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Essaibi George to super PACs: Get 'out of my race' Cites one group's link to Trump camp

By Gintautas Dumcius Managing Editor

City Councillor At-Large Annissa Essaibi George is asking super PACs — outside entities funded by unions and deep-pocketed donors who spent millions of dollars in the mayoral preliminary — to stay out of the final election between her and City Councillor At-Large Michelle Wu. She described herself as angry at their

"I want them out of my race," adding that they should not play a role in any election.

Essaibi George, like Wu, has two super PACs supporting her campaign. One is led by former Boston police commissioner William Gross and has taken in \$495,000 from New

involvement and said, Balance chairman Jim Davis, who has also donated to former President Donald Trump and former mayor Marty Walsh. General contractors and police unions have also donated money to the Gross super PAC.

"I want to be clear to the people of Boston: I speak for myself," Essaibi George said in

Dissecting the preliminary vote Page 4

an interview with the Reporter. "I speak for myself, for my work, for my campaign and I would like [super PACs] to very much stay out of this race."

The Gross-led super PAC, which has called itself "Real Progress Boston," drew fire in the preliminary for its links to a Beverly-based company, Red Curve Solutions, that worked for Trump's 2016 campaign.

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Annissa Essaibi George campaigning outside IBEW Local 103's offices. The union has endorsed her Gintautas Dumcius photo

'CODMAN SQ. REALLY NEEDS THIS'

Food truck firm ready to open up Talbot Ave. eatery

By SETH DANIEL REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

The popular Fresh Food Generation food truck and catering company specializing in Caribbean Afro Southern cuisine hopes to open its first-ever brick-andmortar location on Talbot Avenue near Codman Square.

Founders Cassandria Campbell and Jackson Renshaw, who have been operating from a food truck in Nubian Square and a catering company from space in the Commonwealth Kitchen on Quincy Street, told the West of Washington civic group about their plan this week. They expect to base their operation at 191 Talbot Ave. in a building that is being finished now by TLee Development.

"Getting to a point where we could open our own restaurant was a decade in the making,' said Campbell, who grew up in Dorchester, Mattapan, and Roxbury and attended the Lee School and the old O'Hearn School



The new storefront for the Fresh Food Generation restaurant is housed on the ground level of a new building on Talbot Avenue. Seth Daniel photo

at times. "We are grateful and thankful now to be opening up in Codman Square. I don't think there was a better place in Boston for us to open our doors for business."

The two entrepreneurs started their business ten years ago and launched the food truck in Nubian Square seven years ago, eventually moving into catering as well. They also ran a pop-up kiosk at Dot House on Dorchester Avenue and catered events for Bowdoin-Geneva Main Streets and the Boys & Girls Club of Dorchester. Soon, however, they outgrew the Commonwealth Kitchen space. That's when they ran across the

(Continued on page 15)

Mejia on her strong at-large showing: People need to know it's not about me

By SETH DANIEL REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

If there's one thing, said Boston City Councillor-at large Julia Mejia, that her strong, second-place fin-

ish in last Tuesday's preliminary election should communicate, it's that her style of political leadership is about amplifying other people rather than herself a leadership model that she sees as more of a circle than a pyramid.

"It's really not about me and people need to know that," she said from her Talbot Avenue headquarters in Codman Square last week. "My team and my



Julia Mejia "Unapologetic" on police reform.

community is what made all of this happen. I'm just a convener, but they did it all...I am now part of the system that I fought against my entire life. I know what it's like to be on the outside screaming to be heard and no one paying attention. I tell people I'm not your voice at City Hall. I'm your microphone. I'm not here to speak on behalf of nobody. We are there to provide the space for people to represent

Mejia, a Dorchester resident, came in second place with 38,765 votes (14 percent) in last Tuesday's citywide contest. In 2019, she finished fourth—and won her at-large position—by one vote following a recount that broke a tie between her and fifth-place

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State removes decrepit stairs near T station

By Gintautas Dumcius Managing Editor

State workers over the weekend demolished the rusted staircase located near the JFK/UMass MBTA station that was the focus of an investigation into a fatal fall.

David K. Jones, a Boston University professor, fell to his death from the stairs on Saturday, Sept. 11. The 40-year-old Milton resident, an associate professor at BU's School of Public Health,

was out for a run and somehow fencing has replaced the silver accessed the stairs. He fell from an estimated 20 feet.

According to the State Police, the stairs had been closed for 20 months after they were deemed

On Monday morning, a spokesperson for the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) said agency crews had demolished the stairway Saturday night into Sunday morning. Black wire fencing that had previously been in place.

On Sunday, family and friends of Jones gathered for a wake at the Alfred D. Thomas Funeral Home in Milton. The Boston University School of Public Health were planning a memorial service, both virtual and in-person, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. this Thursday (Sept. 23).

A Utah native who was raised (Continued on page 10)

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617-645-5417 www.tmcgroup.com Home sales down for second straight month

Woman from Wellesley last seen in Dot

Law enforcement is asking for the public's assistance to find Dolly Thapa, a 38-year-old Wellesley woman Dolly Thapa who has disappeared. Thapa, formal-

ly of Rowley, was last seen leaving a friend's home in Dorchester on Sept. 12, according to a statement from the Essex District Attorney's Office.

Family members reported Thapa missing to the Wellesley police on the evening of Sept. 13. She is believed to be driving a 2002 grey or light green Lexus with a Massachusetts license plate MA 198AN3, the DA's office said.

Anyone who believes they may have seen Thapa since Sept.12 should reach out to the Essex State Police Detective Unit at 978-745-8908 ext. 5199.



THE REPORTER

Home prices in the state's red-hot housing market exceeded \$500,000 for the fifth straightmonthin August, but buyers aren't scooping up the properties as fast as they did during the previous two years as single-family home sales declined for the second straight month, The Warren Group reported on Tuesday.

Homebuyers purchased 6,318 single-family homes in August, down 6.2 percent from August 2020 and 4.6 percent from the same month in 2019. The shrinking August shot up 11.5 perinventory undoubtedly played a role in the slowdown of sales in July and August, according to analysts, but Warren Group CEO Tim Warren said there may be another factor at play.

"I think prices have gotten higher than a lot of people can afford. Increasingly the people who can afford to buy have already done so and the rest are ready to give up on home shopping,' Warren said.

The median price of a single-family home in

cent on a year-over-year basis to \$535,000, about \$55,000 more than the median price recorded in August 2020 and up from \$420,000 in August 2019. The median price in August 2021 was a new alltime high for the month, and not far behind the \$540,000 median price reported in July.

Overall, home sales for the year are up 10.3 percent through August. with the median price of the 40,047 single-family homes sold in Massachusetts climbing 17.7 per-

cent to \$512,000. On the other side of the market, condominium sales continue to be strong with the 2,773 sales recorded in August, beating 2020 sales by 7.6 percent and exceeding condo sales from August 2019 by 6.1 percent.

The median condo sale price increased 10.6 percent on a year-over-year basis to \$470,000, a new high for the month and the 13th consecutive month that median prices have exceeded \$400,000.

- SHNS

UPCOMING CIVIC MEETINGS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Boston Planning and Development Agency host a virtual public meeting on Tues., Oct. 19 at 6 p.m. to discuss a proposed building to house 23 condos at 1154-1156 Dorchester Ave near Savin Hill. Three of the units would be affordable. For more information— including the Zoom link— see advertisement on page 17.

The city of Boston will host a hazardous household waste drop-off at the city's Central Public Works facility, 400 Frontage Rd., on Sat. Sept. **25 from 9 a.m.- 2 p.m.** Boston residents only— proof of residency required. Mercury products — thermometers, flourescent lamps, etc.. See Boston.gov/hazardous-waste for more info.

First Baptist Church at the corner of Ashmont and Adams Streets in Dorchester invites

market on Sat., Sept. 25 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Rain date Oct. 2. There will be jewelry, clothes, household goods, books, and refreshments for sale. Proceeds from the sale help support church ministries. For more info or to rent a table, contact: 617-282-1391 fbcd@ fbcdorchester.com,

The annual Neponset River fall cleanup is set for Sat., Sept. 25 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. with work sites included in Dorchester Mattapan. Volunteers of all skill levels and physical abilities are needed to help with this important event. Join for an hour or the entire time. Please bring water, sunscreen, hats, work gloves, appropriate footwear (no sandals), a mask, and work clothes that can get dirty. Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration

everyone to its September flea is required at Neponset.org/ cleanup2021. Contact the NepRWA cleanup coordinator Meghan Slocombe slocombe@neponset.org 781-575-0354 x308.

Outreach meeting on cannabis shop proposed for Blue Hill **Avenue**— A public meeting will be held via Zoom on Fri., Oct. 1 to discuss a proposed retail cannabis store at 1102 Blue Hill Ave., Dorchester. The meeting starts at 6 p.m. Go to tinyurl.com/Injaga for more information. Or email Sandy Heierbacher, Chief Operating Officer, at sandy@injagaglobal.

The Martin Richard Foundation, in partnership with the Boston **Bruins** Foundation, **Balance and DMSE Sports** will host the fourth annual MR8K at Boston Landing on Sat., Dec. 4. Registration is now open at mr8k.org. The

Martin Richard Foundation established the MR8K in 2019 as its signature annual fundraising event, giving more people an opportunity to run for Team MR8. All funds raised will benefit the Martin Richard Foundation's work to support community organizations that advance its values of inclusion, kindness, justice and peace. The 5-mile course will take place at Warrior Ice Arena at Boston Landing. More than 2,000 people participated in 2019 event at Boston landing and the inaugural event at TD Garden, which resulted in a \$100,000 donation to McLean Hospital's LEADER program to support first responders. Registration is \$45. The event is open to runners, walkers and para-athletes of all abilities, as well as families with small children.

Five state-owned ice rinks, including Dorchester's Devine Memorial Rink, is now available for group rentals, according to the Department of Conservation and Recreation. The rinks opened for rentals on Sept. 11 and will remain available through March 27. The rinks will open for public use on Friday, Nov. 26. In addition to the Devine rink, the others are the O'Neil Memorial Rink in Charlestown, the Murphy Memorial Rink in South Boston, the Reilly Memorial in Brighton, and the Bajko Memorial Rink in Hvde Park. For more info on hours and availability, go to mass.gov/info-details/dcr-iceskating-rink-schedule.

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Police find gun, arrest student at CASH school in Fields Corner

By Seth Daniel

REPORTER CORRESPONDENT Boston police last week recovered a firearm and arrested a student at the Community Academy of Science and Health (CASH) high school in

Fields Corner.

The student allegedly brought a stolen firearm into the school on Wed., Sept. 15. The incident, which occurred less than a week into the new school year, led to the student getting detained by the new Office of School Safety until officers from the Boston Police's C-11 precinct arrived to make the arrest.

The arrest of the 16-year-old student was made without incident, but Boston School Po-

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CASH school on Charles Street in Fields Corner.

lice — now known as the Office of School Safety and Safety Service Specialists — no longer have arrest powers as they did prior to July 1, 2021 due to somewhat unexpected stipulations within the state's Police

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Reform Act.

"We did have a Safety Service Specialist at the school, and we did find a firearm and the Boston Police Department was called as they would have been called if the School Safety Force had the same powers as before," said Xavier Andrews, spokesperson for the BPS.

"It's unfortunate," he added, "that it was brought into the school and it was resolved and we have notified the school community."

Boston Police reported that at 10:45 a.m. on Sept. 15, officers from C-11 responded to a radio call for a firearm found at CASH, located at 11 Charles St., and made an onsite firearm and drug arrest of a 16-year-old male.

the front entrance by Boston Public Safety Service Specialists who escorted officers to the main office on the second floor. Officers then spoke with the school administrators who, prior to the officers' response, conducted an administration search on the juvenile and discovered a small bag they believed to be drugs and a firearm.

Police officers conducted an inquiry on the recovered firearm, which revealed that it was reported stolen from Braintree on July 24, 2019.

The juvenile will be charged with a series of firearms charges, according to police. He was set to be arraigned last week in Dorchester District Court.

The incident marked Officers were met at a change in school policing in Boston, as the longtime Boston School Police force was dissolved on July 1, with the new Police Reform Law being the reason cited for the change to be brought about quicker than some on the School Police expected.

BPS said last summer it planned to notify parents and students of the change in the School Police within its back-toschool messaging and school-site meetings, but it wasn't immediately clear that such a notification has happened yet, though the schools have only been in session for one week.

Boston Public Schools Superintendent Brenda Cassellius and the School Committee did begin addressing the change starting at the at the May 12 and the June 16 meetings of the Committee. They implemented the change on July 1 and throughout the summer. She also addressed it at a July meeting, to amplify the change, after some media reports.

Because the new state law, which did go into effect in July 1, did not allow Special Police Officers (known as SPOs) any longer, that meant that the Boston School Police could not be cer-

tified by the BPD and needed to be dissolved and transformed into the Office of School Safety thus losing much of their police powers.

School Safety Officers do not wear police uniforms, and tend not to drive the traditional cruisers, and don't have arrest powers or the ability to write police reports.

