date, more than 1 million individuals have been reached with education, navigation, and screening reminders.

## Police, Courts & Fire



New Year's fire displaced nine in Uphams Corner. Boston firefighters responded to 693 Dudley St. around 12:20 a.m. for what turned into a two-alarm fire. Six adults, three children, and two cats were displaced, but no one was injured, according to the BFD, which estimated that the blaze caused \$300,000 in damage.

## Southampton St. stabbing city's first murder in 2021

Boston Police reported the fatal stabbing of a man shortly before 7:30 p.m. on Monday at 115 Southampton St. He was taken to a local hospital, where he was pronounced dead, police say, making him Boston's first murder victim in 2021. Two other stabbings in that area were reported last year. On July 31, Damien Hughes was knifed to death, and four days later, Michael Dezrick was fatally stabbed on nearby on Massachusetts Avenue.

**Boston Police working** on Area B-3 retrieved a loaded firearm that a resident found secreted in her car on Sunday afternoon. Police were called to the scene at 764 Morton St. by a woman who told them she "noticed that her rear license plate appeared to have been tampered with and was bent out of alignment. When she attempted to adjust it, a firearm which had apparently been wedged between the bracket and the plate, fell to the ground," according to the BPD report. The 9mm gun has been "turned over to the Firearm Analysis Unit for processing."

The Boston Police Fugitive Unit on Dec. 30 arrested a 35-year-old man on an outstanding assault warrant from Dorchester District Court. Officers say that the suspect, Kerry Price, was carrying an unregistered 9mm gun loaded with 20 rounds when they arrested him around 6:45 a.m. in the area of Millet and Athelwold Streets.

The next day, New

Year's Eve, officers were back on the same streets Millet and Athelwold- when they say they watched a motorist blow through two stop signs, prompting them to stop the vehicle. The motorist first attempted to escape by driving the wrong way on Fowler Street before bailing out and running away on foot, according to a BPD report. The suspect, 34-year-old Rudy Antenor, Jr., was arrested on Glenway Street where officers recovered a .40 caliber gun that they say Antenor discarded on his flight path. He faces a litany of charges, including "Firearm Violation with Three Prior Violent/ Drug Crimes."

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# UPCOMING CIVIC MEETINGS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

BPDA hosts virtual public meeting treasurer and secretary. Please contact on Flood Resilience Zoning — Boston Hiep Chu at hiepchu@hotmail.com. and zoning staff will host two virtual meetings — Jan. 13 and Jan. 15— to review the draft Coastal Flood Resilience Zoning Overlay, which will provide new zoning definitions, dimensional and use standards for development projects to promote resilient design and better prepare new and existing buildings for future coastal storms and sea level rise. The meetings will include a presentation of the draft zoning article and updates to existing zoning, followed by Q&A and comments. The same presentation and content will be covered at both meetings. The BPDA will take comments on the draft Resilience Zoning Overlay until Fri., Feb. 12. Translation and interpretation services can be made available upon request by reaching out to chris.busch@ boston.gov at least a week in advance of the meeting.

Fields Corner Civic Association postponed its January meeting. The next meeting will be held via Zoom on Tues., Feb. 2 at 6:30 p.m. The association is seeking candidates for president, vice president,

Planning & Development planning Jones Hill Association meets on Wed., Jan. 13 at / p.m. via Zoom. Go to joneshill. com for link and more info.

Fuel assistance available— ABCD urges low-income individuals and families who are struggling to get by to apply for home heating assistance.

To keep everyone safe during the pandemic, ABCD fuel assistance staff members are taking most applications over the phone by calling 617-357-6012. A fuel assistance staff member will take down application information and explain how to provide needed documentation, including mailing it, leaving it in a drop-box at ABCD headquarters, photographing and sending from their phones and other options. Applicants can go to bostonabcd. org for more info. There is a wide range of eligibility based on income and number of household members. Read the guidelines at masscap.org. ABCD pays the household's fuel vendor directly. Right now the maximum fuel assistance benefit is \$875. Last year the top benefit was \$1,140.

The city of Boston's Community Choice

with greater local control over the electricity that powers their homes and businesses launches in February 2021. Visit the City of Boston's Community Choice Electricity webpage to learn more and access webinar recordings in English and 11 other languages. These recordings are a valuable resource for learning more about the Community Choice Electricity Program. Virtual "office hours" will be offered each Tuesday and Thursday from 12 - 1 p.m., and will run to Feb. 2. Visit boston.gov for more info.

Play virtual Bingo with the Jimmy Fund on Friday, January 15 at 7p.m., from the comfort of your own home. Hosted by New England Patriots cheerleaders Lauren and Alexis, team captain and 2-year veteran, respectively. Tune in to the live event on the Jimmy Fund's Facebook page. Suggested donation of \$10 or more to receive one Bingo card. Bingo cards will be emailed to participants prior to Friday evening. Visit Jimmy Fund Bingo for more information.

18th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. **Tribute Concert**: Born on the Water will premiere on Sun., Jan. 17 at 4p.m. The

Electricity program to provide Bostonians Boston Children's Chorus production showcases music and spoken word to honor the resilience of a people that have formed the backbone of this country's cultural heritage. The concert's virtual choirs will feature over 300 singers from the Greater Boston area joined by Massachusetts-born opera star Andrea Baker. Singers have recorded the audio and video in their own homes, with BCC's oldest singers using microphones and mixing software to edit their own tracks. The concert will feature nine virtual choir videos connected by spoken word and historical context, filmed at sites across the globe and hosted in BCC's South Boston Headquarters. RSVP at https:// live.bostonchildrenschorus.org/

Join Mayor Martin J. Walsh and the Museum of Fine Arts Boston for a virtual celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Mon., Jan. 18. Tune in to mfa.org/mlk.

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# Health community offers final salutes to Dr. Geiger

(Continued from page 1)

But Dr. Geiger's impact wasn't just local; it was felt in towns like Mound Bayou, Mississippi, where he founded a sister health center mirroring his efforts in Columbia Point, and, more widely, in regions across the country and around the world.

Jim Hunt, of Dorchester, the president of the Mass League of Community Health Centers whose retirement is impending, became close with Dr. Geiger over the years. In an interview with the Reporter, he related a story illustrating how closely Jack Geiger's medical foresight and civil rights activism were intertwined with the scope of American history.

"He was big into the civil rights movement, and in fact was on the Edmund Pettis bridge with Dr. Martin Luther King and John Lewis when Lewis was hit," said Hunt, describing how Geiger and Gibson aided freedom marchers in the South during that time. "He was responsible for getting John Lewis out of Selma and on a plane to Boston to be treated here."

That same year, Dr. Geiger was laying the blueprints for comprehensive, community-based care in the Columbia Point housing project. Soon, Hunt said, others took notice and began to follow suit.

"There was a very important meeting of all the health committees in Boston at Northeastern in 1971," explained Hunt. What came



Dr. Geiger, left, chatted with Bill Walczak and Meg Campbell during a visit to the Codman Square Health Center in 2015. Photo courtesy Bill Walczak

out of that meeting, he said, was the conclusion that every neighborhood in the city of Boston wanted a health center. It inspired the establishing of organizations like Roxbury Comprehensive and the Neponset Health Center, he added, and spurred the city of Boston to provide seed grants for the health centers.

"By time I joined in 1974 as a volunteer doing governmental affairs work," said Hunt, "there were 17 health centers in Boston alone, and little did we know that in other gateway cities across Massachusetts Lynn, Worcester, and Lawrence-there was keen interest as well." By 1975, using Dr. Geiger's footprint and his model, the health center had become a permanent fixture in neighborhoods, Hunt said.

He added: "In focusing on preventative care and addressing social factors like employment, sanitation, and education rather than simply treating disease after the fact, Dr. Geiger was 'way ahead of his time.'

Bill Walczak, who co-found-

ed the Codman Square Health Center in 1979, said he identified with Dr. Geiger's "radical" approach at treating the whole patient and their social  $\dot{circumstances}\, rather\, thanjust$ 

their symptoms.

"His success and philosophy were in trying to get people to understand that if you don't  $deal\,with\,the\,causative\,aspects$ of poor health, you will never create a healthy population," said Walczak. "We treat disease in our country, not the cause of disease, and that's the major problem in the American healthcare system. That's what health centers should be all about."

Walczak recalled the time when Dr. Geiger visited Codman Academy in 2010 and expressed his support for the organization's hybrid model.

"We were so pleased to have him here to show off the first health center/school combination in America, and I remember him saying he hoped other health centers would do same thing as way to make sure kids of color could get jobs in community health centers and

provide those services to their own communities."

Over the last week, a number of other local medical professionals and leaders in the community health center field reflected on Dr. Geiger's

In a statement, Sandra Cotterell, CEO of Codman Square Health Center, called him "a true visionary. Community health centers exist today and serve millions annually because of Jack's determination and efforts. Codman Square Health Center was started in 1979 largely based on his beliefs that the health care industry take a holistic view of health and address the social determinants, which continue to be our mission and vision to this day...he will be truly missed but not forgotten as we will continue to operate based on those tenets and beliefs he espoused back in the 60's."

Dr. Christopher Zimmerman, medical director at Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Center, described Dr. Geiger as "an icon who started the health center movement. He was a founding father, and we as medical professionals follow his leadership and use his work as a guide for how to do things. Throughout his life, he made great contributions and did so much good. He leaves behind a great legacy and will be truly missed.

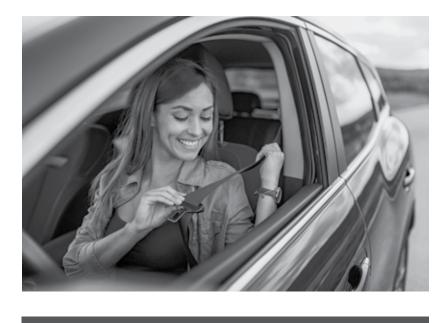
Chuck Jones, the current head of Harbor Health, Inc., which manages the Geiger-Gibson Community Health Center that carries on his mission in his name, spoke to the famed doctor's core tenets of empathy and compassion:

"He believed community health centers were not the end, they were the means to a 'road out' of poverty. Today health centers like Geiger Gibson serve nearly 30 million low-income patients each year across the US, each of them firmly anchored in the values and approach to community health that Dr. Geiger instilled over 55 years ago.

"Dr. Geiger's life and accomplishments have been well documented, so I won't attempt to recount them all here. Perhaps his legacy can best be honored by remembering that, yes, while he was a doctor, Harbor's co-founder, a founding member of two anti-war Nobel Peace Prize winning organizations, and an iconic figure in public health, he was also someone who simply believed we should look out for people in trouble.

