

# Dorchester Reporter

“The News and Values Around the Neighborhood”

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## BOSTON LIGHTS DAZZLE AT THE ZOO



Little Aniela W. gets a close-up look of the colorful Venus Flytrap courtesy of her mother, Celina W. at the Boston Lights exhibit at the Franklin Park Zoo last week. See Page 11. *Seth Daniel photo*

## Jazzfest returns to Dudley Street roots as the Woodards, father and son, play on

BY CHRIS LOVETT  
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

As the sun goes down on a hot Wednesday in July, members of the Fred Woodard Collective make their way through the backyard for a basement rehearsal at a house in the Dudley Triangle neighborhood. In a setting furnished with an oil tank, washer and dryer, and shelves crammed with vinyl record albums, there's barely enough room for the jazz quartet. "It's going to be an interesting night," says percussionist Matthew Williams, after gulps from a gallon jug of water. He settles in with probing taps on drums



Fred Woodard (guitar) and his son Fredrick Woodard III (violin). *Chris Lovett photo*

and cymbals, perched right near the tank and a wall crowded with the faces of jazz icons—Duke Ellington, Charlie Parker, Dexter Gordon, James Lee Jamerson, Lionel Hampton, and

Sonny Rollins. If the music has roots and branches, what comes off the tree has to find its way back home. In one sense, that's the goal of the Dudley Jazz Festival, launched in

2016 by the group's leader and main organizer, Fred Woodard, Jr.

This Saturday (July 30), the free event will return to its original location, at the recently renovated Mary Hannon Playground on Dudley Street, with support from the Mass. Cultural Council, the City of Boston, and the Mabel Louise Riley Foundation.

The event will run from noon to 6 p.m.

"It's mainly to expose my community to jazz music," Woodard explained, "and provide an alternative to what's in popular culture—or what's in popular culture in the general media."

(Continued on page 12)

## 2nd Suffolk Senate candidates open up at Roxbury forum

### Key on substance abuse, housing, mental illness

BY GINTAUTAS DUMCIUS  
MANAGING EDITOR

Candidates running for the Second Suffolk Senate seat, along with other local races on the ballot this fall, faced off inside Nubian Square's Hibernian Hall last week, as hundreds packed the venue to get an up-close look at the contenders.

The major candidates for Second Suffolk Senate are state Reps. Nika Elugardo and Liz Miranda, as well as local pastor Miniard Culpepper and former state Sen. Dianne Wilkerson. All are Democrats who will appear on the Sept. 6 primary ballot.

Joined by candidates for Suffolk County district attorney and sheriff, the Second Suffolk candidates made their pitches at the July 20 forum, hosted by the coalition known as Communities of Color.

"Here's the bottom line for me: I'm the only one sitting who's actually done it and done it well," said Wilkerson, who served as the district's state senator

(Continued on page 4)

## 'Walking the beat' is best way to engage, says C-11's new chief

BY SETH DANIEL  
NEWS EDITOR

Boston Police Capt. Shawn Burns, the newly installed commander of the Area C-11 police district, makes it a point to get out of his Gibson Street office every day for a walk that lets him see what's going on with his own two eyes. It's a habit he wants the officers under his command in Dorchester's easternmost precinct to adopt as well.

Sometimes, he said in an interview with the *Reporter*, he's prompted to walk around a specific block due to an incident report or quality of life complaint. Other days, he said, "I just pick a spot on the map and go out and walk it," which he has been doing that since late May when he took charge.

"The other day I went out and walked an area of Bowdoin-Geneva because a community member had an incident and so I went to see how they have

(Continued on page 14)



Capt. Shawn Burns has taken the helm at the C-11 Police District in Dorchester. *Seth Daniel photo*

## A birthing center? A growing notion in Dot, Mattapan

BY SETH DANIEL  
NEWS EDITOR

For women who are able and willing, and they are increasing in number, there's no place like home when it comes to giving birth to their bundles of joy.

To some, the notion no

doubt is a throwback to another time, or maybe a risky decision, but for more and more women — particularly those of color — the option of a home birth has become quite popular.

Practitioners and home-birth advocates

in Dorchester and Mattapan have gathered quite a bit of steam in the wake of Covid-19 precautions and the growth of the home birth movement. All say the option is safe and practical for women who meet the health requirements.

Stephanie Johnson of Dorchester, the only licensed Black midwife in the state, assists at approximately 45 to 60 home births per year in the area. With more attention being given to the shocking statistics around Black Maternal

Health outcomes, and the gravitation away from hospitals during the pandemic, she said she has been busier than ever with home birth inquiries.

"The majority of our clients are Black women (Continued on page 13)



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Police, Courts & Fire

## Police probing two murders on Mattapan streets last week

A man was shot to death last Thursday night (July 21) in Mattapan, according to Boston Police. The adult victim— whose name has not yet been made public— was found suffering from an apparent gunshot wound outside 14 Orlando St. around 10 p.m.

Additionally, a 33-year-old man from Stoughton has been identified as the victim in a fatal shooting that happened on July 17 near the corner of Norfolk and Elizabeth streets in Mattapan. Police say that Ralphie Scott was found shot near that intersection around 9:15 p.m. after they responded to a shot spotter activation. No arrests have yet been reported by police in either homicide. Anyone with information is asked to call 617-343-4470.

A 29-year-old Dorchester man was arraigned in a Boston courtroom on Monday after he was arrested for allegedly selling heroin inside a Macy's department store in Downtown Crossing last Friday. The suspect — Edison Arias— was also charged with larceny after he allegedly tried to steal a shirt while in the store. Judge James Coffey ordered Arias held on \$10,000 bail and ordered him to wear a GPS tracking device if released.

Another man — 55-year-old Anthony Tucker— was charged with armed robbery last week after police say he tried to make off with a full cart of store items while wielding a "large silver knife. When someone tried to stop

him, Tucker is alleged to have yelled, "Don't stop me, don't try to stop me!" Tucker fled without the cart and police later found him on Old Colony Ave. The man, prosecutors say, has "an extensive history of violent offenses." He is due back in court on September 19.

A man was arraigned last week in Dorchester Municipal Court on a charge of indecent assault and battery on a child under 14 and disturbing the peace after he acted up during the Little Saigon night market event on Sat., July 16. Hung Tran, 54, was asked to leave the otherwise successful festival for being drunk. But he returned an hour later and allegedly grabbed a child by the shoulders and kissed the ykid, the Suffolk County District Attorney's office reports. The child's parent immediately confronted Tran, who "flailed his arms and legs." Police who approached him say they found Tran, on all fours, "approach two dogs and bark at the animals." Judge Erika Reis set bail at \$1,500, ordered him to stay away from the victim, undergo a mental-health evaluation, and stop drinking.

A person was killed in a car crash just before 1 a.m. on Tuesday at the intersection of Tonawanda and Greenbrier streets near Fields Corner. One victim was pronounced dead on scene and second person was transported by EMTs to a local hospital, according to NBC 10 Boston.

## No injuries as crane tips over at Dot Ave. construction site in Savin Hill section

A mobile crane extending out more than 70 feet was moving some wooden trusses along the second floor of building at a construction site at East Cottage Street Tuesday morning when it tipped over onto the second level. There were no injuries reported.

The crane, owned by BC Crane Corp., was parked on the East Cottage Street side of the site at the corner of Dorchester Avenue. The Fire Department responded to the incident with an apparatus and a Technical Rescue Team. Deputy Fire Chief Michael Hocking said the crane tipped over around 10:15 a.m., and noted that "all workers were evacuated and there were thankfully no injuries. Some people are very, very lucky today. There weren't a lot of people working underneath the crane operations today, so it was a good day in terms of that."

Hocking said the clean-up would likely take the rest of the day on Tuesday, with the crane arm probably being cut into pieces. "You don't come across this much, but with all the construction in Boston now," he said, "we're starting to see more of these kinds of things," he said.

Some members of the New England Carpenter's Union were on site to observe the aftermath of the accident. Some unions staged pickets at the job site earlier this year because the owners had hired non-union labor for the



A mobile crane tipped over while loading wood at what will be a new building at the corner of Dorchester Avenue and East Cottage Street on Tuesday morning.

Seth Daniel photo

project. New England Carpenter's Union spokesperson Burt Durant did not return a call from the Reporter.

The project was undertaken prior to the pandemic, then paused for some time during that period before restarting this spring. Owners Adam Sarbaugh and Peter McGee are constructing a new building with 38 units of housing, as well as a new market and a restaurant space on the first floor. They were not immediately available for comment about this incident.

— SETH DANIEL

## Power outages affect thousands in Dot on summer's hottest day

As Boston was reporting a new record temperature of 99 degrees on Sunday (July 24), a large power outage — two manholes blew up in Savin Hill around 2:30 p.m. — left thousands of homes and businesses in Dorchester without relief from the heat as lights, and air conditioning, went out across a large swatch of the neighborhood, from Lower Mills to Port Norfolk.

Eversource reported more than 20,000 residential and business customers without power. Some people — including many in Lower Mills — reported that electricity came back within 15 minutes, but thousands more in Neponset and Savin Hill did not get their power restored until the nighttime hours. A similar outage impacted areas of South Boston on Monday.

In a statement, a

spokesperson for Eversource said: "With the region continuing to experience extreme heat today, our system operators are closely monitoring the system and using remote switching capabilities to ease demand or load in local areas when possible. We continue to perform system maintenance and make repairs to the electric system as necessary to ensure we continue to provide safe, reliable service."

The heat subsided in the region on Tuesday, but more high temperatures are in the forecast for the weekend ahead.

— REPORTER STAFF

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Boys & Girls Club News ..... 17	Dorchester Reporter (USPS 009-687)
Opinion/Editorial/Letters ..... 8	Published Weekly Periodical postage paid at Boston, MA.
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Quadracentennial of Dot 3,281	

## UPCOMING CIVIC MEETINGS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

**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 savinhillvents@gmail.com

**The BPDA plans a Thurs. Aug. 4 meeting on the Columbia Crossing project,** a mixed-use building with 63 residential units. The 6 p.m. virtual meeting will start with a 30-minute presentation from the developer, followed by discussion of the Impact Advisory Group and 45 minutes of public questions and answers.

**A BPDA virtual public meeting is set for the 800 Morrissey Blvd. project,** which proposes a six-story building with 240 residential units. The meeting is scheduled for Wed., Aug. 17 at 6 p.m. The BPDA is also hosting a virtual public

meeting on a cannabis production and cultivation facility at 100 Hampden St. The Tues. Aug. 16 meeting, which starts at 6 p.m., will cover the construction of a 3-story commercial building that will have on-site parking for up to 24 vehicles. The Farmacy at Harbor Health, a new community farmer's market and health fair, is open 10:30 a.m. — 1:30 p.m. on July 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. For parking information and event updates, visit HHSI.US/Farmacy.

**The ParkARTS Citywide Neighborhood Concert Series continues on 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 offers 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's ParkARTS program presents Mayor Wu's Movie Nights in 11 City of Boston parks from Tuesday, August 2, through Thursday, September 1.** All shows begin at dusk. Dates and locations include: Tuesday, Aug. 16, "Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings," at Ronan Park 92 Mount Ida Rd., Dorchester. Wed., Aug. 17 "Space Jam: New Legacy," at Marcella Playground, 260 Highland St., Roxbury; Tuesday, August 30 "Soul" in Moakley Park. Thursday, September 1, "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory," Boston Common. All ParkARTS performances are free of

charge. For more information please contact the Boston Parks and Recreation Department at 617-635-4505.

**11th Annual Back-to-School Celebration and Distribution —** Families in need of financial assistance are invited to join The Salvation Army Massachusetts Division, Garden Neighborhood Charities—the philanthropic arm of the TD Garden—and The City of Boston as they team up for the 11th Annual "Back-to-School Distribution" and backpack giveaway on Thursday, August 18, at The Salvation Army's Boston Kroc Center in Dorchester. Nearly 3,000 Boston-area youth and their families will enjoy a fun, special guests, and an activity-filled afternoon. Register today salvationarmyma.org.

