

Dorchester Reporter

“The News and Values Around the Neighborhood”

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50¢

HAPPY HOUR ON SAVIN HILL



Aaron “Bear” Berger performed atop Savin Hill on Sept. 30 for a gathering of friends, neighbors and fans. The singer-songwriter has convened a weekly “happy hour” throughout the spring and summer on the crest of the city park, which offers panoramic views of Boston and Dorchester Bay. Berger, who lives nearby, launched the outdoor musical picnics “for everybody to come together and create community, and that’s how I met so many cool people in the neighborhood.” See Page 7. *Corvin Wickersham photo*

Unequal tree canopy coverage called peril to city’s well-being

Officials mull how to meet challenge

BY GRACE MAYER
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

Take a look at Andrew Haile’s property, and it’s clear where his passions lie. The 36-year-old Northeastern professor’s yard on Millet Street west of Washington is brimming with a variety of trees that he has planted over the last three years. Nestled in his 5,000-square-foot yard is a garden comprising six apple trees, four pear trees, two fig trees, two plum trees, one mulberry tree, and, his latest additions, four pawpaw trees along the property’s wooden fence.

But Haile’s backyard is an exception across his neighborhood.

Beyond his home, he said, the neighborhood is bereft of trees, save for a few freshly planted ones scattered throughout the area. The disparate spread of trees in the city as a whole is an issue that the Parks and Recreation Department is trying to address.

“The reality is that the tree canopy is not equitably distributed in the city,” said the Rev. Mariama White-Hammond, City Hall’s chief of environment, energy, and open space. “There are some neighborhoods that are leafy green and some neighborhoods that have lots of hardscape. ... the tree canopy conversation is really about how we right these historical wrongs, and how we take seriously the health and well-being of every single resident

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Andrew Haile’s property on Millet Street has a garden comprising six apple trees, four pear trees, two fig trees, two plum trees, one mulberry tree, and, his latest additions, four pawpaw trees along the property’s wooden fence.

Worrell, Carvalho push messages in D4

BY SETH DANIEL
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

Two finalists for the District 4 seat on the Boston City Council — Brian Worrell and former state Rep. Evandro Carvalho — are busy on the campaign trail this month as they seek to replace Andrea Campbell, who opted to leave the Mattapan-Dorchester seat behind to mount a mayoral candidacy.

Worrell, a first-time candidate, posted an impressive first-place victory in the Sept. 14 election, winning a 25 percent share—2,498 votes in a nine-person field. Carvalho was next up with 1,835

votes or 19 percent, enough to earn a spot on the Nov. 2 ballot.

After the Sept. 14 election, Carvalho won an endorsement from the Ward 15 Democratic Committee, a group that knows him well from his tenure as a state representative in the Fifth Suffolk district. But, to date, none of their former rivals for the council seat have offered public support for either candidate.

Josette Williams, who finished fourth with about 12 percent, said she instead plans to push more people to come out and remedy the low turnout from Sept. 14.

“I have chosen not to endorse in

this race,” said Williams. “What’s important to me is to endorse the vote, as I had 1,174 people that trusted me enough to give me their vote and it’s important to me to honor that — to honor the grass roots effort we put together...I will be doing my homework and making my own decision on Election Day for the District 4 race, and I would just ask all those that voted me to do their homework, come to their own conclusions, and definitely get out and vote again.”

The same is true for Will Dickerson III, who won about 10 percent of the vote, but said he is

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Essaibi George lays out ‘equity’ agenda; Wu touts support of Markey and Pressley

BY GINTAUTAS DUMCIUS
MANAGING EDITOR

With the Nov. 2 election less than a month away, mayoral finalists Anissa Essaibi George and Michelle Wu continue to pick up key endorsements while steering their campaigns toward votes in the city’s communities of color.

On Tuesday in Roxbury, Essaibi George rolled out an “Equity, Inclusion and Justice Agenda” after a “listen and learn” tour that took her to the Bowdoin Geneva neighborhood, the Vietnamese Day Center in Fields Corner, Le Foyer bakery in Mattapan, and a roundtable discussion with Somali women.

“As mayor of Boston, I will ensure that Boston is intentional in rooting out inequity and dismantling racism in our city — from education and housing, to climate and health care, and even how and when potholes are filled and sidewalks are fixed,” she said.

Essaibi George said the agenda will be a “constant work in progress.” She also said her administration would

(Continued on page 4)

We’re ‘at zero again’ says Flaherty of the at-large campaign

BY GINTAUTAS DUMCIUS
MANAGING EDITOR

Michael Flaherty has a secret formula. When the polls closed the night of Sept. 14, he had just left Hyde Park’s Baptist College, which is in voter-rich Ward 18. As he drove to his campaign headquarters on Broadway in South Boston, numbers were already coming in, through phone calls and texts.

There are about a dozen precincts, out of a total of 255 across Boston, that Flaherty has looked to throughout his time as a citywide politician. Those precincts, he told the *Reporter* in an interview, have always been “extremely accurate” in forecasting who is going to win once all the ballots are counted.

