Dorchester Reporter

"The News and Values Around the Neighborhood"

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The Tides team took the championship earlier this summer in the Dorchester Baseball AAA Division. That division is for boys ages 8-11. Photo courtesy Dorchester Baseball

After six seasons, Dorchester Baseball 'keeps kids smiling'

By SETH DANIEL News Editor

The impending death of youth baseball and youth sports in general in the city has been decried for years now, but those voices certainly aren't from those who are sitting on lawn chairs at the numerous Dorchester Baseball league games where hundreds of kids from the neighborhood continue to learn and compete in the nation's pastime and leave the diamond with smiles on their faces.

Dorchester Baseball is the result of a merger of the former Savin Hill Little League and former Cedar Grove Little League programs that has added the Dorchester Babe Ruth program and the Martin Richard Challenger League. Together, they form the Dorchester Baseball organization, which has just completed its sixth season, and says that things couldn't be going better.

Co-President Charlie Maneikis said the organization is more than holding its own on registrations, with 410 Little League, 75 Challenger League, and 80 Babe Ruth players this spring, for a total of 565 registered. Add that to 75 volunteer coaches and the recipe is one that produces fun and success.

"We have a group of coaches that want to keep it fun and are involved

(Continued on page 4)

School Committee brings new BPS chief back to the system that 'raised' her

Dot's Skipper wins the vote

By SETH DANIEL **News Editor**

Mary Skipper, Boston's incoming school superintendent via a 4-3 School Committee vote on June 29, has been making the commute from her home in Dorchester to Somerville as that city's superintendent for the last seven years, but a big part of her heart has always remained in Dorchester, with both TechBoston Academy, where she was the founding headmaster, and the rest of the Boston Public School (BPS) system.

Last Thursday, the day after the panel's vote, Skipper was out and about among residents at the Mayor's Coffee Hour event in Mattapan.



Incoming BPS Supt. Mary Skipper greeted residents at Mayor Wu's Coffee Hour last Thursday in Mattapan. Seth Daniel photo

In an interview with the *Reporter*, she talked about the neighborhood she has lived in for nearly 30 years.

"I love Dorchester," she said. "I think being back in Boston, which literally raised me as an educator and where I learned to be a teacher,

where I learned to be a principal, and where I learned to be a district leader, it just feels so natural to be back and work in the community in which I live.

"It's been an amazing seven years in Somerville, and it is the phys-(Continued on page 12)

Council okays \$4b budget after haggling around the bill's edges

By GINTAUTAS DUMCIUS Managing Editor

The Boston City Council last week approved a \$4 billion municipal budget after wrangling over whether to cut police and fire department accounts and send those funds over to youth workers and other council priorities.

Just before the July 1

start of the 2023 fiscal year, the councillors, newly empowered with the ability to override Mayor Michelle Wu's version of the budget, voted unanimously to cut more than \$1 million from fire department accounts, but fell short in an effort to cut millions more from the police

The members voted to move the money from the fire department into other accounts, like the Office of Black Male Advancement and another city agency focused on helping transition residents who are coming out of incarceration.

The override also included moving some of (Continued on page 11)

Cote Village: Housing replaces 35 years of blight

By SETH DANIEL News Editor

With the price of gasan emphasis on moving away from vehicles in Mattapan, it seems appropriate that the long-abandoned Cote

Ford dealership has been cutting for Cote Village, replaced by 76 units of which welcomed its first affordable community residents starting in housing with a train to February. They had downtown outside the back door.

That irony was not lost on most attendees at last week's official ribbon

staked a claim for their homes on a property that had come to symbolize the disinvestment and the flight of residents

urban communities some 35 years ago.

Numerous officials including development partners Caribbean Integration Development Corporation (CIDC) Director Donald Alexis and

from Mattapan to sub- Cardinal Sean O'Malley, were on hand on June 28 to officially open the doors to the Cote Village community on Cummins Highway and Regis Road in Mattapan. The development brings (Continued on page 15)



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Holiday weekend toll: 11 are injured by guns

At least 11 people were hurt in a series of shootings in Boston over the July Fourth weekend, including four men who were wounded in an incident on Bailey Street near Ashmont station that took place shortly after midnight on Monday. Three victims were taken to the hospital with non-life-threatening wounds. One of those three was later found to have been injured by shards of glass, not a bullet. A fourth man made it to a local hospital on his own, with non-life-threatening injuries.

A male victim was more seriously injured by a shooting that happened on Mattapan's Elizabeth Street around 2:19 a.m. on Monday. The victim remains in critical condition, according to Boston Police. The night before, a juvenile was taken to a local hospital after he was found wounded on Woodbole Avenue, near the Gallivan housing development around 10:45. His injury was not life-threatening, according to police.

Two teenagers were arrested at JFK-UMass station last Thursday night (June 30) after they allegedly smashed train windows before assaulting a man with a hammer. MBTA Transit Police were called to the station around 10:45 p.m. for a report of a group of teens on the Ashmont platform vandalizing a Red Line car. The officers encountered a 53-yearold man who told them the same group of teens had attacked him while he was waiting for someone in the station's pickup area next to Morrissey Boulevard.

Transit police arrested a 14-year-old male suspect and a 16-year-old female suspect at the scene. They say they plan to issue a summons to a 13-year-old suspect who allegedly spat on the victim.

"Officers will determine further charges for the malicious destruction of the train windows upon video review," the Transit Police said in a statement.

Boston Police arrested a 28-year-old Boston man on illegal gun charges during a traffic stop near Claybourne and Bowdoin streets on Sunday night. Police say they found a loaded 9mm handgun in the car and took Davonte Holloway into custody... Officers assigned to the BPD's Youth Violence Strike Force arrested 31-year-old Michael Goncalves of Randolph on June 29 after a traffic stop led to the discovery of loaded .45 caliber gun in the suspect's car. Police pulled him over in the area of Dorchester Avenue and Christopher Street in Fields Corner around 6:13 p.m.

A 13-year-old boy is due in Juvenile Court this week after he was arrested for carrying a loaded gun while driving a vehicle along Columbia Road on July Fourth. According to a police account of the incident, which happened around 11:30 p.m., the firearm was a .380 Ruger loaded with one round in the chamber and five rounds in the magazine.

Veteran firefighter named BFD's new commissioner

Boston has a new fire commissioner as Mayor Wu last Thursday appointed veteran firefighter Paul F. Burke, a father three who hails from Roslindale originally, to the job that he started the next day, July 1.

In a statement, Wu said: "Paul is a trusted leader in this department and has served in many roles leading our fire response. I'm proud to welcome this Roslindale native into leadership as a partner to build a healthy environment for our firefighters and a diverse. connected workforce serving our communities in moments of need."

Burke, who has been in the department for 32 years, most recently served as deputy chief of fleet and facilities. In the past, he led the Technical Rescue squad, which is tasked with "managing technical rescues and emergencies throughout vacancy is expected to

Boston."

Burke succeeds Jack Dempsey, who has retired after 35 years with

The fire commissioner position calls for a sworn firefighter to hold the post. A separate job, fire chief, can be held by a civilian, but since Mayor Thomas Menino's administration, the fire commissioner has effectively served as both.

Yet another major



Paul F. Burke

be filled in the coming weeks: Wu is reviewing finalists for the job of police commissioner. She told GBH's "Boston Public Radio" last Thursday that the end of the search is "quite close."

- REPORTER STAFF

Polish American Club sues ZBA over billboard rejection

By Reporter Staff

The Polish American Citizens Club on Boston Street and a Norwell billboard company last week sued the Zoning Board of Appeal over its rejection of their plan to site an electronic billboard aimed at motorists using the neighboring Southeast Expressway.

In their suit, filed in Suffolk Superior Court, the club and Media Partners MRV charge the board vote was arbitrary and capricious in general, but more specifically "legally untenable" because board Chairwoman Christine Araujo allowed a vote during a Zoom meeting rather than holding off until the company could get the board the detailed plans it says it submitted but that somehow got lost in the ether.

At least one board member, Mark Erlich, hesitated to vote without seeing the plans, and Araujo denied a request from board member Eric Robinson to continue the hearing until after the board could look at them.

The lawsuit says that had the hearing been held in person, as was done before the pandemic, a lawyer for the company could have simply handed the plans to the board for its review.

The proposal required variances in part because the Boston zoning code prohibits the erection of new billboards in general, and in part because new billboards next to highways are banned unless the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) approves them. In this case, the BPDA opposed the proposal.

At the hearing, the company argued it warranted variances because it had agreed to remove three billboards elsewhere in Dorchester - one at the intersection of Dorchester Avenue and Freeport Street and because the 14by-48 sign would be beamed at the roadway, with "light blocking technology" to keep it from shining on nearby

homes and businesses.

The club said that rental revenue from the pylon and sign would help keep the organization afloat. In the complaint, the club says the company would pay it a base rental of \$75,000 for the first year's lease, then increase that by 3 percent every year for the next 30 years - on top of which the company would also pay the club 30 percent of all revenue from ad sales above the base lease.

Zoning Board members pushed back on the removal side of the plan, saying it depended on the

company winning permission from the owners of two other billboards in the neighborhood. Member Joe Ruggiero moved to approve the new billboard on the condition that it not go up until after all three of the other signs had been

In their complaint, the club and the company asked that the court toss out the board rejection "as unlawful and issued in excess" of the board's authority, or to grant other unspecified relief to them.

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Boys & Girls Club News 17 Opinion/Editorial/Letters 8 Business Directory.....14 **Days Remaining Until** Indigenous Peoples' Day..... 95 Daylight Saving Time Ends.. 122 Election Day 124 Quadricentennial of Dot 3,302

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UPCOMING CIVIC MEETINGS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

A virtual public meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 12 from 6-7:30 p.m. to review a proposal to build a fivestory, 29-unit residential building with 29 garage parking spaces at 1169-1171 Adams St. in Dorchester on what is now Rent-All of Boston. The meeting will be hosted by the Boston Planning and Development Agency via Zoom.

The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) is hosting the "B Healthy Summer Fun Day," a free family event on Saturday, July 9 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Harambee Park, 930 Blue Hill Ave. in Dorchester. The event will include music, live entertainment, games, and food. Free COVID-19 vaccinations will be available for attendees 6 months and older, and parents will be welcome to ask questions and discuss vaccination with providers.

The Farmacy at Harbor Health, a new community farmer's market and health fair, is coming to the Neponset **neighborhood this summer.** The Farmacy will open 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. on Friday July 8, 15, 22, and 29, in the 10 Minot Street parking lot, located across the street from Daniel Driscoll -Neponset Health Center and next to the Harbor Health Food Pantry. The Farmacy is a partnership between Dick's Market Gardens, a family-owned farm in central

Massachusetts, and Harbor Health. Every week, the farm will offer locally grown fruits and vegetables picked fresh from the field at affordable prices. The farm will accept cash, credit, SNAP, HIP, and WIC and senior coupons. Harbor Health will also provide free blood pressure nutrition information, summer health and safety giveaways and more during the market. The Dorchester South/South Boston WIC program and The Dorchester Reporter are also sponsors of The Farmacy. For parking information and event updates, visit HHSI.US/Farmacy.