"For him," said Jones, "building and sustaining a healthy community was not only about providing exceptional healthcare, but also about fostering mutual respect and compassion, and sharing knowledge and resources so that everyone had a chance to reach their full potential. Racial and social justice were and are inseparable from community health.

"After watching the health and economic effects of the pandemic disproportionately fall across the country this year, we will continue to be inspired by this same belief."



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# Walsh signs law that sets up new police oversight office

has begun a search for an executive director of OPAT, who would be tasked with leading the administrative and office staff.

"The Boston Police Reform Task Force worked diligently to produce a set of recommendations that will create real reform within the Boston Police Department," said Budd. "Today, by signing this ordinance, the OPAT office, the Civilian Review Board, and the Internal Affairs oversight panel have been established into

(Continued from page 1) law. I look forward to seeing how the office enhances equity and allows the community to have greater confidence in the

integrity of policing."

Noted Walsh: "We came back with a response. We're building on the work that we've done here since I became mayor in 2014 through an equity lens. But this was different, and the feeling was about dealing with systemic racism and changing the system that systemic racism exacerbates."

The task force presented recommendations for reform in October, after hosting community input sessions over the summer. The four main areas of review were: use of force policies; implicit bias training, the Bodyworn Camera Program, and the Community Ombudsman Oversight Panel (CO-OP). The creation of the OPAT was a central recommendation from the Task Force.

Walsh has signed ordinances establishing the Civilian Review Board, which will be made up of community members nominated by the City Council and the Mayor's



Mayor Walsh signed an ordinance creating an Office of Police Accountability and Transparency on Monday in his City Hall office.

Isabel Leon/Mayor's Office photo

Office, and the IOAP, which will review the internal affairs policies and procedures, and engage with the community about their impact.

The IOAP will be housed within OPAT, making up a "two-pronged" system with a single point of entry for residents issuing complaints.

It creates what Walsh called "a single point of entry for residents issuing complaints and offers an enhanced and strengthened level of civilian input.'

The mayor added that the task force members have offered their extended assistance to him as advisors as the city "continues to move forward and build trust. We have the best police department in the country, and there's no reason why anyone should be fearful of what we're doing today. What we're doing is adding accountability, whether it's in training, hiring, diversity, police misconduct.

"We want to make sure we're doing everything that we can so that people have full faith and trust in the Boston Police Department. We have the opportunity to be a national model, we're the first city to really respond, and I'm proud of the work that's been done here and I know we have more work to do," the mayor said.

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Mayor Martin J. Walsh

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# Baker signs landmark policing reform law

By Colin A. Young State House News Service

As the year and legislative session came to a close, Gov. Baker last week signed into law legislation creating a police accountability and oversight system under which officers need to be certified every three years and can lose their certification for violating to-be-developed policing standards.

As the country reacted to the killings of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor at the hands of police officers this summer, policing reform was catapulted to the top of Beacon Hill's priority list and lawmakers set out on what would become a complicated, circuitous and, at times, controversial path to address police violence and some of the disproportionate impacts communities of color experience from law enforcement, and to bolster the state's oversight of police officers.

Seven months later, after heated debates, public outcry from police unions, back-room negotiations, a veto threat, and more negotiations, Baker made the reforms state law.

"This bill is the product of bipartisan cooperation and thanks to the Black and Latino Caucus's leadership on the hugely important issue of law enforcement accountability, Massachusetts will have one of the best laws in the nation," Baker said. "Police officers have enormously difficult jobs and we are grateful they put their lives on the line every time they go to work. Thanks to final negotiations on this bill, police officers will have a system they can trust and our communities will be safer for it."

At the heart of the new law is the creation of the Massachusetts Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission as an independent state entity with the power to establish policing standards, certify law enforcement officers, investigate allegations of misconduct, and suspend or revoke the certification of officers who are found by clear and convincing evidence to have violated its standards.

The duties of the state's existing municipal police training committee will remain under the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, the result of a compromise to ensure the governor would sign the bill.

The so-called POST Commission will be composed mostly of civilians — the governor will appoint a police chief, a retired Superior Court judge and a social worker chosen from a list of five nominations submitted by the local chapter of the National Association of Social Workers; the attorney general will appoint a law enforcement officer below the rank of sergeant, a law enforcement officer chosen from five nominations by the Massachusetts Association of Minority Law Enforcement Officers, and an attorney selected from five nominations from the Civil Rights and Social Justice Section Council of the Massachusetts Bar Association; and the governor and attorney general will jointly appoint three others, one of whom must be chosen from five names recommended by the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination.

"There's no other supervisory board in the country like this one with the extent of power that it has to monitor, to directly discipline and to hear complaints directly," Sen. Will Brownsberger, a Belmont Democrat who negotiated the compromise version, said in late November. "It's a majority civilian board. Almost all of the rest of the boards in the country are all law enforcement, so this is a very, very strong innovation."

The Massachusetts Coalition of Police (MassCOP), which represents 4,300 uniformed law enforcement officers in the state, opposed much of the bill and said that Baker signing it would represent him "changing the police profession in Massachusetts forever. A lack of proper examination and study into a number of crucial portions of this bill will result in collateral damage that will have a negative impact on many of our communities."

The law puts some guardrails around law enforcement's use of force, prohibiting the use of chokeholds, requiring the use of de-escalation tactics before physical force, and establishing limits on the use of rubber bullets, tear gas, and dogs. It also requires that an officer intervene in most situations if he or she

sees another officer using unnecessary physical force and to report that use of force up the chain of command.

It also explicitly bans law enforcement agencies from engaging in racial profiling and restricts the use of no-knock warrants by requiring that they be issued by a judge only if the requesting affidavit includes probable cause that the life of the officer or the life of another person would be endangered if the officer announced themselves and includes an attestation from the officer that there is no reason to believe minor children or adults older than 65 are in the home.

"This is a landmark decision that begins to address the inequities that we have seen in our police institutions for a long time," Rep. Carlos Gonzalez, who chairs the Black and Latino Legislative Caucus and was one of the six conference committee members who negotiated the final product, said.

"Like everybody has said, one bill is not going to address every issue, but we are confident that this bill starts to begin the process of holding police accountable in a transparent way and having an independent body investigate police misconduct when and if it occurs."

When lawmakers initially sent the bill to Baker, it called for a ban on almost all law enforcement use of facial recognition systems, only allowing police to ask the Registry of Motor Vehicles to perform a search with a warrant or if there is "an emergency involving immediate danger of death or serious physical injury."

The governor threatened a veto over concerns about that prohibition and other aspects of the legislative compromise, and lawmakers soon scaled back the facial recognition prohibition to allow police to perform facial recognition searches to assist with criminal cases or to mitigate "substantial risk of harm" after submitting a written request to the RMV, Massachusetts State Police, or the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The new law also includes provisions Baker outlined about a year ago when he proposed a series of reforms around the State Police, including the authority for a governor to appoint someone from outside the MSP ranks as colonel of the force and the creation of a cadet program as an alternate route to the State Police Academy that the administration believes can diversify the pool of recruits.

Though not specific to the State Police, it also establishes a fine of three times the fraudulently earned wages or imprisonment of up to two years for any law enforcement officer who knowingly submits a fraudulent timesheet.

Ahead of the Senate's final vote on the package, Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz said that there were "a lot of mixed emotions" about the package and suggested that some matters not resolved could return for more discussion in the 2021-2022 legislative session that begins next week.

"There is a lot of mourning that I and others are doing for the things not included in this bill," she said. "But at the end of the day, when I zoom out and I look at what this bill accomplishes relative to what anyone would have expected twelve months ago or six months ago or even six days ago, there is a ton in this bill that is really going to set a new standard for the national policy landscape on police accountability that could potentially ripple through the other forty-nine states."

On Thursday, after Baker signed the bill into law, Chang-Diaz said, "This law represents a mile marker, not an end."

# Walsh vetoes bill restricting use of rubber bullets, tear gas

# Proponents eye a new vote

By Ally Jarmanning WBUR Reporter

Mayor Walsh on Monday vetoed an ordinance that would restrict how and when police can use tear gas, pepper spray, and rubber bullets, saying in a statement that he had legal concerns with the measure, and that he supported restrictions on the so-called "less lethal" equipment in the newly signed state police reform law.

"We strongly believe CCCAs [chemical crowd control agents] and KIPs [kinetic impact projectiles] are only to be used when absolutely necessary to prevent violence or riots so people can safely and peacefully exercise their First Amendment rights," Walsh said. "This community policing principle is something our Boston Police Department is committed to ensuring, along with the appropriate conduct by officers."

Walsh's veto announcement came on the same day he signed an ordinance creating a new police watchdog agency. (See Page 1)

City Councillor Ricardo Arroyo, who sponsored the ordinance restricting the weapons, said Walsh's veto does not meet the moment. "I think that's the bare minimum we can do, as far as giving a warning [that gives] time to disperse before using weaponry that can take a life, and the fact that it was vetoed is disappointing," he said.

Police body cam videos recently released from the night of the racial justice protests on May 31 last year showed police using chemical spray on protesters as they tried to clear the crowd. In some of those moments, officers appear to issue warnings to protesters first, and at others, officers appear not to communicate that they intend to use their weapons.

City Councillor Andrea Campbell, a candidate for mayor who also sponsored the ordinance, pointed to those videos as the reason why the restrictions are necessary. She said in a statement that she'll push for another vote to pass the legislation.

"Mayor Walsh's veto to this legislation is a failure of leadership when this is an opportunity to establish clear restrictions on lethal crowd control weapons and greater accountability in policing," she said. "Tear gas is deadly and banned by international law, and just last week, we saw body camera footage of Boston police indiscriminately pepper-spraying peaceful protestors."

The City Council originally passed the ordinance by an 8-5 vote. To secure a veto-proof majority, proponents of the bill need to convert at least one other previously no vote to pass a measure that will withstand a veto.

With reporting from WBUR's Hannah Chanatry and Simón Rios. This story was published by WBUR 90.9FM on Jan. 5. The Reporter and WBUR share content through a media partnership.

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#### **Editorial**

#### Better days await the nation

Against the backdrop of a still-rampaging, mutating virus and the menace of an 11th-hour insurrection mounted by Trumpist collaborators in Congress, many of us lurched into the new year with great anxiety and even a deepening sense of dread.

But let's step back from the national abyss for a moment. Take a deep breath — from a safe distance— in the still-fresh dawn of 2021. Let's count our blessings, think positive, and take stock of what's likely ahead of us in the months to come.

