

Dorchester Reporter

"The News and Values Around the Neighborhood"

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50¢

A FARM BLOOMS ON NORFOLK STREET



Farmers at work at the Clark/Fowler/Epstein Farm on Norfolk Street this summer. Robin Luddock/WBUR photo

Urban farming thrives as pandemic simmers

By BRUCE GELLERMAN
WBUR REPORTER

Boston is home to the nation's oldest continuously operated victory garden. The 500 small plots in the Fenway neighborhood date back to World War II, when citizens were encouraged to raise their

own food to support the war effort. By 1944, 20 million victory gardens produced 40 percent of America's fresh vegetables.

Today, Boston's new urban farms carry on that tradition, providing not just food, but benefits for the environment

and their communities.

Boston's commercial urban farms are different from their industrial counterparts. America's large industrial farms are largely mechanized and extremely efficient at feeding the nation, but that efficiency comes at a high cost

in terms of climate change emissions. It's estimated that most food travels an average 1,500 miles before arriving on your plate.

But in Mattapan, Roxbury and Dorchester, the distance from farm to fork can be as

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Proposal for apartments on Old Colony site aired

Some vexed by its scope

By KATIE TROJANO
REPORTER STAFF

Development plans to transform a landmark Morrissey Boulevard dining and function facility that shut its doors in 2017 into a 206-unit apartment complex with a roof deck, dog spa, and 136 parking spaces received an extensive airing—and forceful pushback about flooding, access to the sea, traffic, and displacement from some of the 30 or so neighbors who participated



A rendering of a proposed apartment complex that would be built at 780 Morrissey Blvd. Image courtesy C3 Architects

in a virtual meeting hosted by the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) last Tuesday.

The acre-and-a-half site at 780 Morrissey Boulevard, once home to the popular Phillips Old Colony House and Free-

port Tavern, is now being used by a neighboring car dealership as a storage area for its vehicles. The parcel is owned by Phillips Family Properties, which also controls Boston Bowl, Phillips Candy House, Ramada Inn, and Comfort Inn among its Dorchester holdings.

Phillips Family Properties partnered with national developers at the Michaels Organization and Cube 3 Studio Architects to commission the project. Jay Russo, vice president of development at Michaels, said the team

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Hip-hop duo collaborate on quarantine-themed EP

By DANIEL SHEEHAN
ARTS & FEATURES EDITOR

In an era when many feel physically and psychologically absent from society due to the secluding forces of the pandemic, Dorchester recording artist Cliff Notez and Boston-based producer Dephrase have given us music for our times with their new EP, "Social Absence."

While parts of the three-track project were recorded and conceived years ago, Notez wrote many of the lyrics and Dephrase finalized the structure of the EP over the last several months, making the work — both thematically and sonically — forever tied to our present quarantined reality.

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Cliff Notez and Dephrase. Nick Surette photo

Boston plan for school return still unresolved

Walsh: 'We'll make the right decision'

By KATIE TROJANO
REPORTER STAFF

With school districts across the city and state readying for a return to instruction early next month — either in-person, remotely, or via a mix of the two — Boston remained in a holding pattern this week after seeking state approval to put off the beginning of classes until later in September.

On Tuesday, Mayor Martin Walsh and BPS Superintendent Brenda Cassellius, in a joint appearance at a back-to-school supply drive event at the Kroc Community Center on Dudley Street in Dorchester, said that the start of the academic year will "look different" for the district's 57,000-plus students. Neither would say if the district will choose a fully remote or hybrid return to learning.

(Continued on page 5)

USPS moves prompt swift rebuke from Democrats

By DANIEL SHEEHAN
REPORTER STAFF

At a press conference outside the US Postal Service's South Station facility on Tuesday, US Rep. Stephen Lynch took aim at new Postmaster General Louis DeJoy and the Trump administration for a series of actions that he characterized as a "shameful" attack on the USPS and its employees.

Backed by rows of postal workers and union representatives, Lynch accused the current administration of "threat-

(Continued on page 7)



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Police, Courts & Fire

Two sought for armed robbery – Boston Police are asking for the public's help to identify two men (shown below) who held up the Great Wok at 1284 Massachusetts Ave. in Edward Everett Square at shortly before 1 a.m. last Tuesday (Aug. 18). According to police: "One of the suspects was wearing all black with a face mask and the second suspect was wearing a red hooded sweatshirt with a gray hood and dark pants. The victim stated that the male in the red displayed a firearm while the second male jumped over the counter and began gathering the money inside of a small black backpack. The victim stated the suspect with the firearm fired a round into the ground before fleeing the restaurant." Anybody with info can contact detectives at 617-343-4742 or the anonymous tip line by calling 800-494-TIPS.



Police responding to a report of shots fired near Franklin Field on Friday night (Aug. 14) arrested a man a short time later who was allegedly carrying a gun that was "warm to the touch."

The incident unfolded around 11 p.m. in the area of 29 Eldon St., according to a police account, which says that "officers observed a motor vehicle traveling on Washington Street towards Harvard Street without the headlights illuminated." After pulling the car over, police say the front seat passenger was "sweating profusely and trembling uncontrollably." A search of a fanny pack strapped across the man's chest revealed "a .40 caliber Taurus firearm, which was warm to the touch, loaded with eight rounds of live ammunition with one round ejected from the firearm's chamber." Willie Greathouse Jr., 23-years-old, of Dorchester, was arrested and charged with various firearms violations.

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Storage facilities for MassDOT are under construction near I-93



A MassDOT storage facility under construction, as seen last week from I-93. John Forry photo

A construction project that's currently underway and visible from I-93 near the Freeport Street exit in Dorchester will house two salt sheds and a steel maintenance structure for the state's Department of Transportation (MassDOT.)

Kristen Pennucci, communications director for MassDOT, said the location was chosen for its "operational efficiency" and close proximity to the highway. Completion of the roughly \$3.5 million project is expected by November.

The project includes a steel maintenance building and two timber salt sheds at the corner of Freeport Street and Victory Road. Over the next few months MDR Construction will remove trees, existing pavement, and a chain link perimeter fence from the project site and backfill new building footings and demolish an existing building at the site. The salt storage sheds will include a roof drainage system. The project will also include grading and paving of the site for drainage and a detention area for storm-water runoff, a new chain link perimeter fence, an ADA-compliant entry ramp for access to the maintenance building, curb cuts and curbing, and two new 5,000 gallon liquid tanks.

The facilities will be used to relocate a salt pile previously stored underneath I-93 in Boston.

KATIE TROJANO

T plans expansion of its Gallivan Blvd. yard

Codman Yard, located at 375 Gallivan Blvd. just south of Ashmont Station, is a storage site for the MBTA's Red Line that the T says is set to undergo renovations, which will begin next year and extend into 2024, to accommodate a new fleet of vehicles and provide additional capacity and reliability for riders.

The agency will provide an updated summary of the project during a virtual public meeting scheduled for this Thursday (Aug. 20) at 6 p.m. via Zoom. Planners will review the scope of work, design plans, and allow for in a Q&A session following the presentation. Improvements will feature six new storage tracks to expand



Codman Yard as seen in 2017. Creative Commons photo

the yard and accommodate the new trains; an upgraded crossover track to improve traffic flow through the yard; upgraded LED lighting; and enhanced track and signal components in the yard and the crossover approaching the yard.

The T notes on its website that the improvements at the Codman Yard will bring it to a

is part of the MBTA's \$8 billion, 5-year capital investment plan to renovate stations, modernize fare collection systems, upgrade services for our buses, subways, and ferries, and improve overall accessibility.

To register, visit mbta.com/events/2020-08-20/codman-yard-expansion-and-improvements-virtual-public-meeting.

"State of Good Repair," a priority outlined by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in recommending practices to preserve and expand transit investments, including well maintained, reliable transit infrastructure – track, signal systems, bridges, tunnels, vehicles and stations.

The rehab of the yard

UPCOMING CIVIC MEETINGS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

MBTA Codman Yard Expansion and Improvements Project— The MBTA Codman Yard Expansion and Improvements Project will expand Codman Yard, located in Dorchester by six tracks in order to accommodate the anticipated new and expanding Red Line vehicle fleet. The MBTA will be hosting a virtual public meeting on Thurs., Aug. 20 from 6-7 p.m. to inform the public of the project Register for the meeting at vpioutreach.com/codmanyardmeeting. Attendees will receive a link to join the For a copy of the project PowerPoint presentation please visit vpioutreach.com/codmanyard. To be mailed a hard copy of the project PowerPoint presentation in advance of the meeting, please call 857-288-8215.

Cannabis proposals to be vetted in outreach meetings— A pair of state-mandated "community outreach meetings" to scrutinize separate cannabis related businesses hoping to set up shop in a commercial building at 43 Freeport St. will be held later this month. On Thurs., Aug. 20, a proposal by Erba C3 Dorchester LLC, which hopes to operate a cannabis retail store, will be held online from 6-8 p.m. On Mon., Aug. 24 from 6-8 p.m., a different proposal by a cannabis

testing company— Assured Testing Lab, LLC— will get its own hearing online. The Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services is facilitating both meetings. Contact Patrick Fandel at 617-635-4819 or patrick.fandel@boston.gov. Details about how to join each meeting is published in advertisements on page 16 of this week's Reporter.

Public meetings on housing proposals— The BPDA has scheduled virtual meetings in early September for two different housing projects proposed by TLee Development LLC, a company owned by Dorchester resident Travis Lee. The first, for a project at 270 Talbot Ave., will take place on Thursday, September 3 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. According to an initial project application, the proposed four story building would include 21 affordable rental units (for households earning up to 90% AMI) and 2,700 square feet of ground floor retail space. The property is currently the site of an auto repair shop.

The second, for a project at 1463-1469 Dorchester Ave., will take place on Tuesday, September 8 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. The proposal would erect a five story, 29 unit apartment building with ground floor retail space. The project

would include 25 studio units and four one-bedroom units, with 100% of the residential units being income restricted. The property currently houses the John Gallagher Insurance Agency. To register for the meetings through Zoom, visit bostonplans.org.

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, Sufrá.

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

July's rise in COVID-19 cases 'has leveled off,' reports Walsh

By COLIN A. YOUNG
STATE HOUSE
News Service

The rise in coronavirus activity that worried some public officials last month has "leveled off" in Boston, but the city is still scrutinizing data for signs of shifts in the pandemic's spread, Mayor Walsh said Tuesday afternoon.