A Native American event sponsored by the Dorchester Historical Society and Columbia-Savin Hill Civic Association will take place on Sunday, July 31, at the top of Savin Hill Park (Caspian Way entrance), from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Thomas Green of the Neponset tribe will talk about the history and customs of the tribes who lived in this area, lead some interactive activities, and perform a final blessing ceremony. For more information, email savinhillevents@ gmail.com

The ParkARTS Citywide Neighborhood Concert Series kicks off on Monday, July 11, 7 p.m. at Dorchester's Hemenway Playground with a concert featuring Bon Jovi tribute Living on a Bad Name. The park is located at 540 Adams St. Other July shows include: Wed., July 13, at 6:30 p.m. with Swingin' in the Fens featuring Lydia Harrell at Ramler Park, 130 Peterborough St., Fenway (rain date July 20); Monday, July 18, with the Soul City Band at Medal of Honor Park, East Broadway and N St., South Boston; Tuesday, July 19, with The Dope Lotus at Smith Playground, 235 Western Ave., Allston-Brighton; Monday, July 25, with Conscious Reggae at Horatio Harris Park, 85 Harold St., Roxbury; and Wed., July 27, with Conscious Reggae at Fallon Field, 50 Firth Rd., Roslindale The August schedule begins Wed., August 3, with Angelena & the Unit at Hunt/Almont Park, 40 Almont St., Mattapan, and continues Sunday, August 7, at 5 p.m. with Jazz at the Fort featuring Jacques Schwarz-Bart at Highland Park, 58 Beech Glen St., Roxbury; and Monday, August 8, with Divas with a Twist at Blackstone Square, 1530 Washington St., South End. The series ends on Wed., August 10, with the Rebels Tom Petty tribute at Billings Field, 369 LaGrange St., West Roxbury.

The Fowler Clark Epstein Farm at 487 Norfolk St. in Mattapan will offer fresh, locally grown vegetables, herbs, and fruit at its Friday Farm Stand beginning on July 15, 1-4 p.m. The farm stand will be in operation each Friday afternoon through Nov. 18. Cash, credit, EBT/SNAP, HIP, WIC and Farmers Market Nutrition Program Coupons are accepted.

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department in partnership Boston Scores has announced that registration is now open for the 2022 Boston Neighborhood Soccer League High School Division. This five-week, 7 v 7 league offers high school age soccer players in grades 9 to 12 the opportunity to compete against each other and develop their skills. Teams will play two games a week. Pre-registration is required. Coaches can register their teams online at: boston.gov/sports. For more information about BNSL, contact Woodley Auguste at 617-61-3084 or woodley.auguste@boston.gov. The Parks Department also hosts Boston Neighborhood Soccer Clinics for younger players ages 7 to 14 at the Department's Summer Sports Centers from July 5 to August 19. Visit boston.gov/sports to register for this free summer drop-off sports and enrichment program.

SEND UPDATES TO **NEWSEDITOR@DOTNEWS.COM**

SEE NEW EVENTS DAILY AT DOTNEWS.COM

Little Saigon 'night market' set for Sat., July 16; a section of Dot Ave will be closed for 5 hours

By SETH DANIEL News Editor

The Boston Little Saigon cultural district is organizing its first-ever Cho Dem (Night Market), which will include closing off a section of Dorchester Avenue to vehicles for an evening of fun, music, and food along the street. The event will be held between Park Street and the Adams Street intersection on Sat., July 16 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. The avenue will be closed off starting at 2:30 p.m.

"It should be a good mix of everything because we're trying to highlight the community and bring everyone together in Fields Corner," said Annie Le, director of Boston Little Saigon.



"Night markets do happen in Boston already, but people maybe aren't comfortable going to City Hall for those events. Having the event down the street — really on the street — might make people more comfortable to come and check it out.

The Cho Dem will

restaurants, live music, a Vietnamese-style Bingo game, and even a crawfish eating contest – which might be a first-ever event for Dorchester. A beer garden is also planned at the Blarney Stone.

feature food from local

The Night Market

will have vendors on the street, as well as businesses located in the area serving from their kitchen.

Le said Bait 2 Plate will be serving directly from their kitchen, and My Sister's Crawfish hopes to be cooking outside to some extent.

"We want to make it as easy for the business owners as possible," said Le. "All of our business owners have been going through challenges upon challenges for the last three years. We want to bring people and the community to them."

Le said they have

had events in the past at Town Field, about a block away, but that has been difficult for business owners in Fields Corner to attend due to having to staff two locations.

Fields Corner earned the 'Little Saigon' designation in May 2021, following a lengthy application process before the Mass Cultural Council, the agency which has managed the statewide program since its inception in 2011.

There are presently 51 such districts across the state, three of them in Boston, including the Latin Quarter in Jamaica Plain. Each designation offers special access to grants and state-sponsored aid. Boston Little Saigon also secured a substantial \$75,000 "Our Town" grant from the National Endowment for the Arts last year.

Mark the date: Sat., July 16 Shuttle buses to run between JFK/UMass, Mattapan stations

Citing upgrades to Ashmont Station and the Mattapan trolley line, the MBTA has announced that passengers will be boarding shuttle buses instead of trains and trolleys between JFK/UMass station in Columbia Point and the terminus in Mattapan Square on Sat., July 16.

The buses are scheduled to run inbound and outbound, from the start of service that day to 6 p.m., when train and trolleys will resume carrying passengers.

While the main work involves replacing a train "signal house" at Ashmont, the Mattapan Line's upgrade team plans to use the service interruption to use radar along the corridor to help plan for improvements to the trolley line.

Upgrades include replacement and modernization of the line's power infrastructure, strengthening bridges, and fixing drainage issues throughout the corridor, and new at-grade crossings. The MBTA has estimated the transformation will cost \$114.5 million, separate from the refurbishment of the trolleys themselves costing \$12.2 million.

The MBTA plans to spend the next decade working on rehabbing the Mattapan Line, which serves 6,600 riders daily on trolleys that date back to the 1940s and run for 2.6 miles from Ashmont to Mattapan Square.

"We know any diversion in regular train service can be a frustration, and we thank our Ashmont and Mattapan Line riders for their patience as we accomplish this important work," Steve Poftak, the MB-TA's general manager, said in a statement.

"When this work is complete," he added, "it will ultimately translate into a better, more reliable commute for our Ashmont and Mattapan riders."

. — REPORTER STAFF



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After six seasons, Dorchester Baseball 'keeps the kids smiling'



The Mariners were the champs in the Major League Division of Dorchester Baseball this year. Kids ages 9-12 compete in the Majors. Top row from left: Coach Rob Sweeney, Coach Izzy Marrero, Coach Danny Gottschalk, and Coach Dave Mitchell. Middle: Ryan Marchant, Jadiel Rodriguez, Cullen Ahern, Colin Yandle, Liam Yandle, and Brendan Pugsley. Bottom: Sam Hagenbuch, Brady O'Connor, Alejandro Marrero, Jack Heneghan, Emrys Gottschalk, and Anderson Sweeney.

for all the right reasons," said Maneikis. "Parents can sense that and hats off to the coaches. But it's also a philosophy of the

league."
Co-President Mike Manning said baseball is alive and well in Dorchester, contrary to national trends. Like other youth sports in the neighborhood, programs like Dorchester Baseball are growing and have plenty of room to continue growing.

"We had our highest enrollment numbers this year since the merger," he said. "If the kids are having fun, and their

(Continued from page 1) skills are getting developed, then we are doing our jobs."

At the Babe Ruth level (ages 13-16), President Chuck Pessia said he and organizer Kevin Medeiros fielded an incredible season, bolstered by the ability to use the new Garvey Park field, and to host doubleheaders on Friday nights.

"I don't think the season really could have gone any better for us," Pessia said. "It wasn't perfection, but any snafus weren't something we weren't ready for. The kids came with smiles on their faces and left with smiles on their faces."

Dorchester Baseball starts at the Farm League for age 4, and then moves up to a T-Ball league for ages 5-6. There are more than 160 kids participating in those two age groups, and part of the appeal is keeping it fun and action oriented.

In the A Division (Age 7), there is also a modification in not introducing the hard ball but still using aluminum bats. Maneikis said they have learned a lesson about kids getting hit. "We learned that if a kid gets hit with a hard ball too early, we typically lose them. So, we don't



The oldest division in Dorchester Baseball - the Babe Ruth League - held Friday night double-headers routinely at Garvey Park this season. The championship team was the Oregon State Beavers team, made up of boys ages 13-16. The team includes Coaches Shaun, Peter and David O'Sullivan, and players Janiar Castillo, Brendan Clougher, Shane Coleman, Nasir Govan, James Gracia, Jordan Jenkins, Dylan Kelly, Jack Kelly, Nolan O'Sullivan, Patrick O'Hagan, Quinn Taylor, and Khio Ortiz. Photos courtesy Dorchester Baseball

introduce the hard ball until later."

In all, the board and the league have settled on some innovations to keep kids interested and parents patient. Games can't drag on too long, or player numbers will drop. So, Dorchester Baseball doesn't introduce full player pitching until the AAA Division. The A Division has coaches pitching, and the AA Division has mostly coaches pitching and a few innings of player pitching.

With more sports options now competing with baseball, leaders of Dorchester Baseball said smart moves to keep the game interesting and the kids learning have paid off.

"We're aware of all the options kids have and the reputation of baseball being too slow and not as much fun as other sports," Maneikis he said. "At the board level, we have focused on the speed of the game and the need to keep it fun... It's not about developing pitchers or all-stars...We want to keep them playing first and foremost.'

This was also the first year that Dorchester opening of McConnell Baseball – which played Park," he said. "Un-

during the pandemic years of 2020 and 2021 didn't have to take extreme precautions for Covid-19. Maneikis said they spent at least \$20,000 on safety precautions to keep the league functioning, and this year it was great to be able to see the masks and sanitizing stations gone, and not having to wipe off the bats after every use. He said they have kept going through the generosity of supporters and business such as Amazon, City of Boston Credit Union, and Wahlburgers, among others.

"I can tell you the community support through donations has been right there," he said.

This year, for its last game, the Challenger League – which fielded record numbers at 75 players – was the first to use the newly-renovated McConnell Park. Manning, who is the Savin Hill representative from the league mergers, said he looks forward to being able to use the new Little League field at McConnell next year and bring back some traditions.

"We are excited about the renovation and refortunately, our team champions the last two years haven't had the benefit of jumping in the water after their win, but we're looking forward to bringing that awesome tradition back again next

Maneikis sees growth and expansion in other parts of Dorchester. He said their traditional catchment areas of zip codes 02124, 02125, and 02122 have been expanding in their own right, but they are also seeing new players from the 02121 zip code – which is basically along Columbia Road from Uphams Corner to Blue Hill Avenue and beyond. He said there is hope about having Little League games on dormant fields in other parts of Dorchester.