There'll be graduations and weddings, first communions and quinceaneras, barbeques and bar mitzvahs, road races and bike rides on the Neponset Greenway, kites aloft in Franklin Park, ball games at McConnell and Garvey and Harambee, and cold brews poured in the DBCo tap room. If the timing works out, on the first Sunday in June, we'll gather again along the avenue to celebrate Dot Day as one big, diverse community. Have faith.

Spirits should be buoyed anew by the results from Georgia - still unofficial at this hour, but nonetheless compelling— that both new US Senators from the Peach State will be Democrats, thus enabling Democrats to wrest control of the body from the treacherous control of Mitch McConnell. In two weeks, a new president and vice president — joined by a Congress controlled by Democrats — can begin the work of restoring order and dignity to the federal government.

The shift cannot happen fast enough. Job No. 1 must be to centralize the country's deployment and distribution of the Covid vaccines and to execute a coherent, effective strategy to contain the virus's spread in the interim. Biden and the Congressional leaders must improve upon the most recent stimulus package to increase direct aid to businesses and individuals hobbled by the pandemic restrictions.

The need will likely grow more urgent in the days and weeks to come. This week, Mayor Walsh ordered a three-week extension to the pause on the "phase 2 re-opening"— keeping gyms, movie theatres, and museums shuttered through Jan. 27. It's a prudent  $step\,given\,the\,city's\,worsen\overline{ing}\,virus\,metrics; it's\,also$ one that will no doubt put further stress on small businesses and furloughed workers.

Early Wednesday morning, our state's Legislature voted through a \$626.5 million economic package aimed at spurring job growth through loans to businesses— similar to the federal Paycheck Protection Program — and other targeted spending. It's a welcome assist.

But the real pivot must now come at the federal level, where the breakthrough in the partisan impasse in Congress clears the way, finally, for far more robust emergency spending to stabilize the economy until the most acute phase of the pandemic is extinguished.

The task before the new president and his team is daunting and it is made more so by the delusions and ravings of the man Joe Biden defeated soundly two months ago. Trumpism is itself a virus that has infected our body politic. This week, the assault on democracy by the outgoing president's sycophants intensified, with dead-enders like Ted Cruz signaling their intent to contest the results of the election, despite their pitiful, total lack of evidence. The president himself, flailing about in a desperate and pathetic breakdown, has gone into full-on thug mode, threatening state officials in Georgia and even his own vice president, whom he has called upon to throw out the certified election results. It's an act of sedition and treason without precedent in the republic that must not only be condemned, but also prosecuted.

In the end, Trump will do what he does best: fail. Joe Biden and Kamala Harris will ascend to power in two weeks. In the troubling hours and days to come, we must fall back on that belief: Better days - Bill Forry lie ahead for the nation.

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#### Off the Bench

# Aiming for the balance of the common good

By James W. Dolan REPORTER COLUMNIST

Whatever became of the common good? Is it just that there are too many special interests and not enough shared responsibilities? Are efforts to achieve a balance being overwhelmed by entitlement, greed, and overriding self-interest? Balance is a goal that requires insight, understanding, sacrifice, and good judgment, qualities that often seem to be lacking among those charged with the responsibility to maintain social equilibrium.

Balance is an elusive objective due to the many variables that must be considered in governance, some more prominent than others but each with its own constituency demanding action, one constituency competing with another for attention and limited resources. Achieving balance in one sector often involves depriving another. A dynamic concept, balance requires constant monitoring and an awareness of the need for continuing adjustments.

Each special need impacts another. Protecting one group is viewed as encroaching upon the rights of another. Attention given to one is seen as ignoring another. Adding to the mix the inevitable self-interest of those in power further complicates the balancing act so necessary in maintaining a healthy democracy.

Cause and effect also play important roles in balancing efforts. Responding to a cause may obscure harmful effects not readily apparent at the time. Balance requires analysis of the impact of policy and the less apparent adverse consequences that may flow from what at the time appears to be a sensible response to a problem. For example, the Vietnam and Iraq wars, and, closer to home, the "war on drugs," all of which had adverse consequences well beyond the perceived benefits

Police reform is a good thing as it applies to recruitment, training, and some practices, but it goes too far when it calls for defunding the police, discourages good candidates from applying, and affects morale to the point where officers stop making arrests. Achieving balance sometimes requires extreme measures as seen in the civil rights movement, but the effort more often responds to moderation, incremental progress, and trial and error rather than radical change. I remain skeptical of achieving lasting solutions. Making things better, more often than not, is the most we can hope for.

"Love thy neighbor" is the most radical command one can receive because in doing so we must give something of ourselves. How do we balance that? It is not easy, particularly knowing how weak and self-centered we tend to be. Is donating money enough? Is being kind and thoughtful enough? Is telling ourselves how generous and caring we are enough? No! First, we must come to grips with the question: Who is our neighbor?. The simple and correct answer is "everybody." But how can I love everyone?

Beyond personal acts of kindness, there is a commitment to the common good. Supporting policies that advance social and economic justice. Understanding that not everyone had the benefits you have and which you did not merit. God does not love you more because he gave you much. He only expects more of you. He loves the poor, the displaced, the sick, and the imprisoned more because he gave them less. You are there to try to strike a balance by caring, by giving of yourself and your belongings to those less fortunate. It is in that way you show your love for your neighbor. He needs it more than you and you need to give it for in so doing you are giving it to God.

Human nature is obstinate. It does not welcome change. Particularly that which challenges, Perceived interests and status. It resists what is transformational. The Civil War was such a change, Slavery was abolished. But remnants persist, Even after 150 years.

It is not in victory we prevail. For within each victory, There are seeds of further strife. It is in the striving we succeed. Bending the "arc of history toward justice" Is slow, gradual, and frustrating. But, given human nature, It may be all we can achieve. The quest remains, now carry on!

– JWD

# How a Little Engine That Could made news in southwest Georgia

By Edward M. Cook SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

By the time this article is published, the runoff elections in Georgia to determine the control of the US Senate will likely have been decided. Regardless of the outcome, there is an important story to be told: How is it that southwest Georgia counties led voter turnout in these runoffs? The following are my observations on what has been happening in Randolph,

Looking Up Longfellow Street

Quitman, and Stewart counties.

When the runoffs began, Bobby Jenkins

was the chair of the Randolph County Democratic Party Committee, the only such committee of the three counties that was the focus of this local turnout effort. Only a few weeks later, Jenkins was leading a team that has built voter turnout that is already 73.6 percent of the November general election turnout. Randolph County is leading (ranging from first place to twelfth, depending on the hour) all the other 158 Georgia counties' turnouts, whose average late last week was 63.9 percent of the November turnout. (These numbers change hourly.)

Jenkins is a retired public schools superintendent and church deacon who has become the engineer on The Little Engine That Could. The success began with his connection to Maude Bruce, the chair of the NAACP in Ellenville, NY, who sent Thomas Brown to Randolph County. Brown is a retired schoolteacher who volunteered in Philadelphia for the Democrats' get-out-the-vote campaign in November where he learned the sophisticated use of data management and Covid-safe door-to-door canvassing protocols. Energized by the success in Philadelphia and understanding the importance of the Georgia runoffs, Brown sought direction from Bruce and was referred to Jenkins.

At the end of November, Brown jumped into his car, drove to Cuthbert, the county seat of Randolph, got a hotel room and went to work, as a field director. He has self-financed his weeks in Randolph. In concert, he and Jenkins mapped out a strategy focused on canvassing and began recruiting, training, and supervising local Democrats for door-to-door voter contact. The numbers prove that the Jenkins/Brown team is making history.

Brown needed help with the data system that canvassers use on their cell phones and contacted a data management expert, Kitty Cox, of Newton, Massachusetts, who had been volunteering with the Georgia State Democratic Party during the general election campaign. She has been focused on southwest Georgia ever since. A native of Birmingham, Alabama, Cox went to college in Atlanta, and landed at first on Adams Street in Dorchester after earning a graduate degree at MIT 40 years ago. After all these years she still refers to everyone as "y'all.'

She has been massaging the numbers out of Georgia, calling on everyone she knows for donations, helping with strategy and chairing team meetings on Zoom. Knowing my passion for, and experience in, electoral campaigns, she called me from her home and asked me to "consult" virtually from Dorchester about the campaign in the three counties and I took the bait, hook, line, and sinker. I began working seven days a week on fundraising, communications and strategy.

Along with leading the state in early voter turnout, Jenkins's organization has now grown into the two adjacent counties, Quitman and Stewart (currently vying with Randolph for first place in the state). What began as an operation without money or infrastructure now has a field director, a data manager, a finance director, an on-line donor account, and backers from 13 states and the District of Columbia. A dozen trained local canvassers have been recruited, like grandmother Carolyn Baker, college student Derrick Gorsuch, and high school football coach Wes Murphy. The locals are supplemented by canvassers from Florida and Alabama.

Says Jenkins: "No one expected that we could achieve so much success in our corner of Georgia's Black Belt, least of all me. But we have found out that we have like-minded friends all over the country who will support us when we do the work on the ground. Bringing together all of these people is what some have called 'a Christmas miracle' and we intend to continue to build our Democratic infrastructure after Jan. 5 and create a model for other counties in this part of the state.

"Poor, rural, majority African American parts of the South have been written off by the political class in both parties. We intend to wake the Black sleeping giant by showing what can be done by determined local folks."

In addition to the political junkie "fun" I feel in being in this fight, it has been my honor to join with some exceptional people who are bringing about change that has been overdue for 155 years.

## 'Just me and the ocean'

The Rev. John Predmore, SJ. chaplain to the staff, faculty, parents, and alumni of Boston College High School on Columbia Point, likes to go down to the sea again and again from his home on the school's campus. After a recent walk along the edge of Boston Harbor, he reflected on the experience on Facebook with the following meditation:

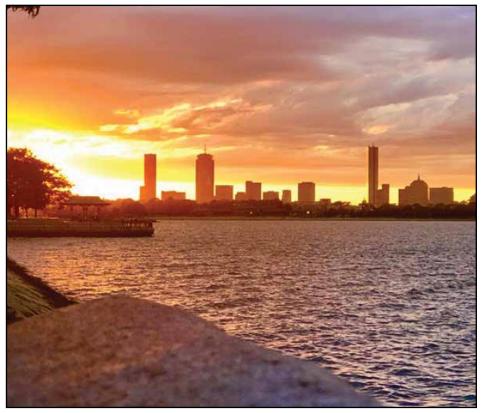
"After dinner, I decided to talk my usual evening walk, and yet I was debating with myself because it was 27 degrees in this early wintertime. I bundled up and stepped outside and noticed a rabbit scurrying to a safer place. The wind was gentle coming from the southwest and I was feeling cold. I could go back inside the building and get my steps with vigor in warmth, but as I walked, I quickened my steps. I crossed into the Harborview apartment complex and noticed that the wind was absent, which would make me stay outdoors longer than I intended. I noticed there were no cars and I hadn't yet seen a pedestrian. I was almost to the ocean.

