

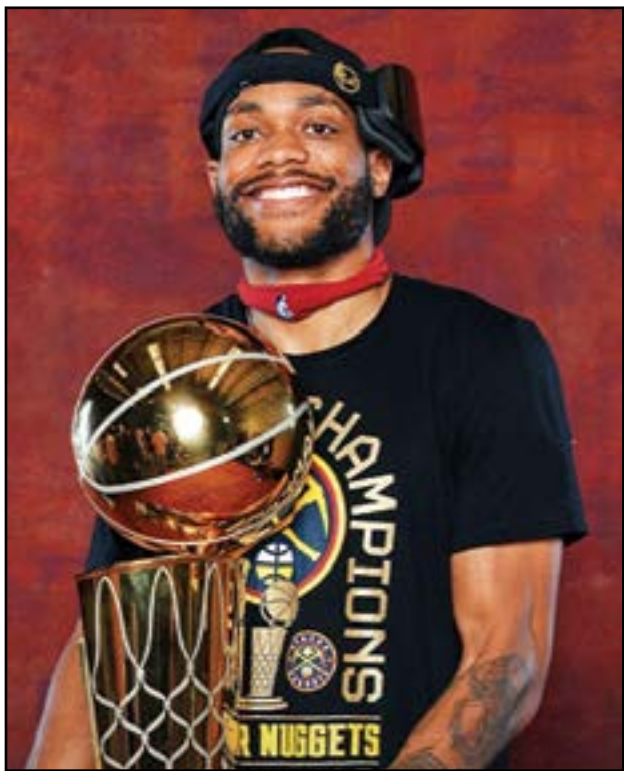
Dorchester Reporter

"The News and Values Around the Neighborhood"

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50¢



NBA photo

Dot native Brown is an NBA champion

Dorchester native Bruce Brown helped the Denver Nuggets win the NBA Finals championship on Monday night, scoring 10 points in 28 minutes as the Miami Heat fell, 94-89. The 26-year-old forward hit two big free throws to tie the game in the fourth quarter, then snagged a big offensive rebound and laid the ball in to give the Nuggets the lead and a few moments later, their first-ever league championship. Brown, who played high school hoops for Wakefield High and Vermont Academy before a college stint at University of Miami, is now, in his sixth season, an NBA champion. As the celebration got underway, *Boston Globe* sportswriter Gary Washburn tweeted: "Bruce Brown just told me he's going to try to bring the Larry O'Brien Trophy back to Dorchester for a visit, so young kids see what can happen when you dream."

From Savin Hill, a pitch to Wu for city parking lots along the Avenue

By SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

With hundreds of new housing units in the pipeline nearby, some community leaders in Columbia-Savin Hill want the city to convert vacant lots on Dorchester Avenue into municipal parking lots.

"There's a lot of support in the neighborhood and a lot of support in the business community and I'm in the process of getting that documented now," said Eileen Boyle, vice president of Columbia-Savin Hill Civic Association.

Boyle said the idea has been a topic of discussion among the membership at civic meetings in recent months. The group has sent a letter to Mayor Wu that focuses on three vacant lots, most notably one at the corner of Dorchester Avenue and Pearl Street. Two others—at the corner of Dorchester Avenue and Dewar Street and at Roach Street and Dorchester Avenue are also being mentioned.

(Continued on page 6)

It's 'do or die' for councillors facing a vote on city's budget

By GINTAUTAS DUMCIUS
MANAGING EDITOR

When Tania Fernandes Anderson left the City Council's chamber last week for another engagement on her calendar, she and her colleagues had okayed sending a multibillion dollar operating budget, covering a vast array of city services, to Mayor's Wu's desk.

By the time she returned, the budget, initially passed on a 8-4 vote, was on its way back to the committee she chairs, Ways and Means, as two councillors backtracked amid resistance to potential cuts to city departments.

That budget, which totaled \$4.2 billion, included

about \$75 million in amendments from councillors, who pitched for more money for tuition assistance for Boston Public Schools students, a salary increase for municipal police officers, and an expansion of the city's tree canopy, among other items on a long list. But the funding had to come from somewhere, and in this case, it was a \$42 million cut to the Boston Police Department, according to At-Large Councillor Michael Flaherty, who argued that his fellow councillors were taking a "meat cleaver" to public safety.

Flaherty and Councillors Ed Flynn, Frank Baker, and Erin Murphy were all part of the "no" votes

(Continued on page 16)

Edgewater Drive residents gain their Neponset waterfront beyond the brush

By SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

The street name ought to indicate that the Neponset River is flowing nearby, but few Edgewater Drive neighbors knew there was a stretch of waterfront at the end of their street off River Street near Mattapan Square until several residents began calling for improvements to what's obscured by heavy undergrowth and a dilapidated stone wall: a walking path and a canoe launch.

But change is now in the works due to a partnership between neighborhood leaders and officials from the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), which took initial ideas from the residents and expanded their vision.

"What we wanted as a neighborhood was to



A proposed new overlook deck of the Neponset River on Edgewater Drive near Holmfield Avenue. The site is just one aspect added by the DCR in what has been a partnership between neighbors and the state agency in righting the disinvestment of the Mattapan riverfront over several decades.

Rendering courtesy of DCR

have safe access to a path along the river and for neighbors to be more interested in seeing the river as a resource," said Vivien Morris, chair of

the Edgewater Neighborhood Association. "As a person who lives three houses in from the river, I know a lot about it, yet if you go down a couple

more houses, honestly, people didn't know the river was there because the river couldn't be seen at all. Now it will (Continued on page 15)

First-year softball coach at TechBoston collects BPS Coach of the Year award

By SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

The number "1" has been quite the tally for TechBoston Softball Coach Amy Narvaez. In year one of her head coaching career, she led her Bears squad through the season with just one regular-season loss. As an up-and-coming assistant coach just three years ago, the team finished had only one win.

The turnaround has been remarkable.

Narvaez, 43, took the reins this spring and cobbled together a team of athletes—many of whom were new to softball—and guided them

to a 16-1 regular season record, including a win over powerhouse English High School and a berth in the Division 5 state tournament. The run also earned her the title (Continued on page 17)



First-year TechBoston Softball Coach Amy Narvaez
Photo courtesy Tech-Boston

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Cummins Highway blaze leaves 25 people homeless



A rear-deck fire at a three-family home at 517 Cummins Highway in Mattapan on Sunday evening (June 11) quickly went to two alarms. The Boston Fire Department reported that firefighters arrived at 7:10 p.m. and were able to keep the fire from spreading to nearby buildings. Three residents and two firefighters were transported to local hospitals with minor injuries, the department said, adding that a total of 25 people were displaced. The rear decks collapsed in the fire.

BFD photo

Suffolk District Attorney Kevin Hayden this week warned the public of scammers attempting to steal money by claiming to be representatives of his office. Hayden said the callers identify themselves as workers in the Suffolk County District Attorney’s office and tell those answering the calls that they owe money and must pay to avoid prosecution. At least two such calls have been reported to Hayden’s office. “The district attorney’s office never calls anyone and demands money,” Hayden said in a statement. “If you get a call like this, hang up immediately, and contact your police department. This is another variation on a scam we see quite often and we hope no one is victimized by it.”



Volunteers show off detritus they gathered on Dorchester’s shorelines as part of a weekend cleanup organized by the nonprofit Surfrider Foundation. Lucas DeOliveira photo

Volunteers target debris along Dot’s shores

Volunteers made their way to Dorchester’s shorelines last Saturday morning for a clean-up focused on Malibu Beach, Savin Hill Beach, the area around the Vietnam Memorial, and Patten’s Cove.

The program was organized by the Surfrider Foundation, a non-profit that advocates for ocean protection and other climate issues, in association with UMass Boston’s Urban Harbor Institute. Katrina Martin, a member of the foundation who has lived in Savin Hill since 2010 and is familiar with debris accumulated on the shore, spearheaded the gathering.

She hopes the cleanup will bring focus to the litter accumulation and changes that can be made individually and as a community to fix the problem.

Among the scores of volunteers who showed up were people from the UMass Boston community, members of the Columbia-Savin Hill Civic Association, as well as residents from Dorchester and other neighborhoods in the city and state. Martin said these were people who “recognize that there is a problem and want to do something about it.”

Alex Vai, a coordinator for the Surfrider Foundation, says maintaining and preserving the shoreline is critical. “They’re a public resource that’s available to everyone and they’re intrinsically beautiful. They provide a lot of people the opportunity to experience nature and the ocean in a way that if it was a private beach, they wouldn’t have that opportunity.”

Anne M. Walsh, a volunteer and candidate for the District 3 Boston City Council seat, wants neighbors to know that anytime you drop a piece of trash, whether it be a cigarette or a water bottle lid, that action can be consequential for the environment.

“The tiniest thing, you drop it and when it rains it’s going down the storm drain, it’s ending up in the Neponset River, it’s ending up in Dorchester Bay, and it’s either getting washed back onto our beach or it’s getting eaten by a little turtle that thinks it’s food,” Walsh said.

Over 300 pounds of trash were collected and sorted on Saturday. That information will be recorded for data by the non-profit foundation and used to “support community science and policy efforts,” according to Martin.

– LUCAS DeOLIVEIRA

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Shots fired in early-morning incident Monday in Savin Hill

Boston Police pursued several teenagers on moped scooters early Monday morning after someone reportedly fired gunshots as police were on scene trying to break up a group of trespassers gathered in the Dorchester Yacht Club parking lot. Police were called to Playstead Road and Springdale Street near McConnell Park around 4:16 a.m.

A police account gave these details of the incident: When officers arrived at the

scene, about 20 motor vehicles and scooters were gathered in the parking lot of the yacht club. As officers activated their emergency lights – and the vehicles and scooters attempted to flee the scene – someone riding as a passenger on a scooter pulled out a firearm from a fanny pack and fired it into the air in view of police.

Officers gave chase and followed the vehicles into Fields Corner and up to Ronan Park. Once in

the park, the scooter operators evaded police. The suspects were described as Black males, roughly 15 and 17 years old, and wearing ski masks and hoods.

Officers found one spent shell casing at the entrance to the club’s parking lot. All other parties were checked for weapons, identified, and then released from the scene.

– REPORTER STAFF

UPCOMING CIVIC MEETINGS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Ward 13 Democratic Committee will elect delegates to the state convention on Tuesday, June 20, 6 p.m. at Cristo Rey Boston High School, 100 Savin Hill Ave. The convention is Sept. 23, at the Tsongas Center in Lowell. For more information, email: Ward13dorchester@gmail.com.
A public meeting will be held via Zoom on Thurs., June 22 at 6 p.m. about a proposed retail cannabis establishment at 1102A Blue Hill Ave. in Dorchester. See bostonplans.org for more details on joining the meeting.
The second annual Ashmont Block Party will be held on Sat., June 17 from 1-5 p.m. in the parking lot of All Saints Church. This free event will feature live music, savory and sweet food trucks and a Dorchester Brewing Company beer garden. See great-erashmont.org for more info.
The MBTA will host a virtual public meeting on Tuesday, June 20 from 6:30 PM to 8 p.m. to discuss Mattapan Line

improvements. Staff will provide a status of the program, community engagement initiatives, and facilitate a Q&A period to gain feedback and address community concerns. The meeting will be held virtually via Zoom. Members of the public can register for the meeting online at www.mbta.com/projects/mattapan-line-transformation. The meeting will be recorded and posted online for those who cannot attend.
The Boston Little Saigon Cultural District’s Night Market (Cho Dem) event will be back again this year on Sat., July 15, after a very successful inaugural event in Fields Corner last summer. Festivities will take place from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Sat., July 15, on blocked-off Dorchester Avenue between Park and Adams streets. For more information on the event, go to bostonlittlesaigon.org.
Whittier Street Health Center will hold its 24th annual Men’s Health Summit on Sat., June 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at

the Frederica M. Williams Building, 1290 Tremont St., Roxbury. The theme at this year’s summit is “United for Men’s Health: Grounded in Equity.” The annual event will include a health fair, health screenings, and a panel discussion and conversation about men’s health and wellness. In addition, the Summit will serve as an occasion to recognize several men’s health champions, including Wilner Auguste, founder, Haitian American United (HAU); Rev. John Finley, co-founder and head of Epiphany School; Rev. Art Gordon, pastor, St. John Missionary Baptist Church; David Morales, general manager, UniCare; Jean Prezeau, men’s health ambassador, Whittier Street Health Center; William Watkins, MBA, vice president of digital strategies and partnerships, Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts; and Leverett Wing, president and CEO, Commonwealth Seminar.
NBC10 News Anchor Glenn Jones will

be the guest speaker during the highly anticipated event to which all are welcome to attend. For more information contact events@wshc.org or 617-989-3119.
Friendship Social for people of all abilities will be held on Sunday, June 25, 1-5 p.m. at Florian Hall, 55 Hallet St., Dorchester. \$10 admission appreciated. Music by DJ Joe Peters “Gifted Fingers.” Contact Dennis Walsh at 617-483-5235 or Maggie Desdunes at 617-285-4899.
A public meeting hosted by BPDA will be held virtually on Tues., June 20 at 6 p.m. to discuss Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Center and the Community Builders plans for redeveloping several parcels on Ellington Street and Old Road for a new health center building. See bostonplans.org for meeting details.