"I'd love to see a real Little League baseball game on Talbot Avenue and other places that aren't used as much," said Maneikis. "But that's not possible for us right now as we just don't have the critical mass for that yet. But we'll see what the future holds.

More information on Dorchester Baseball can be found at www. dorchesterlittleleague.

Spala Virtual Public Meeting

120 Bowdoin Street

Thursday, July 21 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/3bSGnsn Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864 Meeting ID: 160 263 5840

Project Description:

The BPDA is hosting a Public Meeting for the 120 Bowdoin Street project located in Dorchester. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the updates made to the project since the filing of the SPRA and previous Public Meeting. The meeting will include a presentation followed by Q&A and comments from the public.

The information at this meeting is crucial to you as a City of Boston resident. Interpreting services are available to communicate the content of these documents at no cost. If you require translation services, please contact: quinn.w.valcich@boston.gov. The meeting is scheduled for 7/21/2022. Please request interpreting services no later than 5 days before.

The proposed project consists of a 6-story building with 40 residential units, 9 parking spaces, and 42 bike storage spaces. At this time, the BPDA is continuing to host public meetings in a virtual setting for the health, safety, and accessibility of Boston residents. For more information and updates, visit bostonplans.org.

mail to: Quinn Valcich

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Martin Richard Challenger League inaugurates the McConnell Park

With record numbers of players this year in the Martin Richard Challenger League, it was only fitting that the ground-breaking league for youth of all abilities was the first to play a game on the McConnell Park diamond in the southwest corner of the new park. Other teams from Dorchester Baseball will be able to use the new field next year.

"We are so proud of the growth and accomplishments of our amazing Teen and Youth Division players," said Brendan McDonough, commissioner of Challenger League and a Martin Richard Foundation board member. "The support of Dorchester Baseball, our incredible Babe Ruth League Buddies and coaches, our greater community of Buddies,



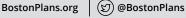
The Martin Richard Challenger League baseball division had an incredible season this spring. Photo courtesy of Nora Baston

and The Martin Richard Foundation continues to make a difference in our community."

Youth ages 5+ with developmental and physical disabilities come together to enjoy the full benefits of baseball participation in a safe athletic environment structured to their abilities. The program is part of Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester's Inclusive

Services and was created in partnership with the Richard Foundation.

An essential component of the program is that each player is paired with a Buddy who acts as a helper to the player on the field, but more importantly develops a meaningful bond with a player that can help them feel more connected to the community.





At Strand this month: the politics of Black hair, community activism

By Michaela Brant SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Company One Theatre will bring a new play about the politics of Black hair and the power of community activism to the Strand Theatre's stage this month. Titled "can i touch it?", the play will run from July 23 through August 13.

Its playwright, Francisca Da Silveira, a Cape Verdean American, is based in Boston and calls both Dorchester and Roxbury home.

"I grew up walking by the Strand every single day, most likely either running after the No. 17 or the No. 15 bus," she said. Now, she is seeing her dream of having a play at the Strand come true.

The drama follows Shay Solomon, the owner of a beauty supply store and a neighborhood activist, in her very real fight to preserve both her

business and her community as gentrification creeps into Dorchester and Roxbury.

Company One, a Boston-based company, has spent the years since its founding in 1998 using marginalized and alternative narratives to become a company that focuses on both artistic production and social justice.

When Summer L. Williams, the director of "can i touch it?" and a co-founder of Company One, and the other co-founders discussed starting a theatre company while at Clark University in Worcester, she had "zero idea" of what that would take. But that was what the company needed in order to break the model of traditional theatre and incorporate ideas like Company One's "newest iteration," Theatre as premiere, Company One Public Art, she said.

"Theatre ought to be and ought to feel like a public good," Williams said. With this in mind, Company One instituted a pay-what-you-want model for their tickets, with a \$0 minimum.

Theatre has historically operated upon "adhering to a capitalist structure" regarding profits and value, Williams said. "There's a real power in saying, 'No, this is here for you, she said. "It is for our community. You get to partake and then you get to decide how you want to throw your weight behind this."

Community engagement, a key part of "can i touch it?", continues offstage, too. Company One is sponsoring several events throughout Boston before and during the play's run.

Leading up to the and Wee the People, a

Francisca Da Silveira, left, who wrote the play 'can I touch it?' is shown with director Summer L. Williams. Christian Ruiz photo

social justice project for children, hosted a free story time and workshop at the Boston Public Library's Roxbury branch last Thursday. June 30.

This sort of Branch Out event, as the company calls it, is a way to bring the ideas the play works through to the attention them having seen the p.m. to bring Boston

play yet.

On July 29 at 10 a.m., student groups primarily in grades 9 through 12 will be invited to attend a student matinee. On Fri., Aug. 5, the Strand and Company One will host a Teen Night Out, consisting of a performance of the play and of the audience without a pre-show event at 6 teens together to discuss what the play is about and connect over ideas of justice and activism.

"It is a conversation that they will need to be having in a few short years," Williams said.

To purchase or reserve tickets, and to find out more about the community-wide events, visit companyone.org.

Free summer concerts return to Elma Lewis Playhouse in the Park

Coalition, the summer concert series at Elma Lewis Playhouse in the Park will take place every Tuesday beginning July 12 and running through Aug. 16.

The first show will feature Richie Rich & 24-Karat Funk, and throughout the summer, musical guests including The MastaDonis Project, Donna Nixon, Roots Alley Collective and Dion

Presented by the Franklin Park Knibb, E-Water Band, and Angelena Hightower and the Unit will grace the Playhouse stage..

> Each concert is free of charge and attendees are welcome to bring family and friends, lawn chairs, and a picnic supper. Food trucks will also be parked at the evening shows. On Tuesdays at 11 a.m., special shows will be offered for summer camps, childcare programs,

with Monet.

Franklin Park is accessible to walk or bike to, or by any bus that stops along Seaver Street, including Bus #16.

Elma Lewis was a musician, arts educator, and one of Boston's most iconic cultural figures of the 20th century. The daughter of Barbadian immigrants, she founded the Elma Lewis School of Fine

and families with OrigiNation or Music Arts (ELSFA) in Roxbury in 1950 and the National Center for Afro-American Artists (NCAAA) in 1968 to provide a space for arts education and performance for the Black communities of Boston and beyond.

> In the 1960s, Lewis led a large-scale cleanup of Franklin Park and founded Playhouse in the Park.

– MICHAELA BRANT



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MassQ Ball to unite arts, culture, and nature at Arnold Arboretum

BY MICHAELA BRANT SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

The Arnold Arboretum's 24-acre Conifer Collection will be transformed this Saturday into an art gallery, performance venue, and gathering space through this year's "MassQ Ball: Origin." The event will bring together Boston's diverse artistic community to create an experience highlighting the natural beauty of the sprawling public park, which is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year.

MassQ Ball 2022 is produced by the artist Daniel Callahan; the violist Ashleigh Gordon, the leader of Castle of Our Skins, the Black classical music group that is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year; and Create & Record, Callahan's multimedia production and design company.

The concept of a MassQ (pronounced "mask") Ball is a nod to the tradition of body decoration that is part of indigenous cultures across the globe. During

MassQ Ball 2022 is Saturday's event, atroduced by the artist tendees will be able to aniel Callahan; the folist Ashleigh Gordon, painting of the face.

Beginning in late March, organizers set up a series of six context-building lectures, panels, and interactive workshops that ran through the end of June. Among the topics explored were identity and artistic expression, the influence of origin stories and ancestries, African mythologies and folkloric cultures, and storytelling. Workshops on ceremonial vessels

and MassQing were also offered through this series.

The celebration will begin at 2 p.m. and run until 7 p.m. The wide range of artistic offerings at the Arboretum include spoken word poetry, Brazilian Capoeira, indigenous dance, hip-hop dance, African dance, Japanese taiko drumming, Black classical music, Boston Korean traditional dance, installation art, fashion design, and Mexican folk music.

Iris DuPont, a Dorchester-based artist who will be painting MassQs on attendees' faces, sees the cross-cultural series of performances as an important learning opportunity.

"Knowledge comes in an interesting way," she said. "Education comes about in an interesting way. And this is a fabulous way for people to open up to who they are, and to other cultures and other formats of artistry."

artistry."

Lucilda Dassardo-Cooper, who grew up in Jamaica and now lives in Dorchester, first heard about "MassQs" when Callahan gave a lecture at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. She painted MassQs at the previous ball and will be doing the same

An attendee at the MassQ Ball in 2017 gets "massqued."

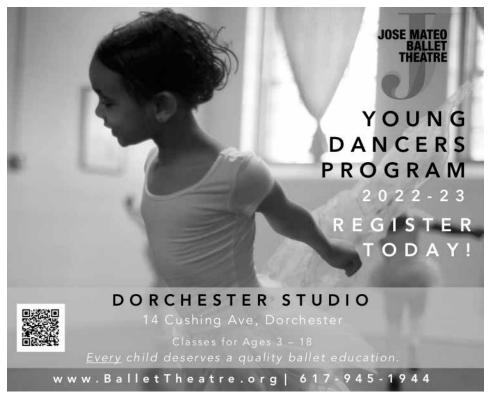
Manika Bach Schroeder photo

this time around.

"There's always sort of a transcendental quality when you're in an atmosphere like that," she said of the event. "It really lifts your spirit and makes you feel wonderful long after the experience is over."

She is particularly looking forward to being in "the presence of people, you know, with the intention of creating community and unity and their performances," she said. "I get goosebumps just thinking about it."

The rain date for the MassQ Ball is July 16. For more information and to reserve free tickets, visit massqball.com.





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Reporter's People in and around our Neighborhoods

Neighbors celebrate new-and-improved Walker Playground

Hundreds gathered at Walker Playground, also called Norfolk Park, in Mattapan on Thursday, June 30, to celebrate the official opening of the complete renovation of the park and the basketball courts. The renovations have been in the works and on the drawing board since 2018, but the official end of construction was celebrated Thursday during Mayor Michelle Wu's Mattapan Coffee Hour. The Park renovations included a renovated play area, a splash pad, new shade shelter, a walking loop, and renovations to the playing field.

The ribbon cutting was bolstered by a lively Coffee Hour hosted by Mayor Michelle Wu, with a special cameo by incoming Supt. Mary Skipper – who had just been offered the school department's top job the night before. The event was the conclusion of the Mayor's Coffee Hour series for this summer.

Seth Daniel photos



Scarlett Rogers puts the signature orange on a community mural depiction of the Mattapan High Speed



Kay Savage of Mattapan Food & Fitness, with Chavella Lee and Nature and Nova-Hru Lee-Stringer.