'My intent was to make some phone calls, but I realized it was too quiet to break the silence with a phone conversation. I simply walked. The ocean was still, the harbor endorsed serenity, the air no longer felt cold. The walk seemed

like a present to me, like the stillness one enjoys on Christmas Eve, when everyone is nestled into their homes in coziness. I felt that coziness, and this seemed to be the Christmas Eve walk I typically take each year, except the rain kept me from doing so. A few more rabbits darted about and the ocean air was fresh while the ocean's waves were not even lapping the shore.

"I enjoyed this moment. The night was all mine. I walked the boardwalk that led to the cupola and I breathed in the cold air. My chin was warm because I did not need the mask to cover my nose because I was the solitary figure at the beach. I choose my route to walk the length of the harbor that leads back to my residence, 3.5 miles in all. I crunched a few mounds of icy snow and continued on. Still, no wind, and I felt warm. The silence even extended into the ocean - no boats, no ships, not even the sound of a bird. The full moon lit up the harbor. No camera could do justice to the setting. I walked steadily, taking some stops along the way to marvel at the harbor.

"I passed by the presidential library and heard my first sound – the cables to the mast where the sailing flag was flown, but that sound soon dissipated and I was alone in silence again. I felt delight that I was experiencing this



The city skyline across the harbor waters as viewed by Rev. Predmore.

marvelous night. I passed no soul, not even the Brazilian fishermen. Not a soul. This was for my enjoyment, and I walked. I turned the corner of the harbor walk and was nearly half a mile from home when I heard overhead geese returning to our lawn. The wind

picked up but remained steady. It was a night worth spending outdoors. Just me and the ocean. Five hundred yards from home, I saw the only car, and I passed by a few more rabbits, and I was home once again. Warm, and happy."

# Amidst crisis, Mariano plunges into speakership

#### By Chris Lisinski State House News Service

The Ronald Mariano era is here, and there will be no gently paced transition period in the Massachusetts House.

Mariano, a 74-year-old Quincy Democrat and longtime deputy to now-departed Speaker Robert DeLeo, ascended to the speakership on Dec. 30 with only six days remaining in the unusual 2020-2021 lawmaking session, against the backdrop of a still-raging pandemic, and with three conference committees still working to find compromise on major bills, one of whom is "very far apart," according to the speaker.

The state's ongoing Covid-19 response is "job number one" for Mariano, he told lawmakers in his inaugural speech, but it is not the only topic on which he has set his sights.

Mariano listed a range of other priorities, including housing production, investing in community colleges, helping community hospitals survive, improving rural internet access, strengthening infrastructure, expanding offshore wind, and lowering pharmaceutical costs.

He also offered a glimpse into how he will approach the job: While he praised the value of vocal advocacy, the new speaker placed emphasis on consensus-building and finding compromise.

"I welcome these new voices, hungry for change, who are not afraid to press for more, and who expect us to be bold," he said. "But it's also my job to know that just agreeing in principle to calls for bold change is not enough. In the reality of governing, we must live in the world of the possible and not make perfection the enemy of progress."

No worker should have to commute more than an hour to get to a job, Mariano said. He called for the Legislature to renew its commitment to more robust K-12 school funding made in the Student Opportunity Act, whose promised first-year increases were trimmed due to the budgetary impacts of the pandemic.

Warning that Massachusetts stands at a "breaking point" for housing infrastructure, Mariano suggested that zoning reform could be a solution, in a possible reference to a long-sought Gov. Baker proposal to lower the voting threshold for local zoning changes.

"People want to live and work in Massachusetts, but we don't have the housing stock to welcome them," Mari-



New Speaker Ronald Mariano addressed his colleagues on Dec. 30 after being elected leader of the Massachusetts House.

Sam Doran/SHNS photo

ano said. "Meaningful zoning reform can change that."

As part of economic development bills they passed, both branches approved language that would lower the vote needed at the local level for many zoning changes from a two-thirds majority to a simple majority. However, the legislation has been stuck in House-Senate conference committee negotiations for more than five months.

A 30-year veteran of the House who first went up to Beacon Hill when William Weld was governor, Mariano described his election as speaker as the "culmination" of a career in public service and pledged that his "door will continue to be open."

DeLeo didn't disclose his interest in pursuing a new job until last month, during the ongoing lame duck session and after his election to a new two-year term. But, Mariano said in an interview, DeLeo floated the idea of stepping down with him just before Covid hit.

"I thought I might go out the door with him. I was tired," Mariano said. "I never set out to run to be the speaker, and I was quite happy being his majority leader, so he decides to leave and I have to decide, do I want to go through this again with my fourth speaker? Or do I just want to hit the road with the guy who's been good to me?

"But after talking to a few folks and listening to their urgings to retain some institutional memory during the pandemic, some experienced leadership, they convinced me that the race—there would be no race—that it would be fairly easy for me to win the speakership rather than an intense personal campaign or battle," Mariano said. "That was sort of the defining issue."

He faced some opposition: Rep. Russell Holmes, a Mattapan Democrat and former leader of the Black and Latino Legislative Caucus, who complained about a about a pattern of insular and secretive succession decisions stretching back to the departure of former Speaker Sal DiMasi. A contested speaker's race, Holmes said, would ensure "we won't just roll over and hand over the speakership in another backroom deal like they did

"It's a pattern. It literally does not matter," Holmes said last month. "Many of us have been elected since DiMasi, and still his corrupt poisonous tree still determines who the speaker is 15 years later. That's unacceptable to me. It's like none of us matter. This is what I call structural racism personified."

Holmes took himself out of the race last week.

All 31 members of the House's Republican caucus cast their votes for Minority Leader Brad Jones, who said in a statement that he looks forward to "continuing and building upon the professional and cordial relationship" he shares with Mariano.

Only three Democrats did not back Mariano: Rep. Jonathan Hecht of Watertown voted present, while Rep. Denise Provost and Rep. Tami Gouveia — the only one among the three who will still be a member of the House next session — did not cast votes.

In a statement after the vote, Gouveia said she did not vote for Mariano because she was unable to communicate with the majority leader beforehand and thus did not have "ample evidence that Speaker Mariano would be the bold leader that my constituents expect and our state needs during this perilous time."

Several Democrats who declined to support DeLeo two years ago opted Wednesday to back Mariano. Reps. Maria Robinson, Nika Elugardo, and Patrick Kearney all voted for Mariano after voting "present" on the speakership decision in January 2019, as did retiring House Dean Rep. Angelo Scaccia, former DeLeo opponent Rep. John Rogers, and Holmes.

Scaccia, who introduced Mariano to the rostrum for his acceptance speech, prayed for "wisdom and knowledge for you, Mr. Speaker, in these trying, testy, and turbulent times."

"This gift will serve you well as our leader of the greatest institution conceived by man," Scaccia, the only lawmaker other than Mariano who gave remarks Wednesday, said. "Be wise, be just, be sagacious in your new role, and history will record you as one of our finest. This role of dean reminds me of the barracks refrain of long ago, that old soldiers never die, they just fade away. Like that old dean and soldier, I, too, fade away from this chamber. But Mr. Speaker, may God bless you in all your future endeavors."

Mariano in response praised Scaccia, indicating he would "miss those acrimonious debates on the film tax credit every session," and other members of the House who are set to depart at the end of the current session.

Senate President Karen Spilka, alongside whom Mariano will now need to work on the most critical Beacon Hill efforts, offered brief congratulations to the new speaker.

"Enjoy this special day," she said in a statement. "I look forward to working closely together to accomplish great things for the residents of our Commonwealth!"

Sam Doran and Chris Van Buskirk contributed reporting.

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# It was the year of the coronavirus above all

#### By STATE HOUSE News Service Staff

Let's face it. There's not much suspense over last year's top story. Without officially giving it away, it arrived like an unwelcome visitor in early March and has refused to leave since, touching every part of daily life in Massachusetts, and overtaking its politics.

Following are sketches of the other nine political stories in the New Service's top ten

#### COVID-19 and the State's Response

More than 12,000 people dead. Some 352,000 people and counting infected. Families separated. Businesses closed, many for good. Students learning remotely. Those who can, working from home. Tens of thousands more without a job to go to. And the list goes on. A deadly strain of coronavirus arrived in early March and began spreading at a Biogen conference at Long Wharf. It hasn't stopped since. The worldwide Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted everything from education and commerce to the mere act of getting together with one's family to celebrate any occasion.

On March 23, Gov. Baker issued an executive order closing all non-essential businesses, one of the most significant of a series of actions taken by state government to try to slow the spread of the virus. It was mid-May before businesses began to reopen in phases and under strict safety protocols. After a summer slowdown, a resurgence of the virus prompted governments to clamp down on business and social activity to keep hospitals from being overrun. From gathering size limits to mask advisories, Baker and the Legislature, with assistance from the federal government, spent the year reacting to the evolving public health circumstances and still are. On Beacon Hill, this has meant lawmakers adapting to remote voting and Zoom debates as everyone waits for vaccines to become widely available. Some of those vaccines have been developed and manufactured here in Massachusetts by Pfizer and Moderna, and the state's plan calls for them to be available to the general public by the spring, giving hope that 2021 could bring back some type of return to normal.

#### **Reckoning on Race Leads to Police Reform**

When George Floyd, a 46-year-old unarmed Black man, died on Memorial Day under the knee of a white Minneapolis police officer, not even a global pandemic could keep people from the streets. That included the streets of Boston and cities and towns around Massachusetts where protesters demonstrated against police brutality and demanded a response to the racial inequities that have gone unaddressed in society for so long. In the halls of the State House, the response to that reckoning on race took the form of legislation to restrict the use of certain types of force by law enforcement, including chokeholds and tear gas, and to make sure police officers



Members of the Black and Latino Legislative Caucus, joined by municipal officials, marched down Joy Street on June 2 from the historical African Meeting House to the front steps of the State House, where Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz (second from left) and Rep. Russell Holmes (center) helped outline a policy agenda to prevent police brutality. Sam Doran/SHNS photo

could and would be held accountable for their actions. Gov. Baker filed a bill to create  $a\,Peace\,Officer\,Standards\,and$ Training (POST) Commission, which would begin licensing law enforcement officers and have the power to decertify police for misconduct. The Senate and House followed with their own versions, and within two months, by the end of July, the legislation was before a conference committee. It would take another five months, however, before legislators and Baker could find common ground as they wrestled with issues like who should sit on the POST Commission, should police have access to facial recognition software, and under what circumstances should police officers lose their qualified immunity from civil prosecution. Lobbying was intense on both sides, with the powerful police unions opposing some of the key changes reformers were insisting upon, and there were times when the bill's biggest champions thought Beacon Hill might lose the momentum and miss the moment. But in the end, compromise on all sides produced a landmark bill Baker has said he was proud to sign.