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# 2nd Suffolk Senate candidates open up at Roxbury forum

(Continued from page 1)

for 15 years before a two-year stint in prison on bribery charges. “And by the way, I did it better than anyone else.”

Jamaica Plain’s Elugardo has been a state representative since 2019 and before that worked as an aide to outgoing state Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz. “I have spent my life learning from the best: How do you center the voices of people in communities to build a movement? I’m not here to impress you tonight,” Elugardo told the standing-room only crowd.

“I’m here to tell you the opportunity and the pathway is before us. As everything is flying apart it needs to fly apart,” she said, “because those systems do not support us. And the ones that do are in our communities right now, and that’s the world we need. And that’s what I will help you to lead.”

Miranda, a Roxbury native who was elected to the State House in 2018, said she is “uniquely positioned” for the state Senate job.

“I’m the person who thinks about what keeps you up at night,” she said. “You don’t have to guess who your senator is if I’m elected. I’m not only a legislative powerhouse and a progressive champion, but I’m someone who shows up when it matters.”

Culpepper touted his efforts to create a food pantry, 200 meals every two weeks through his church, during the pandemic. “I’ve been fighting for justice all of my life,” he



Emcee Joe Feaster and host state Rep. Chynah Tyler welcome everyone to the Hibernian Hall for three forums on Wed., July 20. The Communities of Color organization sponsored the forums, which included candidates for the offices of Suffolk County Sheriff, Suffolk County District Attorney, and the new Second Suffolk Senate District. *Seth Daniel photo*

said. “I am in this race to win it and when I win, we all win.”

The forum focused in part on the substance abuse disorder crisis at the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Melnea Cass Boulevard, also known as “Mass. and Cass.”

Elugardo said substance abuse disorder is personal to her because she has family members who are in recovery. She said the state must invest in programs that address chronic homelessness and mental illness through wraparound services.

Miranda says that the issue is one for all 350 cities and towns in Massachusetts.

“There is no corner of the state that is not represented at Mass. and Cass. Over 60 to 70 percent on Mass. and Cass today — sometimes it swings from 150 to 400 people — are from other cities and towns and other states in the country,” she said. “It’s important that we do this together with the city.”

She added that she has helped to secure funding at the state level for low-threshold housing to help the situation there.

“We need a whole lot more than that,” Wilkerson said in response. Boston has been “owning” the problem, and

other communities have to “bear the burden.”

“It’s the state’s collective responsibility and not the city of Boston’s,” she added.

Culpepper said the state’s focus on Mass. and Cass must be “intentional. There is no simple solution or a single solution,” he said, adding that addiction recovery, mental health counseling, housing, and education are part of efforts to “heal” the addict, and as a result “heal” the community.

Asked about rent control, Miranda said housing is the “number one topic of conversation” as she knocks on doors during the campaign. More affordable housing should be built and there should be deeper investments in Section 8 housing, and rents should be capped at a certain number in an effort to stabilize the housing market.

Wilkerson said housing in Massachusetts is “fundamentally broken” and must be reset.

“My policy does just that,” Culpepper said. He proposes taking affordable housing developments like Franklin Field, supported by the state and federal governments, and transferring ownership to the tenants.

“They deserve to be owners of that development,” he said. “They should have some ownership rights.”

Elugardo noted she is on the Legislature’s Housing Committee and she said Black developers in Black communities

should be supported. Publicly owned land should be put to “better use,” she added.

The Second Suffolk candidates found broad agreement on charter schools, a controversial topic among Democrats. The district — which includes Dorchester, Mattapan, Roxbury as well as Jamaica Plain and Mission Hill — is home to a large number of charters.

Elugardo, Miranda, and Wilkerson said they support existing charter schools but opposed expanding the number of them. Charter school opponents say the schools drain dollars from traditional public schools, while proponents say charters provide educational choices for families. In his response, Culpepper said the state must fully fund a 2019 education reform law.

The forum included separate face-offs between the two candidates for sheriff, incumbent Steve Tompkins and challenger Sandy Zamor Calixte, and the two candidates for district attorney, interim DA Kevin Hayden and City Councillor Ricardo Arroyo.

The forum was moderated by WCVB-TV’s Karen Holmes Ward and included panelists from the Dorchester Reporter, Politico, and the Boston Herald.

Organizers are planning another forum, tentatively set for mid-August and involving the Second Suffolk candidates as well as several local House races.

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# Adams St. condo project comes without commercial component

**By JENNIFER SMITH**  
**REPORTER CORRESPONDENT**  
A proposed five-story condominium project in Lower Mills received little pushback at a July 12 public meeting. Developer William Caulder is pitching 29 residential units and 29 below-grade garage spaces for 1161-1169 Adams St., currently the site of Rent-All of Boston.

The new building would be located between area residences and the Sheet Metal Workers Local 17 building. In renderings, the proposed frontage along Adams Street would be three red brick-clad floors, stepping up to set-back fourth and fifth floors. Its maximum height is 53 feet.

The Rent-All store, which is also the corporate headquarters for the tool rental company, has been in Lower Mills since 1978, when the business relocated from 578 River St. in Mattapan.

Architect Cheryl Tougas said they plan to close up two curb cuts to reduce the number of vehicles pulling in and out of the site. She added that cars would enter a below-grade garage. The first floor includes four units, building amenity spaces, and bike storage.

“There is no commercial component to this,”



A rendering shows how a proposed redevelopment project at what is now Rent-All of Boston at 1161-1169 Adams St. might look. Image courtesy Spalding Tougas Architects, Inc.

project attorney George Morancy added. Tougas said Caulder, who has the site under agreement, looked into the possibility of commercial space and decided against it. The site was “a little too far removed” from other commercial buildings and lacked on-street parking, Tougas said.

It provides a one-to-one parking ratio, and “we feel strongly that it’s an adequate ratio,” said Morancy at the meeting. City code would require around 40 parking spaces, which the development team characterized as somewhat outdated.

“This is very much in a bit of a transition zone as Adams Street leads into Washington Street and Baker Square,” Morancy said, “where there’s significant commercial uses and higher density residential units.”

Tougas noted nearby amenities within walking distance and the

site’s proximity to the Mattapan trolley and nearby Neponset Greenway trail for walking and biking.

A Huntton Street resident, identified on the virtual meeting video only as “Michelle,” said “people I’ve talked to in the neighborhood have expressed concern

The Boston Planning & Development Agency’s board of directors has approved a mixed-use project that will replace the current Metamorphosis convenience store in Lower Mills with a new, four-story building that will house 24 residential rental units and ground-level commercial space. The housing units will be split between one bedroom and two bedrooms.

The developer, Joey

about the parking.” It is already a “very dense parking situation” on her street, she said.

She also said that the site’s Milton-adjacent nature suggests to her that people in the building will be car dependent regardless of the nearby Mattapan trolley.

Boston Planning and Development Agency representative Mark McGonagle said the area is considered “very walkable” and the city is trying to limit parking for denser buildings in areas of high walkability to a one-to-one parking ratio. It is a “balancing act,” he said, to accommodate traffic concerns and “create housing ty-

pologies for a wide array of people and also build housing in a housing crisis.”

The 29 units include 17 one-bedroom and 12 two-bedroom units, with four units

Joyce Linehan, an Adams Street resident and former chief of policy under Mayor Martin Walsh, asked the development team to prioritize affordability. “I would just implore you to try to get as much affordability out of those units as you can,” she said.

Few attendees offered questions or comments at the meeting. A prior abutters meeting took place on Feb. 8, Morancy said, characterizing it as

containing “concerns” but also “a lot of support.”

He said the project needs approval by the BPDA board of directors and zoning relief from the Zoning Board of Appeal. From a zoning side, they would need variances for density, height and unit count, rear setback, and use. There is no BPDA board meeting date set.

Given the mild response at the July meeting, BPDA project manager Stephen Harvey said he expects this project will be moving to the board in August and encouraged people to submit comments through the agency’s website.

## 4-story building on Metamorphosis site in Lower Mills gets BPDA board approval



This rendering shows a new building that would replace the existing Metamorphosis convenience store in Lower Mills. **RODE Architects image**

Arcari, has agreed to contribute \$45,000 to the city’s Parks and Recreation Department

to support Dorchester Park and Walsh Playground and also contribute \$6,600 to the City’s bikeshare system.

The new building will be sited at 1153 Washington St. between the Star Market on River Street and Spukies N Pizza on Washington Street. The project building will include 18 parking spaces and storage for bicycles.

– REPORTER STAFF

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# On Columbia Point, museum sheds light on early Mass. history

**BY MICHAELA BRANT**  
**SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER**  
Although the Commonwealth Museum has a small footprint to work with, wedged as it is between the JFK Presidential Library and the UMass Boston campus, it nonetheless packs centuries of history, and some of Massachusetts' most important documents, into its galleries. The archival collection was for years housed in the State House basement on Beacon Hill, according to Michael Comeau, the executive director of the State Archives and Commonwealth Museum. The museum falls under the purview of Massachusetts Secretary of State William Galvin's office.



A 1780 letter from Alexander Hamilton to the Marquis de Lafayette —stolen from the Massachusetts Archives decades ago— is now on display at the Commonwealth Museum in Dorchester.

Image courtesy Secretary of State's office

"It was determined in the early 1980s that the archives collection needed to have a better home," said Comeau. "And it needed to grow."

In 1986, the new Commonwealth Museum opened on Columbia Point, and during the 2000s the building was reconfigured for even more display areas. Now,

the staff there ensures that the collection is "accessioned, preserved, managed, and then made accessible." Visitors can come to do archival research with the assistance of the collections' staff members, or tour the main gallery areas of the museum. The museum is an attraction for students. Groups from third grade through high school can visit with a simple reservation with the archives providing bus transportation. The permanent exhibition spans from Indigenous history to the British colonial period through the American Revolution and to the establishment of the United States. It ends with the 19th century reforms

covering labor, women's, and civil rights. Step into the museum's Treasures Gallery, and the temperature and the lights drop. Visitors find themselves surrounded by original and authentic copies of some of the most important documents in Massachusetts history, from the Charter of the Province of Massachusetts Bay and the Charter of 1629 to the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, and the celebrated Massachusetts Constitution of 1780, the world's oldest functioning written constitution. Visitors typically flock to the museum on July 4th to see the Declaration of Independence. This year, there was another draw: a newly

recovered letter written by Alexander Hamilton in 1780. After it was stolen from the State House during World War II and sold to a private collector, the letter resurfaced at an auction house when the family possessing it decided to sell. Years of court battles followed between the museum and the family, but the archives regained the letter this March. It was displayed at the July 4th exhibit, and will be brought out from the archive for future events. "It's part of the public collection," said Comeau. "It belongs to the public." The Commonwealth Museum is open to the public 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

## From atop Savin Hill, a look back at the history of the Massachusett tribe

**BY MICHAELA BRANT**  
**SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER**  
The Dorchester Historical Society and the Columbia-Savin Hill Civic Association (CSHCA) will team up next Sunday (July 31) in hosting Thomas Green, a Bay State native and descendant of the Native American Neponset band of the Massachusett tribe from which the state takes its name, as

he discusses the history of the park and some of the customs of the Neponset people, and close out the event with a land blessing ceremony. The event, at the top of Savin Hill near the Caspian Way entrance, will run from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. The Neponset people were led by the Sachem Chickataubut in 1620, when the English started coming by the thousands

to settle in North America, according to the Massachusett Tribe website. By 1650, English settlers had outnumbered the Indigenous people and forced them over to the Blue Hills, into an area of Neponset Territory called Ponkapoag. The historical portion of Green's presentation will span from the 1600s to the early 1900s and focus on the interactions between Indigenous peo-

ple and the English colonists, Indigenous leadership, and the events of the early colonial period. Green's main reason for sharing his knowledge with Dorchester residents is "to educate people," he said in an interview, "to let people know a little bit about the actual truth about the Indigenous history of Massachusetts." Despite the plague brought by European traders that decimated Indigenous populations

between 1616 and 1619, the elimination of culture and language, and other depredations committed against Native Americans, the Massachusett people are part of Massachusetts history and should be recognized as such, he asserted. "We were here and we are still here," he said. This is the first collaboration of its kind between the Dorchester Historical Society, CSHCA, and the Massachusett tribe. "History isn't one word but two words: His story," Green said. "In common historical narratives, we rarely

hear the side of the marginalized group. That is why it's so important for people to learn about Native American history, especially the history and current presence of local Indigenous people." No matter what cultural or ethnic group is involved, Green believes the United States' greatest problem is ignorance of one another's history and experiences. "We don't know enough about each other to trust each other," he said, "and I believe that should change." For more history of the Massachusett, visit [massachusetttribe.org](http://massachusetttribe.org)

## Dot resident's exhibition set: 'There Once Was Parking II'

**BY MICHAELA BRANT**  
**SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER**  
In September, a series of free arts, music, and food-based events in Dorchester will bring the art experience out of the galleries and into neighborhood establishments. Jodie Baehre, an urban landscape artist and Dorchester resident, had curated a show like this before. "There Once Was Parking" was a month-long exhibition in a gallery at the Envoy Hotel in the Seaport neighborhood, but the team involved decided that to live up the next show, they would include events like yoga, artist talks, and concerts. Baehre said that through these events they were "just trying to make it more comfortable and accessible to people—I think sometimes art can be uncomfortable, when it's in a gallery setting. So that was a big hit. And the city was really excited about that."