Azan Reid and Shanakawa Pereira, with Sheree Holmes and State Rep. Russell Holmes at the Coffee



Mayor Michelle Wu welcomes Mattapan neighbors to the new park, alongside Chief Mariama White-Hammond, State Rep. Russell Holmes, and Councillor Michael Flaherty.



Hadassah Joy Verly was ready to climb into summer on the new play structures at Walker Playground in Mattapan.



Barbara Crichlow, of the West Selden Street Neighborhood Association, City Chief of Engagement Briana Millor, and Joslyn Headley.

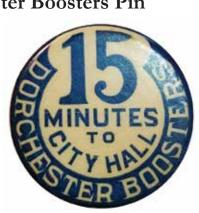


YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE

DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY The Dorchester Boosters Pin

The Dorchester Boosters promoted Dorchester's proximity to City Hall. Does anyone know more about the Dorchester Boosters?

 $The \ archive \ of \ the se \ historical$ posts can be viewed on the blog at dorchesterhistorical society. org.



Mark and Lucy McGonagle, 8, of Dorchester enjoy a sunny summer morning in South **Boston during Mayor** Michelle Wu's Neighborhood Coffee Hour at Medal of Honor Park on June 29. The citywide series was hosted by the Boston Parks and Recreation Department in partnership with Dunkin' and Star Market with additional support provided by City Express. Jon Seamans photo

Editorial

A poor response to white hate threat

The presence of white supremacist agitators within Boston city limits is hardly a new phenomenon. But Saturday's march by a group of roughly 100 flag and shield wielding Hitler youth wannabees seemed to catch local authorities unaware and off guard. And that's something that should alarm all city residents, particularly since these thugs moved through downtown during a busy holiday weekend when Boston was celebrating our central role in the nation's war of independence.

Our city has been a target before for extremists on all sides of the political spectrum. Still, it's very disappointing to know that law enforcement was either unable or unwilling to track the movements of these raiders, particularly after they assaulted a man in Copley Square. The fact that no member of this well-known hate group has yet been held to account for their actions is appalling.

On Tuesday, Mayor Michelle Wu and US Attorney Rachael Rollins convened a meeting with law enforcement officials to discuss - as Wu put it-"the public safety threat that this represents." In a press conference that followed their huddle, there were very few details offered about the alleged investigation into the Patriot Front's incursion. The resulting takeaway: No one in government or law enforcement seems to have known about this group's mobilization, march, or getaway from Boston via the MBTA. Despite the fact that Boston has been targeted on two previous occasions this year—once in January and again at the St. Patrick's Day Parade in South Boston - by organized white hate groups, it was left to ordinary Bostonians and tourists to document and, hopefully, identify the individuals

Boston Police, we were told by the city's top cop, Greg Long, did not witness the assault of a Black passerby near Copley. Despite the presence of State Police officers, who intervened to protect the Nazi sympathizers from a smaller group of anti-fascists at the T stop in Malden, there were no arrests and, apparently, there have been no summonses issued to date. Here's the message that sends: Hate groups can sweep into our city, disrupt the peace, intimidate our citizens with weapons, and assault one of our residents. Then they can catch the Orange Line to decamp for their homes far or near without repercussion. This is shameful.

On Tuesday, Rollins urged the public to "err on the side of reaching out to local public safety officials" if we see a repeat performance underway. She said that she and Wu and others would "be thinking strategically about how we'll combat this." And both she and Wu were emphatic about their hope to prosecute those responsible for the violence that did occur.

For our part, we hope that their urgency is backed up by real action. As we know all too well here in Dorchester, Boston has been the target of radical extremists in the past. We need to step up our efforts to monitor and police hate-baiters who seek to victimize our town again.

There are those who argue that Boston is too busy with our own homegrown acts of violence— such as the flurry of shootings that happened in Dorchester over the holiday weekend— to worry too much about the neo-Nazi threat. That's nonsense. We can and must be able protect our citizens from acts of terror across the board.

Given the national tone, it's essential that the threat of white-supremacist extremists be confronted more urgently here in the Commonwealth and in the City of Boston.

-Bill Forry

The Reporter

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Is 31 Savin Hill Ave. 'historically significant'? Yes, but not in a way that people might think

By BILL WALCZAK REPORTER COLUMNIST

I recently received a notification from City Hall on an Article 85 Demolition Delay Application filed for the takedown of the house at 31 Savin Hill Avenue. Demolitions are subject to a delay to determine if a building is "historically significant." If so, there will be a hearing to determine if the building deserves landmark status, which can make it more difficult to demolish.

The house at 31 Savin Hill Avenue, a 1,700-square-foot single family colonial built in 1900, is not historically significant by conventional criteria. But that doesn't mean it doesn't have "history." In the 1980s it was part of the "37 Club," an after-hours establishment club located in a back room behind Venice Pizza at 37 Savin Hill Avenue with a license that allowed it to operate 24 hours a day during the week. As the license did not extend to the weekends, the club moved into the house at 31 Savin Hill Avenue on weekends.

The 37 Club was originally for firefighters, but in the mid-1980s, it was taken over by Charles Matta, who turned the club into a neighborhood nightmare, with cocaine dealing, prostitution, and gambling all night long. The neighbors around that location organized a crime watch, and at nearly every meeting of the Columbia-Savin Hill Civic Association there were reports from the crime watch group and from the police on actions by the police department, including many arrests of Mr. Matta. But he would be back in operation the next day.

For four years, the Treadway Road Crime Watch Group and the Civic Association worked with the Boston Police to no avail, with the result that many residents just gave up and moved. The area around the club had become de-stabilized, a crime zone. Some people living in the neighborhood couldn't find buyers for their houses so that they could get out. The police seemed mystified, and there was open discussion as to whether Matta had a "sponsor" who was looking out for him.

Then, in August 1988, a police raid found both gambling implements and cocaine, which resulted in an indictment and a trial at which Matta's defense centered around the fact that he had been an informer for both the Drug Enforcement Agency and the FBI. These federal agencies were paying Matta to provide information about other criminals. Even more disturbing was the testimony of FBI Special Agent Roderick Kennedy, who acknowledged that he was Matta's "handler" for nine years, and that he had never visited the club or knew what went on there.

He also admitted that he had never spoken with the Boston Police unit that was working with the community about the Matta situation, nor had he had any knowledge of Matta's arrests, saying "I didn't have any ... reason to check" despite Matta's January 1988 cocaine conviction. The FBI even wrote a letter of support to the judge detailing Matta's work as an informant. (Much of this information comes from a *Boston Globe* article, "Neighborhood pays high price for presence of FBI informant" by Kevin Cullen, May 13, 1990.)

The neighborhood was aghast. The notion that the FBI would sacrifice a neighborhood in pursuit of information was a shock to most; the Boston Globe's



The house at 31 Savin Hill Avenue.

disclosure that Whitey Bulger was an FBI informant was nine years in the future. The FBI refused to even discuss its actions with the neighborhood, and so the Civic Association called a press conference and demanded an apology and restitution in the form of a neighborhood stabilization fund of \$300,000 that would pay for walking police patrols of this now-crime-infested area.

The press event, held on May 15, 1990, included Joe Chaisson, representing the Civic Association, Michael McGinn, who was chair of the Treadway Road Crime Watch, even though he had recently moved, and myself. It attracted the attention of the Globe, the Dorchester Argus-Citizen, and even the New York Times.

For its part, the FBI completely ignored the request. A month later, the Civic Association wrote to US Senator John Kerry with a summary request, which stated:

"The FBI has not responded to our letters or phone calls, even after the press conference. We are therefore asking you to intervene on our behalf. We are very concerned about the implications of FBI-sponsored drug houses, and wonder what other drug houses in our community are supported by the FBI. We wonder if the FBI has criteria for when they sponsor illegal clubs which de-stabilize communities. We are enraged that the FBI saw it fit to write a letter on Mr. Matta's behalf but is unwilling to write a letter of apology to us. What is the responsibility of the FBI to communities, and what is their responsibility after they have de-stabilized it?"

The questions were met with silence. Perhaps if they had been followed up on, the FBI's sponsorship of Whitey Bulger's criminal activities would have come to light much sooner than it did.

At least we tried.

Baker, Healy: 'Good reason to carry' no longer a means to deny gun license

By Colin A. Young State House News Service

The attorney general's office and the Baker administration's public safety arm have spelled out for licensing authorities and law enforcement agencies how the US Supreme Court's recent ruling stricking down New York's concealed-carry gun licensing law applies in Massachusetts.

The New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen case revolved around New York's requirement that applicants demonstrate "proper cause" to obtain a permit to carry a concealed weapon, which the high court said was unconstitutional. Massachusetts was not part of the case, but the Supreme Court singled out a "good reason" provision of a Massachusetts gun law as an analogue to the unconstitutional New York requirement.

The guidance from Attorney General Maura Healey and Public Safety and Security Secretary Terrence Reidy highlights that "it remains unlawful to carry a firearm in Massachusetts without a license" and that two criteria for a license to carry a firearm other than the now-defunct "good reason" provision remain in full effect.

"Authorities should no longer deny, or impose restrictions on, a license to carry because the applicant

lacks a sufficiently good reason to carry a firearm. An applicant who is neither a 'prohibited person' or 'unsuitable' must be issued an unrestricted license to carry," the offices wrote in an executive summary of the guidance. "Licensing authorities may continue to inquire about the reasons why the applicant wants a license, but may only use that information to assess the prohibited person and suitability requirements of the statute. They may not use that information to deny or restrict a license for lack of a sufficiently good reason to carry a firearm."

The guidance said that the Supreme Court's ruling had no effect on the process Massachusetts uses for the issuance of firearms identification cards (FIDs), only on the "good reason" provision related to the award of licenses to carry.

An FID is required "to purchase, possess, or transport a rifle or shotgun that is not a large-capacity gun; or to purchase or possess ammunition or component parts of ammunition," according to the Gun Owners Action League. A license to carry, the organization said, is required "in order to purchase, possess or transport a handgun, large capacity rifle, or large-capacity shotgun." There are two classes of licenses to carry, one of which is required to carry a firearm in a concealed manner.

July 7, 2022 THE REPORTER Page 9 dotnews.com

Looking up Longfellow Street

'Pirate gardeners' ... 'Graffiti killer' — Selfless, quiet heroes live among us

By Edward M. Cook SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Q. What do you get when you put together a boy from a French dairy farm and a girl from the Midwest?

A. Vivian and Elisa Girard.

I first ran into Vivian as he was coming out of the Viet Aid building after voting in 2008. I was handing out campaign literature and, typical of him, he wanted to know who I was and why I was doing it. We exchanged contact information and I began a campaign to involve him in the Ward 15 Democratic Party Committee (an unsuccessful campaign to date, but I haven't given up hope).

Shortly afterward, my husband and I accepted a dinner invitation and we met Elisa, a baker extraordinaire. Getting to know this couple has kept me gobsmacked for years.