- Matt Murphy

#### **DeLeo Leaves Beacon Hill**

The rumors were bound to be true one of these years. When the buzz picked up in early December that the longest-serving House speaker in Massachusetts history, Robert DeLeo of Winthrop, was planning to step aside and retire from State House life. Just a month after his reelection, DeLeo, 70, decided to call it a career on Beacon Hill - after 30 years in the House and 12 at its helm, guiding the legalization of casino gambling and passage of landmark health care, gun control, and criminal justice reform laws.

"I felt that we accomplished quite a bit. I think when you feel it's the right time, you sort of know it's the right time," he told the News Service as he left the State House for the last time as an elected official on Dec. 29. DeLeo is still in the midst of conversations about his new role at Northeastern University. Over three decades in the House, he became known as a moderate and a consensus builder who shielded his caucus from politically sensitive or risky votes. The new year has begun with a new man atop the House rostrum: Quincy Democrat Ron Mariano, who served as majority leader and led some of the most significant negotiations for the House over the last decade, ascended to the speakership just before 2020 came to a close. –

– Colin A. Young

#### **Markey Puts JKIII Into Early Retirement**

This one lived up to its

billing. The looming contest

between US Sen. Ed Markey and US Rep. Joseph Kennedy III came in at No. 6 on the 2019 Top 10 list and, after an eventful campaign, culminated with Markey handily fending off the challenge and cruising to another six years in Washington. Kennedy began with an edge in the polls and fund-raising but the pandemic changed the contours of the campaign and it was Markey's team that capitalized. Despite being 74 and having spent more than four decades in Congress, Markey (and his digital team) presented himself as something of a hipster - the senator's love of ice cream and the vintage Nike basketball sneakers he wore became points of fascination online - and he leaned on endorsements from people like US Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and his co-sponsorship of the Green New Deal to frame himself as a progressive champion to young, liberal voters. At the same time, Kennedy was never really able to develop a cogent case for why Markey needed to be retired and his argument for a new voice and fresh leadership did not resonate with voters the same way it did when Ayanna Pressley successfully challenged Michael Capuano for a US House seat in 2018. Markey won about 55 percent of the Democratic primary votes and then rolled over Republican Kevin O'Connor with nearly 65 percent of the general election vote en route to a second full term in the Senate. Kennedy, who gave up his seat in the House to challenge Markey, has not announced what he intends to do next.

- Colin A. Young

#### **Holyoke Soldiers' Home:** Mismanagement and Tragedy

The story of Covid-19 in long-term care facilities has often been a tragic one, and the deadly outbreak at the Holyoke Soldiers' Home was a particularly grim tale of the pandemic's devastation, costing at least 76 veterans their lives, prompting the resignation of Veterans Affairs Secretary Francisco Urena ,and leading to felony charges against two former officials at the home. Attorney General Maura Healey brought charges in September against former Superintendent Bennett Walsh and former medical director David Clinton, alleging they put residents' lives at risk by combining two dementia care units and housing some veterans who were Covid positive and others who did not display any symptoms in a confined area. A report by former assistant U.S. Attorney Mark Pearlstein quoted staff describing that move as "total pandemonium" and "when all hell broke loose," with one recreational therapist saying she felt like she was "walking [the veterans] to their death. Healey described the criminal case against Walsh and Clinton -- who have pleaded not guilty -- as the first in the country relating to COVID-19 nursing home deaths, and the fallout could spill into 2021 as other probes into the Holyoke outbreak continue.

- Katie Lannan

#### **Warren Runs for** President

She had a plan for that. Critics and opponents of Sen. Elizabeth Warren had been saying for years that the Cambridge Democrat was angling for a White House run while serving in the Senate, and whenever her campaign dreams did begin, they officially came to an end two days after Super Tuesday. One of four Massachusetts pols to run for president this cycle, Warren had seemed to have the best shot, and her campaign, featuring a pile of policy plans pledging structural change, cameos from her dog Bailey, pinkie-promises to little girls and hours-long "selfie lines" that became such a phenomenon they earned their own interactive breakdown in the New York Times, was at various points considered among the top tier in a crowded Democratic field.

But as Democrats began to coalesce around Joe Biden - erstwhile candidates Pete Buttigieg and Amy Klobuchar

endorsed the former vice president the day before he'd win Massachusetts-Warren came in third place at home (not to spoil another item on this list), and did not win in any other states. She suspended her campaign on March 5, saying she'd been told when she first entered the race that there were "two lanes" -- a progressive one led by Sen. Bernie Sanders and Biden's moderate one -- and "no room for anyone else in this." "I thought that wasn't right, but evidently I was wrong," she said.

- Katie Lannan

#### **Baker Remakes the SJC After Justice Gants's** Death

Gov. Baker knew he would have to nominate a new justice to the Supreme Judicial Court this year as Justice Barbara Lenk approached December and her 70th birthday, the mandatory retirement age. But the sudden death of Chief Justice Ralph Gants in September following a heart attack upended the process, suddenly requiring additional action to restore the state's highest court to its full membership of seven. Baker tapped SJC Justice Kimberly Budd to step into the court's top role, in turn opening up her associate justice seat as another for the governor to fill in a flurry of action. Both of his new picks to join the state's highest court, former Appeals Court Judge Dalila Argaez Wendlandt and former Boston Municipal Court Judge Serge Georges Jr., cruised through the nomination process this fall and earned unanimous confirmations from the Governor's Council, as did Budd. Now that the latest members have all taken the oath of office, Baker has accomplished a nearly unprecedented -- and often unattainable -- feat in Massachusetts history: He nominated all seven judges currently sitting on the SJC, successfully putting them up  $for decades-long\, appointments$ deciding the most high-profile cases about state law. The flurry of activity also transformed the court's makeup: Budd is the first Black woman to serve as chief justice. She, Wendlandt, and Georges also ensure that three out of seven justices on the highest court are people of color.

- Chris Lisinski

#### Pandemic Leads to **Historically Late Budget**

Better late. The \$45.9 billion fiscal 2021 state budget was signed by Gov. Baker on Dec. 11, the latest of the modern era. But in another nod to the weight of the pandemic, no one really had much of a beef with the timing because there were more important things happening. When tax revenues and jobs tanked early in the pandemic, lawmakers seemed paralyzed by the depth of change, and uncertain about when and how to proceed. But as jobs and tax receipts started to come back in the warmer weather, top Democrats in the Legislature and Baker made an important decision they would not rush a budget merely to have one in place for the July 1 start of the fiscal year. They'd wait. And wait

(Continued next page)

# Virtual meetings next week on waterfront zoning plans

(Continued from page 1)

The Q&A meetings will be held online on Jan. 13 on from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. and on Jan. 15 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m Residents will then have until Feb. 12 to submit public comments.

"In order for Boston to grow and thrive for generations to come, we must make sure that what we are building today is resilient and protected from impacts of climate change," said Brian Golden of the BPDA. "By updating our zoning code, we are strengthening our tools to protect our city and our shore line, and following through on the steps outlined in Mayor Walsh's Climate Ready Boston."

Based upon climate modeling, the city projects 40 inches of sea level rise between 2070 and 2100, a time frame that is within the usable life of most of the buildings currently undergoing BPDA review.

The Zoning Overlay
—Article 25A of the
Boston Zoning Code—
will provide new defini-

tions and standards for building dimensions and designs for new projects and building retrofits. It is intended to prevent flood damage by elevating occupiable space, flood-proofing areas beneath flood elevations, and promoting health and safety by preventing uses such as living space below the flood elevation.

All development projects subject to BPDA's Article 80 Large and Small Project review will be required to undergo resilience review and comply with the coastal flood resilience design guidelines.

Information to register for the meetings

Jan. 13 bit.ly/CFRODJan15 Toll free call-in number: 833.568.8864 Meeting ID: 160 772 4427

Jan. 15 bit.ly/CFRODJan15 Toll free call-in number: 833.568.8864

Meeting ID: 160 772

# It was the year of the coronavirus above all

(Continued from page 8)

and wait and wait. For five months, and under three bare bones interim budgets, Baker alone called the shots on state spending. Beacon Hill leaders announced in the summertime that  $they would \, hold \, local \, aid \, harmless \, from \,$ cuts, and even bump it up a bit. And as the months went by, the state's fiscal picture leveled out. Initial forecasts of a revenue implosion of more than \$6 billion didn't materialize and tax collections, so far, have not declined at all in fiscal 2021. By late December, the House and Senate were feeling good enough about the situation to close out the year with a succession of veto override votes to restore spending over Gov. Baker's objections.

But there's a wildcard in all of this. To avoid cutting programs and services or raising taxes, lawmakers built this year's budget on more than \$3 billion in non-recurring revenues, from federal aid and the state's rainy day fund which will force tougher budget calls in early 2021 unless economic growth or more federal help can backfill the disappearing one-time revenues.

- Michael P. Norton

Biden Wins the Bay State and the Presidency

When Joe Biden jetted out of New Hampshire after a dismal fifth place finish in that state's primary, his presidential hopes seemed on the rocks. Progressives were feeling good about their chances of electing one of their preferred candidates to the nation's highest office. Finishing behind Bernie Sanders, Pete Buttigieg, Amy Klobuchar and Elizabeth Warren, Biden headed to South Carolina seemingly unfazed by his performances in the Granite State and Iowa, and looking ahead to Super Tuesday. Four months later, as Newsweek pointed out, Biden would prove it was possible to win his party's nomination for president after losing both Iowa and New Hampshire.

Massachusetts played a role in his turnaround. In 2008 Biden barely registered in Massachusetts among the Democrats seeking the presidency that year, finishing behind Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama, even John Edwards. Biden headed into the March 3 presidential primary here, after losing Nevada but posting a big win in South Carolina, and with the vice presidential credentials he'd earned while serving two terms with Obama

he claimed a convincing win, with his nearly 474,000 votes topping his nearest competitor, Bernie Sanders, by nearly 97,000 votes. His Super Tuesday performance left Warren's candidacy reeling from a loss in her home state. Biden topped Trump in Massachusetts by a more than two-to-one margin and mail-in votes helped Biden capture crucial swing states. Ultimately, he defeated the president by winning the big portion of the electorate that lives in the middle, outside the politics of the left and right.