"We're expanding testing and continuing contact tracing," he said while noting that "the positive test rate for the week ending Aug. 10 was 2.6 percent, that's down from the previous week of 2.8 percent. Visits to Boston emergency rooms for COVID-like illnesses are down somewhat and stable over time," the mayor added. Intensive care unit "usage in Boston at Boston hospitals are down to 74 percent from 82 percent, but our daily average positive test stayed up around 40 cases," he said.

Speaking outside City Hall, Walsh noted that the city has maintained at least 20 testing sites and continues to make testing more accessible. The number of tests conducted in Boston is up in every neighborhood except Allston/Brighton, Walsh said, though he noted that there was recently a pop-up testing site in the area and the city is working to get the results from those tests. Walsh said that the last full week of data showed the city conducted more than 1,600 tests daily, which he said was up 8.6 percent from the previous week.

As of Tuesday, Walsh said there have been 14,940 cases of COVID-19 in Boston and 746 people in the city have died with the virus.

The city had 24 new cases reported Tuesday, but no new deaths to announce. "Thank God," he said.

The four major metrics that guide the city's economic reopening and return to a more normal social life hung tight at or near their all-time lows in the latest report from the Department of Public Health on Monday.

After almost a month of a slow but steady increase to 2.2 percent that prompted Gov. Baker to hit pause on the statewide economic reopening, the seven-day average of the positive test rate remained at its all-time low of 1.4 percent in Monday's report. The three-day average of the state's COVID-19 hospitalized population stands at 371, about 3 percent above the low of 359 patients.

Two hospitals are relying on surge capacity (compared to none as recently as Aug. 9) and the three-day average number of daily COVID-19 deaths is 13, compared to an all-time low of 11.

At 7.9 percent, East Boston has the highest positive test rate for COVID-19 of any Boston neighborhood. In a Twitter thread Monday, East Boston Rep. Adrian Madaro discussed why his district and nearby cities are experiencing rates nearly four times as high as the state average.

"Our COVID infection rates are higher because our communities are systemically more vulnerable to the spread of this disease," he wrote. "This was true at the beginning of the shutdown, and it has become truer as MA has progressed through the phases of Reopening."

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12th Suffolk candidates talk policy at MassVOTE forum

**By KATIE TROJANO
REPORTER STAFF**

The three candidates for the 12th Suffolk House seat – Brandy Fluker Oakley, Jovan Lacet, and Stephanie Everett – went head-to-head answering policy-based questions last Wednesday during an online forum organized by the non-profit Mass-VOTE.

Malia Lazu, a vice president at Berkshire Bank and former community organizer, moderated the forum. She asked the candidates issue-based questions, one of which was about their plans to promote affordable housing in the district and the commonwealth.

Everett said she'd support an extension of the foreclosure moratorium until 2021 and also rent control legislation along with the development of a strong community land trust.

Lacet said he would collaborate with fellow legislators to increase Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding to build more affordable "rental and homeownership" properties. He underscored the importance of providing protections for homeowners, landlords and tenants, saying he would work to secure funding for

all parties, instead of extending the statewide eviction and foreclosure moratorium.

Fluker Oakley favors rent stabilization through the Legislature that would be "mindful of those larger developments." She said that families need predictability and would support right-to-counsel legislation that would provide legal representation to residents facing evictions and foreclosures in Housing Court.

She also said she would also support more help for first-time home buyers and advocate for a process with "greater transparency."

Lazu asked how candidates would approach reopening schools in the safest and most equitable manner.

Lacet said he would seek to secure funding for all schools and work with parents to make sure students receive adequate resources to participate in distant learning.

Fluker Oakley, a former educator and the only candidate with teaching experience, favors a remote learning approach to reopening until proper safety measures can be provided in all schools and teachers receive professional development training.

"We've been educating children the same way since 1635. We might want to use this moment to reevaluate," she said, taking the occasion to point to her endorsements by the Boston Teachers Union and the Massachusetts Teachers Association.

Everett, a mother of seven, said that her experience managing her children's education from home during the health emergency inspired her to "jump into" the race. Her youngest son has special needs and Everett said that the services he received in school "did not travel with him" when learning went remote.

"We have to be clear that the models we are presented with are not the best options. There's no great answer to this," she said. "And the reality is that women are leaving the workforce. There is no answer, but we do know that for students who need special education, having a hybrid model is not going to be effective."

Asked about their approach to climate change, the candidates said they would look to address a myriad of issues that contribute to environmental challenges in the district.

Fluker Oakley said



Stephanie Everett



Jovan Lacet



Brandy Fluker Oakley

her approach to tackling environmental issues would come from a place of understanding that "everything is interconnected – public transit, public housing, food deserts all affect environmental issues."

She said she would work in partnership with fellow legislators and organizations advocating for climate justice to reduce carbon emissions; build sustainable housing; promote recycling, central composting and access to solar energy, particularly in Black communities; and secure funding to correct natural gas leaks across the state.

Fluker Oakley has been endorsed by several environmental justice organizations, including the Sierra Club, Sunrise Boston, and the ELM Action Fund.

Everett said that pollution in the 12th Suffolk has led to environmental and health disparities and shared that her 10-year-old daughter suffers from asthma.

"My children are the foundation for the work that I do in this community and this issue is common to a lot of people in the 12th Suffolk and across the state," she said, adding that she would work to refurbish buildings to meet "environmental realities" and supports federal Green New Deal legislation. She also said she would work to advance efforts to secure EPA Superfunds to clean up the Neponset River.

Lacet echoed that sentiment and added that he would look to address pollution related to transportation.

"We need to change the bus system and make it more environmentally friendly. I'm in support of using the Green Line

Type 9 trains and the electric buses they have in Cambridge," he said. "We need to make sure the Neponset River reconnected – public transit, public housing, food deserts all affect environmental issues."

He also support a transfer to more fuel-efficient motor vehicles for state and municipal employees."

Lazu asked the candidates if they support H.1194, an act establishing "Medicare for All" in Massachusetts. The candidates said they fully support the bill and would also push for more funding for Community Health Centers.

In terms of health care, Everett said she'd also seek to increase funding for the Office of Health Equity. Lacet added that he wants to make sure the Covid-19 vaccine is accessible to all communities when it's released; and Fluker Oakley said she'd advocate for universal PPE for small businesses and schools, paid sick leave, and removing barriers to women's reproductive health and access to safe and legal abortions.

The lightning round followed during which Lazu probed the candidates on whether or not they would support various policies and reform initiatives:

- When asked if they would sign the American Promise Pledge, that would "advance the 28th Amendment [proposal] to put people, not money, in charge of the political system," each candidate said yes.
- All three said they would support efforts to reform qualified immunity. Lacet and Everett noted that reforms should apply only to police departments and not nurses, firefighters, and other public servants.

Alarmed by USPS reductions, Dems demand 'urgent action'

(Continued from page 1)

ening the very essence of our democracy. We will not stand for this."

Since DeJoy was appointed in June, he has overseen a scaling back of Postal Service operations that included cutting overtime pay for employees and removing mail-collecting and sorting infrastructure across the country, including the seizure of nine high-capacity mail sorting machines from the South Station facility, according to a WGBH report.

Shortly after Lynch spoke, DeJoy announced that he would suspend the operational initiatives "that have been raised as areas of concern as the nation prepares to hold an election in the midst of a devastating pandemic" until after the election, to avoid the appearance of negative effects on electoral mail.

"The Postal Service is ready today to handle whatever volume of election mail it receives this fall," DeJoy said. "Even with the challenges of keeping our employees and customers safe and healthy as they operate amid a pandemic, we will deliver the nation's election mail on time and within our well-established service standards."

These moves come as more than one million Bay State voters have already requested mail-in ballots for the Nov. 3 election.

Lynch, who sits on the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, said the panel's new "Delivering for America Act" is aimed at restoring USPS delivery standards to the way they were before the pandemic.

"It is our intention to hold the president accountable for this violation of the basic rights contained in the Voting Rights Act and contained in the Constitution," he said. "This president is wiping his feet on the United States Constitution every single day."

Lynch added that the USPS inspector general has complied with his request to launch an investigation into DeJoy, who

echoed by other local leaders: On Tuesday, state Attorney General Maura Healey announced plans to file a federal lawsuit targeting the president-ordered operational changes to the USPS, while Boston City Councillor Annissa Essaibi-George and state Rep. Dan Hunt have also written a letter calling for urgent action and legislation.

Ray Bell, vice president of the Boston Metro Area Local American Postal Workers Union (APWU), suggested that when mail volume dropped during the height of the pandemic, DeJoy used the crisis as an excuse to make reductions.

"They are diminishing our capacity to process and sort mail...this is a public service issue," he said.

Phil Cooper, chief steward at the Boston Processing and Distribution Center, said he was wary of the government exploiting the pandemic in order to privatize the mail service entirely, pointing to DeJoy's alleged ties to Amazon stock.

"They're making decisions to get rid of infrastructure now, when we don't know when the volume is coming back," Cooper said. "He's setting us up to fail."



US Rep. Stephen Lynch spoke out against what he called a "shameful" attack by Trump administration officials at the USPS . *Daniel Sheehan photo*

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Virtual Public Meeting

270 Talbot Avenue Virtual Meeting

Thursday, September 3
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Zoom Registration Link
bit.ly/314034D

Project Description:
21 workforce housing units with ground floor retail space.

mail to: **Stephen Harvey**
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Markey for Senate

Competitive elections— including intra-party contests — are an essential part of democracy. Incumbents who coast for too long without a challenge can get stale, complacent. That’s not good for their constituents or their own careers.

So the fierce contest that’s afoot for one of two Massachusetts seats in the US Senate is — on its face, at least— a healthy exercise. Ed Markey won the office in 2013 after a long tenure in the US House representing Malden, his hometown, and surrounding cities and towns. In our view, Senator Markey has served with distinction and has not been one to rest on his laurels. He can point to an impressive legislative record.

But no one is entitled to an office in this republic. We’re grateful, then, to Congressman Kennedy— along with two other candidates, Steve Pemberton and Shannon Liss-Reardon, who have since left the race. They have put Markey through his paces and, throughout the process, many people in the Commonwealth who might otherwise have taken Markey’s long track record of accomplishment for granted can come to appreciate his work and seize upon the promise that lies ahead.

The Reporter enthusiastically endorses Ed Markey for re-election on Tues., Sept. 1— or sooner, if you choose to vote early—because we believe he has earned it. In particular, because he has been a visionary leader on environmental justice and a trusted ally on defending immigrants from the unprecedented assault on civil liberties accelerated by the Trump regime.

