

Dorchester Reporter

"The News and Values Around the Neighborhood"

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50¢

MASKS ON, PLAY BALL!



Masks and hand sanitizing stations are part of new safety protocols implemented at Dorchester Baseball this season. *Daniel Sheehan photos*

Youth baseball changes include a 'Covid umpire'

By DANIEL SHEEHAN
REPORTER STAFF

This week marked the first full month of Dorchester Baseball's modified season, an undertaking involving a series of adjustments and safety protocol maneuvers that league leadership says have been largely successful thus far. Charlie Maneikis, who runs the league along with co-president and coach Mike Manning, said in terms of numbers, the neighborhood's Little League is operating at about 60 percent of



what it would normally look like, with games taking place most weeknights at Victory Road Park in Neponset and McConnell Park in Savin Hill. On Monday night at McConnell, the

(Continued on page 10)

UMass Boston in summer: No classes; rehab ongoing '70s structures being dismantled

By KATIE TROJANO
REPORTER STAFF

The next multi-year phase of dramatic renovations at the UMass Boston campus is underway with demolition beginning to remove crumbling parts of the original 1970s-era central campus and add more greenspace and modern facilities.

The "Substructure Demolition And Quad Development" (SDQD) project will involve the demolition of the old science center, swimming pool, areas of the existing concrete plaza, and parts of the campus substructure to pave ways for a new, grassy quadrangle.

Contractors have already started "soft stripping" the science center and the pool building, and work to demolish the existing concrete plaza is slated to begin soon this summer.

The \$114.5 million phase of the overall \$155.5 million project is being managed by Hill International and designed by NBBJ, a global architectural firm.

Michael Kearns, associate vice chancellor for Facilities Management at UMass, said that funding for this phase of the project was secured before



The SDQD project will involve demolition and renovations to the area shaded in red.

the university entered into a 99-year lease last year with Accordia Partners, developers of the 20-acre waterfront Bayside Expo site. He said that the money secured in the lease agreement will "probably" be used for future campus improvements [but] the money for this project was set aside prior to the engagement with Accordia.

Under the Bayside lease agreement with the UMass Building Authority, Accordia Partners is expected to pay UMass between \$192.5 million and \$235 million in a lump sum, the exact

(Continued on page 11)

Six years later, work is at full tilt on Indigo Block

By KATIE TROJANO
REPORTER STAFF

After several years of planning, construction is now in full swing at the site of Indigo Block, a mixed-use project in the Uphams Corner neighborhood that will transform what was once a vacant eyesore into homes and businesses.

Named for its proximity to the Uphams Corner station on the MBTA's Fairmount Commuter Rail Line, which advocates and officials along the track often call the Indigo Line, the new complex is situated on a 2.75-acre lot at 65 East Cottage St.

"This project has been on the drawing board for six years, almost seven, and it has been a long-term dream of Dorchester Bay," said Perry Newman, CEO of Dorchester Bay EDC, which owns the site and has overseen the development. "As well as the housing and commercial aspect, it will also be a transit-oriented development," he said.

The lot was formerly home to the



An architect's rendering of Indigo Block from East Cottage Street.

Maxwell Box Co., but had been unoccupied since the city seized it for tax delinquency in 2011. The empty warehouse was later demolished and the site was put out for bid in 2015. Dorchester Bay EDC was awarded the property in 2016.

The main residential building, which is now under construction, will be staggered in height at four and five stories and include 80 units of rental housing and a community room. A total of 9 condo units will be built in 4 smaller homes on the site. Overall,

(Continued on page 12)

Endorsements, issues at play in 12th Suffolk campaigns

By KATIE TROJANO
REPORTER STAFF

With just a month to go before the Sept. 1 primary election, the three-person race to fill what will be a vacancy in the 12th Suffolk state

representative district is one of the most competitive in the city.

Three candidates—Brandy Fluker Oakley, Jovan Lacet, and Stephanie Everett, all running as Democrats—

are seeking to replace Rep. Dan Cullinane, who announced earlier this year that he would not seek re-election.

This week brought a flurry of public endorsements for Fluker Oakley,

a Mattapan attorney who has led the field so far in fundraising. On Tuesday, Fluker Oakley scored an endorsement from Boston City Councilor Annissa Essaibi-George, who praised

her work on education reform issues.

"Her perspective — as a former teacher and a public defender — and her proven leadership is important as we navigate

(Continued on page 5)



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Man shot dead near South Bay is ID'd – A 23-year-old man who was found shot to death in the area of 69 Boston St. in Dorchester on July 22 has been identified by Boston Police as Andronique Dos Santos. A BPD account of the murder said that Dos Santos was found suffering from an apparent gunshot wound around 12:24 p.m. on that Wednesday afternoon. He was pronounced dead at the scene, which was close to the Holiday Inn Express next to South Bay Mall. No arrests have been reported and Boston Police homicide detectives have asked the public to call in tips to 617-343-4470.

Federal charges for June 1 protest actions – A Dorchester man is now facing federal charges stemming from violence that broke out after the conclusion of protests in the city at the end of May as part of countless protests held across the US in the days after the death of George Floyd. John Boampong, 37, has already been charged with 21 counts of armed assault with intent to murder. Police alleged he was driving a car from which 10



A three-decker at 567 Park St. in Dorchester was left heavily damaged by a two-alarm fire on Tuesday, July 28. All residents were safely evacuated from the house as Boston firefighters battled the blaze, which caused an estimated \$500,000 in damage. A home next door was also damaged by heat. No injuries were reported and the cause remains under investigation. *Boston Fire Department photo*

gunshots were fired in the direction of officers near the Boston Common around 3 a.m. on June 1. He has pleaded not guilty to those charges. Then last week, the US Attorney's Office in Boston charged Boampong with three federal charges: assaulting a federal officer; interfering with law enforcement during civil disorder; and being a prohibited person under felony indictment in possession of a firearm and ammunition. Prior to his arrest on June 1, Boampong was facing state charges that barred him from having guns or

ammunition. "The charges in this case ... are a good reminder of a simple rule: Protests, even disruptive ones, are legal. Destroying property and endangering lives is not. We will enforce that rule. This is also today's reminder that what police officers really do every day is put themselves at risk to protect our communities," said US Attorney Andrew E. Lelling. After the Boston protest's conclusion in May, the night devolved into confrontations, with police deploying tear gas on crowds and some people destroying property and looting stores. In total, 53 people were arrested. The charges against Boampong are the most serious. "Today's charges should send a clear message: there will be serious consequences for violent instigators who are exploiting legitimate, peaceful protests and engaging in violations of federal law," said Joseph R. Bonavolonta, special agent in charge of the FBI Boston division, in a statement. – WBUR

New Covid-19 cases fueling anxiety about re-opening pace

By CHRIS LISINSKI
STATE HOUSE
NEWS SERVICE

The state's months-long positive trend in the fight against rapid COVID-19 spread has started to fray at the edges in recent weeks as the rate of new cases has ticked upward. Positive testing rates are nowhere near the 20 to 30 percent observed during the worst of the outbreak this spring, but they have inched up from about 1.7 percent in mid-July to more than 2 percent at the start of August, raising worries among some health experts that Massachusetts may not be able to sustain its pace along the path toward a new normal. Gov. Baker could follow through on last week's hints that his administration may scale down allowable gathering sizes if public health metrics did not improve. New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy took a similar step Monday, albeit his state's new limits mirror the existing ones in Massachusetts. A top Baker official made clear over the

weekend that many larger events that were common before the pandemic, particularly fans at sporting events and most live entertainment, are unlikely to return until there is a "medical breakthrough." After a few days where case counts were approaching or above 300, the Department of Public Health on Monday reported 165 new test-confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 10 new deaths. The 165 new cases came from tests of 12,278 new individuals, for a positive rate of about 1.3 percent. Monday's report showed a seven-day weighted average positive rate of 2.1 percent on July 30 and 31, and 2 percent on Aug. 1 and 2. That's up from a low on 1.7 percent from July 11 through 14. Sunday's report had shown a positive rate of 2.2 percent on Aug. 1. The department adds testing information for previous days as it comes in, with some reporting lags from laboratories. The number of COVID-19 hospitalizations was at 375 in Monday's report, down 31 from

the prior day, with 64 patients in intensive care and 24 intubated. **South Boston Pop-up Testing** – The next Boston neighborhood to get a rotating pop-up Covid testing site will be South Boston, Mayor Martin Walsh announced Monday. Tests will be available for free on a walk-up basis from Tues., Aug. 4, to Sat., Aug. 15, at Moakley Park, part of a partnership with the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center. City officials have offered rotating pop-up testing locations to help residents in different neighborhoods access the resource, and the program comes to South Boston after previous runs in Roxbury and Allston. Both symptomatic and asymptomatic residents can get tested at no charge, though city officials encouraged pre-registration by calling 617-568-4500 to speed up the process. Covid testing is also available at more than 20 other locations in Boston. *Katie Lannan of State House News Service contributed to this report.*

Summer sports camps in Boston will operate through Aug. 28

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department has extended summer-time sports camps run at White Stadium, East Boston, and South Boston through August 28. The sports centers are free to Boston youth ages 7 to 14 and offer instruction in a number of popular sports. Parents may register their children for just one week or the entire summer. Children and staff wear face coverings and maintain six

feet of social distance at all times, activities are organized in groups of ten or fewer, and programs are held completely outdoors. Please note that lunch will be provided but participants must provide their own transportation. Pre-registration is required for both groups and individuals. For more information or to register online please go to boston.gov/sports. For more information about the

White Stadium Sports Center at Franklin Park, please call 617-961-3084 or email woodley.auguste@boston.gov. For the East Boston Sports Center at East Boston Memorial Stadium, please call 617-961-3083 or email damien.margardo@boston.gov. For the South Boston Sports Center at M Street Park, please call 617- 961-3039 or email mavrick.afonso@boston.gov.

August 6, 2020

Boys & Girls Club News 17

Opinion/Editorial/Letters 8

Business Directory..... 14

Obituaries 18

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First Day of Autumn47

Columbus Day67

Halloween.....86

Election Day89

Quadracentennial of Dot...3,695

UPCOMING CIVIC MEETINGS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) will host a Zoom meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 11, 6-8 p.m. regarding a proposed 206-unit residential building at 780 Morrissey Blvd. in Dorchester. The proponent hopes to construct one building of varying heights containing a 5-story portion and a 6-story portion totaling approximately 163,885 gross square feet that will also contain residential amenities and one level of garage parking at ground level. The proposed residential units will contain a mix of studio units, one-bedroom, and two-bedroom units. There is one level of structured parking that contains 130 spaces, with an additional six outdoor spaces. The link is: bit.ly/780MorrisseyBlvd811. Stephen Harvey is the BPDA project manager. He may be contacted at 617-918-4418 or via email: stephen.j.harvey@boston.gov. **Paving project on Gallivan**—MassDOT will be conducting paving operations along a section of Gallivan Boulevard (Route 203) from West Selden Street to Wilmington on Sat., Aug. 15, from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The work will require temporary lane closures with some temporary detours of adjoining side streets. Appropriate signage, law enforcement details, and

advance message boards will be in place to guide drivers through the work area. MassDOT encourages drivers to seek alternate routes, reduce speed, and use caution while approaching and traveling through the work zone. All scheduled work is weather dependent and may be impacted due to an emergency. **The Mattapan-based Urban Farming Institute** has announced a couple of fundraising initiatives to help them continue their mission "to develop and promote urban farming to engage individuals in growing food and building a healthy community." Go to urbanfarminginstitute.org to register. Donations made to the fundraiser will enable UFI to continue to build backyard vegetable gardens and distribute food to those in need in the community. Another fundraising effort, the Ride For Food, will take place between now and October 4. The Ride for Food is an annual bike ride that raises money for hunger relief organizations in Greater Boston. This year's Ride for Food is a one-day event where you can choose how you want to ride for UFI. Go at your pace and on whichever day you choose between now and October 4. **More Outdoor Dining with Food**