By 8:30 p.m., his tallies were already showing that it would be Michelle Wu and Anissa Essaibi George in the mayoral final. He also had the lineup for the highest-scoring four in the at-large race, which

(Continued on page 16)



City Councillor Michael Flaherty. *Yukun Zhung photo for the Reporter*

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A smoky fire inside the McDonald's in Codman Square was quickly knocked down last Friday morning (Oct. 1) by firefighters who were called to the scene on Washington Street around 3:15 a.m. According to the Boston Fire Department, the blaze was "contained to the one business, no injuries to report and the cause of the fire is under investigation."

BFD photo



New MAHA director will start in January

Symone Crawford has been named the next executive director of the MassAffordableHousing Alliance (MAHA), the Dorchester-based organization focused on home ownership. Crawford, whose starting date is Jan. 1, succeeds Tom Callahan, who stepped down after a long tenure as director earlier this year. Currently an executive with MAHA, Crawford

had previously been a member of the organization's board of directors for 11 years. With this appointment, she will be one of the first women of color to lead a statewide nonprofit housing organization in Massachusetts. "I'm humbled by the chance to continue to break down the barriers facing lower income homebuyers, especially homebuyers of color,"



Symone Crawford said Crawford. "MAHA has always worked to narrow the racial homeownership gap and now is the time for everyone to redouble our efforts to make serious progress in Boston and throughout the state." Crawford grew up in Jamaica and came to Boston in 1999.

UPCOMING CIVIC MEETINGS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Project D.E.E.P. private and parochial school fair will be held on Wed., Oct. 13 from 6:30-8 p.m. at Leahy Holloran Community Center, 1 Worrell St., Dorchester. Speak to admission directors from over 20 private and parochial schools— middle and high school level. Masks required. Email: lauren@projectdeep.org or visit projectdeep.org for more info.

The Boston Planning and Development Agency will 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 bostonplans.org.

City of Boston Household Hazardous Waste drop-off will be held on Sat., Oct. 9 from 9 a.m.- 2 p.m. at DPW Yard, 315 Gardner St., West Roxbury. Boston residents only— proof of residency required. Thermometers, thermostats,

fluorescent lamps, etc. See: Boston.gov/hazardous-waste.

Fifth annual Mike's 5K set for Oct. 16 in Milton — Mike's 5K, a race/walk in memory of Dorchester native Michael Mulcahy, begins at 10a.m. on Oct. 16 from 80 Edge Hill Rd. in Milton. Mulcahy died from an overdose in December 2016. This event builds local awareness of addiction and generates funds for organizations that support patients and families in efforts to get clean. Now in its fifth year, Mike's 5K has raised more than \$200,000 for the Gavin Foundation, Bay State Community Services of Quincy, the Grayken Center at Boston Medical, and other organizations committed to care and support for people struggling against addiction. Go to mikesfivek.org for more info.

A virtual public meeting is set for Mon., Oct. 25 at 6 p.m. to discuss a proposed cannabis establishment for 1102 Blue Hill Ave., Dorchester. Go to tinyurl.com/injaga2 or join by phone: 929-436-

2866 meeting ID 823 5728 7748. Submit questions in advance to Cleon Byron at cleon@injaglobal.com.

The Martin Richard Foundation, in partnership with the Boston Bruins Foundation, New 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 Rink in Brighton, and the Bajko Memorial Rink in Hyde Park. For more info on hours and availability, go to mass.gov/info-details/dcr-ice-skating-rink-schedule.

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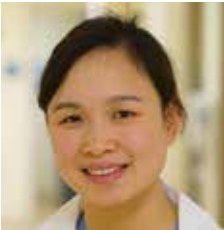
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MBTA woes trigger calls for revenue, board appointments

By MICHAEL P. NORTON
STATE HOUSE
NEWS SERVICE

In just the past few weeks, a jogger died after falling through a closed stairwell next to the MBTA's JKF-UMass train station, an escalator malfunctioned and caused injuries to people at the T's Back Bay Station, and just last Tuesday, a Red Line train derailed and damaged the track and platform at Broadway Station.

The spate of problems were just the latest at the transit authority, which for years has struggled with on-time performance, equipment failures, and a rash of derailments. Nearly two years ago, an independent panel concluded

that the T had taken a "questionable" approach to safety due to fiscal belt-tightening, a lack of trust in leadership, and frequent lapses in maintenance and inspections.

And while Gov. Baker last week again declared the T "safe," many riders are unsurprisingly not fully convinced. The problems are fueling a surge in advocacy for both Baker and the Democrats who control the Legislature to accelerate the pace of positive change at the T.

"Injuries are rare. Incidents like Tuesday are not," Jarred Johnson, executive director of TransitMatters, said at a press conference outside the State House last on Thursday, referring

to the Red Line derailment. "Unfortunately, there are thousands of cancelled buses and delayed trains that wreak havoc on the schedules and the lives of people across the region, and those often aren't news stories."

Johnson and others, including representatives of essential workers who have relied on the T to get to jobs during the pandemic, called on Baker and the Legislature to take immediate steps to make the T reliable and safe and to help the state grow its economy and meet its emission reduction targets.

Several speakers implored Baker to appoint members to the new MBTA board of directors created under a July law. As October nears, speakers said, the T needs a dedicated governing body to ensure accountability, which it has not had since lawmakers and Baker allowed the former Fiscal and Management Control Board to expire on June 30.