This week, we asked state Rep. Liz Miranda of the Dorchester delegation who she was backing in the Senate contest. “Easy,” Rep. Miranda responded with no hesitation. “Markey.” Part of her calculus is loyalty, she acknowledged. Markey was the only person in higher office “who came to visit Dorchester when my office was on Bowdoin Street, who campaigned with me.”

But Rep. Miranda — who is unopposed in this election cycle— said that it’s Markey’s stellar staff and his own passion for transforming the nation’s economy and combating climate change through Green New Deal legislation— which he has co-authored with New York City Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez— that have truly set him apart.

“He’s an environmental justice champion,” Rep. Miranda said. Plus: “For the last 18 months, his staff has basically unilaterally handled almost every immigrant issue that I’ve faced.” She added: “That means a lot. Someone who has been working on the issues that I care about long before they are running another race.”

Rep. Miranda’s not alone in that critique. Full disclosure: My wife is former state Senator Linda Dorcena Forry. Her office— like Rep. Miranda’s — was constantly sought out by people well beyond her Boston district looking for relief for immigration-related issues. Her “go-to” office at the federal level was Markey’s; he could be counted on to follow through for their constituents.

The 74-year-old Markey was also a mentor of sorts to Linda. They share a common backstory: raised by hard-working parents in a blue-collar, largely immigrant neighborhood, BC-educated and Jesuit informed. Often, it was Markey who would seek out Linda’s opinion and counsel.

Next year, we hope with your vote that Sen. Markey will be sworn-in again to cap off an exemplary legislative career with the dual advantages of a Biden-Harris White House and a Democrat-controlled national legislature. This new progressive alliance, guided by his seasoned hand as a veteran lawmaker, can propel the Green New Deal into reality.

Ed Markey has labored mightily, and sometimes in lonely fashion, to bring us to this landmark moment. We hope our neighbors and the majority of our fellow voters will join us in voting to send him back to finish the job.

Bill Forry

The Reporter

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Expand engagement, not dysfunction while tending the city budget process

By Pam Kocher

The Boston Municipal Research Bureau’s mission is focused on sound city finances and policy so that Boston has the resources and tools to do what it needs to do and wants to do, now and in the future, for all who live, work, and learn in our city.

Boston’s budget process is an important part of maintaining financial stability. The City of Boston is a \$6.61 billion municipal corporation, with a budget process that continually develops during the course of a fiscal year with ample opportunity for the City Council to shape the priorities of the city.

Why does the Research Bureau believe Councillor Lydia Edwards’s proposal to change Boston’s budget process is not in the best interests of the city’s ability to meet community needs?

Legal Issues- The proposed Charter amendment is fraught with legal issues right out of the starting gate. This is not a minor amendment to the City Charter but a major revision that would require at least a Home Rule Petition to make such a major change to the fundamental structure of Boston’s government. The proposal includes giving the City Council authority to decide which education needs get how much funding in the School Department budget - in direct conflict with state law that authorizes only the School Committee to program school funds.

Fiscal Uncertainty—Competing powers and lack of accountability would lead to fiscal uncertainty that the city cannot afford. Boston needs to continue with strong financial management to maintain its fiscal health, deliver basic services, and be prepared and flexible to deal with the changing needs of residents as well as downturns in the economy. This proposed charter change is ill-advised, especially during the fiscal uncertainty of the current pandemic.

Limited Capacity of the City Council for Budgeting - At \$6.61 billion, the budget process is complex and involves hundreds of employees, financial experts, and the financial teams throughout city departments. The City Council structure and staff is not prepared to complete this type of analysis and evaluation.

We all seek a responsive budgetary process from our government officials — city council and mayor alike - that provides the resources to meet the Bos-

ton community’s needs. Thoughtful City Council approval and review is key. There are numerous opportunities throughout the fiscal year for the City Council to exercise its current powers and responsibilities to impact the policy goals and direction of the city, provide a different perspective than the administration, and establish a more inclusive process with the public.

To improve public engagement, City Councillors currently have the power and responsibility as elected officials to connect with residents on issues important to their districts and the community as a whole. For example, setting up budget hearings in the community before the budget season inviting public input from residents on where they would like to see more city appropriations and considerations for tailoring the budget to residents’ needs.

This could better inform the councillors’ understanding of how to guide budget discussions with the mayor and the departments.

Boston’s operating and capital budgets are living documents that are updated, with City Council participation, constantly throughout the fiscal year. The City Council already has the authority and responsibility to approve (or reject) spending in the city, including items like collective bargaining contracts that occur outside of the regular budget process.

The City Council may not be at the bargaining table, but it does have the power and responsibility to reject a contract and push for reforms and accountability.

The City Council has the power to reduce spending for departments - this is a powerful avenue that is not often employed by councillors during the budget process but that could help them make progress in advancing policy goals and holding the mayor accountable.

It’s time for the City Council to utilize these options, fulfill the role they were elected to do, and advocate for the needs of the community. Focusing on taking power from the mayor and changing the fundamental structure of Boston’s government is not in the best interests of the residents of Boston; it only invites chaos.

Pam Kocher, a Boston resident, is the President of the Boston Municipal Research Bureau.

Markey has been trusted ally for Haitians

By Henry Milorin
Special to THE REPORTER

For over forty years, Ed Markey has been a champion in Washington for Haitians in Massachusetts, throughout the US and in Haiti. In this time of crisis for our community, it is vital to maintain this experienced, proven leadership on the issues that matter most to us.

On a cold day in January 2018, the Haitian-American community held a rally downtown to protest President Trump’s racist comments about Haiti and several African countries, which he used to justify racist immigration policies. Ed saw the rally from his office and came out to join us.

Ed had no prepared speech or even notes, but he took the mic to condemn the President’s racism. He went on to demonstrate the President’s ignorance by citing from memory Haiti’s historic contributions to freedom throughout the world. Ed then connected our protest that day with Haitians’ struggles for equitable treatment in the United States in the 1980s and 1990s and two centuries of struggle for democracy in Haiti.

Haitians use a proverb: “The rock in the water does not know the pain of the rock in the sun,” to explain why it is difficult to understand another’s hardship if you have not experienced it yourself. Ed grew up in a working-class family. His father was a milkman and he worked his way through college and law school. His experience as the first in his family to attend college inspired a life-long commitment to quality educational opportunities for everyone. When he wrote the historic 1996 Telecommunications Act as a member of the House of Representatives, Ed made sure to include the “E-rate” program, which brought broadband internet to schools and libraries that might have otherwise missed out on the digital revolution. He is a perennial supporter of the Head Start program, that provides early childhood education, health and nutrition in our schools.

Ed has been showing that Black Lives Matter to him since 1972, when he was in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. The House leadership tried to push through a redistricting plan that year that would prevent the election of a Black state senator from Boston. Ed was one of the few white legislators who supported a rival plan by the House’s Black Caucus that would create a district that

more fairly represented Black voters. Leadership threatened to punish Ed, who was only in his first term, but he stuck by his principles. His support allowed the Black Caucus plan to prevail, which opened the door to the 1975 election of Bill Owens, Boston’s first Black State Senator.

Ed understands the importance of safe, affordable housing for our communities. When the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) tried to block a deal that would lead to upgrades and prevent the expiration of affordable housing vouchers at the Heritage Apartments in Malden in 2007, Ed passed an amendment that required HUD to proceed with the deal. Year after year, Ed has obtained funding from Washington for affordable housing throughout the Boston area, including \$3.5 million in new funding from HUD this January.

When Hurricane Matthew devastated parts of Haiti in October, 2016, Ed flew down to see how he could help. He toured the hardest hit areas to see firsthand the damage and the response efforts. Ed came back to Boston to discuss what he had seen with the Haitian community and to coordinate with local political leaders such as former State Senator Linda Dorcena Forry. Ed then went back to Washington, where he sits on the Foreign Relations Committee, and pushed the US government and the United Nations to provide more and better support to the hurricane victims.

Haitians in the United States, like all communities of color, are likely to suffer disproportionately from the increasing impacts of climate change. The Green New Deal—for which Ed is the lead sponsor in the Senate—would turn this threat into an opportunity by providing massive amounts of jobs and job training that would prepare our workers to fully participate in the economy of the future, while reducing the impacts of changed weather patterns on vulnerable communities.

Ed’s experience collaborating with Haitians in Massachusetts and his proven record of advancing our issues in Washington make him the best candidate to advance our interests in the Senate over the next six years. We owe it to ourselves to send Ed back to Washington by voting for him in the Democratic primary on September 1.

Henry Milorin is the Chairman of the Medford Democratic City Committee.

Don’t let Trump strangle the USPS

By ANNISSA ESSAIBI-GEORGE AND DAN HUNT

By defunding the United States Postal Service, President Trump’s attempt to subvert the November election is an unprecedented frontal assault on our democracy, and all of us must do our utmost to resist it.

Mr. Trump openly acknowledged last week (Thurs., 8/13) that he planned to block necessary federal funding — repeatedly linking the funds with the fall election. Barack Obama, who has until recently been reticent to criticize his successor in the Oval Office, noted that Trump was attempting to “actively kneecap” the USPS.

This is not a bureaucratic entanglement or one of the Beltway games that have so long distracted our body politic. This is a direct attack on our system of government, an affront to freedom and the right to vote. It amounts to a crude weaponization of taxpayer-funded services for electoral gain. That’s an affront to the ideas upon which our republic was founded.

Voting is not a partisan issue; it is a fundamental freedom. While we intend to do our darnedest to evict Donald Trump from the White House in November, it’s actually not our constituents who would be most drastically affected by this attack. While urban neighborhoods would be impacted, it’s largely Republican areas, rural and outlying counties, that would suffer the most egregious harm.

We represent a vibrant, urban community. We’re from Dorchester, which has a lively political scene, where people mix it up. It has a rich tradition of civic engagement and activism, where people speak their minds and assert their rights in our shared effort to advance our community. People disagree over issues large and small; we’ve both been to civic meetings where a matter as seemingly trivial as a curb cut can turn into a hurly-burly.

Annisssa has seen more of these occasions than most as the former president of the Columbia-Savin Hill Civic Association. But we and our neighbors — regardless of political stripe — have always respected the principle that every vote must be counted, and

counted equally.

Mr. Trump appointed a major campaign contributor to be Postmaster General of the United States and the results have been horrific. Mail delivery has been slowed, and seniors have been prevented from receiving their medication and pension checks amid a global pandemic.