- Michael P. Norton

# MBTA Finances Again in Shambles ; Services Cut

It comes as no surprise that the MBTA once again faces a budget shortfall after years of structural deficits, but the pandemic pushed the T into an unprecedented challenge. Ridership dropped precipitously in the spring when the state went into near-lockdown, and as is the case at many transit agencies across the country, it has remained at a fraction of pre-pandemic levels — roughly 30 percent on average, with variations between lines and modes — more than nine months into the crisis. Because

the MBTA generates about a third of its budget from fare revenue, the drop punched a massive hole – forecast at more than \$500 million in fiscal year 2022 – into its already-shaky financial outlook starting in fiscal year 2022.

Lawmakers showed little interest in hiking taxes or redirecting funding to help the MBTA, and Baker administration officials opted to include a package of significant service cuts in their plan to rein in spending and realign schedules during this period of low ridership. After months of deliberations and mixed signals, the longevity of the cuts approved this month remains unclear: MBTA officials had indicated changes would be difficult to reverse and last for years, but recently have hinted they could either reverse some cuts or expand them in February and March when they determine the agency's FY22 spending plan. Another \$52 million in projected state tax revenue and at least \$250 million in additional federal support in the latest stimulus bill will factor into the budget, but T officials have been mostly mum on how those injections will affect service levels.

- Chris Lisinski



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# Reporter's People

# News about people in and around our Neighborhoods

# Grant fuels next project for Dot's DJ WhySham

By Daniel Sheehan Arts & Features Editor

Dorchester's own "community DJ" was on the receiving end of a recent wave of artist grants distributed by Cambridge venue Club Passim. Shamara Rhodes, better known as DJ WhySham, was named as a recipient of a grant through its 2020 Iguana Music Fund, which doled out more than \$40,000 to 24 Boston area musicians.

WhySham says the funds will be put towards "A Social Justice Trap Story," a pre-recorded live virtual concert to be hosted later this spring based on her 2020 album, "Finally."

"Right now, I'm building a story out of it," WhySham told the *Reporter*. "The project is less than 30 minutes, so I think I'm going to



DJ WhySham aka Shamara Rhodes spun some tunes at a Spark FM online show last summer.

Robin Lubbock/WBUR photo

plan to break up some of the songs and use some transitions throughout the story."

According to WhySh-

am, the event will be about "acknowledging non-binary women" in the music scene and "dedicated to people who have lost their lives to police brutality." She added: "Ideally I want to hire a professional videographer and film it in a small tiny desk type space, and have it be more raw, more impactful, more emotional."

WhySham has coined the phrase "social justice trap" for when she is talking about her music, words, she says, that express the "pain and sorrow" that marginalized groups have experienced.

"We hear musictalking about people getting killed or taking drugs... OK, cool, where's the follow up? I've dealt with people who have overdosed, who have lost their lives, and there's no real outlet, so the movement is that outlet. But, also, what is the solution? Sometimes the best way to deal with it is to collaborate and come together as artists. Some people just need a mentor, and that's what the movement's about."

The grant follows a big year for WhySham, during which she released a project while pivoting her career to virtual platforms after Covid took away performance opportunities for DJs across the country. Over the summer, she DJ-ed virtual events for local organizations like BAMS Fest, and provided music for several outdoor protests.

"Covid taught me to slow down in certain ways. I was able to reach out to more people who I wouldn't have reached out to before, and I got to tap into the folks on my feeds and draw them into the work I was doing," explained WhySham. "A lot of DJs have been doing quarantine events, and it's been amazing to see how they were coming together virtually online."

WhySham said to expect a live band, dancers to "bring the words to life," and other visual artists contributing to her production, which will be livestreamed on YouTube, Instagram, and other video social media platforms on Fri., April 23, at 8 p.m.

# Rheumatologist joins Carney team

Dr. Vibha Inamdar, a rheumatology specialist, has joined the team of physicians at Carney Hospital. Dr. Inamdar earned her medical degree at Sardar Patel University in India and completed her residency at Tufts Medical Center in Boston.

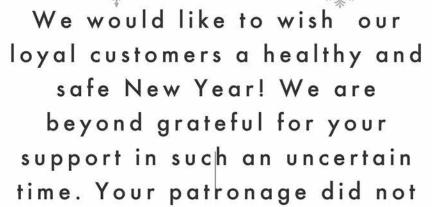
"We are proud to welcome Dr. Inamdar to the Carney Hospital family." said Lawrence Hotes, MD, chief medical officer. "Dr. Inamdar understands the needs of our community and is well qualified to deliver high-quality care to our patients and their families."

Dr. Inamdar is accepting new patients in Carney Hospital's Multi-Specialty Practice located within the



Vibha Inamdar

Seton Medical Building. Appointments may be scheduled by calling the practice at 617-506-4930



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# New head of operations at Harvard St. Health

Leonarda Santos has joined Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Center as Director of Operations. Santos comes to the Dorchester facility from her previous role as the practice manager for Cambridge Health Alliance (CHA) where she was responsible for the operations and management of two of their health centers.

"We are very excited to have someone with Leonarda's experience and strong management abilities join our team and head the operations of our health center staff and facilities," said Stan

McLaren, president and CEO of Harvard Street. "As we move to a family practice model and expand the health center's footprint, her skills will be essential in supporting our growth"

Prior to her position at CHA, Santos served as the clinical operations manager at Whittier Street Health Center.

Santos received her MBA from Curry College and a bachelor in Liberal Arts from the University of Massachusetts Boston.

"My years of expertise in patient-centered and team-based care aligns



Leonarda Santos

directly with Harvard Street's mission," said Santos. "I am thrilled to join this organization of talented and dedicated health care professionals and look forward to ensuring that we are prepared for our next level of growth."

## YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE

DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY "This Is the Toast"



Today's illustration with the inscribed message authored by V.B. was sent by a woman named Mabel from the Mattapan Station Post Office on Aug. 28, 1913. The sentiment expressed is one that we at the Society

want to share with all of you at the beginning of 2021.

-From the Good Cheer Series No. 434. The archive of these historical posts can be viewed on the blog at dorchesterhistorical society.org.

# Petitions cite two Dot properties as Landmark candidates





Two homes at 19 Ashland St. in Clam Point (left) and 29 High St. in Meetinghouse Hill will be considered by the Boston Landmarks Commission for designation as Architectural Conservation Districts.

## By Daniel Sheehan

REPORTER STAFF Two petitions filed last week with the Boston Landmarks Commission are requesting that the agency designate two Dorchester properties one at 19 Ashland St. in Clam Point and the other at 29 High St. on Meetinghouse Hill —as Architectural Conservation Districts. The Clam Point property, described as "The Blue-Cross Blue-Shield Building" in the petition, is a two-family duplex built in the 1800s. According to the Dorchester Atheneum, a 1977 Boston Landmarks survey described the property as an "earlier brick Federal 5 bay house with later Italianate modifications such as a bay window

on the east side and a frame wing to the rear" and noted it was "one of two Federal brick houses in Dorchester." The Meetinghouse Hill property, known as the "Robert Swan House," is a multifamily home built in 1899. Preliminary hearings for each of these properties will be held in a virtual format next Tues., Jan. 12, at 6 p.m., at which petitioners will have an opportunity to present to the Commission why the subject properties should be designated.

Following the preliminary hearing, the Commission will vote on whether to accept the petitions for further study. If accepted, they will be placed on the Commission's list of

properties requiring the preparation of a study report.

study report is to ex- it relates to the cri- process, email Comamine the property's teria for designation. architectural and his- For more information

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mission staff at BLC@ cityofboston.gov

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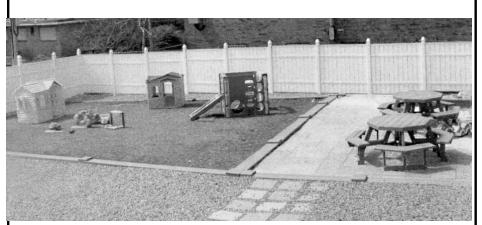
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# Walsh extends limits, citing critical points with Covid numbers

(Continued from page 1)
The cumulative community positive rate is at 8.8 percent this week, 2.3 percent higher than last week.

"Dorchester, Hyde Park, East Boston, and Roxbury are the neighborhoods with the highest positivity rates," said Walsh, noting that across all Boston hospitals, 93 percent of non-surge ICU beds are occupied.

"Our case numbers certainly are concerning, and our hospital numbers are up higher than we'd like to see them. This is the highest that we've seen in the city in quite some time," he said.

City officials would like to see two consecutive weeks of declines in daily case numbers before thinking about loosening restrictions.

When asked how long the city can sustain itself economically with the restrictions in place, Walsh said: "I don't think businesses can last a lot longer - particularly our small businesses, restaurants, retail shops, corner stores. That's why I can't stress enough the importance of wearing masks and trying to isolate ourselves from other people. That's the way we stop the spread. If we can get through these next two months without having to shut everything down again, I think that would be very beneficial to our small businesses," he said.

Current closures apply to gyms, indoor theatres, museums, and recreational facilities. Gatherings in private and public settings are required to have no more than 10 people for indoor settings and 25 for outdoor settings, per the mayor's order.

Places of worship, retail stores, and salon and other personal services are allowed to remain open at 25 percent capacity while indoor dining is limited to 25 percent capacity, with bar service prohibited.

Office spaces may also remain open at 25 percent capacity, Walsh said, but he urged employers to allow employees to work from home as much as possible.

We continue to watch the data and we are limiting indoor dining to the capacity level that public health experts feel is safe right now," said Walsh, adding that residents need to limit any type of gatheringsincluding going out to a restaurant - to only the people they live with.

"Our contact tracing efforts have made it clear that even though indoor dining itself isn't a highrisk factor, many people are going out to dinner with

people outside of their households," said Walsh. "Then people have a few drinks and wander around or table hop. This needs to stop. We need to keep restaurants open but only if people follow the public health guidelines."

He added, "This is not about targeting specific sectors as a cause of the virus spread; it's an effort to reduce the overall activity happening outside of people's homes."

City officials will re-evaluate the Covid-driven metrics and decide how to proceed with possibly lifting restrictions if numbers have "moved in the right direction," the mayor said.

'And I hope and pray that we'll be able to do that. If they get worse or even before that, we might have to put in place further restrictions."

The mayor also urged all residents to be tested for the virus at one of the city's 30 testing sites. He suggested that people make "getting tested regularly a New Year's resolution."

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has released guidelines for vaccine distribution and the state has developed a plan prioritizing the highest risk residents. "The city is following the state's lead and we are working very closely with the state," said Walsh.

