

Dorchester Reporter

"The News and Values Around the Neighborhood"

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50¢

Full re-opening, end to mask mandate moved up to May 29

By COLIN A. YOUNG
STATE HOUSE
NEWS SERVICE

Never mind Aug. 1. The Saturday of Memorial Day weekend — May 29 — is the new target date for the end of nearly all remaining Covid-19 restrictions in Massachusetts.

By that date, which is more than two months ahead of the schedule announced less than three weeks ago, Massachusetts intends to lift its pandemic restrictions, though masks will still be required in certain settings like transportation, in schools, and

Janey: Boston will align with the state's schedule

at health care facilities.

Additionally, the state of emergency that has been in place since March 10, 2020 will be lifted on June 15, Gov. Baker announced late Monday morning. At a later

press conference, Boston Mayor Kim Janey — said that Boston would follow suit and line up with the statewide schedule since Boston's COVID-19 trends "continue to move in the right direction."

"Because of this progress, I am making the decision to align with the commonwealth of Massachusetts and lift the COVID restrictions on May 29," Janey said. "But let me be clear: our battle against COVID is not over. Reopening our city will only work

if we all continue to do our part to fight the pandemic."

At previous junctures in the year-long gradual reopening process, Boston opted to move slower and keep restrictions in place longer than the state. Janey said on April (Continued on page 15)

Indigo Block nears finish line

Developers set sights on August

By REBECA PEREIRA
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

The Indigo Block, a linchpin re-development project along the Fairmount Line in Uphams Corner, will be completed this summer, according to the Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation, which has been leading the effort to revitalize the site for much of the last decade.

Construction on the estimated \$50 million project along East Cottage Street began in earnest in December 2019, but was interrupted by the Covid-19 construction moratorium. Work resumed last May and it's estimated it will be completed this August.

The project includes a mix of 80 residential units — 44 of them designated affordable — along with roughly 20,000 square feet of industrial commercial space. The main building features a connection to the Uphams Corner MBTA train platform to promote the use of public



Above, the six-story Indigo Block complex as seen from East Cottage Street. Inset: My Lam, founder of Escazu Development, and Elijah Rooks, field engineer with NEI General Contracting, standing in the unfinished Indigo Block condo building.

Rebecca Pereira photos

transportation and an accessible playground for wider community use. The Block plans to limit the environmental impact of traffic at its commercial area by (Continued on page 17)



As Janey moves to oust him, BPD chief sues, claims a firing is illegal

By ALLY JARMANNING
AND DEBORAH BECKER
WBUR REPORTERS

Boston Police Commissioner Dennis White filed a lawsuit last Friday saying that Acting Mayor Kim Janey is illegally trying to fire him for decades-old domestic violence allegations. The suit, filed in Suffolk Superior Court, came as the city released the results of an outside investigation into charges levied by White's ex-wife 22 years ago. The inquiry also uncovered a second domestic violence incident involving White, a physical altercation with a 19-year-old woman in 1993.

In court documents, White alleged that Janey is trying to unlawfully remove him from his position. He says he was informed in a telephone call at 10 a.m. that day that he was being terminated, just six hours before Janey briefed the media. The suit said the decision amounted to an "ambush." And White's attorney, Nicholas Carter, said in a statement that Janey does not have the power to remove him.



Very much at odds are Mayor Kim Janey and BPD Commissioner Dennis White



(Continued on page 20)

Grove Hall event highlights homegrown graffiti writers

By DANIEL SHEEHAN
ARTS & FEATURES EDITOR

Several dozen people gathered in Grove Hall on Saturday afternoon to watch as a team of local graffiti writers showcased their skills, transforming a concrete wall into an explosion of color.

The event, dubbed

Graffiti in Grove Hall, was organized by Jeremy Harrison — a local artist known as "Sobek" — as part of his "Back Against the Wall" initiative aimed at promoting more legal graffiti and street art in Boston's neighborhoods. Over the blare of music and the hiss of spray paint

cans, Harrison spoke to the importance of preserving the artform and recognizing its place as (Continued on page 16)

Artists worked their magic last Saturday afternoon at a "Graffiti in Grove Hall" event across the street from the Grove Hall library.

Daniel Sheehan photo



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Dot man who filmed students in bathrooms gets 12-year term

By Reporter Staff

A federal judge last week sentenced Eric Tran Thai, 39, to 12 years in federal prison and five years of probation for his guilty plea to charges of two counts of possession of child pornography.

Thai, a Dorchester resident, admitted last January that he somehow managed to get into Boston Latin School at least ten times in 2017, and station himself in a stall in a boy's restroom from where he took videos of students either in adjacent stalls or at urinals.

In total, he made 45 videos, authorities say.

Prosecutors had asked US District Court Judge William Young to sentence Thai to at least 15 years. In a sentencing memorandum, assistant US Attorney Anne Paruti wrote: "This case is more than a 'child pornography' case, as the defendant appears to characterize it.

Thai's attorney wrote a sentencing memorandum, but Young agreed to seal the document - along with the request to have it not made public.

Paruti added that her office agreed to a plea deal to spare victims from having to testify in court.

"The government appreciates that the defendant has committed himself, post-arrest, to treatment, and expects that it should and will be a part of his life for years to come," she said.

"That motivation does not, however, sufficiently mitigate the need for a lengthy sentence as punishment for the reprehensible conduct at issue here; regardless of what led the defendant to capitalize on the vulnerability of the victims in this case, the effect on those victims is the same: disbelief, trauma, fear, hypersensitivity, and an overwhelming feeling of violation.

"This is a predictable reaction to being filmed by a stranger in a place that is, for many families, a nurturing environment designed to foster their children's intellectual and individual growth."

Thai faces separate charges in state court for the alleged incidents that brought him to the attention of authorities, involving two students at Boston College who say they discovered Thai was in a restroom there, videoing them.

UPCOMING CIVIC MEETINGS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

The 41st annual Ashmont Hill Yard Sale will take place on Sat., May 22, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. As always, shoppers will find everything from plants to toys, furniture to books, computers to collectables and more, all at clean-out-the-attic/basement/carriage house prices. Enjoy Ashmont Hill's Victorian architecture and lush gardens as you shop throughout this delightful Dorchester neighborhood. Participating houses will have maps showing all selling locations. Please follow current Covid guidelines re: masks and distancing. Red Line T to Ashmont. Info: 617-288-6626 or cadmanjoe@aol.com.

Three candidates for District 4 City Council — Leonard Lee, Joel Richards and Deejo Jibril—will be interviewed by the Ward 15 Democratic committee on Sat., May 22 during a virtual meeting. Go to fb.me/e/269GgHmeS to join the call at 10 a.m.

The one-year anniversary of the murder of George Floyd will be marked by a march and rally from Milton to Mattapan on Tuesday, May 25. Marchers will gather at 5:30 p.m. for a pre-march rally at the Parkway Methodist Church on Blue Hills Parkway and commence towards Mattapan up Blue Hill Avenue at 6 pm. The route is 1.2 miles and culminates in a 7 p.m. rally at Walker Park, 550 Norfolk St. in Mattapan. The March is a collaborative effort, organized by Milton and Mattapan community groups including Courageous Conversation Towards Racial Justice, Milton Interfaith Clergy Association, Mattapan Food and Fitness Coalition, Dunk the Vote, Edgewater Neighborhood Association, Church of the Holy Cross, Sustainable Milton, Milton for Social Justice and Milton Changemakers and others.

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department is offering free golf clinics at the George Wright Golf Course in Hyde Park for ages 7 to 14 years old. The first-rate Junior Golf Lessons program provides basic instruction in the fundamentals of golf taught by professionals. Equipment is provided, if needed, but you may bring your own clubs. Pre-registration is required. The lessons take place Tuesdays through Thursdays with classes at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. The series repeats weekly starting from July 6 until August 12. Clinicians are highly qualified golf instructors. To register, go to the "Parks Online Activity Search" link at www.boston.gov/calendar/junior-golf-daily-lessons.

The northwest parking lot of Pope John Paul II Reservation playground in Neponset will be closed through July 7 to accommodate staging for playground repair work, according to the Department of Conservation and Recreation. The lot was closed on Thursday, April 8. The closure will be clearly marked. Visitors are encouraged to use the parking area to the northeast when visiting the park.

The Saint Mark's Area Civic Association's monthly meetings are held on Zoom on the last Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. Meetings are held monthly except July, August, and December. Members and other neighbors are welcome to attend. If you would like to attend a meeting, please send an email to the civic association at smacadot@msn.com and we will send you a link to the meeting.

Boston teens can now apply for the 2021-2022 Mayor's Youth Council, a group of 85 high school-aged youth who are committed to improving their communities and empowering young people in the City of Boston. Applications will be accepted through July 18. To apply to be a neighborhood representative on the Mayor's Youth Council, students must be Boston residents and entering grades 9-12 (or of comparable age). All applicants will participate in a group interview. Due to COVID-19, the 2020-2021 Mayor's Youth Council was fully remote for the entire program. To learn more and to apply online, visit youth.boston.gov.

SuccessLink — the City of Boston's online tool that enables Boston youth to register for summer jobs— is now accepting applications through May 9 for Boston teens aged 15 to 18. The City hopes to provide 5,000 jobs to youth and young adults this summer across more than 170 non-profit, community-based organizations and city agencies. For more information on DYEE's summer employment program and additional youth resources, visit youth.boston.gov.

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Columbia-Savin Hill’s planning panel updated on ongoing work

By Mia McCarthy
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT
The Columbia-Savin Hill Civic Association’s Planning Committee held a virtual update meeting on local developments last Tuesday night, in which local residents shared concerns about noise, plans, and ownership of properties.

Four ongoing projects were discussed: 1320 Dorchester Ave. — best known as DotBlock; 951-959 Dorchester Ave., 189 Grampian Way, and 147 Grampian Way. The planning panel listened to live updates from project representatives or read-out written statements from each project.

Once completed, DotBlock will be one of the largest mixed-use projects in Dorchester,

with 488 residential units in four buildings and 23,000 square feet of retail planned.

Abe Menzin, a principal and executive vice president of development for Samuels & Associates — the real estate development group building DotBlock— said the project has a little under two years of construction left after some initial delays due to the pandemic.

“The worst part of the project is behind us,” said Menzin. “We have now dug most of the dirt and started pouring concrete foundation. We encountered some delays, but we never stopped working on it.”

Menzin added that the construction project will be working with unions to hire local work-

ers. He said DotBlock will be prioritizing local restaurateurs and small businesses for their commercial space.

Adam Sarbaugh of Cornerstone Real Estate spoke about his group’s construction at 951 Dorchester Ave., the old location of Dorchester Market and Tom English’s Bar. This project was also delayed due to the pandemic and Sarbaugh said while he was not sure about when the project will be done, he could come back with a more accurate estimate within the next few months.

The project — already approved by city planners— will include 38 residential units in a five-story building above 6,670 square feet of retail space intended to house a market and restaurant.

Residents asked to have Sarbaugh come back after there was a better idea of the timeline. Planning Committee members said they would try to schedule a session.

Written updates for the two projects on Grampian Way were presented in lieu of a representative. Mike Szkolka, president of the civic, said the developer for the 189 Grampian Way site is Stephen Flaherty, while the 147 Grampian

Way developer is an LLC managed by Dorchester-based developer Doug George.

Noise was a main topic of discussion regarding the Grampian Way properties in the wake of after recent complaints from residents about loud early morning and weekend noise. Planning board members said excavation of a large boulder at the 189 Grampian site has caused significant noise, but work on the rock will

be done by June 1, according to the developer.

“I wish they would not do it on weekends. In my particular yard there’s an echo so I get twice as much,” one Grampian Way neighbor said at the meeting.

A new noise mitigation plan was put up by the developers. It includes using quieter equipment and limiting the working hours to Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday work can

now not start until after 8 a.m. and hydraulic breaking, the noisy part of the rock excavation, will need to stop by 3 p.m. on Saturdays.

In the notice for the 147 Grampian Way property, the development team led by George wrote that construction of the house would be done by Aug. 31, with the rest of construction scheduled to be done by the end of the year.



Carney Hospital staff placed 300 flags in the lawn along Dorchester Ave. last week to remember patients, staff, and families impacted by the pandemic. Carney’s interim president, Karen Ahearn, called the event a symbolic healing gesture as part of Hospital Week, a national observation. “Carney Hospital was designated a dedicated Covid-only hospital in March 2020,” said Ahearn, “and the staff became very attached to patients and wanted a way to remember them. This is a way to remember all of the lives impacted by Covid-19, and to move forward with hope.”
Carney Hospital photo

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Mayoral candidates key on immigrant issues in online forum

By Mia McCarthy
Reporter Correspondent

Six announced candidates for mayor of Boston mainly found accord as they discussed a range of immigration issues during a virtual forum hosted by the Brazilian Workers Center and SEIU Local 32BJ last Thursday.

This was the second of six forums planned by a coalition of progressive, non-profit groups that included participation from Mayor Kim Janey, City Councillors Michelle Wu, Annissa Essaibi George and Andrea Campbell, state Rep. Jon Santiago, and John Barros, former chief of economic development for the city of Boston.

The candidates offered nearly identical stances on many issues, including the question of issuing driver's licenses to undocumented immigrants, which elicited a chorus of yeses. During a rapid-fire section of the discussion – in which candidates were asked to respond with only a yes or no – there was solidarity in support of immigrant rights.