Dan’s grandfather was a clerk at the South Postal Annex in South Boston, and, in view of that history, we are deeply troubled by the dramatic effect this administration subversion of the Post Office has had on its employees.

The potential disenfranchisement of millions of Americans who wish to vote by mail is a crime that casts all other presidential misdeeds in a pale light. It makes Watergate seem, to borrow a phrase, like a “third-rate burglary.” It is a disservice not only to our democracy, but also to mail carriers who sacrifice their own well being through rain, sleet and snow and to the men and women who have laid down their lives defending our freedoms. None of us should remain silent in the face of this attack from the inside on our democracy.

We believe that our state — and, frankly, all states — should authorize additional funding for municipalities to extend the hours of early voting. We support additional funding for municipal election clerks to establish additional locations for mail-in ballot drop boxes.

We also support our Legislature passing a resolution supporting our congressional delegation and urging action to protect federal USPS workers, who for the last six months have been performing the front-line duty of delivering our mail to our homes and businesses—the birthday cards from grandmothers, the college applications, the rent checks that still have to be paid. The postal service is a crucial part of our way of life, one we can’t allow our president to neuter for his own political purposes.

Annisssa Essaibi-George is an at-large member of the Boston City Council. Dan Hunt represents the 13th Suffolk District in the Massachusetts House.

Letters to the Editor

Kennedy’s energy earns him a vote

To the Editor:

Many have made the Massachusetts Democratic Senate primary race a referendum on progressive versus moderate Democrats. But Congressman Kennedy is just as, if not more, progressive than Senator Markey. In truth, this primary is also about much more.

Any serious look at the facts show that Kennedy is a progressive champion. He was an original co-sponsor of the Green New Deal, has a 95 percent lifetime rating from the League of Conservation voters, and speaks about the intersectional nature of climate change on a routine basis.

He has filed multiple environmental justice bills that focus on our

frontline communities of color. There is not a single vote in Kennedy’s history that suggests he is a friend to the fossil fuel industry, and his family trusts have divested from investments related to it. Kennedy is also undoubtedly a leader on health care and mental and behavioral health, economic, and racial justice, and LGBTQIA+ rights and protections. He is the chair of the Congressional Transgender Equality Task Force, and demands civil rights for all.

For his relentless fight for justice, Kennedy has earned the endorsements of Martin Luther King III, the late Congressman John Lewis, Dolores Huerta, Reverend William Barber II, local

activist Monica Cannon-Grant, and many other leading Black and brown elected officials. He has been endorsed by over 60 labor unions and is a proponent of Medicare for All, and a career-long advocate for mental health care.

Kennedy has the energy, will, and tenacity to lead change on the streets of Massachusetts, in the halls of Congress, and across the country. A review of Senator Markey’s record shows that it is littered with votes that have been to the right of the Democratic mainstream. To name just a few, Markey did not adopt a pro-choice stance until a decade after Roe v. Wade, he voted for the ‘94 Crime Bill that the

ACLU condemned, and voted for the invasion of Iraq (when 60 percent of House Democrats, and 8 of 11 members of the Massachusetts delegation rejected it). And Markey touts the Green New Deal, but that was obviously powered last year by a superstar freshman — Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. What about the last 45 years?

These times demand another bold, strong senator from the Commonwealth. We should send Joe Kennedy to the US Senate, and watch a progressive champion lead the Commonwealth and the country forward.

Molly Murphy
Dorchester

To the Editor:

In response to Frank Baker’s Aug. 12 commentary on the Boys and Girls Club of Dorchester Field House project on the McCormack field, I feel it necessary to point to the hypocrisy and paternalism that underscore his words.

Baker criticizes opponents of the field house project as being “sneaky and nefarious” and pushing “a false narrative at the 11th hour,” when in fact those who are pushing the project have engaged in acts that could be described using those exact words.

The fact that this land

was ever annexed to begin with shows that the power brokers in this city have set the course for this project from the beginning, with absolutely no regard for the members of the McCormack and Harbor Point community.

The “false narrative” being presented “at the 11th hour” sounds like exactly what School Committee chair Michael Loconto pushed after 11p.m. during the meeting on Aug. 5, when he made an 11th-hour edit to the proposal, saying McCormack students would get “priority access” to the field house,

as if that means anything or is anything close to what the community has been asking for.

This is the only response he could muster to the years and countless testimonies of community members saying they do not want their green space taken away. Baker’s paternalistic perspective led him to find it “confounding” that other city councilors centered the voices of the students and community members, the Black and brown constituents that he labeled “underprivileged.”

He clearly centers the voices of the white men

with the power to broker these deals and is certain that he and they know better what these “underprivileged” kids need. This is the definition of paternalism, one of the hallmarks of white supremacy culture.

In this national moment of reckoning, we can either confront this clear example of systemic racism and try to change it, or we can pretend that because “proper protocols have been followed” this project is justified.

- Sarah Cook

The writer is a long-time math teacher at the McCormack School.



The author, Ed Forry, circa 1966.

Postal workers deserve our gratitude, support

By Ed Forry
Reporter Staff

As a college student growing up in Dorchester, I had the good fortune of working for the “P. O.” while I was in school. In those years, many people worked in seasonal, 15-day jobs at Christmas, helping to carry the high volume of Christmas cards and presents. Sometimes, the mail was carried to homes twice a day, morning and afternoon.

In 1964, I landed a part time job at the Postal Service, and worked for four years here in the neighborhood, assigned to “Dot Ctr” (the Dorchester Center 02124 office on Talbot Ave.) I was classified as a “temp,” working on the “bench,” which meant I could be assigned to other offices as needed to cover any day-by-day staff shortage.

The duties of a temp included driving a truck to drop bags of mail at relay boxes on the delivery routes; carrying parts of routes (“splits”) when heavy mail volume would otherwise delay timely delivery; and late afternoon truck routes to collect the mail from mailboxes and deliver it for processing at the South Postal Annex.

I carried mail from every Dorchester station – Grove Hall, Fields Corner, Mattapan, and Uphams Corner (“Uppies”), and sometimes was dispatched to faraway places like Back Bay, Brighton, and Newton Corner to cover shortages there.

The boss at Dot Ctr, John Grandfield, was more than happy to assign us part-timers to the late afternoon and weekend collections, thus allowing the regular workers to be home for dinner with their families. By hustling from school back to Dot after class, I could pick-up 20-25 hours of work — with evening collections, Saturday “relays” to the carriers, delivering a rack or two of mail “splits” on certain heavy mail routes, and Sunday afternoon collections. In those days, the mail was always heavy, and there were multiple collections from mailboxes all over town- including a smattering of “Star Boxes,” which had a second weeknight pickup after 7 p.m. The pay from the job helped cover my tuition, and I was grateful for the work.

Back in those days, the neighborhoods had regular home deliveries of all kinds: As late as the 1950s, there were daily deliveries of blocks of ice for refrigerators, and men carried bricks of coal to our cellars to fuel the furnaces. There were daily deliveries of milk (HP Hoods, White Bros., Whiting’s, et al), bread & baked goods (from companies like Happy Home and Cushman’s), and in the summer, ice cream trucks would come by at regular intervals each day.

There was even a local dry cleaner who would come to the house to pick up laundry – shirts, dresses, business suits – and bring it back a couple of days later.

And always, every day, the letter carrier came to the door. You could tell the time of day by the arrival of the mail, a system that worked almost like clockwork. Everyone knew their mailman – ours was a man named Izzie, and he knew my family and carried the mail to my house for years before I was born. How great it was when at 18 I started my post office job and found myself working next to Izzie. He sorted the mail at the center early in the day and I delivered it for him to a relay box on his route!

In those days, it seems we knew each delivery person by name, and they knew us and our families, our stories, too. Now more than ever, I am a big fan of the Post Office and the US Postal Service workers. They are true public servants, delivering services to all Americans. They deserve to be acknowledged for their steady, faithful work. In these unprecedented times, when there are so very few signs of normalcy, that old slogan needs to be expanded:

“Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night – nor worldwide pandemic – stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds”

Associate publisher Ed Forry is the co-founder of the Dorchester Reporter.

BY BILL WALCZAK
REPORTER CONTRIBUTOR

On our way to Daily Table in Codman Square on August 5, my wife and I spotted a DotHouse Health banner at Town Field. Guessing it was for COVID-19 testing, and seeing that there were not yet any customers at the tents, we stopped.

The coronavirus has made all of us fearful, angry, even desperate at times. Knowing that upwards of 40 percent of those who get the virus can be asymptomatic, and that the other 60 percent can have a variety of symptoms, we got tested.

Though we had heard that the test rammed a swab higher in your nose than you think it should, Dot House staff were professional and the discomfort was no more than five seconds. We had the test and went off to get groceries.

I received my test results electronically six days later, which said "SARS CoV2RNA NOT DETECTED." Though in some ways having a positive result would have been a relief, as we were both asymptomatic, the fact that it took 6 days (9 days for my wife, who got the result in the suddenly lethargic mail service) gave me no sense of comfort.


What if I had been positive? Considering that it takes symptoms 2 to 14 days to appear once the virus has made your body a host, and that you are most infectious in the first hours after the onset of infection, I would have been able to infect others before knowing that I had the virus.

This is the problem: We're six months in and we have not deployed our resources in an effective way to get control of the virus. This failure affects our decision making on how we live our daily lives, how we educate



our children, and how we get to a time when our economy can fully reopen.

We've learned a lot about the virus from the 5 million Americans who have tested positive and the more than 170,000 who have died from COVID. We know that it is mainly spread by aerosolized droplets from people breathing, particularly when singing or speaking loudly.



