

Dorchester Reporter

"The News and Values Around the Neighborhood"

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Dorchester Yacht Club Commodore Greg Bedrosian, with the Dorchester Bay basin in the background. The yacht club has hired an attorney to press for more dredging and other improvements to the basin. *Seth Daniel photo*

Yacht club presses for a clean-up of contaminated Savin Hill waters

By SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

The Dorchester Yacht Club is leading an effort to get more state resources for improvements to water quality and navigation in the basin that includes the club's property and Savin Hill and Malibu beaches. An attorney hired by the club won the support of the push by members of the Columbia-Savin Hill Civic Association at its January meeting earlier this month.

The club is focused on getting state funds dedicated to dredging work around the John J. Beades draw-bridgewith a goal of flushing out waters that the yacht club's commodore, Greg Bedrosian, says have become contaminated over many years.

'A lot of things happened in that bay and I don't think everyone is aware of that. We are trying to bring attention and resources to it because it really needs to be cleaned up. It's part of the Boston waterfront.'

— Greg Bedrosian,
DYC Commodore

"There's a lot of things that happened in that bay and I don't think everyone is aware of that," Bedrosian told the Reporter this week. "We are trying to bring attention and resources to it because it really needs to be cleaned up. It's part of the Boston waterfront...It's really contaminated, and I don't

think anyone knows just how contaminated it is."

The problem in the basin, Bedrosian says, has been compounded by its proximity to the Southeast Expressway and the run-off from the roadway that empties into Dorchester Bay. A tractor-trailer accident on I-93 last year is a case in point, he said.

The accident, which happened just after 7 a.m. on July 4, involved a south-bound Amazon truck driven by a Rhode Island contractor. Across from Savin Hill, the truck lost control, jack-knifed, and careened into the HOV lanes, rupturing two massive fuel tanks that emptied 150 gallons of diesel fuel onto the highway near to three catch

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Foes sue to block Trinity Shawmut plan

By SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

Led by the Epiphany School, opponents of a planned apartment building next to the Shawmut MBTA station turned to the courts last week in an effort to stymie the project, which won key approvals from city officials last year.

The three lawsuits filed in Suffolk Superior Court on Friday are all aimed at the same target: the 150 Centre St. development, which would replace what is now the Fitzpatrick Brothers Auto Body property with a four-story building with 72 affordable housing units just steps from the Red Line. All the filings name Arthur Jemison, director of the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA), which gave its okay to the project last November, and the principals of Trinity Financial, the development team that controls the site in question.



Andrew Saxe, former Epiphany student Euridio Evora, Damon Seligmon, and Epiphany School Director John Finley outside the school last Friday as they announced the lawsuits. *Seth Daniel photo*

During a press conference in front of the Epiphany School on Friday morning, the

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BPS Plan: Switch Frederick School to new designation

Middle school status will end

By SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

The Lilla G. Frederick Pilot Middle School on Columbia Road will begin to phase out its upper grades next year in advance of closing as a middle school, according to a letter sent to parents and the school community on Jan. 10 from BPS Region 3 Supt. Natalie Diaz Ake. The school, which opened in 2003, will likely be repurposed as a large elementary school under the city's emerging plan for fewer school buildings that was outlined in a School Facilities Report released last week.

The transformation of the Frederick School will mark the end of middle school designations in the BPS system.

"This spring, the district will introduce a proposal to the School Committee to formally close the Frederick Middle School at the end of next school year, 2024-2025. Frederick students in Grade 7 will be given priority in the school assignment process for

the 2025-2026 school year," the letter stated.

Ake explained that there will be no sixth graders assigned to the school next year, leaving grade 7 to be phased out. Students who are 6th graders this year will attend a new school for eighth grade only, under the proposal.

Priority enrollment and assignments for the next academic year started this year on Jan. 4.

"Throughout the 2024-25 school year, the district will assign members from the Welcome Services team to work directly with Frederick families to help them identify a high-quality Grade 7-12 school that will meet their child's individual needs," the letter said, and also have Human Resources work to "connect staff to high quality opportunities within the district."

"The Frederick School plays a crucial role in the Grove Hall community," wrote Ake. "We want to reassure the commu-

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Research shows benefits to METCO students

By ALISON KUZNITZ
STATE HOUSE NEWS
SERVICE

Boston students who participated in a school integration program in suburban districts scored higher on certain standardized tests and were more likely to enroll in four-year colleges, according to newly released research findings.

Participants selected for METCO, a voluntary desegregation busing program that launched in the 1960s, saw "substantial gains" on MCAS exams and notched better attendance records compared to their peers who didn't get into METCO, according to a study led by Elizabeth Setren, an assistant professor of economics at Tufts University.

METCO participants also had a lower dropout rate and

higher on-time graduation rate compared to their peers not in the program, which is officially known as the Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity.

"What I think is probably the most impressive and impactful impact that we see in the METCO data of the METCO program is that it's really shifting college expectations for the students who participate," Setren said during a presentation at The Boston Foundation. "METCO is increasing the likelihood of students (that) are aspiring to college by a pretty substantial amount."

The program has the "largest impact" on students whose parents didn't graduate college, according to Setren's presentation.

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Police, Courts & Fire

SJC orders new trial in '11 Geneva murder

BY REPORTER STAFF

The Supreme Judicial Court last Thursday ordered a new trial for a man convicted of gunning down a 16-year-old outside a Geneva Avenue convenience store in September 2011, ruling he did not get adequate representation because his lawyer spent parts of the trial asleep.

The ruling on an appeal by Nyasani Watt, himself just 17 at the time of the murder, was one of two the state's highest court issued related to the case.

In the other, it concluded that it was "cruel and unusual" for Watt's accomplice, Sheldon Mattis, 18 at the time, to have been sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole, under a new doctrine in which the court extended its previous ban on lifetime sentences without parole for those under 18 to people as old as 20.

According to court summaries of the case, Mattis and Watt spotted two teenagers outside the store, and then Mattis handed Watt a gun and told him to "go handle that," referring to Jaivon Blake and the other teen Blake was with. Watt rode up behind them on a bicycle and opened fire, killing Blake and wounding the other victim.

Both Mattis and Watt were convicted of first-degree murder in 2013, but Watt got a sentence of life with the possibility of parole after 15 years because he had yet to turn 18.

The justices concluded that Watt did not get a fair trial because of his lawyer's torpor. After first trying to figure out just how much a lawyer could sleep during a trial – the court even considered lawyers who close their eyes as a tactic to signal disgust with their opposing counsel's tactics or statements – the justices concluded that Watt's lawyer simply spent too much of the time asleep and so Watt deserved a new trial, saying:

"Based on the affidavits, multiple people had observed trial counsel sleeping during trial. The defendant asserts that trial counsel slept recurrently and during significant moments, such as jury selection and the testimony of two witnesses, possibly including Jeremiah Rodriguez, a central prosecution witness. ... The defendant's mother also confirmed the repetitiveness of trial counsel's sleeping during trial."

In Mattis's case, the court concluded he does not deserve a new trial, but that he does deserve a hearing in Suffolk Superior Court at which a judge will have to determine when he might become eligible for a parole hearing, after concluding that people convicted of capital offenses through the age of 20 should never automatically be sent away for life.

The court had ruled in 2013 that such automatic life sentences were unconstitutional for people under 18 but said in its ruling that "based on precedent and contemporary standards of decency in the Commonwealth and elsewhere," people who are 19- or 20-year-old "emerging adults" deserve the same consideration, the court said.

Approval sought for 42-unit residential apartment building near Cote Village Apartments



A rendering of a proposed new apartment building at 819 Cummins Highway. Image courtesy Context.