Under the new configuration, they are also not allowed enforcement tools like handcuffs. In the instance of an incident such as last Wednesday's, or any other that requires police action, they can only call 9-1-1 for a BPD response.

Andrews said the situation at CASH was standard operating procedure for a firearm found in a school – which is a rare occurrence at BPS. He said whether the old School Police or the new Office of School Safety were in effect, the same response would have occurred on Wednesday.

"In terms of the work with BPS and BPD and our Safety Specialists, the School Safety Specialist focus has changed and they wear different clothes and don't have arrest powers, but regardless we would have contacted the Police De $partment in \, past just \, the$ same way we did today."





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Dissecting the preliminary mayoral election

The following was compiled and written by Steve Koczela and Rich Parr for MassINC $Polling\ Group\ and\ WBUR$

News Analysis

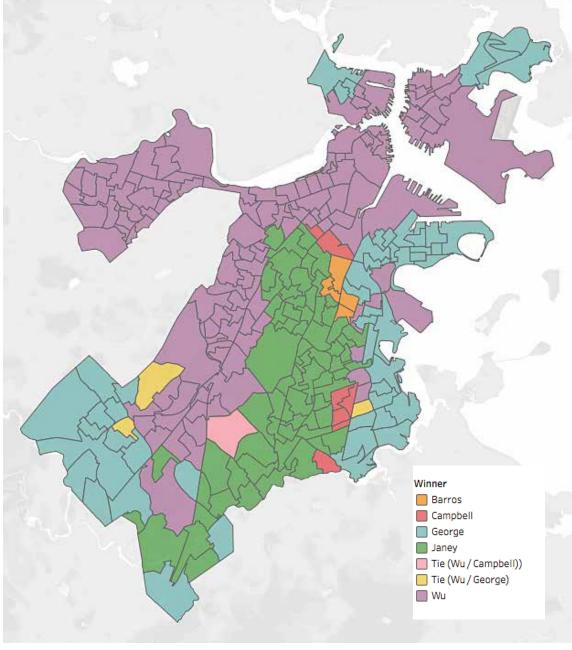
It turns out that the prospect of Boston electing a woman of color as mayor for the first time was more exciting to pundits and observers than to the voters themselves.

Despite new and expanded early voting options, only 108,000 of the city's 438,000 registered voters turned out for Tuesday's preliminary election to choose among a field of diverse and accomplished candidates. The number of raw votes cast actually fell short of the last preliminary election without an elected incumbent, in 2013. And because of the increase in the city's population and voter rolls since then, the turnout percentage fell even further, from 28 percent to a dismal 25 percent.

But while the turnout fell short of 2013, the result was similar in some ways. Three Black candidates, including acting Mayor Kim Janey, were shut out of the final in favor of two women from more heavy-voting corners of the city: Michelle Wu from Roslindale by way of Jamaica Plain, and Annissa Essaibi George from Dorchester. In 2013, voters whittled a historically diverse field down to two white men from the same traditional voting strongholds: John Connolly from West Roxbury and the eventual winner, Marty Walsh from Dorchester. The next mayor of Boston will be a woman of color, but the city's Black community remains on the outside looking in.

Wu and Essaibi George were the two at-large city councillors in the race, and they were the top two finishers for atlarge in 2019. It appears their experience running city-wide benefitted them, although their respective maps show different paths into the final. Wu, as polls predicted, came in well ahead of the rest of the field, with a third (33 percent) of the vote. She won or tied for first in 124 of the city's 255 precincts and came in second in another 72.

Essaibi George's 20 percent of the vote, meanwhile, was more concentrated in the city's



This map shows the winner in each precinct during Tuesday's preliminary election. Courtesy MassINC Polling Group

most reliable-voting neighborhoods: Dorchester, South Boston, West Roxbury, and parts of Roslindale and Hyde Park. She won or tied in 54 precincts and came in second in 38. Our pre-election poll, Priorities for Progress, showed Essaibi George would benefit most from a lower-turnout election dominated by consistent municipal voters. That appears to be exactly what propelled her to second place. In precincts she won, the average turnout was 32 percent, higher than the precinct average for any of the other four candidates.

Essaibi George's challenge in the final round will be growing her vote beyond these reliable strongholds. The preliminary results suggest that effort will be a heavy Candidate support varied by the racial make-up of each precinct

lift. Looking at all precincts, including those won by other candidates, Essaibi George finished above Wu only in the 54 she won, plus 3 won by Kim Janey. Wu was preferred over her in every other precinct won poll, which found Wu was the

by Janey, Andrea Campbell, or John Barros. Wu, meanwhile, came in second in all but one of Essaibi George's precincts.

These results track with the findings of our pre-election preferred second choice of most other candidates' voters. Wu finishing ahead of Essaibi George in most precincts would seem to suggest she is better positioned to pick up support from candidates who didn't advance to the final round. Wu received more support from the city's people of color, both in pre-election polls and in the actual vote tallies, while Essaibi George's support was more concentrated in the white areas.

District 4 City Councillor Andrea Campbell finished just behind George, with a near identical voter tally to Janey. But the results maps shows they took very different paths. Pre-election polls suggested Janey was losing support in the final weeks of the campaign. In the end, she drew strong support from a broad swath of majority-minority precincts in the heart of the city: Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan, and Hyde Park. Janey won 68 precincts outright, more than Essaibi George. But because turnout was lower in Janey precincts — 21 percent compared to 32 percent where Essaibi George won — Janey reaped a smaller number of votes from these victories.

Andrea Campbell, meanwhile, won only seven precincts outright (and tied one with Wu). But she came in just ahead of Janey in the vote totals by running second in 108 precincts spread across the city. Campbell was the runner up in majority-white precincts Allston-Brighton, the Back Bay, Downtown, and Jamaica Plain, as well as in many of the majority-Black precincts that Janey won. Her support varied much less than Janey's did between precincts that were relatively more or less diverse.

Looking ahead to the final, there is only one poll out so far and it more or less reflects these assessments. Wu starts out in a strong position, with a broader group of voters potentially supporting her candidacy. But as 2013 showed, a lot can happen between now and the final election in November.

This article was first published by WBUR 90.9FM on Sept. 17. The Reporter and WBUR share content through a media partnership.

Essaibi George to super PACs: Get 'out of my race'

(Continued from page 1) The super PAC aired TV and radio ads starring Gross, who endorsed

Essaibi George earlier this year.

"This isn't about Jim Davis," Essaibi George said Tuesday. "This is about the very direct relationship between this super PAC and Donald Trump."

Essaibi George, who joined the City Council in 2016, noted that she was the first elected official to endorse Ayanna Pressley's bid to unseat Congressman Michael Capuano. She also worked for President Joe Biden's campaign, making calls to voters in Georgia, Florida, and Arizona, as well as in her home state of Massachusetts.

"As someone who has been a lifelong Democrat, unwavering and firm in my Democratic principles, I am not fond of the relationship they have with Donald Trump," Essaibi George said.

"I don't want this PAC thinking they can speak for me or my campaign or my work," she said.

The second Essaibi George super PAC, "Bostonians for Real Progress," has largely focused on digital advertising and drawn donations from the owner of a towing and auto repair business in Hyde Park and a Wellesley financial analyst, among others.

Super PACs can raise and spend unlimited amounts of money, but they are prohibited from coordinating with the campaigns they support. That means candidates can call for super PACs to stand down, but it's ultimately up to the outside groups if they want to heed the call.

In 2013, City Councillor John Connolly publicly asked outside groups to steer clear of the preliminary, but as super PACs supporting his rival, Marty Walsh, spent millions on TV ads and mailers, the pro-Connolly super PAC disregarded Connolly's request and started pouring money into the final election.

The two Essaibi George super PACs did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Wu's super PACs are mostly fueled by environmental advocacy groups, such as the League of Conservation Voters. Jay Cashman, the construction and real estate magnate, and Paul Egerman, a longtime Democratic donor who served as treasurer during USSen. Elizabeth Warren's 2020 presidential campaign, have also donated to the "Boston Turnout Project," which is chaired by a former Warren aide. The other Wu super PAC is tied to the Environmental League of Massachusetts.

The "Boston Turnout Project" on Tuesday posted its second ad to YouTube. Called "History," the ad includes a photo of Sen. Warren,

who endorsed Wu in January, and touts Wu's support for fare-free public transit.

 $Before\,Boston\,elections$ officials tallied all the votes in this month's preliminary, super PACs had already shoveled \$3 million into the mayor's race. Much of the money went toward television ads and mailers targeting voters.

Each of the five mayoral candidates had at least one super PAC, which are typically funded by either unions or wealthy

In the recent preliminary, the super PACs offered varying levels of support for their respective candidates. A super PAC formed to support former city economic development official John Barros, but didn't end up taking action. In Acting Mayor Kim Janey's case, a super PAC backed by the hotel workers union UNITE HERE Local 26 aired a TV ad and helped canvass neighborhoods, while also targeting City Councillor Andrea Campbell through a negative radio ad.

Campbell had her own super PAC, "Better Bos-ton," which spent \$2.8 million in the race. Major donors include the late Nonnie Burnes, a former state judge who served as Gov. Deval Patrick's insurance commissioner, Netflix co-founder Reed Hastings, and donors with ties to charter schools.

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Wu, Essaibi George hail their major union backers For finalists, it's full speed ahead to November

By GINTAUTAS DUMCIUS Managing Editor

City Councillors Michelle Wu and Annissa Essaibi George, the top two finishers in the mayoral preliminary, this week threw themselves headlong into the general election campaign, touting dueling $endorsements from\,mega$ unions that represent healthcare employees and electrical workers.

The two unions, SEIU 1199 and IBEW Local 103, had formally sat out the five-candidate preliminary while signaling their interest in backing a candidate when it came down to two names.

They made their preferences known this week, with SEIU 1199 tossing its support to Wu on Tuesday, a day after IBEW Local 103 held a rally outside its Dorchester offices to boost Essaibi George.

SEIU 1199, which has more than 5,000 members who live in Boston and 70,000 statewide, said it plans to put "significant financial and grassroots support" behind Wu's campaign. The union, with its board based in neighboring Quincy, is known for its canvassing prowess. It has \$3.2 million in the coffers of its political action committee.

"Never before have the issues of healthcare, childcare, and pay and benefits of essential workers been more important," Tim Foley, SEIU 1199's executive vice president, said in a statement. "We are at a crossroads and we need a mayor who will center the lives of caregivers in our recovery."

In her own statement, Wu said the union and her campaign share a "core principle" in support of social, racial, and environmental justice.

"Knowing that the healthcare workers of 1199SEIU have our back means everything — and we've got theirs.'

Wu was expected to join union members at a personal protective equipment(PPE) drive in Grove Hall on Thursday (Sept. 23). The union has held similar events during the pandemic as part of its efforts to distribute masks and gloves.

SEIU 1199 sat out the 2013 mayoral preliminary, a 12-way contest to succeed Mayor Thomas Menino, before endorsing Marty Walsh over John Connolly in the final election. It has also stayed out of recent political contests, including the clash between US Sen. Ed Markey and former Congressman Joe Kennedy III and Ayanna Pressley's successful bid to unseat Congressman Michael Capuano.



IBEW Local 103 business manager Lou Antonellis with Councillor Annissa Essaibi George on Monday.

The major union now backing Essaibi George has been much more active, notching marks in both the win and loss columns. IBEW Local 103 backed Pressley and Kennedy, touting their candidacies on the electric billboard that overlooks I-93. On Monday, that billboard switched to pink and black, the campaign colors of the Dorchester at-large city councillor.

While the union didn't endorse in the preliminary, Lou Antonellis. Local 103's business manager, donated \$500 to Acting Mayor Kim Janey's campaign. The union also aired a series of television ads, spotlighting its members who called for the next mayor to favor continuing development within

At Monday's rally for Essaibi George, Antonellis said the union is seeking a mayor to "pick up" where Walsh, a former union leader who spent 7 years as mayor before leaving for the Biden administration, left off.

Their candidate welcomed the support. "I need a strong army to become mayor," she told the crowd of roughly 100 union members. Labor will always have a seat at her policymaking table, she added.

Essaibi George, who came in second in the preliminary, said that she has been "underestimated" and added that she shunned placing labels on her candidacy.

Critics have described her as a "status quo" candidate. "We will prove the critics wrong," she said.

Camacho presses for recount in D7

Angie Camacho, who finished in third place in last week's preliminary election for District 7 City Council, wants a recount. The city's unofficial vote count had Camacho 28 votes behind Roy Owens, a

perennial candidate who also sought an atlarge council seat in last week's election.

Camacho said she filed the requisite number of signatures to prompt a recount on Monday afternoon.

"Given such a small margin, we owe it to our supporters, friends, and the community to make sure that every ballot is counted, and every voice heard. It is also an opportunity for our fellow candidates to know that the process has been counted accurately," Camacho said in a statement.

The top vote-getter in District 7 was Tania Fernandes Anderson, who won roughly 26 percent of the vote. If the unofficial results hold, Anderson will face Owens to replace Kim Janey in the Roxbury-centered council seat.