SEND IN EVENT NOTICES TO NEWSEDITOR@DOTNEWS.COM

City strategy on violence: a year-round, street-by-street effort

By SETH DANIEL
News Editor

Mayor Michelle Wu wants her administration to combat violence in Dorchester and Mattapan by drilling down to individual blocks and using crime data to target the most heavily impacted areas.

In a recent interview with the *Reporter*, Wu said the strategy needs to be an intense, year-round effort focused on pockets of the neighborhoods that account for an overwhelming number of gun violence events and enhanced by city-funded neighborhood celebrations and coordinated efforts with faith-based leaders.

“It’s really the place-based planning and really being specific, of not just having a summer strategy, but having a micro-strategy,” she said. “One of the statistics that was brought up during [our recent] seminar was that 5 percent of street segments in Boston account for 75 percent of shootings.

“So it’s being very clear about what additional lighting could do, or making sure that the streets are fixed up and the sidewalks are smooth, and it doesn’t kind of give off a sense that people are not valued, and this



Will Dickerson III, the senior adviser to the mayor on faith-based programs, will kick off the first Community Unity Walk in Harambee Park on Thursday of this week (June 15).

community is not valued in the area.”

That type of “broken windows” fix-it plan for sidewalks and streetlights is underway now in many parts of Dorchester and Mattapan. Other faith-based efforts start this week. This Thursday (June 15), William Dickerson III, the mayor’s senior adviser for faith-based initiatives, will lead the first of several “Adopt-a-Block Community Unity Walks” at Harambee Park on Blue Hill and Talbot Avenues.

Key partners in the program include Rev. Willie Bodrick of The Twelfth Baptist Church, Bishop William E. Dickerson II of Greater Love Taber-



Mayor Wu detailed new ideas and plans for combatting community violence using faith-based and community-based strategies that go beyond just the summer months.

Seth Daniel photos

nacle, Pastor Arlene Hall of Deliverance Temple Worship Center, Pastor Sam Acevedo of Lion of Judah, Rev. Gregory G. Groover of The Historic Charles Street AME, Bishop Nicolas Homicil of Voice of the Gospel Tabernacle, and Bishop John Borders of Morning Star Baptist Church.

“Faith-based programming this summer will focus on deepening our investment in our neighborhoods through activities that promote unity and joy with our collective faiths at the center,” said Dickerson.

Thursday’s walk begins at 5:30 p.m. in Ha-

rambee, with additional dates to be announced in coming weeks. Dickerson and the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS) say they will partner with community organizations and residents to perform neighborhood clean ups and host “Teen Cafés” for youth.

The Teen Cafés will also occur in the South End and Roxbury, but in Dorchester they will find a home at Deliverance Temple Worship Center on Columbia Road, and Greater Love Tabernacle Church on Nightingale Street. In Mattapan, the Teen Cafés will be at Morning Star Baptist Church on Blue Hill Avenue, and Voice of the Gospel Tabernacle on Edgewater Drive.

Dickerson said the Teen Cafés will start on July 21 and run every Friday night through Sept. 8 for ages 13 to 19. The cafés will operate as a safe space, and he said they will be having “conversations that matter to the youth involved,” citing mental health and hopes for professional careers.

Wu said the place-based ideas came up during a conference held in Boston in April as part of the University of Maryland’s Center for

the Study and Practice of Violence Reduction, known as the Violence Reduction Center (VRC). Boston is part of the most recent cohort of cities within that program, and she said that along with traditional ideas on person-based and behavior-based strategies, she mainly focused on place-based things like Unity Walks and a new community grant program to fund activities in Dorchester and Mattapan parks.

The \$7,000 community grant program, released in May, encourages civic organizations and small non-profits to have public events in areas of concern, with most of those areas in Dorchester and Mattapan neighborhoods, streets, and housing developments. She said having more community members host activities in public parks will increase community safety.

Those things will feed into a year-round strategy formulated by Wu, her public safety chief Isaac Yablo, and other administration officials. Wu said they will pay special attention to trends and data that pinpoint changes or increases at the street level, but she said this summer’s effort must go beyond June,

July, and August. “It really has to be a year-round focus and not just summer,” she added.

Henderson staffer hospitalized

A teaching staff member at the Henderson Upper School on Croftland Avenue was taken to the hospital for evaluation after a student allegedly assaulted the staffer on Tuesday morning.

Boston Public Schools (BPS) said in a letter to parents Tuesday that a “student engaged in a physical assault of a staff member” and several students witnessed it. The staff member sustained injuries from the assault and was seen by the school nurse and then taken to the hospital for further evaluation.

School staff and BPS Safety Services assisted in de-escalating the incident and are working with Boston Police on an investigation.

“The student involved will face disciplinary action in accordance with the BPS Code of Conduct, additional disciplinary action from law enforcement is also possible,” read the letter.

— SETH DANIEL



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At-large update: Incumbents fill up their war chests, while challengers make the ballot

BY GINTAUTAS DUMCIUS
MANAGING EDITOR

The field of at-large City Council candidates stands at eight, as the four incumbents run for another two-year term and four challengers look to knock them out of a spot.

Voters who go to the polls this fall will be able to choose up to four candidates on their at-large forms. District seats are also on the ballot, including an opening in Dorchester's District 3, while the mayor's seat is not up again until 2025.

The four incumbents — Michael Flaherty of South Boston, Ruthzee Louijeune of Hyde Park, and Dorchester residents Erin Murphy and Julia Mejia — lead the fundraising ranks this year, in that order. Flaherty, who returned to the Council in 2014, has pulled in \$117,220 so far this year, and he has the largest campaign war chest with \$222,617 in cash on hand.

Behind Flaherty in fundraising totals for the year were Louijeune (\$97,285, with \$125,030 in cash on hand); Murphy (\$92,068, with \$76,533 on hand); and Mejia (\$57,937, with \$37,426 on hand).

Among the at-large challengers, Henry Santana, who worked for Mayor Wu and former District 8 Councillor Kenzie Bok, led the field, with \$17,169 raised and \$11,419 on hand as summer gets underway. He is a Columbia Point resident who grew up in public housing in Mission Hill after immigrating from the Dominican Republic. His most recent job was as Wu's director of civic organizing.

The other challengers have struggled to reach the triple digits. Mattapan's Clifton Braithwaite, who worked on several local campaigns before launching his own this year, has raised just over \$200, while another candidate, Dorchester's Catherine Vitale, raised \$211. Vitale is known for protesting masking policies stemming from the pandemic and harassing the mayor and Wu administration officials.

Another at-large candidate, Shaun Nelson, also of Dorchester, made headlines when he was arrested a year ago while attempting to charge at the mayor in Ronan Park. He also confronted Louijeune at a separate event in Hyde Park. His campaign account has \$57, according to publicly available records.

At-large candidates had to gather 1,500 voter signatures in order to make the ballot. Juwan Skeens, who lives off Norfolk Street in Dorchester, wasn't able to do so. He plans to run a write-in campaign.

District 5 sees another entrant
District 5 Councillor Ricardo Arroyo, who is running for reelection after losing a bruising battle for the Suffolk District Attorney's office last fall, has another challenger.

Enrique Pepen, who heads up Mayor Wu's neighborhood services team, is setting up a campaign to take on Arroyo, joining a Hyde Park police officer and a longtime Mattapan neighborhood activist on the list of challengers. The news was first reported by Politico Massachusetts.

Pepen, a son of Dominican immigrants, was born in Boston and now



South End state Rep. John Moran, who also represents Dorchester's South Bay and the Polish Triangle areas, swore his oath of office on Wednesday (June 7) in a packed governor's office, bringing the House back up to its full membership of 160 after a couple of early-session departures. Bill MacGregor of West Roxbury was also sworn in as a member of the House. Mayor Wu was on hand for the ceremony, and Veterans' Services Secretary Jon Santiago, who held Moran's seat until resigning in February to join the Healey administration, also attended. Moran and MacGregor are Democrats and did not face Republican opposition in May special elections after quiet primaries earlier in May. MacGregor, a former City Hall aide, replaces Ed Coppinger, who left for a biotech trade group.

— State House News Service

lives in Roslindale. He previously lived in Dorchester's Columbia/Savin Hill area, and started at City Hall as an intern for former District 7 Councillor Tito Jackson. He went on to work as a district coordinator for former US Rep. Joe Kennedy III, and then came back to City Hall as the Jamaica Plain liaison for the Office of Neighborhood Services. He also had a stint at the advocacy group Transportation for Massachusetts. Matt Kearney of Dorchester is serving as Pepen's campaign chairman.

District 5, anchored by Hyde Park, where Arroyo lives, also includes parts of Mattapan and Roslindale.

Jose Ruiz, a police officer, is another challenger who launched his campaign this week and took aim at Arroyo, say-

ing he has been "engulfed in multiple scandals and controversies." The most recent involved former US Attorney Rachael Rollins leaking information to reporters in a bid to help Arroyo and upend interim DA Kevin Hayden's campaign for the permanent post. Hayden ended up beating Arroyo in last September's primary.

"I want to end the vitriol and infighting we have seen on the Council as of late and bring the focus back to where it belongs: delivering for our constituents," Ruiz said in an email to supporters.

Mattapan's Jean-Claude Sanon, who has previously run for District 5, is also running against Arroyo.

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From Savin Hill, a pitch to Wu for city parking lots along the Avenue



This vacant lot at the corner of Pearl Street and Dorchester Avenue is one of the larger lots that the Columbia Savin Hill Civic Association would like to see transformed from private ownership to city-owned municipal parking – perhaps with charging stations for EVs as well.



Columbia and Savin Hill neighborhood leaders and some business owners are hoping to get the city’s attention in their recent call to turn two large, privately owned vacant lots into municipal parking lots to support businesses and new developments. This lot at the corner of Dewar Street and Dorchester Avenue is one they are pinpointing. *Seth Daniel photos*

(Continued from page 1)

The idea would be to convert the empty lots into two-hour municipal parking spaces and electric vehicle charging stations. Boyle and others believe it will ease the current double-parking problem at various businesses along the avenue and reduce congestion when hundreds of new units scheduled for the neighborhood come online in the next two years.

“I think a lot of the upcoming development here is going to lead to a lot of double parking on Dorchester Avenue and

traffic chaos. It’s not going to be pretty,” said Boyle.