A Quincy-based developer has filed plans with the BPDA to build a five-story, 42-unit apartment building at 819 Cummins Highway, on what are now four vacant lots next to the Fairmount Line train tracks and across from the newly constructed Cote Village Apartments.

Plans by Sathuan Sa's EJS Investments show 25 parking spaces and ground-floor retail space.

Seven of the condos would be sold as affordable.

The filing with the BPDA lays out the exterior design, noting that it has been "specifically designed to reflect the architecture of the surrounding community" and that it "provides a balance between the smaller two and three-family and the larger Cote Village Apartments."

Owners of Savin Hill house win okay to expand it to three condos

BY REPORTER STAFF

Despite the Columbia-Savin Hill Civic Association's vote of disapproval, the Zoning Board of Appeal last Tuesday unanimously approved plans by Pauline King and her son Tony to enlarge their single-family home at 164 Savin Hill Ave. into a three-condo building. Their plan calls for adding to the current two-and-a-half story house, with four below-ground parking spaces.

The proposal needed variances because, among other things, it would have three units in a three-story building on a lot zoned for two-family homes no more than two-and-a-half stories tall, and because the new building would be denser on the property than allowed by zoning law.

The Kings' architect, Nicholas Landry, said the project – originally proposed as four units – would keep much of the existing house so that the project "meets the esthetic and feel of the



Rendering of proposed expansion of 164 Savin Hill Ave. Courtesy of Nicholas Landry of DRT.

neighborhood as much as possible."

But nearby Savin Hill Avenue residents said they were "vehemently" and "extremely" opposed, saying variances require proof of hardships and special conditions, that the proposal does not show that, and that the Kings could obtain the legal "reasonable use" of their 4,400-square-foot lot by expanding their house into a two-family structure.

Neighbor Matthew Patton said the \$1.2 million the family would make per unit is not a hardship, but that construction

would prove a hardship "on my family's ability use our property," due to increased traffic and increased issues for pedestrians.

Said Savin Hill Avenue

resident Paul Ginandes: "It's much too large, much too dense, and it breaks all the rules. Association board member Kristine Hoag, who lives on Savin Hill Avenue, said the group supports greater housing in the area and it realizes that the area could see up to 10,000 new housing units, but that this specific proposal is simply too far out of character on its stretch of Savin Hill Avenue. She said she was reluctantly speaking in opposition because "Tony and his mom are valued members of the community."

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UPCOMING CIVIC MEETINGS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

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Mississippi's Journey from Last in the Nation to a Leader in Educational Improvement

Featuring Dr. Carey Wright

In conversation with NBC News' Rehema Ellis

Monday, February 5, 2024

5:30 Program
7:00 Reception

Edward M. Kennedy Institute
Columbia Point, Boston

Free to attend



DR. CAREY WRIGHT
Former State Superintendent, Mississippi
Interim State Superintendent, Maryland



MODERATED BY
REHEMA ELLIS
Education Correspondent, NBC News

The Edward M. Kennedy Institute on Dorchester's Columbia Point will host a forum on Mon., Feb. 5, featuring Dr. Carey Wright in conversation with Rehema Ellis of NBC News focused on Mississippi's journey from last in the nation to a leadership role in education outcomes. Free. The program starts at 5:30 p.m. followed by a 7 p.m. reception. See emkinstitute.com/special-events to register.

The Dot Jazz Series returns to a monthly rhythm this Saturday, Jan. 20, with a performance by the Fred Woodard Collective at 8 p.m. at Peabody Hall, Parish of All Saints, 209 Ashmont St., Dorchester. Guitarist Fred Woodard Jr., his violinist son Fred Woodard III, bassist Melvin Graham, and drummer Matthew Williams play original

compositions and interpretations of soul jazz favorites. They're celebrating the release of "Indigo," Fred's first album with this lineup. Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$20 at the door. College students \$10. Kids under 18 are free. Presented by Mandorla Music and Greater Ashmont Main Street. Other upcoming shows: South African inspired jazz piano by Witness Matlou Trio on Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m.; Wayfaring, adventurous sounds for voice, clarinet, and bass, on Sat., March 16, at 8 p.m.

The Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) hosts an "in-district meeting" of its Housing Justice Campaign on Thurs., Jan. 25, at 7 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 401 Ashmont St., Dorchester. State Rep. Brandy Fluker-Oakley will attend. Sen. Nick

Collins has been invited. The group calls the event "an opportunity to engage with lawmakers directly" and to "secure public commitments from these lawmakers to address issues surrounding public housing, affordable rental/homeownership, and re-entry from incarceration.

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department, in partnership with the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), has announced the launch of the 2024 Boston Parks Winter Fitness Series, which is sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts and offers free virtual classes from January 7 through April 6. Certified fitness instructors will offer a range of winter classes, including Afrobeats Dance, Cardio Kickboxing, Chair Yoga, Dance Fit, Strength and Balance,

Strength and Conditioning, Yoga, and Zumba. Class descriptions, dates, and times have been posted on the winter fitness website: boston.gov/fitness.

Storyteller Len Cabral will be featured in a free program at the JFK Library on Thurs., Feb. 22, at 10:30 a.m. as part of the Celebrate series. Cabral will share stories of power and joy in honor of Black History month. Call 617-514-1644 for more info or go to jfklibrary.org/celebrate to reserve space. Appropriate for family audiences and children ages 5 and up. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

SEND IN EVENT NOTICES TO
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MBTA workforce grew by 730 from '22 to '23

Labor deals seen as driving hiring

By CHRIS LISINSKI
STATE HOUSE
NEWS SERVICE

A hiring blitz during Gov. Healey's first year in office boosted the MBTA's headcount by more than 10 percent and "set a new bar for the T," officials said on Jan. 11.

Fueled in large part by labor agreements that boosted wages and rolled out retention bonuses, the MBTA hired 1,480 new employees in 2023 and promoted 511 others to boost its workforce, long viewed as key to addressing some of the agency's deep-rooted problems.

After accounting for 750 employee departures over the course of the year — which was also the highest amount in several years — the MBTA added a net 730 new full-time employee equivalents to its roster, pushing the total headcount above 7,000.

Citing those figures, MBTA Chief Workforce Officer Ahmad Barnes said last Thursday that "I can't repeat it enough, [this is] an outstanding accomplishment for the organization."

The agency has suffered from hiring and re-

tention struggles, particularly after the pandemic spread labor challenges across sectors. And the consequences have been potent: staffing shortages have played a major role in safety lapses and unreliable service.

The MBTA continues to lag the workforce size that some onlookers have said is necessary. The Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation said in April that the T needed to hire 2,800 workers in the next 12 months to ensure safety and progress. Federal Transit Administration investigators suggested in August 2022 that the T might need roughly 7,300 to 7,800 workers to safely manage its level of service at the time.

Healey said in her inaugural address a year ago that the T is "woefully understaffed — and we know that lack of staffing has had grave consequences." She pledged at the time to fund the hiring of 1,000 additional workers focused on MBTA operations within her first year.

T data indicate that collective bargaining agreements reached with employee unions

played a major role in the staffing improvements.

The state and Boston Carmen's Union ATU Local 589 agreed to a contract in August that will raise pay 18 percent over four years, boosted starting wages for bus drivers from \$22 per hour to \$30 per hour, and also offered "longevity" increases and bonuses to incentivize veteran employees staying on the job.

Since then, Barnes said, the T has received a 450 percent increase in applications for bus driver openings and a nearly 300 percent increase in applications for light rail operator jobs. Meanwhile, the attrition rate of existing employees leaving between Octo-

ber and December was roughly half what it was in the same span a year earlier.