All of the candidates indicated 'yes' when asked the following questions:

- Do you support municipal ID's for Boston residents, regardless of

immigration status?

- As Mayor, would you use the power of your office to advocate for the passage of state legislation to end the use of our criminal justice system for federal immigration enforcement - that is, the Safe Communities Act?

- Do you support increasing funding and opportunities to resettle refugees in the Boston area?

- Do you support putting resources towards ensuring that more people in Boston receive legal representation in their immigration cases?

- Do you support expanding the state's hate crime laws to include gender and immigration status as protected classes?

The forum also focused on Covid-19 recovery plans for immigrant communities. Each candidate outlined a plan that primarily focused on getting federal funding into vulnerable business districts.

"I would also create a chief of worker empowerment...for streamlining and providing accountability for all the ways in which we should be supporting workers and lifting up our industries right now," said Wu.

"We are continuing to be devastated not just by Covid, but also by job loss," Campbell said. "So, number one is just making sure that there is immediate relief provided to residents to low wage workers, frankly, who are losing their jobs, and of course, to small businesses who need immediate relief."

Added Essaibi George: "There's no greater population that's been so impacted [by the pandemic] than our immigrant community here in the city of Boston."

For her part, Janey said, "Just because Trump is out of office does not mean everything is okay. We need to continue to ensure that we're doing everything to protect our immigrant brothers and sisters and that's what I will continue to do as your mayor."

Another question asked of the candidates involved the Working Family Mobility Act, which would allow all Massachusetts residents to qualify for a standard driver's license regardless of immigration status. All candidates said that they support the legislation and would push for its passage as mayor.

"This driver's license bill is about economic

equity... because it's not just getting someone licensed, to drive to improve safety," Santiago said. "This is about economic opportunity."

Essaibi George offered that "by providing driver's licenses, we give our immigrant communities not only the ability to provide for their own families, but also the peace of mind and the safety as they can and should continue to contribute to our city, to our local economy, and certainly to support their families."

Language barriers that persist in Boston were highlighted as a primary issue both by

the moderators and the candidates.

"It's critically important that we make sure that we are culturally competent and accessible to the plethora of languages that exist in the city of Boston," Santiago said. "I know the importance of that because it's my work, not just in the State House as a representative, but also in the emergency room."

Said Janey: "We should not be translating materials after the fact and treating people who speak other languages other than English as an afterthought. We need to make sure

that we're getting information out in real time in the language that people understand."

The next forum will be hosted by the Greater Boston Labor Council on May 20 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The topic will be "Jobs & Workers." Later forums include Education (May 27); Climate Justice (June 3), and Housing and Land (June 10). An earlier event sponsored by the NAACP in May focused on racial justice.

For more information on how to participate – or to watch previously recorded forums – go to bostonmayoralforums.org.

State's opioid OD deaths climbed to new high in 2020

By Katie Lannan
State House
News Service

Opioid overdose deaths in Massachusetts rose by 5 percent in 2020, marking the first increase in three years as the numbers reached a level slightly higher than the previous peak in 2016.

Public health officials announced last Wednesday that in 2020, a year marked by the pandemic and the new challenges it created in accessing health care and social supports, 2,035 people died of confirmed overdose deaths, and predictive modeling suggests there will be another 66 to 70 deaths once those cases are finalized.

As of May 11, the coronavirus had claimed 17,344 lives in Massachusetts.

The DPH's total 2,104 confirmed and estimated opioid deaths in 2020 is up from the 2,002 recorded in 2019, and slightly above the previous record high of 2,102 in 2016.

The rate of opioid overdose deaths statewide was 30.2 per 100,000 people, or about 1 percent lower than the

30.6 recorded in 2016. The DPH's quarterly opioid report described that difference as not statistically significant.

"Likewise, the increase in 2020 from 2019 is not statistically significant," the report said, describing the uptick from 28.7 per 100,000 in 2019. "Taken together, this indicates that the opioid-related overdose death rate has been stable for the past several years."

Among ethnic and racial groups, Black non-Hispanic males experienced the largest spike in opioid-overdose death rates over the year, with that figure surging from 32.6 to 55.1 per 100,000 people in 2020.

"The disparities in overdose trends among Black men underscore the need to continue our public health-centered, data-driven approach to the opioid epidemic that is disproportionately impacting high-risk, high-need priority populations," Dr. Monica Bharel, the state's public health commissioner, said in a statement. "Too many families have lost loved ones to overdoses

and we remain steadfast in our commitment to providing recovery supports needed, especially for those hardest-hit by the opioid crisis."

Fentanyl was present in 92 percent of opioid deaths where a toxicology report was available in 2020, according to the DPH, and heroin was detected in 14 percent.

"Since 2016, the percentage of heroin or likely heroin present in opioid-related overdose deaths has decreased, and benzodiazepine has been declining since 2018," the report said. "Cocaine has increased since 2014, and amphetamines have increased since the fourth quarter of 2016."

Wednesday's release of the latest opioid data coincides with a march to the State House, planned by the South End-Roxbury Community Partnership and other groups, that aims to draw attention to homelessness, substance use disorder, and mental health issues in the area near the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Melnea Cass Boulevard in Boston. Marchers are calling for public officials to respond to conditions that the partnership said "have become increasingly uncomfortable, unmanageable, and unsafe."

The Department of Public Health, in a press release, singled out a handful of communities that it said experienced notable increases or decreases in fatal opioid overdoses from 2019 to 2020. Boston was among the cities and towns with notable increases, along with Brockton, Holyoke, Salem, Stoughton, Weymouth and Worcester.

Notable decreases were recorded in Attleboro, Lawrence, Leominster, Lowell, Lynn, New Bedford, Northampton, Taunton and Westfield.

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Ballot picture comes into focus for mayor, council races

By MADDIE KILGANNON
AND MIA MCCARTHY
REPORTER CORRESPONDENTS

As of May 17, five mayoral candidates have secured the required 3,000 signatures needed to qualify for the September primary ballot, according to the city's election department. There will likely be more to come. A total of 17 people had filed to gather signatures to run for mayor as of May 11.

Those who have been certified for the ballot already include Mayor Kim Janey, John Barros, and City Councillors Andrea Campbell, Annissa Essaibi George, and Michelle Wu. State Rep. Jon Santiago is among those whose nomination papers have been submitted, but not yet certified by election officials. Others waiting for certification are Michael Bianchi, Robert Cappuci, Joao Gomes DePina, John Houton, Sophia Kim, William John Morgan Jr., Joe Nigo Sr., Roy Owens, Kevin Christopher Reed, Richard Spagnuolo, and Patrick Williams.

Last Tuesday (May 11) was the final day for candidates to apply for nomination papers, and nearly every district councillor faces a potential challenger. The at-large race has the largest number of potential candidates; as many as 25 could be vying for four seats.

Incumbent at-large Councillors Michal Flaherty and Julia Mejia will be joined on the ballot by Erin Murphy, Said Abdikarim, Kelly Bates, Alex Gray, David Halbert, Ruthzee Louijeune, Carla Monteiro, and Jon Spillane.

Two would-be candidates have pulled papers to challenge Councillor Lydia Edwards for her District One seat, although Edwards has so



Former BPD Commissioner William Gross, left, walked along Blue Hill Avenue with Councillor Annissa Essaibi George last Thurs., May 20. Mia McCarthy photo

far been the only one to qualify for the ballot. District Two Councillor Ed Flynn faces no challengers this election cycle and has already secured his spot on the ballot.

District Three Councillor Frank Baker officially has one challenger on the ballot: Stephen McBride, a first-time candidate who lives on Jones Hill.

In District 4, which will be left vacant by Councillor Campbell, nine people have already qualified for the ballot. They include former state Rep. Evandro Carvalho, William Edward Dickerson III, Deejo Jibril, Joel Richards, Leonard Lee, Sr., Josette Williams, and Brian Worrell. An additional seven people took out nomination papers, but have not yet been certified.

District Five councillor Ricardo Arroyo so far faces no opposition, although one other candidate has pulled papers. District Six councillor Matt O'Malley decided not to seek reelection, leaving behind a seat to fill. Three candidates to replace him have already secured a spot on the ballot: Winnie Eke,

Mary Tamer, and Kendra Rosalie Hicks. There are two other potential candidates.

Janey's District Seven seat is also open, and out of the nine candidates that have filed nomination papers, five have already qualified for the ballot. They include Tania Fernandes Anderson, Angie Camacho, Joao Gomes DePina, Marisa Luse, and Roy Owens.

Only one candidate is challenging Councillor Kenzie Bok for her District Eight seat, but so far only Bok has made the ballot. District Eight requires only 130 signatures to qualify for the ballot, the fewest of any district. Most district seats require 200, with the other two exceptions being Districts Seven and Nine.

District Nine councillor Liz Breadon is also the sole qualifier for the ballot, but she could also face challengers as five other candidates have expressed interest in the seat.

All municipal candidates have until June 22 to have their signatures certified by the registrars.

— MADDIE KILGANNON

Former Boston Police Commissioner William Gross endorsed at-Large City Councillor Annissa Essaibi George for mayor during an event in Mattapan on May 13. Gross, the city's first Black police commissioner who resigned in February, called it "an easy decision. This is the person that I wholeheartedly believe can bring the city together, or make it more cohesive and make Boston what it is today and continue to make it number one in the country."

Gross, who entertained a potential candidacy of his own for mayor in January, made his announcement during a visit to Brother's Deli in Mattapan. He said he supports Essaibi George because of her work in every neighborhood.

Said Essaibi George: "I'm very proud today to be here with Commissioner Gross, and to talk about the future of our city and continue the work that I started on the council. Work to making sure that we have a safe and flourishing and booming Boston in which all of our residents can have full opportunity and education and safety."

Gross added that he

was endorsing Essaibi George because of her fair accountability of police issues and her relationship with the Boston Police Department. He said she regularly calls or sends a text when an officer or first responder is injured— or when there's a police-involved incident in the city.

"We need folks that are actually out in the street," Gross said. "I've seen other folks that are city councillors at large; I never see them in this neighborhood or any neighborhoods that look like this. This lady goes to every neighborhood and this is a time where we should be having conversations and bringing our entire city together."

— MIA MCCARTHY

Former state Rep. Marie St. Fleur endorsed Andrea Campbell's candidacy for mayor on Tuesday afternoon during a joint appearance in Mattapan timed with the celebration of Haitian Flag Day.

"Andrea Campbell is exactly the kind of leader Boston needs right now," St. Fleur said in a statement. "She is informed by the painful losses and inequities she experienced growing up in Boston and driven by her understanding



and knowledge of the opportunities that Boston holds for all people. These experiences allow her to see, hear, connect to, and fight for all people," St. Fleur said in a statement released by Campbell's campaign.

A longtime supporter of Campbell, St. Fleur first backed her in 2015 when she challenged longtime incumbent City Councillor Charles Yancey for the District 4 seat. A Dorchester resident who represented the Fifth Suffolk district, St. Fleur has frequently used her Twitter account in recent weeks to support "#Team Andrea" and encourage her followers to sign Campbell's nomination papers. She donated \$1,000 to Campbell's campaign in 2021, according to filings with the Office of Campaign and Political Finance, helping to push Campbell's campaign war chest past \$1 million as of May 3.

— MADDIE KILGANNON

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Wednesday, June 2, 2021 – Tuesday, June 15, 2021

To request an application online visit: <https://bit.ly/133sumner>
To have a hard copy of the application mailed to your mailing address, please call 978-456-7999.

HOURS
Monday – Friday (9 AM – 5 PM)
Monday, June 7, 2021 (10 AM – 7 PM)
Saturday, June 12, 2021 (10 AM – 2 PM)

After careful consideration and an abundance of caution, the City of Boston has decided to cancel the in-person application distribution period. If you cannot complete the application online, please call us at 978-456-7999, to request that we mail you one and to ask us for any guidance you might need to complete the application.

Fully completed + signed applications must be submitted online or postmarked no later than:
Tuesday, June 15, 2021

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Equal Housing Opportunity

Ashmont Hill is back in The Yard Sale business

Editor's note: The Ashmont Hill Yard Sale returns this Saturday, May 22. The following article about the history of the event was first published by the Reporter in 2018.

By JENNIFER SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

It's a cornucopia of vintage dishware, eclectic clothing, trinkets, and furniture, and wooden skis laid out across a lawn. People wander up and down the hills of the neighborhood's streets with paintings tucked beneath their arms and books in hand as the smell of cooking ribs wafts up Harley Street and through the spring foliage.

And so the Ashmont Hill Garage Sale merrily chugs along after four decades. Now heading into its 39th (make that 41st) year, the tradition is still under the stalwart command of Joe Gildea.

In its early years, around 20 homes participated, but now there are regularly about 50 residences across just a few blocks where homeowners scavenge in their basements and plunder their attics for a profitable spring cleanout.

"It's a good chance to clean out your basement," Gildea said. "And hopefully not refill it with other stuff."



A vintage photo shows one of the first Ashmont Hill Garage Sales circa 1976. A more recent yard sale drew a crowd. Photos courtesy of the Dorchester Historical Society

The first organized yard sale was in 1981, but in 1976, something of the sort took place at 16 Harley St., which was owned by a group whose members did not speak and who followed the teachings of the 20th-century Armenian philosopher and mystic George Gurdjieff, Rugo said, adding, "It was just kind of a community thing because they were into community and they were new to the neighborhood."