Baehre is now expanding upon the idea of art accessibility with "There Once Was Parking II," which is being sponsored in part by the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture and Somos Vida Hospitality.



Jodie Baehre

The name of the show is a nod to the idea that when a place becomes gentrified, often the first thing to go is free parking. While larger companies coming into communities can bring economic development, people are priced out and forced to move. "There Once Was Parking II" is meant to bring people together and celebrate art in the very spaces where community is made. The opening reception will be hosted by Ashmont Grill on Sept. 12 at 6 p.m., with the art of Dorchester residents including Baehre and Matthew Dickey on display. Later in the month, there will be several live music events from groups like the Merz Trio and Cliodhna Field & Friends. On Sept. 22, the main

event will feature music, food trucks, and local artists selling their work. Baehre is excited to bring art into spaces in her community where she and her neighbors already feel at home. Art forms like contemporary art or classical music, she said, can feel exclusive or intimidating to talk about. "I think it's sort of like combining things that are comfortable for people," Baehre said. She referenced one of the artists, Zakiyyah, who is both a classically trained opera singer and a hip-hop, R&B, and jazz musician. She hopes that when people see art that might seem irrelevant to them in a different context, "they might leave and be like, 'Dude, I kind of like opera now.'" She added: "I felt like people all over came to ["There Once Was Parking I"] and I'm hoping the same will come for this Dorchester series," she said. "But I'm also just so much more excited about this just because it's my home." For more information and to reserve free tickets, visit [thereoncwasparking.com](http://thereoncwasparking.com).

# BLACK LIVES MATTER

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STANDS WITH OUR COMMUNITY  
IN FIGHTING RACIAL INJUSTICE

Codman Square Health Center

Reporter's

People

News about people  
in and around our Neighborhoods

Frog Pond offers respite from the summer sizzlers



Lilyana McQueen of Savin Hill, 2 ½, and her grandmother, Ellen Walsh, met Frog Pond Freddie at the Boston Common.



Chris Martell of Dorchester and daughters Emiko, 7, and Ayumi, 9, enjoyed the spray pool at the Boston Common Frog Pond.



Dorchester residents Christon Canty, 9, and his mom, Nikecia Gadson, enjoyed the festivities at the Boston Common Frog Pond spray pool on June 28.

Two from Dot join  
United Way board



Dananai Morgan

Two Dorchester residents— **Dananai Morgan** and **Tara Parker, PhD**—have been elected board members of the United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley.

Morgan has extensive experience in nonprofit and community leadership, and currently works as an associate director at the Museum of Science. She also serves as an advisor for Neighborhood Birth Center, which works to improve birth experiences and outcomes through the



Tara Parker, PhD

integration of a free-standing center. She was born and raised in Zimbabwe and currently lives in Dorchester with her family.

Dr. Parker is the chair of the Leadership in Education Department and Professor of Higher Education at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. With her research focusing on race and higher education, she has published several works on both subjects. She lives in Dorchester with her teenage daughter.

Mayor Michelle Wu, Boston's Chief of Environment, Energy, and Open Space Rev. Mariama White-Hammond, the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, and The Skating Club of Boston welcomed children and guests to kick off the 2022 summer

season as the Boston Common Frog Pond spray pool reopened late last month.

The day included a fun and exciting celebration and the official opening of the spray pool sponsored by H.P. Hood LLC. The spray pool is open daily from 11

a.m. to 6 p.m. until Labor Day.

The facility is managed by The Skating Club of Boston and staffed by youth workers from the Boston Youth Fund. For further information, please call the Frog Pond at 617-635-2120 or go to [bostonfrogpond.com](http://bostonfrogpond.com).

Rev. Dr. Tucker joins board  
that supports Catholic schools

Rev. Dr. Ingrid Tucker of Milton has joined the board of trustees of the Campaign for Catholic Schools, a non-profit charged with rebuilding urban Catholic elementary education in the Archdiocese of Boston. Currently CCS is co-sponsor of two large regional PreK-Gr. 8 schools serving 1, 400 students—Trinity Catholic Academy (Brockton) and Saint John Paul II Catholic Academy (Dorchester).

Rev. Dr. Tucker is deputy director of Madison Park Development Corporation, a leading developer of affordable housing in Nubian Square, Roxbury. She previously headed The Cambridge Montessori School and has also served as president of Mother Caroline Academy and Education Center, a tuition-free middle school for low-income girls in Dorchester).

In addition to serving on the Saint John Paul

II Catholic Academy board, Dr. Tucker has served on a variety of other non-profit and independent school boards, including the board of the Maryundo School for Girls in Rwanda and the Cardinal's Advisory committee.

A graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University who spent her senior year at Spelman College, she holds a master's degree in Public Administration from Clark Atlanta University and a doctorate in



**Rev. Dr. Ingrid Tucker**  
education from Boston College Lynch School of Education.  
She and her husband, Phillip, are the co-founders and pastors of Awaken Christian Church. They have four adult children.

YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE

DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
The Tapestry at First Baptist Church

The current First Baptist Church on the corner of Ashmont and Adams Streets in Dorchester was the sixth church established in Dorchester since the town's founding in 1630 and the first Dorchester church of the Baptist denomination. It was originally known as the Neponset Village Meeting House.

According to church records, in early 1835, Miss Nancy Moore, a schoolteacher at Dorchester's Second Parish Church in Codman Square, organized a Sunday school at Neponset Village near the ferry crossing the river to Quincy. In July, they held their first



**The Neponset Village Meeting House Tapestry from the 1830s is owned by the First Baptist Church in Dorchester.**

distinctively Baptist service at the Neponset Inn/Holbrook Tavern, which stood until 2013 behind the current health center. By June of 1837, the First Baptist Society in Dorchester was recognized by the Baptist Council. A year later, the congregation erected its first meeting house on Chickatawbut Street near Narraganset Street.

Almost from the beginning, members established a Ladies Guild to promote fellowship,

religious education, and support their meeting house. The dues were 25 cents for women and 50 cents for men. They took turns meeting in each other's homes to sing hymns, talk about events of the day, and to work on the tapestry that would decorate their meeting house when finished.

The tapestry is an example of embroidery created by pulling hundreds of fine wool yarn threads through a burlap like linen rug warp to create an image of Jesus teaching the women in a garden. For its time, it was rather progressive as higher education, or the teaching of intel-

lectual subject to women, was controversial. The Neponset Tapestry is about 40" by 36." It is woven on a stretcher frame similar to that used on oil paintings. It is a classic example of rural folk art and a tribute to the women of Dorchester as most of the women of the church had a hand in making it. On completion, it hung in the Chickatawbut Street meeting house until the church moved to 401 Ashmont Street, where it has been ever since in a place of honor.

*The archive of these historical posts can be viewed on the blog at [dorchesterhistoricalociety.org](http://dorchesterhistoricalociety.org).*

Editorial

Letter to the Editor

# A dad/son bike ride fueled by compassion

After eight weeks of trekking across the United States (and parts of Canada) on bicycles, a father-and-son team from Carruth Street are due to dip their tires into the waters of Southie's Pleasure Bay on Wednesday afternoon, marking the end of a remarkable adventure through eight US states and Ontario that's been more than just a fantastic bonding experience for Josh Nagy and his dad, Carl Nagy-Koechlin.

Carl Nagy-Koechlin and son Josh on their way home.

They are cycling to raise money and awareness to combat homelessness. So far, their Riding for Home effort has brought in \$16,000 for the Pine Street Inn and the National Alliance to End Homelessness.

The duo began their 3,600-mile journey on Memorial Day from the edge of the Pacific Ocean in Washington state. Josh had just graduated from the O'Bryant School in Roxbury and his 61-year-old father runs a Cambridge-based nonprofit.

If you are looking for a great summer read, consider stowing your beach paperback for an hour or two and taking a deep dive into Carl and Josh's excellent online blog that has been detailing their trip in installments at their website, [ridingforhome.org](http://ridingforhome.org). You can make a donation to their effort there as well.

"Josh eats slowly and rides quickly. I ride slowly and eat quickly. Take the best of both of us and we'd be home by now," Carl wrote in a recent post. "But what's the hurry, right?"

The travelogue is well-written and beautifully illustrated with their snapshots from the shores of Lake Michigan, Glacier National Park, and, yes, a drive-up window at a Dairy Queen in rural Minnesota.

At its root, theirs is a charming story of a father-son bond that is candid, funny, and motivated by a compassionate spirit that will ring true to so many of our readers who know Carl and Josh and their family. It's also a fascinating window into what both of them acknowledged going into the trip is a deeply divided and troubled country— most of it through "deep red territory." Their entries offer anecdotes about their unease with— as Carl writes— the "assault of angry and often vulgar right-wing political signs, flags, etc." along the way.

And yet, the optimism and positive energy that keeps them pedaling is undefeated. They see the good in people— even the two older gents in Michigan, one wearing a hat that read: "You're damn right I'm mad."

Carl again: "And yet the two of them were as nice as could be. They were impressed with our undertaking— both the cycling and that we were raising money to address homelessness...It was nice to connect, but I assume we then went back into our divergent worlds, with completely different understandings about what's wrong with the world."

On Wednesday, when they spin their last lap on the beaches of Castle Island, there'll be nothing but good vibes showering Carl and Josh.

Do yourself a favor: Go read their account. And hit that donate button. It's a hometown effort that deserves our full-on support.

—Bill Forry

# Parishioners oppose St. Christopher sale, say archdiocese's reasons are 'fabricated'

**To the Editor:**

We are writing to let you know that St. Christopher's Parish continues to serve numerous people of various ethnic backgrounds of nationality, particularly the local Spanish community, as well as many from other locations in and around our city.

Many of these people are the poor, the destitute, working class, and repentant sinners. This parish has administered the sacraments to countless individuals for more than 66 years now and serves well the numerous local Catholic residents, businesses, hotel, and schools situated very close by.

On June 18, there was a public announcement in the church bulletin by Fr. John Ronaghan that St. Christopher's Church and its property will be offered for sale for the sole reason that it is in need of extensive repairs, thus avoiding drawing on the stable finances of the parish. This justification for selling the church and its property is almost entirely fabricated.

There are a small number of minor repairs and upkeeps that ought to be done, but they are definitely not extensive (or expensive) as stated. In fact, all the vital and most costly repairs have already been completed.

For example, not long ago the rectory roof was repaired and soon after, the roof of the church itself was restored, which was very costly. Secondly, all the church doors were replaced along with the installation of a brand-new state of the art oil heating system that was likewise extremely expensive to complete. Thirdly, the inside of the rectory was just entirely gutted out and remodeled, which, too, was very expensive.