Several other unions also reached agreements with the T this year. A presentation Barnes delivered said nearly 80 percent of the affiliated workforce is covered by the new contracts, marking the "earliest in a contract cycle this percentage of [the] workforce has been under contract in 40+ years."

"It has set a new bar for the T. It has permanently changed the way the hiring process works," said MBTA Chief Administrative Officer David Panagore. "This month alone, we're again going to exceed our highest numbers in terms of

hiring, so this isn't a flash in the pan. This is a transformative change in the way the T does business and does its hiring."

Data presented Thursday show that the T last year far exceeded its goals for hiring Black and African American workers but fell several hundred employees short of hiring as many Asian and Latino employees as it hoped.

Roughly one-quarter of new hires in fiscal year 2023 and so far in fiscal year 2024 were women, which is also well short of the agency's equity goals.

Service on the core subway system continues to be choppy, with entire sections going offline periodically for repairs that the T believes will

lead to a restoration of normal service by the end of 2024.

The MBTA has not reversed Red, Blue and Orange Line weekday service cuts they implemented in June 2022 after the FTA said overworked, understaffed operations dispatchers posed a safety risk. The T's leaders initially said the cuts would be reversed as soon as enough dispatchers came on board, but later moved the goalposts to suggest there still were not enough rail operators or vehicles.

Barnes described the operations control center as "one of the areas that I think we've always had concern about."

Lynch top Democrat on AI working group

US Rep. Stephen F. Lynch will serve as the lead Democrat on the House Financial Services Committee's new bipartisan Working Group on Artificial Intelligence (AI). Rep. French Hill of Arizona will be the ranking Republican, and Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley will also join the panel.

Lynch says the group will explore how AI is impacting the financial services and housing industries. They will also examine how existing regulation addresses the use of AI and how lawmakers can ensure that any new regulations consider both the potential benefits and risks associated with AI.

Lynch said he was "proud to serve" with the group. "While financial institutions, financial technology companies, and government agencies are already utilizing artificial intelligence to facilitate the detection of financial crime, risk analysis, personalized customer services, consumer lending, and

other critical functions, the evolving application of AI technologies must be paralleled by robust federal oversight and a regulatory framework that is adaptive to innovation and equipped to identify potential risks to American consumers."

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A retirement for the ages at Dorchester Door & Window

Nancy takes her leave, and John will carry on

**By SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR**

When John Hand and Nancy Flynn went into business together 42 years ago and set up Dorchester Door & Window, their first location was on Freeport Street, where, Flynn noted, their little shop had no windows – and not much of a door.

From that small site, they moved to Hallet Street in 1986 and built a “very successful” business that continues today with Hand and a dedicated staff, but without Flynn, who has retired.

At a lively time held at Port 305 in Quincy’s Marina Bay last Friday, the Dorchester Door & Window crew held a party to honor Flynn, a favorite with customers and staff.

“I did pretty much everything, but they fired me from delivery,” joked Flynn. “I loved working with the customers. That’s what makes it so great to be working in a small business. It’s like family and Dorchester is a great community for sure.”

Hand and Flynn were married when they started the business. Though no longer a couple, Hand said it has been a great



Nancy Flynn, center, with longtime friends and customers, John and Ann O'Shea.



Lisa Finnegan, Nancy Flynn, and Mary Seaman.



The Dorchester Door & Window staff gathered with Nancy Flynn on her retirement last Friday at Port 305 in Quincy's Marina Bay. From left, Eric MacIver, Manny Rodriguez, co-founder John Hand, Flynn, and Jack Haines.

run working with Flynn, but that she deserves the time off.

For her part, Flynn will be enjoying “new adventures” with travel and other pursuits, she said.

“We started the business as partners and we were very good partners,” said Hand. “We made it through at least two recessions in the early 1980s and the 1990s, but we persevered and

now are very successful. She did a lot of work with the books and was an amazing asset to the business.”

Hand, who had worked as a contractor before they launched the sales business, said it “was the thing to do.” He recalls that they had no money after buying out a small operation on Freeport Street, but were extended credit by a man named “Sam,” who owned New England Millwork on Hilltop Street. That, he said, got them going and helped them get to where they are now. The company sells all varieties of doors, windows, skylights, custom millwork, doorknobs, and all kinds of hardware out of their store on Hallet Street.

nationalgrid

Building a Smarter, Stronger, Cleaner and More Equitable Energy Future

Every day at National Grid, our more than 6,500 team members work together to build a smarter, stronger, cleaner, and more equitable energy future for our customers and communities in more than 240 towns and cities across 5,900 square miles. We know what we do matters immensely, and how we do it matters even more.

National Grid recently submitted its proposal to modernize our grid and enable a more just energy future to ensure benefits for all. Our Future Grid plan helps to facilitate charging for more than one million EVs and 750,000 heat pumps, generates \$1.4 billion in economic activity, and creates 11,000 jobs.

Learn more about our Future Grid plan at **nationalgridus.com** and search ‘grid modernization.’



Reporter's

People

News about people in and around our Neighborhoods

Boston Collegiate students get advice from school's graduates

On Wed., Jan. 3, some three dozen alumni/ae from years 2011 to 2023 gathered at Boston Collegiate Charter School to check in with their former teachers and offer advice to current students. The visitors represented a range of post-secondary schools, including state colleges, Ivy League universities, small liberal arts institutions, and the Marine Corps, where two of them had enlisted after their graduations.

About 20 of the graduates participated in a Q&A session with 11th and 12th graders, sharing insights about how college life differs from high school, and what students might expect should they matriculate.

Rodney Adams (BCCS '17), a graduate of Middlebury College, noted: "In college, it's so important to take the time to learn who you are. You get to choose your own friends, your own classes, your own clubs. You have so much autonomy; you have to figure out who

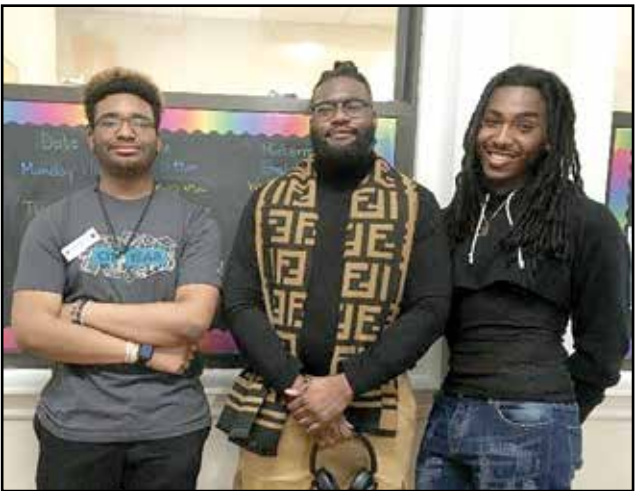


From left, Isabelle Donahue, class of 2020, currently at Westfield State University student; Melina Mantilla, class of 2019, graduate of Northeastern University; Katie Crowley, class of 2020, currently at UMass Amherst; Sarah Evans, class of 2020, currently at Bridgewater State College; and Marcial Flores, a high school Spanish teacher at Boston Collegiate.

you are. Someday, you'll be an adult living on your own in your own apartment, and no one will be telling you what to do. You have to learn

for yourself." Nathan Camilo (BCCS '17), a graduate of Dartmouth College, advised students to "Lean on your teachers at Boston

Collegiate! They are chosen because they want you to succeed. In college, you might not always receive individual support from your professors, so



From left, Teddy Barboza, class of 2022, City Year participant; Jean Charles Innocent, class of 2021, currently at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts; Alex Harris, class of 2020, currently at UMass Lowell
Photos courtesy Boston Collegiate

use your time here to ask questions and take advantage of the help your teachers are offering."