- BILL FORRY

Endorsement Corner: Wu nabs Miranda's backing as Ward 15 adds to slate

At the Strand Theater on Wednesday, City Councillor Michelle Wu touted the endorsement of state Rep. Liz Miranda, a Democratic lawmaker who represents parts of Dorchester and Roxbury.

"Throughout her time in the State Legislature and before, her leadership has shifted what's possible in Boston and beyond," Wu said in a statement. "I look forward to working in partnership with her to continue building community and ensure all our neighborhoods are healthy, safe, and connected.'

Separately, Ward 15 Democrats on Saturday (Sept. 18) voted to add to their slate of 2021 endorsements.

Members of the Ward 15 Democratic Committee announced they're backing incumbent Julia Mejia and social worker



Senator Sonia Chang Diaz, left, endorsed Councillor Michelle Wu on Saturday.

Carla Monteiro in the at-large field.

The Sept. 14 preliminary narrowed a field of 17 candidates down to 8. Voters will choose four on Tuesday, Nov. 2.

The Ward 15 group previously endorsed Ruthzee Louijeune, who served as senior counsel to US Sen. Elizabeth Warren, and David Halbert, a former City Hall and State House aide, at its meeting in June.

The group also said it was backing Evandro Carvalho, the former state lawmaker who is running in District 4, which includes parts of Dorchester and Mattapan. Carvalho is facing off against first-time candidate Brian Worrell.

The Ward 15 Democrats also endorsed a question set to appear on the citywide ballot. The proposal would hand new budgetary powers to the 13-member City Council. The ballot question is an effort to put the City Council on equal footing with the mayor when it comes to crafting the annual budget.

An endorsement occurs with a two-thirds majority of voting members, according to the group.

Separately, a former at-large rival also announced his support for several candidates.

Said Abdikarim, who finished in twelfth place, said he is supporting Louijeune, Halbert, and Erin Murphy.

"When I was a candidate, I centered solutions to address affordable housing, education and job disparity, and the opioid crisis," Abdikarim said in a statement. "These are Erin's values and goals, too, and I'm



gest factor is that Erin is a teacher, and teachers played a significant role in my life when I arrived here from Somalia.'

Meanwhile, a West Roxbury-based sprinkler fitters union on Thursday said it's supporting Annissa Essaibi George's mayoral campaign.

In a statement, Peter Gibbons, the business manager for Sprinkler Fitters Local 550, said Essaibi George will encourage investing in apprenticeship programs. The union represents 800 members from Bos-

"Annissa Essaibi George has shown up and stood up for Boston's hardworking families and residents time and time again-not just during campaign season. Now we're proud to support her in her candidacy for mayor of Boston," he

Earlier this year, the union donated \$500 each to Acting Mayor Kim Janey, South End state Rep. Jon Santiago, and former Boston economic development official John Barros during the preliminary, according to publicly available campaign finance re-

— GINTAUTAS **DUMCIUS**



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Teens' jeans are used as canvas in exhibit at Strand exploring social issues

By Grace Mayer REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

The Strand Theatre will host a new exhibit opening on Friday that explores Boston teenagers' relationships with police and society through a unique art project using jeans taken from the teens' own closets.

The exhibit — "From Where I Stand" — includes nine sculptures fashioned by 16 teens engaged in a program headed up by Boston Police officer Emmanuel "Manny" Dambreville.

Using denim as their canvas, the teens layered paint, tissue paper, photos, boxing gloves, and chains on top of the pants to reflect the themes explored in a project that began in the aftermath of the murder of George Flord in May 2020.

Each sculpture highlights unique perspectives on a range of issues, including gentrification, poverty, addiction, abuse against women, crime, police brutality, trauma, and racial profiling.

Sixteen teenagers from the BPD's Heal Boston youth program participated in the art project run by Saints & Scholars, Inc.

"The youth that are part of Heal Boston are

the experts on their own lives and have the opportunity to teach others through their created images," said Heather Harris, founder and president of Saints & Scholars, Inc. The nonprofit uses art as a vehicle to give a voice to marginalized communities. "It's really a powerful therapeutic process," she said.

While most of the sculptures appear standing, coated in fabric stiffener to retain their shape and fastened onto platforms, one sculpture shows the jeans molded into a kneeling position, its ankles bound with yellow police tape. Designed by Ethan Coakley, the sculpture is a searing reflection on police brutality.

Red tissue paper, symbolic of the fear and anger that one may experience during that moment of arrest, Harris said, shoots out of the waist of the jeans. A pair of handcuffs and additional police tape hold the sculpture captive, as if the "person is restrained," she said.

"Ethan is a great kid," Dambreville said, "... But he also is a person who is sensitive to the plight of his people, the plight of oppressed people, the



plight of what's right and what's wrong.'

The exhibit has been in-the-works since last summer in the aftermath of Floyd's murder by Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin. Harris approached the BPD with the idea of creating an art project that would involve police officers and teens. She connected with Dambreville, who invited youth ambassadors from Heal Boston to participate in the project.

"She explained to me what her vision was, which was to do an art project, and use art as a vehicle to bridge the community with the police, to bring these communities back together," Dambreville said.

At the time, Harris said, she wasn't sure what kind of project would take shape, but, as an art therapist, she saw the partnership as an opportunity to build conversation and bring different communities together through art.

"I think of the kids in this project as 'artivists'," Harris said. "They're kind of activists and artists at the same time."

After months of dis-



Two of the sculpture pieces that will be on display in the "From Where I Stand" exhibition, which opens on Friday at the Strand Theatre in Dorchester's Uphams Corner.

Photos courtesy Saints & Scholars, Inc.

cussing social issues, planning the exhibit, and compiling materials for the sculptures, over one week at the end of June, Harris, Dambreville, and the teens from Heal Boston came together to build their sculptures.

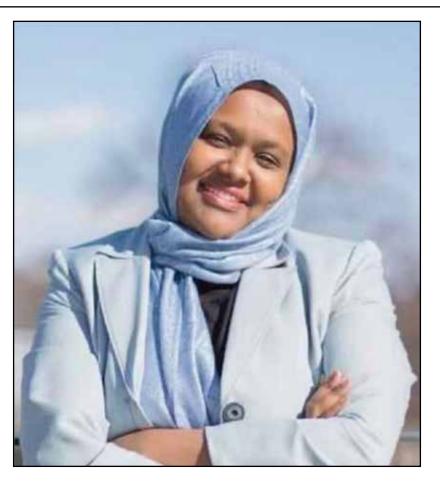
"The essence of [the artwork] is that they embody their beliefs, their ideas, their lived experiences," Harris said.

The exhibit will have its opening event this Friday (Sept. 24) from 5 p.m. o 8 p.m. at the Strand Theatre, 543 Columbia Rd., Dorchester.

Along with the sculptures, there will be a documentary by FGXstudios that blends media coverage related to the exhibit's themes and the making of the exhibit.

Flanked by their sculptures, the teens involved in the project will explain their artistic process and the topics that their pieces address.

"The kids had full rein to express themselves and that's why it's very pure," Dambreville said. "They're very powerful pieces."



To all my supporters, voters, and donors, thank you. This election did not turn out the way we hoped, but I am forever grateful for your support and encouragement throughout the campaign. I will continue to work for D4; this is not the end, it is just the beginning.

Deeqo Jibril

Paid for by the committee to elect Deeqo Jibril



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22 High Street

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Zoom Link: bit.ly/3AGMLu4 Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864 Meeting ID: 161 734 9081

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Reporter's People

News about people in and around our Neighborhoods

Franklin Marval's art puts 'the focus on the good'

BY GRACE MAYER REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

Known for his signature heart designs, the Dorchester-based artist Franklin Marval is showing a collection of his work centered around themes of community and diversity at Boston City Hall through October 15.

"I get inspired by people a lot, people who are doing things not just for themselves, but that are working for others," said Marval, who works out of the Humphreys Street Studios at Uphams Corner.

The collection, called "Street Heart," features 10 pieces that Marval has worked on since he first started making his heart designs. Located in City Hall's eighth floor gallery, the artworks' vibrant colors and graphic designs reflect one message in particular that Marval is focused on channeling: "More love is okay."

Since 2018, he has incorporated colorful and graphic hearts into his pieces, imbuing that message, which, Marval said, he reminds himself of every day.

"I see it everywhere, even when I go to a retail store or a convenience store around the neighborhood; you see a lot of people doing good things," Marval said. "I'm not sure if it's because I decided to focus on the good that I see it everywhere."

Marval even sees good in the street signs stationed across Boston, the inspiration for one of his latest pieces called "In the color blind mode" that is part of the exhibit. Inspired by a crossing sign for pedestrians, he created his own and topped it with multi-



Above, Franklin Marval inside the Humphrey Street Studios in Dorchester.

Photo courtesy Ami Bennet

Franklin Marval created a mural for Charlestown High School with help from Yohan Quintero and Antony Lopeza, front right.

Photo courtesy Cyanta Studio

colored strings trailing behind it, representing movement.

The piece is meant to inspire individuals to walk through life as "a person moving forward with love, without seeing labels or the colors of skin," he said.

The exhibit will also display an acrylic and wood art piece that reimagines the Kenmore Square Citgo sign. Instead of the big red triangle that towers above the city, Marval swapped the triangle out for a large

red heart.

He first proposed this idea in 2018, when the city of Boston proposed designating the sign as an official landmark. Marval was against the idea because of what the sign represents to him: a profitable gas company with ties to Venezuela, Marval's home coun-

try where, he said, the people don't experience the financial prosperity that the sign may imply to many.

"It's not that I want to change the sign, it's that I want something better," he said. "Every time we create something, let's make sure it is something that is better for the people and the world."

Marval said his focus on spreading positive messages through his artwork can be traced back to the 2013 Boston Marathon.

"When something that bad happens, you can get lost really easily, and I decided that that was not okay, and at that moment, I decided to focus on the things that are okay."

He started out by creating small stickers with the message and heart symbols, and little by little, the hearts started to grow.

Marval said everything he creates now includes a heart meant to be symbolic of community. Many of his projects are designed with communities in mind.

At Charlestown High School recently, he was asked to paint a mural for the entrance as the school transitions to opening its doors to middle schoolers.

Layered beneath the mural's rainbow waves, the artists' signature hearts can be found, representative of the hearts of the school's teachers, staff, and students. As the wave designs make their way from the walls of the school's building to the pavement, the mural morphs into a colorful game of hopscotch.

"This was the first time these kids were going to the building, just by having that good impression of the building, they're going to feel good," Marval said. He later

heard from the school's principal that students have dubbed the mural "the bubble entrance."

Johan Quintero, 28 and one of Marval's students, was a part of the six-person team that painted the mural. He said that while he was working on the art piece, he could see how it had already impacted the surrounding community.

"People think it's just the wall, but then you see the hopscotch," he said. "The kids love that, and you see that on their faces."

YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE

DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

St. William's Church

St. William's became a parish set off from St. Peter's in 1909, consisting of territory south of St. Margaret's Parish nearly to Glover's Corner, and including the Savin Hill district. The Rev. James J. Baxter was the first pastor and was succeeded by Fr. James McCarthy. Baxter bought part of the Worthington family estate at the corner of Dorchester Avenue and Belfort Street, and the old mansion was adapted as a rectory. The Worthington property extended along Dorchester Avenue from Belfort Street to Elton Street.

The new church was designed by Edward Sheehan, a Dorchester resident, in the Spanish Mission style, an unusual design for a Cath-



olic church in the neighborhood. It was located at 1048 Dorchester Avenue between Belfort Street and the newly created St. William Street. That building was destroyed by fire in September 1980 and was later replaced with one of modern design that today is the Waymark Seventh-Day Adventist Church.

From the 1990s through 2004, the archdiocese of Boston endured the consequences of allegations and lawsuits involving misconduct by priests with the result that the archdiocese paid out large monetary settlements. The archdiocese was undertaking a reconfiguration of its parishes at the time and determined that low attendance and large expenses warranted the closing of some of them.

St. William and St. Margaret were the only two parishes of the 11 in Dorchester that felt a direct impact of the process. On Aug. 31, 2004, St. William's joined St. Margaret's to become Blessed

Mother Teresa parish, occupying the St. Margaret's church building at 800 Columbia Road. Mother Teresa was canonized in September 2016, and the name of was updated to St. Teresa of Calcutta parish.

The archive of these historical posts can be viewed on the blog at dorchesterhistorical-society.org.

Reminder: A house history from the Dorchester Historical Society would make a great gift to a homeowner in Dorchester or Mattapan. Take a look at some of the completed histories on the Dorchester Historical Society website.

Editorial

Commentary

Let the best woman win

Congratulations to Michelle Wu and Annissa Essaibi George. Both women ran thoughtful, well-organized and well-executed campaigns. Let's give them due credit: They prevailed last Tuesday, punching their ticket to the general election on Nov. 2.

It's no cakewalk running for office, and it's not easy on families, either. But there were no newbies here. All five major candidates knew what they were signing up for, and all of them—win or lose—deserve our thanks for presenting us with a stellar slate of options from which to choose.

Thanks, too, to the field of candidates for the various city council seats. There were 23 of them on the ballot last week between at-large and districts 4 and 7, which we cover routinely.