Trucks — In an attempt to assist small businesses that have been greatly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and to provide additional outdoor dining options for residents, Boston Mayor Martin Walsh last Friday announced a summer pilot program for the city's Food Truck program that includes 23 locations, including three in Dorchester, that will serve food from noon to 7 p.m. seven days a week. The Dorchester locations, days and vendors are Hemenway Park, Thursdays, Northeast of the Border; Roberts Playground on Mondays, Northeast of the Border; and Malibu Beach in Savin Hill on Mondays and Thursdays, Sufra. **Expansion of City Hall in-person services** — Starting the week of July 23, Boston City Hall will be open to the public on Thursdays: bringing in-person services to 3 days a week, on a Tuesday, Thursday, Friday schedule. Services will remain by appointment, so people must call ahead to the relevant department. A good starting place is by calling 311. The City will continue to screen everyone who enters the building for COVID-19 symptoms and elevated temperature. On July 6, 97 youth meal sites opened through the **City of Boston's Summer Eats 2020** program in partnership with Boston

Children's Hospital. It provides nutritious breakfast and lunch at no cost to Boston youth 18 and under during the summer months. No ID or registration is required. Unlike previous years where many youth meal sites were limited to participants in summer programming, this year all sites are open to all youth in the City of Boston. For locations and times, go to boston.gov/departments/food-access/summer-eats. Locations starting on July 6 include: BCVF Gallivan, 61 Woodruff Way, Mattapan, 10a.m.-2p.m.; BHA Franklin Field, 91 Ames St., Dorchester 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Boston Latin Academt, 205 Townsend St., Dorchester, 8:30-11:30 a.m.; Bowdoin St. Health Center, 230 Bowdoin St., 10 a.m.-12 p.m.; Burke High, 60 Washington St., 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Starting on July 11: Codman Square Farmers Market, corner of Washington and Talbot, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. *For more information regarding City Hall hours of operation, visit boston.gov.* **SEND UPDATES TO NEWSEditor@DOTNEWS.COM** **SEE NEW EVENTS DAILY AT [DOTNEWS.COM](https://dotnews.com)**

Hero Hope Garden on Geneva Avenue earns rave reviews



The new garden and “food forest” on Geneva Ave. Daniel Sheehan photo

By DANIEL SHEEHAN
REPORTER STAFF

On Monday, Mayor Martin Walsh joined the Boston Food Forest Coalition (BFFC), the Farmers Collaborative, and local residents at the grand opening of a new community space that fills what had previously been a vacant lot at 424-428 Geneva Ave.

The Hero Hope Garden includes a “food forest” with fruit trees, plants, and raised bed gardens;

a greenhouse for community and educational use; and a community meeting and gathering space with a handful of tables, chairs, and umbrellas.

Walsh noted that residents and non-profits were key drivers for creating the new green space, having maintained the parcel for years until it was officially designated a community space.

“This is a shared effort and would not have

been possible without the support from the neighborhood and our partners,” said Walsh. “I am proud that through the DND Grassroots program and Community Preservation Act funding we were able to help add vibrancy and green space to this lot in Dorchester. Community gardening provides great physical activity, increases access to affordable healthy fresh produce, and brings

the residents of our neighborhoods closer together.”

BFFC, which was instrumental to the project’s success, will continue to manage and care for the space.

“We could not have created this new garden without the support of the mayor, many neighbors and community members, neighboring businesses, local tradespersons, teachers, students from neighboring schools, Bowdoin Geneva Main Streets, Jones Hill Neighborhood Association, Department of Neighborhood Development, Community Preservation Act, MassArt & Wyly Brown, YouthBuild, and UFI,” said Orion Kriegman, executive director of the Boston Food Forest Coalition.

“Farmers Collaborative has been a leading force on the establishment of this beautiful garden and gathering space. We are proud that our innovative design of this land will knit this community together.”

The redevelopment

work was paid for in part by \$75,000 in Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding and a \$50,000 grant from the Grassroots Program at the Department of Neighborhood Development, which provides funding, city-owned land, and technical assistance to neighborhood groups and non-profits that want to organize, develop, own, manage, and maintain community gardens and open space in Boston’s neighborhoods.

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Report: ‘Intensely segregated’ schools across the state are growing in number

**By MAX LARKIN
WBUR REPORTER**

Even as Massachusetts grows more diverse, a growing number of its public schools are becoming “intensely segregated.” In a new report, education researchers argue that as a result, thousands of students miss out on the many benefits of learning in a diverse community — and that, as citizens demand racial justice, state officials are failing to confront the trend.

At first glance, the report seems to present a picture of the state’s public-education system somewhat rapidly becoming more diverse in more precincts. For instance, the number of schools with overwhelmingly white enrollments has collapsed over the course of just over a decade — from 619 in 2008 to 173 in the latest data.

And more schools than ever are “70-25 diverse” — meaning that no single group occupies more than 70 percent of their seats and white students make up at least a quarter of overall enrollment.

The authors cite a finding that schools in that category are more

likely to incubate cross-racial friendships among students. Peter Piazza, an education researcher and one of the report’s authors, said that, as a white parent in a charged political moment, that sort of environment is especially meaningful.

“I went to highly segregated white schools. And it’s taken a long time for me to learn about systemic racism and all of the things people are out in the streets protesting right now,” Piazza said. “I don’t want that for my kids. I want them to understand their society, in its complexity, as early as possible.”

But Piazza warned against a kind of optimism based on the overall trends, saying that the problem of intense segregation — wherein either white or students of color make up 90 percent or more of a school’s enrollment — hasn’t gone away, only taken on a new form.

“The last thing I’d want somebody to take from the report is that demography, left alone, will save us,” Piazza said.

He and three co-authors found that even as there are now 72 percent fewer “intensely segregated” white schools in the state than there were in 2008, there are also 33 percent more “intensely segregated” schools serving almost exclusively students of color. The report counts 192 such schools, including 65 in Boston alone.

That could — and should — change, argued Jack Schneider, a co-author and professor of education at UMass Lowell. “Of the nine districts with intensely segregated non-white schools, six of them have the districtwide demography to produce uniformly diverse schools,” said Jack Schneider, another co-author. “So this is something that only requires the political will to solve.”

When asked why predominantly Black and Latino schools represent a problem in need of “solving,” Schneider — who is white — made one thing clear: “There is nothing magical about white children.” Indeed, he added, forthcoming research from his team will argue that white students may gain more than any other group from integrated learning environments.

His argument is based on white families’ disproportionate “grip” on economic resources and politi-

cal power in Boston and nationwide. If schools become more diverse, Schneider said, “white families — in advocating for their own kids — will also be advocating for resources” for students of color.

Moreover, Schneider argued, the sense of isolation for students in the minority at a segregated school is real. “When [students of color] look around and they don’t see anybody in their schools who looks like the existing power structure... they will know that those with a choice have left. That does send a powerful message.”

Asked for comment on the Boston-related findings of the report, Boston City Councilor Andrea Campbell said she was not surprised.

“I live in Mattapan. I can drive from downtown to my neighborhood and see the segregation,” Campbell said. “Right now, the way our system exists — there’s a narrow pathway to a successful experience in BPS... While communities of color bear the burden of those inequities, everyone should be concerned.”

In a plan released last summer, Campbell called for the reworking of Boston’s controversial school-assignment system to make more quality seats available to students from her neighborhood and others like it — but she said there’s been “little movement,” one year on.

Campbell said that increasing student diversity at the school level is “not going to fix the problem” on its own. She called for “political will and bold action” to increase teacher diversity, revamp high schools, and other school-quality improvements in the district.

The main upshot of the report is to argue that the state accountability system — by which schools are monitored and ranked, based largely on their scores on the MCAS test — fosters bias and misconceptions.

Schneider runs the “Beyond Test Scores” research project at UMass Lowell, and has been an outspoken critic of school-quality evaluations based on standardized tests for years. He argued that the state still leaves parents with the false idea “that they have to choose between good schools and diverse schools.”

Piazza added that he believes that low test scores “feed into a public perception of Boston Public Schools that I don’t think it entirely deserves... There are fantastic things going on that you won’t read about” in the district — in part because they’re not so easily quantified.

The report authors document a stark relationship between schools’ demographic makeup and its ‘accountability percentile’ — where the state rates it on overall quality.

Some parent-advocates resist the idea that tests or state regulators are to blame for students’ divergent experiences based on race. Among them is Keri Rodrigues, head of Massachusetts Parents United, who has advocated for charter schools among other education reforms.

Rodrigues highlighted the work of the Brooke Charter School, where an overwhelmingly low-income, Black and Latino students post among the state’s top MCAS scores.

Rodrigues said that test scores are among the few data points she trusts in “a racist system. Parents are very concerned not just about whether kids are having a joyful experience,” she said. “When they leave the education system, they better have an education that’s worth something. If they don’t... they’re going to have a very, very unhappy life.”

At the close of the report, Schneider, Piazza and their co-authors raise multiple suggestions to improve diversity in the state’s public schools, from the district level up.

They highlight the “controlled-choice” model used in Cambridge, which cultivates diversity in schools by giving priority to prospective students who would push the schools into mirroring the district at large.

Campbell — along with experts at the Boston Area Research Initiative — has called for a more modest change in that vein, guaranteeing more high-quality seats for students from underserved communities in the school-assignment algorithm.

The report’s authors also recommend cross-district solutions — for instance, students from majority-Latino Lawrence traveling to schools in largely white North Andover, and vice-versa — but those would seem to be larger political lifts.

The authors, Campbell, and Rodrigues are informed by the ugly political cataclysm that broke out almost 50 years ago as Judge W. Arthur Garrity, along with community leaders, tried to integrate Boston’s schools. Today, advocates share a goal to settle the issue of school-to-school equity for good, albeit sometimes by very different means.

“Our history on this issue is not good. I understand why people sense a general hesitation to go back, because of how vitriolic the response was,” Piazza said. Then he pointed to unrest in the streets of Boston and the nation at large, and to calls for reparations and reform.

“Times are different. And if we fear having that conversation again, we’ll never get started.”

This article was first published by WBUR 90.9FM on July 30. The Reporter and WBUR share content through a media partnership.

WELCOME BACK!

BOSTON'S APOLLO

THOMAS MCKELLER & JOHN SINGER SARGENT

Explore questions of race, class, and sexuality through the untold story of one man's life, and discover his central importance to Boston's public art.

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Endorsements, issues at play in 12th Suffolk campaigns



Annissa Essaibi George and Brandy Fluker Oakley

(Continued from page 1) gate these challenging times,” said Essaibi-George. “I know that Brandy has the right priorities and skill set to lead both at the State House and in our communities.”

Fluker Oakley also won two other endorsements: From state Rep. Bill Driscoll, a Democrat who represents Milton (the 12th Suffolk includes two precincts in Milton, both of which have been critical battlegrounds for votes in the mainly Boston seat), and from former state Rep. Royal Bolling, Jr., who represented parts of Mattapan in the Legislature in the 1970s and 1980s.

The individual backings came a day after she won an endorsement from the state’s leading pro-choice political group, NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts.

“Brandy is poised to lead on reproductive freedom, and we look forward to doing all we can to help her win the primary in September and get elected in November,” said Rebecca Hart Holder, the group’s executive director.

Everett has also amassed significant public endorsements: From Cam Charbonnier, who was a candidate for the 12th Suffolk seat before withdrawing from the race last month, the Ward 17 Democratic Committee, IBEW Local 103, and the Boston Building Trades Council.

Everett and Lacet have previously mounted campaigns for the 12th Suffolk seat. Everett ran in a special election in 2013 that was won by Cullinane, and Lacet lost out to Cullinane in two consecutive elections— 2016 and 2018, while winning significant support in Mattapan in the latter attempt.

Last Saturday, the three candidates par-

ticipated in a virtual town hall hosted by the Greater Mattapan Neighborhood Council (GMNC). All were asked to explain how they would craft policy and forge partnerships to address a number of matters affecting the district.

Fatima Ali-Salaam, chair of the council, asked the candidates how they would support GMNC’s work to address gentrification and ensure that developers are held accountable.

“Gentrification is coming to Mattapan,” said Everett. “We can see it in the housing crisis when we look at how much our tenants are paying to stay here. We have to be very honest and open about what gentrification is and what it does to our community. We have to make sure we maintain as many people as we can in our district.”

After introducing herself as a lifelong resident of Dorchester and Mattapan with a background working as a teacher and attorney, and experience leading diversity, inclusion, and equity training for non-profits, Fluker-Oakley said she’d focus on forging partnerships with civic and housing activist groups like City Life Vida Urbana and Massachusetts Affordable Housing Alliance.