At that first dinner I learned that Vivian and a partner had purchased the six-apartment building in which we were dining - on the corner of Ditson and Leroy streets, about two blocks from Viet Aid. They each renovated three apartments and sold them as condos, which not only provided work and income but also took the building off the BPD's "property of concern" listing.

At the same time, Vivian and Elisa had taken supervision over all the vacant lots in their neighborhood, removing trash and planting flowers and earning my admiration and designation as "pirate gardeners." They got me involved in planting flowers at the Charles Street entrance to the Fields Corner T station and at the former Cleveland Middle School. Their infectious gardening drew in folks on neighboring streets and community gardens started popping up. Then came the beehives over their backyard garage that provided pollinators to the neighborhood.

Have you ever eaten in the Home.Stead Café at the corner of Adams Street and Dot Ave? Partnering with a friend, our dynamic duo took over this vacant store. Vivian renovated the space into a café, and Elisa produced the mouthwatering pastries, sandwiches, salads ,and drinks on the menu.

Soon there were weekly poetry slams and live music performances in the evenings. When the Covid lockdown hit and closed the café, Elisa sold loaves of bread to help support the employees.

As rental prices skyrocketed, Vivian designed a mini- apartment and proposed an apartment building constructed to accommodate these affordable apartments. They bought a lot at the corner of Westville Street and Geneva Ave. and Vivian built a model apartment to demonstrate the concept.



Elisa and Vivian Girard in January at the new housing concept they're building piece by piece at 141

They received funding and city approval and began to build a 14-apartment building on the site. The concept was to offer affordable apartments (\$650/ mo.) a couple of blocks from public transportation at Fields Corner, with a basement room for bicycle storage and repair. No cars needed. Genius.

Vivian and Elisa have been doing the physical construction all winter to ensure that the rental costs will remain in the affordable range. I suggested that Vivian patent his mini-apartment model, but he declined with the hope that others would use

It's true that I have not yet succeeded in recruiting Vivian to the Ward 15 Dems Committee, but that does not mean that he is averse to civic organizations. When the chair of the Fields Corner Civic Association became vacant, Vivian stepped in to take over until a new chair could be found. He was ready to help when no one else was available.

He is a frequenter of the Greater Bowdoin/Geneva

Neighborhood Association meetings, is known to the C-11 community officers, and he and Elisa are the soul of neighborhood bicycling.

I just read an email from Vivian announcing his campaign to cover local graffiti with grey paint ("50 covered in 3 hours"). The neighborhood's "graffiti killer" is determined to keep that up into the fall.

Baking bread for the unemployed, leading bike tours, planting flowers, building gardens, hosting July 4 picnics in Ronan Park, building affordable housing, covering graffiti, crime-watching, keeping bees. Vivian and Elisa are local, unsung heroes who see a need, pick up their tools and go to work, without a fuss, without being asked, just because it needs to be done and no one else was doing it.

When I pitched this column to the *Reporter* it was selfless, quiet heroes like Vivian and Elisa Girard that I had in mind. Like most of Dorchester, the neighborhood around Longfellow Street is full of neighbors accomplishing great things.

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of DORCHESTER, MA
RESPONDENT
(Person to be Protected/Minor)
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 Irma Ortiz is in need of

matter alleging that Irma Ortiz is in need o matter alleging that Irma Ortiz Is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that Brian Mclaughlin, Esquire (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve Without Surety on the bond.

The petition asks the Court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the propose conservator is appropriate. The petition is or file with this court

tile with this court.

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 08/03/2022. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which a nearing date, but a deadline date by windy 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 facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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

Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate

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Columbia Point fieldhouse is focus as councillors clash over outlays from funding sources

THE REPORTER

By Gintautas Dumcius Managing Editor

A youth-focused facility going up in Columbia Point got caught in a City Hall crossfire this week. The construction of the Dorchester Fieldhouse at 315 Mount Vernon St. is a joint development of two local nonprofits, the Martin Richard Foundation and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester, that received sign-off from city planning officials earlier this year. The project includes indoor playing fields, classrooms, a teaching kitchen, a public cafe, an outdoor roof garden and seating, as well as parking for 45 vehicles.

The \$55 million development has drawn support from a range of city officials, but at Wednesday's City Council meeting, it became a political football as Dorchester Councillor Frank Baker, a critic of Mayor Michelle Wu, lit into her position that nonprofit projects should not be included in a \$350 million federal pandemic recovery package.

Earlier in June, Wu, who had already signaled support for the fieldhouse through local Community Preservation Act funds set aside for the project earlier this year, had a positive meeting with Bill Richard and Denise Richard, the Martin Richard Foundation's leaders.

But at Wednesday's session, Baker sought to add \$5 million for the fieldhouse from the city budget from federal package by moving that amount out of a housing account.

Councillor Kenzie Bok, chair of the council's Covid-19 recovery committee, which is shepherding the recovery funds package, said that while she supports the fieldhouse, she noted that the Wu administration views Baker's amendment as "effectively a poison pill." According to Bok, the $pandemic\,package\,\dot{w}ould$ be vetoed due to Wu's previously stated position on funding nonprofit infrastructure through the \$350 million package of federal money, according to Bok.

"I don't understand 'poison pill' here," Baker responded, adding, "I've been disrespected here through this thing." Turning back to his

\$5 million amendment, Baker continued, "I don't see us doing enough for ourkids, for our teens, for people to get healthy after this pandemic. This is going to do that. There's three housing developments right around it."

Addressing Wu, who was not in the council chamber, Baker said loudly, "What are you waiting for, Mayor Wu? What are you waiting for? Veto it. I want to go putitover there and have her veto it. That's what I want. Veto the \$350 (million) because you're too stuck up."

Baker's plan would take the \$5 million from a pot designated for temporary housing related to the unsheltered population near the area known as "Mass and Cass," or Massachusetts Avenue and Melnea Cass Boulevard. The temporary low-threshold housing is "something the community doesn't want," Baker said.

Councillor Kendra Lara, who represents West Roxbury and Jamaica Plain, pushed back. "We're in the middle of a housing crisis," she said. "We need all of this money. Low-thresh-



The Dorchester Fieldhouse as seen in a rendering prepared by Rode Architects.

old housing is a proven, evidenced-based practice."

In an effort to lower the temperature in the chamber, Councillor At-Large Michael Flaherty acknowledged the "tension" over the Baker amendment, and, noting that the council meets again on July 13, said it could revisit the issue then.

But Baker insisted on a vote, and the amendment passed 8 to 5. The "yes" camp, aside from Baker and Flaherty, included Ricardo Arroyo, Tania Fernandes Anderson, Julia Mejia, Erin Murphy, and Brian Worrell. The "no" group included Bok and Lara, Liz Breadon, Gabriela Coletta, and Ruthzee Louijeune.

With the amendment added, the package was returned to Bok's committee, where it awaits additional Council action. There are legal questions as to whether the pandemic package could be vetoed, or one item, such as the \$5 million for the Field House, could be removed by the mayor.

Asked to respond to Baker's push for his amendment and his remarks on the Council floor, Wu said in a statement Wednesday evening, "Our once-in-a-generation federal recovery funds should be used for public infrastructure with lasting impact rather than to supplement nonprofit capital campaigns that can access private fundraising. As we work to deliver for our young people, let's also set an example for them of courageous and kind leadership."

On Friday, Bill Rich-

ard and Bob Scannell, president and CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester, issued their own statement, noting that the project benefits people across the city and they want to work with the mayor and city council on the project and adding:

"With a focus on the newly established K-12 Dever / McCormack campus on Harbor Point, this facility will be built with an eye toward the next generation of youth and families. If anything is to be accomplished, we must work collaboratively and respectfully to advance this project and the important work of our city," they said.
"We look forward to continuing to work with the mayor, city council, and the greater community to move this project forward."

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Council okays \$4b budget after haggling around the bill's edges

(Continued from page 1) the money into a pilot for housing stipends for young people ages 19 to 24 and to increasing the Parks and Recreation Department's capacity for tree maintenance.

During the debate, Councillor Ruthzee Louijeune said the override was an example of the City Council "leaning into its power" that was given to them by voters after a 2021 ballot question changed the city charter. The 13-member body previously could only accept, reject, or reduce the budget as proposed by the mayor, setting off annual behind-the-scenes scrambles as councillors and the mayor worked out rewrites to the bill.

The new system allows the City Council to amend line items, without going over budget, and requires the mayor to approve or return an amended version. The council can override the mayor's amendments by a two-thirds (nine members) vote.

Last Wednesday's meeting was punctuated by recesses, as councillors grappled with their first turn through the new system.

Dorchester's Erin Murphy and Frank Baker questioned the push to pull money from the fire department. "We're raiding the fire department for other things," Baker said. "What happens if we take it out and they do need it?"

Councillor Tania Fernandes Anderson, the first-time chair of the budget-writing Ways and Means Committee, said fire department officials themselves told councillors the money is unspent. The choice, she said, is between fire equipment that the department says it doesn't need, or to "save Black men."

Added Councillor Brian Worrell, citing the youth housing pilot, among other accounts: "This is real simple for me. It's about urgency. It's about making an investment into communities, into people, and moving our city forward."

The attempted override on the police section of the budget—proposed grab-back of \$2.4 million to fund youth jobs accounts—failed to garner the two-thirds vote needed. The proposal was a retreat from a previous council effort to cut \$10 million that the mayor opposed because state law requires all public safety overtime hours to be paid.

Councillors Baker and

Murphy, along with Council President Ed Flynn and Councillors Michael Flaherty and Kenzie Bok, opposed the override.

Murphy said she supports youth jobs but did not agree with taking money out of the police accounts. She added that she had looked into how many youth summer jobs are going unfilled, and found that out of 6,000 offered, 2,000 have been filled. "These jobs will continue to go vacant," she said.

Apart from the Council's wrangling over specific accounts, the \$4 billion budget overall includes money for building and acquiring new affordable housing units; a housing voucher program; a citywide composting program; and new outfits such as a Center for Behavioral Health within the Boston Public Health Commission and an Office of Early Childhood, which aims to create a "one-stop shop for enrollment and access" to early education and childcare programs.

After the vote, Wu said in a statement that the budget sets aside "resources over the next year to set a foundation for the future, connect our communities, and

deliver on the details of City services across our neighborhoods." for her work as the Ways and Means chair. Before her election in 2021, she

"I'm grateful to the Council for their partnership in advancing the bold actions and city services that our residents deserve," she added.

Fernandes Anderson, whose district includes part of Dorchester, won praise from colleagues

for her work as the Ways and Means chair. Before her election in 2021, she was the executive director of Bowdoin Geneva Main Streets.

At the start of the budget debate, she pushed for the overrides and thanked her fellow councillors for their support and kindness, and lamented that others were rude and unkind.

Later, as councillors started to vote on the first override, involving the fire department cuts, Baker hesitated for several seconds before casting his vote in favor of the cuts. When the roll call reached Fernandes Anderson, she also voted yes, of course, but quipped, "And I love you, Baker."