There were a number



of house tours on Ashmont Hill in the 1970s before residents decided to convert the event into an annual yard sale.

"As I recall," Rugo said, "the reason to do the yard sale was that the house tours had been so successful in getting people to Dorchester, getting

them into a neighborhood, one of many that people had no idea were even there, that it was partly for people to make money and sell and unload their things, but also a way to get people walking around their neighborhood. And a yard sale is a lot easier

to put on than a house tour."

Each year, strolling around the neighborhood is as much a treat for the eyes of visitors as it is a coup for the owners' wallets, with gorgeous Victorian homes rising behind each of the yards.

"The houses are at least as interesting as what's going on outside," Rugo said. "It's just this great neighborhood event, because, you know, people come from other Dorchester neighborhoods. It's sort of your once-a-year check-in."

As the yard sale expanded, certain owners became known for their wares. The late Barbara Roper's front lawn was awash in hats placed neatly on lace-covered tables. Some residents developed reputations for their plantings. Rugo, for one, sells some pots of Sweet Autumn Clematis vines every year.

The pickings can be unusual, she and Gildea said, recalling years when stained glass windows and entire church pews were sold off. Gildea bought a gas pump one year that is still hooked up in his basement. Rugo's daughter found a reindeer rocking horse for her son a few years back. And this reporter is steadily ensuring that her house gets a yard

sale-facilitated glassware upgrade every year.

Walking around Ashmont Hill can leave people a bit peckish, so for them there's food outside the Ashmont Nursery School and across the way Mae Graves has cooked up spectacular ribs and grilled chicken year after year. "There's always a line," Gildea said, "you have to wait for that. It's good stuff."

Some things sell more quickly than others; clothes are tough to get rid of, and furniture is often unwieldy. But when the sale officially wraps up at 2 p.m., many residents leave unsold items on the curb for neighbors or passersby who whisk them away. "It can take two or three days sometimes for the stuff to diminish down to nothing," Gildea said. "It's amazing."

...

The 41st Ashmont Hill Garage Sale is scheduled to open at 9 a.m. on Saturday with starts at the corners of Alban or Ocean streets off Welles Avenue. Maps will be available at each yard, and most residents only accept cash. Visit ashmonthill.org; email cadmanjoe@aol.com; or call 617-288-6626. Images courtesy of the Dorchester Historical Society, Ashmont Hill Association.

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This RFP for Blue Hill Avenue B1 Parcels is the first group of 30 City-owned parcels being offered.

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2013 HONDA CR-V LX
 STK# BH23286, 4 DR., 4 CYL., AUTO, P/S/B, A/C, 73,892 MI.\$15,498

2017 TOYOTA CAMRY SE
 STK# BH23204A, 4 DR., 4 CYL., AUTO, P/S/B, A/C, 60,374 MI.\$16,398

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She’s ‘walking the walk’ with teens on the corner

By DANIEL SHEEHAN
REPORTER STAFF

Years before becoming director of operations for Boston Uncornered, Initia Jones was a METCO kid, splitting her time between home life in the Boston neighborhoods of Roxbury and Dorchester and school days in the wealthy suburb of Wellesley.

“I always had one foot in my neighborhood and the other foot in the METCO program,” said Jones. “All of my education was in Wellesley, so I was able to see the two worlds and two sets of expectations around education and college.

“College was always the expectation in my house, but not in my neighborhood, so it was definitely easier to get mixed up in the wrong crowd. I had different sets of friends— friends in Wellesley, and friends in the neighborhood that weren’t always into the most positive things, so I had to often make a choice about what path I was going to lead.”

Now, in her work with Boston Uncornered, a College Bound program aimed at getting gang-involved youth off of street corners and into education and positive employment, Jones finds herself dealing with teens who

are facing similar decisions about their future. Both back then and today, finding activities to occupy a teen’s idle time has been an important piece of encouraging positive choices.

“My mother did a good job of keeping me in the theatre. I was a member of the Strand Team Players, the youth theater group,” recalled Jones. “I was really into dance and the arts, and she really did try to keep me as busy as possible. I knew she knew of the negative influences of the neighborhood.”

Jones is grateful she avoided the allure of street life. But having been in the shoes of many of the troubled teens she works with — referred to as “core influencers” by Boston Uncornered — she recognizes how that experience makes her more trustworthy and approachable to youth in the same situation.

Oftentimes these kids “have real bullshit detectors,” said Jones, “so they know if you’re just trying to talk the talk and you’ve never walked the walk.”

Having that experience alongside her ability to adapt to different friend groups and environments has made Jones a natural

leader and educator at the organization, where she tries to help teens recognize their potential and draw them away from the streets she left behind.

“The guys I hung with in my teenage years, they’re still on the corner right now. I bump into them from time to time and they’re still doing the same things they were doing. So, I do think my experience growing up and being able to relate to different groups of people — the street guys, the affluent folks in Wellesley, my neighborhood friends — help me to be able to relate to the guys I work with now.”

Other skills that have proven useful in Jones’ line of work? The lessons she’s learned as a mother, namely, knowing how to collaboratively problem solve. That means using not Plan A, which is “do what I say because I said it, but Plan B, which is collaboratively solving a problem by having the child help come up with solutions where I help them understand my concern and also have their concern on the table.

“This is something I do at home, and we train our staff to use this approach for solving problems with students.”

Another parenting tip that comes in handy, Jones said, is letting kids fail, learn, and come back stronger. She offered as an example her decision to not wake her son up for school in the morning until he learned to wake up himself.

“Kids and young adults, they have to make mistakes on their own. They have to see how their actions and choices have repercussions. You can best advise them, but, ultimately, they have to go through the struggle to be self-actualized and understand where they went wrong. We can’t stand in the way of that, because that’s how they learn. And I do that with my own kids, I let them make mistakes, which is hard.”

At Boston Uncornered, College Readiness Advisors (CRAs) must find that delicate balance of providing support and advice while allowing room for failure and growth.

“As hard as our CRAs are on our students,” said Jones, “they definitely allow them to make mistakes and learn from their mistakes.”

Over the past year, the pandemic has placed strains on the interpersonal ties at the heart of Boston Uncornered.

With in-person interactions out of play for months at a time and dollars normally reserved for the program being funneled toward immediate Covid needs, employees struggled to keep in touch with teens who, without refuge at school or their jobs, were once again being tempted by the streets.

“Supporting their development hasn’t changed as much; what has changed is the relationship aspect,” explained Jones. “We’re used to seeing each other every day, the staff and students and me, so that creates a disconnect...it’s been hard on the relationships, and we’re such a relationship-based and family-based organization that when you don’t see each other every day, you know, you miss them.

“The collaboration piece has been harder, but as far as the work itself, we’ve been lucky to continue to be able to stipend students, continue the academic piece of what we do as far as one-on-one tutoring.”

As the vaccination campaign continues in Boston and the CDC continues to roll back safety guidelines in the coming weeks, Boston Uncornered will look



Initia Jones of Boston Uncornered

to resume some of its regular programming before the spikes in gun violence that tend to accompany the warmer summer months.

“We’re hoping by the summer we’ll be able to be onsite in some capacity,” said Jones.

The Boston Uncornered team will still face the difficult task of forging relationships with troubled youth, building up their trust, and gradually altering their psychology so that they can learn to heal from past trauma and fulfill their potential.

“It’s a long process of getting someone to change their mindset; they’ve been told all their life that they cannot measure up to a certain expectation, or, you know, this is the hand you’re served, so you just have to deal with it and make the best of it. We’re here telling them a different narrative: you’re capable of so much more.

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Leadership change coming at SJP-Neponset campus: Principal Cuomo leaving; VP Chouinard is moving up

By KATIE PEDERSEN
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

After six years as principal of the Saint John Paul II Catholic Academy's (SJP) Neponset campus, Nick Cuomo will be leaving at the end of this school year to become vice principal at Miscoe Middle School in Mendon, MA. Stepping up to replace him is Erin Chouinard, Neponset's current vice principal.

Cuomo described the transition as "bittersweet. SJP has been my family for the last six years and will continue to be, but God calls us in different ways," he said. "We've got to follow the process and trust it."

Nonetheless, there is a lot that Cuomo will miss about the Neponset community, he said.

"Each and every day is a highlight for me. Just the other day, I was in a science class where we were investigating caterpillars and when they emerge as butterflies. Our teachers have the privilege of sharing



Nick Cuomo

these 'aha' moments. For me to have the privilege of seeing great teachers teach and amazing students learn – that's one of the best gifts of this role, and I'm excited for Erin to experience that as well."

Cuomo also raved about SJP's family events, including the Halloween Festival, Festival of Many Nations, and the One Neponset program.

Looking back at his tenure, Cuomo said he is especially appreciative of how the SJP-Neponset community responded to the Covid-19 crisis.

"I never thought we



Erin Chouinard

would go through that, but everyone was so resilient and flexible and supportive. One of the more moving experiences was having a rolling parade in front of our building," he said. "Seeing all of the students in person after so many months of being on Zoom, all the teachers and staff with their signs...I remember the buzz in the community. Like, 'Wow. This school – this family – stuck it out.' For us to now be back in person, I'm really excited."

Cuomo emphasized that he is certain that SJP-Neponset will be in good hands. "If I'm going

to pass the baton off to anyone, I trust Erin. I think she's going to do great things," he said.

"I look forward to us continuing to grow as a community. To continue to develop our supports for all students, for all teachers, and for all families. I think we do a great job of creating a family-like atmosphere where students feel welcomed and loved, but we also know we have a lot of room to grow."

He continued: "Each generation of students presents a different flavor of identity that we want to make sure is supported, protected, and respected, and that also allows our community to grow. That goes for our teachers, too. We have a lot of great young teachers joining, and we also have some amazing teachers that are getting closer to their next chapter. Even though the crew members might switch out from time to time, SJP Neponset will stay true

to its values. And I'm very excited about the new captain of the ship, Erin Chouinard."

For her part, Chouinard said she is looking forward to stepping into the principal's role at SJP-Neponset after three years as vice principal and two years as a science teacher.

"I'm really excited," she said. "This is my third year as the assistant principal, so I've had great training from Nick, and I've been able to learn from him. He took me under his wing and showed me the way, so I definitely feel prepared."

She added: "Vice principals don't usually attend the principal's meetings, but with Covid, we've been able to do them all together, so not only have I been able to learn from Nick at our campus, but I've also been able to learn from Claire [Barton Sheridan] at Columbia and Lisa [Warshasky] at Lower Mills. I got to watch them lead through

what we've been going through and learn from them, so that's been hugely helpful."

"I went to a Catholic school from kindergarten through 12th grade, so being back at a Catholic school and Catholic community is so special and important to me. It's like coming home."

For her part, SJP Regional Director Kate Brandley is "thrilled" to have Chouinard taking over as Principal.

"[Chouinard] will be the first Principal in eleven years that's from the community, so that's pretty exciting. Erin has a fabulous can-do attitude, she's a woman of faith – deep faith – and she's always ready to jump in and help."

"She is a true player and will continue to advance many of the things Mr. Cuomo started, but will also bring new ideas to the table. I'm so glad to have her."

Golf tourney honors late Boston firefighter George Wright GC on Aug. 16

The family of the late Boston firefighter Paul Hoban will hold a memorial golf tournament on Aug. 16 at the George Wright Golf Course in Hyde Park. Mr. Hoban, a US Navy veteran who died suddenly at age 57, served on the department for 30 years and was stationed at Dorchester's Engine 16 when he died in June 2019.

All funds from the first annual Putts for Paul will be donated to the Home Base Program at Massachusetts General Hospital, a clinical support program for veterans and their families. Donations, sponsors, and volunteers may contact Shane Hoban at shaneghl7@yahoo.com for additional information.

-REBECA PEREIRA



Paul Hoban

Arts Academy cites three

On May 1 a virtual livestream of the 2021 BAA Honors – Boston Arts Academy's annual fundraising event – saw a star-studded cast and a series of music and dance performances by students and alumni raise nearly \$1.7 million for the city's only public high school for the visual and performing arts.

BAA is based in Fields Corner as its new campus is being built near Fenway Park.

Among this year's celebrity honorees were Red Sox legend David Ortiz, car dealership executive Ernie Boch Jr., and Academy Award-winning fashion designer Ruth Carter.

BAA Honors supports wide-ranging resources at BAA, from special lighting in performance spaces, to state-of-the-art technology for recording studios, additional student health and wellness services, and increased STEAM (STEM+Art) education opportunities.

"BAA Honors is a celebration of the absolute best of what Boston



Red Sox legend David Ortiz accepted the BAA Honors award for television and film as Boston Arts Academy Foundation President Denella Clark and BAA Head of School Anne Clark look on. Visual Arts photo

Arts Academy has to offer," said Boston Arts Academy Foundation President Denella Clark. "From our incredible students to our alumni who always give back to the next generation, to the Honorees who inspire our students to reach for greatness, it was an evening to recognize all of their accomplishments and to share in the passion that connects our

remarkable community."

"I'm very honored to receive this award," said TV & Film Honoree Ortiz Saturday night during the live broadcast. "I was born in the Dominican Republic, where music just runs through our blood and art is everywhere. When I think about music, I think about happiness. We've got to support [BAA] and we've got to help.

YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE

DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Today's illustration is about a building in Dorchester that just missed inclusion in Joe Bagley's new book, "Boston's Oldest Buildings and Where to Find Them." In 1795, the merchant John Bussey purchased the property at 1203 Adams Street in today's Lower Mills from Daniel Vose that included the already-existing house. The house was built by 1795, possibly before, but we have no documentation to say with certainty what year.

Bussey, a veteran of the



The Bussey House

Revolutionary War, lived to 90. His name appeared the year before his death in an 1840 census of military pensioners in Dorchester. In a list of Strangers in Dorchester, Mass., compiled by Noah Clapp, town clerk, in 1906, we find that John Bussey & his family left Milton for Dorchester in 1785 or 1786.

The property remained in the Bussey family until it was purchased by Henry L. Pierce about 1890, possibly for use by the Walter Baker & Co. of which he was the

head. The chocolate company later turned the building into a reading room.

The house is a five-bay Federal house that in the late 19th or early 20th century acquired a colonial revival shop front, probably constructed by the Baker company. It is prominently sited on Adams Street, the old road from Boston to the South Shore.

The archive of these historical posts can be viewed on the blog at dorchesterhistorical-society.org.

Editorial

Welcome, Little Saigon

On Tuesday, a multi-year campaign to get parts of Fields Corner designated as an official cultural district dubbed “Little Saigon” won final approval from the state-funded Mass Cultural Council. The vote by the council’s governing body was unanimous and followed words of support from the Boston City Council, former Mayor Walsh and current Mayor Kim Janey, along with many supporters from the Vietnamese community here in Dorchester and beyond.



The proposal got additional support on Tuesday from state Sen. Nick Collins and City Councillors Frank Baker and Michelle Wu.

So, what does this approval mean? Is Fields Corner now supposed to be called Little Saigon? Not at all, say proponents of the idea.

The cultural district designation doesn’t replace the Fields Corner name; rather it denotes an “overlay district” intended to put Dorchester on the map to a larger audience that might want to visit this part of our neighborhood to soak up the

culture, food, and experiences of what is—beyond any doubt – Boston’s hub of Vietnamese-American life.

Said Annie Le, who leads the Boston Little Saigon organization that pushed hardest for the designation: “We hope to bring more awareness to Vietnamese arts and culture passed onto us by our elders and welcome new ideas from our younger generation. We look forward to working with community members, neighbors, and business owners to create more opportunities and build more support for the arts and for small businesses in the Fields Corner area.”

On their website, the founders of the initiative make it clear that the district’s name is not intended to exclude anyone.

“Our intention is not to promote or recognize one culture at the expense of others. We respect Dorchester’s rich and diverse history. We are always looking for opportunities to collaborate,” they said.

The district, Le and others note, is home to VietAID, billed as the first Vietnamese American Community Center in the US, along with the Luc Hoa Buddhist Center and Temple on Park Street. And, of course, the serpentine-shaped district – which includes a long stretch of Dot Ave, but also parts of Adams, Park, and Charles streets – is home to dozens of Vietnamese-owned shops and eateries.

The back-and-forth over the idea of marketing part of this multi-cultural neighborhood has not been without debate. Some, myself included, were hesitant to see Boston get served up to tourists by ethnic enclave. But the advocates for this specific proposal made their case well and won over most, if not all, who raised concerns.

The upside here is worth noting. The designation means that the district, which joins 50 others like it across the state, is eligible for grant money to support the arts and to market the area to visitors. According to a statement released by the Mass Cultural Council, businesses located in the district “may be eligible to receive additional economic development resources, including state tax credits and grant funding from other public agencies.”

We hope that this effort will help advance a cause we’ve long endorsed: Knocking down negative stereotypes about this neighborhood and encouraging new people to discover the rich, multi-cultural nature of city living

— Bill Forry

Stepping up by stepping back: Engaging the vaccine hesitant

By MICHAEL CURRY

Recently, on the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers’ communications platform, a health worker on Cape Cod posted the following message:

“I wanted to share what I consider a very successful conversation I had with a hesitant patient that makes me feel better in those times. This woman responded to our text outreach for a vaccination clinic asking if she could get some counseling on the vaccine ... We spoke at length about safety and development, but in the end she stopped me, saying, ‘I feel like your job is just to make me say yes.’ I felt awful at first, I explained to her that my job is never to make her feel pressured or guilty but only to give her the information we have available to help her make the best decision for herself and her body.

“She confessed to me that she believes all the science, she knows she should get it, but she is just afraid since she has had bad experiences in the past with vaccines... We spoke for a while, and in the end, I told her we would remove her from the call list. I assured her again that we support her decision, and that if or when she is ever ready, we are here with no judgment. We thanked each other, and she even gave me props for making her comfortable... This, for me, was the most successful conversation I had to date with a patient.”

“You’re probably scratching your head: Why, in a race to get shots in the arms of as many people as possible before they get Covid-19 or the coronavirus mutates into a more virulent form, does the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers consider this to be one of our success stories?

Our reach into the state’s most vulnerable residents is deep. One in every seven Massachusetts residents receives care at a health center. In Boston, one of every two residents gets care at a health center. They often live in small, multi-generational homes; work in essential jobs; and use public transportation. They are the same communities that were—and, unfortunately, in some cases, continue to be—devastated by the pandemic. They are also among the most vaccine hesitant. Our patients’ more cautious attitudes were confirmed by a poll organized by the League on public attitudes toward the Covid and other vaccines last December with the Museum of Science Boston and MassINC. The poll oversampled Black and Latinx communities and was administered in English and Spanish. There were two key findings. The first was that a majority of Massachusetts residents planned to get the vaccine, but wanted to wait until others had gone first.

The second was that, across all groups, doctors are the most trusted source of information about the vaccines. But there was a drop of 10 percent between whites and communities of color when it came to getting vaccinated right away. That difference can be explained by the legacy of racism, concerns about immigration status, linguistic and cultural isolation, and logistical barriers to access.

To bridge it, we knew we would need to reach out to our community health workers, dig into vaccine hesitancy studies, and seek input from our partners in the work we do to serve vulnerable populations. We would also have to allay our patients’ fear and mistrust by showing them we believed in their good judgment, acknowledging their desire to make good

decisions, and respecting their autonomy. Luckily, this approach aligns perfectly with our members’ philosophy of patient-centered care.

The League’s engagement campaign began in January 2021 with the development of materials to support people in having respectful conversations about the vaccine—and letting patients make up their own minds. The talks can be between health center staff and patients, between community health workers and patients, or among patients themselves with their families and friends.

There are four types of materials.

Tips for Talks — This is a simple guide for having open-ended, nonjudgmental conversations. They are written at a basic reading level and are available in 10 languages at our website, massleague.org.

Common Questions and Concerns — Our common questions and concerns aren’t like any others out there! They have been customized exactly for each population in Massachusetts, both in terms of what questions are included and in the order they are presented. The customizations were created by listening to the opinions of health center staff, community groups, and a community health worker advisory group. They have also been carefully written to make them easy for health center patients to understand and use. They are available on the League website and can be used online or as printed handouts. Feel free to personalize them by adding your own logo at our website, massleague.org.

Provider Videos — We asked Black and Latinx health center providers to talk about their experiences of the pandemic, the vaccine, and why they think people should get the shot. But we asked them to leave their lab coats at home and talk to us as if they were old friends, not as doctors giving medical advice. The result is real people sharing their truths, which we think is the only way to truly connect with patients around the risks and benefits of the vaccine. We are running them on local cable television around the state and on social media. The videos are available on the League website and YouTube pages.

“After the Pandemic” Artists Videos — The final component of the campaign, scheduled for late spring and early summer, is a set of very short videos featuring artists from each community talking about their experience of the campaign and showing an artwork they did to illustrate the theme “After the Pandemic.” These are intended to celebrate each community and motivate those individuals who haven’t gotten vaccinated yet to do so. They will be run on social media.

We are now at an inflection point in the campaign. Many of our patients — older people and those with health conditions — have been relatively eager to get vaccinated. With the opening up of eligibility to anyone over 16— and now 12—we expected that we would encounter more resistance, which seems to be the case. We are now looking to identify pockets of people who are skeptical or still on the fence and engage with them about the vaccine. If you have some of these individuals in your patient populations or have ideas about who they might be and can use our materials to get the conversation started, we welcome your collaboration.

Michael Curry is the president & CEO of the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers.

Let’s get our state to abolish the Gay/Trans Panic Defense

In July 2018, Otoni Eliseau was staying in the basement of the Philadelphia Baptist Church in Framingham with his friend, Jackson Sugrue, who all of a sudden became violent. Jackson would beat him; he’d smash his head against a coffee table; he took away his phone, repeatedly yelling at him ‘I know you like me. I know you’re gay,’ and he would hold him captive there for four days without food or water. Once Eliseau escaped, Jackson was arrested on charges of committing a hate crime. Jackson’s attorney, Kenneth Gross, would later state of Eliseau in court : “He was trying to entice my client to do things that were against his nature.”

In the 1990s, Scott Amendure brought Jonathan Schmitz onto The Jenny Jones Show to reveal that he had a crush on him. Following the taping of the episode, Schmitz purchased a shotgun, went to Amendure’s Michigan home, and shot him twice in the chest, killing him. Schmitz’s attorneys later claimed in court that he was mentally ill and became emotionally unstable after being humiliated

because of Amendure’s interest in him.

In 2014, California became the first state to ban this legal defense strategy, followed by Illinois (2017), Rhode Island (2018), Connecticut, Hawaii, Maine, Nevada, and New York (2019), New Jersey, D.C., Colorado, and Washington (2020). This year, Vermont and Virginia, the first southern state to do so, joined the lineup.

Massachusetts has yet to do so, but you can help change that by contacting your local representative and senator and urging them to support An Act to Support LGBTQ Victims (H.D. 2275/S.D. 1183), which will make Massachusetts the 13th state to ban this legal defense strategy and protect our LGBTQ friends, neighbors, and families.

Texas, Iowa, Georgia, Maryland, Nebraska, Florida, Oregon, New Mexico, New Hampshire, and Minnesota all have similar waiting on possible passages.

Matthew J Shochat
Dorchester

The Reporter

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Humphreys Street artists fearing displacement with sale of property pending

By AMELIA MASON
WBUR REPORTER

A group of 42 artists has reached a precarious point in their quest to save their Boston studios. Renters at the Humphreys Street Studios in Uphams Corner, they fear they will be displaced if an offer on the property is finalized.

The artists had hoped to gain control of the studios through a partnership with two mission-driven developers, New Atlantic and Placetaylor, who planned to build out the property's massive back lot and transfer ownership of the studio building to a nonprofit managed by the artists.

The group submitted a \$2.75 million offer in April. They included a contingency that further environmental studies be made on the property since chemicals from an underground oil tank had leached into the soil. But they found out last week that the prop-

erty's four co-owners had accepted a cash offer from another buyer, Kendall Capital LLC.

The studios at 11-13 Humphreys Street are some of the last affordable artist studio spaces in Boston, where real estate prices climb relentlessly. The studios' tenants worried that a new owner would either raise rents or evict them in order to develop the property.

Kendall Capital could not be reached for comment.

"It's really impossible to find a place like this, where the rent is very affordable, and it's right in the heart of Boston," said Franklin Marval, a graphic designer who has rented studio space at Humphreys Street for nine years.

"It's a business decision," said James Cooper, one of the owners of the property, of the pending sale. He added that Kendall Capital's offer was higher than the artists'

(though lower than the asking price of \$3.5 million), and didn't require the owners to spend more money to deal with the site's contaminated soil.

The Humphreys Street Studios were founded in 2001 by two artists, Joe Wheelwright and Neal Widett. One of the building's underground heating tanks, a vestige of its former life as a dry-cleaning facility, leaked oil into the ground, making the property difficult to sell or develop for residential use. Wheelwright, a sculptor, and Widett, a wood carver, transformed the building into a collection of cheap, roomy studios especially well-suited to sculptors and craftspeople working with large equipment. Both Wheelwright and Widett passed away in recent years.

Cooper said the property's other three owners were eager to sell. "If you asked them, 'Can we close on this tomorrow?', they would jump through



Humphreys Street Studios, with its landmark chimney and mostly green painted buildings, which were once a laundry facility in Dorchester.
Robin Lubbock/WBUR photo

their skin," he said. Those owners include Wheelwright and Widett's widows. "When Neal and Joe were alive, [their wives] were very attached to the whole thing. But after they died, it's sort of ... a lingering memory," Cooper said. "It still hurts."

The artists' developer partners submitted a counter offer of \$3 million and removed the environmental contingency after learning of the pending sale. Cooper said he would consider the offer a backup if the current deal fell through. Kendall Capital was granted a 60-day due diligence period to examine the property before the sale is finalized.

That 60-day period means the artist-developer partnership still has a chance, said New At-

lantic owner Bill Hardy. "Every developer who's ever looked at this has walked away," he said. "From my perspective, it just would not be smart for someone [who wanted to earn a profit] to buy the building, given what is known and what is not known about the environmental condition."

The property, which was appraised at \$3.1 million, went on the market more than a year ago, spurring the artists to organize. Perhaps ironically, the existential threat to the studios made its artist tenants more invested than ever. The group voted to create a tenants' association in March.