Any recent statements or proclamations from the Archdiocese of Boston to the media that parishioners of St. Christopher's have agreed to and/or approved the sale of the church and its property are outright lies and fraudulent. It is quite obvious that selling the church and its valuable property is an initiative of greed and will undoubtedly result in a disservice to this community, creating much more harm than good.

We hope and pray that St. Christopher Church will remain standing as it is — a parish for all souls of all ages — and will continue to have the image and the inscription of Christ.

Mr. and Mrs. William Davulis  
Columbia Point

# State Congressional delegates call for 'urgent' US moves against monkeypox

*The following letter— co-authored by several members of the Massachusetts Congressional delegation, including Rep. Ayanna Pressley, Rep. Stephen Lynch and Senators Markey and Warren — was sent to Xavier Becerra, US Secretary of Health and Human Services on Monday, July 25.*

Our nation is at a critical inflection point in our response to the global monkeypox outbreak. As members of Congress representing the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, we write to urge you to rapidly increase vaccine distribution, ensure equitable access, and engage state and local leaders in a comprehensive public health education campaign to combat the spread of monkeypox.

The monkeypox outbreak is growing and threatening the health of our communities. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there have been 15,378 confirmed cases of monkeypox across the globe and at least 2,323 confirmed cases in the United States. The national outbreak spreads across more than 40 states, demonstrating the need for a robust federal response.

Because monkeypox is spread through skin-to-skin contact and touching items, including clothing and linens that previously touched an infectious rash or body fluids, there is significant potential for greater spread.

In Massachusetts, many of our neighbors have contracted monkeypox. The Commonwealth has one of the nation's highest counts of confirmed cases. In a single week, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health announced an additional 18 new cases.

Although the current outbreak has disproportionately impacted men who have sex with men, people of all genders and sexual orientations can be infected. Symptoms of the disease include fever, chills, exhaustion, and a rash appearing on a person's face and body, leading to significant disruptions in a person's daily life. As the response to the coronavirus pandemic demonstrated, our

best defense against monkeypox is a coordinated campaign between the federal government and state and local stakeholders.

At this moment, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has the opportunity to execute a high-impact public health strategy that will protect people from the disease. We commend the actions you have already taken as part of an enhanced strategy to mitigate harm

In order to meaningfully stop the virus from spreading in Massachusetts and throughout the country, there must be an intensification in testing, vaccinations, and public health education and greatly improved data tracking. As HHS ramps up its efforts, we urge you act decisively and quickly in the interest of public health.

It is critical that HHS rapidly increases vaccine distribution, ensures equitable access, and engages state and local leaders in a comprehensive public health education campaign. Every person who is eligible to receive the monkeypox vaccine should be able to access it. However, there is a documented shortage in vaccines that must be addressed immediately. Further, communities that are disproportionately impacted should be prioritized for testing and vaccination.

HHS must collect and disclose disaggregated demographic data, including gender identity, race, and ethnicity, to track whether those who need the resources are receiving them. By teaming up with state and local elected officials, community organizations, and public health experts, you will be better equipped to protect at-risk individuals from monkeypox with a multilingual, destigmatizing, and culturally congruent strategy. Now is the time for aggressive action.

We stand ready to partner with you on a federal response to the ongoing monkeypox outbreak in a way that centers hardest-hit communities and protect the public's health.

# Tour of Dot gardens set for Thurs., Aug. 4

The Trustees of Reservations are hosting a free guided tour of three flourishing Dorchester community gardens and two home gardens on Thurs., Aug. 4.

Beginning at the Greenwood Community Garden, the just-under-a-mile-long walk will take attendees through some of the 18 community gardens in Dorchester overseen by the Trustees.

Along with the tour, participants will be able to enjoy live music while meeting accomplished gardeners who tend to these green spaces. Cocktails and mocktails will be available to enjoy following a mixology demonstration, along with food from local restaurants. Attendees can also participate in a workshop on how to make infused herbal vinegar, which they can take home.

All proceeds from this fundraising event will directly benefit the Trustees' 56 total community gardens across Boston.

The community gardens portion of the tour will be wheelchair accessible, but the home gardens have varying accessibility levels. The Trustees welcome inquiries about accessibility and accommodations. Contact Michelle with questions at [mdelima@thetrustees.org](mailto:mdelima@thetrustees.org) or 978-338-1192.

The Trustees of Reservations was founded by the landscape architect Charles Elliott in 1891. The conservation and preservation nonprofit cares for over 100 places of ecological, historical, and scenic importance all across Massachusetts. Reservations range from forests to mountains to working farms. The Trustees offer programs and experiences from art exhibitions to nature hikes. Many reservations do not charge admission.

To purchase tickets for a 5 p.m or 5:30 p.m. time slot for the Dorchester Garden Tour, visit [thetrustees.org/dottour](http://thetrustees.org/dottour).

— MICHAELA BRANT

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# SJC rules for Boston in Long Island Bridge rebuild dispute

**By MICHAEL P. NORTON**  
**STATE HOUSE**  
**NEWS SERVICE**

Boston’s effort to build a new bridge to Long Island got a lift Monday with a ruling from the Supreme Judicial Court that a state Department of Environmental Protection order supersedes the Quincy Conservation Commission’s application denial related to the bridge construction because the commission “did not rest its determination on more stringent local provisions.”

According to the ruling, “the commission does not explain in its brief, and did not explain in its decisions denying Boston’s application, how its own analysis differs from the analysis that the DEP was authorized to perform.”

In 2014, Boston closed the bridge connecting Quincy to Long Island, which is under Boston’s jurisdiction, for safety reasons. The bridge was removed in 2015, but its piers remain. In 2018, Boston initiated a bridge rebuild effort, which would rely on the existing piers, so the city could restore access to rehabilitation facilities on the island, including opioid addiction treatment services.

Before the bridge closed, Long Island housed a multi-bed homeless shelter, drug treatment programs, and transitional housing programs.

Because the project would have an impact on wetlands in Quincy, Boston petitioned the Quincy commission for permission to build the bridge. After the commission denied the application, Boston applied to MassDEP for a superseding order of conditions and DEP allowed the project to proceed.

In Monday’s ruling, Justice David Lowy cited the 2007 case Oyster Creek



The remnants of the Long Island Bridge in Boston Harbor as seen in August 2017.  
Jesse Costa/WBUR photo

Preservation Inc. v. Conservation Commission of Harwich, writing that “a conservation commission’s decision regarding wetlands may stand, despite a superseding order by the DEP, if the conservation commission relied on provisions in a local ordinance that are more stringent than the provisions in the act

“The commission claims it relied on the local ordinance’s reference to ‘cumulatively adverse effect[s] upon wetland values,’ and that this language is more stringent than the language in the act,” Lowy wrote. “However, we conclude that the DEP order supersedes that of the commission because the commission did not rest its determination on more stringent local provisions.”

In denying Boston’s application, the Quincy Conservation Commission had concluded that Boston had not provided sufficient information about how Boston would mitigate the envi-

ronmental impacts of repairing and replacing the piers, and repairing a

road that would provide access to the bridge.

The court said the State Wetlands Protection Act addresses the commission’s concerns around how work on the piers would affect fisheries, wildlife habitat, pollution, land under the ocean, and land containing shellfish.

In May, the *Boston Herald* reported, that US Attorney for Massachusetts Rachael Rollins had informed Quincy Mayor Thomas Koch in a May 12 letter that her office is “initiating an investigation” into Quincy based on the Americans With Disabilities Act, which includes language forbidding discrimination against people with substance-abuse issues. The *Herald* reported that Rollins’ civil rights unit was seeking information about Quincy’s opposition to the project.

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3:30PM

THE FRED WOODARD COLLECTIVE  
2:15PM

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# Mattapan on Wheels sets off for the 12th time

The 12th annual Mattapan on Wheels took place last Saturday morning at Ryan Playground on River Street. More than 100 cyclists from Mattapan, Dorchester and other communities joined in to make one of three rides – a family ride to Tenean Beach in Dorchester, an intermediate ride, and an expert ride to the Arnold Arboretum.

Mattapan Food & Fitness Director Shavel’le Olivier said that for more than a decade the organization has been trying to promote bicycling in the community – particularly for Black and Brown people and youth. The result is an active biking community in Mattapan that gathered for the 12th annual ride.

Photos by Seth Daniel



Bermina Chery was ready to take on the intermediate ride on Saturday morning.



Christina Rose, Courtney Small, Peter Cheung, Charlotte Fleetwood of Boston Transportation Department, and Eliza Parad of the Boston Cyclist Union.



Danny Garcia of Mattapan and Quintell Brown, visiting from New Jersey, were ready for a morning ride.



Cyclist Peter Cheung gives the peace sign.



Mattapan on Wheels volunteers Winnie Yuan, Chris Eugene, and Nathan Laureore.



Ishmael Hazelwood, youth riding coordinator, and Shavel’le Olivier, co-organizer of the event.



Abeo Powder signed up for the 12-mile expert ride.



Arriving to Ryan Playground on two wheels was Theresa Jordan.



Malaysia Fuller-Staten, a community organizer with the Boston Cyclist Union.

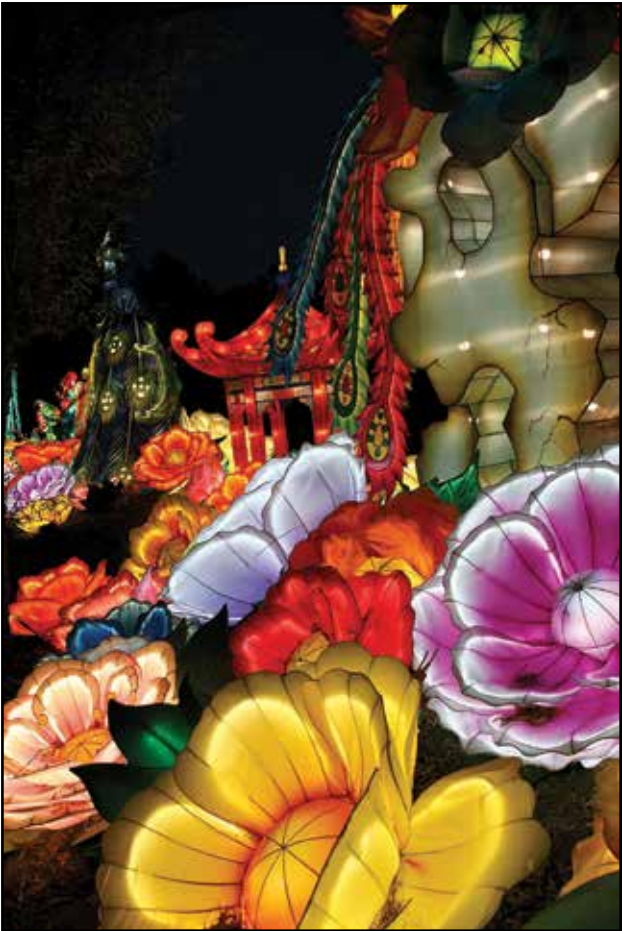


Councillor Ruthzee Louijeune, Mattapan Food & Fitness Chair Vivien Morris, Mattapan Food & Fitness Director Shavel’le Olivier, State Rep. Brandy Fluker Oakley and Fatima Ali-Salaam, president of the Greater Mattapan Neighborhood Council (GMNC).



Steve Snekvik repairs his wheel before leaving.

# Boston Lights brighten up the Zoo



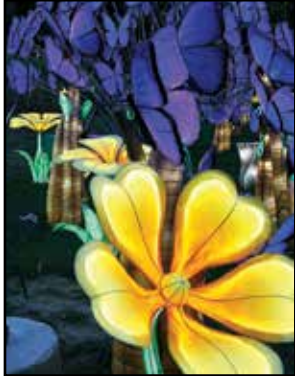
Flower of all color and a pagoda showed brightly.