Dot's Uribe to oversee Healey's panel on sexual assault, human trafficking

Gov. Healey and Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll have tapped Dorchester's Vilma Uribe to lead the Governor's Council to Address Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking. She has been a Council member since 2015, and in this new role as executive director, she will be responsible for overseeing the work done by the Council to advise the administration on strategies to prevent



Vilma Uribe: Preventing violence is a key goal.
Courtesy photo

and protect people from these crimes and support victims and survivors. The Council comprises experts from across the state and has identified its priorities— Assessment and Response; Early Interventions for Children and Youth; Economic Mobility; Housing Stability; Human Trafficking; and Veterans,

Military, and Families. "I believe that everyone should have the opportunity to thrive, not just survive," said Uribe. "In this position, I'm excited about the chance to support individuals, children, and families throughout the state who have been affected by violence. But beyond that, I'm determined to take crucial steps to prevent violence from occurring in the first place."



Xavier Foley, known as a virtuoso double bass player, will perform live at Dorchester's Peabody Hall, 209 Ashmont St., on Sun., Feb. 18, 4 p.m. as part of the Ashmont Hill Chamber Music series. Tickets will be available at the door.

YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE

DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Edward Everett Birthplace

Edward Everett was a governor of Massachusetts and a US Secretary of State among other accomplishments. "It is supposed that Col. Robert Oliver built this house about 1740, and that his son, Thomas Oliver, the last lieutenant-governor of Massachusetts under the crown, was either born here or on the estate, which reckoned in his time some forty acres of pasture and marsh. Dorchester might, appropriately, be called the home of governors, she having furnished Stoughton, Tailer, Belcher, Hutchinson, Oliver, Everett, and Gardner to colony or State.



"The younger Oliver removed to Cambridge before the Revolution, where he lived in the

Today's image is an engraving from 1873 of the Edward Everett birthplace at the Five Corners, now known as Edward Everett Square. The house was taken down in 1898 for the widening of Columbia Road. The site is now occupied by an oddly shaped three-decker and a Dunkin Donuts store as you can see here. The origin and early history of the house are described in *Appleton's Journal*, May 31, 1873.

elegant seat now known as Elmwood—the residence of James Russell Lowell [the Longfellow House]. ... One fine morning in September 1774, the men of Middlesex appeared in the lieutenant-governor's grounds, at Cambridge, and wrung from him a resignation, after which he consulted his safety by a flight into Boston. ... "In 1775 [the Dorchester house] was the residence of Col. Wil-

three-cornered orifices made by the soldiers' bayonets are yet seen in the ceiling." Oliver Everett, Edward's father, purchased the estate after the new government confiscated the property as having been owned by a Loyalist who abandoned his possessions by emigrating to England. These posts can be viewed on the blog at dorchesterhistorical-society.org. The Society's William Clapp and James Blake Houses are open to the public on the third Sunday of the month from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Editorial

Don't fall for the 'big lie' about city safety

One of the infuriating take-aways from the recent HBO mini-series on the 1989 Stuart conspiracy, murder, and cover-up is the hubris and ignorance of the one Boston cop interviewed, Billy Dunn, a retired officer who hails from Dorchester. Dunn, who was a beat cop in Mission Hill back in the day, was one of the people deployed to find a Black suspect in the aftermath of Carol Stuart's killing. To this day, Dunn refuses to embrace the facts that Stuart killed his wife and that Black men were framed for the atrocity.

What's even more egregious is the way that Dunn seeks to portray present-day Boston as some kind of hellscape, as though the Boston that he policed in the '80s and '90s was a safer place.

"The city's gone," Dunn laments in the documentary. "The city ain't there no more. We did things different... not because we broke any rules; we were allowed to do that."

The inference we are supposed to take, of course, is that Boston has become more dangerous and crime-ridden since Dunn's "good-ole-days."

That's a pernicious lie. Whatever Billy Dunn and his compatriots thought they were doing right... it didn't work. In 1990, there were 152 people murdered within city limits, a large number of them here in Dorchester. Teenagers were dying at an alarming rate. People who weren't alive then— or hadn't yet moved to this neighborhood— might have trouble relating to the palpable sense of fear and foreboding. And that's a wonderful gift.

In 2023, Boston recorded 37 murders. There were 20 percent fewer shootings reported as well— 144 as compared to 180 in 2022. Overall, Boston is experiencing crime rates far below other American cities of comparable size.

Cops and politicians don't like to trumpet news of crime drops— and for that matter, neither do newspaper publishers. In part, it's superstition. Let's not jeopardize the good run. It's also because each of those 37 deaths is a tragedy that affects scores of people. One murder, one shooting, is one too many.

In a message highlighting the 2023 performance, Suffolk DA Kevin Hayden credited the public at large, but also singled out the "professional and tireless work by Boston police." He noted that arrests were made in 67.5 percent of the murders to date.

"No one is taking any victory laps here," said Hayden, "especially when serious crime still disproportionately affects our communities of color. But it's important to point out promising trends."

Hayden's right. It's also important to push back against the cynical mythology spun by the Billy Dunns of the world, who want everyone to think modern-day Boston is being run into the ground by the people in charge today. The fact that the men and women who are running the city now are largely Black, Brown, and Asian is a big part of why this version of the "big lie" is being propagated in the first place.

And make no mistake: It's pernicious and racist. And it's also an assault on the men and women of the current-day Boston Police, who should get credit for the fine work they're doing.

Boston has come a long way since the bad ole' days of the Stuart case and 152 murders. As Rev. Jeffrey Brown eloquently said in his rebuttal to Dunn in the *Boston Globe*-inspired HBO doc: "Hallelujah."

—Bill Forry



Owen Thomas, a Savin Hill resident, navigated the rapids of the mighty Morrissey on Saturday afternoon as a King Tide caused the roadway and other low-lying terrain to be inundated with water from Dorchester Bay. The flooding also caused problems in Port Norfolk, where at least one motorist was assisted by Boston firefighters after her car was swamped on Conley Street. *Ryan Murphy photo*

35 years later, Dot youth group meets, savors memories of a truly special time



Members of a youth ministry program that was formed at the former St. Paul's parish in Dorchester in the 1990s gathered for a reunion last summer. The parish is now called Holy Family. *Photo courtesy Carol Brennan*

As another new year comes and the old one goes, I have been reflecting on what gives me hope and joy. Thirty-five years ago, Father William Francis and Sister Rita Brereton, SSND, of what was then St. Paul's Parish in Dorchester, made a commitment to the young people of the community to develop a youth ministry program and I was fortunate to have been hired as a fulltime youth minister.

A year and more later, a volunteer from the Jesuit Volunteer Corp and a Pallotti Center volunteer joined me in ministering to what became the Inner City Catholic Youth Group of St. Paul, St. John-St. Hugh, St. Patrick, St. Kevin, and St. Joseph parishes.

The archdiocesan newspaper the Pilot featured many articles about the wonderful teens of this youth program engaging in community service events such as serving lunch to the Simon of Cyrene adults, visiting nursing homes, and coming together for urban retreats.

Last summer, on July 16, members of that youth group gathered at my home for a meal. We shared stories and re-read the articles that I had saved in a scrapbook from the Pilot's Spotlight On Youth section dating back to the late 1980s. There are no words to describe this incredible afternoon. It was by the grace of God that such a reunion could happen. I am still in awe thinking about all that these young people have accomplished in their lives. It was truly

a humbling experience.