The letter reads, in part: “Dorchester Avenue is going under a tremendous amount of development with more on the way. The Ba Le Restaurant, Dollar Tree and Lucky Café and Venice Pizza already have patrons double parking on the Avenue causing problems with traffic. We want these businesses to succeed, and with sensible comprehensive city planning, they can. The members of the Civic Association feel these are the changes you as mayor are looking for neighborhood

participation in city planning.”

Said City Councillor Frank Baker, “It is a good idea, and it would be worth exploring. It would be great if we could ever get the city to move on it and make an offer to the private owners. It would be a good use for these lots if we could get the city to move.”

Baker has seen business districts in other parts of the city thrive with municipal parking, and he noted that in places like Santa Monica, California, their bustling business districts are propped up with public parking within two or three blocks.

But the Mayor’s Office is not eager to move on the matter. In comments to the *Reporter*, a spokesperson said, “The City of Boston values the input of our residents and looks forward to hearing more about how to address neighborhood needs in Dorchester. At this time, there is not a city program to fund the acquisition of lots for off street parking.”

Boyle said the owners of the properties in question now appear to be land-banking and haven’t made much effort to beautify or improve them. She said a better use would be for

parking lots to support businesses with about 40 spots, like in the Jamaica Plain business corridor on Centre Street.

“One of the reasons I like going to Jamaica Plain is there is a municipal parking lot with two-hour parking in the back and it’s so easy and you don’t pay at all,” she noted. “I would like to see the Pearl Street and Dewar Street lots – those two in particular – offer that same easy situation for those who want to come to Dorchester Avenue.”

At Boston Nature Center, a ‘dream come true’ for Erin Kelly

By Cassidy McNeeley
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Mattapan’s Mount Hope Cemetery extends along one side of Walk Hill Street, where residents can mourn the lives of dear ones passed. On the other side sits an oasis of green that offers the rebirth and protection of nature and wildlife in an urban environment.

The Boston Nature Center (BNC) stands at the site of the Boston State Hospital, which dominated the landscape until 1981. While the Clark Cooper Community Garden that was utilized by hospital patients and families remains, the land beyond it has blossomed exponentially.

The sanctuary is run by Erin Kelly, who was recently named to this role after Julie Brandlen retired. She is the regional director for Mass Audubon, New England’s largest nature-based conservation organization, protecting more than 38,000 acres of land.

“It was a dream come true. I’ve been here for 15 years, and I had been working closely with the regional director beforehand and had spent years working as a team to grow and expand this place,” Kelly said. “This is a very relatively new sanctuary compared to some of our others that are over 100 years old. This one is 20 years old.”

BNC is open to community members and home to 350 species of plants, 150 species of birds, 40 species of butterflies, and 52 preschool students. After turning into the property, visitors are welcomed by three brick buildings standing along a gravel road. These are where the preschoolers, ranging from ages three to six, learn year-round from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Beyond that site is BNC’s main building, which includes an additional preschool classroom. The children, however, spend most of their time outdoors where they explore and use the two-mile trail with their teachers and classmates.

As regional director, Kelly is not just responsible for preschool students but for all events taking place at the center.



Above, a group of children explored the grounds of the Boston Nature Center in Mattapan last week. At right, the Nature Center is run by Erin Kelly, the regional director for Mass Audubon. *Photo above by Cassidy McNeeley Photo at right by Mass Audubon*

The summer months will prove to be extremely busy for her. The sanctuary offers weekly camps that provide families with high-quality care that children both enjoy and learn from.

“We have 100 kids here a day for ten weeks and we have another satellite camp in West Roxbury, which is another additional 72 campers. Our camp is such an important way for us to connect children to the outdoors, which they already love, and to provide them with science education during the summer to really combat learning loss,” Kelly said.

Many current and former students attend the summer camps, where they are given the opportunity to escape the city and embrace nature, something Kelly understands from her own childhood. While she was growing up in Newark, New Jersey, all the green spaces Kelly knew were private, and she was constantly kicked out of them.



Discovering BNC was one of the first times she was able to enjoy a green space within a city.

“When I found this place, it was a little magical because you drive into the city and there’s traffic and you come in there are birds singing and kids playing and I was [thinking] this is what every city needs, what every community needs,” said Kelly. “A place where kids can feel safe, where adults

can get those benefits of being in a tranquil place.”

When summer ends and school is in session, BNC continues to work with elementary and middle school students through its 20-year partnership with Boston Public Schools. Their largest collaboration is a program called “Grown in STEM,” which integrates science lessons into the school curriculum and encourages teachers to take their students outside.

Kelly said working with students is so important because “we are moving to a society that needs very environmentally literate populists to understand the critical issues that we’re facing. Specifically, climate change. And you need a population to understand what is in the news and what’s happening, and to care.”

Since BNC wants future generations to protect the environment, staff members work diligently to make their sanctuary inclusive to all. Kelly’s current agenda is to build accessibility and equity for people who are traditionally marginalized from the environment.

One way she tries to ensure that all visitors feel safe and included at BNC is by continuing to operate a one-mile all-persons trail that is suitable for a number of different mobility devices. The site also offers audio support as well as visual aids, including signs in various languages.

Even though there are abundant programs for school-aged children, adults and elders are encouraged to participate in the sanctuary’s fun. Specifically, Kelly hopes that adults in the community will tell her what kind of programs they want the sanctuary to offer.

“Our goal is to have a place for everyone starting at age 3 or earlier all the way to elder adults.”

Kelly plans on continuing to show the “different, amazing, unique, vibrant diversity we have here in Boston, whether that’s race and ethnicity or ability,” throughout her time as regional director, she said.

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In honor of Juneteenth, we’re partnering with Citizens to offer free admission for all Massachusetts residents. Be part of a full day of performances, art-making activities, Spotlight Talks, and experience the exhibitions “Hear Me Now: The Black Potters Old Edgefield, South Carolina” and “Touching Roots: Black Ancestral Legacies in the Americas.”

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Music Fest, fireworks set for next weekend on Milton Hill

A two-day festival of music at Governor Hutchinson’s Field atop Milton Hill on Adams Street overlooking the beautiful Neponset River basin, will return next weekend, Sat., June 24, and Sun., June 25.

The Saturday line-up includes four hours of non-stop music starting at 5 p.m. with a large, open-air dance floor. The Typhoon Generals and Fat City Band will perform, and kids can enjoy a massive sandbox, giant slide, and rock wall. Parents may enjoy the food and drink options, including, pizza, home-made lobster rolls, fresh kettle corn, and a beer garden stocked with cold draft beers, sangria, and assorted wines.

A fireworks display is scheduled for 9:45 p.m. Do not forget to bring



The band Typhoon Generals will play both days of this weekend’s free Milton Music Fest on the grounds of Governor Hutchinson’s Field, which is on Adams Street near Lower Mills.
Photo courtesy Milton Music Fest

your lawn chairs, blankets, and bug spray.

The June 25 “Celtic Sunday” schedule begins at 1 p.m. featuring many of Boston’s best Irish bands, musicians, and vocalists. This year’s performers include The Fenian Sons, Erin’s Melody, Curragh’s Fancy, Strawberry Hill band, The Dooley Brothers as well as other featured Irish musicians. As an added treat we will also feature a second performance on the main stage by The Typhoon Generals.

There will also be an acoustic stage/tent, which will have its very own Milton Music Fest Irish Pub attached, featuring Guinness and the best in cold draft beer. Traditional artists are also welcome at 3 p.m.

For more information on this free event, including details on free parking and complimentary shuttle service, visit miltonmusicfest.org.

MBTA plans meeting on future of Mattapan trolley line

MBTA officials are hosting a virtual meeting on the future of the Mattapan trolley line on Tuesday, June 20.

The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. and runs until 8 p.m. Staffers are expected to provide an update on planned improvements and upgrades to the line.

The trolley line runs through Dorchester, Milton and Mattapan, carrying 6,600 customers across eight stations between Ashmont-Peabody Square and Mattapan Square.

The MBTA is seeking to modernize both the stations and the vehicles over the next eight to 10 years, and make the stations closer in appearance to the ones on the Green Line, which runs through Boston, Brookline and Somerville. The trolleys will be taken out of the service, replaced by light rail vehicles that can be seen running on the Green Line.

Platforms will be raised by 14 inches in order to accommodate the height of the light rail vehicles, according to the T.



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Tell us what you’ve got at info@dorchesterhistoricalsociety.org.

NOTE: The 1661 James Blake House (735 Columbia Road) and the 1806 William Clapp House (195 Boston Street) are now open for tours on the third Sunday of the month, from 11am to 3pm. Come visit!

www.dorchesterhistoricalsociety.org



Reporter's

People

News about people
in and around our Neighborhoods

Carpenters' union names member Walsh as its COO

The North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters, a major Dorchester union, has



John Walsh
New man on senior team

announced that John Walsh, an 18-year-member, will join its senior management team as chief operating officer. He will work with Executive Secretary-Treasurer Joseph Byrne and other members of the senior staff to manage operations of the regional governing body of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America (UBC).

Walsh comes to the position from Samuels & Associates, a leading

developer and property management company in Boston, where he was a senior construction manager. He began his construction career as a member of Carpenters Local 327, working his way up from carpenter to superintendent and earning a degree in Project Management from Wentworth Institute of Technology.

Walsh worked with F.L. Caulfield & Sons and Bartletta Construction before spending 13 years with Turner Construction serving in many management roles.

"This union has earned its reputation as a serious stakeholder in the construction industry that works hard to create mutually beneficial partnerships," Walsh said. "I'm excited to join the leadership team and be a part of working both internally and externally to maintain and improve what we do."

Sheet Metal Workers Local 17 gives \$151k in scholarships to 29 in high school, college

Sheet Metal Workers Local 17, located in Lower Mills, is celebrating 40 years of creating opportunities through its scholarship fund. Since 1983, the union has con-



Cameron Wagner

tributed more than \$2.2 million to the futures of local students.

In this year's round of scholarships, Local 17 has allocated \$151,000 to 29 area high school seniors and college students. The awards, 100 percent funded by the membership of Local 17, range from one-time \$750 scholarships to four-year scholarships totaling \$16,000.

One local student from Lower Mills, Cameron Wagner, of Dorchester and a senior at John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science, was awarded \$4,000 one-year scholarship as a Lottery Scholarship winner. He was sponsored by his father, William Wagner.

"For 40 years, we have been proud to make a difference in the lives of

hardworking students and help put them on the path to success," said SMART Northeast Regional Council President Bob Butler. "Through these scholarships, our members can give back to our communities and the next generation."

Said SMART NERC Financial Secretary-Treasurer Russell Bartash, "We also want to thank all Local 17 members for contributing to the scholarship fund and making these awards possible."

Bartash credited the three generations of the Hayward family (Bob, Scott, and Sean) for leading the scholarship committee and helping the program reach new heights. He noted that the program accommodates a wide range of higher education opportunities, so any student can benefit on their path to success.

Seven cents are contributed to Local 17's scholarship fund for every hour a member works. Over time, this commitment and the collections have added up, making a big difference for hundreds of local students in paying tuition, books, and other academic fees. Scholarships are awarded based on a state Labor History Exam performance or through a lottery drawing.



Pictured, from left: Cristo Rey Boston President Rosemary J. Powers, Class Salutatorian Aissatou Sall of Dorchester, Class Valedictorian Keiana Ferguson of Mattapan, and Cristo Rey Principal Dr. Thomas Ryan.
Photo courtesy CRB

Cristo Rey Boston High School graduates 38

Cristo Rey Boston High School in Savin Hill celebrated its graduation on Sat., June 3, at St. Teresa of Calcutta in Dorchester. This year's graduating class of 38 students will attend eighteen colleges and universities across the country, including Boston College, Northeastern University, University of Dayton, and the University of Massachusetts.