"We have had lots of very pie-in-the-sky promises from the governor, but when it comes to the actual keeping the system intact, where's our new oversight board? It's been three months and we have yet to see

the new board appointed," said Stuart Spina, speaking on behalf of Alternatives for Community and Environment and the T Riders Union.

Speakers didn't focus just on the Republican governor. They also implored legislative Democrats to revisit the transportation revenue debate that was raging in 2019 and early 2020, before the pandemic struck and the Senate decided to shelve a House-approved package. Since then, legislative leaders have given no indication that they plan to roll out new revenue bills.

Collique Williams, an organizer with Community Labor United, said the T's problems are "symptoms of the system that has been underfunded for too long" and said the T for too many years has relied too heavily on fare revenue. That approach, he said, was exposed when ridership cratered due to the coronavirus.

Williams called on voters to pass a constitutional amendment imposing an income surtax on wealthy households next fall and for the Legislature to pass "new, fair and sustainable revenue sources," including raising the corporate income tax.

Added Johnson: "My message to the Legislature is this: The T doesn't run on hopes and dreams, hoping that Washington will solve problems and dreaming about flexible work options solving traffic congestion ... It's time for the Legislature to act now and fund the T."

With Massachusetts once again tuned in to T issues, thanks to its recent problems, Baker during an event in Framingham on Wednesday told reporters, "First of all, the MBTA is safe."

He later added, "I think there have been 8 derailments in the past 24 months. That's 8 too many, but again the T is safe and every single day thousands and thousands of people rely on it to get to where they're going and it works."

The governor went on to describe the MBTA as "old" and said "historic investments" were being made that are "the most ambitious in history" and that should have been undertaken by his predecessors.

Asked by a reporter if people should be fired or a new board appointed, Baker said the incidents are being investigated, and the investigations must be done first "before any decisions get made about some of

those other questions." The governor said he was "in the process of appointing a new board" and noted the state transportation board that currently oversees the MBTA includes members who served on the now-expired T board.

Baker also expressed hope that Washington can agree on an infrastructure investment bill, saying such legislation could provide "significant additional investment" in the T and in transportation.

"I hope they get something done," he said.

Outside the State House, Stacy Thompson, executive director of the LivableStreets Alliance, said she agreed with Baker's assertion that his predecessors should have made bigger investments in the T and showcased 30 reports assembled over the past 20 years that pointed to "chronic disinvestment."

Calling on Baker to immediately appoint a T board, Thompson also asked the Legislature to turn its attention back to an MBTA revenue bill, saying the needs flagged in the 2020 debate are still there.

"They just need to get back to work and get it done," she said.

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*Entry restrictions apply.

Essaibi George lays out ‘equity’ agenda; Wu touts support of Markey and Pressley

(Continued from page 1) spend \$100 million to implement her goals, with the help of a task force of community members, clergy, and advocates. The 44-page agenda calls for increased funding for down payment assistance and other housing initiatives and within the first 100 days of her administration, an “anti-speculation” tax that seeks to “discourage investors from buying units and leaving them empty.”

The agenda also calls for expanding addiction support and a centralized database for recovery services and the creation of a \$50 million fund that would go directly to Black, Latinx, Asian American, and Pacific Islander (AAPI) entrepreneurs.

Essaibi George also plans to implement the recommendations of a police reform task force, including the expansion of the use of body cameras and a mandate to release footage of an incident within 24 hours “to establish public trust and transparency.”

When asked about Essaibi George’s plan hours before it was formally released, Wu said her campaign proposals are centered on their



Anissa Essaibi George spoke about her “equity, inclusion and justice” agenda in Roxbury on Tuesday.

own conversations with community members. “There is so much that is within the power of city government to do and to do immediately, from reforming our contracts to ensure there is equity and clear steps in the first 100 days around spending of city dollars,” to boosting homeownership, she said.

“We have the resources, we have the activism, we have the ideas, we just have to make sure we are using the political will to center Black and brown communities,” she added.

Wu has continued to rack up endorsements from top elected officials. U.S. Sen. Ed Markey came out for Wu on Wednesday, citing her “Green New Deal,” a localized proposal to deal with climate change.

“Her proposals to ex-

pand access to free public transportation, decarbonize our economy, and invest in the basic rights of clean air and water will put Boston on a path to implement the systemic changes we need to provide our children, workers, and families a just and livable future,” Markey said in a statement.

Late last week, Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, who worked with both Wu and Essaibi George when the three served on the City Council as at-large members, said Wu has her vote and then hit the campaign trail with her on Saturday.

Pressley was the first woman of color ever elected to the City Council when she won an at-large seat in 2009.

“I’m not giving Michelle anything. She

earned my vote, and she has earned this endorsement,” Pressley, a Boston Democrat who stayed out of the five-way mayoral preliminary, said at an event in Hyde Park. “Today, for me, is about policy. It’s about partnership and accountability. And it’s about a shared history, aligned values.”

The support of Markey and Pressley in the general election are the latest in a string of major endorsements that Wu has garnered in the days after the preliminary, from the SEIU 1199 healthcare workers union and SEIU 32BJ property service workers union to Acting Mayor Kim Janey, a former rival who is the first woman and first person of color to serve as the city’s chief executive.