“This is a diverse community, and we have to make sure that those who have spent their time building this community can still remain,” she said. “I’d support rent stabilization legislation pending before the House and I would file legislation at the State House to extend the residential exemption. Mattapan has the third-highest homeownership rate [in the state], but what happens when homes sell at higher rates?” she asked. “I’d be looking to extend residential tax exemptions that allow for com-

munity tax exemption.” After he highlighted his former service as a US Marine, former Boston Police officer, a practicing attorney and active civic member, Lacet called gentrification and equity a “major issue” and said he would support “better laws to address the wrongful and illegal foreclosures that take place from regular loans to reverse mortgages.”

“The loss of homeownership creates the opportunity for gentrification,” he said. “We need to educate and work with our seniors. I’m doing a lot of this work now as an attorney.”

In follow-up comments, Everett talked about her deep roots in the 12th Suffolk as the community that “raised her,” her work as an attorney, former State House employee, and family role as a mother. She said she would work with organizations like the GMNC to push for additional RAFT funding to lessen evictions and support “bills pending around having rent control back in some form.”

“For that to happen we have to have this conversation about what happens in October when the moratorium is over,” she said.

Lacet said he would support increasing the city’s Inclusionary Development Policy (IDP), which mandates that development projects with ten or more units include at least 13 percent of income restricted units within their building.

“As an attorney I’m in court a lot of the time writing letters to employers who have discriminated against



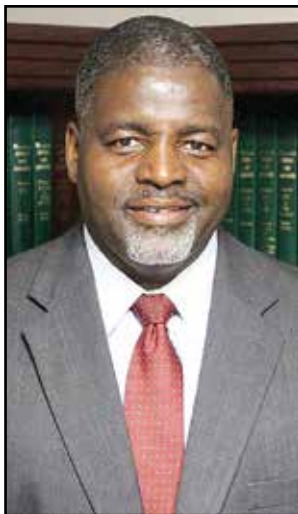
Stephanie Everett

people of color,” he said. “I will work with the city to make sure they enforce their ordinance and create partnerships with big businesses and have them bring jobs into the community.”

Said Fluker-Oakley: “In my 10 years as an advocate at the State House, I’ve seen that as a legislative body we often tackle issues one topic at a time. The problem with that approach is that we have to recognize the interconnectedness and intersectionality of these issues.”

She said she would continue to promote transparency and accountability in public transit and educational investments, support initiatives to improve access to liquor licenses in low income communities, and partner with institutions like the Black Economic Council of Massachusetts (BECMA.)

Everett pointed to her work as a member of the Boston Employment Commission and said she would support the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, which, she said, “would allow minority contrac-



Jovan Lacet

tors access to access that funding, so they can get back to work.”

When asked how to prepare the 12th Suffolk community for climate change, Fluker-Oakley said she fully supports the Green New Deal— a federal bill co-authored by US Sen. Ed Markey and US Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York City.

Everett said she would support efforts to secure the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) SuperFund designation to clean up the Neponset River, address issues with the carbon tax, and support the Environmental Justice Act.

All three candidates said they would support investments in public transit to address climate issues.

In closing statements, each made a final pitch.

“I was born and raised in this district,” said Fluker Oakley. “It means everything to me. I am the newest bid for state representative and I believe that now is the time for a new policy voice in the district. I am able to lead on the change that we want to see.”



Brandy Fluker Oakley

Lacet said he is an advocate by “training and by nature” and has a “true” relationship with the community. “I’m running to address the inequities and disparities in our education system, workforce, healthcare system, in housing, and so many other things. Constituents call and text me, and they know I’m representing 100 percent of them,” he said.

Everett said that her successful upbringing was a result of the community coming together, which has inspired her campaign to represent the 12th Suffolk.

“I consider myself as the daughter of this district,” she said. “My mom continues to suffer from mental health issues and my dad spent 90 percent of my life in jail. It was this community that made sure I did not fall,” she said. “I have run for office before, but I run because I represent you and you encourage me to stand up.”

The primary election to pick a party nominee is Sept. 1, with the general election scheduled for Nov. 3, the same day as the presidential balloting.

Intruder targets Everett ‘Zoom’ event with racial slurs, porn video

By KATIE TROJANO
REPORTER STAFF

A virtual meet-and-greet hosted last week by 12th Suffolk House District candidate Stephanie Everett was interrupted twice and ended abruptly when a man hacked into the Zoom system, shared a pornographic video of a naked man performing sexual acts, all while dropping expletives and racial slurs, including the “N-word.”

Everett, one of three candidates running for the state representative seat, confirmed the incident in an interview with the *Reporter* on Thursday. A version of the video was posted on Everett’s campaign Facebook account, although the segments including the unidentified nude man— who was white— have been edited out.

Everett said the man appeared on the screen

early into the meeting, surprising and shocking everyone on the call. “It was very weird because it sounded like it was someone agreeing. He said ‘yeah,’ and I didn’t know who it was and then he popped up. It was a man lying in a bed, a very heavy-set man, performing his own sexual acts and he just started using the ‘N’ word and other expletives.”

Everyone who joined the virtual meet and greet was required to register before the event through Zoom, but Everett’s team could not pinpoint the man’s name. He had apparently hacked into the host system.

Donovan Birch Jr., a supporter of Everett and member of the Democratic State Committee, witnessed the showing. He said that the man speaking hid his face behind a pornographic video.

“He projected pornographic images of a man masturbating and called us [n-word] repeatedly.”

Terry Dolan, a Ward 17 Democratic committee member and a supporter of Everett, described what she saw. “It was about 20 or 30 minutes into what I think was going to be an hour-long call. My memory as to exactly what she [Everett] was talking about in the moment had taken a backseat, but as she was talking suddenly the image changed in one of the blocks,” Dolan said, adding:

“I’m sitting back and thinking that we all think we’ve moved ahead, you know, and then to see this very base, awful display was just profoundly disturbing.”

After the first outburst, everyone on the Zoom hung up, and then

re-entered the meeting. Dolan said there were roughly 25 people on the call before it was abruptly ended, and only about 10 who re-entered.

“We came back in, and as we’re waiting for everyone to get back in, he’s back in again. And he was doing the same thing,” said Everett.

Everett and her team then ended the session. She issued a statement about the incidents last night on Facebook saying the attack felt very personal to her.

“Obviously it was troubling on a lot of levels because, you know, being called the ‘N’ word... it’s not like the sexual act is something that you push aside, but being called the ‘N’ word multiple times... it was very hard and very hurtful.”

Everett has reported the incident to Boston Police.

A Q&A with Christine Nguyen about VietAID and the pandemic

By **HA TA**
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

When Christine Nguyen started her job as a community center coordinator at Dorchester's Vietnamese American Initiative for Development (VietAID) last winter, she thought she would mainly be doing administrative work overseeing the community center's activities and office spaces.

Then came the pandemic.

Since March, Nguyen has been operating a meal site for kids and teens, helping Vietnamese people who are not fluent in English file for unemployment insurance, and answering questions people have about COVID-19 at the VietAID headquarters in Fields Corner.

A second-generation Vietnamese American born in the U.S. to immigrant parents, Nguyen switched from working in the medical field to nonprofit work and did an internship at VietAID where she learned about the challenges facing the Vietnamese diaspora and how groups and individuals in the community are mobilizing to tackle them.

Nguyen said she hesitated before applying

for the job at VietAID because she felt she lacked the exposure to the community but pushed herself to do it anyway.

"I didn't grow up in the Vietnamese community, I didn't feel confident in my Vietnamese," she said. "But the fact that I'm a native English speaker gives me a lot of privilege and that's a lot more important than my discomfort maybe is. There's a lot of good that I can do and I have a duty to do that."

I am the editor of The Scope, a digital magazine operated by Northeastern University's School of Journalism, and Nguyen recently talked with me about the work she has been doing at VietAID during COVID-19 and the challenges she is facing.

What follows has been edited for length and clarity:

Q. How has COVID-19 changed what you were doing at VietAID?

A. With COVID-19 shutting down most in-person services, managing this space has taken on a lot more meaning in a way because the community center at VietAID has become a hub for basic necessities, like food (we have a meal

site here) and also information because when folks come to get food they inevitably ask questions about things that are going on. People ask questions like "Where's my stimulus check?" "How can I get it?" or "I'm unemployed right now, how can I get help with applying for unemployment?" "When are things going to be open?" And for a lot of folks who are older and monolingual or living alone, there's a big technological barrier. So having somewhere to go to seek help is really important.

Q. How did you adapt to the changes?

A. At first, there wasn't really time to reflect. We heard we [were] going to be one of the citywide meal sites and then with the filing for unemployment assistance, I was getting dozens and dozens of calls every day from Vietnamese folks, not just in Boston, but in cities in the Greater Boston area asking for help or having questions about unemployment just because they didn't know what else they could get in language services. I'm putting in a lot of overtime. I think we all thought that a few more weeks and we



VietAID workers at the meal site. Photos courtesy Christine Nguyen

would reopen in like a month or two. Now I think: How am I going to sustain this level of work long term?"

Q. You assist with people filing for unemployment insurance. How does the assistance come about?

A. Originally, the Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS) was providing that help, but since they knew that we had some bilingual staff, they asked us for help. So, in the beginning, when people called in for help with unemployment, we would just take their contact information to a GBLS volunteer to help them submit the application. Since then, it has developed into this entire system where VietAID is now helping these workers with their applications from beginning to end. A lot of times it's a pretty complicated process. And for all this, we work closely with GBLS and their team of lawyers who themselves work with the Department of Unemployment Assistance to try to make sure that everyone who qualifies for unemployment can get valuable financial aid.

Q. What types of meals do you provide at the meal site, what are the hours, and who can receive the meals?

A. VietAID partners with YMCA and Project Bread to operate as a Boston Public School meal site for kids and teens. It's officially for Boston Public School students, but really it's for all kids and teens who come to the meal site. Originally the hours were Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to noon. Just beginning this month, we had to change our hours to 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every weekday. The meal site is at the VietAID community center at 42 Charles St. We distribute breakfast and lunch meals out of our lobby for kids and teens and parents can come without necessarily bringing their kids. They just need to come and say: "Oh I have three kids at home," and then we have breakfast and lunch for them.

We also provide a number of hot meals for



Christine Nguyen at her desk at work.

seniors every day as well and that's just breakfast and lunch. And then every Friday, we try to pack additional grocery bags for folks coming in.

Q. Where do you get funding to provide grocery bags?

A. The source of groceries is kind of varied, sometimes they come from the YMCA. For the last couple months, we've had a really generous community member donating hundreds of dollars in Vietnamese produce to distribute every Friday. And sometimes we have also used funding to purchase our own produce, because sometimes the bags we get from the YMCA aren't the most suitable for a lot of the population that we serve, so we try to complement them with veggies that are more commonly used in Vietnamese cooking.

Q. How many volunteers do you have in the program?

A. VietAID received a grant from the city for Workforce Development to hire temporary workers, particularly workers who are unemployed during the coronavirus and help them develop professional skills. So, I have a team of three including myself right now with unemployment matters. For the meal site, we're also using the grant we have to hire about five to six temporary workers to help me on site. We are really trying to kind of funnel money into our communities because they really need it right now.

Q. What motivates you to keep going?

A. Honestly, it's knowing that I'm really lucky to be secure in my job and in a relatively secure

financial situation but I know that there are a lot of folks that are counting on the work that my staff and I do. I keep that in mind when I'm frustrated with daily interactions, maybe because people aren't observing social distancing guidelines, or because I sort of have to repeat myself over and over about the process.

Q. What do you wish people knew about your work?

A. I notice just in my interactions with a lot of folks is that there's a lot of conflation. I've had folks talk to me on the phone and assume that I work for the Department of Unemployment Assistance and I'd have to explain that, "No, I don't. I don't work directly for the government, I just work for a community organization, and we're trying to help people navigate these public systems."

We're in it for the long haul but looking forward, what we really want to do is try to change these public systems because the government is supposed to be the institution that makes sure that no one slips through the cracks, that everyone is provided for.

As a community organization, we can definitely play a supporting role, but in the long term, it's through advocacy and fighting for changes in the laws, and that's how we can make sure that in the long term everyone can get what they need.

The Reporter is partnering with The Scope to highlight stories by its staff and students. This article was first published by The Scope on July 27, 2020 as part of its "Changemaker" series.