Class Valedictorian Keiana Ferguson, of Mattapan, will attend Boston College. She is an aspiring teacher with dreams of teaching high school English. Salutatorian Aissatou Sall of Dorchester will also attend Boston College with a focus on health sciences and nursing. Overall, the class received over \$8 million in scholarships.

Cristo Rey Boston is the only private, tuition-free, college prep

high school in Boston. Rooted in the Jesuit tradition, the school is committed to serving culturally diverse, aspirational students with demonstrated economic need, from across Greater Boston.

A listing of the schools the graduates will be attending follows:

Assumption College – Leilani Diaz, Dorchester; Elian Morla-Peralta, Mattapan.

Boston College – Keiana Ferguson, Mattapan; Aissatou Sall, Dorchester.

Bridgewater State University – Deanna Miles-Languigne, Mattapan.

Bunker Hill Community College – Kanaja Bleach, Dorchester; Yahir Cora-Sanchez, Jamaica Plain; Lashaya Ezell-Cuff, Dorchester.

Fitchburg State University – Billy Salas-Val-

dez, Hyde Park.

Framingham State University – Naomi Alcantara, Dorchester; Jonathan Capellan-Guerrero, Kenmore Square; Ashley Carvajal Lorenzo, Dorchester; Mariam Mondjolo, Roxbury.

Franklin Cummings Technology – Misael Barros, Dorchester; Iverson Lara-Araujo, South Boston.

Job Corps – Ricardo Gay, Dorchester.

Northeastern University – Eniyah Nieves-Henderson, Brockton; Anthony Polanco, Dorchester.

Quincy College – Joel Montes Ruiz, Hyde Park; Destinee Rodriguez Ortiz, Dorchester.

Regis College – Jeilyn Tejeda, Dorchester.

Salem State University – Makayla Brito-Lopez, Dorchester; Viviana Gooding, Hyde Park; A'mya Ruiz, Roxbury.

Stonehill College – Hamdi Shariff-Omar, Roxbury.

Suffolk University – Justin Santos, Revere.

University of Dayton – Rosnely Mordan Troncoso, Dorchester; Mariah Ortiz-Falcon, Dorchester.

UMass Amherst – Esteisy Alexis-Michel, South Boston.

UMass Boston – Brandon Barani, Hyde Park; Alberto Moquete Villar, Dorchester; Joan Perez, Dorchester; Alexis Puello-Rivera, Dorchester; Bladimir Rodriguez-Munoz, Dorchester.

UMass Lowell – Chinyelu Crawford, Dorchester.

Wentworth Institute of Technology – Lucas Sein, Dorchester.

Undecided – Kion Carruthers Jr., Dorchester; Ruth Rodriguez Mercedes, South Boston.

YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE

DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Al Donahue, band leader, violinist

Albert Francis Donahue was born on Huntoon Street in Dorchester in 1902. He graduated from Boston University Law School, but he was in such demand as a musician, he never took the bar examination. He attended the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston and got his start playing in Boston-area campus bands.

From the 1930s through the 1950s, the Al Donahue Orchestra played at many famous venues across the country, including the Rainbow Room at Rockefeller Center in New York City, the Palladium in Hollywood, the Palace Hotel in San Francisco, the Oriental Theater in Chicago, and locally at the Totem Pole in Newton. The orchestra was also the featured attraction with regular engagements during 1936-38 at the Bermudian Hotel in Hamilton, Bermuda.

Between 1935 and 1942, Donahue recorded for Decca Records,



Vocalion, and Okeh. His biggest hit was a rendition of "Jeepers Creepers," which went to number one on the Billboard chart in 1938. Vocalists with the band included Paula Kelly, Dee Keating, Lynne Stevens, Phil Brito, and Snooky Lanson.

After World War II, the ensem-

ble moved away from big band music toward light music, playing throughout the West Coast and appearing in films such as *Sweet Genevieve*. Later, Donahue returned to cruise ships as music director contracting bands for the Furness Bermuda Line. His band played on the Queen of Bermuda and the Ocean Monarch from 1950 to 1963.

In 1933, Al married New York heiress Frederica Gallatin. They had two sons and a daughter and settled in Oceanside, California, where he ran a store called Ponzi's House of Music, which closed in the 1970s. Mr. Donahue died in 1983. *The archive of these historical posts can be viewed on the blog at dorchestehistoricalsociety.org. The Dorchester Historical Society's William Clapp House and James Blake House are open to the public on the third Sunday of the month from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.*

Editorial

At long last, Curley Center opens its doors to public – inside only

By BILL FORRY
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

The doors of the Curley Community Center on Columbia Road in South Boston swung open to the public last Friday (June 9) for the first time in more than three years, welcoming residents eager to get their first look at the renovated beachfront amenity that has been completely modernized at a cost of \$31.2 million.

The facility will not be open for members to use until Thursday of this week, but Friday’s open house featured tours led by staff members from the Boston Centers for Youth and Families (BCYF). Boston residents can use the facility for free through September. After that, members must pay an annual fee that has not yet been set, according to city officials.

The beach along L Street, as the facility is often called, remains closed to the public through at least August. While members can sit outside on benches, fencing has been installed to protect birds known as piping plovers, which started nesting in the sand during the three-year period when the building was closed for construction. Because the species is considered a “threatened” population, city officials are waiting on state-level permits needed to reopen the facility, which first opened in 1931 as a bathhouse named for many-termed Boston Mayor James Michael Curley.

The most recent overhaul includes a fitness studio, a yoga and dance studio, space set aside for children, steam and sauna areas for men and women, separate areas for teens and seniors, a strength training area, and multi-purposes offices.

New windows that include airy, two-story skylights in the building’s three main lobby areas have transformed the bunker-like old bathhouse into a bright and open space with spectacular views of Dorchester Bay, the JFK Library, and the Harbor Islands.

Edward McGuire, director of the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services, and José Masso, the city’s Chief of Human Services, were on hand on Friday to walk visitors through the facility, along with other BCYF staff. McGuire, a South Boston resident, emphasized that although the facility is located in Southie, it’s a citywide asset that welcomes Bostonians from all 23 neighborhoods.

“We wanted to give people an opportunity to walk through the facility and check it out,” McGuire said. “It’s definitely drastically different from what it previously was. In the old building it was obviously, you know, segregated by sex. You couldn’t walk continuously from one end to the other. And if it’s your first time here, it’s a little overwhelming. So, we thought that it would probably be best to just get people the opportunity to walk through because they’ve been looking at it for the last three years from the outside.”

Masso said that the open house was also something



Tourists check out the computer room at the renovated Curley Community Center last Friday.
Bill Forry photos

of a celebration for residents.

“Folks have been waiting for this space, so to welcome people in at this moment in time in which they’re able to see it for the first time and, and it takes everybody’s breath away... It’s been transformational. So, we want people to get a chance to not only get acclimated, but also to be able to celebrate.”

One of the residents on hand for a first-look was Claire Lyons, who was accompanied by her granddaughter Madden, who will work with kids at the center this summer.

Lyons, a retired nurse who works with seniors to keep their blood pressure monitored, called the renovated building “a dream come true.” Not having access to the Curley for three-plus years has “been tough,” she said. “I’m working in senior housing doing blood pressure checks now and there’s a woman in one of my buildings that’s an actual L Street Brownie and she still swims. She cannot wait to get back in here. There’s such a community here.”

As for the finished project, Lyons said: “Oh, it’s a hundred times more than I could ever have imagined.”

The fitness center will offer instructor-led classes starting on June 20. There are facilities and dedicated rooms for children and teens inside, but it is not a “drop-off” facility. Parents and guardians must accompany minors.

For more info, see [Boston.gov/BCYF-Curley](https://www.boston.gov/BCYF-Curley).



The muddled state of professional golf on US Open week

By TOM MULVOY
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The US Open is being played this week on the posh greensward of the exclusive Los Angeles Country Club, a venue that will test to the max the best golfers in the world – and more than 130 pretenders to that status. The competition involves a total of 156 selfish individuals from some 25 countries, including an amateur from the People’s Republic of China, chasing a trophy that will allow one of them to say that he’s the best at the game in the United States.

While the word “selfish” may seem harsh, it has the value of reality behind it: A golfer who has qualified to be a professional and is looking to earn the Open’s multi-million-dollar top prize via his talent for using technology-enriched clubs and balls to beat

par, often badly, has to be single minded with his lifestyle, his preparation, and his on-course play. He has no teammates to bail him out of the bad spots, just a caddie who, in some cases, can be invaluable as counselor and cheerleader. His fellow competitors are in the same space he is.

This year, though, that centeredness on self is facing an off-course challenge from a development that affects them all: The announcement on June 6 that a Saudi-run golf league known as LIV (the Roman numerals are a nod to the 54-hole extent of its tournament play) that has made life difficult for the PGA Tour since 2021 will join forces with the American organization and release billions from its \$700 billion Public Investment Fund (PIF) to help move things along.

Founded and financed in 2021 by the Saudi Arabian government, LIV went on a spending spree that lured, among others, a number of celebrated PGA Tour players who had won numerous major tournaments from the PGA Tour to sign contracts with LIV for numbers that were eye-catching, though unverified: \$200 million for Phil Mickelson, a marvelous player who was a pot-stirrer in the PGA ranks in the interest of his selfishness, and \$100 million for Dustin Johnson, who mostly just played high-level golf and let others work the spectator rope lines and the media.

By signing onto LIV, these players found themselves in the glare of insistent protests, waged most insistently by the families of victims of the 9/11 attacks, that they were now servants of an immoral government that sponsored murder and endorsed a cultural backwater in its own country. For the most part, the golfers shrugged off the negativity, some of them with unfortunate word choices.

The PGA Tour (as distinct from the PGA of America, which is made up of the club professionals who run golf shops and give lessons at public and private

courses) initially took on the challenge by outlawing members who had joined the Saudi organization. Per the American way, litigation, replete with uncensored rancor, followed from both sides, with court hearings that would ultimately resolve any conflicts set for early next year.

The effect of all this on public interest, particularly those who play or like golf in general, has been varied, according to polling results. While many are wary of the ultimate use of the Saudi money, they give the players some room, conceding that selfishness has its place. Who in his right mind wouldn’t at least consider signing on to play a sporting game for hundreds of millions?

For now, there is a substantial element of muddlement as to where things stand, including where the US Justice Department stands on questions of monopoly. The new entity doesn’t have a name, and all the details of the merger to be (it has to be approved by PGA Tour players) are unknown to all – including the most important players – but the merger negotiators, in particular, Jay Monahan, the PGA Tour commissioner, and Yasir al-Rumayyan, the governor of Saudi Arabia’s wealth fund, and their consultants.

Over the weekend leading into US Open week, Monahan went straight to the heart of the matter when he stated the obvious: In the end, the PGA “cannot compete with a foreign government with unlimited money.” Where this all leaves the PGA players who declined the Saudi dollars out of loyalty to their organization and their relationship to the former members who have banked their Saudi dollars and will be coming back for more will be known soon enough. A number of LIV players will be competing this week because they met all the US Open’s qualifications, and there are storm clouds heavy with resentment in the air above the Los Angeles Country Club.

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Commentary

In-person gatherings resume, joyfully

By **BILL WALCZAK**
REPORTER COLUMNIST

Events and meetings are underway in-person again, and each seems more like a reunion than a meeting. For a person who can count the number of meetings and events I've attended during my lifetime in the thousands, I'm finding that I've enjoyed getting back together for meetings and events.

I would even call some of these interactions joyful. Of course, it's not that we didn't have meetings during the pandemic. We had Zoom, but Zoom meetings lack the personal connection that humans crave.



Bill Walczak

Let's face it, humans are herdable animals, and most of us want to be with other humans. We love to cheer for the same teams and can on occasion unite for causes both good and bad. The human herd took a big hit during the pandemic, being banished to our homes and other isolations for three years.