Essaibi George, who was the first elected official to endorse Pressley in her successful effort to topple Congressman Michael Capuano in the 2018 Democratic primary, touted her own string of endorsements, coming over several days from building trades unions.

The same day Pressley’s endorsement was announced, a union presenting workers who

2 TV debates set for Wu, Essaibi George

The Dorchester Reporter and the Bay State Banner will once again team up with NBC10 Boston, NECN, and Telemundo Boston to sponsor a live debate between the two finalists for mayor, Anissa Essaibi George and Michelle Wu. The telecast will take place on Tues., Oct. 19, at 7 p.m.

The second debate ahead of the Nov. 2 general election will be moderated by NBC10 Boston Morning News Anchor Latoyia Edwards, with political reporter Alison King and Telemundo Boston news anchor Grace Gómez as panelists. Viewer questions will be solicited in advance via social media as well as from readers of the Dorchester Reporter and the Bay State Banner. Candidates will not see the questions ahead of time.

Wu and Essaibi George are also scheduled to meet for a one-on-one debate live on CBS Boston (Channel 4) on Wed., Oct. 13, at 7 p.m. Jon Keller will moderate that event.

focus on mechanical insulation and hazardous waste remediation, Insulators Local 6, voiced their support for Essaibi George. Support from the Roslindale-based Painters and Allied Trades Local 35, which has 1,000 members in Boston, followed.

“Anissa has been a fierce champion for workers’ rights and an economy that prioritizes working people,” Jeff Sullivan, the union’s business manager, said in a statement. “Boston needs a leader that not only understands what working families are up against in this city, but is ready to take those challenges head on. It’s why Anissa needs to be the next Mayor of Boston.”

Essaibi George also has the support of Laborers Local 223, a building trades union run by former mayor Marty Walsh’s cousin, who is also named Marty Walsh, and IBEW Local 103, the electrical workers union.

Wu has her own union backers, including SEIU 1199, which had roughly \$3 million in its political action committee before it endorsed her. The union has started spending its dollars on digital advertising. In its latest filings with state campaign finance regulators, it reported a total of \$109,000 spent in support of Wu, much of it on digital advertising.

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Essaibi George: Being from Boston is ‘relevant’ to me, voters in mayor’s race

By GINTAUTAS DUMCIUS
MANAGING EDITOR
An interview on GBH’s
“Boston Public Radio”



last Thursday sparked a back-and-forth between the two city councillors who are the finalists in the mayor’s race, offering a potential preview of the distinctions they’re trying to draw ahead of Nov. 2.

Asked about differentiating herself from Michelle Wu, Annissa Essaibi George, a Dorchester native, pointed to the fact that she was born and raised in Boston. Wu, who lives in Roslindale, is originally from Chicago.

Both are the daughters of immigrants and both have owned a small business. Wu, who worked for the late Mayor Thomas Menino and US Sen. Elizabeth Warren, was elected to the Boston City Council in 2013. Essaibi George has been a part of local civic groups and served as a youth coach.

When asked by the GBH interviewer if Wu’s Chicago roots should be a “relevant consideration” for voters, Essaibi George said, “Well, I think it’s relevant to me, and I think it’s relevant to a lot of voters — whether or not they’re born and raised in this city — because I’ve seen this city for many, many years.”

Wu took to Twitter with a response: “Reminder: The Mayor of Boston needs to lead for ALL of us.” She added, “I’m ready to fight for every resident — whether you’ve been here since birth or chose to make Boston your home along the way.”

She does not believe a voter should vote against Wu due to her Chicago roots, Essaibi George told the *Reporter* after the radio interview.

“It’s certainly not to say that someone who isn’t born and raised in this city can’t also do this work,” she said. “But when asked what are the things that either draw distinctions between the two of us or have informed the way that I lead, or the way that I think it’s so important to be connected to our neighborhoods and to our city’s residents in a

different way, all of those experiences along the way have made it such.”

The mayoral race, set to end Nov. 2, is a “campaign of distinctions,” Essaibi George added. “We’ve got two choices for who’s going to lead this city. My experience is from birth in this city. [I’m the] daughter of immigrants who were not born in this city, who are not of this city,” Essaibi George said, referring to her Tunisian father and Polish mother. “That’s a distinction between me and Councillor Wu. And that’s a distinction on some of the platforms in which I’ve worked on, some of the ways in which I’ve engaged with our city’s residents and in the ways that I will lead this city as mayor.”

Repeating what she said in the radio interview, Essaibi George said she has been “underestimated” and “discounted,” adding, “I think there is an assumption by Councillor Wu and her campaign that this is a done deal. I will continue to draw distinctions on why I think I would be a better leader, and why, and how, the things that I’ve experienced in my lifetime in this city have brought me to this

point and have made me the right person to lead this city going forward.”

Former D4 candidate donates HQ to Wu

Leonard Lee, a long-time activist who came in fifth place in the District 4 City Council preliminary, wrote in an email to volunteers and supporters on Tuesday that he is supporting “Michelle Wu’s candidacy because for as long as I have known her, she has demonstrated love and commitment to the neighborhoods of Roxbury, Dorchester, and Mattapan, where I grew up. She has been there to address the issues of housing, education, economic development, transportation, and public safety.”