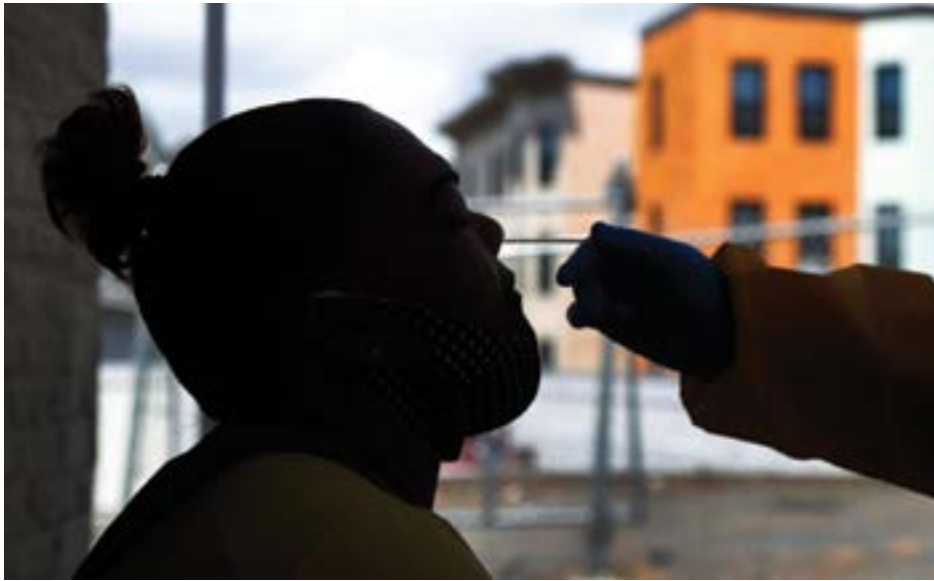
We know that physical distancing, masks, hand hygiene, and disinfecting surfaces help prevent the spread of the virus, and that being outside is safer than being inside. We know that viral load, i.e., how much virus you have in you, determines whether you are infectious and we have treatments for those who need hospitalization, which has lowered the death rate.

We know that, while most people are asymptomatic or have mild symptoms, others wind up with catastrophic symptoms, and that a percentage of people will have the virus for a longer time, which may be months or longer. We also know that at some point, people who are infected stop being infectious, despite still having the virus in them.

Our country reopened too soon, and we're paying for it now. In the entirety of World War I, the US had 116,516 deaths, more than half from the influenza pandemic of 1918. At our current rate, we'll have more than 200,000 deaths by Oct. 1.

So what's our best opportunity to curtail the virus? At the risk of stating the obvious, everyone *must* practice physical distancing, wear masks, practice hand hygiene, and disinfect surfaces. And stay outside as much as possible.

However, two critical matters remain unresolved: We need test results



A woman receives a COVID-19 test at the Whittier Street Health Center's mobile test site, July 15, 2020, in Dorchester. Elise Amendola/AP photo

in minutes, not days, to know whether a person needs to be separated from others. And we need many more tests. Testing that takes a week to produce a result is useless for stopping the virus from spreading. Most people lose their infectiousness within ten days of getting the virus, so you'll find out if you have the virus around the time you're not likely to spread it.

The good news on this front is that we have point-of-care tests — tests that can easily be done in your home, an office or school (think pregnancy test)— that have results in 10-15 minutes. A group of 50 urgent care centers in the New York metropolitan area have invested in these tests and in the machinery necessary to perform them and can now provide that service.

But the most potent solution would be providing a test that is cheap enough to give several times a week to anyone who is going to be sharing space. With the understanding that viral load determines infectiousness, we don't need to have super-sensitive and costly tests to determine if a person is infectious.

These cheaper saliva tests, which can be done at home or school, are very close to being developed. In fact, more than a dozen such tests are in process, many of them near completion.

So, what does this mean for getting our children back to school? We know that children can get infected. In fact, nearly 100,000 American children were infected in the last two weeks of July alone. We know from many studies that children can infect others, though they don't get as sick, and transmission is lower than the adult population.

On the other hand, children spread viruses and germs following the start of school – ask any parent.

It's clear that most school committees have come to the conclusion that it's best to be careful and see what happens elsewhere where children are going back to the classroom. And the testing cavalry may be just over the next hill.

Bill Walczak is a Dorchester resident and co-founder and former CEO of the Codman Square Health Center.

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Latest plan for Old Colony House site vetted virtually

(Continued from page 1)

amended its original proposal — first outlined in community meetings last year — to address some of the concerns raised by critics.

As now planned, the complex would include two segmented residential buildings — one four stories tall and the other five — connected by a glass corridor and built over ground-level garages of 130 parking spaces with 6 additional spaces available outside.

The proposal also outlines plans for a roof deck, a leasing office, dog spa, and bike storage areas inside the building, as well as a designated short-term shuttle and drop-off area accessible from Freeport Street, an outdoor dog park, and patios.

"After 27 years the Phillips Old Colony House and Tavern is ready for a new chapter," said Phillip Strazzula, a partner at Phillips Family Properties. "We commissioned several studies and they all pointed toward a residential development."

Added John Harding, a senior associate principal at Cube 3: "We're trying to develop a piece of property that once had a big piece of community engagement. We're trying to bring that back."

He said that the team created two distinct buildings and scaled down the size lengthwise to "get rid of that feeling of the wall" and create "transparency from the Morrissey side to the I-93 side," by linking the two buildings through a glass corridor.

"What we have now is a much better and more appropriately scaled building that we think is the right mix for this project for this location," he said. The team hopes to create "a nice pedestrian and bike-friendly environment," he added, by updating the sidewalks on the Freeport Street side and the side facing I-93.

Developers have focused on the idea that the project could enhance a still incomplete and still unfunded plan to create a multi-use path that would begin at Malibu Beach and end at Conley Street, providing a connection through Victory Road and Tenean Street.

"We're favoring a bike-centric design to interact with what would be this future trail that's between the highway and our project. It's not part of our project, but it's a community benefit that we want to encourage and support" said Harding.

The team has received Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) approval and

has entered into the Chapter 91 compliance process, which assesses public access to the coast. To that effect, said Harding, "We've accommodated Boston's resiliency planning for anticipated sea level rise by building up the ground floor elevation."

Charles Cook, a longtime Dorchester resident and former city employee, told attendees, "I want to voice my support of the project. I lived in Dorchester as a lifelong resident for 70 years, up until about a year ago," he said. "I supervised and did inspections as a city employee in the Inspectional Services Department. They'd [The Phillips Group] always come in compliance with anything we needed and do what we asked. I can't say enough of the family and the group."

But others mainly spoke up to oppose the project in its current form.

Maria Lyons, a resident of nearby Port Norfolk, said she was concerned with potential flooding from rising sea levels, the height of the proposal, and a lack of comprehensive neighborhood planning.

"I have concerns that the area is a flood zone that was significantly flooded in the storms we had a few years ago," she said. "Climate Ready Boston hasn't finished [its] report, Boston Water and Sewer hasn't done their study yet, so I'm concerned about any kind of building in the area," she said.

"I understand that the building is being built with all of the specifications for flooding," she said, "but I'm concerned about the water around the building — where will it go? It could be in the future that they say, 'we should have built retention ponds' and now we have buildings."

She also noted that the building's height, although scaled back, would still effectively create a barrier to the waterfront. "This is going to now be a wall," she said. "You're creating a wall between Dorchester and the ocean and this is going to set a bad precedent. That's going backwards in terms of environmental justice."

Grady Eason, a Dorchester resident, said he believes that the project is "out of place. I don't see anything in there about how you're going to address the traffic. This blocks our view and it just seems like they're forcing big business in the area. I just don't feel like it's in the best interest of Dorchester."



A rendering of the proposed new buildings at 780 Morrissey Blvd., currently the site of the Old Colony House/Freeport Tavern, which closed in 2017. C3 Architects image

He added that he would've liked to have seen a project that was "low" and "out of the way," with units that would be more accommodating for families.

"From the beginning we've heard about traffic, and it was very important for us to make sure that we had access to the shuttle," said Russo, speaking in response for the development team. "I think that is, although not perfect, going to be used. We've also provided parking. Overall I'm confident that we have adequately addressed the parking needs for the residents."

One person, Russell Weiss, took issue with how the BPDA's project manager Stephen Harvey conducted the meeting, accusing him of making a case for the developers instead of acting as an impartial facilitator.

Harvey had replied to Eason's concern over the lack of family-oriented units, saying that "with the addition of more single units, especially in new developments, this would lessen the burden on [three]-deckers and family-aimed housing so that we can keep family units from being split up into single units, which is often happening in some neighborhoods."

Rebutted Weiss: "You've given counter arguments to each person who has expressed concerns about the project and it sounds to me in this meeting as though you are making a case for this project when, as a BPDA person, you should be facilitating a discussion about this project in a neutral manner and I don't think you're doing that."

Said Harvey, "I'm sorry you feel that way. I don't lean to one side or the other; my job is just to carry us through the process and clarify information."

Weiss said he opposed the project because he thought it would add to the displacement of residents. "The idea that you're trying to come into this neighborhood and build a building that's not for people now, but for this demographic that you'll bring in from elsewhere. That's not the Dorchester that I believe in," he said.

Raheem Shepard, a Dorchester resident and business representative for the Carpenters union, asked the proponents to commit to using union contractors.

"If this project was to be built, I would want it to be built with responsible union contractors. I'm looking for a commitment that you will use union workers on this project," he said.

Russo replied, saying, "Not at this time. But we've worked with the Carpenters Union on another project and I will always consider using union wherever possible. But we don't even know what we're building just yet. We will definitely pick a contractor that has relationships with the Carpenters union. We've done that before. I plan on letting every union bid this job."

Sharon Cho, a Dorchester resident, said she heard many of the same concerns that were raised by residents in the

last meeting, especially over affordability and displacement. She asked the team if they would consider including more affordable units than are required.

Said Russo, "As I sit here today I can't commit to adding more affordable units until we get further along. We'll take a look at what we can do here, whether it's deeper subsidies or more units, through this process and with the IAG (Impact Advisory Group) and work on that issue."

A breakdown of the 206 rental units in the proposal includes 46 percent studios; 43 percent one-bedrooms, and 11 percent two-bedrooms. A total of 27 units would be reserved as affordable in compliance with the city's Inclusionary Development Policy (IDP.)

The policy requires proponents of market-rate development projects with 10 or more units to reserve a portion, generally 13 percent of units,

for income-restricted residents. To comply with IDP, developers can also create income-restricted units in a separate location near their building, or pay into the city's IDP fund, which are used by the city's Department of Neighborhood Development (DND) to finance affordable housing projects in Boston.

The Boston Civic Design Commission (BCDC) will now review the proposal, and the developers will also participate in several more community input sessions and IAG meetings under the BPDA's review process.

"Right now, with the Covid situation, we are taking it day by day. This team has been very patient in terms of having to wait this all out," said Harvey. "We still have quite a way to go and we will make sure to inform you of the process as it goes forward."

To my family, friends of Dorchester and beyond, members of the Boston Fire Department, and a special thanks to Edzo Kelly, THANK YOU!



Your support and generosity has made it possible for me to obtain a customized wheelchair van! This gift has given me freedom and mobility and has changed my life for the better! My family and I are blessed to have you all in our lives.