I'd suggest that we need more events, art, talent shows, music, opportunities to sing and dance together, experience nature, play sports, learn new things, be with others, and a special effort to lure out people who are isolated.

Rituals, typically expressed during holidays, can help. I went to the Red Sox game on Marathon Day with my four- and six-year-old granddaughters but left early because of the rain. As we walked to Kenmore Square, the roar of the crowd cheering the thousands of runners was inspiring. My granddaughters squeezed into the crowd to watch, and they immediately started cheering with the crowd. Thousands of people, in the rain, cheering for people they don't know. I was so proud to be a Bostonian. I also recognized the value of this ritual, a holiday that has no commercial appeal, but allows strangers to express collective pride and joy.

When I mentioned my experience at the Marathon to someone who ran the race, he noted how import-

ant the Wellesley college students were as he ran by the campus, keeping him going, which resulted in a discussion about the runner's high. There are other "highs," I said.

I often get a singer's high when singing some choral pieces, such as the Hallelujah Chorus, and people who dance have said that they experience a "dancer's high."

Getting people back together needs a boost. But who has the capacity to help do this? I suggest that our city government and local philanthropic organizations can be very helpful, especially working with our social service agencies and civic associations.

While there are numerous city programs in community centers, libraries, and the like, and much from our nonprofit sector, we need to ramp it up. We know from many studies that immersion in nature improves mental health, and we need more programs that get those isolated in places lacking nature to get to the great parks in our region.

How about free transportation to the Blue Hills and Harbor Islands for the summer, with walking tours included? How about requiring new real estate development to take into consideration the need for green space for those who will move into new housing? How about a moratorium on cutting down healthy shade trees?

Philanthropies could help fund youth and community theater programs and choruses in parts of the city lacking them and bring out an array of artists and musicians to the city's squares and business districts, like we do for the tourist areas.

When I first arrived in Boston 50 years ago, our neighborhoods had vehicles for building social networks, typically schools and churches, but these have been weakened. As a result, there are many streets where the neighbors do not know one another, which may partly explain why we have dismal turnouts in municipal elections. We need to envision and support other ways to turn our neighborhoods into villages.

Civic associations could be vehicles for promoting block parties, if supported by the city and philanthropies. Back in the 1980s, after finding that residents in the Codman Square area mostly did not know one another, the Codman Square Health Center

sponsored block parties with a formula: a community organizer would knock on doors on a street and find two to three people who wanted to host a gathering. The health center would try to get a fire truck to come by the street on a Saturday morning, which would bring out children, who in turn would bring out adults, and the community organizer would start cooking hamburgers and hot dogs. Eventually, the organizer would ask if the group wanted to form a block group or crime watch. Today's version could have fire and food trucks.

How about sports leagues for adults? With most people in neighborhoods not knowing each other, it becomes difficult to organize softball, basketball, volleyball, or pickleball leagues for adults, but why couldn't this happen through the same organizations that youth sports use? Adults could sign up and be placed on teams, or just have organized pick-up games. We could also have other group activities like tai chi, line dancing, group bike riding, and yoga, and synchronized swimming. The key is to organize it, and here again, the city and philanthropic organizations can play a major role.

The pandemic destroyed lives and careers across the entire world, a trauma that requires a focus on social health, in addition to physical and mental health. These ideas are just a few to consider that could help people engage with their neighbors and help them heal from the trauma of the pandemic. This summer would be a great time to start.

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New mural on a food pantry wall in Neponset aims to feed the mind

By Cassidy McNeeley
Special to the Reporter

What was once an empty brick wall on the corner of Neponset Avenue and Minot Street has been transformed into a mural created by the Dorchester artist Tran Vu that speaks to “feelings of food.”

Last Thursday (June 8), a crowd gathered in a tent under the rain at the Harbor Health Food Pantry to celebrate Vu, a native of Vietnam who grew up in Dorchester, and her creation.

Said Ami Bowen, the vice president of marketing and community engagement at Harbor Health: “Art is universal. It was really important for us to work with a local artist and have something that was really representative about what people’s feelings of food are and feelings about being a part of the community and asking for help with food.”

Vu’s specialty is creating art that organizes and facilitates activism through themes of identity, justice, and belonging.

The mural on its wall is one result of Har-



Dorchester artist Tran Vu poses with her mural at the Harbor Health Food Pantry in Neponset. The mural asks, “Did you eat yet?”

Cassidy McNeeley photo

bor Health’s decision to use funding from a city grant to turn the area outside their office

into a community space where residents would feel welcomed. Specifically, they hoped to connect

with members of the Vietnamese community who utilize the center’s resources.

When Vu was asked to create her mural, she decided to return to the pantry that she and her family visited throughout her childhood. She spoke there with participants, the majority of whom are Vietnamese, about what they appreciated about the pantry and what they wanted to see in the future.

“I started with three focus groups at the beginning of the year just to hear more about their experiences of accessing food here,” Vu said. “And from there is when I started brainstorming ideas and came up with the design.”

The mural seeks to illustrate the importance of having healthy and accessible food, with a central question. “I know in my family every time I walk in the door they ask, ‘Did you eat yet?’ And I know for so many other families as well, that’s such a common theme. So, I wanted to do that, to have a message that really resonates when

they see this,” Vu said.

To successfully communicate the message to as many people as possible, Vu worked with the city of Boston, Harbor Health Center, and the Asian American Resource Workshop (AARW) to decide what languages to include in the mural. The answer was six, to represent and welcome the diversity of the community.

The art also showcases the relationships that exist among those who access the food pantry. “It’s not just individuals, but the elders, mother and daughters, even staff workers here, but then also father and son, too,” said Vu. “Accessing food is such a need that it should be a human right.”

While it’s exciting for her to see her work showcased publicly, Vu was not the only person feeling grateful during last week’s event. As attendants snacked on traditional Vietnamese food and listened to music, several members of the focus groups spoke to the crowd. One of them, Lan Nguin, a Dorchester

resident who left Vietnam and moved to the neighborhood in 2011, had this to say:

“I have come and received the food for myself, and my family and I’ve found the food is very much suitable to our ethnic groups. The service is great, at the beginning the lines weren’t so pretty and all that, but eventually everything has come into order, so there are no complaints.”

Amanda Mastrangelo, Harbor Health’s program manager of community health initiatives, said the mural showcases the organization’s commitment to welcoming the community. Even though there are often language barriers, everyone who visits the site can see themselves within the mural.

“I think it’s so needed in so many communities, and especially Boston, for community members to see themselves,” said Vu. “For this mural to be truly inclusive and accessible is just really, really humbling and also an honor to be the creator behind this.”

Mayor’s Coffee Hour celebrates summertime in Hunt-Almont Park

Mayor Wu and a host of city officials welcomed Mattapan neighbors to the annual Mayor’s Neighborhood Coffee Hour in Hunt-Almont Park last Thursday (June 8).

Dunkin’ coffee was served, and potted plants were available to senior citizens for the taking.

Wu said she wanted the park to be an example of what kind of city Boston will be. “We want to have a city that is the greenest in the nation and...have

a city that is the greatest in the nation for families and generations of families staying together,” she said.

The announcements included the fact that 290 young people from Mattapan have secured summer jobs with the city to date, with 234 of them aged 14-18. They will work in city departments, and in the community at places like Harlem Lacrosse and Immigrant Family Service Institute (IFSI).

City Hall officials also

announced there would be a city-run drop-in camp at Almont Park this summer starting after the July 4 holiday. The camp will have programming and activities and will be a walk-in program – meaning no registration and young people ages 7-14 can come all day or just stay for an hour.

City Councillors Ricardo Arroyo and Ruthzee Louijeune, and state Rep. Brandy Fluker Oakley noted that the Mattahunt Community Center will soon be named for the Kincade family – which also was instrumental in reviving Almont Park some years ago.

– SETH DANIEL



Mayor Michelle Wu announced several initiatives for Almont Park this summer, including a drop-in summer program that will begin in July.



Mattapan friends Joyce Durst, Eileen Peterson of Mothers for Justice and Equality, and Hazel Bynoe.



Mattapan Teen Center (MTC) Director Rick Aggeler and former MTC member Christian DoCanto.



Almont Park advocate Earl Faulk and Lydia Agro of the Boston Housing Authority.



Isaac Yablo, the Mayor’s Public Safety Cabinet secretary, and Tiffani Caballero, of the Boston Parks Department.



State Rep. Brandy Fluker Oakley, Symone Crawford, Councillor Ruthzee Louijeune, Kenya Beamon, Ruth Georges, and GMNC Chair Fatima Ali Salaam.



District 5 Council candidate Enrique Pepen, with Barbara Crichlow, Anna Coleman, and Edna Hall.
Seth Daniel photos



Mattapan Patriots Pop Warner coaches and board members. From left, President Mick Brunache, Donald Caisey, Derek Green, Tyrone Alcorn, Vice President Lyle Jackson, Secretary Sonie Joseph, and Coach Born.

More downsizing is in place at the Shawmut development

**By GINTAUTAS DUMCIUS
MANAGING EDITOR**

The proposal to replace an auto body shop next to the Shawmut MBTA Station with rental housing has shrunk again as it remains under review by the board of the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA).

The developer, Trinity Financial, has continued to make a series of changes to the project as it seeks the public authority's approval to build the units. At the city's request, Trinity agreed to eliminate parking as part of the project because it would sit next to a station on the T's Red Line. The project at one point had 39 parking spaces in planning documents.

The development is known by its address, 150 Centre St., the current location of the Fitzpatrick Brothers auto body shop.

The original proposal called for 91 units, and Trinity had agreed to reduce the number to 74. The number is now 72, after discussions with an advisory group that includes local residents.

The development company, which is led by Dorchester resident Jim Keefe, has sought to placate some of the opponents of the project in the neighborhood. Some have continued to argue that the project is too big for the site, while supporters have said the proposal, which sets aside 60 percent of units as affordable housing and 40 percent as market rate, will help the city deal with a crisis driven by high demand for housing.

The reduction to 72 units is the result of turning four studio and one bed-room units into four additional two-bedroom units.



A rendering included in a May 2023 BPDA presentation shows the look of a proposed new building at 150 Centre St. near the Shawmut MBTA station. *Image courtesy Trinity Financial*

"These changes have largely been made possible by utilizing space in the building that had been used to access the parking garage and instead using that space for housing and resident amenity space," Trinity said in a presentation.

The change was in response to some members of the Impact Advisory Group (IAG) asking for three-bedroom family units. Several members of the group, which includes residents, oppose the project, though such panels are tasked with determining mitigation measures and do not get to vote on the project itself.

Trinity also pledged to protect and preserve the trees on

abutters' properties along the property line, with those that are cut or damaged to be replaced by the same species of the same size, rather than saplings. In addition, the company said, it would install photovoltaic panels on the roof and not hoist phone towers above the roof line.

With the proposal showing dedicated delivery and loading spaces in front of the development, Trinity has agreed to implement curb extensions and raised crosswalks, new sidewalks, landscaping, and signage, in particular, from Clementine Park west to Wainwright Street, and at the north and south plaza entrances to Shawmut Station

at Mather Street and Centre Street.

Trinity also said they would contribute \$10,000 toward a study, to be paid upon them receiving the building permit, on implementing a "Complete Streets" framework for the entire area between Melville and Welles Avenues. "Complete Streets" is the city's term for implementing measures that place pedestrians and bicyclists on the same footing as vehicle drivers.

At the May 24 meeting of the impact group, opponents of the project continued to clash with the developer, with some questioning a traffic study that said there wouldn't be much effect

from the new building.

Even as Trinity said their study was reviewed by city traffic engineers, and the number of new vehicles brought about by the project would be 154 over 24 hours, or 6 cars per hour, opponents insisted traffic is going to spike.