Virtual Meeting

780 Morrissey Blvd

Tuesday, August 11

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Updated Zoom Link

bit.ly/780MorrisseyBlvd811

Project Description:

The Proponent proposes to develop one (1) building of varying heights containing a 5-story portion and a 6-story portion ("Building") totaling approximately 163,885 gross square feet that will contain two hundred and six (206) residential units, residential amenities and one (1) level of garage parking at ground level. The proposed residential units will contain a mix of studio units, one-bedroom, and two-bedroom units. There is one (1) level of structured parking that contains one hundred and thirty (130) spaces, with an additional six (6) outdoor spaces.

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Reporter's

People

News about people
in and around our Neighborhoods

At Codman Health, students pitching in despite pandemic

**BY DANIEL SHEEHAN
REPORTER STAFF**

At Codman Square Health Center, a long-standing collaborative internship with students and alumni of Codman Academy has continued this summer despite the pandemic, offering interns a hybrid model that combined valuable onsite experience in the health center and virtual educational seminars.

Chetna Naimi, who directs the intern partnership, called facilitating the program “her passion,” adding, “In April, as things were getting cancelled, we thought there’s no way this is happening. The funding agencies realized that if we don’t do any programs we won’t be penalized. But we also figured out that if we wanted to do a part of it, I’m putting the money back in the community for the right reasons.”

“I take a lot of pride in this internship, and together we decided it would be worth it to go the extra mile and make it happen.”



Katia Antunes, left, and Cherish Lamar Smith say they feel safe working at Codman Square Health Center as interns this summer.

Photo courtesy Codman Academy

Naimi and leadership settled on a “modified, truncated” version of the internship: a six-week format instead of the normal eight weeks, with interns doing a half-day of work on site and the

other half virtually from home. While interns followed the strict safety guidelines and protocols you would expect at a health center, Naimi decided that not having them

there for lunch would “minimize taking masks off, contact, and hanging out.” Instead of the usual large group of 25 interns, this summer saw 11 interns engaged in 11

different departments of the health center, such as pharmacy, dental, lab, radiology, and IT. After students completed their morning shift at the center, they engaged in a virtual program that included guest seminars and lectures from some of the area’s top medical professionals, as well as experts in a wide range of positions. Two Codman Academy alumni who participated in the internship this summer — Cherish Lamar Smith, 18, and Katia Antunes, 20 — said they felt safe working at CSHC and reacted positively to the experience. Lamar Smith recalled a particularly influential seminar given by Sebastian Hamilton, associate chief pharmacy officer at Boston Medical Center. “A lot of the speakers talked about how they overcame certain obstacles, gave us motivation, and showed us that we can be a part of that group, too. I admired what [Hamilton] said because he seemed really interested in helping us

out and being a mentor. It resonated with me because I’m overly ambitious, and he’s the same way.” Antunes, who had also participated in the internship last year, said she wished she could return for a third year. “It helps you build communication skills, be more outgoing, and just be willing to learn more stuff,” she said. Sandra Cotterell, CEO of CSHC, said that acclimation to a professional environment is one of the biggest benefits for students. “One thing we’ve seen with Covid-19 is the importance of the community health provider as a resource and an accessible place for quality care. Healthcare always needs and demands employment opportunities. When other industries shut down, we still had to figure out a way of keeping our doors open because we are an essential provider. I think through the experience interns realize healthcare is essential. It doesn’t stop.”

Approximately 6,600 students received bachelor’s degrees in over 100 majors at the University of Massachusetts Amherst as the university held a virtual commencement celebration for the Class of 2020 on May 8. Among the graduates from Dorchester and Mattapan were Davonte Javon Higginbottom, Kathleen Rose Cawley, Dahlia Rosario Dasilva, Nhat M Duong, Jimmy Joachim, Asia Spain-Dixon, Samantha Thompson, Marimar Brito, Tia-

nee Geronimo, Fiona Mary McCarthy, Leah Mitchell, Hung Nguyen, Long Nguyen, Suresha Ramjit, Naria Raina Sealy, Linh Mai Tran, Nathan T Tran-Trinh, Genesis Maitee Villar, Taisa Cristina Baptista Lima, Stephen Alexander Bennett, Dominique Shahar Cooper, Nicholas I Depina, Mikaila Chieko Houston, Bria Joi Pasley, Katherine Andrea Pinzon, Matthew Samuels and Alia Thompson.



Four Dorchester residents were among those who celebrated their graduation from Thayer Academy last weekend at the school’s Braintree campus. Shown above, l-r, are Henry Richard, Cam Mannion, Megan O’Brien and Charlie Wahlberg. The four Dorchester teens have been classmates since their younger days at Neighborhood House Charter School.

YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE

DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

About the whaling ship the “Charles Carroll”

In the 1830s, a syndicate was formed with facilities at Commercial Point in Dorchester to make a profit from fishing for whale and cod. The following paragraph is from “Captain John Codman, William D. Codman, John & Richard Codman” in “Other Merchants and Sea Captains of Old Boston” (Boston, State Street Trust Co., 1919).

“Their goal was to whale in the Pacific, Indian, and North Atlantic oceans. The ships bought by the company were the “Charles Carroll,” of Nantucket; “Courier,” “Herald,” and the bark “Lewis,” plus they equipped twenty schooners, of which two—the “Belle” and “the Preston”—were built at the Point. They purchased not only the wharf, but also quite a tract of land in its immediate vicinity, where they put flakes for the drying of their codfish. They also



built some cooper-shops and a store for the supply of sailors’ outfits and ship chandlery. The store was built from the material that came from the granary building which formerly occupied the site of the present Park Street Church



in the city proper.” William C. Codman is cited in William Dana Orcutt’s “Good Old Dorchester” (Cambridge, 1893; pp. 178-179):

“I well remember the arrival of the “Charles Carroll.” The

wharf at the Point was lined with carriages coming from great distances, containing relatives or friends of the Jack Tars [who had been away for 4 years]. When every sail had been furled, they were allowed to go ashore. Anxious parents,

brothers and sisters awaited them. The Jacks climbed over the side to rush to their relatives’ embraces...”

The following is from the Nantucket Historical Association’s two years ago: “In November 2018, the Nantucket Historical Association announced the major acquisition of the Josiah C. Long logbook from his 1848-52 voyage as captain aboard the Nantucket-built whaleship “Charles Carroll.” Long’s logbook is distinguished by the number of drawings depicted with nearly 300 of ships, flags, whales, sea life, and landscapes all done by hand. The drawings have a particular folk nature to them and the style is lively and playful. The archive of these historical posts can be viewed on the blog at dorchesterhistoricalsociety.org.

Editorial

Mosquitoes buggin’ you? Here’s what to do

The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) announced on Monday that a campaign will begin next week to spray an anti-mosquito pesticide — sumithrin—in select parts of the city: Hyde Park, West Roxbury, and East Boston. The work will be done next Monday and Tuesday, weather permitting, from trucks that will drive into targeted parts of those three neighborhoods and project an aerosol spray that contains the pesticide formula.

The news came on the same day that state public health officials confirmed the season’s first human case of Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) in a teenage boy in Plymouth County. The southeast coast is particularly susceptible to mosquito-borne illnesses and some communities, like Carver, have nighttime bans on outdoor activities in public parks.

Last year was the “most active year since the 1950s” for EEE in Massachusetts, “with 12 human cases and six deaths,” according to the State House News Service. Public health officials expect this year “to be another active year for EEE since outbreaks tend to extend themselves over two or three years,” the service reported.

There have not yet been any reports of mosquito-delivered illnesses here in city neighborhoods. But they’re likely on the way. In fact, on Tuesday, the state Department of Public Health raised the threat level for West Nile Virus from low to moderate within the city after three mosquito samples collected in Brighton came back “positive.”

So, it is good to see that city officials and their colleagues at the Suffolk County Mosquito Control Project (SCMCP) are taking steps to control the mosquito population in the city with the initial spraying next week. But, why not spray more widely and help protect Dorchester and Mattapan or other neighborhoods? It’s a good question.

BPHC officials say that they are responding to constituent complaints about “large mosquito population” activity in those three communities. So far, there have not been any calls or emails from Mattapan or Dorchester residents. The city and county set traps and test throughout the summer and fall and are monitoring the activity and the risk factors.

But if you and/or your neighbors feel there’s a significant problem in your neck of the woods, don’t presume the city health experts are clued in. Here’s what to do: Send an e-mail to infectiousdisease@bphc.org or call 617-534-2691. Explain the issue and give a specific location or area of concern. According to BPHC officials, in past instances in East Boston and West Roxbury they sent out a team to investigate and determine if spraying was needed.

Here are a few things to know if you decide to report the problem and if city officials decide to target your area for spraying:

- The spraying set for next week is happening in a fairly compact part of each neighborhood. For example, in East Boston, it’s targeted for just a few select streets around Orient Heights.
- The pesticide trucks roll through between sunset and 11:30 p.m. People should “minimize exposure” by staying inside during the spraying and closing windows until the spray dissipates.
- The toxins used in the spray “do not pose a significant risk to people or their pets,” according to officials, because it is diluted in the aerosol form.
- Also, don’t wait for the spray trucks, which may or may not come to your aid. Check your own yard for unused flowerpots, garbage cans and the like that can be breeding grounds for the bugs.

But, by all means, don’t just suffer. Call or e-mail. We’ll be curious to hear from our readers about their experiences.

– Bill Forry

In dire times like what we have now, community colleges can strut their stuff

BY DR. VALERIE ROBERSON

The COVID-19 pandemic is changing how colleges deliver quality education and how institutions operate with limited or no on-campus personnel. Higher education institutions in Boston and elsewhere are making challenging decisions about how to proceed in the fall to keep their staff and their students safe, while maintaining financial viability in a health climate that is impossible to predict.



Dr. Valerie Roberson

At Roxbury Community College, we plan to offer a combination of online, virtual, hybrid, and in-person classes for our students in the fall of 2020, unless conditions take a turn for the worse.

Uncertainty about whether fall classes will be able to be successfully held in-person or remotely at their school, as well as the economic challenges caused by the pandemic, have many students rethinking their educational strategy. Some who had planned to go to four-year schools may no longer have the financial means to do so.

Others may rethink taking out loans for private school tuition should classes only be offered remotely. When looking for an alternative educational option, many students and their families will be taking a fresh look at community colleges as an educational destination. Community colleges allow students to gain the knowledge and skills they need faster, and for a lower cost, while also earning valuable, transferable credits.

Massachusetts community colleges provided education for more than 110,000 students in the past fiscal year. We will continue to be a source for workforce training for students of all ages as Boston’s economic recovery is dependent on a skilled workforce, especially in STEM fields like health care, IT, biotechnology, and smart building technology.

Roxbury Community College is prepared to continue offering quality college-level courses and industry-ready workforce training this fall. We must be

flexible and ready to act quickly and compassionately to handle the constantly changing health landscape. The on-campus classes we are planning will be held in locations where social distancing guidelines can be properly observed. We’ve purchased masks, hand-sanitizing stations, and bottles of hand sanitizer to meet health recommendations. And we’re in constant contact with staff and students, so everyone is up to date on the latest developments.

We continue to prioritize connecting students with affordable technology for both online and in-person classes. Through RCC’s new RoxSTARS technology program, every RCC student in need of laptop will receive one, at no additional cost. In the sudden rush to make more than 350 classes available online at a moment’s notice when the COVID-19 crisis hit, we distributed more than 100 laptops and made it possible for students to access courses on smartphones. We also purchased and distributed 50 hotspots to increase student Wi-Fi access and worked with cell phone data providers to encourage them to increase data usage at no extra cost to our students.

We also have support systems in place for students, especially in communities like Dorchester, Roxbury, and Mattapan which have been hard hit by COVID-19 from both health and economic standpoints. Last year, over 80 percent of students at Roxbury Community College (RCC) were Pell-eligible, a figure that could rise even higher given the uncertainty about the economy. We will do whatever is necessary to keep academic costs low for students while identifying new ways to address non-academic student needs, such as food insecurity and mental health support.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on our community, and our city and state will be rebuilding for years to come. Yet, the pandemic has allowed RCC and all community colleges to remain firm in their open-access missions and better positioned to serve a larger, more diverse population of students. Regardless of circumstance, community colleges will always offer a quality, affordable education to anyone who wants one.