Much of the post-mortem analysis has focused on the disappointment some feel because a Black mayoral candidate did not make the cut to advance to November. This, despite the fact that roughly 43 percent of the voters who bothered to participate chose a Black candidate—Andrea Campbell, Kim Janey, or John Barros. Other angsty critiques have focused more on the turnout, 25 percent, which was lower than many expected with an open seat.

Such examinations are fair game. Elections shouldn't be just zero-sum competitions to pick the best person for a given position. Ideally, we should see them as a form of civic crowdsourcing. Candidates advance their policy positions, rivals dice them up or adopt them for their own. We in the electorate get to have our say and judge the candidates and their ideas. Even those who don't make a big dent in the vote count—think John Barros—can contribute to the conversation and the direction of the next administration.

That's why those who want to blame the outcome on a too-crowded field or a failed strategy of pooling ethnic support behind one candidate or another are missing a beat. The winning candidates last week were not long-shots who happened into the top two because someone else "failed." Councillor Wu, who topped the ticket with 33 percent of the vote, has been running for the mayor's seat for a full year - some might say, even longer - and has routinely won more votes for citywide office than anyone else on the council. She's become a known quantity to voters in all 255 precincts, as has her fellow finalist, Annissa Essaibi George, who finished in second place in the 2019 at-large balloting. Both women have painstakingly carved out a citywide constituency and, to no one's great surprise, reaped the rewards last week.

Next up: We get to see how well they appeal to the 45 percent of us who didn't vote for Wu or Essaibi George last week. Let the best woman win. -Bill Forry

By BILL WALCZAK REPORTER COLUMNIST

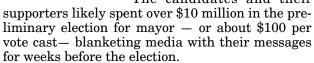
I don't get it. We had smart, capable candidates representing a range of ideologies, plans, and policies. We have many issues that need to be dealt with: global warming, transportation, schools, management of city agencies, overtime corruption,

downtown and neighborhood development, racial injustice, and the pandemic.

Charter reforms needed to boost turnout

We made it very easy to vote: early voting, ballot boxes available 24 hours-a-day, voteby-mail for those queasy about going to vote in person.

Boston is a city with enough money to deal with its problems, but in need of a mayor with the skills to solve them. The candidates and their



Despite this, fewer than a quarter of registered voters bothered to cast a ballot last Tuesday. Take a look at mayoral election vote totals and the chart of non-votes by ward/neighborhood. Michelle Wu won first place with 35,888 votes and Annissa Essaibi George got second place with 24,186. But nearly 39,000 of Allston-Brighton's registered voters did not cast a ballot, nor did about 31,000 in Southie, and more than 50,000 in Dorchester.

In all, 329,467 of Boston's 437,647 registered voters did not vote in the preliminary balloting. This means that Michelle Wu topped the ticket with the votes of 8.2 percent of Boston's registered voters and Annissa Essaibi George took second with 5.5 percent.

This is frightening. The mayor of Boston exerts control over nearly everything government provides in Boston. The mayor appoints the police commissioner and all department heads in city government. The school committee chooses the superintendent of Boston Public Schools, but it's the mayor who chooses the school committee. The head of the Boston Planning and Development Authority is appointed by the mayor, and the members of the Zoning Board of Appeal, which has tremendous control over development in Boston, are appointed by the mayor.

In previous columns, I have urged Bostonians to vote because the position of mayor of Boston is far too powerful to allow a small number of Bostonians to choose her or him. But that is exactly what is happening again. The preliminary vote in 2013 was 31 percent. In 2017, it was 14 percent. And in 2021, it was 25 percent.

We can't say we didn't have some great candidates, or that it was difficult to vote, so we have to assume that a large majority of Bostonians have turned away from interest in municipal elections.

This brings me to some possible solutions. Last year, I wrote a column comparing elections in odd-numbered years (municipal balloting) to even-numbered year elections, and found that in Boston, twice as many people vote in even-numbered years, when we vote for the Legislature, governor and other state offices, US senators and representatives, and the president. I suggested that we eliminate odd-numbered year elections and conduct municipal elections in even-numbered years, that is, on the same ballot with state and federal candidates.

In addition to doubling the turnout, that would have the added benefit of saving upwards of \$2 million in expenditures for separate elections for Boston's mayor and its city councillors.

This is not a unique idea. The state of California, facing similar problems with municipal voting, passed the "California Voter Participation Rights Act" in 2015, which required cities to move their odd-numbered year municipal elections to even-numbered election dates by November 2022. Most cities in California have done so, or are planning to switch next year.

A second reform is term limits for the mayor. The power of the mayor's office allows incumbent mayors to secure millions of campaign dollars from developers and others with an interest in the actions of city agencies, while stifling the ability of challengers to incumbents to collect campaign dollars. As a result, once elected, Boston mayors can stay in office until they die or decide to leave. I noted in a previous column that the last incumbent Boston mayor to lose an election was James Michael Curley, who lost the 1949 election after being released from federal prison.

It's just wrong for someone to suggest that if we don't like the mayor, we can just vote them out. Term limits, such as limiting a mayor to two terms, like the president, would create open- seat elections for mayor every eight years, allowing a broader and deeper debate on a vision for the future of the city, and what issues need a change in direction.

Neither Wu nor Essaibi George have any charter reform plans on their websites. Before the election, the *Reporter* asked all mayoral candidates if they support imposing term limits for mayor. Wu and Essaibi George oppose the idea.

On the question of changing the municipal cycle to line up with state elections, both Essaibi George and Wu, through spokespersons, told the *Reporter* this week that they are not in favor of the idea.

Maybe they should both reconsider. Or maybe Acting Mayor Janey and the City Council could give an outgoing gift to Boston by pushing these progressive reforms through the City and State. The Sept. 14 preliminary election showed us once again that Boston must make changes to our charter to increase voter turnout.

Bill Walczak is a Dorchester resident and former president/CEO of Codman Square Health Center. He was a candidate for mayor of Boston in 2013.

Bill Walczak

Janey or Campbell should start a write-in campaign for mayor

By Roger House Special to the Reporter

The novel mayoral preliminary was an important milestone in the politics of Boston and should be celebrated. Still, it was painful to watch the Black political class of Boston feign enthusiasm for the outcome of the historic election.

No doubt the results left a bitter taste in the mouth of its politicians and community. And for many, the run-off between two candidates, City Councillors Michelle Wu and Annissa Essaibi George, touted by the media as "women of color," is cold comfort. Many African American residents are familiar with

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the bias of "colorism" – the often-unconscious social preference for individuals with light skin tones.

Yet, the reality is that the Black political class has only itself to blame for the humbling results. The three candidates in the preliminary – and by extension the community organizations that were divided over their campaigns – failed to take seriously the history of Black exclusion from power and the unique opportunity available this time.

Instead, Acting Mayor Kim Janey, Councillor Andrea Campbell, and former city economic development chief John Barros decided to follow the playbook of staging redundant individual campaigns. The approach is more appropriate for opponents from more privileged communities — and a luxury that the Black political class can ill afford.

They fell victim to a flawed understanding of their role in the political system that historian Harold Cruse identified as "The Crisis of the Negro Intellectual," which, Cruse described in his 1967 tome, involved the reluctance of Black leadership to appreciate the pitfalls of a liberal agenda and individualistic strategies. He argued on behalf of developing strategies of group political and economic unity as an instrument of empowerment in a pluralistic American society.

The Black candidates in the preliminary appeared to suffer from a contemporary version of such short-sightedness. They appeared to be swayed by associations with liberal groups, and placed an emphasis on a progressive agenda that inadequately speaks to the cultural and spiritual needs of their community.

In doing so, the candidates ignored the history of unrequited Black aspirations in Boston politics

and failed to learn from the model of unity politics that propelled the Irish Catholic political class for generations.

Adding to the confusion was the prominent former police commissioner, William Gross, touting Essaibi George, a candidate from outside of the culture. So, is it any surprise that the 20 percent Black voter base was badly splintered? Now the community finds itself in the familiar position of being on the outside of executive power looking in.

However, all may not be lost if the Black political class is up to the challenge of asserting the influence of its base. There is a small chance to flip the script of the preliminary election.

More than likely, the preliminary's winners, Wu and Essaibi George, will split the votes of liberals and white voters in the general election. This still leaves the Black and Hispanic communities without an authentic representative in the contest. The void creates an opportunity for a well-known Black candidate to be competitive with the support of a unified base, and outreach to the Hispanic community, among others.

For that reason, either Kim Janey or Andrea Campbell should consider initiating a "sticker campaign" for mayor. They owe it to the nearly 45 percent of voters that supported the three African American candidates in the preliminary. Understand that with the changing demographics of Boston, this election may be the last chance for the Black community to elect one of its own as mayor.

Roger House is an associate professor of American studies at Emerson College and author of "Blue Smoke: The Recorded Journey of Big Bill Broonzy," a book about Chicago blues artist William Broonzy.

Migrant Haitian crisis reaches critical stage at Texas border

By Ali Noorani SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

We read about Haiti a lot, but we don't think about Haiti a lot. But now, the reality of a flow of Haitian migration that began 11 years ago has reached the nation's doorstep.

In January 2010, the island nation of 11 million people less than 700 miles from Miami was hit by a 7.0-magnitude earthquake just outside of Port-au Prince that destroyed some 105,000 homes and damaged more than 208,000 others, affecting around 3 million people. About 200,000 people died.

In the ensuing years, large numbers of Haitians migrated to Brazil for construction jobs ahead of the 2016 Olympics. Then, as the political situation in Brazil worsened, they moved on to Chile.

In a very helpful August 2020 paper, the Migration Policy Institute's Georges Fouron wrote that remittances from the 1.6 million Haitians living outside the country accounted for 37 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP)—a share larger than every country in the world except Tonga.

Yet, tragedy rarely bypasses Haiti.

According to the New York Times, "Just since July, when President Jovenel Moïse was shot, [Haiti has] faced a devastating earthquake and flash floods, disasters that left over 2,000 dead and many more injured and displaced, adding to the toll that poverty, hunger and increasing violence already exact on the country."

Add to that the political and economic instability of Latin and South America and it is no surprise that over the past 11 months more than 29,000 Haitians have arrived at the US-Mexico border, "including some in mixed-nationality families with children born in Brazil, Chile, or other South American nations."

Which number does not include the tens of thousands of Haitians currently stranded in Tapachula, Mexico, where, according to the Los Angeles Times, "waves of Mexican national guard forces in riot gear, backed by immigration agents, block the roads heading north." It remains to be seen if this situation is changed by the news that over the weekend "Haiti and Mexico agreed to establish a permanent dialogue to address the situation of irregular migration flows, including the transit through Mexico.'

By last Wednesday, drone footage of approximately10,000 migrants, most of them Haitian, camped under a bridge between the Rio Grande and Del Rio, Texas, was rocketing across conservative media.

After viewing the scene, US Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas said of the situation, "It is the most horrific thing I've ever seen," and he laid blame at the feet of the Biden administration's decision to "stop flying deportation flights back to Haiti."

Texas's Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick went on Fox News to $call\,the\,situation\,an\,\hbox{``invasion''}\,and\,accuse\,Democrats$ of "trying to take over our country without firing a

Incidentally, a strong case can be made that former President Trump's use of the term "invasion" was mimicked by the man accused of killing 20 people in El Paso in August 2019 when he wrote in his manifesto, "this attack is a response to the Hispanic invasion of Texas."

Faced with a menu of difficult choices, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) last Saturday released a six-point plan to address the situation. The decision to move additional personnel and resources to the border and work with federal, state, and local partners to improve the conditions faced by the Haitian migrants on US soil is a critical step forward.

But, in the rush to organize removal flights, a few things must be kept in mind.

First of all, there are likely valid asylum claims among the thousands of people along the river.

Letter to the Editor

Historical Society notes that it can't submit Landmarks petitions

To the editor:

Re recent articles in your publication of Sept. 16: "Restoration eyed for key Fields Corner site" and "Plan for housing on Meetinghouse Hill stirs debate."

It is important that readers understand that the Dorchester Historical Society per se is not eligible to submit petitions to the Boston Landmarks Commission. Only registered voters or Commissioners of the Boston Landmarks Commission may submit

The Society may express opinions, but the BLC guidelines do not allow a Society or other organizations to initiate a petition.

Any petitions that have been submitted to the BLC were signed by registered voters.

Earl Taylor **Dorchester Historical Society** returned to face persecution.

Remember that in May, the administration granted Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to Haitians in the US because "Haiti is currently experiencing serious security concerns, social unrest, an increase in human rights abuses, crippling poverty, and lack of basic resources, which are exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic." Since TPS only protects those in the US at the time of the designation, recent arrivals remain subject to removal.

Furthermore, if the appeal to keep Title 42 in place for family units fails, the administration will be limited in how it can rely on the health rule for removals. Even as the administration turns to the expedited removal process, which also has due process shortcomings, the question remains: Can the system handle it?

Whether or not Haiti can handle the influx is another question. Jean Négot Bonheur Delva, the head of Haiti's Office of National Migration, told the Miami Herald that "fourteen thousand people are expected to descend on us here. It is too much."