IAG member Mercedes Tompkins was unmoved, saying that during rush hour people are trying to get on or off the trains, and school buses are moving through the area as Shawmut Station is close to several educational facilities.

"You can count and get all the studies you want but the reality is, it's hell," Tompkins said.




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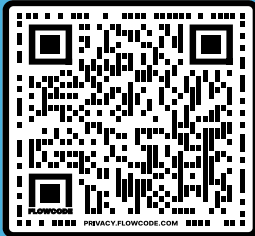
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Edgewater Drive residents to gain their waterfront beyond the brush

(Continued from page 1) be exposed to so many people and that open space will be there and seen. To be able to walk along the river is so good for physical health.”

Morris, who is also a leader in the Mattapan Food and Fitness Coalition (MFFC), said that after a DCR final design meeting on May 30, the neighbors believed they had everything they wanted, and the DCR even “took it beyond that.”

Morris said that extra effort by the state is all about equity. It was no accident that in the past, the only part of the river trail left unkempt was the part abutting a majority community of color, she said.

LaRay Brison, who is also a member of the neighborhood group, said Morris tapped her in 2019 to start getting community support, mostly due to her professional background in landscape design. She said not everyone was on board at first, but that the pandemic showed most neighbors that they needed more open space that is accessible, particularly at the riverfront.

“Because the population is increasing here in Mattapan and Hyde Park, both are being more densely populated and people are concerned



A rendering of the new play structures at Kennedy Playground along Edgewater Drive. The site will have a river motif with fish and woodlands themed structures.

what the new path might bring – more people and safety issues,” she said. “There are people that are concerned about the path. Not everyone is completely happy with it, but most are happy. The goal is to meet people where they are and to find that middle ground.”

Aside from safety concerns, other issues that need to be figured into the conversation include property line definitions, a new walking trail along the river that DCR has proposed, a new Kennedy Playground for youth, an adult fitness area, multiple river overlooks, a lowering of the stone wall in certain areas, new wall opening/access points, better access to the canoe launch via new granite stairs, and a new pedestrian bridge over the river at Osceola Street in a future phase of the project.

With new DCR Commissioner Brian Arrigo now on board now, the

project has taken on additional energy and has a distinct timeline in place for Phase 1 work. A DCR spokesperson said they would be gathering comments on the final design through June 30 at <https://www.mass.gov/forms/dcr-public-comments>.

Following that, they will issue a notice of intent to do the project to the Boston Conservation Commission, with the hope of having a hearing this summer. They will also initiate work on utilities and paving within the city’s right of way. When that’s completed, DCR will advertise the project for bids in the late fall, with an eye to beginning construction as early as next spring.

The new pedestrian bridge has a little more lead time, though public meetings and comment periods have already taken place. The next step in that process is to complete a bridge

type study, hopefully by the end of August. DCR is aiming to have a 25 percent design meeting for the bridge in the fall of 2024.

The new plan and the timeline are refreshing news for Helena Tonge, president of the Belnel Family Neighborhood Association, which is named for the road located just west of the Edgewater Drive group. She said they got involved after Morris and Brison reached out and the DCR committed to extending the path.

She said her family moved to the neighborhood in 1974, and she grew up at a time when

the riverfront and trail were maintained and accessible. For her, it was a sense of adventure to jump on a bicycle with friends and explore their way up to Mattapan Square. That has been missing for youth in the area for several decades now.

“It’s about the kids now that missed out on that kind of childhood we had – riding our bikes and going over to Mattapan Square and just exploring,” she said. “We were kind of immersed in the outdoors as kids here. It was awesome. I want kids to be able to just go out and explore that area again. I see we


have a kid-friendly neighborhood here and that isn’t common in Boston. The sense of being able to explore and having trails right in the midst of your community – this is it. Everyone is going to love this.”

Having taken care of her late mother during the pandemic, she said having an overlook would have really benefited her mother in her last months.

“I can only imagine how happy she would have been if I could have pushed her up to one of the new overlooks and she could have watched the water,” she said.

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1	1-Bedroom	696	\$1,904	Electric	80%	-
6	2-Bedroom	859-1,132	\$2,273	Gas	80%	1
1	2-Bedroom	1,097	\$2,246	Electric	80%	-
3	3-Bedroom	1,301-1,315	\$2,585	Gas	80%	-

Minimum Incomes (set by owner + based on # of bedrooms + Area Median Income (AMI))		Maximum Incomes (set by HUD + based on household size + Area Median Income (AMI))	
# of Bedrooms	Minimum Income 80% AMI	Household Size	Maximum Income 80% AMI
Studio	\$55,020	1	\$82,950
1-Bedroom	\$57,120	2	\$94,800
2-Bedroom	\$67,380	3	\$106,650
3-Bedroom	\$77,550	4	\$118,450
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It's 'do or die' for councillors facing a vote on city's budget

(Continued from page 1) before the reversal of two councillors: Brian Worrell of Dorchester and Gabriela Colleta of East Boston. Coletta voiced concerns about layoffs as a result

of the cuts and changed her vote to "no." Just before the Council meeting ended, Worrell, who is the vice chair of the Ways and Means Committee, changed his vote to "present," denying the budget

the majority needed to move ahead. He did not explain his switched vote. Councillors are in their second go-around with enhanced budgetary powers approved by voters in 2021. Before the charter amendment was okayed, councillors could only approve, reject, or reduce a budget proposed by the mayor. Now they can amend the mayor's proposal, as long as their total does not exceed the total proposed by the mayor. That leaves them with the ability to amend up to \$1.8 billion, or 42 percent of the fiscal 2024 budget that Wu has put forward.

The amendment also created new deadlines for councillors to act: They had to vote on or before the second Wednesday in June, which is June 14 this year. A majority – seven votes – is required to send it off to the mayor, who then has seven days



Tania Fernandes Anderson is heading up the council's budgeting process.

to approve, veto, or make her own amendments. Then it heads back to the Council, which needs a two-thirds majority (9 votes) to override a veto or mayoral amendments, which has to be done before July 1, the start of the 2024 fiscal year.

If they don't act by June 14, according to Fernandes Anderson, the mayor's budget proposal goes into effect. "It is do or die," she said.

During last year's budget process, councillors cut \$65,814 from the

budget and never reappropriated it. In another move, they sought to cut police overtime, but they were blocked by Wu, who proposed a smaller police budget cut to the tune of \$1.2 million. The independent Boston Municipal Research Bureau, in an analysis afterwards, said the council overall "redistributed within the operating budget only \$9.9M, or 0.6%, of appropriations the City Council had authority to amend."

Chairing the Council's budget process for the second time this year, Fernandes Anderson said

last week that she did not reject any councillor's amendments, leaving it up to the mayor to say no. "She's the mother. She has to take care of the city," Fernandes Anderson said.

At working sessions on Monday and Tuesday, councillors appeared to be making some progress in whittling down the size of their amendments in an effort to reach a compromise ahead of the June 14 Council meeting, as well as reaching some truces.

Councillor Flaherty, while opposing cuts to the police department, said he was willing to give up his \$1.5 million amendment funding a vehicle for the Boston Fire Department.

But Councillor At-Large Julia Mejia told her colleagues that she supported keeping the amendment in. "You heard that, Flaherty?" she called out across the room. "I got your back there, kiddo."

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Nee, Nolan		Gaudet Ft	Sweeney, Beth A	147 Train St	Dorchester	05/26/23	785,000
Alexis, Rodney	Jacques, Sharma J	Louis, Ashley		71 Willowood St	Dorchester	05/26/23	835,000
Constitution Prop LLC		Holley, Shirley R		7 Mountain Ave	Dorchester	05/25/23	475,000
Constitution Prop LLC		Holley, Shirley R		11 Mountain Ave	Dorchester	05/25/23	475,000
Ashley, Ronald K	Ashley, Cheryl A	Ashley Inez Est	Ashley, Ronald	104 Delhi St	Mattapan	05/22/23	450,000
Martin, Philip P		Best, Althea	Evans, Byron A	12 Landor Rd	Mattapan	05/25/23	700,000
Donahoe, Madison R		Alarcon, Enrique G		11 Doris St #3	Dorchester	05/25/23	598,000
Dunphy, Katharine		Lambert, George A		7 Saxton St #3	Dorchester	05/24/23	442,500
Hoffman, Eli		Arias, Efrain E		1241-1251 Adams St #B209	Dorchester	05/26/23	408,122
Ryan, Thomas R	Loring, Meghan D	Yeung, Desmond W	Yeung, Kristin C	45 Coffey St #6	Dorchester	05/24/23	745,000
Adzhubey, Ivan		Wongjantip, Kwanchat		51 Belfort St #1	Dorchester	05/25/23	680,000
Vazquez, Gabriela A	Hachem, Hilal	2a Thane St LLC		2-A Thane St #2	TDorchester	05/22/23	570,000
23 Verdun Street Rt	Hachem, Hilal	Musavi, Mohamad T	Musavi, Monir M	23 Verdun St #2	Dorchester	05/24/23	615,000
Adams, Paul	Martin, Sara	Musavi, Mohamad T	Musavi, Monir M	23 Verdun St #1	Dorchester	05/25/23	615,000
Abdollahian, Leila		Aa Thane St LLC		2-A Thane St #1	Dorchester	05/25/23	569,000
Labranche, Julian	Hinrichs, Conner	14 Bowdoin LLC		14 Bowdoin Ave #1	Dorchester	05/25/23	525,000

First-year softball coach at TechBoston collects BPS Coach of the Year award



The 2023 TechBoston High School softball squad in a team photo this month.

(Continued from page 1) of Boston Public Schools (BPS) softball ‘Coach of the Year.’

“Three years ago, we won only one game; this year we lost only one regular season game,” said Narvaez in an interview this week. “It felt great when they voted me ‘Coach of the Year.’ I did not expect it, being my first year as a head coach...But this was a historic season for the school, especially for such a young team. It’s not like most of the girls have been playing all their lives. Most started right here at the high school.”

The school’s athletic director, Courtney Leonard, said TechBoston is “beaming with pride” over the team’s success in going to the City League semi-finals, winning a division championship, and earning a spot in the state competition.

“If that’s not ‘Girl Power’ and Coach of the Year material I don’t know what it is,” she said. “Coach Amy is beyond deserving of this recognition and she is not only a reflection of the commitment and care that coaching should be about, but also equally representative of the selflessness and support of student-athletes beyond the mound that it takes to sustain and be successful in city school sports.”

Narvaez’s team was usually made up of 10 players, anchored by junior star pitcher and captain Ketchmyr Louis, who recorded 141 strikeouts this season. Sophomore catcher Dinny Felix Roman was the other captain, but beyond them, many were good athletes whom Narvaez recruited to the diamond. What she was able to build was an environment wherein the girls built a “sisterhood.”

“In general, female sports don’t get a lot of recognition across the board,” she said. “Even basketball, our girls went to the city finals, but you didn’t hear a lot about them. The softball team didn’t get a lot of recognition until the end. It’s



Junior pitcher and captain Ketchmyr Louis anchored the surprising squad of athletes this year, recording 141 strikeouts during the season. Photos courtesy TechBoston

the way it is, but it’s very important to keep these girls active and create a sisterhood. That keeps them together and not against each other...We had such a great season and no conflicts at all amongst each other.”

Narvaez, like most of her players, started softball as a student, in her case at West Roxbury High School, from which she graduated in 1997. While softball was part of the island culture in Puerto Rico where she spent her younger years, she mostly just watched her town team compete. At Westie High, she fell in love with playing the game as an outfielder and participating in the JROTC Navy program.

The latter experience launched her career in the US Navy, which sent her to Hampton, VA, and San Diego over six years in the service. After having kids, she said she felt she was robbing them of having a stable location to grow up in, so instead of pursuing a Naval career, she returned to Boston.