**With Gratitude,
Charlie Santangelo & Family**

State issues guidance for school, adult sports

By KATIE LANNAN
STATE HOUSE
NEWS SERVICE

Football, competitive cheerleading, basketball, ice hockey, and wrestling are among

LEGAL NOTICE

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

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Docket No. SU20P1429EA
ESTATE OF:
ANNA DILLON
DATE OF DEATH: 04/15/2020

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/24/2020.

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

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

Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.
Date: August 13, 2020
Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate
Published: August 20, 2020

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the activities assigned the highest risk level in new state guidance on youth and adult amateur sports, falling into a category where games, matches, and competitive practices will only be allowed with new modifications in place.

The guidance, from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, went into effect on Monday.

“For the avoidance of doubt, this guidance ap-

LEGAL NOTICE

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

CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT ESTATE OF: ANTONIO RIOBE
A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by Riola Riobe of Milton, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/02/2020.

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

Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.
Date: July 29, 2020
Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate
Published: August 20, 2020

plies to K-12 school and other youth sports activities,” the document says.

Aimed at facility operators and organizers of youth and adult sports and activities, the advisory categorizes sports into three levels of COVID-19 transmission risk, based on the amount of close contact required or expected, with different limitations for each.

Facility operators and activity organizers “must require facial coverings to be worn by all participants,” except when distancing of six feet or more between participants is possible, for individuals who cannot wear a mask because of a disability or medical condition, or during “high intensity aerobic or anerobic activities, swimming, water polo, water aerobics or other sports where individuals are in the water,” the guidance says.

“Some sports by their nature involve intense aerobic activity throughout play. For these sports, it is required that players use facial coverings when possible, taking frequent

breaks when they are out of proximity to other players using caution to avoid touching the front or inside of the face covering by using the ties or ear loops to remove and replace,” the guidance says. “For example, soccer players should have facial coverings with them at all times, and where possible play with the facial covering on, removing it for long runs down the field, for plays without close contact, and in the goal; baseball/softball batters must wear facial coverings while at bat; lacrosse or hockey players participating in face-offs must wear facial coverings.”

The guidance allows lower-risk activities, like tennis, golf, gymnastics, and cross country, to hold individual or socially distanced group activities, competitive practices, competitions and outdoor tournaments. Individual crew, sailing and biking, horseback riding, fishing, hunting, surfing, pickleball, motor sports and no-contact exercise classes are also listed as examples in the “lower-

risk” category.

For the other two risk levels, competitive practices and competitions are only allowed with modifications in place. Players can participate in individual or distanced activities like non-contact workouts, aerobic conditioning, and drills the way the sport is traditionally played.

Sports including baseball and softball, team swimming, volleyball, soccer, fencing and field hockey are deemed moderate risk, as are running clubs and dance classes.

The higher-risk category includes football, basketball, competitive cheer, ice hockey, wrestling, boxing, martial arts, rugby, pair figure skating and ultimate Frisbee.

The guidance lists “lacrosse” as higher-risk and “girls’ lacrosse” as moderate risk.

The modifications for games and competitive practices for higher- and moderate-risk sports included staggered starts for races; elimination of deliberate contact like tackling and body-checking; and changes to or

elimination of intermittent contact like scrums. Some intermittent contact, like face-offs, could take place if each player involved wears a mask.

“Modifications should strive to keep participants 6 feet apart for the majority of play and must eliminate all deliberate contact,” the guidance says.

Sports and activities that cannot implement such modifications to limit contact or increase distancing would not be able to hold matches, meets or games, according to the guidance, but could still be able to practice under certain circumstances.

The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association said in a statement posted to Twitter that it was aware of the updated state guidance and was awaiting “accompanying guidelines from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.”

The MIAA’s board plans to convene within three business days of the release of DESE guidelines.

the Board, Timothy J. Smyth.

“We’re very proud to achieve this new status as a half billion dollar institution, and are grateful to our dedicated colleagues, Board of Directors, and most importantly our members, who continue to share in our growth.”

In 2019, the City of Boston Credit Union finally realized its acquisitions of Northeastern University Federal Credit Union and Chadwick Federal Credit Union as part of the organization’s long-term growth strategy. In 2018, the Credit Union received approval to serve those who live or work in Middlesex County, and K-12 and college students in Suffolk, Norfolk and Middlesex counties.

City Credit Union hits asset milestone

The City of Boston Credit Union today announced for the first time in its 104 year history, it has surpassed \$500 million in assets, propelling itself into a new tier of institutions and further

expanding its ability to better serve its members. Amidst unprecedented economic uncertainties in Massachusetts and across the nation, City of Boston Credit Union membership continues

to grow, providing the capital and resources required for long-term success – both for the Credit Union and its members who share in its ownership.

“Surpassing \$500 million in assets means that our current membership continues to realize that we are a strong, safe financial institution. This hard-earned reputation has attracted new members from across our charter area that will only allow us to better serve our members and be an important part of the communities in which we are located. We can continue to reinvest in the services and offerings our members value most like keeping our interest rates low, and brings us a new level of stability and credibility,” said Chairman of

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Poll: Voters split over major election reform

By CHRIS LISINSKI
STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

Massachusetts voters are split over whether to embrace a ballot question proposing a massive overhaul of the state’s electoral system, with more than a quarter still undecided, while a clear majority back another initiative that would increase access to automobile repair data, according to a new poll.

A MassINC Polling Group survey of 501 likely voters, sponsored by WBUR and released Thursday, found 36 percent in support of a ranked-choice voting ballot question, 36 percent in opposition and 27 percent undecided.

The poll was conducted from Aug. 6 to Aug. 9 and has a margin of sampling error of 4.4 percentage points.

Under a ranked-choice voting system, voters would order candidates according to their preference. A candidate who earns an outright majority of first-place votes automatically wins. If no one person surpasses that threshold at first, the last-place candidate is eliminated and the votes they earned are awarded to whomever each voter selected as their second-highest preference. The process continues until a clear winner emerges.

The reform stands to potentially significantly shake up the dynamics in future elections with many candidates.

Pollsters described the ballot question as “enacting ranked-choice voting (RCV) for primary and general elections” for a range of offices starting in 2022 without describing the logistics in depth.

Sixty-four percent of voters understand the ranked-choice system very or somewhat well, twice as many as the 32 percent who understand it not too well or not at

all, according to the poll.

The campaign pushing for the change said cross-tabs data show that voters are more likely to support the question when they understand how ranked-choice voting works, with 52 percent of those who understand it well saying they would vote yes compared to 37 percent who understand it well saying they would vote no.

“When voters well understand RCV they

support it by a 15 point margin,” Cara McCormick, campaign manager for Yes on 2, said in a press release. “Our hard-working volunteers in every corner of the Commonwealth know that RCV is one thing we can do right now to help improve the health of our democracy and we are all more determined than ever to get Question 2 across the finish line.”

If a majority of voters support the initiative,

which will be the second ballot question on Nov. 3, Massachusetts would become the only state after Maine to implement a ranked-choice voting system.

Twenty-seven percent of voters said they believe ranked-choice voting would be more likely to ensure more racial and ethnic diversity in elected officials, compared to 40 percent who did not think it would make a difference.

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SEN. COLLINS FIGHTS FOR ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Major Economic Development Bill Breaks Down Barriers, Emphasizes Equity

Recently, the Massachusetts State Senate passed a sweeping economic recovery and development bill that provides much-needed support to small businesses, addresses the housing affordability crisis, and creates new jobs in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Building off the work he had started with then-Senator Linda Dorcea Forry to implement the “Massport model”, a policy to increase diversity on the equity teams of Massport land sales and leases, Senator Collins included a section in the bill that requires this policy for all state property and quasi state property. This policy would ensure for the first time that investors of color and minority-owned businesses have the opportunity to participate in economic development at all phases, including construction, financing, planning, and ownership.

“Former Senator Linda Dorcea Forry started this work in 2014 and I was proud to partner with her then to ensure that when it comes to Massport and Convention Center assets and resources, with smart policy making, we can shape an economy that works for everyone,” said Senator Collins. “I’m just as proud now to bring those values to this major piece of legislation to ensure access and opportunity for all across the entire Commonwealth’s portfolio.”

Senator Nick Collins was also successful in including a provision that removes an onerous licensure requirement for natural hair braiders, many of whom are entrepreneurs and women of color. The law previously required hundreds of hours of training and puts up costly barriers to small businesses. Additionally, Senator Collins secured funds for the City of Boston to help support the reopening of small businesses.

“A major theme of these is legislation is breaking down barriers to access” said Senator Nick Collins. “Time and time again I have heard from constituents of the First Suffolk District about the need to support small businesses owned by women and people of color, and to create job opportunities and meaningful paths to economic mobility for everyone in our communities.”

The comprehensive bill also addresses vocational schools and community colleges, tourism and cultural sectors, and the restaurant industry. To promote equity and protect borrowers and workers across the Commonwealth, the bill establishes a Future of Work Commission and creates a Student Loan Bill of Rights.

The bill will now be conferenced with the House of Representatives before moving to the Governor for his approval.

MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

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Hip-hop duo collaborate on quarantine-themed EP

(Continued from page 1)

The duo has collaborated in the past, with both recalling an “instant” kinship when they met for the first time years ago. That spiritual connection, along with shared struggles with mental health, laid the framework for the joint project, explained Dephrase (aka Daniel Babai):

“My parents are from Brazil and Iran, and I think as first-generation kids of immigrants, there’s a lot of stigma around mental health. That drew us together too. There was an immediate connection; as soon as I met Cliff, I felt like I’d known him since before I was born.”

Notez, whose parents are Haitian, agreed, noting that similar personalities meant they were already familiar with self-isolation in the pre-pandemic world. “We both have our struggles with mental health and social anxiety, so this idea of social distancing is something that wasn’t foreign to us before quarantine,” explained Notez. “I think the fact that we’re here and can talk about it speaks to our resilience.”

Having studied both music and psychology in college, Notez has a penchant for using his music as an exploratory vessel to dissect his own emotions and neuroses. On his 2019 album “Why the Wild Things Are” and in an accompanying multimedia art exhibition called “Into the Wild,” Notez examined the effects of bipolar disorder and other mental disorders. As such, much of the lyrical content on the EP is about exploring, working through, and attempting to overcome mental illness.

On “Voodoo Doll,” the EP’s stunning opener, guest artist and Fields Corner-bred rapper/producer Latrell James tells his own stories of struggle.