A lit-up Pufferfish huffed and puffed and blew out a plume of steam towards passers-by.



A father and son were dazzled by the colorful prism room towards the end of the exhibit.



Colorfully lit butterflies and flowers dominated the pathways.



Many attendees were delighted by the jellyfish and coral piece, which featured movement and changing colors.

The Franklin Park Zoo and Zoo New England brought back the Boston Lights exhibit for the third straight year to the Zoo, opening this past week and staying open through October. The incredibly vibrant lighting exhibits cover the entire 72-acre property and carry the topic of space exploration, nature, and conservation. Among the

many highlights include a gigantic replica of the Solar System on the promenade, a massive octopus that visitors can walk under and a drum-operated interactive butterfly exhibit. Zoo staff said the globes in the exhibit were all custom created for Boston Lights, and the space theme is brand new for this year. *Seth Daniel photos*



A colorful archway welcomed visitors to the night version of the Franklin Park Zoo – the Boston Lights exhibit, which will be up through October.



A massive octopus lit up the pathway as visitors walked underneath the ominous creature.

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Marrese, Gena M		Gharios, Elias A		543 Adams St #24	Dorchester	06/30/22	358,000
Alley, Matthew P	Cohen, Daniel J	Teebagy, Russell		62 Roslin St	Dorchester	06/29/22	1,300,000
Collins, Matthew C		Seyller, Sharon	Catteau, Kelly	20 Lenoxdale Ave	Dorchester	06/23/22	840,000
Willett, Zachary J		Vaughn, Catherine M		135 Granite Ave #8	Dorchester	06/28/22	233,750
Dintino, Bianca	Larosa, Emily	Mccarthy, Charles J	Mccarthy, Nora C	32-34 Whitridge St	Dorchester	06/28/22	1,020,000
Thai, Lan		Desmond, Kathleen M	Manning, Sheila M	9 Duxbury Rd	Mattapan	06/28/22	485,000
133 Mattapan St LLC		Haynes, Derek B		133 Mattapan St	Mattapan	06/27/22	476,000
Reyes, John R	Calderon, Ruben	Mclean, Ruby T		27 Greendale Rd	Mattapan	06/27/22	1,250,000
Tran, Tram	Tran, Khoa	Tran, Steven	Ta, Vi A	35 Old Morton St	Mattapan	06/23/22	450,000
Branz, Ariel	Nagin, Rachel	Joseph, June C		628 River St	Mattapan	06/30/22	650,000
Hyder, Erie		Reynolds, Brian P		60 Sawyer Ave #2	Dorchester	06/28/22	806,000
Chahid, Hana		Rivera, Kia	Moran, Patricia	80 Lonsdale St #2	Dorchester	06/30/22	552,000
Sarkar, Sumit		Willis, Martha		8 Hallam St #1	Dorchester	06/27/22	580,000
Brandorff, David F	Brandorff, Lisa	Torres, Robert		5-A Mount Vernon St #1	Dorchester	06/30/22	810,000
Sargis, Colin M		Allen, Matthew J		27 Mount Vernon St #1	Dorchester	06/29/22	745,000
Dicocco, Casey	Derosa, Joseph	69 Romsey St Unit 3 LLC		69 Romsey St #3	Dorchester	06/29/22	937,500
Connor, Matthew D		Campbell-Kirrane, Ashley	Kirrane, Patrick	1066 Adams St #1	Dorchester	06/28/22	545,000
Doherty, John P	Doherty, Mary	B&B RT	Campbell, David C	176 Minot St	Dorchester	06/28/22	430,000
Skerry, Jonathan	Skerry, Ashley	A O Donovan 2019 T	Donovan, Andrea O	7 Burgoyne St #1	Dorchester	06/23/22	710,000

# Jazzfest returns to Dudley Street roots as the Woodards, father and son, play on

(Continued from page 1)

Born 61 years ago in Kansas City, Missouri, Woodard grew up in Iowa City, where his father, Fredrick Woodard, Sr., was a professor of African American and World Studies and English at the University of Iowa. A generation earlier, when his father was growing up in Kansas City, it was a magnet for jazz artists around the country and famed as the birthplace of saxophonist, composer, and great “Bird” of Bebop, Charlie Parker.

While still in junior high school, Woodard’s father had started playing alto sax, one more hatchling in a flock of aspiring nightbirds. And, among Woodard’s relatives, there were only a few degrees of separation from big names such as Ellington, Count Basie, and Coleman Hawkins. As Woodard took up his first instrument—the cello, he was absorbing the musical legacy of his father’s record collection, with tracks by Parker, Miles Davis, John Coltrane, and Wes Montgomery. But he was also taken with the popular music of his own generation—Motown, Funk, and the catchy, danceable blend of genres in



From left to right: Fred Woodard, Fredrick Woodard III and Deniece Woodard. Chris Lovett photo

Earth, Wind & Fire. In the decades between world wars, jazz morphed from its roots in blues and gospel to become a leading form of danceable popular music, even beyond the United States. In the postwar decades, Bebop would mark the ascent of jazz as art music—and the start of its gradually diminishing popularity. By the time Woodard was at Berklee School of Music in Boston, he was focused on jazz guitar and the golden age of Bebop was more than a decade in the past. If Woodard learned from earlier masters by transcribing their improvised solos, he also tried to play with artists above his current level and

make new discoveries as a listener. “If you listen to someone and copy their lines and everything and play along with their recordings and get the feel of it, and then you use it when you’re practicing and when you go to play,” he said, “then, after a while, if you’re really a creative person, you’ll start to hear other things – and, then, after a while, it just kind of turns into your own voice.” Adding to the new voice in the Collective is Woodard’s 25-year-old son, Fredrick Woodard III, on violin. As they rehearsed the set for the upcoming festival, they frequently swapped leads, at times with the freewheeling violin over

rhythmic chords on guitar. While he plays from his chair, Woodard rocks back and forth, keeping time like a conductor, but also facing diagonally across, toward the beat kept on percussion by Matthew Williams. “Fred was my introduction to jazz music,” said Williams, who was among Woodard’s students at the Roland Hayes School of Music in Roxbury. The introduction included his first exposure to recordings by Williams’s favorite drummer, Elvin Jones. “I’m glad I started listening to jazz,” said Williams, “because it helped me in a lot of other areas, even musically.” As a 21st century jazz musician, Woodard has done everything from making recordings and performing at clubs to playing at festivals and bookstores, even busking in subways. Sometimes he’s joined by his son, as well as his 21-year-old daughter, Deniece, a bassist and music major at UMass Boston. The two also help Woodard in his role as music director for a trans-denominational community, Unity in the City, which streams services online.

Working on the project with them, and performing at the festival, is Janice Octavia Allen, a vocalist specializing in gospel, blues, and jazz who studied at the New England Conservatory. Other sets at the festival will be played by Bill Lowe’s Signifying Ensemble and Beacon Bop from UMass Boston, with Woodard’s daughter on electric bass, Matthew Villacis on drums, Gerardo Rivas on tenor sax, Analee Clough on baritone sax, and Phillip Lei on piano. Even when created for pure listening, jazz was an ongoing conversation with the popular music of its time, whether show tunes, dance hits, movie soundtracks, or the sound of Sunday at church. That background also applies to another festival headliner, Yoron Israel. A drummer, composer, and band leader, as well as a past participant in the festival, he chairs Berklee’s Percussion Department, along

with serving as music director for a church in the Boston area. In his upcoming appearance at the festival with his Trio Plus, he plans to perform selections mostly from their recent album, “New Dreams.” In past albums, Israel, 58, paid tribute to inspirations from the past such as John Coltrane and Stevie Wonder. Growing up mainly in the west side of Chicago, he explored jazz greats of the past, with a public library giving access to recordings by artists such as Thad Jones and Lester Young. While still in junior high school, Israel went on tour for the first time with an uncle’s rhythm and blues band, and it was the same uncle who arranged for his first formal lessons as a percussionist. But, as a teen playing with his peers in garage bands, Israel was tuning in to popular artists such as Stevie Wonder, Donny Hathaway, Michael Jackson, and Earth, Wind & Fire. “I feel that music is part of who we are as artists—or who I am as an artist,” said Israel. “In some ways, those artists are as significant to me as the John Coltranes and Charlie Parkers.” Over the years, Israel would find other jazz artists with similar feelings. “Many musicians wanted to make sure they kept intact, kept in contact with their musical roots that went beyond jazz, and not just in a pretentious way, not in a way to sell more records or anything, but in a way of being sincere about who they were,” he said. “So, I think, by doing that, we’re also connecting to non-musicians who may hear the music and have a similar background.” But Israel’s first awareness of wanting to be a musician came from growing up in a church-going family. “It was a pretty big church. We had several choirs who would perform and, as a youngster, I was part of the young choir, in terms of singing,” he recalled. “But, looking at the gentlemen who were playing the instruments, I knew that that’s what I wanted to do.” Decades later, the path that led from church to the garage leads to another neighborhood setting in Dorchester, with Israel’s return to the Dudley Jazz Festival. “It’s really a beautiful thing to play there,” he said, “because, a lot of the times, to play in Dorchester or the community in general, it’s good to see faces that you don’t normally see when you go to Scullers.” With jazz clubs becoming harder to find or afford, Woodard says artists sometimes need to look beyond their specialization and its connoisseurs. “They get

so far into their own space that they forget about communicating what art is about,” he said. “It’s communicating to an audience, rather than being in your own little world.” When many artists were physically cut off from that audience by the pandemic, Woodard tried another path to creativity: an online course with musical exercises. One assignment was to write blues in different keys, not unlike the sets of preludes and fugues in J.S. Bach’s Well-Tempered Clavier. That led to a composition that Woodard was able to perform in person last year, and part of the set planned for the upcoming festival, a blues number titled “Hindsight 2020.” It’s in the unusual key of G minor, with a four-beat rhythm that, without enough swing, can easily get swamped by notes in relentless groups of threes. One of Bach’s G minor fugues also has persistent triplets, fretting like fingers through worry beads. In “Hindsight 2020,” Woodard’s melodic fretwork is more dogged, a plod of resistance under a heavy load, with ballast from the harmonically indeterminate interval of fourths. “On the one hand, you could say it was an academic exercise,” he explains, “but it kind of expresses the overall mood during the lockdown, the pandemic.” The Collective’s set also includes a piece by Woodard’s son, “Chile,” and ends with a reimagining of “Stretching,” by the pianist and composer James Williams. A Memphis native who came to Berklee in 1973, Williams left to play with Art Blakey’s Jazz Messengers. Fifteen years after “Stretching” was recorded, its opening bass line and horns would re-emerge in hip-hop, sampled by Digable Planets in “Rebirth of Slick.” The Collective’s version, starting with Melvin Graham’s solo on bass, mixes the original and its offshoot into yet another piece of new music—jazz rediscovered as popular music, then rediscovered again as jazz. The rehearsal night in Woodard’s basement wrapped up with a second run through his tribute to Coltrane, “JWC.” Once again, the piece begins at full tilt, but this time more in gear, as Woodard and his son swap leads, with interjections from Williams on drums. Woodard then takes that to the next level, with a grainy stream of scat urging his bandmates on, as if to a more unfiltered kind of presence. If music can dance and sing, it can also talk. And, when it’s over, Williams has the last word. “That’s tight,” he says. “Getting there.”



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# A birthing center? A growing notion in Dot, Mattapan

(Continued from page 1) and people of color,” she said. “The main concern for about 95 percent of them is they don’t want to have a baby in the hospital because of how they are treated. Many feel like they aren’t listened to...They feel they are rushed through a system like a number instead of having a provider relationship being built with them. That’s where I come in.”

Nneka Hall, a full-spectrum doula (a supporter of women through pregnancy but not in delivery) from Mattapan and a member of the state’s Post-Partum Depression Commission, said women, particularly women of color, have moved rapidly during the Covid era to home birth.

“It started up most recently with Black people because of reports about Black Infant Mortality and the recent report the state put out this year,” she said. “We feel safer at home. That sparked a natural movement in the public. Then you couldn’t have your family in with you during Covid. You couldn’t have your doula. Women had to actually choose between having their spouse or their mothers in with them.”