As we gathered around the table to give thanks for our meal, we prayed for Father Francis and Sister Rita, who dedicated so many years to the community in Dorchester. They both loved, believed in, and valued the young people of their parish. They were truly present with us. Additionally, we thanked God for the opportunity to be reunited after all these years.

One of the members, Tiffany Warren, wrote, "Today we showed up to honor the divine appointment created in our lives when we met as 14-year-old members of the St. Paul's Youth Group in Dorchester, MA. [Now], 35 years later we returned as senators, lawyers, law enforcers, music executives, nurses, and administrators, finishing each other's sentences and surfacing the kind of laughter made sweeter by the memories shared. The youth group that 'Mom' and 'Dad' Bill and Carol helped facilitate [is] the kind of connection that isn't created much anymore. I am so blessed to call these beautiful humans my day ones as they truly gifted me with a gold standard for friendship that guides me today."

We promised one another that we would make this an annual event and make an effort to connect with more young people who were part of our Inner City Catholic Youth Group. It was clearly the work of the Holy Spirit in 2023 making this a remarkable reunion. *Carol Brennan*

Letter to the Editor

Kudos to our green mayor for her attention to Franklin Park

To the Editor:

The Franklin Park Coalition is thrilled to celebrate Mayor Wu's significant new investments in the park in her State of the City speech. Following the release of the Franklin Park Action Plan last winter, the Coalition advocated for implementation of recommendations to improve maintenance and management of the park, especially the long-neglected woodlands that comprise almost half of the park's 500 acres. In the mayor's words:

"Franklin Park is more than a home for Boston's next generation of champions: For my family and many others, there is no more magical place in the city, with its historic stone bridges; wooded trails; and beloved community spaces. But our biggest park has suffered from decades of disinvestment. This year, we will act on recommendations from the Franklin Park

Coalition and community members to begin restoring Franklin Park to its fullest potential. We will hire a park administrator and six new maintenance staff, bringing dedicated park staffing to the highest level in over 50 years. And we will begin the community process to reimagine and invest in a home for the Elma Lewis Playhouse."

Kudos to our green mayor and her dedicated Parks Department staff for recognizing the importance of Franklin Park to the surrounding neighborhoods - as a resource for health, climate resilience, and building stronger communities. And thank you to the hundreds of park users who participated in Action Plan meetings offering input on their vision for Franklin Park.

This is truly a time to celebrate!

Rickie Thompson
Franklin Park Coalition Board President

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Volunteers converge on+Holmes School for MLK Service Project

By SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

Every year, hundreds of City Year workers and volunteers use the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday to complete a service project in the city rather than take the day off. On Monday, more than 200 individuals converged on the Oliver Wendell Holmes K-6 School in Dorchester to re-paint the school's hallways and stairwells.

Bethany Reynolds, of City Year, told the volunteers that “we are serving here today in honor of Dr. King’s legacy. Instead of taking a vacation day and relaxing on the couch, many, like all of you volunteers, decided to wake up this morning and do meaningful and impactful work in the community.”

Holmes Principal Lianne Hughes-Odom said MLK’s legacy has given her permission as the Holmes’s leader “to dream and imagine what is possible for school like this.”

She noted that the corridors hadn’t been thoroughly painted in more than 10 years, so the spruce-up was going to be a huge spark for the kids when they returned from the holiday. “We can’t walk into schools and say Black and Brown



Prior to getting to work, hundreds of volunteers gathered in the gymnasium for a massive high-five pep rally.
Seth Daniel photos



Taking a break from brushwork were Kathieya Bell, Regulo Moreno, Principal Lianne Hughes-Odom, Tonya Larkins, and Isaiah Romero.

lives matter and their spaces for learning don’t reflect that,” she added.

Volunteers came from every corner of the neighborhood and beyond,

from youth groups to long-time City Year volunteers to City Council-



Nishaila Porter, of the Greater Boston American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE).



Dorchester's Keith Riddle.



City Year coordinator Bethany Reynolds.

lor Brian Worrell. They gave the four-story school building a good paint job in the community’s purple and yellow colors, with inspirational quotes and simple murals spicing up the long hallways.



Holmes Principal Lianne Hughes-Odom.

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Foes sue to block Trinity Shawmut plan



A rendering shows the 150 Centre St. development, which was approved by the Boston Planning and Development Agency last November. The building would rise four-stories from what is now the Fitzpatrick Brothers Auto Body property. *Image courtesy Icon Architecture*

(Continued from page 1) school’s founder and director, Rev. John Finley, a neighbor, Andrew Saxe, and the attorney Damon Seligmon explained their legal actions.

“We’re filing suit today on behalf of the school,” said Seligmon. “The suit will have a request that the decision by the BPDA be annulled, or in the alternative to be remanded back to the BPDA for further review of the project.”

Trinity Financial, through a spokesperson, declined to comment on the filings.

Epiphany School, an abutter of the 150 Centre St. site, wants to buy the Fitzpatrick site and combine it with a parking lot it owns to



Andrew Saxe, who opposes Trinity Development’s plans for a 72-unit building at 150 Centre St., spoke at a press conference last Friday. *Seth Daniel photo*

expand the school and perhaps add teacher housing. It’s a plan that has support from some abutters and nearby neighbors – with more than 1,000 signatures on a petition to that effect.

Epiphany’s legal bid focuses on the 121A designation that Trinity applied for and received for the project. According to the BPDA website, 121A projects are granted to generate economic advancement to areas that are blighted. In return, the city, the BPDA, and the state deliver a “streamlined regulatory process and a negotiated alternative tax payment in lieu of real and personal property taxes.”

Finley said they find fault with the BPDA decision that granted the project under that specific designation.

“Today we’re filing an appeal with the BPDA against [the developer] saying our neighborhood is blighted,” said

Finley. “You can see it’s a beautiful neighborhood with a lot of people who really care about it. It’s not accurate and it’s not fair and we want them to go through the full, normal zoning process if they’re really going to go ahead with this.”

Seligmon said the BPDA did not establish the area as one of “blight, one of decay, one of substantially bad conditions. “If you look around, it really isn’t,” he said. “From that determination, the BPDA becomes the all-encompassing permit granting authority. We believe that determination is incorrect. It’s not based on substantial evidence, and we believe a court will agree with us on that.”

Trinity’s 121A filing goes into detail about why they sought the streamlined permitting process, as well as significant breaks on property taxes for a total of 40 years. The text explains that because of rock ledge, and a high water table, a very expensive foundation with waterproofing is needed, making it very expensive. It also spells out how city and state financing would be easier with the 121A designation, and help keep rents lower. Part of getting that designation is showing that the project area is “blighted.”

The second suit,

brought by Saxe on behalf of neighbors, focuses on a specific section of the city’s zoning code— Article 65 in the Dorchester Overlay District – and alleges that the requirements for it were ignored.

“There is [an overlay district] here in Dorchester, Article 65, and that means new construction has to be to the scale and size of the surrounding neighborhood,” he said. “The requirements under this article were just ignored by BPDA. One of them was that the proposal has to go to the Boston Landmarks Commission, which was never done. The BPDA did not follow its own rules.”

Trinity, in its 121A filing, addressed the Overlay District matter and noted that the “deviations” from Article 65 are warranted.

“The Applicant believes that these deviations do not substantially derogate from the intent and purposes of the Boston Zoning Code, specifically [the Dorchester Neighborhood Zoning Article], which indicates that the Zoning Commission was intent on seeking to direct growth to areas where it could be accommodated and promoting the development of affordable housing compatible with adjacent areas,” Trinity’s filing states.

The third lawsuit comes from direct abutters to the project on Allston and Centre streets, who claim Adverse Possession, often known as squatter’s rights. They argue that one area of the property line used by Trinity for the project does not follow a fence that has been in place for decades and maintained by neighbors. They seek to prevent Trinity from building beyond the fence, and also have the entire decision annulled.