"It really was our mission from the beginning ... to save our own space in Boston," said Cristi-

na Todesco, who sits on the Humphreys Street Studios preservation steering committee. "But it became much greater than that as we started to reach out to community members."

The group recently organized an exhibition showcasing work by the building's tenants as well as other artists from Dorchester and Roxbury.

"We want to be ingrained in this community," Todesco said. "We're looking to grow and build community relationships. And we want to be here."

This article was published by WBUR 90.9FM on May 13. The Reporter and WBUR share content through a media partnership.

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Helgesson, Mimmie	Kotsakis, Alexander	36 Browning Ave	Dorchester	04/29/21	975,000
Helgesson, Mimmie	Kotsakis, Alexander	34 Browning Ave	Dorchester	04/29/21	975,000
Daley, Aleka		224 Callender St	Dorchester	04/26/21	300,000
Nkurunziza, Eric		10 Wendover St	Dorchester	04/28/21	468,000
19 Buttonwood LLC		19 Buttonwood St	Dorchester	04/30/21	1,525,000
19 Buttonwood LLC		21 Buttonwood St	Dorchester	04/30/21	1,525,000
Smith, Alexandra		82 Alban St	Dorchester	04/30/21	800,000
Mendes, Etelvina M		32 Glendale St	Dorchester	04/26/21	151,000
Tien-Nguyen, Thi T		5 Redwood St	Dorchester	04/28/21	675,000
Black, Vernon	Nguyen, Quoc B	35 Longfellow St	Dorchester	04/30/21	690,000
Pumpkin Pie LLC	Evans, Faith	42 Draper St	Dorchester	04/26/21	971,100
Etzkorn, Dennis D	Etzkorn, Gavin R	3 Bayside St	Dorchester	04/27/21	1,750,000
Ho, Samuel	Buresh, Patrick C	241 Minot St	Dorchester	04/29/21	830,000
Verbitzki, Andrew		127 Elmer Rd	Dorchester	04/28/21	725,000
Mederos-Dorleans, Luz		20 Willowood St	Dorchester	04/29/21	650,000
Miller, Aisha	Dorleans, Roodly	41 Lorna Rd	Mattapan	04/30/21	700,000
Erica Davis Estates LLC		107-109 Deering Rd	Mattapan	04/16/21	670,000
Biencourt, Pierre		192 Sydney St #B	Dorchester	04/26/21	673,000
Obrien, Marian		40 Cushing Ave #3	Dorchester	04/30/21	379,000
Winslow, Samuel W	Panagako, Michael J	12 Victoria St #1	Dorchester	04/26/21	637,500
Cahill, Brittny A		11 Agawam St #3	Dorchester	04/30/21	280,000
Pham, Nam D		48 Coffey St #6D	Dorchester	04/26/21	330,000
Foley, Emily		78 Sawyer Ave #1	Dorchester	04/30/21	525,000
Wallace, Viola	Contreras, Jeremi N	9 Ferndale St #B	Dorchester	04/29/21	382,000
Ryan, Michael J		33 Rosemont St #2	Dorchester	04/28/21	485,556
Garner, Grant P		42 Salina Rd #42	Dorchester	04/30/21	849,989
Moran, Mary C	Verdugo, Carmen D	84 Carruth St #2	Dorchester	04/16/21	600,000
Ventresco, Mark		42 Washburn St #3	Dorchester	04/30/21	600,000
Marjollet, Emma M		24 Thelma Rd #2	Dorchester	04/28/21	590,000
Morency, Victor		10 Enterprise St #2	Dorchester	04/29/21	725,000
Narowski, Elissa		24 Arcadia Park #3	Dorchester	04/27/21	445,000
Brackett, Connor		7 Saco St #1	Dorchester	04/29/21	659,000
Hollis, Dimitri	Hollis, Jillian	16 Pasadena Rd #2	Dorchester	04/30/21	566,000
Picado, Lauren M	Mejia, Juan A	2 Woodward Park St #3	Dorchester	04/30/21	520,000
Amaral, Brian J		Woodward Park LLC			
Bailey, Larry					
Bailey, Larry					
Aymer Genevive F Est					
Lamartine, Samantha	Spallina, William F				
Oconnor RET	Paschall, Calvarie				
Oconnor RET	Oconnor, Daniel W				
Kilburn, Timothy M	Oconnor, Daniel W				
Tavares, Antonio T					
T&F FT	Mendes, Etelvina M				
Williams, Marie	Thole, Gregory S				
Ricks, Elizabeth					
Larocca, Christen A	Kallon, Motee U				
Lizotte, Catherine	Rondeau, Shannon E				
Buckley, Robert F	Rees, Peter				
Myers Demosthenese Est	Buckley, Kerriann D				
Johnson, Marion V	Myers, Mark A				
Pleasantcharles LLC					
Maciaszczyk, Zdzislaw R					
Stark-Smith, Joy L	Austin, Rita				
Horton, Preston P					
Watt, Adam A					
Gillis, Jennifer					
Northrop, Amanda L					
Vivas, Elias M					
Donovan, Benjamin E	Burgoyne, Erin M				
Walsh, Mark					
Moran, Eileen A					
Rielly, Patrick	Fortunato, Mark J				
Myatt, Nicole					
Segal, Jonathan T	Wellbery, Edward				
24 Arcadia Park LLC					
Goodwin Saco LLC					
16 Pasadena Road LLC					
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 Mayor Martin J. Walsh

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Full re-opening, end to mask mandate moved up to May 29

(Continued from page 1)

27 that the state’s largest city would lag about three weeks behind Gov. Charlie Baker’s reopening schedule, but she said Monday that “we have more than a month of data showing that cases are low and continue to be low over time.”

Boston Chief of Health and Human Services Marty Martinez said Boston recorded an average of 63 new cases per day as of May 11, while the city’s positivity rate dropped to 2.1 percent and was no higher than 4.3 percent in any single neighborhood.

Last week, he said, there were fewer than 65 COVID-positive patients in city hospitals. “We have not seen these low numbers in over a year,” Martinez said. “It is clear that vaccines are working to keep people from developing serious cases of COVID and decreasing spread of the virus.”

The announcements represent a significant milestone in the state’s fight against the coronavirus that has fueled a global pandemic and upended nearly all aspects of human life since the start of 2020. But the governor made clear that the end of government-mandated restrictions does not necessarily mean the end of the public health threat.

“Covid is a little bit like, you know, Michael Myers,” Baker said, referring to the horror film franchise character with a knack for surviving to make it into yet another sequel. “We have made tremendous progress and that’s why we are able to do what we’re doing here and what we’re proposing here today ... the people of Massachusetts have set the commonwealth up to be successful going forward from here, but obviously this is something we’re all going to have to continue to pay attention to and we will.”

Speaking at the State House, Baker said the new reopening timeline — May 29 was initially going to be the next, but not final, step toward a more complete reopening — has been made possible by an effort that has the state in line to meet its goal of vaccinating 4.1 million residents by the first week of June.

“Massachusetts is effectively battling back in its campaign against the virus,” Baker said. “Nearly every student in the state is back in the classroom and we’ve reopened nearly every industry. We’re safer, smarter, and better equipped in this fight than at any time since it began.”

New cases are down 89 percent since Jan. 8 and hospitalizations are down 88 percent since Jan. 1, Baker’s office

“Massachusetts is effectively battling back in its campaign against the virus,” Gov. Baker said. “Nearly every student in the state is back in the classroom and we’ve reopened nearly every industry. We’re safer, smarter, and better equipped in this fight than at any time since it began.”

said. The state’s positive test rate has fallen from 8.7 percent on Jan. 1 to an even 1 percent as of Sunday.

Since Baker last laid out a reopening timeline on April 27, the average of daily new cases is down 65 percent, the average hospitalization level has declined 39 percent, and the average daily number of deaths has fallen by about 45 percent.

Rules started to change on Tuesday in the Bay State. Effective May 18, guidance for youth and amateur sports was updated to allow kids under the age of 18 to play outdoor sports without having to wear a mask and to allow kids at school or child care to go mask-free when outdoors for activities like recess. Schoolkids will also be allowed to share classroom items again.

On May 29, all industries will be permitted to open to 100 percent capacity, gathering limits will be rescinded and, with the exception of face-covering requirements for certain settings, all state-mandated Covid-19 restrictions will be lifted. Non-vaccinated individuals will be advised to continue wearing face masks and to continue distancing in most settings, but a new advisory will recommend that vaccinated individuals no longer need to wear a face covering or social distance indoors or outdoors except for in certain situations.

“After more than a year of restrictions, protocols,

and guidelines, a full Massachusetts reopening is spectacular news for small businesses,” National Federation of Independent Businesses State Director Christopher Carlozzi said after Baker’s announcement. “Now the real work begins to repair a battered small business economy and bring residents of the commonwealth back into the workplace.”

Retailers Association of Massachusetts President Jon Hurst said Baker’s announcement “sends a clear message about the importance of economic investment and recovery now that we have done what we needed to do to be safe. With our vaccinations, we are all now clearly safe to shop, dine, entertain, travel, and return to work.”

But he also asked that consumers, many of whom are as eager to get back to their usual shopping and dining patterns as the businesses are to welcome them back, be “patient and considerate as government mandates turn

into individual choices.”

“In the days to come, employers will have decisions to make on masks and occupancy levels, and as well as increased staffing needs for their establishments,” he said.

Alluding to the possibility that some cities and towns may not go along with Baker’s new timeline, Hurst added, “We also strongly urge municipal officials to understand the need for consistency in policy and public messaging, and to avoid confusing our consumers and small businesses with conflicting local policy.”

As with every other step in the state’s reopening effort, municipalities are free to move slower than the state. Boston and Somerville, in particular, have frequently adopted modified versions of the state’s reopening steps and have been more cautious in their own returns to normal.

Baker reiterated Monday that “communities that don’t want to go as aggressively or as far as we’re proposing to go” can make whatever decisions they feel are appropriate “and we will support that.”

Economic Development Secretary Mike Kennealy, who led the administration’s economic reopening advisory group with Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito, said the 12

days until May 29 are intended to give business owners and communities that are ready to reopen “time to plan for a return to normal, and to make adjustments to their physical spaces, and to modify their staffing levels.”

“Kindness, understanding, and respect will go a long way in these coming weeks,” Kennealy said.

Carlozzi, the state director of NFIB, said businesses also face “major staffing challenges” as they prepare for shoppers to return in greater numbers this summer.

“A real indicator of a return to normalcy will be the many ‘help wanted’ signs being removed from storefront windows,” he said.

Though most Massachusetts residents will likely circle May 29 as the milestone date on their calendars, the June 15 expiration of Baker’s state of emergency declaration is just as significant to those who closely follow state government. Baker declared a state of emergency on March 10, 2020 to deal with the coronavirus that was just beginning to surge across the planet and his administration’s restrictions, guidelines, and executive orders have shaded nearly all aspects of life in the Bay State since then.

“The lifting of the

governor’s orders under the Cold War era Civil Defense Act could not come a day sooner. For nearly 421 days, countless businesses and individuals have had their rights and freedoms completely ignored,” Paul Craney, spokesperson for MassFiscal, said, though Monday was the 434th day under Baker’s state of emergency.

MassFiscal has supported the New Civil Liberties Alliance as it pursued legal avenues to overturn many of Baker’s executive orders, arguing that the Republican governor overstepped his authority.

“A functioning democracy cannot survive under a temporary state of emergency that is prolonged like we endured ... Massachusetts should never ever go through this again,” Craney said.

During Monday’s press conference to announce the last reopening step, the lieutenant governor pointed out that it was literally a year in the making.

“May 18 of 2020 was the day that we came to this room and announced the first phase of our reopening plan. And here we are, almost to the date, a year later with a full reopening,” Polito said Monday. “It would not have happened without all of you working so hard along this course and along this journey.”

muter Rail, subway, and trolley systems. Those who refuse to comply with the MBTA’s face covering requirement may be denied boarding of or be removed from MBTA vehicles and the system.”

- STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

Attention T riders: Masks still a must

Hoping to clarify its rules in the wake of a CDC announcement about mask wearing, the MBTA on Friday reminded its customers that face coverings are still required “while onboard vehicles, in stations and facilities, on platforms and bus stops, and anywhere within the MBTA system for all riders, including those who have

been fully vaccinated.”


The T cited the Centers for Disease Control’s statement that “fully vaccinated people can resume activities without wearing a mask” while also pointing out that the CDC guidance “also notes that fully vaccinated individuals are still required to wear a mask on buses, trains, and other forms of public

transportation.”

In a press release, the T said, “MBTA riders are reminded that federal and state regulations continue to require face coverings while riding MBTA vehicles and within the MBTA system, regardless of a person’s vaccination status. This includes outdoor bus stops and all outdoor platforms for the Com-


muter Rail, subway, and trolley systems. Those who refuse to comply with the MBTA’s face covering requirement may be denied boarding of or be removed from MBTA vehicles and the system.”