That combination of things has led to new thoughts on giving birth, and particularly giving birth in one’s home or at a birthing center in the neighborhood. Women who investigate the matter quickly learn there are differences between a hospital birth and a home birth. First, insurance does not cover home births, so payment come out of pocket. Second, there are no pain medications given during the pregnancy, so that can be a negative for some. Third, a pregnancy must be low-risk and the mother must be healthy to qualify for a home birth.

However, all home birth providers abide by a hospital transfer protocol if things don’t go as planned, so the process is quite safe. Most importantly for many, a home birth process gives the expectant mother and family more attention, with average appointments lasting one hour rather than the 15-minute check-ups offered by hospital providers.

## Reaching back to an earlier time

Though it all sounds new and innovative, home birthing is a throw-back to the past. Most people were born in homes prior to the 1920s and 1930s when hospital births became prominent. In fact, many older homes in Dorchester and Mattapan feature “birthing rooms” at the front of the home – typically smaller rooms without closets attached by a door to the master bedroom.

Johnson and Hall ex-



Dananai Morgan (standing), a Neighborhood Birthing Center board member, and Dr. Jo-Anna Rorie, a consulting midwife on the project, during a fundraiser last fall in Jamaica Plain.

Photo courtesy of Nashira Baril



Nashira Baril  
Courtesy Nashira Baril

plained that midwives were typically Black or Indigenous women, and they would deliver the baby in the home—where the mother would relax for several days while the community came around to support the new baby and its family.

Then the hospital system entered the picture. “Midwifery was transferred down from one generation to another, but in the early 1920s and 1930s there was propaganda spread about midwives being unsanitary and not knowing what they were doing,” said Johnson. “The doctors came in and saw that they could capitalize on it and put this campaign out to make people fearful about births at home. Women with money, white women, were first and it trickled down to communities of color. It eradicated a lot of home-birth midwives for a long time.”

Hall said hospital births became en vogue, but the popularity came with the loss of community and the well-being of mothers.

“We’re really coming full circle on this,” she said. “Everyone had home births long ago, but hospital births were new and quaint and so



Stephanie Johnson  
Courtesy Stephanie Johnson

everyone wanted one. They did not understand what they were giving up to have them...It’s not normal to give birth on Monday and be back to work by Friday.”

In the 1970s, home birth became popular again with the hippie generation, said Nashira Baril, a Lower Mills/Mattapan resident who is fighting to open Boston’s first Neighborhood Birthing Center. She grew up around home birthing as her mother was involved heavily in the movement, and Baril had home births for two

of her children. She said more and more women of color, and also women from wealthier communities, are increasingly interested in the option of home birth or community birth.

“There are a lot of dominant narratives locking the idea of a hospital birth in place,” she said. “That’s shifting, though. Everyone has birth photographers now and there is more of a reclaiming and taking the power back in the birthing process. People are seeking us out because there are now conversations and there is more knowledge of the maternal health crisis, especially in communities of color.”

## Yet another change related to Covid

A major shift in mindset came during the pandemic when people were afraid to go to the hospital to have a baby. Others were put off by the restrictions of not being able to bring loved ones and spouses into the delivery room. That put the burgeoning home birth movement on speed dial for a lot of women.

“Within six months, the phone calls started coming in,” said Johnson. “In the beginning these were women who weren’t necessarily talking about home birth...Home births require a low-risk pregnancy, and you have to be healthy. Home births usually come from a set population...These were women who were just afraid to be in the hospital.”

Things have slowed down on that front, but because of that moment in time, many more people have now been exposed to the notion of a home birth. That has also spawned Baril’s idea of having a community birthing center. She has investigated the idea for well over 10 years after having researched the maternal health crisis for the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), but it took off during the pandemic.

After having a fund-raiser in 2019 that took in \$10,000, Baril

saw in 2020 that the changes in society had trickled down to her community birthing-center movement. In 2020 alone, they were able to raise \$250,000 online, she noted.

“In October 2020, I looked at the books and said, ‘Oh my, people were really affected by the pandemic when giving birth. You couldn’t bring your partner or doula in with you. They quickly wanted another option. It just catalyzed us for later that year. I started working on it 50 percent of my time to really move it forward.’”

Her effort has been buoyed by a \$150,000 earmark in this year’s state budget sponsored by Rep. Brandy Fluker Oakley, who is fully supportive of Baril’s idea.

“I am so glad that we were able to secure funding for the Neighborhood Birth Center,” said Fluker Oakley. “In Massachusetts, Black birthing people are three times more likely than white birthing people to have an infant who dies by their first birthday, which means that 300 Black babies die in Massachusetts each year.”

“This center will provide incredible services to so many residents in our region and will have a substantial impact on equity by improving the experiences of Black birthing people and their families,” she said.

Baril said it would take \$3 million to open up the center, and so the state funding is not the end-all and be-all to the idea but gives them great leverage with funders. They are turning primarily to private philanthropy and a partnership with community groups like Vida Urbana/City Life. By approaching it as a collective, Baril said, the Neighborhood Birthing Center could find life very soon.

“We want to buy a building and put the building in a land trust,” she said. “Together, we think we’re poised to create a future with this model. We are better when we’re a collective. This idea is that we think

we can create the future we want...You want to be transported to feel that this is the way health care, and giving birth, can be. We can demand power and ownership in the moment.”

Baril said they have agreements signed with a major hospital for emergency transfers, and with the current momentum they hope to open in 2023.

## There are options



Hall and Johnson are very excited about Baril’s potential community birthing center and will support it—it’s yet another option for women in the community.

Neither are anti-hospital, and that’s something they stressed, as they would rather be a partner with the hospital community. However, they said they do want the home birth option to be respected more by the medical community. That’s something that hasn’t occurred in the past, but perhaps that is changing along with everything else.

“Even though it’s not the only answer [to Black maternal health issues], from what I’ve seen in the past year, hospitals and doctors are starting to see we do exist,” said Johnson. “Before Covid, you would mention home births and get every excuse going in the book...Hospitals are now seeing this as another option, and they see they may not be able to meet the needs of every person. There may be someone that needs that extra attention or handholding that they can’t get at the hospital.”

Hall said women should know there is an option for them out there other than the hospital, even if it’s an option they don’t or can’t pursue. “That’s not something a hospital will tell you... They don’t tell you all your options,” she said.

“Everyone should know they can have it their own way,” she continued. “You can have a home birth if you meet the requirements. It is an option.”



### A Native American Event and Blessing Ceremony

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- A Blessing Ceremony

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**To get there:** Savin Hill Avenue to Caspian Way to the top of the street

# From convent to halfway house: Conversion hailed at Lower Mills gathering

Gov. Charlie Baker, Cardinal Sean O'Malley, local elected officials and business leaders last Thursday (July 21) formally celebrated the conversion of the former St. Gregory convent to a halfway house for women seeking recovery from substance abuse issues.

The building at 2200 Dorchester Ave. in Lower Mills is now known as "Eileen's House," run by the Gavin Foundation of South Boston. The facility has 30 beds and serves women 18 years and older.

According to the Gavin Foundation, each woman will receive free access to a team of addiction specialists, support services, family reunification, case manager, and placement in job training programs.

The facility is named for the wife of former advertising executive Jack Connors.

Top donors for the project include the Connors family, Total Wine, the city of Boston, Marty Walsh's political committee, Congressman Stephen Lynch, Boston Global Investors, Patriots owner Robert Kraft, Lee Kennedy Co., Amazon.com, the Archdiocese

of Boston and Elkus Manfredi Architects, among others.

The ribbon-cutting drew a host of bold-faced names, including US Labor Secretary Walsh and his partner, Lorrie Higgins, who live down the street; City Council President Ed Flynn; City Councillor At-Large Erin Murphy; City Councillor Frank Baker; Fr. Jack Ahern; state Rep. Brandy Fluker-Oakley; former state Sen. Linda Dorena Forry; and Baker health and human services chief Marylou Sudders, among others.

— GIN DUMCIUS



Pictured, l-r, at the July 22 dedication event: City Councillor Frank Baker, City Councillor At-Large Erin Murphy; US Labor Secretary Marty Walsh; William Ostiguy, chairman of Gavin Foundation board; state Rep. Brandy Fluker-Oakley; Eileen Connors, Gavin Foundation CEO John McGahan, state Health and Human Services chief Marylou Sudders, and Gov. Charlie Baker. Image courtesy Councillor Murphy

## 'Walking the beat' is the best way to engage, says C-11's new captain

(Continued from page 1) been. "I try to do a different street and different school or a park every day...It's not a radical idea but old-fashioned walking the beat. If I'm out there walking, the officers will want to be out there, too."

Burns's goal of getting officers closer to the public seems to align well with the thinking of incoming Commissioner Michael Cox, who has stressed that getting officers out of their cruisers to engage with people in the community will be a priority for his command staff.

"I want to get out in the community, and I want our officers out there," Burns said. "I

don't have the staffing now, but I would like to get officers back out on bikes if I can. It's really going to be a grass-roots effort on our part getting out there and building rapport. I would love for the community to be able to identify our officers by name — to know them that well."

Burns is a 21-year veteran of the BPD who recently completed a one-year stint leading the East Boston police district. A South Boston native, he left the area to serve in the US Navy for four years. Upon his return, he felt the pull to be a schoolteacher, and was in a training program at UMass Boston before policing won him over. His first assignment was at the E-13 District in Jamaica Plain, and at the

time he and his family made their home in the C-11 area of Dorchester.

When the job opened at C-11 this year, he said he felt the tug. "We were totally ingrained in Dorchester with St. Ann's, ADSL, CYO, and the Murphy School," he said. "So, there was a pull because I guess I have some roots even though I'm not originally from Dorchester. I felt a connection to Dorchester, and C-11 is a big and diverse district with a lot going on. I want to be challenged and do my best to make this an even better community."

Burns is well traveled, having served exclusively at the district level in Jamaica Plain, Roxbury, Mattapan, Allston-Brighton, the South End, East Boston, and

now the C-11 side of Dorchester. Of those experiences, the one that shaped him as a district leader was a four-year stint as the Community Service Officer (CSO) in Brighton. He said his experience working closely with the community on policing matters changed his view of the job.

"It just opened up a whole new world of what the job is all about," he said. "No longer am I responding to 9-1-1 calls. You are closely dealing with the community and it's a post that still helps me do my job today."

In running the C-11 district, Burns said, he wants many of his patrol officers to have a little bit of CSO side to them. That's why he often pulls officers off the beat and into community events along with the CSOs. He said having regular officers at positive community events is something that will help later.

"When it's 2 a.m. and someone needs help, it's those officers that will step up."

A particular challenge in the district is quality of life issues, which he said are involved with the bulk of police responses.

He said he is optimistic they can work with other city departments to resolve many of those matters. However, nothing challenges the police more than the growing mental health crisis.

At the beginning of his career, Burns said, mental health issues were nowhere near as prominent, but now they are a major part of police responses. He said officers have risen to the occasion, and so have the mental health clinicians working with the police — known as the BEST Team.

"In today's world, these officers are basically experts in it," he said. "Many of them do Section 12s (psychiatrist evaluation orders) on scene. You have the BEST Team here...I don't know where we'd be without them."

In summary, Burns said, his leadership will be about bringing the police closer to the public and building new relationships while repairing others.

"We're just like everyone else," he said. "Just because we put on this uniform doesn't make us different."

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# New deal unveiled for Grove Hall’s Fernboro Street lots

By SETH DANIEL  
News Editor

City officials have switched strategies for the potential development of several long-vacant lots on Grove Hall’s Fernboro Street—detailing a three-pronged plan to develop owner-occupied housing, provide parking, and try to ease long-standing parking issues on the street related to the King K-8 School.

The Fernboro site is part of a larger plan that envisioned the uses of several long-vacant lots in Grove Hall, including properties on Fernboro, Warren, and Dacia streets.