“Each of those three suits seeks the same relief for separate plaintiffs based on the same record,” said Seligmon.

The 150 Centre St. proposal was the subject of several public meetings and intense debate last spring. Public comment on the matter was split, with opponents arguing that the building is too dense and out of place in a residential neighborhood largely comprising single or smaller multi-family homes and proponents noting that the site— right next to a Red Line subway station— is ideal for so-called “transit-oriented development.”

Trinity downsized its original plan and its 91 units to 72 and lowered the building’s height by one floor. The BPDA board voted 4-0 on Nov. 16 to move the project ahead with Trinity.

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Yacht club presses for a clean-up of contaminated Savin Hill waters

(Continued from page 1)

basins with drainage pipes running right into the Dorchester Bay basin. As public safety and environmental officials rushed to deal with the crash, the fuel was flowing into the catch basins and pooling into the waters around the club.

“About an hour after the crash, it started to rain, and I was getting calls from people getting ready to go boating saying the club was filled with diesel fuel,” recalled Bedrosian. “It smelled awful and there was a sheen everywhere and we called DEP [Department of Environmental Protection] and they responded to clean it up.

“Had no one told me, all that fuel might not have been seen for quite some time and it would have just lingered in the cove,” he continued. “We got lucky, and they cleaned up most of it in time, but you have to think about the lasting effects of years and years of runoff like that going into the bay every time it rains or there’s a spill.”

According to DEP records, 14 drums of fuel materials were recovered and disposed of, as well as 2.15 tons of oily solids – all apparently paid for by Amazon and the Rhode Island trucking company, which were deemed responsible for the spill in September.

The incident prompted Bedrosian and the NYC to focus on the environmental situation around the club, including Savin Hill and Malibu beach-



The John J. Beades Bridge, above, carries Morrissey Boulevard over Dorchester Bay and allows for maritime craft to enter and exit the basin in Savin Hill. Built in 1928, the bridge was intended to last for 50 years. It was renovated in 2001 at a cost of \$9.1 million. The state’s Department of Transportation said last year that a full replacement could cost \$122 million. It has contracted with a Canadian engineering firm, WSP, to evaluate and design a replacement. The agency has told the Reporter that it intends to coordinate any work with the ongoing planning efforts for Morrissey Boulevard.
Bill Forry photo

es and the buildup of sand under the Beades drawbridge, which they say prevents proper tidal “flushing.”

The club hired an environmental attorney, Jamy Buchanan Madeja, to champion the cause of getting attention and funding toward the highway spills, the contamination on the floor of the bay, and the dredging issue under the Beades bridge.

As part of her appeal to the civic group this month, Buchanan Madeja said: “The NYC is looking to improve the water quality of all of Dorchester Bay, which is no small challenge.

The more people that support it, the better.”

She noted that there are 27 outflow pipes and culverts from the expressway with “no technology, no pollution protection, and not even fuel oil separators” to prevent spills and highway grime from flowing directly into the basin.

She also claims that testing on the floor of the basin done two years ago, and earlier in the 1980s, showed high levels of mercury, PCBs, and other toxic substances. There was a slow increase, she said, in levels between the testing in the 1980s and that done two

years ago.

Some attendees expressed concern with the presentation on water quality. “We just had a lot of people charge into that water on Jan. 1 for the Polar Plunge,” noted Columbia-Savin Hill president Bill Walczak. “Maybe we shouldn’t have.”

Another resident, noting that she kayaks in the bay frequently, said, “It could be toxic to me.”

Buchanan Madeja warned: “You should all be very careful.”

One short-term solution advanced by NYC and others would be to dredge five

openings under the Beades bridge, an area filled with sand and sediment. Bedrosian said they have tested the sand accumulation, and it isn’t contaminated; in fact, he said, it is sand that once covered Savin Hill Beach.

Neighbors at the civic meeting agreed that an “easy” dredging operation would be a sensible first step to allow the tides to flush out the bay twice a day. Right now, one person said, it has become “a stagnant swamp” because the tides are blocked.

“What’s happening is that it has gone on so long that at least half or three-quarters of the channel is covered up,” said Bedrosian, “and that presents navigation problems for the boats because it whips them into the side of the bridge. It’s dangerous and a hazard to navigation. [The sand] can simply be dredged and put back on the beach.”

The longer-term request – dredging the floor of the entire bay and fixing runoff from the highway, for two things – will take longer and require more advocacy, the club concedes. Those interested in helping are encouraged to take photos or write testimonies of observed contamination and other such problems and email them to community@dorchester-yachtclub.com.

That information will be gathered and used as part of Buchanan Madeja’s advocacy to state leaders and the Legislature’s Boating Access Caucus.





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UMass Boston men’s hockey team tutors DYH Mites at practice

**By SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR**

The Dorchester Youth Hockey (DYH) Mites and skaters on the UMass Boston men’s hockey team made connections last week as coaches and members of the UMB squad ran clinics during two practices at the Devine Rink in Neponset.

UMass Boston’s head coach, Peter Belisle, brought players Sal Carabelli, Jacob Banks, Chris Repman, and Owen Bourdow along on Jan. 2 for a regular practice of the Mites team, and a girls’ program practice as well.

The Beacon players ran a skills clinic for both teams and got rave reviews from the youngsters.

“The kids really seem to be excited to have these college players and coach on the ice with them,” said DYH board member

Peter O’Sullivan. “It’s also great for the kids to know that there’s a top college hockey program within a mile of the Devine Rink. When I got there, the kids were all smiles, and I had a great conversation with the coach and the players saying they had a lot of fun spending time with the DYH kids.”

Mites coach Robert Picariello and co-coach Liam O’Donnell, who helped to set up the evening with the players, noted that the kids “were focused and listening to everything coach Belisle and the college players were coaching them on,” said Picariello. “They all had a great time and look forward to visiting UMass Boston to catch a hockey game in the near future.”

O’Donnell’s father Bill is a lifelong Dorchester resident who carries a



One of the DYH Mite teams takes a break from practicing with the UMass Boston men’s hockey players on Jan. 2 in Devine Rink. Photos courtesy UMass Boston

long-time connection to the UMass Boston hockey program. His father, Bill O’Donnell, Sr., founded the Neponset Youth Hockey (now

DYH) in 1968 and was the president for 13 years. Bill Jr. is a BC High graduate who went on to be a founding player of the UMass Boston men’s

hockey team, on which he was active from 1978 to 1981. During that time, the Beacons won the ECAC Division 3 championship

in 1982 with a team of players mostly from the city, including Dorchester, Hyde Park, East Boston, South Boston, and Jamaica Plain.



UMass Head Coach Pete Belisle and several players from the men’s hockey team joined Dorchester Youth Hockey Mites at practice last Tuesday for a skills clinic. From left, Sal Carabelli, Jacob Banks, Belisle, Chris Repman, and Owen Bourdow.

DYH Mite teams are champs in two Mayor’s Cup divisions

The five Dorchester Youth Hockey (DYH) Mites teams more than held their own in winning two divisions and finishing as the runner-up in a third in the Mayor’s Cup Tournament that was held at the end of December at Bajko Ice Rink in Hyde Park.

First, the Dorchester Mite Red team beat Charlestown, 10-1, to win the “A” division of the Mite Tournament. Then, Dorchester Mite Blue beat Hyde Park, 4-1, to win the “AA” division. Meanwhile, Dorchester Mite Gold lost a heartbreaker to Hyde Park, 2-1, to take the runner-up slot in the “AAA” division.