Hate group's downtown march draws scrutiny

Law enforcement officials at the local, county, and federal level are investigating an extremist group that made an appearance in Boston during the July 4 weekend.

At a press conference outside Boston Police headquarters in Roxbury on Tuesday, elected leaders and law enforcement officials condemned the white nationalist group known as the Patriot Front whose members, wearing matching clothes, white face coverings and hats, marched through downtown Boston on Saturday (July 2) and allegedly assaulted a Black man who was identified in media reports as the activist Charles Murrell.

 $Boston\,Mayor\,Michelle$

Wu, Boston Police Superintendent-in-chief Greg Long, US Attorney for Massachusetts Rachael Rollins, and Suffolk County DA Kevin Hayden joined the FBI and several city councillors at the press event.

Wu and Rollins said the members of the hate group involved in the assault on Murrell must be prosecuted and the mayor urged residents to pass along to law enforcement information if they see something on social media.

Added Rollins: "We take these threats and this behavior seriously."

A Boston Police Department spokesperson on Tuesday said the department did not have a specific estimate on the number who joined

the march or its time and place. Patriot Front did not receive a permit, which Officer Andre Watson said is "not unique to the group."

Rollins noted there have been several instances of hate group activity this year, including when two dozen individuals were outside Brigham and Women's Hospital, and when white supremacists appeared at the St. Patrick's Day parade in South Boston.

Separately, in Dorchester, two teenagers were allegedly caught painting a swastika on a basketball court in Garvey Park in April. They were released or their parents.

- REPORTER STAFF/ SHNS

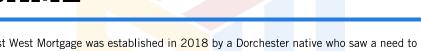
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School Committee brings new BPS chief back to the system that 'raised' her

(Continued from page 1) we 'grew up' togethical place where I grew up," she continued. "That felt like going home in a different way and this feels full circle." we 'grew up' together and learned about leadership in BPS, so there has always been an affinity between us," Abeyta said. "When

A longtime colleague, Chelsea School Superintendent Almi Abeyta, worked closely with Skipper in BPS for many years, and was an assistant superintendent under her in Somerville before she left for Chelsea in 2019.

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we 'grew up' together and learned about leadership in BPS, so there has always been an affinity between us," Abeyta said. "When we worked together in Somerville, there was that Boston connection. We were in Somerville but would watch Boston from Somerville...Mary always kept a love and an eye on BPS."

Known by her colleagues only as "Skipper," Abeyta noted that

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Skipper is one of a large group of talented educators who came up during the early 2000s in BPS, a group that includes Jeff Riley, commissioner of the state's Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), whom Skipper will be working closely with in the coming years under the new state/city improvement plan.

At one time Abeyta and Riley were assistant superintendents in charge of elementary schools in Boston, while Skipper was an assistant superintendent in charge of secondary schools in Boston. They worked very closely together.

"There has always been a bond between those of us that 'grew up' in Boston around that time," Abeyta said. "Mary has a huge advantage as superintendent because she knows the lay of the land in Boston."

Given her relationship

to TechBoston, Skipper took notice in the interview of a shooting incident that occurred in the school's parking lot last spring when a student and a teacher were hit by gunfire while boarding a fan bus to attend a boys' playoff basketball game. She said with that in mind, BPS will be doing

lots of training, supporting staff, and being visible each day to school communities.

communities.

"My hope," she said,
"is that we're going to
work hard to make sure
every student runs into
school every day excited,
wants to be there, feels
safe being there, has
deep relationships with
teachers and staff."

She added: "We will start the day with students and end the day with students," she added.

A key part of her plans from the beginning will be to focus on school safety – something that has been at the forefront this year due to multiple violent incidents in and around the public schools.

"When we started at TechBoston in the old Dorchester High School, I think safety was paramount," she said. "It took a while to build the trust with the community that we were about making sure students were safe. ... We'll work on de-escalation. We'll work on trauma and how to recognize" it.

She said that with the help promised by the city, she is "confident" the department can make students feel safe inside and school



Mary Skipper, right, with Mayor Wu outside Tech Boston Academy on June 30. Seth Daniel photo

buildings in their communities.

Skipper stopped short of saying they would bring back the Boston School Police, which some parents and activists have been calling for. The police unit was dissolved last July when the district refused to train them to the standards of the new Police Reform Act. Instead, the district hired school safety officers, and Skipper said she expects to strengthen that program.

"I will be looking at that and talk about how we are able to bolster that and how are we able to support and make sure everybody is trained that they're working in concert with our school administration in our buildings. There's a lot of work and we'll do it together."

Responding to a query about what she is currently reading, Skipper said she has just finished a book about homelessness, noting that Somerville has seen an uptick in student homelessness, as has Boston.

"It's not just the classic quintessential person who doesn't have an address, but, more importantly, students who might be couch surfing or students who might be staying somewhere temporarily," she said, adding that that, too, will be something her office will be thinking about a lot.



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School Committee picks Skipper over Welch as superintendent

By Gintautas Dumcius Managing Editor

The Boston School Committee last week voted to offer Mary Skipper, a Dorchester resident who has been the superintendent of Somerville's schools since 2015, the job of overseeing the city's 50,000 students and 122 schools.

Thejobofferon Wednesday came 70 days before the first day of the new school year, and as an agreement between state and city officials, hammered out and finalized earlier last week, called for overhauls in the areas of student safety and transportation, among others, in the next 46 days.

For Mayor Michelle Wu and city education officials, the agreement blunted an attempt by state-level education regulators to take over city schools or to designate them as "underperforming."

Skipper has said she wants to work with Somerville as the start of its school year approaches while she transitions back to Boston. Given that, the school committee designated BPS Deputy Superintendent Dr. Drew Echelson, who was not a candidate for superintendent, to serve as acting superintendent until Skipper takes office full time.

Once Skipper formally accepts the offer, contract negotiations involving her salary, benefits, and start date will get underway, according to BPS. Her predecessor, Dr. Brenda Cassellius, received an annual salary of \$311,000.

"This is a pivotal time in Boston and BPS's history, and nothing less than our students' and our City's future is at stake," Skipper said in a statement. "I look forward to working with our families, educators, community leaders, and our students to ensure every BPS student has the opportunity for a great education that sets them up for success in school and in life."

The committee chose Skipper over Tommy Welch, the regional superintendent for schools in Charlestown, East Boston, and the North End. The two finalists emerged from a pool of nearly three dozen candidates as part of a search spurred by Cassellius's decision to step down by the end of the school year.

The panel was split between the two, with three members – Lorena Lopera, Stephen Alkins, and Brandon Cardet-Hernandez) – stating a preference for Welch, while Skipper had the support of four members – Committee chair Jeri Robinson, vice chair Michael O'Neill, Quoc Tran, and Rafaela Polanco Garcia.

Wu, Robinson, and Skipper appeared at the press conference announcing the selection. It was held at TechBoston Academy, the former Dorchester High School where Skipper was the founding headmaster in 2002. She received congratulations on her work there from President Barack Obama when he visited the school in 2011.

Said Wu in a statement: "In this moment of challenge and opportunity, Mary is uniquely prepared to drive forward the systemic reforms and immediate results our students deserve. Her knowledge and relationships from serving at every level in BPS-as a classroom teacher, school leader, and longtime district administrator-and as a successful superintendent in the area, will supercharge our work."

Before heading to Somerville 7 years ago, Skipper spent 17 years with the BPS system, which "raised me," Skipper said during her interview the week before week with committee members. She called TechBoston Academy, which focused on teaching students about science and engineering, her home.

Skipper told the committee that she would seek to build trust with parents through honest communication. "I heard many parents talk about feeling that they can't trust what happens and that even if it's not the right answer, they just want the truth," she said.

Last Wednesday evening, committee vice chair O'Neill defended the search process, which has drawn criticism for producing two finalists who were not Black or Latino. O'Neill said other cities like Boston — Dallas, Orlando, Philadelphia, and Chicago — saw fewer candidates for their top education jobs. Many superintendents across the country are burnt out and ready to leave the profession, he added, and want to go into higher

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Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First

Witness, HON, BHIANJ, DUNN, First Justice of this Court. Date: June 16, 2022

Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate Published: July 7, 2022

Wu, Robinson, and kipper appeared at press conference anouncing the selection. It as held at TechBoston education, consulting, or retirement. Others want to stay with their districts as they emerge from the pandemic.

He also said he had spoken with local school leaders, whom he called the "front line of management" at BPS. One individual, he said, told him they had breathed a sigh of relief when they saw that Skipper and Welch were the finalists. "That was the most common sentiment," O'Neill said.

Robinson, the chair, cited the need to have a strong leader like Skipper, who has worked with state education regulators, as the city and state move ahead with their agreement.

Before the vote, committee members heard from a number of supporters of both Skipper and Welch. Some of Skipper's backers knew her from her TechBoston days.

Karen Provenzano, who worked as a teacher alongside Skipper at the Academy, said she has "indomitable grit" and she demands excellence from students and teachers. "Mary knows Boston," Provenzano

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Petitioner

VS.

KATHLEEN MARGARET RAFFERTY, and KEVIN DANIEL RAFFERTY, and THOMAS WAYNE RAFFERTY, and BRYCE CHRISTIAN SHEPHERD, and ATASHA RAFFERTY COUSINEAU, and CRYSTAL RAFFERTY HALLIDAY, and DAVID BRIAN RAFFERTY, JR., and MICHAEL WAYNE RAFFERTY, and KAITLYN ANN RAFFERTY, and CASEY RAFFERTY, and TYLER CRUZ SOTO

Respondents.

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You are required to make a defense to such pleading no later than August 2, 2022, which is forty (40) days from the first date of publication. Upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought

added. "She is fearless, passionate about her work."

Skipper and her husband Peter, a retired Boston College High School religion teacher, have three children and four grandchildren, according to her biography.

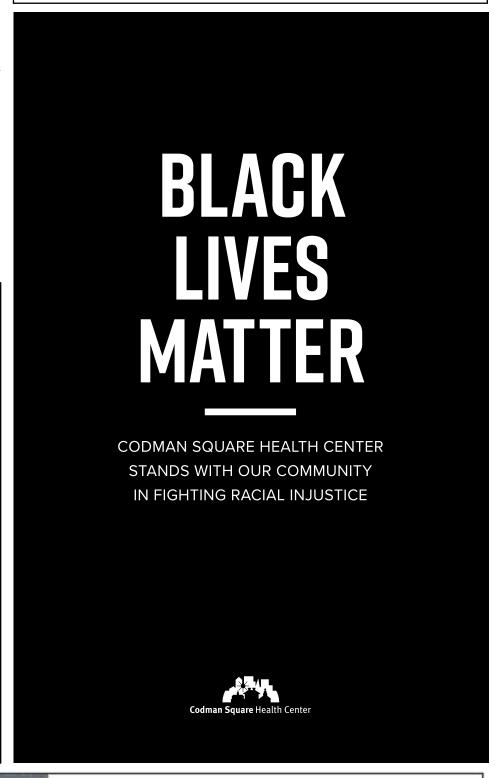
Echelson, the acting superintendent-designate, said in a statement that he will work with Skipper on a "smooth transition. Mary has always been a very empathetic listener who leads with purpose, humility and an unwavering belief in our children."