“After the Navy, it just felt right to come back to Boston,” she said. “My mom worked for BPS and told me to give it a try until I knew my next step. I’ve been here for 18 years now, starting as a secretary and now I’m a dean.”

Coaching was also always in her sights, after being mentored and hired by the late Keith Love of TechBoston – whose name is affixed to the field where the softball team plays. When an opportunity opened after the pandemic to rebuild

the TechBoston team, Narvaez – an assistant coach at the time – hit the phones and recruited as many girls as she could to form a team. That was the year when they only won a single game.

“We wanted girls to get out of the house and get active. We did have fun; there was no pressure,” she said.

This year an all-female coaching staff led by Narvaez, assistant coach Nina Laboy, and assistants Shellina Semexant and Aysha Williams really caught a break with a group of girls who came ready to play. Narvaez said she trusted her captains and motivated every player to give their all.

“I was a little nervous to be honest when I became head coach,” she said. “I didn’t know what it would all look like but after a week of practice you can see them come together... We didn’t have to fight hard to get them to pick it up. The first game they

were ready. They wanted to get better.”

A turning point came when they had to face English High School of the tough City League North Division. While they had blazed an un-

defeated trail through the South Division, they knew it wouldn’t be a cakewalk with English. “They made plays, the bats were happy, and the pitching was on point,” she said of the big win.

The team later took their first loss to English in the last regular-season game but won a bid to the Division 5 State

Tournament, losing in the opening round to Mohawk Trail. However, the excitement has continued with a successful all-star game last week, and big plans for next season in the making.

“We’re going to get started in March and the girls are already planning for next season,” she noted.

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Ward 15 Democratic Party Committee

Candidate Interviews

Joel Richards

Barry Lawton

Jennifer Johnson

Matthew Patton

John Fitzgerald

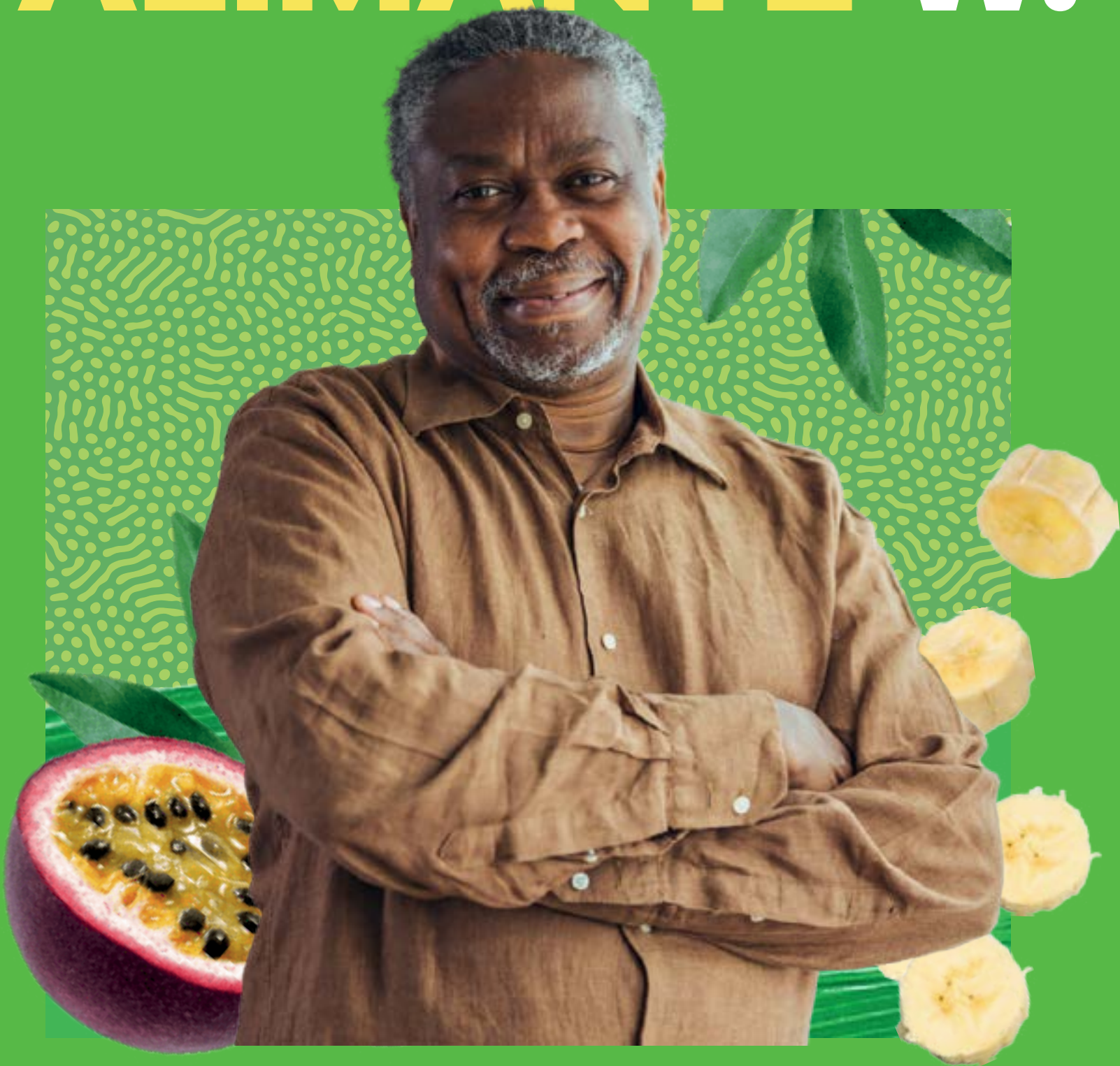
Saturday June 17th, 10:00a-12:00p

Join the meeting at:
<https://tinyurl.com/Ward15Dems>

www.facebook.com/Ward.15.Dems

[@Ward15B](https://twitter.com/Ward15B)

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BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF DORCHESTER

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF DORCHESTER





BGCD Hosts Night to Shine Dance with Martin Richard Challenger Program: See details below.

CONNECT THE DOT:
BGCD Hosts Night to Shine Dance with Martin Richard Challenger Program: On June 9th, BGCD and The Martin Richard Foundation teamed up to host the Night to Shine Dance for our Challenger Program members. Attendees arrived looking fabulous all dressed up and ready to dance the night away. Our guests showed off their moves on the dance floor, sharing laughs with friends and making special memories together. Thank you to all who helped put on such an amazing event, and to BGCD Board of Advisor, Brendan McDonough for helping to fund the event! The Challenger Program, in partnership with The Martin Richard Foundation, is a series of inclusive sports programs which include soccer, basketball, swimming and baseball for all abilities. To learn more about Challenger Sports, please contact Erin Ferrara at eferrara@bgcdorchester.org.

FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE:
BGCD Spring Basketball League Concludes After Successful Season: Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester's Spring Intramural Basketball League for Teens has concluded with our specialty named teams winning out. Houston defeated Boston University by a score of 72-60 in the Championship game. Congratulations to Brayden Buckley (28 points) who led Houston. Special thanks to our program partner, the Leahy Holloran Community Center. We are currently accepting applicants for our Safe Summer Streets Basketball League which will take place in the evenings in July & August. There will be divisions for ages 13-15 and 16-18.

For more information please contact Athletic Director, Octavius Nunes at onunes@bgcdorchester.org or use the QR code in the accompanying flyer to register.



BGCD Spring Basketball League Concludes After Successful Season: See details below.

DID YOU KNOW:
Join Team BGCD for This Year's Rodman Ride for Kids: Join us on Saturday, September 23rd for the 33rd Annual Rodman Ride for Kids! In partnership with Rodman for Kids, the Club has the unique opportunity to participate in this collaborative event which helps to support 42 charities supporting at-risk youth. The event will feature a 25 or 50 mile route that will begin and end in Foxboro. After the event there will be a barbeque and celebration for all who participated. If you can't Ride in September, you can be a "Choose Your Own Adventure" virtual participant. The options are unlimited with participants choosing to run, walk, bike or what ever you like to do on your own time. Please note, in-person riders must commit to a \$2,000 fundraising minimum, and virtual riders must commit to raising at least \$500. To join our team, please visit <http://do.nr/ticun6>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Juneteenth Celebration
June 14

Juneteenth - BGCD Closed
June 19

Last Day of School Year Program
June 22

Fanatics Impact Day at Gillette
June 27

Fourth of July - BGCD Closed
July 4

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



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Happening at the
John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum

The Big Quiz Thing

Wednesday, June 21 • 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.



Join us for an evening of quiz-show style fun with The Big Quiz Thing. Test your knowledge alone or with a team. Wide-ranging questions will touch on presidential history and pop culture from many eras - you might even be able to find a clue or two in our Museum galleries!

This program is part of a summer Late Nights at the Library series at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum. Our Museum galleries will be open free of charge from 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Food and drink options will be available for purchase, and our Museum Store will be open.

Please note that this program is in-person only, and will not be livestreamed.

Late Night Series at the JFK Library and Museum this Summer!

Wednesday, July 12 | 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Enjoy swing era music and dance with the **Beantown Swing Orchestra!**

Wednesday, August 9 | 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Explore the exhibits and enjoy the **nighttime ocean view!**

Wednesday, August 16 | 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Learn from public discussion with historian and **author Matthew Delmont!**

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General admission to the Museum is \$18. Children 12 and under are always free. Additional student, military, senior, and EBT discounts available.



A mother pleads for help in getting her son, 25, a kidney

A Dorchester couple, Donna and Bob Viau, have gone public in an effort to get a replacement kidney for their 25-year-old son Greer, who has been confronting renal failure from an unknown virus since a diagnosis in February.

In a letter sent to the *Reporter* entitled “Dear Dorchester Community & Friends,” Donna writes that Greer, “in disbelief at his rapid decline, sat on our couch and asked, ‘Mom, who is going to give me an organ out of their body to save my life?’”

Writing that she was fighting back tears and staying positive, she added: “It will happen! Since then, our families have been tested and no match has come to pass. We have been sharing and posting and getting the word out as best we can. Greer has had multiple emergency room visits and is on 11 hours of home dialysis every night. That is sustaining him while people wait for a transplant, but it is very hard on the body.

“It is so hard for us to grasp that this is reality. Despite our relentless efforts over the past four months, we are still looking for that living donor who may be a match for Greer.”

BPD officer released from hospital after being shot on duty; suspect held

A Boston police officer, who was shot while investigating the robbery of a pizza delivery driver in Roxbury last Friday night, has been released from the hospital while the man suspected of shooting him is being held without bail after his arraignment on Monday.

John Lazare, 23, of Brockton, pleaded not guilty to nine charges including assault and battery with a firearm in connection with the shooting. The officer’s name has not been released.

Lazare is due back in court on June 23 for a hearing to determine whether he is a danger to society.

The officer was patrolling the area because a pizza delivery driver had been robbed last Wednesday, authorities said. The officer saw a suspect matching the description of Wednesday’s suspect pointing a gun at a delivery driver, police said on Friday, and when the officer approached, Lazare opened fire.

Additional officers responded to the shooting and chased the suspect without firing their weapons. Two other officers also were injured, but not from gunfire, Police Commissioner Michael Cox

Describing herself as an advocating mom, Donna pleaded in the letter for people to consider getting tested and or else share information. A kidney from a living donor, she noted, can last up to two times longer than one from a deceased donor. There is no list for living donorship, she said. “Someone would have to specifically come forward in his name.”

She cited facts from the National Kidney Foundation: Someone is added to the transplant list every 14 minutes. On average, 5,000 patients die every year while waiting for a kidney transplant, while another 4,000 people became too sick to receive one.