Dr. Valerie Roberson, PhD, is the president of Roxbury Community College. She has been a community college administrator for more than 30 years.

30th anniversary of the Disabilities Act highlights need to modernize the policy

BY JAMES T. BRETT
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) turned 30 last month, and it’s important to consider how we are either helping or failing people with disabilities as a matter of national policy.

Consider these facts. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, on average, only 19 percent of people with disabilities were employed during the 9-year period between 2009 and 2018, compared to more than 65 percent of people without disabilities.

In 2018, 16.7 percent of young adults with disabilities hadn’t attained a high school diploma, compared to 7.7 percent of their peers without disabilities; 15.6 percent of people with disabilities had a bachelor’s degree or more, versus 38.4 percent of people without disabilities.

For those with disabilities who are 30 or under – the “ADA generation,” as they’ve been called – the relative youth of the disability community’s major civil rights law means they’ve grown up with far higher expectations for themselves than their older counterparts, and we owe them a different future.

I speak from experience. My older brother Jack was born with significant intellectual and developmental disabilities in 1934 when the concept of investing in a person with a disability was essentially unheard of.

After all, it was only in 1975 that people with disabilities secured the federal right to a public education; only in 1976 that they gained the right to attend college; only in 1979 that Virginia stopped forcibly sterilizing people with disabilities (other states stopped short times before); and only in 2010 that Congress mandated devices and services like smart phones and emergency alerts be accessible to people with disabilities.

It has only been relatively recently that people with disabilities have secured major rights that the nondisabled take for granted. It’s not entirely surprising, then, that many of our national policies and programs for people with disabilities have yet to catch up with these civil rights gains and seismic shifts in expectations, and are still rooted in the vestiges of bygone eras.

Medicaid is 55 years old. For someone in a situation like my brother Jack, Medicaid provides personal

care services that can be an absolute gamechanger for getting ready for a job each day; for being able to have an independent life in the community; and to fully participate.

However, most long-term services and supports are not available through private insurance plans and are far too expensive to afford out-of-pocket. Further, Medicaid eligibility is predicated on poverty. If my brother, helped by Medicaid services, were to have found a job and worked too many hours, he’d have lost eligibility for the very services that enabled him to get the job in the first place.

Medicaid policy dictates that people with disabilities should only receive these vital services if they’re willing to remain impoverished; that they must choose to be healthy or productive and not both.

Social Security is 85 years old. Receiving these benefits is often the difference between extreme poverty and low-income living. Yet eligibility hinges on an arcane definition of disability that equates disability with an inability to work. Eligibility also requires that people have extremely limited assets. We discourage people with disabilities from saving for emergencies, never mind a brighter future. It’s easy to see why many refer to Social Security as a poverty trap.

People with disabilities make up approximately 12 percent of the working-age population in the US; however, they account for more than half of those living in long-term poverty. This should be a gut check for how much work is left to be done.

On this 30th anniversary year of the ADA, we can’t gloss over the fact that our national policies and programs are contributing to promises deferred for people with disabilities. We should instead seize on the opportunity to modernize policies that are painfully out of sync with what people with disabilities in America want and need today – services and supports that facilitate employment rather than discourage it.

James T. Brett is the president & CEO of The New England Council, and serves as vice chair of the National Council on Disability (NCD), the independent federal agency that called for and authored the first draft of the Americans with Disabilities Act. (ncd.gov)

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The policing debate amid the crosswinds of urgency, patience

By MICHAEL P. NORTON
AND KATIE LANNAN
STATE HOUSE
NEWS SERVICE

The timetable on Beacon Hill for legislation to license police and hold them accountable for misconduct is no longer specific, creating an extra layer of uncertainty around the bill at a time when the case against some reforms here is now playing out within the White House.

Gov. Baker and Democratic legislative leaders in June agreed to make a push to enact an accountability bill by July 31. But when marathon sessions ended after midnight Friday without an agreement, House Speaker Robert DeLeo and Senate President Karen Spilka laid out a new and more amorphous goal.

“We need a little bit more time just to get it right,” Spilka told a few reporters who stayed on Beacon Hill for Friday’s anti-climactic sessions.

In a statement, DeLeo echoed Spilka. “We are committed to reaching resolution, and the conferees will take the time to get it right,” he said.

But as Black church leaders are newly urging lawmakers to take advantage of a “unique political moment” to address the impacts of “police aggression and violence in our communities,” the head of the state’s largest police union was highlighting opposition to reforms during a meeting with President Trump on Friday.

“Mr. President, just, you know, the level of attacks that are going at us, going after our qualified immunity, going after our due process rights, it’s a complete assault on the people who are paid to protect the citizens,” Scott Hovsepien, a Waltham police officer and president of the Massachusetts Coalition of Police (MassCOP), told Trump during a meeting in the Cabinet Room Friday, according to a White House transcript.

Hovsepien continued: “And if we can’t do our job — in Massachusetts, they want to file bills that will — we will not be able to put our hands on somebody unless we’re arresting them. So, if we’re dealing with disorderly people, intoxicated people, people with mental health issues, trying to get them into an ambulance, get them to a hospital, we could be sued.”

Hovsepien and other top police officials from around the United States met at the White House with Trump, who celebrated his July 15 endorsement with the leadership team from the National Association of Police Organizations. Hovsepien serves as treasurer of the national group.

On Thursday, a day before a legislative conference committee failed to strike a reform bill deal by the July 31 goal, MassCOP endorsed 66 House members who voted against the House bill, a group that included 31 Republicans and 35 House Democrats.

In their exchange on Friday, Trump seized on Hovsepien’s introduction of the debate over limits on qualified immunity, one of the most controversial reforms in the bill. Supporters say limits will give victims recourse against rogue cops; police fear the threat of civil suits will render them unable to do their jobs.

“Yeah, that’s the next move,” Trump said. “You know, they want to take immunity away from police so that if you do what you have to do, and you do it right, you can get sued. I mean, the whole thing is just crazy.”

Trump then asked Hovsepien whether Gov. Charlie Baker is “trying to help.”

“It hasn’t gotten to his desk yet, Mr. President,” Hovsepien replied. “But we’re hoping that we’ve made some very solid arguments on all these issues where he can slow the process down. That’s the problem.”



Waltham Police Officer Scott Hovsepien has aired his concerns with President Trump.

Hovsepien also told Trump that reformers in Massachusetts were “going after” the use of tear gas and K-9 dogs.

“Unique Political Moment”

Baker did not address qualified immunity in his own police decertification plan and could have a major role to play in shaping the final details of a reform bill, especially since the House bill did not pass by a veto-proof margin. By extending formal sessions last week beyond their traditional July 31 deadline, the Legislature will be in session to field any potential amendment from the governor to the bill, should Baker not sign it and wish to offer changes.

The Democratic leaders of the House and Senate did not articulate a new timeline for producing a compromise bill, and the conference committee’s negotiations will continue to play out in private. The conferees have given no sign of how close to an agreement they are, or how much additional time they’ll need. August is a time when people take vacations, this year’s primary elections fall early on Sept. 1, and legislative leaders have not outlined a concrete plan for resuming formal sessions and returning to unfinished business.

Like DeLeo and Spilka, Baker had set a July 31 goal for a finished product, though that was before the Legislature decided to extend its session.

“I would really like to make sure that by the 31st of July, we have in place a credible, aspirational program with respect to how we handle certification and transparency and decertification here in Massachusetts,” Baker said as he rolled out his certification bill on July 17.

Rep. Russell Holmes, a police certification proponent before the current push on Beacon Hill, essentially issued a challenge to DeLeo and Spilka at that same press conference. He said he hoped they were having “rigorous conversations” and that he’d asked Spilka to “please make sure you’re talking to the governor” to minimize the risk of a veto or amendment once lawmakers were on their anticipated August recess and unable to address it.

“They believe we can get this done,” Holmes said. “I would like them to prove it.”

Asked after the Senate adjourned early Saturday morning if she viewed it as a failure to not have a bill done by the traditional end of formal sessions, Spilka said no.

“The session is going on, so it’s not the end of session, so we clearly are working on it, and again, it’s better to get it right,” she said. Spilka called it a “very complicated bill” and said conferees were working on it “around the clock practically.” She added, “It’s better to get it right than just get it done for the sake of getting it done.”

Last week’s decision to extend formal sessions meant that the end of the month would no longer serve as a make-or-break point for police reform and other major bills, but stretching talks past that date could still have consequences.

It pushes back potential votes on a final bill, gubernatorial amendments or overriding a veto on an uncertain

timeline that might mingle with the Sept. 1 primary and Nov. 3 general election and could force tough choices for lawmakers in contested races. The public’s focus could move to summer vacations, back-to-school preparations that are complicated by a pandemic, the presidential election, and the health, economic, and social implications of the ongoing upward trend in COVID-19 cases.

And the longer it takes the conference committee to arrive at a deal — if it reaches one — the further removed a final bill will be from the series of June protests that initially propelled Beacon Hill into action. While advocacy continues, it has shifted from the nightly rallies that drew thousands to Boston streets and generated expansive media coverage.

On Sunday the American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts tweeted that people should “give your reps a call and tell them to end immunity for police who hurt people.”

The same day, African Methodist Episcopal Church pastors wrote to the six conferees, calling on them to “follow the divine call for justice” by compiling a bill that includes Black and Latino Legislative Caucus priority reforms — a police decertification system, a commission to study the civil service exam, limits on police use of force and a commission on structural racism — along with “meaningful limits” on qualified immunity proposed by the Senate and the House’s version of a ban on facial surveillance technology.

On qualified immunity, the pastors said the Senate’s language “appropriately addresses this legal doctrine that has denied victims of police violence their day in court” and that it “would not eliminate qualified immunity but balance the scales of justice and require

police to conduct themselves in a way that is authorized by law.”

“The experience of police aggression and violence in our communities has had generational impacts that can be addressed by these, as well as many other, reforms,” they wrote. “The confluence of events in our nation have created this unique political moment [to] do what our Lord has required of us, which is to ‘do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.’”

During the Senate’s debate on the bill last month, Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz, now one of the six negotiators, raised the possibility of a limited window for action.

Speaking against an amendment to strike the bill’s qualified immunity changes and instead give a panel of experts six months to study the idea, Chang-Diaz cautioned that lawmakers will “get pulled in a thousand different directions” and that the public’s attention is “ephemeral.” The amendment failed on a 16-24 vote.

Chang-Diaz, the only Senate member of the Black and Latino Legislative Caucus, said the video capturing George Floyd’s death while a Minneapolis police officer knelt on his neck “stirred the souls of Americans and Bay Staters.”

“They feel shame, they feel urgency, they feel despair, they feel appropriate ownership for the failings of our nation that have brought us to this day, they feel a desire to change things,” she said. “And they feel, Madam President, most importantly of all for the fate of people of color, they feel a fleeting focus on the centuries-long pain of Black Americans. Those things will be gone in six months.”

Sam Doran and Chris Van Buskirk contributed reporting for State House News Service.



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Youth baseball changes include a ‘Covid umpire’

(Continued from page 1) sounds of baseball—the ping of aluminum, the pop of the leather glove—were familiar, while the visuals of the game were decidedly different. All player and coaches wore gaiter masks around their necks, which they pulled up above their noses when sitting on the bench and huddled up or pulled down while spread out on the field of play.

Bottles of hand sanitizers were stationed at each “dugout,” while a neon, yellow-vested “Covid umpire” kept a watchful eye behind the backstop, gently reminding players to mask up as they returned from the field.

While waiting to bat, kids sat spaced-out on benches and folding chairs. Caution tape cordoned off the diamond area to ensure that parents, family, and fans kept their distance and refrained from interacting with the players. “We thought the Covid umpire approach was very innovative,” said Maneikis. “It cost the league a bunch of money, but they make sure kids are doing the right things while allowing coaches to spend more time coaching baseball and less time managing safety protocols.” Maneikis noted that some of the Covid arbiters have backgrounds in the medical field and that a board representative who is a licensed medical practitioner has been in charge of the safety program. “Things haven’t been perfect, but we’re doing the best we can,” he said, adding that parent feedback has been largely positive. “I had a parent tell me that since their kids started playing, they seem to be happier and more adjusted, and that what we’re demanding of kids is getting them ready for school.” For his part, Manning said he was confident in how the league has gone about implementing its safety-first approach. “In the beginning, it was definitely an adjustment for everyone, but to be completely honest, I’m proud of our kids and our coaches,” he said. “I really think we’re kind of setting an example for the rest of the community. They’ve done a great job with following the instructions, wearing the masks, taking this seriously...There are some out there who have doubted whether or not we could pull it off and do it safely.