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Graffiti at new Cote Village spurs call for 'conversations'

By Seth Daniel News Editor

Just days before the official ribbon-cutting on June 28 for the 100 percent affordable Cote Village apartment community in Mattapan, residents, developers, and community leaders discovered graffiti on the side of a street-level balcony on Cummins Highway that read: "Nustyle apartments, gentrification to follow, Issa (It's a) playbook move."

To those involved in the development of the Village, the graffiti's message was the opposite of what elected officials and community leaders have tried to build there for more than a decade.

Additional graffiti with a similar message making references to landlords as slave masters – was found on the



The new Cote Village building – which had a ribbon cutting on Tues., June 28 – was hit the week before with very pointed graffiti about the building Seth Daniel photo being a path to gentrification.

wall of the Dunkin' shop in Mattapan Square as well. It read: "We work + pay the landlord's

mortgage. They use our cash + buy more land. Then they price us from our homes. Masta' has a brand, new form. Only together we can win. Together we are strong."

On finding the graffiti, state Rep. Russell Holmes said, "It can only be the activists because if you are a community person, you would never go and do something that puts the community

down like that. To have that much disrespect for the work that has happened is horrible. I think it is disrespectful for all the effort and all of the time that we have spent working on this for so long."

After years of meetings and discussions within the community about the property, some Mattapan residents have moved into the building,

so the graffiti felt disrespectful to some who have been involved in the project. But others thought it might spark a conversation about what gentrification is and is not.

CIDC Director Donald Alexis said the purpose of the development was to prevent people from being displaced, so he was surprised someone picked Cote.

"It was shocking to me when I saw it," Alexis said. "My only conclusion is someone was just coming through and did it. Cummins Highway is a place a lot of people cut through to go to I-93, Lower Mills or Roslindale...It could be someone that wasn't part of the process and wasn't plugged into what happened there.

"If someone did it out of a lack of information, we'll do better communication next time. If people were trying to make a point, then that's a larger discussion we need to have with our leaders like the city, state Rep. Russell Holmes, and state Rep. Brandy Fluker-Oakley.'

Said Holmes: "I met a young lady who moved in February and welcomed her to the community. She said it was already her community. She had

moved from her family's home just down the street, and her son even had the same school bus stop. That's the complete opposite of what was written on this building."

Alexis said the graffiti on the Cote building and at Dunkin' may indicate there needs to be a bigger conversation coming out of Covid-19 about what is happening in Mattapan and what is being done.

"People are entitled to be concerned about what it means for Mattapan and what it means for them staying here and their kids staying here," he said. "This could be a catalyst to sit down and find out what people are concerned about... It is unfortunate this happened, but I think if this is what was needed to have a community conversation, we should be up to the task of bringing the community together."

Holmes agreed, saying, "Our community needs to have conversations about what is gentrification. We have invested millions and millions of dollars in this area with the community at Cote Village and at the new train station, and we need to be clear that not every new thing you see is gentrification.

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2011 HONDA PILOT GRAY 5FNYF4H66BB076781 NO PLATE. OWNER NAME: ANNA QUINN-DONOVAN **OWNER ADDRESS:** 146 PLEASANT STREET, MILTON MA

Cote Village: Housing replaces 35 years of blight

(Continued from page 1)

units available in a range of affordable housing incomes - from some units set aside for formerly homeless people to those earning 100 percent of the AMI.

The bulk of the homes, 42 units, come in at the 60 percent of AMI level. The project also contains one commercial unit on Cummins Highway that is actively being shopped around the neighborhood, as well as a new office space for CIDC.

New Cote Village resident Tracy Ramos, who is a single mother and paraprofessional at the Mildred Avenue School in Mattapan, said having these kinds of developments on long vacant and blighted property is how residents like her will be able to stay in the city. She was picked in a lottery process to get her affordable unit.

"It is important as a community that we use our voice to make more affordable housing opportunities so others like myself will have the opportunity for a home like this," she said. "A lot of students come up to me at school and they live in multiple places and have lived in a lot of places in only a few years...If we can use our voices as one to tell the city to create more housing like this on vacant land, we will be able to make a difference.'

Cote Village was developed after



Cardinal Sean O'Malley delivered a bouquet of flowers and a warm welcome to new Cote Village resident Tracy Ramos-who lives in the Cote Townhomes along Regis Road.



City and state officials, Cardinal Sean O'Malley, and members of the Caribbean Integration Development Corporation (CIDC) gathered on June 28 for the ribbon cutting ceremony of Cote Village.

some eight years of wrangling and discussion, with the community on Woodhaven Street pushing the city to put the property out for development, all of which came after Cote Ford abandoned its dealership more than 30 years ago and left the property to disintegrate into blight.

Going back to the late Mayor Tom Menino's administration when a working group was formed, the property has seen previous attempts to develop it, including market rate projects that the community turned away.

CIDC joined forces with the Archdiocese of Boston's Planning Office for Urban Affairs for the Cote Village development. They are now partnering on the Morton Village development now under construction.

"You see gentrification eating up affordable housing in neighborhoods like Mattapan and more and more people are being displaced," said Cardinal O'Malley. "These efforts are very, very important and we need to identify more groups to work together for more Cote Villages and more affordable housing in our community."

Added Alexis, "We all stand here looking at a site that was environmentally contaminated – a site that was previously abandoned for over 35 years. We all came together with the realization this community can do better. We came with an idea to build homes for current residents and to build a community with possibility, opportunity, and a step toward the aspirations for our Mattapan community. Today we have delivered that vision and that dream."

He added that it isn't wrong for Mattapan residents – many of whom are essential workers – to feel anxious about staying in the community as rents and prices continue to rise. He said far too many are bunking with family members and extended family.

"It should not be that way," he said.

Though outside his district, state Rep. Russell Holmes said that Cote Village is was very meaningful to him. "We grew up across the street seeing this place as a piece of junk – a real piece of junk," he said. "We've seen three proposals for this site, and this is the third. I was adamant about this one because I knew this could not fail. We had to get this over the finish line...This is our entrance to Mattapan Square and as you come over that hill now, isn't it great to see something different?"

Concluding the ceremony, state Rep. Brandy Fluker-Oakley's office presented the Woodhaven Culbert Regis Neighborhood Association with certificate of appreciation for their years of advocacy in pushing the city and state to redevelop the area.



22nd Annual Men's Health Summit Youth Mental Health Awareness: Building Resiliency, Community and Hope

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Over a church's objection, licensing panel okays move by Mattapan Sq. liquor store

By Reporter Staff

The Boston Licensing Board on June 30 unanimously approved a plan by Camilo Liquors III to move from its current ramshackle location at the corner of Edgewater Drive and River Street in Mattapan to a better-maintained building next door.

The approval was given over the objections of ministers and parishioners across the street at Church of the Holy Spirit, who say the store's often angry customers regularly sitand urinate and defecate - on church property.

Even as they agreed to the move, board members said they will be keeping an eye on Camilo going forward and urged people to call 911 if the problems across the street persist so that the board can take appropriate enforcement action.

Board members said they agreed to the license move one storefront down River Street after Camilo's attorney, Jennifer Allen, said its landlord, for whatever reasons, had refused to put any money into

repairing the current location to the point where "it could become dangerous," not to mention an eyesore.

"It does grieve me that the neighborhood is having such problems with this location," board member Keeana Saxon said.

At a hearing on June 29, Rev. Zenetta Armstrong recited a long list of issues she has had with people loitering both directly in front of the church and in front of the senior-citizen apartment building and social-services building the church runs.

Men with bottles hang out on a wall along the church property, often with loud music playing, and respond to requests to move along with "very vulgar" and abusive language, she said. Many use the church grounds as a restroom, she said, adding she recently had to clean up human waste deposited on church grounds right before a funeral.

Additionally, she said, the church has had to hire somebody to clean up the broken bottles and other trash, she said. Because of limited parking in the square, Camilo customers often park in the church lot, she said.

The minister said that the church initially had no problems with Camilo when it opened more than a decade ago, and that she recognizes that Francisco Camilo - who lives in the Edgewater area himself-has a right to make a living. But, she said, that can't be at the expense of people across the street, in a part of Mattapan Square she said has changed for the worst.

She said some families with children already are reluctant to go to the church, which has been in existence for 136 years. "The survival of the church is also at

Rev. Zenetta Armstrong of the Church of the Holy Spirit spoke against Camilo application at the licensing board hearing on June 29.

stake for the long term," she said.

Parishioner Janet Sinclair added: "Rev. Zenetta should not have to be subjected to countless people sitting on the wall of the church, drinking, throwing their trash, being verbally abusive to her when she has every right to ask someone to move."

Sheila Azores said Camilo is within a short walk of two other liquor stores and asked the board: "Please help the Mattapan community remain a livable community and not a liquor-store ghetto."

Allen said her client is doing everything he can

to address any problems coming out of his store. She said the store regularly sends somebody out to pick up trash. She said the store is willing to pay to install a fence around the church property. And she said the new storefront would become far less of a liquor beacon, unlike the current location, which is on a Y intersection making it visible from two streets.

The store had its supporters at the hearing as well.

"These people have been supportive of the community," Damean Hollis said. "They're like a staple of the community, to be honest to you."



Joe Fallon 617-594-0761

joe.fallon@commonmoves.com

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The COVID-19 vaccine is an important tool to keep kids safe from COVID-19.

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BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF DORCHESTER

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BGCD Partners with Northeast Passage for Adaptive Cycling Event: See details below.

CONNECT THE DOT:
BGCD Partners with Northeast
Passage for Adaptive Cycling Event:
Members from Boys & Girls Clubs of
Dorchester participated in the Second
Annual Adaptive Cycling Event in
collaboration with Northeast Passage.
Participants of all abilities tried various
adaptive bikes including recumbent
trikes, handcycles, tandem bikes,
power assist bikes, and more!

The mission of Northeast Passage is to empower people living with disabling conditions, both visible and invisible, to define, pursue and achieve whole life health, community engagement and fulfillment through the purposeful use of sports and recreation. To find out more visit www.nepassage.org Thank you to BC High for hosting us, and Northeast Passage Recreational Therapists who made sure each participant was successful and had a great time!

FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE:
BGCD Helps Planet Fitness Kick Off
Teen Summer Pass Program: Teen
members from Boys & Girls Clubs of
Dorchester joined our friends at Planet
Fitness in Neponset to help celebrate
their new High School Summer Pass
membership. This membership allows
teens age 14 to 19 to work out for
free at Planet Fitness all summer until
August 31th.