Last week, Boston EMTs and residents and staff in long-term care facilities began receiving vaccinations, and beginning next Monday, under state guidelines, all first responders — including police and fire department staff—will be offered vaccinations. Walsh said there will be 1,500 doses ready that day for vaccinations for first responders in the city.

Asked if he would mandate that first responders get the vaccine, Walsh said that although he will take it when it's available to him, it's "pretty hard to mandate" others to get vaccinated. He said that city officials are trying to build back trust in communities of color, where some have expressed wariness of the vaccine.

"We're working right now to figure out how we're going to market it to communities of color—the African American and Latino communities," he said. "I think we have a lot of work to do. There is a lack of trust in the healthcare system and we're going to need the healthcare system to help us build back that trust along with local activists and leaders.'

# Baker assumes more contagious strain is here

By Colin A. Young AND CHRIS LISINSKI STATE HOUSE News Service

Massachusetts has not yet experienced a confirmed post-holiday Covid surge on par with the one that followed Thanksgiving, Gov. Baker said Monday, but he cautioned that conditions could still change rapidly while also saying he assumes that the more contagious variant of the coronavirus first identified in the United Kingdom late last year is already circulating in Massachusetts, even if

the US Centers for Disease Control has not officially identified it here.

The governor's Monday press conference fell 10 days after Christmas, and he described the span's impact as "different" than the same period after Thanksgiving.

Between Dec. 26 and Jan. 4, the average positive test rate minus higher education repeat tests increased from 7.35 percent to 9.28 percent. From Nov. 27 to Dec. 4, that rate climbed from 4.86 percent to 7.48 per-

"I think the Thanks-

giving thing was worse than this, but this isn't over yet because we're just a little bit past New Year's." Baker said. "The thing that troubles us all the most is since Thanksgiving, the average age of the people who are being hospitalized has increased dramatically, and that has real consequences with respect to life and death."

That average age figure has increased from about 60 in early November to 73 now, Baker said. "If you talk to any folks in the health care world, they'll tell you that that's the thing that's most distressing to them as well."

As to the mutated strain, The CDC said it "emerged with an unusually large number of mutations" and "seems to spread more easily and quickly than other variants." It has been identified in Colorado, California, Florida, and upstate New York.

"I think most of us are working on the assumption that it's here. I mean. there'd be no reason not to, given the contagious nature of this new variant," Baker said Tuesday during a visit to Baystate Medical Center. He said people need to "take seriously this idea that we were already dealing with a very contagious virus in the first place which we now have a new variant that's even more contagious than the original one" and be especially vigilant about mitigation efforts.

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Professional Women's Soccer Player Samantha Mewis & Nike Donate Sneakers to BGCD: See details below

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**Donate Sneakers to BGCD:** Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester would like to give a special thank you to our friend, U.S. Women's Soccer World Cup Gold Medalist and Professional Women's Soccer Player, Samantha Mewis for partnering with her sponsor Nike and donating over 100 pairs of sneakers to members of BGCD. The sneakers were given to Club members who are active in our current Learning Hubs, College Fellows and Keystone Club this holiday season. Samantha has always been a great supporter of the Club by offering clinics and staying involved. We would like to thank Samantha and Nike for their ongoing support and generosity.

For more information on partnerships, please contact Mike Joyce at mjoyce@ bgcdorchester.org.

**FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE: Museum of Fine Arts Offers** Virtual Holiday Art Class for **BGCD Members:** As part of BGCD's enrichment classes, our members were able to take part in a fun holiday decorating activity. Participating members were able to pick up the art supplies at BGCD then participated online via Zoom. The class was part of our ongoing partnership with the Museum of Fine Arts and the Community Arts Initiative. BGCD is fortunate to be one of 12 community partners across the City. Each year the program includes participation in a multi-agency art project, family memberships, ongoing Artful Adventure trips to the museum, and much more. BGCD would like to thank the Museum of Fine Arts for this ongoing collaboration. For more information, please contact Art Director Katy at kfarrar@bgcdorchester.



Museum of Fine Arts Offers Virtual Holiday Art Class for BGCD Members: See details below.

**DID YOU KNOW:** Paul R. McLaughlin Scholarship **Applications Now Open:** The

application for the Paul R. McLaughlin Scholarship for high school juniors is now open. The Paul R. McLaughlin Scholarship has been established by the office of Suffolk County District Attorney, Rachael Rollins and includes both a Summer Internship and College Scholarship component.

Following in the footsteps of former Special Assistant District Attorney, Paul McLaughlin, whom our Dorchester Avenue Clubhouse is named after, this scholarship will allow two selected students to embrace the opportunity to serve in their community and advocate for others. To apply or learn more, visit suffolkdistrictattorney.com/ scholarship. Please note, applicants must be current high school juniors residing in Suffolk County Application deadline is February 5, 2021

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Hiking Club** January 9

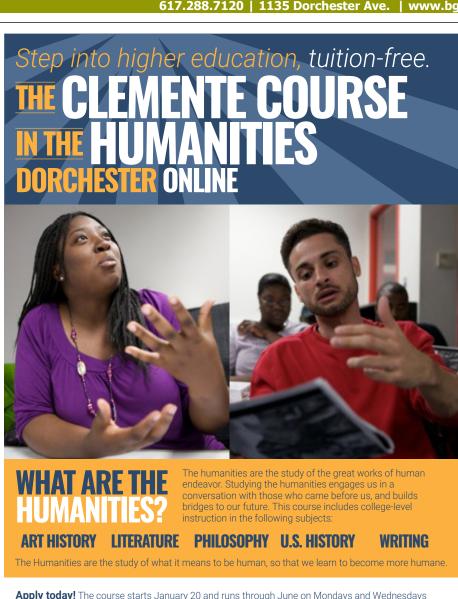
Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Closed January 18

Let's Get Ready SAT Prep February 22 - April 30 \*Pre-registration is required. Please email pchapple@bgcdorchester.org to register.

\*Please note these events are either virtual or will be following all COVID-19 safety restrictions while meeting.



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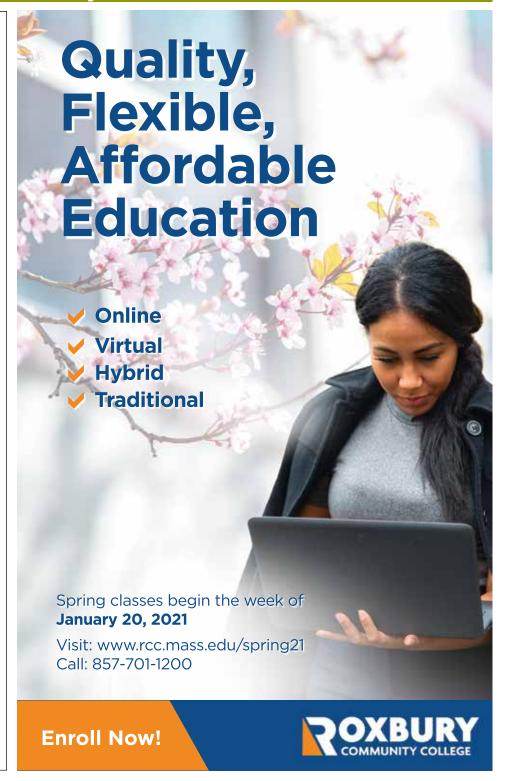
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**Bard College** 







## RECENT OBITUARIES



CLARK, John R. "Papa" "Jack," 85 of Braintree, formerly of Dorchester and Chelsea. Born in Chelsea, to the late Harold and Alvina Clark and brother to the late Frances Clark. U.S. Navy veteran. Jack was the husband to the late Evelyn M. "Mikey" Clark. Father of John Clark of Woburn, Johnna and her husband Steve Rowley of Lakeville, April and her husband Paul Connolly of Braintree and the late Agnes Louise Clark. Grandfather of 6.

DAILEY, Carrie A. (Coleman), 93, of Mil-



ton. Wife of the late S. Vernon Dailey. Mother of Vernon C. and Frederick B. Dailey, both of Milton. Daughter of the late Benjamin B. and Ruth (Joyner) Coleman. Sister of the late Ruth C. Ashley and Benjamin B. Coleman, Jr. Sisterin-law of the late Louis Ashley and Constance Coleman. Also survived by her niece, Linda Coleman. She was a longtime School Nurse for Boston Public Schools and a weekend Nursing Supervisor at Boston University Medical Center Hospital. Donations in Carrie's memory may be made to The Greater





DOHERTY, William Patrick (Uncle Billy), 80, of Dorchester. Born in Somerville, he was the son of the late Cornelius and Mary Doherty, of Donegal, Ireland. He was the brother of Winifred Marron of Weymouth and Catherine Connolly of Quincy. Billy is also survived by many nieces and nephews who loved their Uncle Billy dearly. Billy worked for many years at the Green Shoe Company in Boston and was a member of the Negotiation Committee.



DOZ, Julia (Kulak) in Dorchester, 95. Wife of the late Wasyl Doz. Daughter of the late Stefan and Rozalia (Marcinka) Kulak. Sister of Wanda, who resides in Poland, and predeceased by 7 other siblings. Mother of the late Stephen Daniuk. Former motherin-law of Alexis Daniuk of Manchester, NH. "Nanny Julie" of 2. Great-grandmother of 2. Great-greatgrandmother of 1. Survived by many nieces and nephews in Poland and the Boston area. Julia was a retired baker at Stop & Shop in Dorchester for many years. Donations in Julia's memory may be made to Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, 655 Dorchester Ave.,



South Boston, MA 02127.

#### **LEGAL NOTICE**

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
SUFFOLK DIVISION
24 NEW CHARDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
Docket No. SU20D0311DR
DIVORCE SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION and MAILING
FATIMA RODIGUES SANTOS

FRANCISCO ANDRADE SANTOS

To the Defendant:
The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown. The Complaint is on file at the Court.
An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.