“For myself and the rest of the board, we logged so many hours on calls on Zoom to make sure we were covering all our bases, no pun intended. And we told ourselves we weren’t going to pull it off unless we



New Normal: Players sit spaced out on benches and folding chairs, caution tape separates fans from the field of play, and a covid umpire upholds mask etiquette. But the baseball action remains the same.

Daniel Sheehan photos

could do it safely, and I’m totally convinced that we’ve been doing that.”

The series of safety measures were adapted from best practices

around the country, local guidelines, and examples at higher lev-

els, Manning explained. “There were some states that had started up be-

fore us, so we pulled a little bit from what was working in other states and then combined that with the local guidance and regulation coming from the state. Once Major League Baseball rolled out how they were functioning, it essentially mirrored what we were doing. We look almost like the major leagues; in fact we’re doing better I would argue.”

Beyond the physical health aspect, Manning said, getting kids back on the diamond has resulted in boosts in mental health after a long period of staying indoors. “In terms of what we offer—social and emotional wellbeing—for people who have been cooped up in their houses for so long, especially kids, we felt it was important to offer something in a safe way to get kids out of the house and provide a little bit of normalcy.

“It’s not a normal season but we’re trying to make things as normal as possible. There’s obviously gonna be some people who focus on the negative, and maybe you might see here or there a kid might forget to wear a mask or something, but overall we’ve received so much positive feedback from the parents.”

Doug George, whose four sons have played and umpired for Dorchester Baseball, said they were “absolutely thrilled” to be involved with baseball again. “It’s so important for the kids, and the restrictions really haven’t affected it at all,” he said. “We’re seeing our greatest attendance rate for players and games, and people excited to be out at the field. When one of George’s sons helped to oversee a recent game, he said most players understood the importance of heeding safety precautions, even if parents did not. At games on Monday evening, parents and fans watched mostly without masks, but sat far from the diamond down the third base line. “Kids are adaptable in the sense that they seem to take it in stride, but having an umpire helps,” said George, who added that from what he saw, every boy is self-policing himself. We don’t have control over what fans are doing. We can only control what we can control. But a side benefit of it is the parents not getting too involved in the game and just sitting back and enjoying it.” George applauded the fact that most of the volunteers and coaches in the league, like Manning, do not have kids of their own in the league. “It’s a true volunteer position. Year in and year out they show up, and we’re grateful because it’s hard work.”

Suarez-Orozco launches tenure at UMass Boston, which he says is ‘a university of and for the times’

‘Special advisor for Black Life’ position is set

By Chris Lisinski
State House
News Service

In his first day on the job Monday, new UMass Boston Chancellor Marcelo Suarez-Orozco warned that simultaneous crises pose “great threats” to equality and set his sights on working toward racial justice in higher education.

Suarez-Orozco wrote a lengthy letter to UMass Boston faculty, staff, and students to kick off his tenure, announcing that he would create a new leadership position on the campus aimed at improving the educational experience for Black students.

By announcing the new Special Advisor to the Chancellor for Black Life at UMass Boston, Suarez-Orozco immediately targeted equity as a top priority on one of the most diverse public campuses in the state, albeit one that will be without students this fall since it is offering only remote classes.

“The Special Advisor will work with me and my leadership team as we commit to create new



Marcelo Suarez-Orozco assumes reigns at UMass Boston.

structures and to develop new codified and customary practices purposefully designed to put UMass Boston at the forefront of excellence, engagement, and relevance on racial justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion,” he wrote. “A call for nominations and additional details will be forthcoming following the completion of constituent discussion.”

Suarez-Orozco also told the campus that he and his wife, Carola, together launched a new scholarship fund in honor of George Floyd, an unarmed Black man who died after Derek Chauvin, a white Minneapolis police officer,

knelt on his neck during an arrest for more than eight minutes.

The couple seeded the George Floyd Honorary Scholarship Fund with \$50,000 of their own money, and Suarez-Orozco said additional donors have added more than \$100,000 to the scholarship “to provide financial support to our talented students who otherwise may find it difficult or impossible to pay for a college education.”

Nearly six in 10 UMass Boston undergraduates are first-generation college students, many of whom are non-white, according to data published by the school.

Suarez-Orozco, an Argentinian immigrant who for close to a decade helmed UCLA’s Graduate School of Education and Information Studies, was selected unanimously as UMass Boston’s next top leader in February.

He now starts as the first permanent chancellor at UMass Boston in more than three years. Interim chancellors have led the campus since June 2017, and the first search process for a full-time successor collapsed in May 2018 when all three finalists withdrew following campus visits.

He started Monday amid a time of upheaval nationally and, specifically, in higher education. Colleges and universities are reeling from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, facing budget gaps and questions over how to safely plan for a fall semester amid the ongoing public health crisis.

The new chancellor said his first official action will be to communicate with various communities on how UMass Boston can of-

fer the best learning environment possible while mitigating “the malignant effects of the COVID pandemic, its calamitous wake on the economy, and the budgetary undertow we all face moving forward.”

UMass Boston trimmed about \$34 million from its original fiscal year 2021 budget, more than half of which came with workforce impacts such as layoffs, furloughs, or leaving positions vacant, according to budget documents.

Overall, the UMass system faced a \$264 million budget gap amid the pandemic, and trustees opted to support cutting some jobs while keeping tuition frozen to lessen the strain on families and keep the schools an attractive option while state tax revenues — an integral part of their budget — crater.

Suarez-Orozco also gestured toward a new nationwide reckoning with centuries of racism, warning that “systemic racism, hatred, and police brutality stand in complete opposition to a humane civilization and

to the elemental requirements for the practice of democratic citizenship.”

“To be sure, we face grave threats “from a ravaging pandemic, particularly devastating to communities of color, to unchecked climate change extracting untold suffering in the world’s poorest regions, to the structural racialization of inequality and the intergenerational persistence of anti-blackness, to xenophobia and exclusionary anti-immigrant policies,” Suarez-Orozco wrote.

“My life work stands for a higher education agenda of excellence animated by an ethic of care and solidarity, an ethic of preference to the least empowered amongst us, an ethic of dignity and human rights, and an ethic of engagement and service to others.”

He described education as an “indispensable tool” for overcoming inequality and pledged that UMass Boston would strive to be “the university of and for the city and the university of and for the times.”

UMass Boston summer scene: No classes; rehab underway

(Continued from page 1) amount depending on the square footage permitted for construction.

The SDQD project is part of the university’s 25-year Master Plan that was laid out in 2009 with the overall vision of transforming the 1970s campus into a “cutting edge, sustainable, and attractive environment.”

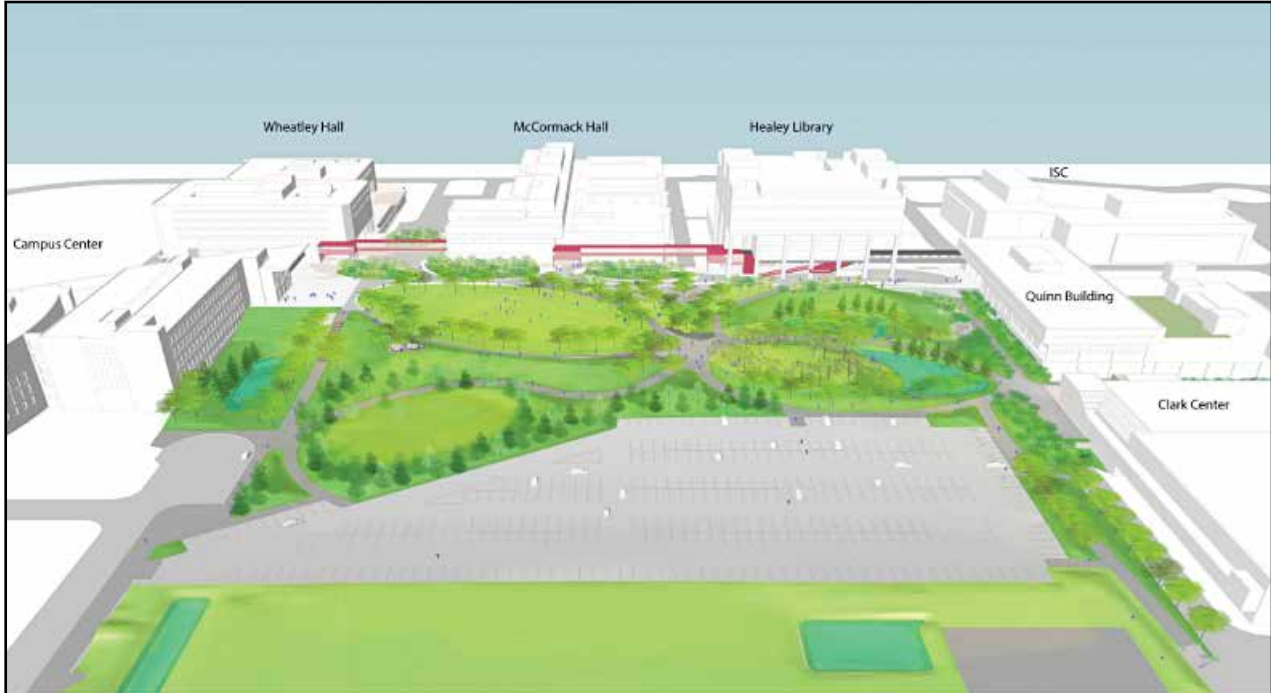
The plan calls for new buildings, landscapes, circulation corridors, and utilities, and serves as a blueprint and framework for campus infrastructure and landscape investments.

Kearns explained that the demolition of crumbling structures will allow for the construction of a multi-use, accessible green space for students, faculty, and the community at large.

“Some of the foundations under the buildings that were parking garages have had trouble with concrete falling, crumbling, and just being unsafe, so a major component of this is fixing those buildings,” he said, adding:

“The older science building has been emptied out and we are going to be tearing down the pool. The concrete in the center quad is kind of old and falling apart, so all of that is going to be demolished and replaced with green space.”

Kearns said the sloped quad will include infrastructure to allow for



A rendering shows the reimaged center quad as part of UMass Boston’s 25-year Master Plan.

many adaptive uses, like outdoor entertainment and recreational space, as well as the potential for food trucks.

“This is a project that will transform the campus from a hardscape utilitarian concrete kind of campus to a much softer green space, much improved quad for the students, faculty, staff, and the community for that matter,” he said.

The university’s nursing program moved last year from the old science building to the newer Quinn Building, he noted.

“Last year we finished a new simulation lab for them, so they’ve got a great, shiny new space in that building now,”

Kearns said, “I’d say that access for those students has actually improved.”

Over the last several years, master plan initiatives have paved the way for the project by relocating programs and functions from the Science Center. Investments have included the creation of an integrated science complex, utility corridor and roadway reallocation, the creation of University Hall, HarborWalk improvements and shoreline stabilization, a new residence hall, and the construction of the university’s first free-standing parking garage.

“The past couple of years there was what we would call an enabling



project. There were a bunch of renovations to create spaces for

all of the departments coming out of the science building,” said

Kearns. “There were multiple renovations to existing buildings as part of the master plan so we could get to the point where we could implement this portion of the master plan.”

Although the pandemic stalled work for a period of time, Kearns said that “it has helped that the campus is pretty much empty because, of course, construction can be noisy and dusty, so we have a little more freedom in that regard, but it also caused us at least a month delay in March and April when everyone was trying to figure out what was going on with covid and things went remote.”

Kearns said construction crews will continue to follow health safety precautions as UMass Boston to resume educational programs in a hybrid method, with only a few courses held on campus and nearly all instruction continuing in remote fashion during the upcoming fall semester. The bulk demolition of the old science center and portions of the substructure are anticipated between now and next spring. Construction of the new look is anticipated to end in 2022.

“This is going to be a couple-year-long project. It’s a lot of work,” said Kearns.