The Biden administration also indicated it is working with third countries in the region that the Haitian migrants either resided in, or transited through, to return them there. While the statute allows for returns to third countries "pursuant to a bilateral or multilateral agreement," it is far from clear that Haitians will be returned to a place where they will not be persecuted.

The humanitarian crisis in Del Rio is on top of the arrival of Afghans across the country, in addition to efforts to protect the undocumented via budget reconciliation, and parallel to a continuing flow of migrants from Central America. The left will pro-

Without due process protections, Haitians may be test the summary removal of Haitians. The right will call for further hardening of the border. And all of this as former Trump aides are laying plans to build opposition to the resettlement of Afghans in the United States. In the middle will be the vast swath of Americans wondering which side is correct.

Which brings me to a conversation I had last Sunday afternoon with T XX, a volunteer in Del Rio, ahead of my trip there this week.

"Hold on a minute," TXX said when she answered. "Don't hang up, or I will get distracted before I can call back.'

In the background, I heard rustling. Speaking to someone else, she said "Okay, here's the car seat, but I need it back."

There was a pause. The other person said something.

"You're right," TXX said. "Hang onto it."

Getting back to me, she said, "Just trying to help get this family to the hospital. We saw this coming 10 months ago."

And, in a no nonsense, you've got two minutes till something else happens, TXX asked, "What do you need?"

Which conversation was a stark reminder that whether it is the Afghan crisis that played out over weeks, or the culmination of a decade of Haitian migration we are seeing now, ultimately, this is about people pinned against borders they are hoping

Ali Noorani is the president and CEO of National Immigration Forum and America is Better, author of There Goes the Neighborhood, and host of the podcast Only in America. He is a former resident of Dorchester, where he worked for the health center organization, DotWell.



Everyone's House Has a History Curious to know about yours?

Request a House History from the Dorchester Historical Society!

Our volunteer researchers use extensive online resources to look for information about the original owner, year of construction, previous occupants, and more, for houses in Dorchester and Mattapan. A written report documents their findings for you.

Go to www.dorchesterhistoricalsociety.org and click House History dropdown to request individual house research and see completed histories.

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For more information on scheduling, please visit: www.DotHouseHealth.org

T's GM on bus reliability: 'Our customers depend on it'

By GINTAUTAS DUMCIUS Managing Editor

The MBTA is focusing on improving bus service, increasing efficiency through dedicated bus lanes, and rebuilding its facilities so they can accommodate electric vehicles, the public transit agency's general manager said in an interview with the *Reporter*.

Since the start of the pandemic in March 2020, buses have remained one of the "most durable" parts of the transit system, which also includes the subway, trolleys, commuter rail, and ferry. Ridership on buses has hovered around 60 percent capacity, while the subway is at 42 percent, and the commuter lines at 35 percent.

Bus ridership, which

includes essential workers who continue to come in every weekday amid coronavirus, fell to 20 percent early in the pandemic, before bouncing up to 40 percent in summer 2020 and arriving at 60 percent this summer.

Ridership on the Route 28 bus is even higher, at 78 percent, and does not include numbers from the fare-free pilot that began on Aug. 29 and runs through Nov. 29. The route runs from Mattapan Square to the Ruggles MBTA station in Roxbury.

The Route 28 bus struggles with reliability as it goes up and down the busy thoroughfares of Blue Hill Avenue and Warren Street. The slow ride has driven MBTA officials to consider how

to speed up bus trips and increase reliability.

"We know our customers depend on it," said Steve Poftak, who took over as general manager in 2018 after serving for three years on the MB-TA's oversight board.

"Success breeds success," he said in pressing for more dedicated bus lanes. "If a bus ride is faster and more reliable, more people want to take the bus and it's viewed as an option."

Officials are working on a dedicated bus lane in the Route 28 corridor, and aiming to avoid the controversy of 2009, when an express busway was sought. But the "28X" proposal, as it was known, drew fire from opponents in the community who were concerned about the elimination of parking spaces and the loss of trees along the Blue Hill Avenue median.

Poftak said MBTA officials are working with community leaders "to make sure we get that right" this time around.

This time around, he said, in part due to the pandemic, there is a broader acknowledgment" about the importance of a reliable bus system.

A new fare collection system, which allows riders to use their phones and credit cards as a MBTA pass, is expected to be operational system-wide in 2024. That will likely speed up bus travel, as people can easily board the bus, rather than wait in line as someone fumbles with change or feeds a ticket into a machine.

Poftak acknowledged a trust deficit remains among riders who are seeking to get to their destinations in a timely manner. "We can always improve our reliability. We are working hard to hire up, to get more people out there so we can get more service out there," he said.

"I think we are facing challenges like almost every other business is facing challenges in terms of staffing levels right now," he added, referencing the restaurant sector and other industries that are searching for workers. "That's not a funding issue. We have the funds allocated, we're just having to hire and train and properly certify bus operators and train operators. It's not a simple thing."

The improvements, along with new Red Line cars with more capacity and more frequent service, come as the Greater Boston area sees a population boom that will add to the T's burden of shuttling customers across the city on a daily basis.

The agency is working with city officials in Boston, Quincy, and elsewhere, who control the roads and signals to help buses move along in a faster manner.

"The T can't do it alone," Poftak said.

State removes decrepit stairs near JFK/UMass station

in New York's Washington Heights, Jones was remembered as a "devoted husband and father of three children, a beloved teacher and a writer who dedicated his work to health justice," according to his obituary.

In the days after his death, it was unclear

(Continued from page 1) which state agency had custody of the staircase. Care and custody of the staircase was trans $ferred\,to\,MassDOT\,from$ the state Department of Conservation and Recreation under a 2009 transportation reform law, according to an agency spokesperson. MassDOT demolished the staircase after checking with in-

vestigators.

Gov. Baker spoke to reporters about the stairs after an unrelated meeting with top state lawmakers. "We felt it was important to take them down," Baker said, according to the *Boston* Globe.

Annissa Essaibi George, a city councillor at-large and candidate



The stairs that led down from top right were removed over the weekend by state workers. Gintautas Dumcius photo

for mayor who lives not far from where the tragedy occurred, said the fatality brings to mind the continued disrepair of infrastructure, whether it's state-owned or city-owned.

"This was a huge safety issue," she said. "We have to make sure at the city level that we are reviewing all of our public spaces and when they're not safe, we need to move quickly. My heart breaks for the family, for their loss."

City Councillor at-Large Michelle Wu, who is also running for mayor, said she was "devastated" by Jones's death and extended her condolences to his family.

"This terrible incident shows that failure to invest in our public infrastructure can have tragic consequences," she said. "I will be following the investigations closely to determine what happened and work to ensure it never happens again."

While the stairs were close to the JFK/UMass MBTA station, they did not belong to the transit agency. But the stairs that directly lead up to the station, from the busway, are also rusting and appear to be shored up with lumber.

Similarly, the stairs leading up to the platform at the Fields Corner station, just two stops away, are also in rough shape, with cracks appearing in the stone and evidence of efforts to add mortar and bind the steps. That station was completely renovated more than ten years ago.

The MBTA spends roughly \$31 million a year on maintenance and upkeep of its facilities.

"Regular maintenance is a central component of the MBTA's asset management program and includes inspections, preventative maintenance, and corrective maintenance of our vehicles and infrastructure," MBTA spokesman Joe Pesaturo said in an emailed statement after the Reporter asked about the state of the stairs.

The transit agency has a reliability engineering group that regularly inspects MBTA properties, with help from third-party engineering firms that identify safety concerns.

"All MBTA stairs are routinely inspected by the MBTA and reviewed by third party engineering firms," Pesaturo added. "Patch repair work has been performed from time to time, and the steel treads have been deemed stable in recent inspections."

In an interview on Sept. 2, before Jones's death, MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak acknowledged the state of the Fields Corner steps. The combination of stone and metal, along with the vibration of the train station, isn't working well, he said. "Right now, we're in Band-aid mode in terms of fixing it."

MBTA officials are trying to find another design that is "more durable," he added.

When I took this job, I didn't realize how much time I'd spend on stairwells," said Poftak, who assumed the GM post on a permanent basis in 2018.. "They're an issue at a bunch of different places throughout the system.'



Report: MBTA on course toward 'fiscal calamity'

By Matt Murphy STATE HOUSE **News Service**

As candidates for governor and mayor of Boston tout plans for fare-free public transit before the end of the decade, a new report suggests the MBTA could be facing a "fiscal calamity" in a just a few years, needing \$1.25 billion in new annual revenue just to meet operating and capital needs.

The Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation published a report on Sept. 16 describing the financial future of the state's largest public transit agency as "unequivocal and unsettling."

Despite the infusion of \$2 billion in federal stimulus funds during the pandemic to offset declines in ridership, the nonprofit research group said that by the spring of 2023 the MBTA could be looking at an operating budget gap of between \$200 million and \$400 $million\,for\,the\,next\,fiscal\,year.$

By fiscal year 2025, the gap grows to \$450 million and by fiscal year 2026 it reaches \$500 million, requiring substantial fare increases or service cuts and layoffs, according to the report.

The authors of the study described the predicament facing public officials, including the next governor, as a "Hobbesian choice" between raising revenue or accepting service cuts "that will exacerbate inequities and derail the Greater Boston economy."

The dire forecast for the financial future of the MBTA



 $A Route \, 28 \, bus \, to \, Ruggles \, drives \, through \, the \, Nubian \, Square \, bus \, station. \, Robin \, Lubbock / WBUR$

comes just two days after Boston City Councillor Michelle Wu topped the ticket in the preliminary election for mayor. Wu was among the first elected officials a couple of years ago to call for making the T free, and that platform has been taken up by Democrats like Ben Downing, who as a candidate for governor, has promised fare-free public transit by the end of a first term.

The MTF report said that in order for the MBTA to properly plan, Beacon Hill must decide by the spring of 2023 whether it will be possible to come up with an additional \$500 million a year in operating budget funding, or pursue alternatives like fare increases.

The gap on the capital side is even larger, according to the business-backed think tank, with between \$700 million and \$800 million a year needed to finance the \$13 billion in infrastructure repairs and maintenance and \$7 billion in climate change investments that will be needed by 2031.

Part of the problem for the MBTA will be the lingering effects of the pandemic long after the virus is under control, MTF said.

Commuter rail fares, according to MTF, represented \$239 million or 36 percent of the MBTA's total fare revenues in fiscal year 2019, but with more people working remotely the foundation said it's unlikely

those totals will fully recover from the pandemic.

Downing has put forward a plan to pay for his transportation agenda that would rely on a combination of higher gas taxes, congestion pricing, fees on Uber and Lyft rides and income tax revenue from the proposed "millionaires tax," which will be on the 2022

The wealth tax proposes to put a 4 percent surtax on all household income over \$1 million, which supporters anticipate will generate up to \$2 billion in new annual revenue that must be dedicated to transportation or education. If it does pass, competition for those dollars could be stiff with education advocates also eyeing investments in K-12 education and debt-free college.

The foundation said that even if Congress passes a massive transportation infrastructure package it will "not meaningfully change" the roughly \$20 billion gap between available and needed capital to fix existing infrastructure, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and protect MBTA assets from sea level rise and storm surges.

The transportation bill that passed the US Senate would deliver as much as \$2.5 billion to Massachusetts over five years, according to MTF, but some estimates from the American Public Transit Association have suggested that the Boston metro area would receive just \$370 million more over five years than it will under the current authorization bill.

Other money in the new federal package would be allocated through competitive grants, which Transportation Secretary Jamey Tesler said recently the state would be ready to compete for "aggressively."

If state policymakers do find the new revenue, it would still not cover any expanded service options beyond the Green Line Extension, South Coast Rail, and the Red-Blue Line Connector.

"This report has laid out a stark reality. Patches and quick fixes cannot buy enough time, nor can the MBTA fix this," the authors concluded.

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Griffin, Kevin		Plunkett, Quinn		32 Roseclair St #3	Dorchester	08/23/21	689,000
Taylor, Matthew J	Wise, Kim	Pieniazek, Adam	Wassum, Allie	38 Edwin St #1	Dorchester	08/25/21	652,000
An, Harry		465 Development LLC		50 Dorset St #2	Dorchester	08/23/21	930,000
Bononi, Angela		465 Development LLC		50 Dorset St #3	Dorchester	08/24/21	585,000
Kurra, Vikram		465 Development LLC		50 Dorset St #1	Dorchester	08/24/21	877,000
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Kenny, Sean		4 Payne St LLC		4 Payne St #1	Dorchester	08/27/21	715,000
Mcneil, Benjamin	Robinson, Blair A	4 Payne St LLC		4 Payne St #3	Dorchester	08/27/21	855,000
Bell, Scott	Bell, Christina	Zemmell, Benjamin G		38 Pleasant St #5	Dorchester	09/01/21	610,000
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Stephens, David E		Carter, Ambruce B	Gentles, Anthony M	12 Wilmington Ave	Dorchester	08/30/21	800,200
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Mcevoy, Christopher C		Cullinane, Robert F	Cullinane, Elaine J	12 Saint Brendan Rd	Dorchester	08/30/21	785,000
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Mejia on her strong at-large showing: People need to know it's not about me

finisher Alejandra St. Guillen.