In the third meeting regarding the Fernboro situation on July 13, Jonathan Short of the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) unveiled a new plan for the long-vacant lots where the city would purchase a private lot for \$250,000 and combine that with four city-owned lots, allowing them to create 12 units of affordable home-ownership opportunities in three-decker style buildings, along with adding a 12-space parking lot in the center of the development.

“We’re here today because things did not go as planned,” said Short. “The issue we were faced with after [purchasing the private land for \$250,000] is it was a far steeper price for that land,” he continued. “That price has outweighed the current plan that we had planned to develop there.”

That previous idea, outlined in a March meeting, was to purchase



Several long-vacant sites on Fernboro Street are up for a discussion on developing 12 units of housing with a parking lot in between two six-family buildings that will resemble traditional three-decker architecture.

the land for a substantially lower price from the private owner, and then develop eight units of affordable housing in four duplex buildings. However, a market assessment revealed the higher price of \$250,000 for the fifth lot – located in the middle of the four city lots – and that made changes necessary.

“It ended up being \$1 million for these eight units to be constructed in that plan,” he said. “When the cost is that high with public money... what we need is to make sure the benefit created justifies the cost.”

Parking on Fernboro Street has been a major problem because it is a dense neighborhood. Adding to it are school year issues brought by



A rendering of the layout of the 12 units of housing bisected by a new 12-vehicle off-street parking lot on Fernboro Street. Photos courtesy of BPDA

the King K-8 School behind Fernboro – with pick-up and drop-offs causing headaches and teacher/staff parking dominating the street.

With that clearly communicated to the city in previous meetings, Short said, their new strategy to justify the cost of development was to create

12 units, but to provide one-to-one parking for those units in a parking lot sited between the three-decker buildings. Along with that, the city intends to help residents of Fernboro Street petition for resident permit parking on their street,

and to also help elderly and handicapped residents on the street get handicap parking spots declared. Using those three prongs, Short said, they believe they can develop the property and respect neighborhood issues.

“With these new parking plans, I think that, coupled with the move to affordable home ownership, is an overall great effort for this community and the Grove Hall community,” he said.

Many members of the immediate community, including Michael Koza, Nathan Sabir, and Kathryn Wheaton expressed some concerns about the parking plan. First off, they said, resident parking doesn’t ensure that only residents of Fernboro will be able to park there. Residents worried that those living on the dense areas like Lawrence Street would migrate to Fernboro to park in resident permit parking spaces. There was also a call for the city to work with Boston Public Schools to resolve issues of parking and congestion around the King K-8 School.

It was suggested that as part of the development on Fernboro, the city should use the opportunity to work with BPS to target underutilized space at the King for staff parking and a better organized arrival and departure area.

The comment period for the proposal closed this week (July 27), and the goal is to issue an RFP to the development community for the proposed plan in the coming months. More meetings are expected on the proposal, but none have been scheduled yet.

## Baker draws line between ‘Happy Hour’ and road safety bill

Colin A. Young  
State House  
News Service

The state Senate is making a late-session push to allow cities and towns to individually bring back happy hour, which has been banned here for nearly 40 years, but Gov. Charlie Baker remains skeptical of the provision that could soon reach his desk.

“I’ve said before that I have reservations about getting rid of [the prohibition on] happy hour, mostly because I’m old enough to remember what it’s like when we had it, and there was a lot of carnage on the roads,” Baker told reporters Tuesday afternoon, less than three hours after the lawmakers who will decide if the Senate’s happy hour policy survives into a final, compromise economic development package that is expected in the coming days began their work.

A Senate amendment to the economic development bill would allow

municipal governments to vote to allow the sale of discounted alcohol beverages at bars and restaurants during specific hours as long as certain rules are followed. Happy hour specials are common in most other states but have been prohibited in Massachusetts since 1984. Baker suggested on Tuesday that he would be hesitant to sign a bill reviving happy hour if the Legislature does not also pass road safety legislation that he has filed and promoted for years.

“We’ve had the worst years, the past couple of years we’ve had, for auto fatalities here in the commonwealth that we’ve had in a long time. And many of those are single-car crashes, usually involving speed. We’ve proposed several pieces of safe driving and safe highway legislation that haven’t gone anywhere,” he said. “In the absence of that legislation, I continue to have a lot of reserva-

tions about going back to happy hour.”

Though the economic development bill is not yet on his desk, the \$52.7 billion annual budget for fiscal year 2023 is and Baker did not shed much light on his plans when asked Tuesday about his review period winding down.

Asked if he’ll sign the budget Wednesday, he said, “It’s got to be done by Thursday. Thursday, that would be the day

after tomorrow.”

After the governor’s comments, his office confirmed to the News Service that the governor’s action on the fiscal year 2023 budget is actually due by Friday. Though the budget was enacted by the Legislature on July 18, it was not delivered to the governor until July 19, his office said. That means his 10-day clock runs until Friday, July 29.

HELP WANTED

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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. SU21P0519EA  
ESTATE OF:  
CHARLES LEE BYRD  
DATE OF DEATH: 02/24/2015

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment has been filed by Charlene Murphy of Raleigh, NC requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Charlene D. Murphy of Raleigh, NC be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 08/26/2022.  
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 UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**  
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.  
Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: July 22, 2022  
Felix D. Arroyo  
Register of Probate  
Published: July 28, 2022

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. SU22P1256EA  
ESTATE OF:  
MICHAEL KEVIN WALSH  
DATE OF DEATH: 06/01/2022

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Constance H. Walsh of Dorchester, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Constance H. Walsh of Boston, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 08/10/2022.  
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 UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**  
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.  
Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: June 29, 2022  
Felix D. Arroyo  
Register of Probate  
Published: July 28, 2022

Moment of Paws

Prevention is the best weapon during tick season

Summer is in full swing, and that means more time hiking, running, walking, golfing, or hanging out in the backyard during a time of year – between June and August – when both you and your pets are at a higher risk of being exposed to tick-borne diseases.

Ticks can be found anywhere, from the dog park to the golf course to your backyard, but wooded areas and tall grasses present the most risk.

If you suspect that ticks may have bitten your furry friends, just keep a close eye on them. As long as they are eating, drinking, and acting normally, have no fear, but if you suspect something is not right, contact your veterinarian.

If your pet has been bitten by a tick, it needs to be removed immediately! Using tweezers, grasp the tick as close to your dog’s skin as possible. Remove the insect in a slow, steady, and straight motion – don’t jerk as anything left behind could cause an infection. Treat the bite wound with antiseptic and monitor the site over the next few days for infection.

Some signs your dog has been infected by a tick-borne disease include fever, loss of appetite, acute lameness, and swelling in the joints, among others. A blood test will determine if Lyme disease or another tick-borne disease is present, and if it is positive and caught early, a course of antibiotics usually provides effective treatment.

With ticks seemingly

everywhere outdoors, consider the following to help protect your pet:

Put your pet on a tick preventative. Speak with your veterinarian to determine the best tick preventative to use. Ask your veterinarian about the Lyme disease vaccine. After spending time outdoors, check both yourself and your pet for ticks. For dogs, pay particular attention to their ears, eyelids, between toes, genital area and around the collar. Maintain your yard by keeping the lawn mowed and shrubbery trimmed around your home.

Make these measures part of your routine and the tick season will become one less thing to think about!



**Maddie**

*Dr. Edward Schettino is the president and CEO of the Animal Rescue League of Boston. He has a doctorate in Veterinary Medicine from the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University.*

11 from Dot to bicycle in Pan-Mass Challenge

On Aug. 6 and 7, more than 6,000 riders, including 11 people from Dorchester, will pedal in the Pan-Mass Challenge, a bike-a-thon with one and two-day routes from 25 to 210 miles, with the goal of topping last year’s record-breaking gift and raising \$66 million for cancer research and patient care at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

The following riders are from Dorchester: Jody Adams, Michael Christopher, Michael Ferraro, John FitzGerald, Dennis Harrison, Pierce Juckett, Michael McColgan, Gerald Powers, Jillian Skerry, Joseph Tack, and Brandon West.

The PMC is the nation’s single most successful athletic fundraiser, donating 100 percent of every rider-raised dollar to Dana-Farber as its largest single contributor, accounting for 55 percent of its Jimmy Fund’s annual revenue.

Since the start of the pandemic in early 2020, the PMC has raised more than \$114 million for Dana-Farber, bringing its 42-year contribution to Dana-Farber to \$831 million. To make a financial contribution to a rider from your town or to register as a rider, visit [pmc.org](http://pmc.org) or call (800) WE-CYCLE.

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Photo by Igor Burlak Photography



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF DORCHESTER



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF DORCHESTER



**BGCD Summer Camp Gets Special Visit from Curious Creatures:** See details below.

**CONNECT THE DOT:**  
**BGCD Summer Camp Gets Special Visit from Curious Creatures:**  
This past week, Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester's Summer Camp was thrilled to host our friends from Curious Creatures. The Curious Creatures program provides an interactive animal exhibit where members can learn about and play with a wide variety of animals. Thank you to our friends at Curious Creatures for providing this special experience to our members. This annual visit is a member favorite every year.

Each week, BGCD has a special event day as a treat for our members. We've welcomed magicians, hosted carnival days, competed in our own olympic days, and more.

To learn more about Summer Camp, please contact Brendan McDonald at [bmcdonald@bgcdorchester.org](mailto:bmcdonald@bgcdorchester.org).

**FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE:**  
**BGCD Begins Summer Intro to Photography Classes for Tween Members:** Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester has officially started our 5 week Introduction to Photography Class with our Tween members this summer.

Throughout the weeks, members will be able to learn the essentials to photography such as how to use a camera, what makes a great image, the rule of thirds, how to shoot different styles and types of photography, and how to work with lighting conditions. Members have had a blast walking around the Club, taking photos of friends while learning all the fundamentals of photography.

To learn more about BGCD's Fine Arts Programming, please contact Katy Farrar Sullivan at [kfarrar@bgcdorchester.org](mailto:kfarrar@bgcdorchester.org).



**BGCD Begins Summer Intro to Photography Classes for Tween Members:** See details below.

**DID YOU KNOW:**  
**ONLY 15 SPOTS LEFT to Help BGCD Get a \$2,500 Match! Join Team BGCD for Rodman Ride for Kids:**  
Join us on September 24<sup>th</sup> for the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Rodman Ride for Kids! The event will feature a 25 or 50 mile route that will begin and end 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 only need to recruit 15 more participants by July 31<sup>st</sup> 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 <http://do.nr/ybjeav>.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Teen Career Exploration Night  
July 28 - Register via QR Code




Elevate Youth Camping Trip  
July 26 - 28


Safe Summer Streets  
Basketball Tournament  
August 9

Rodman Ride for Kids  
September 24  
Register at <http://do.nr/ybjeav>

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**SAVE THE DATE!**

**WHEN:** AUGUST 13  
11 AM - 1 PM

**WHERE:** Codman Square Park  
(Talbot Ave. & Washington St.)

**JOIN US FOR:** FREE food, Giveaways, Health Screenings,  
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Codman Square Health Center

CODMAN SQUARE HEALTH CENTER, 637 WASHINGTON ST., DORCHESTER, MA 02124 | (617) 822-8271 | [CODMAN.ORG](http://CODMAN.ORG)



**BARRETT-O'RIOR-DAN, Gabriel "Gail" 77**, of Dorchester, formerly of Quincy. Wife of the late Christopher Barrett. Mother of Tara O'Riordan and her partner, Alison, Gena Paretchan and her husband, Michael, and Brian O'Riordan. Nana of 1. Sister of Patsy O'Neill, Bernie Meehan, and Annette Cahill all of Tuam, Ireland, and the late Robert and Christy Meehan. Aunt of many nieces and nephews. Donations in Gail's name can be made to [autismspeaks.org](http://autismspeaks.org)

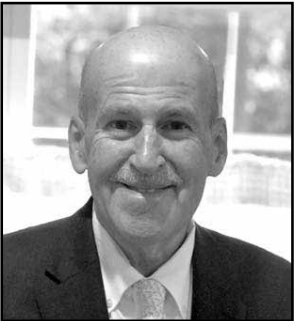
**BERMAN, Herbert**, 95 of Dorchester, beloved mail carrier and Dorchester icon who delivered mail until the age of 88. He is survived by his children, Carol Berman of NJ, and her husband, Alan Cooper, Arthur Berman and his wife, Nancy Jacobson, Bruce Berman, and Charlene Berman of



MA; 1 granddaughter; and many nieces and nephews that called him "Uncle Herbie." Please consider donations to the Alzheimer's Association and/or the Jewish National Fund to plant trees



**DUNN, Florence Yvonne**, 67, of Dorchester, formerly of Spanish Town, St. Catherine, Jamaica. Daughter to Myra Anne Dunn and Clarence Dunn. She was a giving and caring aunt to many nieces and nephews.