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Six years later, work is at
full tilt on Indigo Block

(Continued from page 1)

26 units will be restricted to households making above 60 percent Area Median Income (AMI) and 44 will be designated affordable and funded with low income tax credits for households earning 60 percent of AMI or less.

Dorchester Bay EDC is working in partnership with Boston Capital, a large local firm, on the multi-family residential units, and with Escazu Development LLC, a small local company that is the sole developer of the condo units.

“Of course, there are tiers within that 60 per-cent band, and there are a number set aside for low-income and extremely low-income households, so we’re really hitting a deep level of afford-ability in our housing,” said Leah Whiteside, Dorchester Bay EDC’s associate director of real estate.

A two-story commer-cial-industrial building will front on East Cot-tage Street and offer a combination of mezza-nine and light industrial sites – including loading bays – on the lower floor.

“It’s a very strategi-cally placed and designed project,” said Newman.



Graphic shows where Indigo block is going up.

“It’s designed for maxi-mum impact. It’s right on the MBTA Fairmount Line so access to down-town is easy and as the frequency of service im-proves the idea is that it will be much easier for people who live in the Indigo Block and also in surrounding areas to get to jobs downtown or in other parts of the com-munity.”

Added Whiteside: “The

(Continued next page)

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Construction and electrical work on the main residential building is underway. Below: Crews work on the foundation for the light-industrial commercial building that will face East Cottage Street.



first floor is an ideal spot for uses such as food production and light manufacturing. We've partnered with some contractors that might have interest in using it. The second floor will be set aside for tenants seeking office space.

"It seems a little more difficult to achieve now that we're in a post-Covid world, but it's still our goal," she added. "The market was slow for a couple of months but things have started picking back up again. We're hearing that there are still lots of tenants who are still very interested in locating in an urban area particularly in a post-Covid area so that they can be closer to their markets. We're really optimistic that we're going to be able to find a tenant in the timeframe that we need."

DBEDC has partnered with Newmarket Community Partners and Boston Capital on the development, which is slated for completion by next May. The residential buildings are expected to be ready by next August.

"Due to Newmarket's deep knowledge of the immediate geography, the need for light-industrial space in the area, and their long-term commitment to the neigh-

borhood, it's a really strong partnership to have on the commercial building," said Beth O'Donnell, Dorchester Bay EDC's director of real estate development.


Whiteside said that the "whole concept of our large-scale redevelopment plan was heavily based on community input. Through the community process, the neighborhood told us they didn't just want housing, they wanted jobs," she said. "We really took their feedback into account in each iteration of the design that we brought back to the community. The thing that we talked most about, and were most guided on by the community, was how we structured the condo units."

A main concern raised by residents during input sessions outside of the city's Article 80 process was "gentrification," Whiteside said.

"We wanted to make sure the homeowner-ship opportunities our project is providing are targeted to levels that people in the neighborhood could afford," she said. "In the end, we had a really thoughtful discussion over the course of months, going with the neighborhood's decision to have condo units," she said.

Newman said the project synchs well with Dorchester Bay EDC's longtime advocacy to improve stations and frequency on the Fairmount Line.

"It really plays hand and glove with our overall effort to get people living in quality places, with access to quality jobs, and being able to move to places where they can access quality jobs," said Newman. "I think we've taken the long view that transit will improve and, I hate to say it, but I think for many years there was nowhere to go but up for the Fairmount Line. But significant investment is being made now."



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CODMAN SQUARE HEALTH CENTER
STANDS WITH OUR COMMUNITY
IN FIGHTING RACIAL INJUSTICE



– STATE HOUSE
NEWS SERVICE

“Violations of public health guidelines off-campus — especially the holding of large gatherings — should be directly linked to serious university discipline, including suspension and the inability to complete the semester,” she wrote.

**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 24, 2020

Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate

Published: August 6, 2020

Please be advised that the MassDEP Boston office is currently closed to the public and the Waterways Program Staff are working remotely. It is recommended that documents and correspondence be filed electronically with the email address specified above when possible; documents should not be hand delivered to One Winter Street, Boston, MA until further notice.



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Nick Collins

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Non-profit to host online forum for BPS families, teachers

A Dorchester-based non-profit focused on Boston Public Schools will lead a two-day online forum for K-12 teachers and parents next week to discuss re-opening plans and how to best navigate remote learning methods.

The group, 1647, will host its third annual Family Engagement Summer Institute virtually next Tuesday and Wednesday (Aug. 11 and 12) with a program that will include workshops and break-out groups for small teams.

Ann M. Walsh, a Lower Mills resident and co-founder of 1647, explained that the organization seeks to connect families and schools and train them to work as a team.

“We help educators to think about the year ahead,” she said in an interview with the Reporter. “This year we’ve moved to an online forum, and we’ll be modeling different strategies and approaches that teachers can take to build connections and really helping them grapple with the plans that have been outlined as possible options for this year.

The virtual forum is scheduled to take place from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Aug. 11 and 12. Registration is available online at <http://bit.ly/1647summerinstitute2020>.

– KATIE TROJANO

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
SUFFOLK DIVISION
24 NEW CHARDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
Docket No. SU20D0327DR
DIVORCE SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION and MAILING
THANH KIM MY DUNN
vs.
CURTIS WILLIAM DUNN

To the Defendant:

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

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon: Thanh Kim My Dunn, 33 Bloomfield Street, Dorchester, MA 02124 your answer, if any, on or before **09/03/2020**. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.

Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.
Date: July 21, 2020
Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate
Published: August 6, 2020

JULY-AUGUST

11 AM-3 PM



AGES: 6-16

MONDAY-FRIDAY

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Judith M. Alden

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Love, Chickie

NOTICE

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

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



William Clapp House, 195 Boston Street
Lemuel Clap House, 199 Boston Street
James Blake House, 735 Columbia Road
www.dorchesterhistoricalsociety.org



BGCD Summer Programming Member Highlight - Benjamin: See details below.

CONNECT THE DOT:
BGCD Summer Programming Member Highlight - Benjamin: Meet Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester member, Benjamin! Benjamin has been coming to BGCD since he was 3 years old in our preschool program and is now part of our Licensed School Age program. During the school year, Benjamin comes to BGCD every day after school from the Murphy to play with his friends, do his homework and take swim lessons.

Benjamin is so excited to be back at BGCD for our summer program with our caring staff. His favorite part so far is being back with his friends, doing arts & crafts outside and going in the pool every day.

For more information on our summer program opening, watch our video at <https://vimeo.com/444220279>.

FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE:
BGCD Partners with Music & Youth for Summer Music Programming: This Summer BGCD has taken a whole new approach to music instruction with a new virtual component added to on-site lessons for members ages 10-18. Thanks to our partners at the Music & Youth Initiative who stepped up during this time to provide equipment for members who are allowed to take the instruments home so that they are able to take part in the Clubs Virtual Lesson Program. Currently 24 members are taking 2 lessons a week for 60 minutes in Piano, Guitar, Drums, Bass and Sax. In addition, Music & Youth also provided Home Studio Kits for recording and on the go Mobile Studios which are part of the Teen program this Summer. A big thank you to our long-time partner, Music & Youth Initiative for stepping up at this critical time to ensure our members continued to have this amazing opportunity.




BGCD Partners with Music & Youth for Summer Music Programming: See details below.

DID YOU KNOW:
BGCD Open For Limited Summer Programming: Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester has reopened our doors to a limited capacity summer camp for some of our members for the past 3 weeks. Through the help of our Safety Advisory Task Force, we have taken the most thorough strategies to keep members and staff as safe as possible throughout the entire process. The majority of programming has been taking place outside with limited indoor capacity. Children and staff are screened for symptoms upon arrival each day via Google Forms. All members and staff are required to wear their masks and handwashing is required regularly throughout the day as well as adhering to social distancing practices.

Our members are thrilled to be back at the Clubs, and we are excited to have them back.

UPDATES
Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester "BGCD At Home" Virtual Programming Highlight:
This week's highlight is Music!
Music Director Carleton is providing virtual musical instruments and singing & voice lessons via Zoom!
For more information or to register your child, please email Carleton Burke at cburke@bgcdorchester.org or call 617-288-7120.



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

Marijuana is legal.

5 Things Parents Should Know about Cannabis

1. Cannabis is legal for people 21 and older, with exceptions for those in the Medical Use of Marijuana Program.
2. Children's brains don't fully develop until their 20s.
3. Marijuana use by children can affect memory, cause learning problems, and increase risky behavior.
4. Cannabis is sold in a variety of products that can appeal to children, like edibles and vaping devices.
5. If you have cannabis products at home, keep them locked up and stored out of children's reach.




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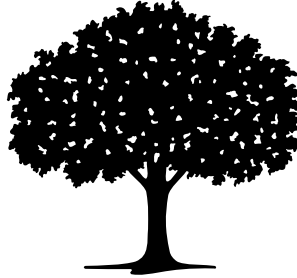
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Pricing information and maps available online at:
www.BostonCemetery.org
617-325-6830 info@bccacomcast.net



AVERGÜN, Jason
"Jack" of Mattapan. He is survived by his daughter, Andrea Wexler; son-in-law, William Wexler; grandchildren, Daniel and Haley; and many nieces and nephews. To honor Jack's memory, donations may be sent to Falmouth Jewish Congregation, 7 Hatchwell Rd., Falmouth, MA 02563.



BUTLER, Anne Theresa (Doherty) of Melrose. Wife of the late Edward A. Butler. Anne was the mother to Susan J. Butler (her youngest) and partner Phyllis Murphy of Wells, ME, Stephen E. Butler and fiancée, Rebecca Butler of Wayland, Thomas M. Butler and his wife Linda (Collins), of Simsbury, CT, Karen A. Kelly and her husband Mike of Foxborough, and Ellen M. Vaitkunas and her husband Victor of Milford. She was Nana to 8. She was the great-grandmother to 2. Anne was predeceased by her sister Margaret (Doherty) Glidden and her husband Walter, nephews David and Donald Glidden, and brother Philip Doherty and his wife Rosemary. Anne was aunt to many nieces and nephews. She will be sorely missed by her longtime dear friend Nancy Donovan. She also leaves behind many cousins. Memorial donations in Anne's name to the Most Blessed Sacrament Church, 11 Grove St., Wakefield, MA 01880, or the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, 101 First Avenue, Waltham, MA 02451.



COOPER, George William Jr., 63. George was born in Roxbury to the late George W. and Rosalie (Cavelius) Cooper and grew up in Dorchester. He attended the former Don Bosco Technical High School in Boston. He worked for Digital Equipment Corporation and Wang Laboratories. He started playing the clarinet

with St. Peter's Parish band in grammar school and then in his high school years he moved on to brass instruments with the Boston Crusaders. George is survived by a brother, Peter, and his wife Patricia of Needham, by a sister, Lee Butler, of Somersworth, NH, by nephews Michael Butler, Mark Butler and Jonathan Cooper, and niece Jennifer Marr, as well as by two grandnephews and three grandnieces. Donations may be made to the Boston Crusaders Drum & Bugle Corps, 47 Fairmont Avenue, Hyde Park, MA 02136.



GREALISH, Lisa Noreen, 38 in Ashburn, VA. She was formerly of Dorchester and Braintree, MA. She was the mother of Taylor Cole. Daughter of Rita (Conroy) Grealish and the late Patrick Grealish of Rosmuc, Co. Galway, Ireland. Sister of Susan and Stephen Lorgeree of Holbrook, Annie Grealish of Weymouth, Katie and Corey Clark of Dorchester, Patrick Grealish and his partner Laura of Galway, Ireland. Aunt of Erica, Gavin, Finn, Ryan, Aaliyah, Nathan and another baby girl on the way. Lisa served in the United States Air Force.



HALL, Sean P. of Weymouth, formerly of Dorchester, 50. Sean was the son of the late Virginia Hall. He was the fiancé of Kathy Thomas and proud stepfather of Jake Thomas. Brother to Susan, Ronald, Michael, Brian, Thomas, and the late Joseph. A longtime employee of MGH. Remembrances may be made in his name to the Boys and Girls Club of Boston.