This time around, Mejia - now an incumbent- can point to solid showings across the city.

"I came in fourth in Ward 20, which is West Roxbury, and everyone was surprised by that," she said. "We dominated in the neighborhoods that have the highest percentage of people of color, low-income and immigrants...We did well in all the spaces we worked really hard in because all these spaces have always been neglected.

... I always tell people you may not agree with me on any policies, but you'll know where I stand. What you see is what you get...Even in some places like East Boston and Charlestown, I even had some more conservative white folks who voted for me. They said they don't like my politics, but like me because I'm so feisty. They like that I'm willing to fight, even if they don't agree with me."

By the numbers, Mejia showed a broad base of support citywide that maybe didn't show up as strongly the first time she ran. She dominated in District 6, which in-

(Continued from page 1) cludes Jamaica Plain, and won many of the precincts there with large vote totals. She had a strong showing in South Boston at the Condon School in Ward 6, Precinct 1 with 424 votes. In the South End, she logged 432 votes at the Cathedral High School precinct (3-7), and 473 votes at the Benjamin Franklin Institute precinct (5-1).

In Dorchester, she won 27 of the 32 precincts that make up the District 4 territory, which is where she lives as well. But surprisingly, her largest vote total at any one precinct came in Chinatown, where she got 647 votes at the Wang YMCA (3-8).

She points to the fact that she, like so many, has an authentic story of immigrating to Boston when she was very young then living in Four Corners and walking down Washington Street to school. She said that experience was something she brought to City Hall and was part of the work she did over her first term that was dominated by Covid-19, with shutdowns coming only three months after she took office.

"I'm an immigrant," she said. "I'm not the daughter of an immigrant. I came here at a young age and had to learn English like so many others and that resonates in a lot of places, and in that space, because it's first-hand and authentic...We've done more in one term than some people have done in 10 years to move the needle forward for communities that have been neglected in the short-term and that resonated around the city. We delivered and we have something to show for our time in office."

We didn't have the capacity to do mailers," she said, saying they would cost about \$25,000. "I'm incredibly in awe that we came 2,500 votes off the top of [Michael] Flaherty without that resource. It's incredibly humbling we did what we did with no resources...If there's one strategy moving forward for November's election, it's to raise more money so we can send out one or two mailers because I see what they can do."

While there was support from many corners of the city, including much of Dorchester, Mejia also had some actively working against her, including the Boston Police Patrolman's Union.

Mejia is well aware that some members of the Boston Police don't support her, but she said she knows many Black and brown members of the force who believe her stances on policing are correct. Regardless, she said, she's ready to do battle on the issue if re-elected in November.

"I have family that are in law enforcement." she said. "I am unapologetic about the deep reforms that our policing needs. I'm not afraid to call that out because we expect our police officers to be everything to everyone and to address housing issues, mental health problems, but we need them to do the job and they can't do that if they're being everything to everyone...Some people have a hard time with that because they feel we're taking away.

"The experiences of people I know and the conversations I've had with Black and brown police officers leads me to believe there's a lot of work to do in the BPD if we're serious about righting the wrongs," she added while noting she hears of a lack of promotions of Black and brown officers.

"They can hoot and holler all they want, but I'm not going anywhere...I grew up in Dorchester and I'm ready to fight somebody [on this], so let's go. I'm not here to be safe.

So it is, as she continues her campaign, she also continues to campaign for others who feel the same way and are on the same page with her -including at-large candidates Carla Monteiro and Ruthzee Louijeune. Early in the campaign, in fact, she took the unique position of endorsing Monteiro, her de facto competition for one of the four citywide seats. She has spoken about of electing Louijeune, too.

But the idea, she said, isn't to win and sit on top of a pyramid, but to gather like-minded people – elected and non-elected – in a circle to move forward the top priorities of those in the neighborhood.

"I am working to prove a point and to send a strong message to the establishment we can do this with or without you, so get on board or get left behind," she said. "My goal now is to get councillors in the top four. I should be focusing on my own campaign now, but I want [Monteiro] on the Council. I need someone else like me from the streets. I appreciate the polish and pedigree, but I don't want to be the only one out there that is hood...It's just not about myself here."



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MCAS scores show near universal slide during pandemic

By Katie Lannan State House News Service

The first MCAS tests administered in the Covid-19 era featured drops in scores "across the board," the state's education commissioner said Tuesday, adding that the results show "everyone is going to have to step forward" to address kids' mental health and academic needs.

"I think the headline today is that it appears that racial achievement gaps did not increase, and that is because drops were seen all over the commonwealth of Massachusetts, including our wealthiest suburbs," Commissioner Jeff Riley told the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

"For example," he said, "Lexington experienced double-digit drops in grade three to eight math proficiency. These are drops that districts have not seen to this degree probably in the last 30 years, and they are spread out uniformly across the commonwealth."

Riley said results from the spring 2021 MCAS tests align with national trends that show "smaller drops in English language arts and more pronounced drops in mathematics compared to two years ago."

The state did not administer its standardized tests in the spring of 2020, when schools abruptly pivoted to remote learning as the pandemic took hold. A year later, they issued the annual exams with several adjustments, including shorter tests for third through eighth graders and a remote option.

Of the more than 1 million tests administered last year, about 85 percent were administered in-person and 15 percent remotely, according to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

On the third through eighth grade tests, the percentage of students scoring "meeting expectations" or higher fell from 49 percent in 2019 to 33 percent in 2021. For the English language arts test, it dropped from 52 percent in 2019 to 46 percent in 2021.

In tenth grade, the percentage of students meeting or exceeding expectations in math was also down -- to 52 percent from 59 percent – while it ticked upward in English, rising to 64 percent from 61 percent in 2019.

The 2020-2021 school year was marked by stretches of remote learning, while families continued to cope with the health and economic ramifications of the coronavirus. Because of the pandemic's disruptions, education officials agreed not to issue new

Officials ponder how to deal with setbacks

school or district accountability determinations this year.

Gov. Baker said the results "showed exactly what I think all of us believed we would see. The good news, to the extent there was some, is the learning loss on the English language exams was less significant than I think people anticipated it would be." The learning loss on the math exams was pretty significant, he noted. "I think we, and our colleagues in local government, need to put a lot of the federal resources that we both received to work on a variety of acceleration academies and special programs."

A day after lawmakers heard testimony on bills that would pause MCAS administration or eliminate its use as a graduation requirement, several groups on Tuesday described the results as an important source of information about how students have fared amid the pandemic.

The Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education said that because school leaders have had the results since July, there has been "sufficient time to plan for how to get students back on track, and the substantial levels of federal funding they continue to receive means they have the resources to invest in what is needed, including new approaches."

Democrats for Education Reform state director Liam Kerr said educators should use the test scores "to zero in on what students need to learn as part of their academic recovery from the pandemic's effects," and Keri Rodrigues of Massachusetts Parents United said that families "should be asking how district and school leaders used MCAS scores over the summer to create informed plans to guide student learning and propel their academic recovery in the 2021-2022 school year."

Meanwhile, the American Federation of Teachers Massachusetts said it would "continue working to advance legislative fixes to our state's broken assessment and accountability system," singling out Education Committee co-chair Sen. Jason Lewis's bill (S 361) creating a commission "to Re-Imagine School Assessment and Accountability."

"Instead of spending time preparing for standardized tests that have limited meaning and utility, our focus this year should be on providing all students with the support, staffing, and resources they need to address both their academic and social-emotional needs — needs that in many cases were exacerbated by the pandemic," AFT Massachusetts President Beth Kontos said.

The Massachusetts Teachers Association pushed back against the results and what it described as "false interpretations being put on them by groups favoring privatization and other ways to disrupt public education."

"The MTA maintains that the MCAS simply measures the degree to which a community has been under-resourced and underfunded – and the degree to which narrow curriculum frameworks alienate so many students," MTA President Merrie Najimy said.

The education board's MCAS discussion Tuesday was interrupted by the sounding of an alarm in the state office building where the meeting was taking place, on Ashburton Place across from the State House. Board members evacuated, and the proceedings were paused for about 20 minutes.

When they returned, member Matt Hills brought up the three-year memoradnum of understanding announced last year between state education officials and the Boston school system, which the department has said includes a focus on "measurable improvements" at 33 schools.

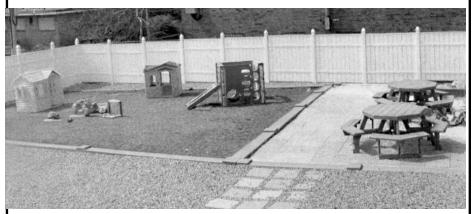
"I just want to say to you, Jeff, that as you go through the fall and you assess the situation, there's a point at which we should have a conversation about whether to go further and look at receivership, or whether to say, at some point, you just can't fix individual problems if that core issue is not going to be addressed in the organization," he told Riley.

In Boston, 20 percent of tested students met or exceeded expectations on grade three through eight math tests, down 13 percentage points from 2019, and 31 percent met or exceeded expectations on English language arts (ELA) tests in those grades, down four points from 2019.

"The results released today confirm what we all know: our kids struggled during this pandemic, and it will require an all-hands-on-deck approach to ensure we do everything possible to get them caught up," Boston superintendent Brenda Cassellius said in a statement. "We will continue our investments in supporting our students' health and well-being, as well as sharpening our focus on accelerating our students' academic achievement."



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Housing aid flowed at higher rates over summer

By Chris Lisinski STATE HOUSE News Service

Exactly 11 months after the state's pandemic-inspired moratorium on evictions expired, Baker administration and judiciary officials touted the effort to connect renters and landlords with emergency aid as a model of success even as advocates and lawmakers contended that the system still has harmful gaps.

Top deputies to Gov. Baker and court leaders said they feel confident that the Bay State's response is working well to keep vulnerable residents housed, particularly after some housing activists and lawmakers warned that the US Supreme Court's Aug. 26 ruling lifting a federal eviction moratorium would exacerbate the strain.

Massachusetts has significantly ramped up its distribution of rental aid in recent months and has implemented changes to streamline the process, the officials said last Friday, adding that the state is on pace to clear a major federal benchmark that could result in additional dollars heading to the Bay State.

"We certainly understand and recognize there's been a lot of ongoing concerns Emergency Housing Assistance Programs – ERAP, RAFT, ERMA, and SHERA Since the launch of ERAP in March 2021, an average of \$35M has been distributed each month (over \$1M per day) and has assisted between 9,000 - 15,500+ households per month.

Massachusetts has distributed almost \$270 million in emergency rental assistance funding to more than 40,000 households since March 2020, according to figures the Baker administration published on Sept. 17.

among renters and landlords impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, especially in light of recent actions by the Supreme Court on the CDC moratorium," said Housing and Economic Development Secretary Mike Kennealy. "There's a lot of national stories and national coverage on the topic, and we frankly don't believe the national headlines are an accurate depiction of what's happening here in Massachusetts.'

The state has distributed nearly \$270 million in emergency housing assistance to more than 40,000 unique households since March 2020, according to data the administration presented on Sept. 17.

The pace has been accelerating since late last year, too. In December, the state distributed \$4.1 million in rental aid to 1,363 households; by August, the monthly total reached \$46 million and 15,644 households, officials said. The release of funds in August was more than twice as much as the \$20 million annual budget the Residential Assistance for Families in Transition Program had before the

Officials said Massachusetts is likely to achieve an important benchmark by the end of the month.

pandemic.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act former President Donald Trump signed in December, which awarded the first major batch of federal emergency rental aid, requires states to spend or obligate at least 65 percent of the funding by Sept. 30. Any state that fails to meet that target could have the remainder of its funding reclaimed by the US Treasury and reallocated to another

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state that succeeded.

As of Sept. 10, officials said, Massachusetts had spent or obligated \$266.5 million from its first batch of Emergency Rental Assistance funding. That represents 61 percent of the initial pot, just 4 percentage points short of the endof-month goal.

Department of Housing and Community Development Chief of Programs Amy Stitley called that "a really good position to take other funds should they become available."

Since January, the administration has been operating a rental application processing center and has automatically income-qualified all verified MassHealth and Department of Transitional Assistance applicants for rental aid.

Those changes "allowed the state to really hit its stride" in March, said DHCD Undersecretary Jennifer Maddox.

Today, applicants need four major documents to seek emergency housing assistance: an identification for the head of household; proof of residence, such as a lease; verification that they face a housing crisis, such as a court summons for an eviction; and verification of income, which for most applicants already happens via MassHealth or DTA.

"We think we've hit a really nice balance of program integrity and getting aid out fast," Stitely said.

However, some attorneys who work with tenants facing eviction and lawmakers who have pushed for a more sweeping response do not share the administration's sense of pride in the diversion initiative.

Molly Broderick, an attorney in the housing unit at Greater Boston Legal Services, said the administration has implemented "some productive changes, especially in the last month," but that the program overall is "still not where it needs to be.