He added that he has donated his former campaign headquarters at 1102 Blue Hill Ave. to the Wu campaign.

Lee garnered 974 votes in the nine-person preliminary for the District 4 seat, which opened up when Councillor Andrea Campbell launched her campaign for mayor.

The final election, set for Nov. 2, is between real estate broker Brian Worrell and former state representative Evandro Carvalho.



US Rep. Stephen Lynch with his endorsee Erin Murphy.

US Rep. Lynch backs Murphy in at-large race

Congressman Stephen Lynch has thrown his support behind a former Dorchester teacher in the eight-person race for four City Council at-large seats.

Erin Murphy, who came in fourth place in the Sept. 14 preliminary, said she was honored to earn Lynch’s backing.

“Congressman Lynch’s endorsement means a great deal to me, not just because he’s been representing the working families of Boston so faithfully for decades,” Murphy said in a statement. “His story of working hard, putting himself through school at night, raising his family in the city, and never turning his back on his values really resonates with me.”

A former ironworker and labor attorney who lives in South Boston, Lynch was elected to Congress in 2001 and

serves as chairman of the subcommittee on terrorism. His Congressional district includes South Boston and part of Dorchester, as well as the cities of Quincy and Brockton.

“I know a hard worker when I see one, and that’s Erin,” Lynch said in his own statement. “She taught in the Boston Public Schools for more than 20 years, she raised her three kids in the city as a single mother, and she has given back to her neighbors and her community at every turn.”

Murphy has also picked up endorsements from the Massachusetts Nurses Association, Boston Firefighters Local 718, Boston EMS, and City Councillors Frank Baker of Dorchester and Ed Flynn of South Boston.

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Bisa Butler, *To God and Truth* (detail), 2019. Printed and resist-dyed cottons, cotton velvet, rayon satin, and knotted string, pieced, appliquéd, and quilted. John H. and Ernestine A. Payne Fund, The Heritage Fund for a Diverse Collection, and Arthur Mason Knapp Fund. © Bisa Butler and Claire Oliver Gallery.

Sponsored by Chase. Generously supported by Carolyn and Peter Lynch and the Lynch Foundation, The Coby Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

With field trip funds in mind, Mather teachers will run in marathon

By GRACE MAYER
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

Two teachers from the Mather Elementary School in Dorchester will lace up their sneakers next week to run in the 125th Boston Marathon, carrying on a tradition of running to raise money for student field trips.

“I love the school and the students, and I think it’s a good cause that takes some of the stress off teachers,” said Hong Le-Smith, 39, a pre-kindergarten teacher at the Mather. It will be her third time running in the marathon. This year, she’ll be joined by fifth grade teacher Michael Bortolussi, 28, who ran virtually last spring.

The Mather School fundraiser, held each year since 2015, aims to raise \$10,000 to fund field trips for its students. Each year, the tradition has continued with two teachers or staff members volunteering to run the race.

This year is the first time the marathon will be held in October. It was cancelled last year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. An estimated 20,000 runners will make the

26.2-mile journey from Hopkinton to Boylston Street.

“I’m excited just to be back in person,” Le-Smith said. “I did a half virtual last year, so I think it will be nice to be back in Boston and to run the route with other people.”

Le-Smith started training for the marathon in June, a time when, she said, the heat can make training especially challenging. But along with training, she was juggling her three kids and planning family vacations.

For Bortolussi, the heat also took a toll on his training during the summer. Some days, he said, he’d spend 30 minutes just staring at his shoes before setting out on his 20-mile run. By that point, he’d been training for the race and raising money on and off for nearly two years.

He didn’t lose his focus, though. Walking into his classroom every day, he said he was inspired by the familial culture at Mather and the school’s fundraising goal—a strong enough motivator that pushed

him to rush home after school was dismissed to continue his training.

Before he began training last year, Bortolussi said, he had never run more than four miles at a time. While Le-Smith is about to embark on her fourth marathon—her third time racing the Boston route and once racing the Chicago marathon—like Bortolussi, she wasn’t always a runner.

She didn’t start until after college as a way to keep in shape and minimize stress. Lacing up her sneakers, she started out with a mile and built up her distance from there, falling in love with the “simplicity” of the sport along the way.

Le-Smith, who grew up in Dorchester, said she is participating in the race this year because she didn’t have these opportunities to attend field trips while she attended the Mather School as a kid.

While the school team has to date raised more than \$7,000 on their GoFundMe, the group hopes to raise \$10,000 for their students. In the past, the money raised



Michael Bortolussi, a fifth-grade teacher at the Mather Elementary School, will run the Boston Marathon the benefit the school on Monday.
Courtesy photo Michael Bortolussi

has funded trips for their nearly 500 students from pre-kindergarten to fifth grade.

With the cost of school buses alone costing upwards of \$800, Mather School principal Hai Son said the fundraiser eliminates the financial barriers for teachers when planning field trips to Boston’s museums, the New England Aquarium, or to one of the 31 community organizations the school partners with.

Son said that Bortolussi and Le-Smith have worked since the summer distributing flyers, setting up a GoFundMe, and organizing fundraising events. Just last week, Le-Smith said, the pair raised an addi-



Hong Le-Smith, top right, is shown with her family after her last marathon in 2019. The pre-kindergarten teacher plans to run the Boston Marathon on Monday to raise funds for the Mather School.
Hong Le-Smith photo

tional \$2,500 through an event—launching them closer to their \$10,000 benchmark.