Teens can sign up now at www. planetfitness.com/summerpass or in-person at your local club. Thank you to our friends at Planet Fitness for their continuous support of our healthy lifestyles programming. BGCD is proud to be a partner with Planet Fitness.

For more information on Healthy Lifestyle Programming at BGCD, please contact Brendan McDonald at bmcdonald@bgcdorchester.org.



DID YOU KNOW:

Help BGCD Get a \$2,500 Match! Join Team BGCD for This Year's Rodman Ride for Kids: Join us on September 24th for the 32nd Annual Rodman Ride for Kids! The event will feature a 25 or 50 mile route that will begin and end at Rodman Ford in Foxboro. After the event there will be a bbq for all who participated. If you can't ride, you can still help by becoming a "Choose Your Own Adventure" virtual participant. Run, walk, dance, do yoga, Peloton or whatever you like to help raise funds for our Clubs! We need to recruit 35 participants by July 31st, for the Club to receive a \$2,500 match from Rodman for Kids! Each rider, either virtual or in person, must raise at least \$500 for this incentive. Please note, in-person riders must commit to a \$1,500 fundraising minimum. To join our team or for more information, please visit www.bgcdorchester.org/rodmanride-

UPCOMING EVENTS

Summer Camp July 7 - August 10 *Pre-registration is required

GirlStart STEM Program July 18 - 22

Trades Fair (Ages 19+)
July 21
For more info: mjoyce@bgcdorchester.org

Career Night July 28

Rodman Ride for Kids September 24 Register at bgcdorchester.org/rodman-ride-for-kids

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







RECENT OBITUARIES

BULMAN, Mary Elizabeth "Betty", of Dorchester. Wife of the late Edward J. Bulman Sr. Mother of Edward Jr. (Linda) of Hanover, Marybeth Mas Marques (Rick) of Marlborough, Elaine (Al) Ippolito of Branford, CT, and Thomas (Lillian) Bulman of Newton. Sister of Ann "Nancy" Hanson. Betty is also survived by many grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and friends. Please consider making a donation in memory of Betty to the Discalced Carmelite Nuns, 15 Mt. Carmel Rd., Danvers, MA 01923.

BROWNE, Berchell (Bert) Vernon, 80, of Dorchester, originally of Barbados. Son of the late St. Clair Augustus Browne and Elsie Victoria Browne. Ber-chell leaves wife Diane Browne; children Christian Browne, Christo-pher Browne, Camellia Browne, Marcia Browne, and Celeste Browne; sisters Marcia Warden and Agatha Holder; 5 grandchildren; in-law's Christine Browne, Paula Browne, Jamie Browne,

Paul Gambrill, Garvin Warden; and many loving nieces, nephews and friends. Bert is preceded in death by his brothers George Hunte, Ralph Browne, Tony Browne, Nolan Browne; sister Rosalind Gambrill; nephew Jorrel Browne; and in-laws Darlene Mendes, Linda Mendes, and Wilma Daniels, and Mary Anne Bernard-DeRosa.



CONLIN, Robert G. of Milton, 94, formerly of Hyde Park, South Boston and Dorchester. Husband of Jean (Duggan). Father of Lisa Lashaway of Montrose, CA, Robert Conlin Jr. of Wiscasset, ME, Laura Poulin of Nahant, Richard Conlin of East Bridgewater, Julie Conlin of Hopkinton, Mary Jane Walker of Milton, and Dina Conlin of

George "Bob" Cheevers



63, of Dorchester and Edgartown passed away peacefully on June 29, 2022, from pancreatic cancer. George was the beloved son of the late Charles and Eileen (Patterson) Cheevers. He is survived by his siblings Mary Ellen Geary and her husband George, Charles Cheevers and his wife Stephanie, Deb-

orah Driscoll, James Cheevers and his wife, Diane, and Joseph Cheevers and his wife, Maria. Dear uncle of ten nieces, nephews, and five grandnephews.

Bob first visited the family cottage as a baby in July 1959. His grandparents George and Nellie Patterson bought the Pinehurst Road cottage in 1929 to be near his grandfather's aunt, Margaret Norton of Edgartown. Bob, like his siblings, cherished his Edgartown summers.

Brilliant and one-of-a-kind, Bob was a lifelong learner, community activist, longtime Boston Public Schools teacher (Muriel Snowden International School), authentic Abraham Lincoln presenter, and cat lover leaving behind his treasured black cat, Jack. Proud graduate of Catholic Memorial, Worcester Academy, and Harvard University, Bob held post-graduate degrees from the University of Massachusetts and Simmons College

Late Member of The Association of Lincoln Pre $senters, Dorchester\, Historical\, Society, Cedar\, Grove$ Civic Association, and St. Brendan Parish

Newton; father-in-law of Dave Diana, John Walker, Dottie Melchionno and Dave Newman. In addition to his wife and children, Bob is survived by 14 grandchildren. He also leaves many nieces, nephews, and friends far and wide. Bob was predeceased by his grandson, Nick Lashaway; and his brother Charles Conlin;

and sisters, Florence Rogers, Marge Baker, Anna Benshimol, and Alice Stackpole. Donations in Bob's name can be made to Boston Rescue Mission

brm.org. **CONNOR, John P.** of Dorchester. Husband of Elizabeth "Betty" (Cook) $Connor.\,Father\,of\,Michael$ C. Connor and Stacey Ellis, David C. Connor



and his wife Magen, and Marianne E. Savastano and her husband Rich. Grandfather of 2. Predeceased by his brother Gerald Connor. US Air Force veteran. Please consider making a donation in memory of John to the Alzheimer's Association.



LITTLE, Mary V., 92, of Dorchester. Daughter of the late Johanna (Hayes) and Anthony Little. Sister of the late Robert Little and Deacon James Little. Cousin of Judy Cahill of GA, Ginny Brooks of Braintree, Skip Manning of Quincy, Joe Manning of Weymouth, Dennis Manning of Weymouth, Kenny Manning of Quincy, Steven Manning of Braintree, Tom Manning of Weymouth, and the late Jimmy Manning of Squantum, and Josephine Manning of South Boston.

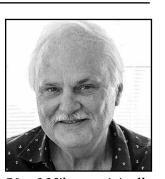


MAHONEY, Anne (Walsh), 94, of Mattapan, formerly of Galway. Mother to John Mahoney (Karen) of Quincy, Joanne Grealish (Josie) of Hanover and Tommy Mahoney. Nana of 6 and great grandmother of 2. She was preceded in death by her husband John, brothers Michael and Johnny, sisters Mary, Bridie, Eileen, Kathleen and survived by her sister Margaret as well as many nieces, nephews and cousins



MESIDOR, Pierre Charles, 60, of Dorchester. Father of Charlie Mesidor and the late Denise Mesidor. He leaves behind many relatives and friends who will mourn

erick Joseph (Joe),



76, of Milton, originally from Dorchester. Son of Frederick Neundorf and Mary Neundorf (Wood). Husband of Margaret Mary Neundorf (Milano). Father of Matthew Neundorf and his wife Ena of Canton, Dr. Christina Leone (Neundorf) and her husband Andrew of St. Petersburg, FL and Stephanie Neundorf of Jamaica Plain. Proud Papa of 5. Brother of James Neundorf and his wife the late Patricia. Brother of the late Ellen Neundorf. US Army veteran. Please consider a donation on Joe's behalf to Easterseals, Attn: Online Giving Coordinator, 141 W. Jackson Blvd, Suite 1400A, Chicago, IL 60604

NORDBERG, Lillian R. (Addy), 92, of Randolph, formerly of Dorchester. Lillian was the wife of the late Robert A. Nordberg. Mother of Stephen E. Nordberg of Randolph, Dr. Joanne E. Getsy, MD of PA, Robert D. "Wally" Nordberg of Randolph, and the late Pamela J. Kowalewski. Sister of the late Frederick Addy. Also survived by 9 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made in her name to the Trinity Episcopal Church, 120 No. Main St., Randolph, MA02368..



RADOSTA, John J. of Dedham. Husband of Donna (DePetro); father to Anthony and his wife Jill of Medfield, Lisa and her partner Buddy of Dorchester. Grandfather of 2. Brother to Vincent Radosta and the late Marie Radosta. Son to the late Charles and Elvira Radosta. Donations in John's name can be made to Dr. Dickerson's Dementia Research Program in the Massachusetts General Hospital Frontotemporal Disorders Unit. Gifts may be made online: Giving.MassGeneral.org/ donate

SMITHERMAN, Deena Lashorn, 52, of Mattapan. She was preceded in death by her father, Eddie Williams, her grandmother, Calester McConnell, and several aunts and uncles. Mother of Marshawn, Deon, and Ethan. Daugter of Wanda Faye. Sister of Harold, Dionna, Delanie, and Kai. Grandmother of 1. She leaves behind several nieces and nephews, and several great nieces and nephews.

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LEGAL NOTICES

COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
SUffolk Probate & Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Docket No. SU21P2081EA
ESTATE OF:
CLARA RAINES
DATE OF DEATH: 02/12/2020 DATE OF DEATH: 02/12/2020

A Petition for S/A - Formal Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Yolanda Bynum of Dorchester, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Yolanda Bynum of Dorchester, MA be appointed as Personal Representa-tive(s) of said estate to serve on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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 do 108/12/2022.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance.

his is Not a treating date, but a deading 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. further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION

UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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 he administration directly from the Persona Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of

Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.
Date: July 01, 2022 Felix D. Arroyo

Register of Probate Published: July 7, 2022

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT 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. SU22P1338EA
ESTATE OF:
GLORIA V. CLARK A/K/A: GLORIA V. WRIGHT CLARK DATE OF DEATH: 01/07/2002

A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestac A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Corey Wright of Roxbury, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relied as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Corey Wright of Roxbury, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bood in unsurevised archiefstration. ond in unsupervised administration

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 08/04/2022.

of 08/04/2022.
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

INDER THE MASSACHILISETTS

UNSUPERVISED ADMINIST IRAITON
UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS
UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed unde
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accounts with the Court. Persons interestee. n the estate are entitled to notice regardin he administration directly from the Persona Representative and may petition the Cour n any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of

administration.

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

Date: June 29, 2022

Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate Published: July 7, 2022

his loss. NEUNDORF, Fred-

July 7, 2022 THE REPORTER Page 19 dotnews.com



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COVID-19 VACCINES

- COVID-19 vaccines are available for patients & community members at the Health Center. Call (617) 822-8271 to schedule.
- Walk-ins may be accepted, on a first-come, first-served basis, if space allows, Mon - Fri, 8:45 am - noon and 1 pm - 4:30 pm.
- SATURDAY VACCINE CLINICS: 8:45 am 12:30 pm, June 11 & June 25 and July 9 & July 23, in Pediatrics. Appointments are best, but some walk-ins will be accepted if space permits. Food and gift cards will be available for all participants.





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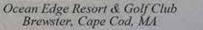
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THE REPORTER



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