Dot’s Mite White and Mite Green teams also had good showings in the tournament winning multiple games. In all, Dorchester teams went 14-5 in the competition.




The DYH Mite Red team gathers around the Mayor’s Cup with Mayor Wu and Parks Commissioner Ryan Woods after their win in the ‘A’ Division



The DYH Mite Blue team celebrates its ‘AA’ Mayor’s Cup win on Dec. 30 in Hyde Park.

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Plan: Transform Frederick School to new grade levels

(Continued from page 1)

nity that the district remains deeply committed to the Frederick building, with the Lilla G. Frederick name, continuing to serve as a BPS school in the Grove Hall community. We plan to do so in a way that honors the work and legacy of Lilla G. Frederick and the deep commitment of this community.”

Lilla Frederick was a Grove Hall resident and activist who was instrumental in siting and designing the school. The school was re-named for her after her death.

The School Facilities Report that was made public last week has been more than a year in the making and was described as a “roadmap” for reconfiguring the BPS footprint over the next decades. Though few specifics were given over its 80 pages, its emphasis was to have fewer small schools and more larger schools at the elementary and high school levels – with specialty schools still carving out a niche within the system.

“The Boston Public Schools of the future will have fewer total schools and more larger sized schools in its portfolio to align with the BPS community’s collective vision of a high-quality student experience and the physical spaces that support that vision,” the report asserted. “This work can be difficult. Each decision will be fully analyzed



A view of the Lilla G. Frederick Pilot Middle School, built in 2003, on Columbia Road. The school will be re-configured into an elementary school and will no longer function as a middle school under a plan outlined last week by Boston school officials. Image courtesy BPS

so that the impact on students and families, school communities, and the surrounding neighborhood is fully understood, and so that proposals can be designed to close opportunity and achievement gaps.”

School and city officials noted in the report that they would

accomplish the smaller, more efficient, district by school mergers, school closures, reconfigurations, renovations, and new buildings.

“Shifting our physical footprint will be uncomfortable and will cause disruption. Mergers and closures are difficult, and new construction

and renovation projects take longer than any of us would like,” wrote Mayor Wu, Supt. Mary Skipper, and School Committee Chair Jeri Robinson. “Demographic changes, financial realities, and other operational constraints must factor into our plans, but we will work through these challenges and refuse to settle for anything less than delivering high-quality student experiences throughout the entire district.”

Will Austin, director of the non-profit Boston Schools Fund, said the document does contain important statements, but also leaves out specifics like funding, and doesn’t update enrollment projections – which haven’t been renewed since 2017, he said.

“First, it doesn’t matter if a school is big or small, it’s whether it’s good or not,” he said.

“It is important there is a public document that states what everyone knows and that is we have too many buildings and they are too old...It is a document that is exactly what they said they would produce, and the question is what happens next.”

Some hints already exist for what happens next in Dorchester and Mattapan, where a significant portion (32) of the city’s schools are located and many are smaller elementary schools that don’t fit into the new ‘model small K-6’ school detailed in the report.

Last year, the School Committee approved a controversial merger of the Shaw and Taylor Schools amid an invite from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) last month that allows the district to compete for funding to build a new, larger school nearby.

Also recently announced is a merger of the UP Academy Boston (in South Boston) with the UP Academy Dorchester at the old John Marshall School on Westville Street, creating a new K-8.

The report stated that at the elementary level, there are 26,500 students in 86 buildings citywide. The plan indicates there should be between 37 and 75 schools instead – 75 schools in the small school model (356 student minimum) and 37 in the large school model (712 student minimum). For secondary schools now serving grades 7-12, there are 22,000 students in 33 buildings. While the three exam schools (Boston Latin School, Boston Latin Academy, and John D. O’Bryant School), Madison Park Technical Vocational School, and East Boston High housed larger enrollments of 1,000 to 2,400 students, other schools averaged only 499 students. The report suggested those smaller enrollment schools could be accommodated with 14

to 19 schools. However, the report said with the complexities within the system, a more realistic secondary number would be 19-24 schools.

A key piece of that will be looking at underutilized schools, or those who are below their maximum enrollment. With the ideal between 90-105 percent utilization, several Dorchester and Mattapan schools do not currently meet that mark – making them ripe for potential changes like mergers or closures. Elementary schools in the two neighborhoods labeled underutilized (35-90 percent of capacity) in the report include the Dever, Clap, Mason, Trotter, Martin Luther King K-8, UP Dorchester, Holmes, Lee K-8, PA Shaw, Mattahunt, Mildred Avenue K-8, and the Ellison Parks Early Learning Center (ELC). Local secondary schools labeled underutilized include the Jeremiah E. Burke, CASH, Tech-Boston Academy, and Boston International Newcomers Academy.

The 20-year-old Frederick building, one of the system’s newer facilities, will probably figure into those closures and mergers in some fashion, though that hasn’t been announced yet.

The report indicated that with the right planning, mergers, closures, and new buildings can be a positive as larger enrollments present more opportunities for science, arts, and music programming. “Many of our schools are small and don’t have the physical spaces needed to support a diversity of programming or the space for multiple classrooms at each grade level,” the report stated.

A comprehensive planning process will get underway in the spring for schools undergoing transitions, and Skipper is expected to present merger and/or closing plans to the School Committee in late April for the 2025-26 school year.

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Mass. home sales plunged in 2023; low inventory, interest rates cited

Home sales across Massachusetts sank to a 12-year low in 2023, the first year in office for Gov. Healey, whose road to the corner office was paved with promises to boldly tackle the state’s housing crisis.

The Warren Group reported this week that record high prices and an insufficient inventory made it a tough year for buyers, and home sales were down by nearly 22.5 percent last year, compared to 2022. The median sale price for a single-family home in Massachusetts last year

was \$570,000, up about 3.6 percent over 2022.

In December, there were 3,150 single-family home sales in Massachusetts, the fewest for any December since 2008. The median single-family home sale price increased 5.9 percent in December to \$540,000, a new all-time high for the month.

“Limited inventory and high interest rates are the driving force behind this trend, with prospective buyers facing a challenging landscape,” Cassidy Norton, media relations director of The Warren Group, said. “As



BGCD Keystone Club Takes Part in Annual MLK Day Cupcakes for Caring Event: See details below.

CONNECT THE DOT:
BGCD Keystone Club Takes Part in Annual MLK Day Cupcakes for Caring Event: On Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, 16 Teen members of Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester's Keystone Club took part in an annual service project called "Cupcakes for Caring" to deliver cupcakes to local First Responder locations. This is the 8th year for the annual event, which takes place every MLK Day and is an opportunity to thank First Responders working at 17 of our local Fire, Police and EMT stations within the community. In remembrance of Dr. King, we take pride in thanking those who provide such a critical role in the protection and service of our communities. Next up for the members of our Keystone Club will be a day of volunteering at a Food Pantry event in Lawrence. For more information on Keystone Club please contact Declan Hall at dhall@bgcdorchester.org.

FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE:
BGCD Partners with Elevate Youth for Skiing at Mount Wachusett: This past weekend, Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester partnered with our friends at Elevate Youth for our first Outdoor Adventure of the New Year. Our members enjoyed an outing to Mount Wachusett for a fun-filled day of skiing. Our members received all the gear, lessons and lift passes for the day.

Elevate Youth's vision is to spark a lifelong love of the outdoors through equitable access and routine immersion in nature as a way to foster agency and lead holistic, healthy lifestyles.

Thanks to the team at Elevate Youth for another outstanding day! We can't wait for our next outing in February, which will be trying X-Country Skiing at the Weston Ski Track.



BGCD Partners with Elevate Youth for Skiing at Mount Wachusett: See details below.