"Here in Massachusetts, we're still seeing the money is really, really hard to access. Maybe more people are getting access to it than in June, but in June, the majority of applications for rental assistance were getting rejected," Broderick told the News Service. "Just because it's gotten better doesn't mean that it's enough."

Baker and lawmakers allowed the state's eviction moratorium to expire in October 2020. The administration and court officials instead launched a diversion initiative designed to connect landlords and tenants to emergency aid, mediation, and legal help.

Since the state moratorium lifted, about 14,700 new eviction cases for failure to pay rent have been filed in Massachusetts, according to Trial Court data.

Officials said Friday that the state processed 16,774 applications from the week of July 5 through the week of Aug. 23. Sixty percent of those were approved, 7 percent were denied, and 33 percent timed out, they said.

Time-outs typically occur when an applicant or landlord has not provided enough information or responded to outreach, and DHCD gives each candidate a 14-day period to reopen their application after it expires. Officials said about 20 percent of applicants take that opportunity, and that half of those who reapply get approved for aid.

up staffing at its rental application processing center, provide clearer instructions, and conduct door-knocking campaigns to reduce the impact of expired applications, officials said.

Of the 18,500 households served between March and August, almost 60 percent were extremely low-income, 40 percent identified as Hispanic or Latino, 29 percent identified as Black, and 69 percent had a woman head of household, according to administration data presented Friday.

Advocates and lawmakers continue to push for legislation that would reinstitute a state-level temporary ban on evictions and foreclosures, require landlords to exhaust all rental assistance options before seeking an eviction, and order additional streamlining to the aid application process.

"We can have gratitude and appreciation for all of the public servants who are working to respond to the need for rental assistance, but my take, and this is based on both interactions with constituents as well as feedback from front-line advocates, is that the system is working decently for people who have representation but not working so well or working well at all for underrepresented individuals or for people who are trying to access the system cold," Rep. Mike Connolly, a Cambridge Democrat who has backed that legislation, said in an interview.

A pandemic-era law requires courts to freeze all eviction cases while an application for rental aid is pending, but Trial Court Chief Justice Paula Carey said Friday that any eviction case will still go on a tenant's legal record even if proceedings are paused.

Broderick warned that unless the state can keep cases out of court in the first place, tenants will still face lasting consequences even if they receive rental aid.

"The second that someone has an eviction case against them, it goes on their record, and we know statistically it can really get in the way of finding housing in the DHCD plans to bulk future," Broderick said.

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the beer and wine situa-

tion, and just what kind

Food truck operators plan an eatery in Codman Square

(Continued from page 1) opportunity with Travis Lee and TLee Development to plan an anchor restaurant in an area with virtually no dining options.

Cynthia Loesch of the Codman Square Neighborhood Council spoke highly of the effort, noting that it was in a food desert and an area where there are very few healthy options. That's an argument she and others made in successfully blocking a Popeye's Fried Chicken from opening in Codman Square in the last few

"We don't have a sit-down healthy food restaurant in Codman Square in our business district," Loesch said. "We're thrilled you're committed to this neighborhood. We're happy we will have an establishment where we can go with a family like other neighborhoods have... Codman Square really needs this."

The build-out has been



A mural from a Dorchester graffiti artist sits inside the Talbot Avenue location where the Fresh Food Generation food truck firm plans to open its first Seth Daniel photo brick-and-mortar restaurant.

ongoing for about a year, they said, and they are about a month away from opening. The restaurant includes a large kitchen, with eight seats indoors and multiple outdoor spaces that will likely be programmed and have approximately 20 to 30 seats. They will load and unload the food truck in a spot behind the building, so as not to tie up Talbot Avenue and the Lee School.

Some of the dishes proposed for the menu are already favorites on the food truck, and include rice plates, salmon, red bean stew, Jamaican jerk chicken, and a popular Kale Salad. Right now, they are waiting on a Sept. 29 date at the License Board for a common victualers permit license and a beer and wine license.

Some neighbors on Monday's West of Washof drinking would be going on, as it's a fairly new situation for Talbot Avenue. Campbell said it wasn't a big part of the operation.

"I see it as sort of in the same context of wanting to provide the neighborhood with a resource where people can get a quick bite to eat or have a bit to eat outside and if someone wants to have a glass of wine or get a beer with the food, we want to have that available. ... much like Haley House [in Nubian Square] where they have beer and wine but no one is going there to have a fun night on the town."

Some neighbors were

glad to see an owner of color working her way up, and choosing to expand west of Washington Street – noting that they want to see more entrepreneurs of color grow and expand their businesses in Codman Square areas.

Other neighbors were worried about parking, and what might happen to the surrounding streets if the location were to become very successful. Both the Codman Square Neighborhood Council, WOW, and Fresh Food Generation said they would look into partnering with nearby lots for potential parking relief if things take off.

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> Contact Information: Bianca Hagan at bhagan@spsne.com; 978-994-4891

SPS New England, Inc. is bidding MBTA Contract No. B45CN03 Dorchester Avenue over MBTA Red Line, Cabot Yard Spur, and Old Colony Main Line, Boston, MA on September 23, 2021 and is seeking DBE subcontractors & suppliers interested in performing work relative to the project. Any interested qualified DBE subcontractor or supplier should contact Bianca Hagan at bhagan@spsne. com; 978-994-4891.

All responses must be returned no later than 12:00 noon on September 30, 2021, to Bianca Hagan, bhagan@spsne.com.

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BPDA board approves twin proposals for Uphams Corner

• Housing above a new library New operator for the Strand

By SETH DANIEL REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

The Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) board last Tuesday (Sept. 14) approved a pair of proposals aimed at finding a private operator for the city-owned Strand Theatre and building a new library branch in Uphams Corner, along with affordable housing that would be built in tandem with the new facility.

City officials are hailing the board's vote as a pivotal moment following nearly five years of planning to create what the Walsh administration termed the "Uphams Corner Arts & Innovation District.

 $The first \, Request \, for \, Proposal \, (RFP)$ seeks a developer to build affordable housing units on top of a new branch library that would replace the former Bank of America building at 555-559 Columbia Rd.

Previously the library branch was meant to be at the corner where the Santander Bank is, but the city and the private owner of that parcel couldn't come to terms, leaving the best option -according to the BPDA-to be affordable housing with a branch library on the bottom floor.

That is now being shopped around as the latest innovation in housing in Boston, dubbed by the agency as the "Housing with Public Assets" initiative. It would require changes to existing regulations as well.

BPDA project manager Megan Mc-Daniel said the RFP for 555-559 Columbia Rd. is seeking a developer that will also deliver an empty shell for the library branch, as well as a commercial space. The respondent would also be responsible for finding an operator for the Strand Theatre, as the RFPs are expected to be packaged together.

Proponents for the site will have to bring a partner or some component of the proposal that will operate the Strand Theatre," said McDaniel.

District 3 City Councillor Frank Baker has championed the idea of having the new library on the first floor, with affordable housing above it. But he has also expressed concern that pairing the library/housing project with the Strand may be too much for one developer to pull off.

"I think the RFP is too big because someone may come in who wants to build a building but may not want to operate the Strand, or the other way around," said Baker. "Really, I think they might need to be flexible...I think it's a little ambitious. I hope that one person could do it, but that's going to be difficult."

Baker would also prefer that two distinct KFPs be issued.

the Uphams district in more holistic in Uphams Corner would be redevel-

terms, particularly when it comes to providing parking for the Strand, something that he said is key to the success of the entire Arts & Innovation

"Especially at night, you want to be parking as close to the theatre as possible," he said. "I put it on the city for not leading the conversation on that."

Baker said the city of Boston should have utilized the formerly publicly owned land at the old Citizens Bank building (568-574 Columbia Rd.) for four decks of parking for the Strand. The developer could have built that within the current development, he said, and could have also built market-rate housing to help support the businesses and the theatre.

Earlier this year Dudley Neighbors, Inc. (DNI) released its own RFP to develop the Citizens Bank building. In May, the group selected a development team co-led by Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation (DBEDC) and Preservation of Affordable Housing (POAH). That proposed development will deliver permanently affordable rental housing, as well as provide affordable commercial space that honors the Arts & Innovation

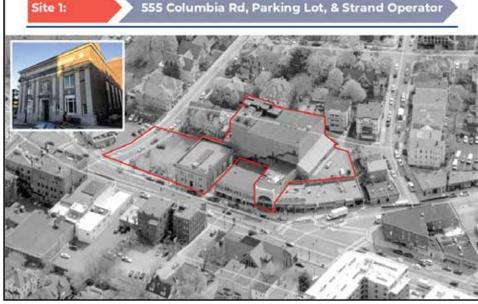
"The city should be doing this in conjunction with the community, but the city needs to drive the discussion up there," Baker said. "I hope we can get it done."

The BPDA and the city's Department of Neighborhood Development (DND) expect to release the two conjoined RFPs before the end of this month or in early October. City officials said the moment is a big one for Uphams Corner and builds on years of planning with the community.

City officials also dubbed it development without displacement – the overall mantra and model for Uphams Corner revitalization.

We have an incredible opportunity in Uphams Corner to revitalize vacant, underutilized properties and parking lots into transformative spaces that will support existing residents and restore the neighborhood into the cultural hub that it is," said Acting Mayor Kim Janey in a statement. These RFPs come after years of community-centered planning, and I thank the members of the WAG, and all of the local stakeholders who have helped us reach this milestone."

The milestone came after numerous city agencies worked for years alongside the Uphams Corner Working Advisory Group (WAG), the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative (DSNI), DNI, and Uphams Corner Main Streets He also wants planners to consider multiple vacant and dilapidated sites



A slide from a 2020 city of Boston presentation on the Uphams Corner planning initative shows the Strand Theatre and the future site of a new library branch at 555 Columbia Rd.

oped to support the local community. The WAG is a city-appointed advisory group consisting of residents, business owners, advocates, and other community leaders.

"DSNI applauds the intentionality behind the language included in the RFP to promote diversity and development without displacement," said John Smith, executive director of the **Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative** and WAG member. "As neighborhoods around the city continue to deal with economic inequities and gentrification, it's important to focus on development without displacement. DSNI has a mission to act as a steward for neighborhood development, and as such we will continue to advocate for community development that does not leave the 'community' behind."

Added Joan Tighe, coordinator for the Fairmount Indigo CDC Collaborative: "As a long time Uphams Corner resident and WAG member, I am excited about the revitalization that is coming. A rejuvenated Strand Theatre and a new public library are critical to the artistic and commercial life of the business district and the surrounding neighborhood. Coupled with the creation of new affordable housing, I see a bright future for Uphams Corner in the years ahead.

One of the more exciting aspects is how the new library for Uphams Corner eliminates the odd configuration of the current branch farther up Columbia Road that utilizes an old, empty municipal pool for a children's reading area.

Components of the new library facility will support arts and innovation, including the ability to host performing arts productions, displays of BPL collections related to the performing arts, and a maker space. To help support the overall district concept, the RFP calls for the commercial space to support arts and innovation, while a significant portion of the affordable housing will be set aside as artist housing.

The site is currently vacant and requires environmental remediation. Once complete, the BPL said it expects the site will serve as a model for similar

situations around the city.

"We cannot wait to deliver on a decades-old promise of a new library for the Uphams Corner community, said BPL president David Leonard. "To be a part of this community-driven collaboration has been incredibly exciting, and we are looking forward to delivering the community a fantastic new, larger public library at the heart of this arts and innovation district."

That is a something that Councillor Baker said he completely supports.

Think about how great it would be if people could go downstairs and their lobby is a library," he said. "Libraries aren't just books; they are the community coming in and looking at each other in the eyes and interacting.

The city also touted the Strand piece $\,$ within the overall RFP, and said it is asking for an experienced operator to join with the housing/library developer and "lead robust programming that supports the local arts community and restores the Strand as a cultural destination for the region and the anchor of the Upham's Corner Arts & Innovation District.'

The city-owned Strand's footprint comprises approximately 56,000 square feet containing 1,400 seats. The city's departments will host a virtual pre-proposal conference on Oct. 13 and a site visit on Oct. 19. Attendance for bidders is optional but strongly encouraged. Responses to the RFPs are due on Dec. 23.

Development opportunity on Hamlet St. parking lot

In addition to the RFPs put out for housing, the library and the Strand, DND also announced an additional opportunity for commercial development on Hamlet Street on what is now an 88-space city-owned surface parking lot behind America's Food Basket. DND is expecting to release the RFP very soon for 0-18 Hamlet Street, and is calling for mixed-use development on the site. That includes affordable commercial space and affordable housing – as well as replacing the 88 spots of public parking within the new development.

The site is currently in use as Municipal Lot #19, and the RFP is explicit in requiring those spaces to be replaced as part of any development proposal in addition to providing parking to support additional uses on the site.

Like all development now in Uphams Corner, commercial development on Hamlet Street will be expected to tap into the vision for the Upham's Corner Arts & Innovation District.

"A portion of the plan for this site should deliver permanently affordable housing to support the Uphams Corner community and promote a mixed-use, mixed-income neighborhood," read a statement from DND. "While housing is not the primary preferred use of this site, a portion of the site can accommodate housing that relates to the scale of other residential structures along Hamlet Street.'