“We want the community to be aware of the needs of Boston students as a whole, not just Mather students,” Son said. “We want to make sure all students have access to learning, and we want to create opportunities for all regardless of race and socio-economic status.”

When the race begins at 9 a.m. on Oct 11, Le-Smith said she’ll be on the lookout for her husband and three kids. Her oldest daughter, who is now 5, will be cheering her on from the sidelines.

When Bortolussi ran the marathon in 2019, he said his fiancée made t-shirts printed with a photo of him decked out in his cold-weather running gear—which he believes will make a reappearance this year as his family cheers him on from the sidelines. He said his students will try to spot him on their TV screens.

“Even though Hong and I are running this year,” Bortolussi said, “there are other people who are in the background that are making it possible to fundraise every year.”

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People

News about people
in and around our Neighborhoods

Spontaneous happening: Summertime ‘Happy Hour’ musicfests atop Savin Hill

By Katie Pedersen
Reporter Correspondent

One every Thursday last summer from 6:30 p.m. until dusk, Aaron “Bear” Berger played guitar and sang for a group of neighbors and fans atop Savin Hill. Dubbed the “Happy Hour,” the evenings at the popular community space started last April as a way for people to enjoy sunsets, music, and a picnic in the park.

“It’s a gathering of people who live in Savin Hill and people who are willing to come from elsewhere to gather on top a beautiful hill with a beautiful view and hang out,” said Berger, 29. “It’s BYOP—Bring Your Own Picnic. I bring all my music gear, and amplify it, and play music, and we just enjoy ourselves while the sun sets.” Those who joined the gatherings were encouraged to buy takeout or picnic food from local

businesses. Last month, with fall approaching, Berger scheduled the last Happy Hour of the season for Sept. 30. He said he was happy with how the first year went and was open to continuing it in a new setting with the change of seasons.

“I did reach out to some local bars and businesses to see if they wanted to start hosting an open-mic night on Thursdays, same time, in the neighborhood, but unfortunately, it hasn’t happened yet,” he told the Reporter.

The performances originated last spring with Berger’s street busking. He describes his sound as “heart-healing indie folk.”

“I was playing on the street, and people walking by loved seeing live music again,” he said. “I was hanging out with my friend Matt, my

girlfriend Andrea, and his girlfriend Sarah, and we were like, ‘We should bring music stuff up to the hill and invite a bunch of people up there.’”

“I made an Instagram post. I went up to the top of the hill and recorded me talking, sent a text message [to about 20 people], and created a flier. The first week nobody came—it was just the four of us.” But word spread on social media and the next week saw about 15 new faces on the hill.

“And then the next week, Andrea recorded me playing, and I took that recording and turned it into an Instagram post, and then 20 or 30 people came,” he said. “It just kept happening. There were a solid three to five weeks where there were 30 to 50 people up there. It was mostly people in the neighborhood, but a lot of people came

from elsewhere as well.” Kaylee Douglas, 29, a regular face at Savin Hill Happy Hour, is a friend of Aaron’s and works with him.

“One day said he wanted to start doing these happy hours, so I started coming up here. It’s a nice little free thing to do on a Thursday night. The vibe up here is really nice. It’s relaxing to do, easy to get to—it’s always a good time,” she said.

Josh Mentzer, 24, a local musician, ran across Savin Hill Happy Hour by accident over the summer and continued to attend regularly.

“I kind of stumbled across it, honestly,” he said. “We were up here anyway, and I saw that this was going on, and ended up playing drums with Aaron at a bunch of these. It’s been a lot of fun. I love to play music for people, and it’s been fun to get together for something really fun,



Aaron “Bear” Berger belts out a tune accompanied by his own guitar during a September gathering of the Savin Hill Happy Hour.

Corvin Wickersham photo informal, and community-centered.”

Some of Berger’s favorite moments have been spontaneous jam sessions with “guest” performers.

“I didn’t want it to be about me playing music on the hill. I wanted it to be about the community, and about everyone coming together. There’s a local guy, Prophet. He just came up one day and I had no idea what to expect, but he played, and it was amazing. One day he brought his amplification system, too, and the two of us went song for song, playing back and forth all

evening.” The original intent, as Berger notes, was “for everybody to come together and create community, and that’s how I met so many cool people in the neighborhood.”

Dorchester resident Ashley Tobin, another regular, spoke to the Reporter during one of the summer events.

“I’m up here most Thursdays — every Thursday, if the weather’s permitting. It’s just great to come together,” Tobin, 27, said. “We have different musicians come in sometimes. It’s usually Aaron, but there are always other people who come up, too. It’s good because we’ve met a lot of people here. It’s great for the community. It gives us something good to look forward to in the middle of the week.”

Looking back on the first year, Berger is all smiles. “I would love to do it again next year if I’m still here,” he said. “It was so fun.”

Berger’s music can be found at aaronbearmusic.com.