DID YOU KNOW:
BGCD Hosts Open Mic & Holiday Karaoke Night for Members & Families: Members of our Music Clubhouse at Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester hosted an Open Mic & Holiday Karaoke Night event for our members and parents. Our participants included members from our afterschool and drop-in programs and those who take individual music lessons to showcase their talents. We also had staff members who joined in the fun. The Music Clubhouse program offers drop-in sessions to try the various instruments and electronic music making equipment as well as a full lesson program.

We encourage all members who have an interest in exploring musical interests and opportunities within the Music Clubhouse to please contact Music Director Carleton Burke at cburke@bgcdorchester.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Power Forward Career Cafe
January 24

Lunar New Year Celebration
January 27

Cupid's Disco Inclusion Dance
February 9

*More info: eferrara@bgcdorchester.org

President's Day - BGCD Closed
February 19

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RECENT OBITUARIES



BURGO, Mandjedje, 64, of Boston. He was the son of Maria Jose (Rodrigues) Burgo and the late Antonio Burgo. He immigrated to the United States in Massachusetts settling in Roxbury. He leaves his children, Daniel Burgo of Queens, New York, Mandjedje Burgo Jr. of Dorchester and Jessica Burgo of Lynn; his 2 grandchildren; his mother, Maria Jose (Rodrigues) Burgo of Quincy; his siblings, Leopoldina Barbosa (Michael)

of Randolph, Adriano Burgo of Fall River, Antonio Burgo of Quincy, Juvencia Beeten (Seth) of Stoughton, Fatima Fernandes (Thomas) of Randolph, Steve Burgo of Quincy and the late Manuel Burgo; also survived by many nieces and nephews. He worked as an interpreter for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for many years.



DYER, Judith Ann “Judy” (LaBollita) Judy, 78, of Quincy.

Daughter to the late Pasquale LaBollita and Ann (Welch) LaBollita of Dorchester. Judy’s 40-year nursing career spanned several disciplines and workplaces, including Carney Hospital, St. Elizabeth’s, Neponset Health Center, Brigham and Women’s and Massachusetts General Hospital. Wife of Jack Dyer. She was the mother of Jonathan Dyer, his wife, Kathy; and their daughter; and Joanna Dyer and her husband, Arnold Benson of Portland, Oregon. She was preceded in death by her siblings Patty D’Antuono, Kathy Doyle and Billy LaBollita. Judy is survived by many nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be sent in Judy’s name to the PKD Foundation for Polycystic Kidney Disease by visiting pkdcure.org or Standish Human Society by visiting standishhumane.org



LARRY, Louis Karl, 61, of New Hampshire, formerly of Dorchester. Son to the late Mayfield and Rosalie Larry. He leaves his only daughter Nieyana Johnson, his siblings Leslie Milton and Essie Sims. He is also survived by a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, family, and friends. Louis was preceded in death by his parents, Mayfield and Rosalie Larry, and the late Charles Cooks, his brother.

MULLINS Beatrice Marie (Butler), 96, of Milton, formerly of



Dorchester. Beatrice was the daughter of the late James F. Butler and Mary T. (Cremen) Butler. She is survived by her four children: Maureen Matamoros (Beacon Falls, CT); Thomas Mullins (Andover), Kathleen Mullins (Sherborn), and Sandra Mullins (Newton), their spouses Raul, Maureen, and Edward, her six grandchildren, her two great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. Beatrice was predeceased by her husband Thomas and siblings Mary F. (Butler)

Moran, Helena, James, Thomas, and John Butler, all of Massachusetts. Beatrice was a teacher most of her adult life. In her late career years she pursued masters-level certification in Psychometrics, and became an intelligence testing consultant and special education tutor in the schools.



ROCHE, Eileen, 91, of Florida, originally from Dorchester. Wife of the late Daniel “Buddy” Roche, the co-founder of Roche Bros. Supermarkets and mother of the late Patty. She was the daughter of Joseph and Anna Sullivan. Eileen leaves her son, Dan of Dover; Jay and his wife, Laurie of Boston; Brenda of Marshfield. Her 3 grandchildren; and 2 great-grandchildren. Memorial gifts can be made to the Patty Roche Scholarship at Stonehill College.

LEGAL NOTICES

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
SUFFOLK DIVISION
24 NEW CHARDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
Docket No. SU22D2199DR
DIVORCE SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION and MAILING
BUI LOC VAN
vs.
LE HIEN KIM**

To the Defendant:

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

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon: Bui Loc Van, 66 Greenwich, Apt. 2, Dorchester, MA 02122-1223 your answer, if any, on or before **03/01/2024**. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.

Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.
Date: January 2, 2024
Stephanie L. Everett
Register of Probate
Published: January 18, 2024

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE and FAMILY COURT
SUFFOLK PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
24 NEW CHARDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
617-788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR ORDER OF
COMPLETE SETTLEMENT
Docket No. SU22P2340PM
ESTATE OF: FILS SEIDE**

A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by Jonathan M. Spirm, Esq. of Waltham, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account, Temporary & Permanent, and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m.** on the return day of **02/20/2024**.

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

Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.
Date: January 9, 2024
Stephanie L. Everett
Register of Probate
Published: January 18, 2024

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CODMAN SQUARE NDC
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/SPECIAL PROJECTS MANAGER
January 2024

The Executive Assistant/Special Projects Manager is responsible for a multitude of administrative and special project functions for this small, yet busy community development office. The mission of the Codman Square NDC is to stabilize and develop the neighborhood both economically and socially via real estate, economic and community building initiatives.

The Executive Assistant/Special Projects Manager reports to the Executive Director and works with all levels of the staff to achieve the agency’s goals/mission.

Key Responsibilities:

- Provide administrative support to the Executive Director. Includes scheduling meetings, managing and producing executive-level written and verbal communications, PowerPoint presentations, etc.
- Manage website and information technology functions, including maintaining and troubleshooting website and computer issues, etc.
- Research legislative and programmatic issues relevant to the agency’s work.
- Manage/coordinate production of agency-wide reports.
- Staff, manage and implement regular and special projects such as the NDC’s 45th Anniversary Gala, annual Craft Fair, website upgrades, NeighborWorks Week, Board meetings, etc.
- Maintain donor and CIRC database, manage and cultivate donors and outreach activities. Serve as primary support person to senior staff around fundraising.

Bachelors degree in related field with 1-3 years executive level support experience or 4-6 years such experience. Excellent written, verbal communication and computer skills (both with hard and software) required. Excellent knowledge of word processing, database development and spreadsheet programs a must.

Must be well organized and detailed-oriented with ability to handle a variety of tasks concurrently and work independently, under pressure. Excellent time-management skills required.

Base salary \$63,000+. Send cover letter with salary requirements, and resume by February 23, 2024 to:

Gail Latimore
Codman Square NDC
587 Washington Street, Dorchester, MA 02124

Or to jobs@csndc.com, No phone calls please. Codman Square NDC is an equal opportunity employer.

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
SUFFOLK PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
24 NEW CHARDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
CITATION GIVING NOTICE
OF PETITION FOR
APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN
FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON
PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304
Docket No. SU24P0030GD
IN THE MATTER OF:
VIMALA SAROJINI
of DORCHESTER, MA
RESPONDENT**

Alleged Incapacitated Person

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by St. Joseph Rehabilitation and Nursing of Dorchester, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Vimala Sarojini is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Velma J. Brinson of Hyde Park, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond.

The petition asks the Court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **02/06/2024**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

Witness, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.

Stephanie L. Everett
Register of Probate
Date: January 5, 2024
Published: January 18, 2024

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