Residents gathered inside the Strand Theatre during a 2018 meeting to plan out the Uphams Corner Arts & Innovation District, which has generated two Requests for Proposals approved by the BPDA board last week. *BPDA photo*



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF DORCHESTER



BGCD Partners with Ron Burton Training Village for Special Retreat for Members: See details below.

CONNECT THE DOT: BGCD Partners with Ron Burton Training Village for Special Retreat for Members: This past Saturday, 20 young men from Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester had the opportunity to attend a day retreat to the Ron Burton Training Village in Hubbardston, MA. The program is strategically designed

to develop and strengthen our youth, (spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and physically) so they are fully equipped to overcome challenges and excel in life. The day included interactive games, STEM activities, competitions and a chance to hear from U.S. Secretary of Labor, Martin J. Walsh.

BGCD and the Ron Burton Training Village will be hosting a similar retreat for our young ladies in the coming weeks. Many thanks to the Burton Family for their hospitality and to all of the volunteers at RBTV for an amazing day for our members.

FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE: BGCD & Martin Richard Foundation Challenger Soccer Program to Begin September 26: Boys & Girls **Clubs of Dorchester and Martin** Richard Foundation partner together every season for our Challenger Sports Program! We are excited for our Fall Soccer sessions to begin on September 26, and registration is open now.

The Martin Richard Challenger Soccer Program allows youth with developmental and physical disabilities to enjoy the full benefits of soccer in an environment structured to their abilities.

Soccer will be held at Moakley Park in South Boston on Sundays. Members ages 5-11 will participate from 10-11am, while members ages 12+ will participate from 11-12pm. To register, please email Erin Ferrara at eferrara@ bgcdorchester.org.



DID YOU KNOW: BGCD Hosts Special Grand Drawing Gala-Ween On October 29th at Granite Links Pavilion

Tent: Get dressed up in your most glamorous costume attire and enjoy a Spooktacular night with your chance to win one of our amazing Grand Prizes. This very special event will allow us to raise critical funds to support bright futures for members at BGCD! Event highlights will include an incredible silent auction, delicious food stations, dancing to a fabulous live band and our special Grand Drawing! With every sponsorship and ticket, guests will be entered into our Grand Drawing to win 1 of our amazing Grand Prizes that include vacations, tech and one-of-akind items each valued at \$5,000. To purchase a ticket or a sponsorship, visit our Ready-Set Auction site @ rsabid.com with the event code "02125". For more info, email Patty Lamb at plamb@bgcdorchester.org.

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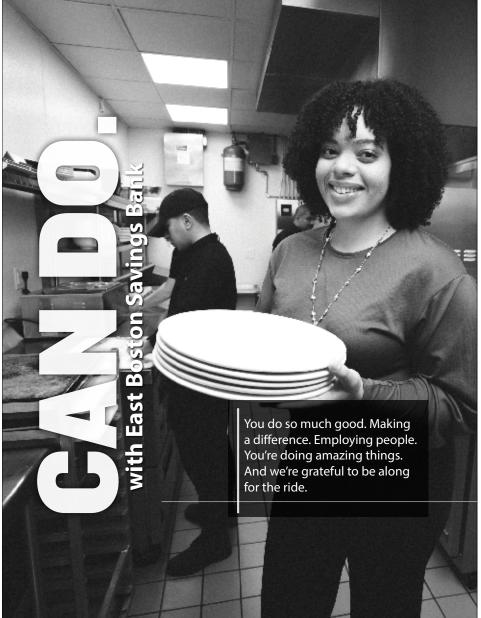
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Project Description:

The proposed project consists of 23 residential units. 20 of these units will be condo at market rate. Three of the proposed residential units will be affordable units pursuant to the City's Inclusionary Development Policy. The project's proposed site is approximately 3 blocks from the Savin Hill MBTA stop along the redline located in Savin Hill. Due to the close proximity of the project to the MBTA's Savin Hill Train Station, and less than one block from the MBTA's Number 18 bus stop, the project has been designed as a Transit Oriented Development. The project brings much needed housing opportunities to Dorchester Avenue.

mail to: Stephen Harvey

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BUDROW, Janet,84, of Dorchester. Wife of Richard Budrow Dorchester. Mothof Kevan Budrow of Dorchester. Grand-mother of 2. Sister of Cynthia Yetman of Weymouth, and Diane Diggs of Florida, and the late Marlene Belin.



GALLAGHER, Marie Hynes, 89, of Falmouth and formerly of Dorchester and Milton. Daughter of the late Marion (Barry) and the Honorable John B. Hynes, Mayor of Boston from 1949 to 1959. Wife of the late Joseph C. Gallagher. Mother of Susan G. Gallagher of Falmouth, Lisa M. Gallagher (Gregory J. Ruffa) of Darien, CT, Joseph C. "Jay" Gallagher, Jr. (Nicole M. Cabana) of Falmouth, and Mark J. Gallagher (Anne Sargent Gallagher) of Cohasset. Grandmother to 9. Marie is survived by her brother Barry T. Hynes of South Boston and her sister-in-law Margaret "Peg" Vahey of Milton as well as numerous nieces, nephews, and extended family members. Marie was predeceased by her brothers Jack Hynes and Richard Hynes, her sister Nancy Downey, and her lifelong friend of sixty-five years, Barbara Connolly Hughes.Donations in Marie's memory may be made to the Falmouth Service Center, 611 Gifford Street, Falmouth, MA 02540.



LEAVEY, Virginia M. (Morris), 71, of Dorchester formerly of Milton. She was the daughter of the late Joseph and Elizabeth Morris. Wife of the late Walter Leavey. Mother of Daniel W. and Michael J. Leavey both of Quincy and Jessica Caruso and her husband Brian of Manchester, NH. Sister of Richard Morris of

ST. JUDE'S NOVENA

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

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

Donations can be made in memory of Tita Mon-teiro by mail to Padre Pio Gottin Charities, Inc P.O. Box 7094 Brockton, MA 02302 or venmo@padrepiogottin-charitiesinc REGAN, Robert J. of

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Robert Morris. Grand-

93, of Dorchester. Wife

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Yarmouthport, formerly of Dennis and Canton. Husband of Margaret A. "Peggy" (Murphy) Regan. Father of Daniel R. Regan and his wife Paula of Sylvagrilla MD. la J. of Sykesville, MD, David M. Regan and his wife Jamie M. of Dumfries, VA, and Douglas E. Regan and his wife Louise M. of Yowie Bay, Australia. Grandfather of 10. Brother of Carolyn Northon and her husband Karl, Susan Hogan and her late husband Paul, Theresa Forde and her husband William, the late Mary Lou Morris and her late husband Robert, and the late Michael Regan and his surviving wife Marilynne. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews. Donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Family Support Center, 2095 Main St., Brew-ster, MA 02631, alzhei-



REID, David, Dorchester, 64. Son of the late Lebert and Muriel Reid of Kingston, Jamaica. David was predeceased by his siblings, Lurline Daley, Roland McBean and Cecil Bar-rington Reid. He leaves siblings Hubert Reid (Yvonne), Pauline Alexander, Derrick Reid, Franklyn Reid (Lynda), Reid-Worrell Sharon (Cecil) and Jodie Williams (Derrick), his cousin Avia Reid, a host of nieces, nephews, grand nieces, grand nephews. relatives and friends.

ST. JUDE'S NOVENA

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

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

D.J.R.



SAMMS, Mark Stephen, of Dorchester, 67. Husband of Margaret Samms (Cofield). Father of Mark Samms, Jr. and Patricia Samms. Grandfather, uncle, cousin and friend.



SERRA, ANTHONY J., 98, retired Captain BFD Husband of 49 years to Jean (Ochs) of Dorchester, World War II veteran of the U.S. Navy and 38-year member of the Boston Fire Department. Son of the late Vincenzo and Raphaela, both of whom emigrated from Italy. In addition to his wife, he is survived by three daughters and one son, Donna Kenney and her husband Patrick of Milton, Jean Marie Serra and her husband David Connolly of Milton, Lisa M. Cabrera and her husband Peter of Milton, and Anthony J. Serra, Jr., and his wife Jillian of Pembroke; eight grandchildren; two great-grandchildren. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by Domenic Serra, Carmella Gillis, and Caroline Serra.Donations in Tony's name can be made to Cops for Kids With Cancer, PO Box 850956, Braintree, MA 02185 or Shriners Burn Center at Mass. General Hospital, 51 Blossom St., Boston, MA 02114.



SHEEHAN, Yvonne "Sis," 93. She was predeceased by her brothers, John J. Sheehan, Jr. and H. Leo Zschau.



SMITH, Nela Bell (Grady), 99, of Dorchester. She was the fifth of seven children born to the late Wilson Grady and late Issie (Smith) Grady in Tennille (Washington County), Georgia. Nela

married Benjamin Adams, Sr. in 1941. To this union six children were born: Lillie Pearl, Benjamin Jr., David, Bernice, Margaret and Morris. Nela will be going home to join her parents along with three children: Benjamin Adams, Jr., David Adams, Sr. and Margaret Adams-Smith. Grandson Danny Great-grandson Edwin Phoenix and Great-granddaughter Artisa Brown. Three sisters: Bertha Thomas, Isabel Duncan and Martha Dyer. Two brothers: Robert and Wilson Grady. She leaves three children: Lillie Pearl (Ards) Brown, Bernice Brooks both of Dorchester and Morris Adams of Quincy, daughter in-law Maggie Adams of Mattapan. 20 grandchildren, 53 great-grandchildren, 51 great-great-grandchildren and one great-greatgreat granddaughter. One sister, Lillian Butler of Sandersville, GA. A host of nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family, foster children and many special friends.



WHITFIELD, Carole **Anne**, 66, of Mattapan. Carole was adopted as an infant by Frederick Douglass Whitfield Sr. (St. Petersburg, Florida) and Essie Mae Whitfield (Orlando, Florida). Carole spent 34 years teaching first grade at the David A. Ellis Elementary School (Roxbury). Carole is survived by her two children, Matthew and Heidi Thomas, her brother, Frederick D. Whitfield Jr., a host of nieces, nephews, and friends.



WYSE, Gerard L. "Gerry, of South formerly of Easton, Dorchester and Milton. Life partner of Susan O'Sullivan. Father of Alex and Jackson. Brother of Richard F. Wyse of Dorchester, Elaine M. Dyksinski of Middleboro, James G. Wyse of Boston, Maureen H. Kelley and her husband William of Lynn, and the late Robert E. and Donald J. Wyse. Grandfather of 2. Son of the late Richard and Helen (Dempster) Wyse. Former spouse of Sandra Wyse. Please consider donating to the American Diabetes Association in his memory.

Pfizer says its vaccine is safe and 'robust' in children 5-11

By Colin A. Young STATE HOUSE News Service

Results from a trial assessing the safety and efficacy of the Pfizer and BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine for children 5 to 11 years old showed "a favorable safety profile and robust neutralizing antibody response," the drugmakers announced Monday.

The announcement that Pfizer will soon seek US Food and Drug Administration approval for using its vaccine in people as young as 5 years old means the protection of a vaccine might become available to younger school children partway into their third academic year to be shaded by the pandemic.

"Over the past nine months, hundreds of millions of people ages 12 and older from around the world have received our vaccine. We are eager to extend the protection afforded by the vaccine to this younger population, subject to regulatory authorization, especially as we track the spread of the Delta variant and the substantial threat it poses to children," Albert Bourla, chairman and CEO of Pfizer said.

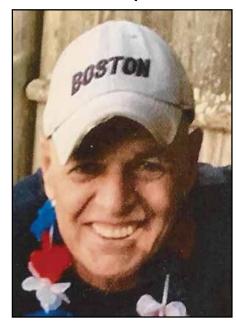
"Since July, pediatric cases have risen by about 240 percent in the US,"

he said, "underscoring the public health need for vaccination. These trial results provide a strong foundation for seeking authorization of

our vaccine for children 5 to 11 years old, and we plan to submit them to the FDA and other regulators with urgency.'

September 23, 2021

Happy Belated Birthday, Billy!



To a Brother Whose Smile, Kindness, and Helping Hands Can't Ever be Replaced in our Hearts and Thoughts always Miss You Billy, xoxo

> See notice in the future for Time for Billy's Memorial Mass



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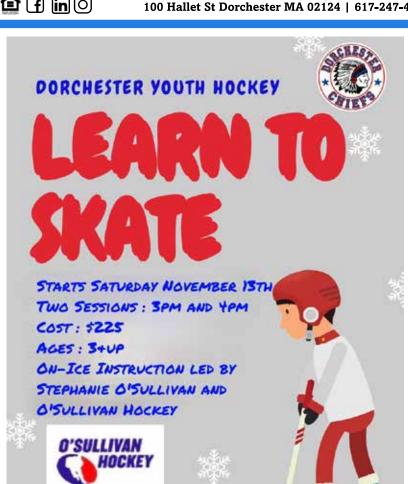


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Contact: Dorchester Youth Hockey

Website: www.dorchesteryouthhockey.com