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18 1/4 x 60 1/4		21 1/4 x 60 1/4	23 1/4 x 60 1/4	27 1/4 x 60 1/4	30 1/4 x 60 1/4	31 1/4 x 60 1/4	33 1/4 x 60 1/4	35 1/4 x 60 1/4	39 1/4 x 60 1/4
18 1/4 x 64 1/4		21 1/4 x 64 1/4	23 1/4 x 64 1/4	27 1/4 x 64 1/4	30 1/4 x 64 1/4		33 1/4 x 64 1/4		39 1/4 x 64 1/4

41 Hallet Street, Dorchester (617) 282-6900

Grove Hall event highlights homegrown graffiti writers

(Continued from page 1) the literary forebearer of street art.

“The goal is to promote the writing culture of graffiti,” said Harrison of the event. “Graffiti is the federal term bestowed upon us when it became illegal, but we’re known as writers, so this was like the first event to kind of start that conversation. I wanted to make it as hands-on and community-involved as possible, and the community showed up and they’re doing it.”

At a lot on Geneva Avenue just across from the Grove Hall BPL branch, attendees were invited to test their own graffiti skills on plywood and concrete barriers while experienced artists with years in the Boston scene gradually brought their designs to life on a wall donated by Moses Auto Body shop to be a canvas

for the event. Within the group of artists, which stretched across an age range of some 40 years, one could see the history of graffiti in the city and how the tradition has been organically passed down through the generations, said Harrison, gesturing at each artist working along the wall.

“A lot of these older guys have been my mentors at Artists for Humanity— Rob Gibbs, Richard Gomez—they’ve been my mentors since ‘97. And Barrington, he was their mentor, the guys who taught me. That was my main goal, to have multiple generations up there, let the young kids know that the old schoolers are still here and they’re still strong.”

Highlighting that line between the old and the new could inspire younger generations to keep

the artform alive and bring it more clearly into the public eye, Harrison reasoned. His calls for graffiti to be spotlighted come at a time when city-sanctioned street art is popping up on surfaces across Boston: in recent years, murals have surfaced on Blue Hill Avenue, Quincy Street, Dorchester Avenue, and elsewhere in the neighborhood and others. But Harrison is worried the “writers” could be left behind.

“It’s growing, but we’re being left out of the movement,” he explained. “Right now, Massachusetts and specifically Boston is absolutely booming with the street art movement. There’s crazy amounts of money going around, and I think it’s absolutely amazing but it’s important for the graffiti writers specifically born and raised in these neighborhoods to have a say in what art goes up and also have first dibs for these proposals. That’s the long-term mission, but this is the start of a larger conversation. It’s time to shake it up.”

Sharing in Harrison’s hopes for a more colorful future Boston painted by local artists is Ekua Holmes, a Roxbury native and director of MassArt’s sparc! The ArtMobile initiative that brings art-making workshops to locations around the



Apeks, a Roxbury-based graffiti writer, was among the featured artists allotted a section of the auto body shop wall for the event. *Daniel Sheehan photo*

city, fostering creation at the “grassroots level.” The ArtMobile helped make Saturday’s event possible by donating hundreds of cans of spray paint, placing tools of creation in the hands of the next generation of artists. Events like this are key to building pathways for kids from Dorchester to find their way to MassArt, she explained.

“We wanted to support this event because we have the same vision

that Jeremy has had for several years,” said Holmes. “That this could be a park that welcomes community artists and young folks, and we’re hoping to inspire people to come out and self-express in the space. It’s right in the heart of the neighborhood, there’s lots of room for everyone, lots of wonderful creative and collaborative things can happen here...this is the generation that’s got the vision for the next 50 years, so supporting, shining a light on, and

listening to what they have to say and looking at their work is the way forward.”

Rob “ProBlak” Gibbs, one of the foremost graffiti and street artists to emerge from Boston in the last 40 years, was on hand at the event, armed with a spray paint bottle. In between taking breaks to chat with friends and family, Gibbs underscored how the event to him was equal parts preservation and celebration--and called for more like it to follow.

“It’s beyond important, and it needs to continue,” said Gibbs. “It’s our tradition, our legacy. It’s the culture’s alphabet.”



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Docket No. SU20C0044CA
IN THE MATTER OF:
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MA requesting that the court enter a
Decree changing his name to:
Edgardo Sterling

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Felix D. Arroyo
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Indigo Block seen reaching finish line in August

(Continued from page 1) catering to local businesses.

The project is a collaboration between Boston Capital, Escazù Development, and Dorchester Bay EDC, which was awarded the right to re-develop the old Maxwell Box Company warehouse site following a competitive bid process in 2015.

Escazù Development is focused on building out the project's nine condominiums, all market-rate units housed in a single building. The condo complex offers split-level units as well as two-bedroom flats. While the pandemic interrupted supply chains, Escazù founder My Lam told the *Reporter* on Monday that the end is finally in sight.

"Throughout the process, the community wanted a balance in income accessibility, and the market rate home-

ownership component was important to reflect that interest," Lam said. "When the pandemic came, the construction team here reached out to all the suppliers and luckily we're now at a stage where we don't deal with the reverberations of that major disruption any longer."

North East Interiors (NEI) is the project's general contractor at the site, which draws anywhere from 30 to 40 workers each day. As work has drawn to a close, said Ken Calder, a supervisor at NEI, the number of men on site has begun to dwindle.

But, he cautioned, a lot of work to be done. As NEI is finishing installing kitchen countertops and flooring, National Grid and Eversource have begun work on gas lines and electrical power lines. The Boston Water and Sewer Commission is responsible

for bringing plumbing to the Block.

Said Beth O'Donnell, Dorchester Bay EDC's real estate director, who has been helping to guide the project for the last seven years, "If you spend time strengthening the relationships that are involved in this project, when you encounter difficulties along the way, everyone knows and trusts each other and works together to get through it."

She added: "It's the partnerships that engender the trust. That's why we've been successful."

Also critical to Indigo Block's progress: funding from the state and from the federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program, or LIHTC, which enables developers to focus on optimizing transit and climate-oriented priorities.

"You have to be opportunistic, because they aren't making any more

land," said O'Donnell. "There are thousands and thousands of people along this corridor connected by this rail line that's been slow to achieve its potential. The history of the Fairmount Line is one of lack of service, but the MBTA has been working very hard to increase frequency of service and open new stops, and we're making our site more accessible to the community as well."

Boston's Inclusionary Development Policy (IDP) required that Indigo Block designate 13 percent of its units as "affordable." The developers have exceeded that threshold substantively: More than 50 percent of the units are targeted at Dorchester residents making 60 percent or less of area median income. The building also houses 36 workforce units, designated as "affordable" for residents making between 60-90 percent of the area median income.

The affordable units feature the same fixtures

as workforce and luxury units, including granite countertops, tiled bathrooms, and appliance packages, and are scattered throughout the building to avoid external indicators of each unit's affordability level.

Perry Newman, the CEO at Dorchester Bay EDC, told the *Reporter* that input from neighborhood meetings helped drive the mission for more affordability. "Time and again, developers find that what is defined as affordable isn't necessarily real-life affordable for the community in which we reside," he said.

He added that the Indigo Block will seek a third-party rating recognizing the development as a highly sustainable design. Elements like the building's white roof-tops, air-tight vapor barrier, energy-efficient insulation, and rain gardens, which aid in storm-water filtration, will help advance that designation.

The development has been helped along by a \$100,000 grant from

the Kresge Foundation meant to advance sustainable policy solutions in low-income communities. Dorchester Bay EDC and its partners in the Fairmount Indigo CDC Collaborative won the award in September 2019.

Areas along Dorchester Avenue and Columbia Road rank among some of the hottest spots in the city, according to a 2019 Museum of Science/Northeastern University heat map, and the occurrence rate of asthma in children under five has historically been higher in Dorchester than the average for the city of Boston.

"We want to improve the air quality, improve conservation and improve health outcomes in our area to the extent that our buildings can contribute to healthier environments," Newman said.

Applications for leases at the Indigo Block site are expected to be available to the public sometime in August.

Next up for Dot Bay EDC: Spiff up the Pierce Building



The Pierce building at Dudley Street and Columbia Road.

The Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation has begun a two-phase rehabilitation of the iconic Pierce Building on Columbia Road, part of the ongoing plan to revitalize Uphams Corner as an arts and innovation district.

The first phase, including improvements to the first-floor retail space and a small-business loan center for entrepreneurs of color, is slated to be complete before this fall.

"It has long been our goal to restore the Pierce Building so it can serve as a sound and sustainable community resource and an anchor of the Uphams Corner area," said Perry Newman, CEO of Dorchester Bay EDC.

Plans to convert the building's existing Fairmount Innovation Lab into incubator space for local artists aligns with the Boston 2030 plan to boost Dorchester's creative economy.

The Pierce Building once housed Boston's first supermarket and Newman said the developer aims to "honor, enhance, and preserve"

the building's architectural and commercial significance.

"Preserving the character of Uphams Corner while bringing first-rate building technologies, first-rate living opportunities and first-rate artistic opportunities is an extraordinary task for us," he said. "We would be doing a disservice to the community if we dismissed the character of this building, and it takes someone that is embedded in the

community, who lives there and works there, to fully and respectfully rehabilitate a building like the Pierce Building."

Phase two will include an interior modernization to improve the building's upper stories and models the blueprint for the incubator space after Quincy Street's Bornstein & Pearl Food Production Center, also a project developed by Dorchester Bay EDC.

-REBECA PEREIRA

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Both positions are year-round with potential of overtime and paid holidays. Uniforms provided.

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*Picture from 2019

BGCD's Queenie Santos Honored by "Shirts Off Our Backs" Program with TD Bank & Boston Bruins: See details below.

CONNECT THE DOT:

BGCD's Queenie Santos Honored by "Shirts Off Our Backs" Program with TD Bank & Boston Bruins:

This week, our Queenie was honored as a part of the annual "Shirts Off Our Backs" Program by TD Bank! As a part of this recognition, Queenie received a personal thank you video and a game issued jersey from Boston Bruins Player John Moore. Queenie has worked at Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester for over 25 years, providing continuous support and love for our members, staff and community. BGCD is extremely proud to have Queenie as a part of our family and to have her be honored with this special recognition. Her tireless efforts and advocacy for everyone around her does not go unnoticed. Congratulations to Queenie on this well deserved recognition because we all know that Queenie would give those in need the shirt off her back!

FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE:

BGCD Continues Learning Hub Support & Adds Fun Science Projects:

Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester is continuing to provide a safe, supportive and supervised space to assist the families in our community during the time some children are still learning remotely. Our Learning Hubs support cohorts of K-8 students here at BGCD during typical "school day" hours, as well as after school enrichment programming. During the day, we are incorporating enrichment activities that provide opportunities for children to engage in the arts, fitness and other health and wellness activities. Last week, Education Director Joel introduced a fun, new science project to our members called "Oobleck", which is a mixture creating a fluid that acts like a quicksand. To do this technique, they used starch and water to try and create the perfect balance between a liquid and a solid.



BGCD Continues Learning Hub Support & Adds Fun Science Projects: See details below.

DID YOU KNOW:

Get Involved with BGCD! Looking for Summer Basketball Coach Volunteers:

Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester is currently looking for volunteers to help coach our teen girls summer basketball team! Our teen girls team will be entered into the Boston Neighborhood Basketball League, which is the oldest municipal basketball league in the country through the City of Boston. Games will be played two nights a week throughout the summer at Garvey Park in Dorchester, with additional team practice times. *Please note, there will be an opportunity for volunteer coaches to hold tryouts for recruiting team members.

For more information, please email Volunteer Coordinator, Amy Gately at agately@bgcdorchester.org or fill out a volunteer form at www.bgcdorchester.org/volunteer.

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Janey signs bill limiting BPD's use of tear gas, rubber bullets

By WBUR

AND WIRE SERVICES

Acting Boston Mayor Kim Janey signed a city ordinance last week that will put limits on how police use tear gas and other crowd-control techniques. The measure, approved last month by the City Council on a 7-5 vote, will restrict the use of chemical crowd control agents and kinetic impact projectiles by law enforcement agents operating in Boston.

Specifically, the measure will require a supervisor to approve their use and give warnings in advance. The new rules will apply to individuals engaging in protests, demonstrations or gathering with more than 10 people. The proposal specifies the limits apply to tear gas, pepper spray, rubber bullets, and beanbag rounds.

The ACLU of Massachusetts, in a statement, thanked Janey for signing the ordinance and City Councillors Ricardo Arroyo and Andrea Campbell for sponsoring it.

"Tear gas and rubber bullets are dangerous,



Boston Police emerge from the cloud of tear gas in the Boston Common to clear out protesters the night of May 31, 2020.
Jesse Costa/WBUR photo

indiscriminate, and intended to cause acute pain," said Rahsaan Hall, the ACLU's racial justice program director. "Across the country and here in Boston, these weapons have notably been used against protesters demanding racial justice. Restricting their use is just one part of the much larger work that must continue in order to achieve public safety for us all. It's time to concretely reduce the role, responsibilities,

and power of the police."

A similar initiative was approved by the council last year by a 8-5 vote, but was rejected by former Mayor Marty Walsh. Janey, who was city council president at the time, voted in favor of the measure.

Two councillors who voted in favor of the measure — Andrea Campbell and Michelle Wu — are running for mayor in the fall election. Another councilor running for mayor — Annissa

Essaibi George — voted against it. Janey is also running for mayor.

"This demilitarization ordinance is a necessary piece of our collective action to ensure transparency and accountability in our policing," said Campbell, who refiled the proposal with Arroyo. Campbell said she supports a full ban on tear gas and rubber bullets.