Dorchester’s own Billy Ryan, the head soccer coach at Boston College High School, has been named to the Eastern Massachusetts Soccer Coaches Hall of Fame, the school announced last week. Ryan, who graduated from BC High in 1977, is also a member of the school’s hall of fame. Ryan and his family are very familiar faces on the playgrounds of Dorchester as well, where he has been active as a coach and mentor. Highlights of his high school career to date include 307 wins, one state championship, 10 Catholic Conference titles and Division 1 Coach of the Year honors. Coach Ryan is pictured here (center) with his current team at the Dorchester campus.

BC High photo

Janey, BPDA unveil mural celebrating Carter Post’s 100th anniversary



Mayor Kim Janey and the Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) recently unveiled a mural created by local artist Jeremy ‘Sobek’ Harrison at the Carter Post at 1531 Blue Hill Avenue in Mattapan that celebrates Post 16’s

100th anniversary.

The artwork was funded through a \$15,000 grant from the BPDA, part of a \$75,000 investment in public art in Mattapan done in collaboration with the Mayor’s Office of Arts and Culture.

The Carter Post is the first chartered African American Massachusetts Post, created by the members of the famed 372nd Infantry that served in France with the Red Hand Brigade during World War I.

YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY The story of John Tucker’s harness shop

John Atherton Tucker, who was born in 1803, operated a harness shop at 1158 Washington Street in Lower Mills and lived there much of his life. Later in life, sometime between 1857 and 1861, he moved to 1079 Adams Street.

At the time of his retirement in 1891, an article in *The Dorchester Beacon* newspaper stated that he started in business in 1829. The non-population US Census schedules for 1850 and 1860 give the value of his annual production



of harnesses as \$1,000. The house in the older illustration, which was built in 1798 and still exists, is located behind the stores at 1056

to 1060 Washington Street. Atlases indicate that the stores in front of the house were first built after 1889 and before 1894, probably



following John Tucker’s death in 1892.

The house on Washington Street was built by John’s father, Atherton Tucker, as the

18th century came to a close. In 1830, Atherton divided the property, apparently keeping a third interest for himself, giving a third

to his son, William, and giving John a third interest.

... The above is a tiny sample of what might be included in a house history, which would make a great gift from the Dorchester Historical Society to a homeowner in Dorchester or Mattapan. Take a look at some of the completed histories on the Society’s website.

The archive of these historical posts can be viewed on the blog at dorchesterhistoricalociety.org.

Editorial

About birthplaces as campaign fodder

Should the particulars of one’s place of birth be factored into whether a candidate is qualified to be the mayor of Boston?

The correct answer is “No, of course not.” But might it be one factor that voters add to their calculus in a hotly contested run-off between two accomplished candidates? Maybe.

The question bubbled up last week during a GBH radio interview featuring mayoral candidate Annissa Esssaibi George, who was asked to outline distinctions between her and Michelle Wu, her competition in the Nov. 2 final. Essaibi George, born in Dorchester to immigrant parents from Poland and Tunisia, was pressed by Jim Braude to explain why she brings up her Boston roots, among other things, to contrast herself with Wu, who was born in Chicago.

“Well, I think it’s relevant to me, and I think it’s relevant to a lot of voters — whether or not they’re born and raised in this city — because I’ve seen this city for many, many years,” Essaibi George explained.

The excerpt— plucked from a longer response— drew immediate rebukes on social media, much of it emanating from those already aligned with Wu. The tone of the condemnation was: “How dare you even suggest this.”

Whether you’re a supporter of Essaibi George or not, the pile-on was over the top and out of proportion to the alleged offense. Annissa Essaibi George differs from Michelle Wu in ways that are far more significant than where the two women were born and raised. And well-informed voters shouldn’t let their decisions hinge on the particulars of a birth certificate.

But cannot a legitimate case be made that the “lived experience” that makes up at least part of a candidate’s narrative includes their formative years as a child, teen, and young adult? Is that portion of Annissa Essaibi’s story off-limits for exploration and scrutiny? Would it have been for Kim Janey or Andrea Campbell or John Barros?

Should Michelle Wu’s compelling story of moving and settling here — shared by some of the 45 percent of Bostonians not born here— not be factored in for those who find that relatable?

Asked to amplify her position by the Reporter, Essaibi George answered this way: “We’ve got two choices for who’s going to lead this city. My experience is from birth in this city. Daughter of immigrants who are not born in this city, who are not of this city. That’s a distinction between me and Councillor Wu. And that’s a distinction on some of the platforms in which I’ve worked on, some of the ways in which I’ve engaged with our city’s residents and in the ways that I will lead this city as mayor.”

The knee-jerk interpretation that this amounts to blunt force “nativism” is overwrought. Essaibi George’s upbringing as a graduate of Boston’s school system where she would go on to serve as a teacher, her early exposure and activism in civic life in Columbia-Savin Hill, her entrée into politics as a young adult volunteering for her neighbor Martin Walsh— these are all formative experiences that are fair play to highlight in a run-off election even though for some voters, they matter little or not at all.

Telling one’s authentic story —no matter the origins— is part of any campaign. The abuse hurled at this candidate last week — including from some who compared her to anti-busing bigots of a bygone era or ridiculed her accent— reflects poorly on those who flung such mud.