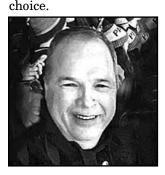
You are hereby summoned and equired to serve upon: Peter Matthew Delano, Esq., Callahan, Barraco, Inman & Bonzagni, P.C., 1700 West Park Drive, Suite 160, Westborough, MA 01581 your suite 160, Westborough, MA 01581 your answer, if any, on or before 02/04/2021. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are clear action. 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: November 20, 2020 Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate Published: January 7, 2021



**G.** (**Flaherty**), 99, of

Braintree. Born in Chelsea to the late Mark Leo and Jennie Frances (Dorris) Flaherty, she was a 1940 graduate of Chelsea High School. Dorris served in the Women's Marine Corps during World War II . Dorris raised her family in St. Brendan's Parish from 1947 until 1971 where she started the girls softball league, was a den mother, a girl scout leader which she received a National Award for She also was a leader and member of the guild. Dorris was the wife of the late Walter A. Driscoll Jr. She was the mother of Walter A. Driscoll III and his wife Joanne M. Muolo of Cambridge, Jane F. Hohmann and the late Lawrence F. Hohmann of Braintree and Helen Hynes and her partner Mike Kozma of Enfield, CT. Grandmother of 4. Great-grandmother of 6. Contributions in her memory can be made to Alzheimer's Research or the Women in the Military Museum in Arlington National Cemetery, or a charity of your



ELDRIDGE,

ert F. Jr. 58, of Easton. Raised in Dorchester, he was the son of the late Robert and Mary J. (McMann) Eldridge. Robert ran the family business, Boston Flooring and Contracting, originally started by his dad, Robert, Sr. Robert is survived by his wife, Christina (Giacoppe) Eldridge; his 2 children, Robert E. Eldridge, III of Leominster and Gabrielle R. Eldridge of Easton; his siblings, Joseph Eldridge, Joe-Anne Eldridge, Kimberly and Ben Simeone, Cathie Eldridge and her partner Cheryle Kimball, Mary (Fran) Francis and Joe Fallon, Mary (Lani) Alana and Tim Lucey, Richelle and Noel Hanlon; his in-laws, Andrea and Bruce Ouellette and Steven and Elizabeth Giacoppe. He is also survived by 17 nieces and nephews, 1 grandnephew, many godchildren. Donations in Robert's name to may be sent to https://www.specialolympicsma.org

GONCALVES, Ma-

ria C. Mendes, 105. Wife of the late Clarimundo Goncalves. Maria was the mother of Manual Socorro Goncalves of Dorchester, Maria Livramento Goncalves of Dorchester, Julio Goncalves of Portugal, Bibiana Mendes Goncalves of Dorchester, Simao Goncalves of Brockton and Maria Amelia Goncalves of Dorchester. Also survived by numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren and great great grandchildren.

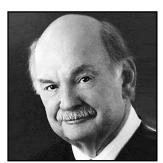


LYDON, **James** Thomas, 52, of Wareformerly ham, Dorchester. He was the son of Patricia Marie "Pat" Lydon and the late Peter J. Lydon. Survivors include his mother, Patricia Marie "Pat" Lydon of Wareham; 5 brothers, Francis "Frank" Lydon and his wife Christine, Peter Lydon and his wife Patricia. John Lydon and William Lydon, all of Wareham, and Paul Lydon of Boston; 6 nephews, 1 niece, and 8 great-nephews and nieces. He was predeceased by his best bud, Shon Shadrick. Donations in his memory may be made to the Shon Shadrick/Jimmy don Scholarship Fund, C/O Lindsey's Restaurant, P.O. Box 845, East Wareham, MA 02538.



MURPHY, James P., 63, of Westford,. James (Jay), was a resident of Boston for most of his life. He leaves his sister Maureen Colette; brother John Murphy and his wife Shirley; and sister Teri L. King; along with nieces and nephews. James was born in Dorchester. He graduated from Boston Latin and earned an accounting degree from Bentley College in Waltham, MA. He worked for BNY Mellon for the last 15 years.

MURRAY, Hon. Robert F. 75, of Plymformerly outh. Dorchester. He the husband of Catherine "Mickey" Murray. Father to Christopher (Elizabeth) of Kingston and Gregory (Windy) of South Boston. "Papa" to 2. Brother of John (Sue) Murray of Plymouth. Uncle to many nieces



and nephews. Predeceased by his parents Robert and Evelyn, and brothers Richard and Ken. Bob was a graduate of BC High, Boston College, and Suffolk Law School. He was a longtime Assistant DA for Plymouth County



OGAR, Karen J. (Foley) of Milton, formerly of Dorchester. Karen was the wife of David Ogar of Milton, and mother of Lauren Olson and her husband Jon of North Attleboro, and Greg Ogar and his wife Brooke of Canton. She was the grandmother of three. Karen was the sister-in-law of Karen Ogar and Marsha Perez. She was the daughter of the late Dorothea "Dottie" Foley, and granddaughter of Edith "Edie" Sullivan, both of Dorchester. She attended St. Gregory's High School and medical tech school for both phlebotomy and medical assisting. Karen pursued her career in various medical positions throughout the Carney Neponset Hospital, Health Center, and Milton Hospital.



SEXTON, Mary C. (CAREY) of Dorchester. Wife of the late Richard F. Sexton. Mother of Thomas Sexton BPD and his wife Colleen of Milton, Richard Sexton BPD and his wife Patricia of Braintree, Mary Sexton-Smith and her husband Tyrone of Quincy, and Ann Sexton of Milton. Grandmother of 3. Sister of Joseph Carey and his wife Isabel, Paul Carey and his wife Beverly, Ellen Savage and her husband Michael, and the late Arthur Carey. Also survived by many nieces, nephews, and friends. Donations in memory of Mary may be made to the Alzheimer's Association.

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# Shots in arms next week for state's first responders

(Continued from page 1) "Police officers, firefighters, EMTs, and all first responders work in risky situations every day, and this vaccine will protect them from Covid and the terrible illness that can come with it."

Some departments that can administer the vaccine to at least 200 people will qualify to host vaccinations on location, and individual first responders can also use a state website to find information about more than 60 sites where vaccines are available. They will be able to make appointments later this

The Baker administration is also finalizing details on several sites that will be able to administer 2,000 vaccines per day, which should open to first responders by the end of the month. Those mass vaccination sites will likely expand into serving other populations as the monthslong distribution plan unfolds, Baker said.

With responders up next, the administration has started offering vaccines to three of the six groups outlined in the first phase of its distribution plan. Those in congregate care settings such as correctional facilities and shelters, home-based health care workers, and health care workers who are not involved in Covid response are next on the list.

Baker said he is confident that emergency personnel will embrace the vaccine's availability. "They, like many of the folks in the health care community and long-term care community, say the same thing when they talk to the lieutenant governor and me about this," he said, "which is: 'I'm out there all the time. I worry about the places and spaces I'm in. I'm afraid that if I get it, I might give it to my family members."

step, Health and Human Services Secretary Marylou Sudders said the state will increase the priority level for residents aged 75 and older and allow them to receive vaccines early in the second rollout stage. They will now fall into "Phase Two, Group One" alongside individuals who have two or more comorbidities increasing their risk of serious illness, Sudders said.

Sudders said the update, which will affect about 170,000 Massachusetts residents, follows new federal guidelines for vaccine prioritization based on the higher threats that older

In another significant adults face from the respiratory illness and its complications.

Under the original plan, all adults 65 years old and older were near the bottom of the list for receiving vaccines in the second phase, which officials aim to run between February and April.

The change leapfrogs those 75 and older ahead of workers in early education, K-12 education, transit, grocery stores, utilities, food and agriculture, sanitation, public works and public health workers.

Mike Festa, Massachusetts state director for the AARP, said that focusing on older adults

Our goal is to empower you to actively mange your pain without the

need for more costly, invasive & potentially harmful treatments

demic's damage and its strain on the health care system.

"With remarkable speed, vaccines have been developed, and continue to be developed, and now it's time to put them to good use," Festa said. "AARP is fighting for older Americans to be prioritized in getting vaccines because the science has clearly shown that older people are at higher risk of death.

So far, about 287,000 doses of the vaccine have been distributed to providers in Massachusetts, and about 116,000 have been administered, according to Baker. Those numbers are reported

The governor acknowledged that "there have been bumps" in the rollout of vaccines across the country, but stressed that the administration so far has not received any reports of lost doses.

"A handful of community health centers have already distributed some vaccines to first responders "rather than keeping them in storage," Baker said, adding that he believes "it's important to use it" rather than allow any waste.

Sudders hinted that the Baker administration will not look harshly on providers who occasionally step outside narrow distribution plans or communicate with one another when they find extra doses on their hands.

"It's very important that we want the vaccines utilized," she said. "In these early days, providers are estimating what they believe the use is going to be. If they have slightly overestimated, if they assumed 60 percent of the individuals would be vaccinated and if it's 55 percent and you have some left over, we obviously don't want the vaccines wasted."



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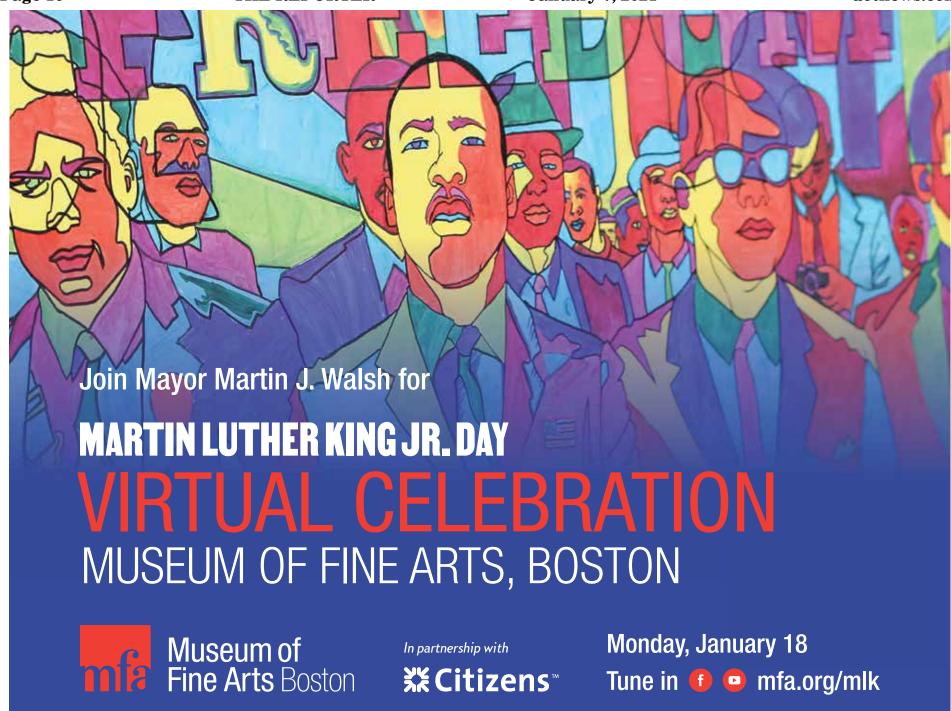
The Dorchester Historical Society is always looking for photographs and high school yearbooks from Dorchester's past.

Due to the pandemic, the Society is closed to the public at this time.



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