Under the ordinance, an on-scene police supervisor of the rank of dep-

uty superintendent or higher must personally witness ongoing violence or property destruction and determine there are no reasonable methods of de-escalation that could succeed.

The same supervisor must give two separate warnings at least two minutes apart announcing the group must disperse, saying which weapon will be used and ensuring the group has a way to exit.

The ordinance will also require the Boston Police Department to preserve body camera footage when the measures are used.

Boston isn't alone. Somerville has passed a ban on the use of tear gas and has made other chemical crowd control agents a last resort weapons and put conditions on when they can be used by police.

During the past year, at least 36 states — including Massachusetts — have signed into law measures that would change some police practices, according to a review of data from the National Conference of State Legislatures.

The new laws come from at least 1,800 police reform bills filed in statehouses across the country since George Floyd's killing, with the majority being introduced this year. The proposals include state-wide bans on chokeholds, limits on no-knock warrants, and restrictions on the use of tear gas and other crowd-control techniques.

In December, Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker signed a police accountability bill that created a civilian-led commission with the power to certify officers, investigate claims of misconduct, and revoke the certification of officers for certain violations.

The law also bans the use of chokeholds, bars officers from shooting into fleeing vehicles unless doing so is necessary to prevent imminent harm and limits the use of so-called no-knock warrants.

This article was first published by WBUR 90.9FM on May 13. The Reporter and WBUR share content through a media partnership.

As Janey moves to oust him, BPD chief sues, calls firing illegal

(Continued from page 1)

"Commissioner White, a Black man and only the second Black police commissioner in Boston's history, is being treated very badly and in violation of the law," Carter said.

But Janey fired back: "Dennis White's own admitted behavior does not reflect our values," Janey said during the May 14 press conference. "It's clear from our report that we have to move in a different direction."

Former Mayor Marty Walsh originally promoted White, a longtime Boston police officer and then the third-highest ranking person in the department, to lead the organization in January after the abrupt resignation of commissioner William Gross, without an in-depth search. But White only served in the position for a few days before he was placed on leave after *The Boston Globe* first reported the allegations made by his former wife in a restraining order and divorce documents filed decades ago.

The moves came as Walsh was awaiting Senate confirmation for his new job as US Secretary of Labor.

After the domestic violence allegations became public, Walsh hired an outside lawyer, Tamsin Kaplan of Boston law firm Davis Malm, to investigate. That inquiry had cost the city at least \$45,000 as of mid-April.

Kaplan delivered her report late last month,

but Janey said she wanted time to review it before making it public and deciding how to handle White's promotion.

Several candidates running against Janey for mayor issued statements Friday complaining about the uncertainty about who will lead the department in the coming months or the lack of transparency in the process.

Many community members and police organizations supported White through the investigation and demanded he be reinstated. The initial allegations against White centered on two incidents in 1998 and 1999: White told a mutual friend that he was so mad at his ex-wife that he wanted to shoot her. And White warned his young daughter that he slept with a gun under his pillow.

His ex-wife said in a restraining order that she was afraid "he may come inside and kill me because he is angry." White's firearms were temporarily taken away.

White's ex-wife also told internal affairs investigators at the time that she and her husband would "physically fight and of course he won every time." White also acknowledged at the time that there was physical abuse. He told the city's latest investigator that they pushed each other.

White's ex-wife and other witnesses detailed years of verbal and physical abuse. His former

spouse reported the physical abuse to the department multiple times, they said, but the department took no action until she filed the restraining order in 1999.

The city's latest investigation said White allegedly choked her, threw a television at her, burned her hair, put her face to the stove and kicked her, forcing her to crawl under the bed. Some said he was controlling and verbally abusive. Others said he coerced his wife into sex. Witnesses said his wife "fought back," and often apologized after fights because she loved him and wanted to smooth things over.

One witness said she herself was grabbed by White once when he wanted her to leave his home. "He was very angry, very angry," the witness said. "His voice, his posture was totally different. You could tell the aggressiveness in his voice."

The report says White denied all the allegations levied by his ex-wife and witnesses, other than to say there was pushing. He said he slept with a gun under his pillow for protection.

Still, police investigators ruled two decades ago that the physical abuse allegations were "not sustained." White was faulted for having "unreasonable judgment" for saying he wanted to shoot his ex-wife. Two years later, though, that finding

was changed after White complained to a supervisor, who recommended a downgrade from "sustained" to "filed."

In a separate incident in 1993, White got into what he described as "heated fisticuffs" with a 19-year-old woman, the report said. The woman alleged White was angry about \$10 she owed him. She said he punched her, threw her down the stairs, and pushed her out the front door of the house.

White confirmed both incidents at the time. More recently, the city's report said he acknowledged pushing the woman and striking her with a full swing of his arm, but said it was in self-defense after the woman kicked him in a knee that had recently been operated on. A neighbor witnessed the part of the altercation that was outside, reporting that he saw the woman kick White's leg and then White slap her.

White sought a complaint for assault and battery against the woman, which was later dismissed by the court. The woman obtained a restraining order against White. He then attempted to get his own restraining order against the woman, but was denied.

Internal investigators said White's slap of the 19-year-old was self-defense and that White didn't physically abuse the woman. They also ruled that White didn't

violate any department rules.

Witnesses and records detailed in the city's new report show the domestic violence accusations were well-known within the department. One person alleged that White's behavior was "of grave concern at the time." And White's attorney noted that the department knew about the allegations since 1999 and promoted him multiple times.

Janey said that the investigation revealed "a flawed process and a misguided department culture."

Tom Nolan, a former Boston police lieutenant who is now a sociology professor at Emmanuel College, said the city should consider installing a commissioner from outside the department — something that hasn't been done since 2006, when Ed Davis was named commissioner after a nationwide search.

"I don't think there is any indication that anyone currently in the department on the command staff specifically is someone who could be that change agent," he said.

Investigators encountered steep resistance when looking into the allegations against White. Many current and former police officers refused to be interviewed. The interim police commissioner refused to help facilitate interviews with current officers. The police department said it couldn't hand over re-

cords. And a city attorney tried to push the outside lawyer conducting the investigation to wrap up the probe after only 10 days.

That interruption was because Walsh intended to reinstate White, White's attorney claimed in a March 2 letter to the city's top lawyer that was included in court documents. Kaplan, the attorney Boston recently hired to investigate the case, did not note in her report why she was told to stop her inquiry.

Kaplan reported she was only able to talk to a third of the 21 witnesses she wanted to hear from.

A Boston Police Department spokesman said the department has not yet received the report on White and wouldn't comment. The Boston Police Patrolmen's Association, the union that represents most police officers, did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

Janey said "the investigation revealed a culture of fear and silence within the Boston Police Department."

One retired Boston police officer told the investigator he'd received at least five phone calls telling him not to talk with the lawyer. "Many people say don't do anything against a police officer," he told Kaplan.

This article was first published by WBUR 90.9FM on May 15. The Reporter and WBUR share content through a media partnership.

dotnews.com

Moment of Paws

Keep your pets in mind as you resume traveling

By DR. EDWARD SCHETTINO

With Memorial Day right around the corner, many of us are eager to be a part of the anticipated very busy summer travel season. But as we look to get away, it's important to take our pets into consideration – whether they're traveling with us or not.

Now is a perfect time to make sure their ID tags and microchip information are up to date. Should you become separated, these are important tools that can drastically increase the likelihood of a happy reunion.

If you're traveling by car, make sure your dog is secure by using a seatbelt harness, crate, doggie hammock, safety divider, among others. If traveling with a cat or another small animal, keep them in a carrier to ensure that they're safe. Be sure to stop frequently for bathroom, water, and fresh air breaks as well.

Plan ahead: Make sure you are permitted to bring your pet with you. Upon arrival at your destination, give your pets time to get acquainted with their new surroundings, and set up a space specifically for them with familiar blankets and toys so they have a place to go



Tsunami snares the ball.

if they're feeling anxious. When outdoors, keep your canine on a leash. Remember your companion will be in unfamiliar surroundings and the chance to get lost is high. Also be sure they have frequent access to shade and fresh water.

If you're planning to board your pet, do your research. There are currently no state-wide regulations or standards for daycare and boarding facilities, so it's up to you to advocate for your pet and make an informed decision on where they will be staying while you're away.

The Animal Rescue League of Boston's (ARL) safety campaign "The Kennel-9" suggests nine key things to think about when choosing a facility. Before making the decision of where to board your pet, consider the following:

- See it for yourself. Are you able to see the kennels and common areas where your pet will be boarded?
- Emergency procedures. Does the facility have working smoke and

carbon monoxide detectors, sprinkler systems, back-up power generator and written procedures for emergency situations?

- Operating license. Does the facility have a current operating license issued by the city or town and, according to the license, how many animals are allowed to be boarded at one time?
- Medical emergency. Will you be contacted if your animal experiences an unexpected medical emergency or injury? Furthermore is there a veterinarian on staff or on stand-by?
- Staff ratios. What is the staff to animal ratio and is there 24-hour supervision?
- Common areas. Do dogs play together in a common area, is play-time supervised, and are dogs separated by size and/or temperament? Do you also have the option to have your dog not participate in group activity?
- Infection precautions. Does the facility require up-to-date vaccination records for admission?
- Feline accommodations. Does the facility board cats and if so, are they separated from the sight and noise of dogs?
- Get it in writing. Will the facility give you written documentation

of their procedures or confirmation for any special requests for your pet?

We certainly all deserve time away; however if you are traveling for Memorial Day or any time in the upcoming months, please include your pets in the planning process – it will make for a more relaxing and worry-free break for every member of your family!

Dr. Edward Schettino

is the President and CEO of the Animal Rescue League in Boston. He has a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University. Pet questions? Email ARL.at.press@arlboston.org.

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
NOTICE AND ORDER:
PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT
OF GUARDIAN OF A MINOR
Docket No. SU20P1532GD
SUFFOLK PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
24 New Chardon Street, Boston, MA 02114
IN THE INTERESTS OF
PEYTON K. HUGHES
OF Boston, MA
MINOR

Notice to all Interested Parties

1. Hearing Date/Time: A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on 08/25/2020 by Amina Y.I. Wilcox of Boston, MA will be held 06/01/2021 10:00 AM Guardian-ship of Minor Hearing. Located Go to Zoom.us or call 646-828-7666, ID#1612253262.

2. Response to Petition: You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to: File the original with the Court; and Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. Counsel for the Minor: The Minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. Counsel for Parents: If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.

5. Presence of the Minor at hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.

THIS IS A LEGAL NOTICE: An important court proceeding that may affect your rights has been scheduled. If you do not understand this notice or other court papers, please contact an attorney for legal advice.

Date: April 27, 2021

Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate
Published: May 20, 2021

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
Suffolk Probate & Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Docket No. SU21P0464EA
ESTATE OF:
VIRGINIA CHALMERS
DATE OF DEATH: 11/17/2020

To all interested persons:

A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Ilene S. Carver of Boston, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Ilene S. Carver of Boston, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in an unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/23/2021.

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION
UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS
UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.

Date: May 11, 2021

Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate
Published: May 20, 2021

Dorchester Reporter

"The News and Values Around the Neighborhood"

Volume 38 Issue 1

Thursday, January 7, 2021

50¢

Dorchester Reporter

"The News and Values Around the Neighborhood"

Volume 38 Issue 17

Thursday, April 29, 2021

50¢

Walsh extends limits

Walsh, citing

activities

More limits eased;

Baker sets the first

of August as date

for all to be lifted

By KATIE LANNAN

STATE HOUSE

NEWS SERVICE

More than a year into the Covid-19 restrictions that have reshaped much of public life, Massachusetts now has a target date for when its business and capacity limits are set to be lifted. Aug. 1, 2021.

That date could come earlier depending on key public health metrics around vaccination and hospitalizations, and said on Tuesday as he detailed a suite of about longer-term updates and the state's reopening timeline.

"The light at the end of the tunnel, thanks to the hard work of so many, is getting closer and we can start to look ahead with real optimism for the path forward," he said.

Effective Friday, Massachusetts will relax its outdoor mask mandate to require face coverings outside only when it is not possible to socially distance and when they are otherwise required by sector-specific guidance. Masks will still be required at indoor public

(Continued on page 18)

Gov. Baker might not

used that mask outside

come Friday

Jessica Stoddard/Boston

Globe/Pool photo

the path forward," he

said.

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by sector-specific guid-

ance. Masks will still be

required at indoor public

(Continued on page 18)

White-Hammond:

Equity, joy are key

to fulfilling my goals

By MA MCCARTHY

REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

The Rev. Mariana White-Hammond, who began her first day as the city's chief of Environment, Energy, and Open Space on Monday, wants to infuse her new position with equity and joy.

"It has been a rough year, so I'm excited about sitting at the intersections of racial justice and energy policy and gardening and intergenerational connections," she said in an interview with the Reporter. "I see so much excitement in our department."

A Mattapan native who grew up in Roxbury and now lives in Dorchester, White-Hammond is an ordained minister and the founder of New Roots AME Church in Dorchester. The daughter of two prominent Bostonians, Rev. Ray Hammond and Dr. Gloria White-Hammond, she has been an activist since high school, when she was a Poor People's Campaign.

(Continued on page 20)

The new Edgewater Food Forest on Burmah Street in Mattapan will feature a community garden, a pavilion/gathering space and even a walnut processing station.