Greer Viau is part of the Brigham and Women’s Transplant Program. If anyone is interested in seeing if they are medically qualified to donate, his mother wrote, they can go to his page – www.nkr.org/ATE793 – and click “looking to donate for Greer” and the National Kidney Registry will connect with potential donors to guide them through the process.

She signed the letter: “With loving gratitude, Donna, Bob, Greer, and Dylan Viau.”

said at a news conference. He praised the officers for their response.

“So often you hear throughout the country around police and our over-response or over-aggressive behavior,” Cox said. “Our officers are different. Our officers are professional. And we take pride in that.” –WBUR

MOH Income Restricted Rental Opportunity
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17 Income-restricted Units

# of Units	# of bedrooms	Estimated Square Feet	Rent	Maximum Income Limit	# built out for mobility impairments	# built out for Deaf/hard of hearing
3	0	450	\$1,300	60%	0	0
2	1	600	\$1,400	60%	0	0
2	2	750	\$1,690	60%	0	0
6	1	600	\$1,950	100%	0	0
4	2	750	\$2,340	100%	0	0

Minimum Incomes (set by owner + based on # of bedrooms + Area Median Income (AMI))			Maximum Incomes (set by HUD/MOH + based on household size + Area Median Income (AMI))		
# of bedrooms	60% AMI	100% AMI	Household size	60% AMI	100% AMI
0	34,600	-	1	\$58,900	\$98,150
			2	\$67,300	\$112,200
1	37,333	52,000	3	\$75,700	\$126,200
			4	\$84,100	\$140,200
2	45,066	62,400	5	\$90,850	\$151,450
			6	\$97,600	\$162,650

Minimum Incomes Apply. Minimum incomes do not apply to households with housing assistance (Section 8, MRVP, VASH).

Applications are available during the application period for 21 days, from June 1, 2023 to June 22, 2023.

To request an online application or to have one sent by email visit <https://bit.ly/WoodburyAppReqForm> or call **617-567-7755**.

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 **617-567-7755**, to request that we mail you one and to ask us for any support or guidance you might need to complete the application.

We will be holding **1** virtual informational meeting on **Wednesday, June 7, 2023 at 6 pm** through the following link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81654447861?pwd=RUDMa3ZBZzhqTGpBNk9CZ3NQNihtUT09>
Meeting ID: 816 5444 7861
Passcode: 545249
Or call: 929-205-6099

DEADLINE: Applications must be submitted online or postmarked no later than June 22, 2023.
Mailed to: Metro Management, 80 Border Street, 3rd Floor, East Boston, MA 02128

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- Asset & Use Restrictions apply.
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- Household Size Preference for units with 2 or more bedrooms.

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		21 ¼ x 40 ¼	23 ¼ x 40 ¼	27 ¼ x 40 ¼	30 ¼ x 40 ¼	33 ¼ x 40 ¼	
18 ¼ x 44 ¼	19 ¼ x 44 ¼	21 ¼ x 44 ¼	23 ¼ x 44 ¼	27 ¼ x 44 ¼	30 ¼ x 44 ¼	33 ¼ x 44 ¼	35 ¼ x 44 ¼
		19 ¼ x 48 ¼	21 ¼ x 48 ¼	23 ¼ x 48 ¼	27 ¼ x 48 ¼	30 ¼ x 48 ¼	33 ¼ x 48 ¼ 35 ¼ x 48 ¼
18 ¼ x 52 ¼	19 ¼ x 52 ¼	21 ¼ x 52 ¼	23 ¼ x 52 ¼	27 ¼ x 52 ¼	30 ¼ x 52 ¼	33 ¼ x 52 ¼	39 ¼ x 52 ¼
18 ¼ x 56 ¼			21 ¼ x 56 ¼	23 ¼ x 56 ¼	27 ¼ x 56 ¼	30 ¼ x 56 ¼	33 ¼ x 56 ¼ 35 ¼ x 56 ¼ 39 ¼ x 56 ¼
18 ¼ x 60 ¼			21 ¼ x 60 ¼	23 ¼ x 60 ¼	27 ¼ x 60 ¼	30 ¼ x 60 ¼ 31 ¼ x 60 ¼	33 ¼ x 60 ¼ 35 ¼ x 60 ¼ 39 ¼ x 60 ¼
18 ¼ x 64 ¼			21 ¼ x 64 ¼	23 ¼ x 64 ¼	27 ¼ x 64 ¼	30 ¼ x 64 ¼	33 ¼ x 64 ¼ 39 ¼ x 64 ¼

41 Hallet Street, Dorchester (617) 282-6900

RECENT OBITUARIES



BARKON, Paul Randolph, 77, of Dorchester. Paul was born in Ghana to the late Randolph Barkon and Esi Dorue Randolph (Tokelar); and brother to the late Randolph Barkon, Vaghn Randolph, Willeyer Randolph and Monah Randolph. Paul is survived by his sisters, Mazoe, Esi and Thien; his daughter, Felicia Barkon Harr; and his 2 grandchildren, and other family members. Paul was the husband of the late Evangeline (Stewart) Barkon.



COOPER, Fernanda Lamars, 61, of Boston. He was preceded in death by his father, William T. Cooper and sister, Almetta Cooper. Fernanda L. Cooper is survived by his mother Yvonne (Cross) Cooper, two sisters, Sartreina Dottin (James) of Littleton, Cothenia Lopes (Dwayne) of Dorchester, and one brother, Leroyal Holmes of Roxbury. He is also survived by

one daughter, Jamessa, and 2 sons Jarrell and Fernanda, Jr., 5 grandchildren, 3 aunts, 3 uncles, 5 nieces, 4 nephews, 1 great niece, 1 great nephew and a host of cousins.



KEELEY Paul P., Jr., 67, of Quincy. Husband of Laura (Bernard). Father of Daniel. Paul is also survived by his sister-in-law Marybeth Bernard and his siblings: Kathleen M. Sinno (Sam) of Westwood; Thomas J. (Donna) of New Hampshire; Ste-

phen F. of Kingston; Barbara A. Wuschke (Michael) of Dorchester; John J. Keeley of Quincy; and Patricia M. Keeley, of Pembroke; and several nieces and nephews. Donations may be made in Paul's memory to Boston Firefighters Death and Welfare Fund, 55 Hallet Street, Dorchester, MA 02124.



PETIT-FRERE, Armande J., 67 of Mat-tapan. Daughter to the late Rose Conceptia Petit-Frere and Thomas Wilbert Jadotte ofHaiti. Armande is survived by her two children, Kristeen Petit-Frere and Jeffrey Petit-Frere.

Armande worked at Carney Hospital.



PIRES, Nesby Monteiro Macedo, 61, of Dorchester. She was born to the late Rita De-Pina and Silvestre Monteiro Macedo in Fogo, Cabo Verde. Wife of Jose Pires. Mother of Helder Pires Macedo and John Pires Macedo. Sister of Jose Macedo, Alberto Macedo, Maria Monteiro Macedo, Etelvina Monteiro Macedo and Conceicesao Monteiro Macedo. She is also survived by her 2 grandchildren and many nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family and friends.



(all of Boston); 7 nieces and nephews; 10 great nieces and nephews; 2 great-great nieces and nephews; 4 godchildren and many beloved family and friends.



TARPEY, Frederick J., longtime resident of Milton, originally of Dorchester, raised in Jamaica Plain. US Army veteran. Husband of the late Kathleen A. "Kay" (Dowd). Father of Christopher Tarpey and his wife Mary and their 2 children of Braintree, Kathy A. Gaide and her husband Bob and their 2 children of Milton, Kara McGaffigan and her 3 children Declan of Quincy, and Frederick "Rick" Tarpey of Quincy. Brother of the late Daniel Tarpey and Elizabeth "Betty" Flaherty. Great grandfather of 2. He is survived by many nephews and cousins. He was predeceased by his granddaughter, Elizabeth Tarpey. Donations may be made in his memory to the Elizabeth Ann Tarpey Memorial Scholarship Fund, 15 Lincoln St. Braintree, MA 02184.



Cedar Grove Cemetery

A quiet place on the banks of the Neponset River

Contact the office for information on the cost of burial needs, memorial benches and memorial trees.

The Cemetery office is open Monday – Friday 8:00 to 4:00, and Saturday 8:00 to noon. The Cemetery grounds are open year round 7:00 am to sunset – weather permitting.

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LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
SUFFOLK PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
24 NEW CHARDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
CITATION GIVING NOTICE
OF PETITION FOR
APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN
FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON
PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304
Docket No. SU23P1194GD
IN THE MATTER OF:
EMMA L. BROOKS
of BOSTON, MA
RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated Person
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by St. Joseph Rehabilitation and Nursing of Dorchester, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Emma L. Brooks is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Velma J. Brinson of Hyde Park, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond.
The petition asks the Court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.
You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 07/13/2023. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.
Witness, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
Vincent Procopio
Register of Probate
Date: June 5, 2023
Published: June 15, 2023

LEGAL NOTICES

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
Suffolk Probate & Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR ORDER OF
COMPLETE SETTLEMENT
Docket No. SU20P0388EA
ESTATE OF:
CHRISTOPHER WAYNE THOMPSON
A/K/A: CHRISTOPHER THOMPSON
DATE OF DEATH: 05/03/2019
A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by Stephanie Fullard of Boston, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including a determination of testacy and heirs at law RTD 07/13/2023 and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/13/2023.
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.
Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.
Date: June 6, 2023
Vincent Procopio
Register of Probate
Published: June 15, 2023

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
Suffolk Probate & Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Docket No. SU23P1256EA
ESTATE OF:
GLORIA JEAN EPPS
a/k/a: GLORIA J. EPPS
DATE OF DEATH: 12/11/2022
To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Taiwana Avinger 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: Taiwana Avinger of Boston, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/21/2023.
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: June 09, 2023
Vincent Procopio
Register of Probate
Published: June 15, 2023

LEGAL NOTICES

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
SUFFOLK DIVISION
24 NEW CHARDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
Docket No. SU21D2045DR
DIVORCE SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION and MAILING
GENESIS ALEXSSA ALBUERME
MEJIA
vs.
SAMIL MEJIA
To the Defendant:
The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown. The Complaint is on file at the Court. An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.
You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon: Genesis Alexssa Albuerm Mejia, 253 Huntington Ave., Apt. 2, Hyde Park, MA 02136 your answer, if any, on or before 08/01/2023. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.
Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.
Date: May 31, 2023
Vincent Procopio
Register of Probate
Published: June 15, 2023

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
ESSEX PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
36 FEDERAL STREET
SALEM, MA 01970
978-744-1020
CITATION ON PETITION
TO CHANGE NAME
Docket No. ES22C0528CA
IN THE MATTER OF:
AMAR'E YAHIR WOLF BATES
A Petition to Change Name of Minor has been filed by Amar'e Yahir Wolf Bates of Lawrence, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:
Amar'e Yahir Wolf Cabrera
IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Essex Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/10/2023. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
Witness, Hon. Frances M. Giordano, First Justice of this Court.
Date: June 1, 2023
Pamela A. Casey O'Brien
Register of Probate
Published: June 15, 2023

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. SU23P1245EA
ESTATE OF:
BARRINGTON A. REID
A/K/A: BARRINGTON REID
DATE OF DEATH: 02/01/2023
To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Morgan Reid-Spaulling 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: Morgan Reid-Spaulling of Boston, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/07/2023.
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: June 9, 2023
Vincent Procopio
Register of Probate
Published: June 15, 2023



Moun ki brav fè tande vwa yo

Lè w pale sa vle di ou djamn.
Aprann plis nan mass.gov/MoreToTheStory



Savin Hill Apartments, Dorchester, MA



Keystone Apartments, Dorchester, MA



DoubleTree Downtown - Boston, MA



Ocean Edge Resort & Golf Club, Brewster, Cape Cod, MA

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