**GUNNING, Thomas J.**, of Milton. Husband of Rosemary J. (Sweeney) Gunning. Father of Thomas S. Gunning and his wife Jenn of Pembroke, Kristen A. Gunning of Dorchester, Colin A. Gunning of Mil-

ton, Brian J. Gunning of Quincy, and Gracemarie R. Yovino and her husband Stephen of South Weymouth. Grandfather of 2. Brother of Patricia McNulty and her husband Gerry, and the late K. Jane Logue and her surviving husband Jim among many nieces and nephews. Son of the late Thomas S. and Gracemarie Gunning. Donations in Tom's memory may be made to Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center, Mass General Development Office, 125 Nashua Street, Suite 540, Boston, MA 02114-1101 or [www.giving.massgeneral.org/where-to-give/cancer-center/](http://www.giving.massgeneral.org/where-to-give/cancer-center/)



**HIGGINS, Louis Jarlath**, 74, of Dorchester, Quincy and County Galway, Ireland. Husband of Janet (Lilly) of Dorchester. Louis is survived by his brothers, Martin and wife the late Kay Higgins of Milton, John and wife Margaret and Eugene and wife Mary of Galway, Ireland, Gabriel and Patrick and wife Ann of England, the late Joseph and wife the late Peggy Higgins of Milton, and sisters, Sally and husband James Cormican of Milton, Una and husband Frank McGrath of Galway, Mary Dolan and

her late husband Frank of Galway and Margaret and husband Peter King of England. Louis is also survived by many nieces and nephews in Boston, Ireland, and England.




**HOLBERT, Mildred T. "Millie" (McNulty)**, 90, of North Haverhill, New Hampshire, formerly of Quincy and Dorchester. Daughter of the late Alphonsus and Dellrese (Nickerson) McNulty. Cousin of Ann Ortiz of Dorchester and the late Walter F. Gately Jr.



**KENNEDY, Joan F. (Foley)**. Wife of the late Norman J. Kennedy and the longtime companion of the late Peter F. O'Toole. She is survived by her son Michael and his wife Patrice of Nashua, NH; her daughters, Kathleen Kennedy of Braintree, and Ann Marie Doherty and her husband Jack of Hingham. Grandmother, "Mimi," to nine grandchildren. Please consider making a donation to Home Health & Hospice Care, 7 Executive Park Dr., Merrimack, NH 03054.

**NEWHOOK, Marilyn A. (Flynn)**, 94, of Dorchester. Wife of

D'Lontai Christopher Blake



"The Butterfly King," 44, of Brockton passed away unexpectedly at home on July 13th. He was the loving husband of Peggy Charlotte Louis-Blake. He was born in Washington, DC as the son of Zakiya (Twine) Alake of Boston and the late Christopher R. Blake. D'Lontai was a Milieu Counselor at Cambridge Health Alliance for over fifteen years. After turning his life around in the early 90's, he dedicated his life to the youth in the community and began spending his time at the First Church of Roxbury. D'Lontai was a loving devoted father, husband, and son. He was the founder of Kindred Five, a lover of history and a Licensed Firearm instructor/gun enthusiast. He also was a magnificent chef, a connoisseur of fine liquor and was known as witty, intelligent and the life of every party.

In addition to his wife and mother he is survived by his maternal grandmother Beverly Thomas Monroe of Leominster, his son Quentin Stewart Blake of Brockton, his daughter Ayanna Blake of Brockton, his brother Jamal Blake of Worcester, several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Following cremation, a Celebration of his Life will take place at The Northern Spy in Canton, 4 Rolling Mill Way on August 4, 2022, from 1- 4 p.m.



the late Thomas A. Newhook. Daughter of the late Henry J. "Harry" and Frances (McCarthy) Flynn. Sister of Robert T. "Roddy" Flynn and his late wife Phyllis of Revere, Laurence "Larry" Flynn and his wife Linda of Naples, Florida and the late William "Billy" Flynn and his surviving wife Dorothy, the late Francis X. "Fran" Flynn and late wife Marna, the late John "Jack" and late wife Helen, the late Charles "Charlie" and late wife Mildred, the late Henry J. "Harry" and late wife Rita, the late Geraldine F. Scigliano and her surviving husband Robert of Nahant, the late Eugene "Gus" and late wife Pat and the late Joan Tsumis and late husband John. Survived by many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grand-nephews. Remembrances



may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

**WOODS, Gary T.**, 68, of Wellesley, originally of Dorchester. Son of the late James and Catherine Woods. He leaves behind his wife Elizabeth (Beth) Sullivan; and his son James (Jimmy) Woods; a brother Greg Woods and his wife Jody; a sister Sabina Herlihy and her husband Walter; and a large clan of in-laws, nieces, nephews and cousins. He was predeceased by his oldest brother Kevin J. Woods; and his youngest sister Clare M. Woods. US Marine Corps veteran. Donations may be made to the Wellesley Free Library - Director's Fund, 530 Washington St., Wellesley, MA 02482 or the Mass General Hospital Cancer Center.

ST. JUDE'S NOVENA

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world, now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus pray for us. St. Jude, Worker of Miracles, pray for us. St. Jude Helper of the Hopeless, pray for us.

Say this prayer for 9 days. By the 8th day your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. My prayers have been answered.

M.F.



Cedar Grove Cemetery

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Contact the office for information on the cost of burial needs; our spring planting program; our memorial benches and memorial trees.

The Cemetery office is open 8:00am-4:00pm Monday – Friday. Cemetery office is open 8:00 am to noon on Saturday mornings. The Cemetery grounds are open 7:00am to sunset.

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LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
PROBATE COURT  
SUFFOLK, ss.  
Case No. SU22E0027

To Stanislaw Paczusi, Henryka Paczusa and to all other persons interested.

A petition has been presented to said Court by Mariusz Paczusi of Dorchester, MA in the County of Suffolk representing that she holds as Tenant in common and an undivided 1/3 part or share of certain land lying in Dorchester in said County of Suffolk, and briefly described as follows:

The land with the buildings thereon, situated on the Southerly side of Pearl Street in the Dorchester district of Boston, and bounded and described as follows:

Commencing at a point on the Southerly line of said Pearl Street distant two hundred eighty-three (283) feet Westerly from Dorchester Avenue; Thence, turning and running Westerly by said Pearl Street seventy-nine (79) feet more or less to land late of Lang; Thence turning and running Southerly by land late of Lang one hundred (150) feet to land late of Elizabeth Howe;

Thence turning and running Easterly by said land late of Howe (80) feet More or less to late of S. T. Jenkins;

Setting forth that she desire that – all the following described part – of said land may be sold at private sale for not less than \$2,500,000.00 dollars and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof.

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY SHOULD FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT BOSTON BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE FORENOON (10:00 AM) ON THE 17th day of August, 2022, the return day of this citation.

Witness, BRIAN J. DUNN, ESQUIRE, First Judge of said Court, this 14th day of July, 2022.

Felix D. Arroyo  
Register of Probate

Published: July 28, 2022

LEGAL NOTICE

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

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION  
Docket No. SU22P0730EA

ESTATE OF:  
MARIA REIS

DATE OF DEATH: 11/25/2020

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 08/17/2022.

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

Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Judge of this Court.  
Date: July 13, 2022

Felix D. Arroyo  
Register of Probate

Published: July 28, 2022

LEGAL NOTICES

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
THE TRIAL COURT  
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT  
NORFOLK DIVISION  
Docket No. NO22W0091WD  
SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION,  
MAILING, AND TEXT

DESIREE N. JOSEPH, Plaintiff  
vs.  
WILLIE B. LYONS, Defendant

To the above named Defendant:

A Complaint for Paternity has been presented to this Court by the Plaintiff, DESIREE N. JOSEPH requesting that the court adjudicate the Defendant to be the father of the child and to order a suitable amount of support for the child.

You are required to serve upon DESIREE N. JOSEPH whose address is 9 VICTORY AVE., #2, QUINCY, MA 02169 your answer, to the complaint on or before 08/24/2022. If you fail to do so, the Court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer in the office of the Register of this Court at CANTON.

Witness, PATRICIA A. GORMAN, Esquire, First Justice of said Court at CANTON, this 20th day of July 2022.

Colleen M. Brierley  
Register of Probate

Published: July 28, 2022

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

Docket No. SU19D0158DR  
DIVORCE/SEPARATE  
SUPPORT SUMMONS  
RENEE JONES  
vs.  
ERIC CONARD

To the above named Defendant:

Upon motion of plaintiff for an order directing the defendant, to appear, plead, or answer, in accordance with Mass.R.Civ.P./Mass.R.Dom. Rel.P.Rule 4, it appearing to the court that this is an action for Divorce 1B.

Pursuant to Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411, an Automatic Restraining Order has been entered against the above named parties. You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon: Renee Jones, 12 Sutton St., Apt 2, Mattapan, MA 02126. It is ordered that defendant is directed to appear, plead, answer, or otherwise move with respect to the complaint herein on or before October 06, 2022.

If you fail to do so this court will proceed to a hearing and adjudication of this matter.

HON. BRIAN J. DUNN  
Justice of Probate and Family Court  
Date: July 18, 2022

Published: July 28, 2022



The Dorchester Food Co-op held a groundbreaking ceremony on Bowdoin Street last Tuesday, July 19. Hundreds of residents, elected officials, and members of the Co-op attended the ceremony, which was a celebration of the start of construction on the interior of their coming store. The event featured free food, information tables, and lots of excitement for what is to come next year for the store, which will be located on the first floor of the new residential building at 195 Bowdoin St. *Photo courtesy of Rep. Russell Holmes*

## Neponset water quality in Dot, Neponset given B grades

Segments of the Neponset River, once considered a dumping ground for industrial companies looking to offload raw sewage and pollutants, have received water quality grades of B and C+ from three Boston watershed groups. The groups announced the letters earlier this month in concert with the US Environmental

Protection Agency. The announcement came as the groups marked the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act. The water quality report cards also graded the Charles and Mystic rivers. The Dorchester and Mattapan segments of the Neponset fell in the “B” category. The “C” category included the

parts of the Neponset that run close to Milton, Westwood, and south of Norwood and Canton. “The biggest challenge to the Neponset is polluted stormwater runoff from streets, parking lots, and yards,” said the report from Neponset River Watershed Association, the Mystic River Watershed Association and the Charles River

Watershed Association. “When it rains, pollutants on our roadways and parking lots — oil, gas, bacteria, pharmaceuticals, and more — are washed directly into our waterways.” Ian Cooke, head of the Neponset watershed group, said that while the Neponset has improved over the last 40 years, the polluted

stormwater runoff is still a “huge problem.” The Lower Neponset River was recently designated by the EPA as a “Superfund” site, which will help provide money to clean up contaminated river bottom sediments. “As a Dorchester resident, I dream of the day when residents along the Neponset River Watershed can swing these wa-

ters with joy,” said Rev. Mariama White-Hammond, Mayor Michelle Wu’s environmental chief. “I am grateful for Boston’s partnership with the U.S. EPA and our three watershed organizations, and I look forward to our continued collaboration.” — GINTAUTAS DUMCIUS


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