Dan Sheehan photo

Saturday: Volunteers gather in Mattapan.

This week: A garden grows on Burmah St.

By DANIEL SHERMAN

REPORTER STAFF

A new food forest is growing in Mattapan this week, the result of an effort by volunteers who deployed in groups to locations across the city last weekend for projects organized by Rebuilding Together Boston, a community-focused non-profit service organization celebrating its 30th year of facilitating such events.

On Saturday afternoon, one of the teams was busy transforming what had previously been an unused empty lot at 20 Burmah Street into the new Edgewater Food Forest. Encouraged by warm weather and abundant sunshine, a group composed of volunteers from Boston College and the local tech company Verity joined members of the Boston Food Forest Coalition (BFFC) in clearing brush from the plot, laying down a stone pathway, and planting seedlings.

The project is some two years in the making. After years in the making, the BFFC, a community land trust, acquired the land from the city, the Department of Neighborhood Development chipped in funds for a redesigning of the space to realize the vision of the Edgewater Food Forest. Members of the Edgewater Neighborhood Association, who were the main drivers of the project, Dambreville, who grew up just beside the space

(Continued on page 6)

Following the trail of your trash

after it has been taken from the bin

By ERIN D. CALDWELL

SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

I am a shameless garbage picker. It's not uncommon to find me walking my dog on Wednesday nights in Dorchester, leash in one hand, shabby plant stand or bench in need of TLC in the other, or in some cases, slung over my shoulder.

It's hard not to pick trash occasionally when you look at the abundance of items on the curb every week leaving you to wonder: What happens to all that waste, anyway?

In Boston, all residential waste is burned. Eighty percent of it is picked up by Capital Waste and sent to Co-waste energy-transfer stations. Dorchester's waste is part of the 110,000 annual tons from Boston that are

(Continued on page 18)

A grapple crane inside a processing facility in Haverhill, Mass. prepares to move waste to the incinerator.

Photo courtesy Cuscuta

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• Special historical section

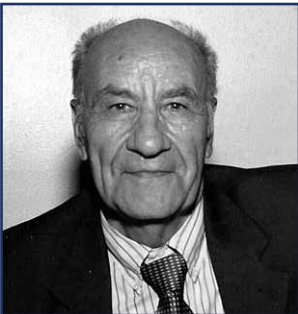
• Looking forward to ... section

Call or email for more information

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RECENT OBITUARIES



DiSPIRITO, Benito R. “Benny” of Dorchester, 89. Born in Luogosano (AV), Italy he was the husband of Josephine (Candilieri) DiSpirito for 66 years. Son of the late Antonio and Giovanina DiSpirito. Brother of the late Maria Sarno and Eleonora Distasio. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews. Donations may be made in

memory of Benito to the American Cancer Society or to the Parkinson’s Foundation.



EPPS, Mary E., 73, of Dorchester. Mother of Jerry and Gloria Epps. Dear grandmother, aunt, cousin and friend. Mary will be missed by all who knew and loved her.



FORD, Barbara, in Quincy, formerly of Dorchester. She worked for many years at the Kit Clark Senior Center as a home health aide. She was preceded in death by her father James Ford, Sr., and her mother Susan (Dean) Ford. Her brothers, James Ford, Jr., Ronald Ford, and brother in law Joseph Bertino. Barbara is survived by her sisters Carol Bertino of Quincy, Roberta Ford of Dorchester, Marion Ford of Brookline, and brother, Edward Ford of Attleboro. She also leaves many nieces and nephews as well as close friends.

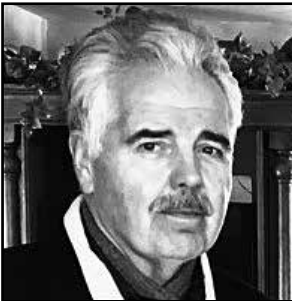
served as a trustee of the Somerville YMCA. He was the husband of Concetta Vaudo and the late Janet C. (Albanese) Hoban. Father of Barrett J. Hoban Esq. of Whitman, Jenna M. Hoban of Dorchester, and Concetta’s sons Paul Viliott (and wife Dawn Marie) of Reading, and John Viliott of Phoenix, AZ. Son of Frances (Shopa) and Allan F. Hoban, brother of Alan Hoban of Duxbury, Carolyn Hoban of Milton, Janet Hagerty of Ireland, and Julie Morrison of Needham. He is survived by grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.



JOHNSON, Alfred Leonard “A.J. or Al” of Dorchester, 75, was the son of the late Charlie Will and Sarah Ann (Curley Foreman) Johnson. UPS (United Parcel Service) in Watertown, MA in 1966. Retired UPS employee. He became owner of AT&T Liquors, in 1979 then Liquor City. Al was able to secure three liquor store licenses and two nightclub licenses. Cortee’s and Caprinia became popular clubs for in the community during the 1980’s. Alfred is preceded in death by his parents, his brothers, John Vernon Johnson and Charlie Will Johnson, Jr., and his son Alex Cedrick Scott. He leaves five children: Tamika Scott, Terrence Johnson, Corey Johnson, Brandon Johnson and Daryus Johnson all of Boston. Two sisters: Marjorie Galloway of Vidalia, GA; Willaette Perkins (Louie), of Marion, SC; One uncle: John C. Foreman and Aunt Betty of Detroit, MI. As well as a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, neph-



FRANCOIS, Claudine C., 77, of Jamaica Plain. Claudine is survived by her siblings, extended relatives and numerous friends. Claudine was employed by Children’s Hospital for several years.



HOBAN, Peter D. Esq. of Medford. Scout Sniper in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War with the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Div., Hotel Company, as a Corporal. Peter was an attorney in Middlesex county and

ews, cousins, and lifelong friends. He also leaves The Love of his life, Trumilla Hinnant, of Boston.



NOBLE, Sister Mary Grace, SND-deN, 87, of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. Sister Mary Grace was born in Boston as Carol Marie, daughter of Harold F. and Grace G. (Doherty) Noble. Sister Mary Grace taught in several Notre Dame-affiliated elementary and junior high schools in the Boston area, including St. Mary School in the North End, St. Anthony School in Somerville and St. Augustine in South Boston. She was the principal and taught Biology at St. Mary High School in Cambridge. She was a teacher and assistant principal at St. Gregory School for five years before retiring from education in 1986, after which she focused her ministry on enhancing the quality of life for older members of her religious community. She leaves a brother Paul G. Noble of Woburn, many nieces and nephews and her sisters in religion, the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. She was predeceased by her sister Grace T. Reed, and her brothers Harold F., Robert W. and Gerald J. Noble. Memorial donations may be made to the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, 351 Broadway, Everett, MA 02149.

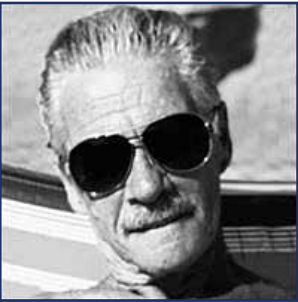


ODOM, Barbara Ann, 73. Wife of the late James P. Odom Jr. Daughter of the late Charlie and Lue Ellen Smith of Rocky Mount, North Carolina. Mother of James and (Darcy) Odom of Norwood, Tonya and (Terry) Campbell of Norwood, and Taletta Odom of Dorchester. Sister of Carlton Smith (preceded her in death), Marva Waller of Mattapan, Judith and (Velvet) Harris of Bridgeport, CT, Roxie Lawson of Laurel, MD, Harvetta Smith of Laurel, MD, Marion Smith of Rocky Mount, NC, Claxston Smith of Rocky Mount, NC, Debbie and (Jacob) Walker of Bowie, MD and Gary and (Martha) Smith of Rockingham, NC. Barbara is also survived by many nie-

es, nephews, other family, and friends. Barbara retired after many years of working for the Boston Public School system.




SILVA, Cecilio of Chelsea, 88. Husband of Inacia (Ramos) Silva of East Boston. Father of Cecil R. Silva of East Boston, Maria R. de Cruz and husband Antonio of Providence, RI, Nelson F. Ramos and wife Jessica and Armando Lopes, all of East Boston. Grandfather of 6 grandchildren. Brother of Julia Silva of Brazil, and the late Elci Silva, Yosi R. Silva, Antonio dos R. Silva, Eva Silva Rocha, Aida Silva, Maria dos Silva, Celestino Silva and Augusta Silva Almeida. Also survived by many nieces, nephews, grandnieces andgrandnephews. Remembrances may be made to the Last Call Foundation, 73 Elm St., Cohasset, MA 02025.



WESCOTT, Charles L. of Dorchester. Son of the late Marvin Wescott and Mary Bianchetto. Brother of Helen Mahoney and her husband Jim, Lawrence “Mickey” Wescott and his partner Barbara, Marvin Wescott and his wife Kathy Hanley, Kevin Wescott, and Kathie Wescott. Also survived by many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. Charlie was a proud veteran of the United States Navy. Donations may be made in memory of Charlie to the American Cancer Society.



WHEELER, Richard Sr., 64, of Mattapan. Husband of Zonia E. Salas-Wheeler. Father of Miles Wheeler. Proud grandfather of 6, a dedicated MBTA union member for 20+ years, and a master musician, Richard leaves 5 siblings and a host of family and friends to mourn his passing.



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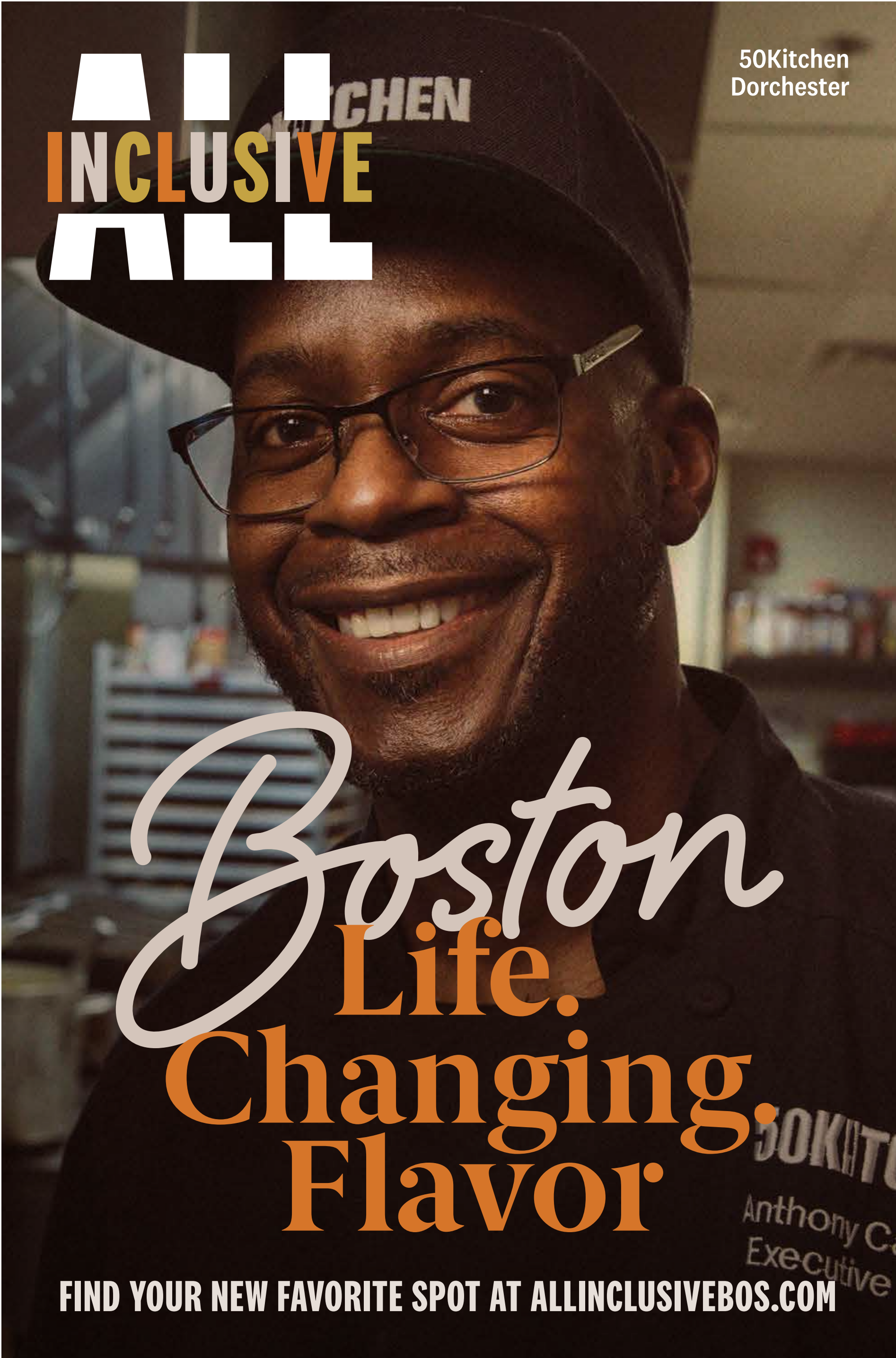
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A close-up portrait of a smiling Black man with glasses and a beard, wearing a dark baseball cap with "50KITCHEN" on it. He is in a kitchen setting with shelves of food items in the background. The image is overlaid with text and graphics.