“I feel all your pains lately, all your stresses and depression on your brain lately,” empathizes James, before admitting: “Lately I ain’t movin’ how I wanna move.”

In the song’s hook, a warped version of James’s voice —which producer Dephrase described as ‘roboticized’— sings, “You’re a voodoo doll, you don’t know who you are no more.” The imagery of a humanoid figurine repeatedly subjected to pain, yet at the same time disassociated from or numb to the suffering, illustrates the alienating effects of depression.

Notez then bursts onto the track with frantic energy and rich imagery of penning rhymes in a composition book on “a train from Sullivan to Ashmont.” Notez’s skittering flow skips in and out of pocket as he grapples with his ever-changing demons: “I used to be depressed, but your boy hyperactive./The doctors call it manic, but I call it the artistic standard.”

He goes on to explore how his traditional upbringing shaped his relationship with mental health. “Haitian, but this voodoo takes a little bit of patience,” he rhymes.

“Mental health in Haitian culture is treated so differently,” said Notez, recalling a recent conversation he had with a Haitian elder in which he made a connection between what the elder called being “possessed” and symptoms characteristic of schizophrenia.

“I realized how religion could be a way of processing something out of the ordinary,” he said. “I used to look down on it as a way to discredit mental health, but in a way it can be used as a metaphor to understand what’s happening. It took me a long time to understand that, and I’m still exploring how my identity is wrapped up in it and the complexity

Dot’s Shantel Teixeira is Berklee-bound

Eighteen-year-old Shantel Teixeira of Dorchester is one of seven recipients of a four-year, full-tuition Berklee City Music Scholarship. Teixeira has participated in Berklee City Music programming for the past year, focusing on vocal performance; she also plays the guitar, ukulele, bass, and piano, amns is a member of the Premier Choir at Boston Children’s Chorus, where she said she received “all of [her] vocal training” over the last eleven years.

Teixeira, whose parents hail from Cape Verde, explained that she got her first taste of performing when the house band at Cessaria restaurant invited her on stage to sing a song. She later earned second place at a Cape Verdean music competition in 2018.

In addition to exploring other genres, she plans to continue singing and performing in crioilo.

Participating in Berklee City Music’s five-week summer program illuminated music for her as a path forward, she said in an interview.

“I had my doubts and wasn’t feeling super confident about my music, but that program made me see it was possible.”

DANIEL SHEEHAN



The cover of the “Social Absence” EP depicts Cliff Notez, right, and Dephrase, left, in an illustration by Nick Martin. Fields Corner-born-and-bred rapper and producer Latrell James is shown on balcony.

of that.”

The sonic topography of Voodoo Doll is almost itself manically bipolar: it starts lethargically with James’s verse before abruptly shifting to double time and growing in momentum until it reaches a chaotic climax, only to suddenly dissolve into an ethereal wash of sax and verb.

Dephrase, who often crafts similarly shape-shifting instrumentals, said Notez’s versatility fits his style naturally. “Cliff is one of those few people who can take all those sporadic shifts and lean into them,” he explained. On the second track, “Spiral,” Notez grieves for “a world gone viral” and expresses frustration at an antagonistic relationship with his phone.

“It’s like a hate/compromise relationship,” said Notez, describing how the device causes him stress but is also necessary for managing and promoting his music. “It’s a tool. I think about it like a power drill.”

The song features some creative production from Dephrase, who explained how a cardboard box of fered him acoustic inspiration.

“I’m inspired by sounds, and I love having weird textural things in my music,” he explained. “One

day I went to pick up a cardboard box of sparkling water and was fascinated by the sound it made. So, I got another one, punched my hand through the handle, did that right in front of a mic, and that was a basis for a lot of percussion sounds on that track.”

“Repeat,” the third and final track, captures the monotony and tedium that accompany stay at home orders and a work from home lifestyle.

“Wake up, work, stress, sleep, cut, copy, paste...” drones Notez at the start of the song, lulled into a stupor by the brainlessness of routine. That numbness squares with what Notez sees as a growing sense of apathy and helplessness in those around him:

“The world’s falling apart, but I guess it isn’t an issue/Guess we die every day so let’s pretend that’s casual/Let’s make believe this simulation is actually factual/And the world run on something practical outside of capital.”

Notez chalked up his cynicism to what he called a “hyperawareness around the commodification of racial justice. Now it’s the trendy thing to be woke, and that’s how most brands are selling products.” Even as companies embrace racial justice movements and endorse movements like Black Lives Matter, their motivation in doing so should be questioned, he explained. “We don’t know if they truly mean it.”

A later verse illustrates other realities of a changed world: a “spotlight on an empty stage;” a “silent crowd.” An indefinite hold on live, in-person concerts has been painful, but it has also forced the music industry in new directions, said Dephrase.

“As a producer and engineer full-time, live shows are a big part of making my living, and I’m seeing a lot of my friends suffer from this...but a silver lining is that people are really starting to embrace the technology we’ve had at our disposal. I think it’s given us an opportunity to connect to audiences in different ways.”

For as much as the pandemic has shaped certain processes, the duo pointed out that “Social Absence” would have been recorded the same way —remotely— even before COVID, with Notez and Dephrase working independently and exchanging audio files. In fact, watching much of society transition to a more sequestered, introverted lifestyle — one he had grown accustomed to years ago — has made Notez feel a bit like a trendsetter.

“A lot of people struggle with being alone, but the more positive part of that is there are beneficial sides if you do it in a healthy way. For me, quarantine has been kind of like the rest of the cool kids coming over to the nerds table, and we’re just like, it’s actually not that bad over here!”

For more coverage of Dorchester’s arts and music scene, follow @dsheehan1890

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF DORCHESTER

BGCD Continues Partnership with Elevate Youth: See details below.

CONNECT THE DOT:
BGCD Continues Partnership with Elevate Youth: Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester is pleased to continue our long-standing partnership with Elevate Youth this Summer. A small group of members have been fortunate to meet weekly to take part in group games, hikes, bird watching, wildlife and nature learning and more. This group of members follow all safety protocols when meeting off-site while enjoying all of the exciting natural spaces within the local community.

A huge thanks to our friends at Elevate Youth for continuing to offer this special outdoor adventure for our members during these difficult times.

For more information on the Elevate Youth partnership please contact Mike Joyce at mjoyce@bgcdorchester.org.

BGCD Partners with Camp Micah to support Virtual Camp Northbound: See details below.

FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE:
BGCD Partners with Camp Micah to Support Virtual Camp Northbound: Even though our 2020 trip to Camp Northbound will not take place this Summer, we have opened up an opportunity to members to experience a virtual Camp Northbound which will feature some special events and off-site experiences. Camp Northbound is a partnership with Camp Micah which is located in Bridgton Maine and is funded by The Mark Wahlberg Youth Foundation which has provided a one-week overnight camping experience for 150+ members since 2006.

BGCD would like to give a big thank you to Camp Micah members Ella F., Sydney O. and Alexa O. who pulled together activity kits for our Camp Northbound participants to enjoy during the virtual program. Thanks to all the Camp Micah Staff and members who supported this effort.

DID YOU KNOW:
The Northern Trust PGA Tournament Chooses BGCD as Charity Partner: Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester has been chosen to be one of the Charities highlighted at this year's Northern Trust PGA Tournament which will take place at TPC, Boston on August 20-23. Although spectators are not allowed this year, you can tune in to watch on CBS local or on The Golf Channel to watch all the action. The PGA has put together a highlight video on BGCD which will be aired during the tournament about the vital work we do here at BGCD for our families and community.

We are so grateful to the PGA Tour for choosing Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester as an official charity partner and we can't wait to tune in for the Tournament this weekend.

UPDATES

Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester
"BGCD At Home" Virtual Programming Highlight:

This week's highlight is Dance!

Every Wednesday at 3:30 PM, join Social Recreation Director Shannon for dance! Please note, dance is for ages 6 - 12.

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To have a hard copy of the application sent to your mailing address, please call: 781-992-5313 MA Relay 711

Informational Meeting:
Due to an abundance of caution, we have decided to cancel the informational meeting. To replace the informational meetings, we have created a presentation that includes information about the property, the application process, preferences, the lottery, and what happens after the lottery. For a copy of the presentation, please visit: www.FieldstoneWayLottery.com

Deadline for completed applications:
Postmarked no later than **September 15, 2020**
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Urban farming yields bountiful harvest in Mattapan

August 20, 2020

THE REPORTER

Page 21

(Continued from page 1)
“Urban farming is at the heart of what you can do about climate change,” says Jane Hirschi. Twenty years ago, Hirschi founded CitySprouts, a non-profit that provides hands-on, environmental science programs for public schools in Cambridge and Boston. Hirschi says she teaches students how to grow food in small urban spaces — and raise a little hell.

“Having a local food system in the city that you can walk to, that’s about the most radical

thing you can do,” Hirschi says. “But it also makes it a radical place for everyone who can see it happening. It’s like spreading the idea of empowerment.”

Once a month Hirschi visits her longtime friend Patricia Spence, Executive Director of the Urban Farming Institute. They sit at a picnic table in the shade talking about all things urban-ag at the institute’s bucolic headquarters.

“It is an oasis — and that’s how we feel,” says Spence. “It truly is, right in Mattapan.”

Amid triple deckers and the traffic on Norfolk Street, the Urban Farming Institute sticks out like a green thumb.

The institute is built on a small corner of what used to be the 330-acre, 18th century Fowler Clark Epstein Farm, named after the three families that owned the estate over the years.

The land was covered with weeds, and the barn and farmhouse were in disrepair, until the institute took over seven years ago.

To make the land safe for farming — free of lead contamination and oil from old underground tanks — the soil was removed 18 inches deep, covered with a rain-permeable material and filled in with new dirt and compost. The soil is tested twice a year.

Today, the one-acre farm is lined with perfectly manicured rows. Spence ticks off some of the 60 varieties of vegetables that are grown: kale and collard greens, various types of peppers, tomatoes, squash and zucchini. In between the rows of veggies are basil and marigold plants.

“That’s how we deal with the pests. They don’t like basil, they don’t like marigold,” Spence says, “and there are other plants we use to send the bugs on their way.”

The crops aren’t certified organic, but are raised following the strict rules spelled out in the 2013 Boston “Right to Farm” ordinance that permitted commercial farming in the city, and the start of the Urban Farming Institute.

Bumper Crops And A Rocky Road

Patricia Spence predicted a bumper crop this year. The institute’s seven employees even worked with volunteers to build a new field in the neighborhood to grow more food.