JOYCE, Martin J. III of Derry, New Hampshire. Son of Claire (Fall) Reppucci of Medford and the late Martin Joyce, Jr. of Quincy. Brother of Kevin Joyce and his wife Janice of Plymouth, Lawrence Joyce and his wife Christina of Middleboro, Karen Venis of Abington and Margaret Messenger and her companion Joseph Gordon of Weymouth, and several nieces and nephews. Memo-

rial donations may be made to the American Cancer Association, 3 Speen Street, Framingham, MA 01701.



PENNACCHIO, Anthony "Tony" of Dorchester. Son of Teresa Pennacchio. Brother of Phil Pennacchio, Rita P. Cipriano and Paula Pennacchio. Brother in-law of Robert Venuti and loving companion of Krysten Bercume. Tony was a retired Chief Inspector on the green line for the MBTA.

ROWE, Kathleen "Kathy". Born in Boston and raised in West Roxbury and Dorchester, she attended Girls Latin School. She was preceded in by her parents, Anna Rowe and Philip Rowe, and by aunts and uncles. She will be greatly missed by her cousins, Eileen Joyce, Allison Joyce, Patrick Joyce, Thomas Joyce and Robert Joyce, Michael Gaughran, Maureen Gaughran, Deborah Ward, Carole Maloney, and the late Thomas Hauer, along with dear friends. Donations may be made in Kathy's memory to Gifford Cat Shelter, 30 Undine Road, Brighton, MA 02135, 617-787-8872 or online at Giffordcatshelter.org.



SOLLETTI, Harold "Harry" of Dorchester. Husband of 54 years of Maryann Solletti (Welch) of Dorchester. Father of Brian Solletti and his fiancée Joan of Fairfax Virginia and Bethany Lyons and her husband Kevin of Braintree. "Papa" of 4. Brother of James M. and his wife Elaine of Abington and Robert F. of Quincy. Son of the late Bernice and Francis Solletti. One of seven sons Harold is predeceased by his brothers Frank, Jack, Thomas and Richard. Harry will be remembered by his dear friend David F. Coakley, many nieces, nephews and extended family and friends. He was a streetcar operator for the MBTA and Union representative for the Carmen's Union before retiring in 2000.

SULLIVAN, Cornelius Joseph was born in Dorchester to Cornelius

and Delia Sullivan. He was the eldest son, followed by Joseph, John, and Mary. Neil was the first college graduate in his family and continued on to Boston College Law School after serving in Vietnam. Neil and his wife Brenda raised six children together: Elizabeth, Kathleen, Meghan, Conor, Brian, and Carolyn. He is also survived by 6 grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. Neil was the president of the Copley Society of Boston, the Deputy Director of the Massachusetts Arts Council, and an avid supporter of the Society of Arts and Crafts. Please send donations to St. Gregory's Catholic Church, 2215 Dorchester Avenue, Dorchester, MA 02124. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to St. Gregory's Catholic Church, 2215 Dorchester Avenue, Dorchester, MA 02124. They founded the law practice Sullivan & Walsh and were active in the Operation Rescue movement. Neil was the president of the Copley Society of Boston, the Deputy Director of the Massachusetts Arts Council, and an avid supporter of the Society of Arts and Crafts. Neil died peacefully on August 1st, surrounded by his family. He is survived by his wife; his six children; their spouses Muneeb, John, Kerry-Ann, and Matthew; his grandchildren Jack, Brendan, Eamon, Therese, Julianne, and Tajuddin; as well as many nieces and nephews. Please send donations to St. Gregory's Catholic Church, 2215 Dorchester Avenue, Dorchester, MA 02124.



WALSH, David I. "Snowball". 89 of Sandown NH and formerly of Dorchester. Mr. Walsh was born and raised in Dorchester. He graduated from Dorchester High School for Boys in 1949 and later served in the US Air Force during the Korean War. David worked for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a Machine Operator for 30 years. Husband of Bessie (Yoyos) Walsh, father of Deborah and Steven DeGabriele, Maureen and John Fitzgerald, Paula and Teddy Giblin, Ann Marie and Joseph Sabatula, nine grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to honor Flight New England or to the charity of the donor's choice.



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August 2020

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						1 Catholic Church Pastor: Multi-Services Center 100 Columbus Rd Open to Open
2	3	4 Roman Park 92 Mt. St. Rd Open to Open	5 AMS Town Field (by the Suffolk County) 1040 Dorchester Ave Open to Open	6	7 DSW 500 Dudley St 10am to 5pm	8
9	10	11 Roman Park 92 Mt. St. Rd Open to Open	12 AMS Town Field (by the Suffolk County) 1040 Dorchester Ave Open to Open	13	14 DSW 500 Dudley St 10am to 5pm	15
16	17	18 Roman Park 92 Mt. St. Rd Open to Open	19 AMS Town Field (by the Suffolk County) 1040 Dorchester Ave Open to Open	20	21 DSW 500 Dudley St 10am to 5pm	22
23	24	25 Roman Park 92 Mt. St. Rd Open to Open	26 AMS Town Field (by the Suffolk County) 1040 Dorchester Ave Open to Open	27	28 DSW 500 Dudley St 10am to 5pm	29

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SENATOR NICK COLLINS LEADS FIGHT FOR INVESTMENTS IN EQUITABLE ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY BOND BILL CLEARS LEGISLATURE

BOSTON- Last week, the Massachusetts Legislature finalized a \$1.8 billion investment bill to modernize our Commonwealth's technology infrastructure, empower communities disproportionately impacted by the criminal justice system, support early education and care providers, and expand access to remote learning opportunities for vulnerable populations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Senator Nick Collins, who represents Dorchester, Mattapan, South Boston, and Hyde Park, secured three amendments which will authorize spending in those communities, including:

- \$200,000 for an Information Technology Equity Fund to provide equitable access to technology for businesses owned by socially and economically-disadvantaged people and businesses operating in communities with a high proportion of low-income residents;

- \$300,000 for Boston Public Schools broadband internet access to serve families, students, and teachers who need support accessing high speed internet

- \$500,000 for the District Attorney Rachel Rollins' office to support modernization of their data collection and storage and advance a more holistic approach to evidence-based prosecution

"Throughout this pandemic my office has been committed to delivering relief to those who most need it," said **Senator Collins**. "I was proud to secure these funds that break down barriers to access for low-income students and their families, promote fairness and equity in our criminal justice system, and support the many small businesses that make up the fabric of our communities."

"As we adapt to new models of remote learning, access to high speed internet and technology is more important for student success than ever," said **Jessica Tang, President of the Boston Teachers Union**. "I want to thank Senator Collins and the Legislature for their continued commitment to our students, teachers, and families."

Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins said: "Every day, Suffolk County prosecutors make decisions that impact the lives of our victims, witnesses, defendants, and the communities they each call home. Having a data-driven and evidence-based approach to decision making helps us better ensure public safety and displays disparities quickly so adaptations can be made. The antiquated IT infrastructure that I inherited back in 2019 was woefully

inadequate and could not meet even the basic needs of our evolving and innovative office. To be clear, this criminal legal "system" deeply impacts people - victims, survivors, witnesses, defendants, and families and loved ones of each. We owe it to them to be better and to do better when we have their liberty and safety in our hands. Accordingly, in order to invest in the people of Suffolk County, I turned to the legislature for assistance in developing an IT infrastructure that can actually accommodate a modern day, progressive District Attorney's Office."

"I'm deeply grateful to Senator Nick Collins for his tireless work on behalf of my Office and his constituents, and to the legislature for investing in the resources necessary to create a more equitable, transparent, and informed criminal legal system. I look forward to continuing to work with my fellow elected officials to drive positive change, safety and better health outcomes in the communities I serve," **Rollins** continued.

"We're grateful to Sen. Collins' partnership with BECMA in prioritizing Black and Brown business owners in the economic development bond bill," said **Segun Idowu, Executive Director of BECMA**. "The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed these stark realities facing our business community. Not only are there barriers to accessing capital, but there exists another crucial obstacle to our success: our preparedness for the digital age. This grant will help reduce systemic roadblocks facing businesses owned by people of color in accessing digital tools that will prepare them to thrive now and in a post-COVID reality."

The legislation also includes

- \$65M in economic empowerment and justice reinvestment capital grants to support communities disproportionately impacted by the criminal justice system with access to economic and workforce development opportunities

- \$50M to enhance and expand access to K through 12 remote learning technology

- \$37M for a food security grant program

- \$25M to assist licensed early education and care providers and after school programs

- \$20M for a body camera grant program for police departments to ensure accountability

- \$2.5M for implementation of an automated electronic sealing process to seal certain criminal records

The bill now goes to the Governor for his signature.



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

SMALL BUSINESS STRONG

What is Small Business Strong? What organization(s) are supporting it?

Small Business Strong, a private and public sector partnership, recognizes that our 650,000 Massachusetts small businesses are the lifeblood of our towns, cities and communities, and that these businesses – many of which are often women and/or minority-owned – have been hit the hardest by the current economic fallout from COVID-19. As a result, Small Business Strong was assembled to help these small businesses, primarily minority and women-owned, navigate the devastating economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

To help bring quick support, Small Business Strong has launched a website, free to the public, that hosts articles and other online resources on topics ranging from PPP “Made Easy”, how to have a constructive conversation with a landlord, mental health resources, and much more. Additionally, Small Business Strong can also provide expedited consultative resources to these businesses, free of charge, tailored to the specific need of the small businesses. The guidance and advice provided by Small Business Strong includes how to address immediate challenges for a small business, and further expertise in areas such as finance and accounting, human resources, marketing, operations and law.

Small Business Strong is supported by collaborative efforts from State Street Corporation, The Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, McKinsey & Co., Bank of America, PwC, Foundation for Business Equity, The Boston Foundation, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, Eastern Bank and Nutter, McClennen & Fish LLP. and several other organizations throughout the Commonwealth.

How much does participating in Small Business Strong cost?

All services offered through Small Business Strong are free of charge to the small business owner. No strings attached.

How can a small business "sign up" to engage with Small Business Strong?

Small business owners can visit our website at www.smallbstrong.com, and may explore the online resources housed there. If they require guidance or advice on how to overcome an immediate, critical challenge, they may choose to engage with a Small Business Strong consultant by choosing the “Consult an Advisor” button on our homepage. As a reminder, this service is provided at no cost to the small business.

Does Small Business Strong provide capital or funding directly to small businesses?

No. We are currently committed to providing high-quality information and advice. We understand that capital access is a critical need for small businesses and one of our key missions objectives is to facilitate access to capital from various sources. That is why we have emphasized capital access information on our website (e.g., a “PPP Made Easy” guide, an updated list of other federal, state, and local loan and grant opportunities). We also offer skilled consultants and finance/accounting specialists to guide businesses through the process of determining what type and source of capital is best for their business at this time.

What type of small businesses qualify for Small Business Strong support? What is the target population Small Business Strong is aiming to support?

Small Business Strong's mission is to help provide support and guidance to minority and women owned small businesses throughout Massachusetts, free of charge. However, it will not “turn away” small businesses that do not match that description. Additionally, the resources housed on the Small Business Strong website are available to the public.

I am a small business owner located outside of Boston. Can I still participate in Small Business Strong?

Yes. Small Business Strong is a statewide initiative to help small businesses throughout the Commonwealth stay viable during COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

Are Small Business Strong services offered in other languages?

Although the majority of our resources are currently in English, we are working diligently to make many of our resources available in other languages such as Spanish, Portuguese and Haitian Creole. Spanish speakers can also visit our website at www.smallbstrong.com/fuerte. Recursos para negocios estan disponible en Espanol. Visite a www.smallbstrong.com/fuerte.

Can Small Business Strong provide small businesses with consultative services in more than one area?

Yes, Small Businesses Strong can provide small businesses with guidance and advice in more than one area, although the five functional areas we currently provide support in are: finance, accounting and tax; human resources; marketing and digital; law; operations.

I have feedback on my experience with Small Business Strong. How do I share it?

Absolutely. Small Business Strong places a high priority on feedback. Please send any and all feedback to internal.support@smallbstrong.com. We appreciate your partnership and guidance on how we can continue to make improvements to better serve our Massachusetts small businesses.

How do I support Small Business Strong as a volunteer or with a financial contribution?

Please reach out to internal.support@smallbstrong.com with requests to either serve as a volunteer, or to make a financial contribution, and we will follow-up with you regarding next steps.

Where do I reach out for more general questions?

Please direct any questions to support@smallbstrong.com and a member of our team will get back to you within 48 hours.

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