“The whole community came,” says Spence, smiling at the memory. “We had 16 raised beds. We built a farm in a day.”

But now the new field lays fallow. When the pandemic hit in the early spring, Boston-area restaurants closed. The institute, which had contracts to supply 10 restaurants with locally-grown produce, lost its commercial customers.

Then the institute’s



Training manager Bobby Walker instructs a group of UFI trainees on harvesting collard greens. Robin Lubbock/WBUR photo

main distribution operation — operating out of the parking lot of the Bowdoin Street Health Center — shut down when the lot became a drive-in COVID-19 testing station.

Now the institute sells and distributes food at local farmers markets — when they’re open — and from its Mattapan headquarters, where customers can buy just-harvested produce by the bagful.

“We came to get the fresh grown vegetables here today, corn and spinach, a lot of stuff. The COVID is crazy,” said a customer named Joanna as she left the farm. She said she planned to give the food to her home-bound, elderly mother.

The institute caters to the different cultural tastes of the diverse communities it serves, growing kuzu squash for Cape Verdean dishes, long green and yellow beans for Southeast Asian cuisine. Then there’s redroot pigweed, also known as Métis spinach, which has slightly bitter leaves that are a main ingredient in the Jamaican dish, callaloo. Percuss Williamson, a shopper from Hyde Park, left the farm with a big bag of it. “You know callaloo?” she asked. “I’ll probably cook it for breakfast tomorrow.”

Williamson recently

joined the institute’s \$25/week Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program — but even that cost is too much for many residents hit hard by the pandemic. Hunger is a growing problem in the state: One in five Massachusetts families with children are food insecure. That’s almost double the rate of a year ago.

“They’ve lost family members due to COVID, they’ve lost jobs,” says Spence. “What can we do as farmers? We’re going to give food away. If someone is in need of food, we’re going to help you. That’s the most important thing we can do at this time.”

When residents were locked down and had to quarantine at home, the Urban Farming Institute brought the farm to them, building grow boxes to help establish home gardens.

“We come and bring you beautiful soil, a smattering of seedlings,” Spence says. “Often-times people will buy additional seedlings and they’re growing their own food! You can grow a lot of food on porches.”

But providing people with fresh, healthy food is only part of the institute’s mission. It also conducts a 29-week course teaching participants to become farm entrepreneurs.

Spence says it’s for “those who are interested in learning the art of urban farming, who really want to get their hands in the dirt.” She says the program has graduated approximately 170 people since 2013. But this year, because of precautionary social distancing, just three students participated, rather than the usual 20.

Graduates have gone on to start businesses growing flowers and medicinal plants — one operates a hops farm for a local brewery.

Bobby Walker graduated in the institute’s first farm-entrepreneur class.

“We were trying to start a farmers market in our neighborhood — we lived in Lower Roxbury at the time, and we couldn’t get any farmers to come,” Walker says. “So I became a farmer — literally that’s what happened.”

Today, Walker is Training Manager at the Urban Farming Institute.

“People change doing this work,” Walker says. “When you plant that little tiny seed and you let it grow and get that fruit off it — that’s the same with people.”

WBUR 90.9FM published this story on Aug. 7. The Reporter and WBUR share content through a media partnership.

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.



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RECENT OBITUARIES

BFD’s Brian D. Doherty has died;
served with Fire Investigation Unit

Lt. Brian David Doherty, a member of the Boston Fire Department for 33 years, died peacefully on Aug. 14 at his home in Savin Hill while surrounded by his loving family. The beloved husband of Ann Winifred (McDonough) Doherty, he was the loving father of Margaret Winifred Doherty, Nora Rosamond Doherty, and Gavin Ann Doherty, all of Dorchester. He was the son of the late Patrick A. and Jean J. (Gillespie) Doherty, the son-in-law of James McDonough of Dorchester and the late Claire (Hines) McDonough, and the brother of Thomas Doherty of Spain, Jean Doherty and her companion Phillip Cooper of Dorchester, Carole and her husband William Harris of Squantum, Eileen and her husband Joseph Boyle of Dorchester, Mary Cahill of Foxboro, William Doherty and his wife Kim Kroeger of Quincy, and Martin Doherty of Maine. Brother-in-law of James and his wife Nancy McDonough of Abington, Paul



and his wife Erin McDonough of Dorchester, Lisa and her husband William Smith of Braintree, and Steven McDonough and his partner Ali Bennett of Abington. He also leaves many loving nieces and nephews, many cousins in Doolin, Co. Clare, Ireland, and extended family in Nova Scotia. Lt. Doherty was a member of the Boston Fire Department for 33 years, formerly serving on Ladder 7, Meetinghouse Hill, Huntington Ave., Cambridge St., and East Boston. He was a proud graduate of Don Bosco High School, Class of '76. A true "Jack of all trades," he especially enjoyed Irish music, bike rides, walks on the beach and loved hosting his many lifelong friends for his many house parties. But most of all, he loved being a devoted husband and father. In lieu of flowers, donations in Brian's memory may be made to the Daniel J. Marr Boys & Girls Club, 1135 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester, MA 02125. Visitation, Funeral Mass, and interment in Cedar Grove Cemetery will be held privately. For guestbook, please visit jmurphyfh.com. Arrangements by the Murphy Funeral Home in Dorchester.

FLAHERTY, Catherine M. Of Dorchester, passed away peacefully on August 14, 2020. Beloved daughter of Anthony "Tony" Flaherty of Dorchester and the late Catherine (Graham) Flaherty. Loving sister of Tony Flaherty & his

wife Maura of Dorchester, Kerry Darcy & her husband Larry of Milton, Michael Flaherty & his wife Patricia of Plymouth, and Amy Flaherty & Coleman Lydon of Dorchester. Loving aunt of Larry, III, Saoirse, Emma, Grace,

Cian, Michael, Jr., Jack, Siofra, Georgia, Julia, Coleman, Brooke, and Declan. Also survived by many loving friends and family. Catherine was a proud member of The Melts. Due to the ongoing health crisis, the Funeral Mass will remain private. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Catherine's memory to Massachusetts Fallen Heroes or to Dana Farber Cancer Institute, c/o Dr. James Cleary, 450 Brookline Ave., Boston, MA 02215. Interment in Cedar Grove Cemetery. **SOLLETTI, Harold "Harry"** Of Dorchester, died on July 29, 2020 with his wife by his side. Beloved husband of 54 years of Maryann Solletti (Welch) of Dorchester. Loving father of Brian Solletti and his fiancée Joan of Fairfax, Virginia and Bethany Lyons and her husband Kevin of Braintree. Cherished "Papa" of Molly and Jack Lyons and Matthew and Bryanna Solletti and their mother Yanna. Brother of James M. Solletti and his Elaine of Abington and Robert F. Solletti of Quincy. Son of the late Bernice and Francis Solletti. One of

Francis X. Fitzpatrick is dead; proprietor of Dot auto body shop

Longtime Dorchester business stalwart, Francis X. Fitzpatrick, an owner of Fitzpatrick Brothers Auto Body, the oldest family-owned and operated auto body repair shop in the United States, died on Wed., Nov. 12, following a long illness. Known as Francis X, FX, Franny, Frank, Fran, Fitta, or Mr. Fitz, among other names, he was born in Boston, attended Cathedral High School, and served in the US Coast Guard. He answered to many salutations, but the most beloved was "Pup." He was larger than life, and the life of every party! He made everyone feel like family. His quick wit and boisterous laugh made everyone laugh with him. His family's summer beach house was his favorite place to spend time with relatives and watch the boats go by. He will be dearly missed by many. Beloved husband of Ann (Menconi) Fitzpatrick, he leaves three daughters: Claire Pratt and her husband Thomas of Sandwich, Maryanne Gillis and her husband Paul of Marion, and Lynda Clapp and her husband Erik of Cumberland, ME. Grandfather of Thomas, Michael and Sean Pratt; Ryan, Evan, and Kyle Gillis; and Henry and Grace Clapp. Brother of Harrison Fitzpatrick, Rev. Thomas Fitzpatrick, S.J., Joseph Fitzpatrick, Kathleen Smith, and Maryanne Mazzeo. Funeral and interment in the Massachusetts National Cemetery, Bourne, will be private. A memorial service to celebrate Fran's life will be announced at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please make a charitable donation to the Epiphany School (154 Centre Street, Dorchester, 02124; epiphanyschool.com) with whom Fitzpatrick Brother's Auto Body Corporation has had a long-standing relationship. To send the family a condolence message, please visit dolanfuneral.com

Halifax, MA, formerly Dorchester and Squantum. Born in Boston, MA July 15, 1934, died peacefully in his sleep Aug. 14, 2020. She was predeceased by her loving husband of 53 years John R. Sweeney, Sr. They met in high school and raised 7 children, John R. Sweeney, Jr. and wife Irada of Derry, NH, Jeff Sweeney (deceased), Janet Sweeney of Quincy, MA, Jim Sweeney of Halifax, MA, Jill Sweeney of Weymouth, MA, June Sweeney of Weymouth, MA, Joseph Sweeney and wife Carolyn of Wrentham, MA. She leaves two grandchildren, Laura Noyes and her husband Tyler and Renee Sweeney and her fiancé Seth Copley, as well as 3 siblings: sister Frances Hogan of Milford, MA and brothers James Lunny of Halifax, MA and Edward Lunny of Plympton, MA. Helen went to Dorchester High School for Girls, and after raising her children, she worked at Stop & Shop offices in Quincy until her retirement in 1999. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. See Keohane.com for online condolences.

ELLIS, Wilbur J. "Hap" Of Dedham, passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family on Aug. 8, 2020. Beloved husband of 44 years to Maureen T. (Flynn) Ellis. Cherished father of Donna Marie Belliveau and her husband, Douglas Andrew. Loving grandfather of Addison Mary, Ella Rose and Aiden Daniel. Brother of Lucille Koch of Mattapan, Marie Savini of Union, NH, Michael of Little River, S.C. and the late Charles, James and John. Dear brother-in-law of the late Rita and Kathy Flynn of West Roxbury. Uncle of David Koch of Mattapan, who was a devoted nephew to Hap. Also survived by many other nieces, nephews and friends. Hap was a 42 year proud member of Teamsters Local 25 - Boston. A history buff, Hap was always interested in researching the events that took place during WWII. Hap will be sorely missed by his loving family and friends. In lieu of flowers, donations in Hap's memory may be made to St. John Chrysostom Church, 4750 Washington Street, West Roxbury, MA 02132.

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