-Bill Forry



Chris Lovett, the longtime anchor and news director of BNN-TV’s Neighborhood Network News, was recognized for his body of work during last week’s meeting of the Boston City Council, which passed a resolution saluting his career in community journalism. Lovett retired from his television post last week after 34 years at the public access station. A Dorchester native and accomplished print and photo-journalist, Lovett, 68, continues his work as a journalist as a regular contributor to both the Dorchester Reporter and the Bay State Banner. Councillor Matt O’Malley, who introduced the resolution in Lovett’s honor, wrote on Twitter: “Chris brought news about Boston to Boston and I was honored to be his guest on many occasions. Thank you, Chris for your contribution to our city! You made Boston a better place.”

Photo courtesy City Councillor Ed Flynn

Commentary

Pressley’s ‘no’ to more military aid to Israel was the right thing to do

By JEFF KLEIN
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Recently, US Rep. Ayanna Pressley voted against an additional \$1 billion in military aid to Israel that was rushed through by the leadership of House of Representatives without a hearing or even a meaningful debate. For this she has been attacked by pro-Israel pundits as being somehow “anti-Israel” or even denying Israel “the right to defend itself.”

These charges are false and here is why:

US taxpayers already pay more than \$3.8 billion every year in military aid to Israel, a good portion of which is dedicated to Israel’s missile defense program. This is vastly more than the aid we give to any other country. Cumulatively, over many decades, the US has given, in current dollars, more than a quarter of a trillion dollars in military aid to Israel.

No one, least of all Ayanna Pressley, is saying that Israel cannot use any portion of this aid – or money from its own taxpayers – to build as many defensive weapons as it desires.

Still, it is arguable that some portion of US military aid is already being used by Israel in contradiction to US law. Statutes already on the books require that weaponry supplied by the US be used exclusively for self-defense and never in ways that violate well-accepted human rights standards.

But US military aid has been used repeatedly to bomb Gaza and to attack Israel’s neighbors. Israel has maintained a seemingly permanent occupation of the West Bank and has carried out an illegal settlement program that has been repeatedly condemned by the UN. It also contravenes long-standing US policy. Israel has illegally annexed occupied territory in East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Syria. It has invaded and occupied Lebanese territory numerous times, illegally bombs Syria almost every week, and daily threatens to attack Iran.

If Israeli taxpayers, rather than the US had to shoulder more of the burden for its military spending, then perhaps they might be encouraged to

question their government’s policies, which violate international and US law, deny human rights to Palestinians, and maintain a cruel blockade of the Gaza Strip.

Recently, a bill was filed in Congress to hold Israel at least partly answerable for its mistreatment of Palestinian children and families. Israel has repeatedly employed US weaponry to kill hundreds of minors in its attacks on Gaza and scores more Palestinian children who protested Israeli occupation of the West Bank. Israel regularly and violently detains Palestinian children, without allowing them access to their own parents or legal representation. We are grateful that both US House members representing Dorchester House, Pressley and Stephen Lynch, have co-sponsored HR 2590, a very modest but worthwhile step to hold Israel accountable.

Last week, the spokesperson for a local pro-Israel organization warned Pressley that “reserves of tolerance are not limitless when a member of Congress votes against pro-Israel policies.” This is unacceptable. The voters in the 7th Congressional district who elected Pressley to Congress rightly expect that she will represent their interests as constituents and US taxpayers, rather than express unfailing loyalty to a foreign country.

Questioning the amount of US aid to Israel is no betrayal. There are many unmet needs in the US that could use funding, about which we are often told “we cannot afford.” It is time to examine whether at least part of our military aid dollars could be better employed at home, rather than buying more bombs and missiles for Israel.

Ayanna Pressley’s tireless advocacy for domestic needs and progressive policies deserves the respect and support of her constituents, not the unfounded charge that she is “anti-Israel.”

Jeff Klein, a Dorchester resident and a retired local union president, is active with Dorchester People for Peace and Massachusetts Peace Action.

Letter to the Editor

It’s time for city to bring back an elected School Committee

To the Editor:

Last year, Boston School Committee Chair Michael Loconto was caught on microphone mocking the last names of Asian Americans during a recorded Zoom call. He resigned the next day. This June, School Committee Members Dr. Lorna Rivera and Chair Alexandra Oliver-Dávila resigned over leaked text messages regarding parents living in West Roxbury. Both these instances show how in its current structure, the all-appointed member school committee is in opposition, even hostile, to those for whom it’s intended to serve.

Before he departed to become US ambassador to the Holy See, Mayor Ray Flynn initially supported, and campaigned for, creating the all-appointed school committee. In 1989, in a non-binding referendum on the ballot, residents voted in favor of moving from a 13-member elected body to a 9-member body appointed by, and answerable to, the sitting mayor.

During the 1993 mayoral election, Flynn shared his regrets about creating the newly formed appointed school committee, stating as such, to the mayoral candidates in a letter that said: “Despite the accomplishments of the appointed board, I feel

compelled to acknowledge that the loss of the vote for School Committee members has remained a bone in the throat of many Bostonians.”

Unlike the 1980s and 1990s, we are looking at a very different society which includes social media, cell phones in nearly every single pocket, reality television, and legalized same-sex marriage. While there are arguments to initiate a hybrid model of both elected and appointed members, I’m concerned that this particular model would continue the same lack of responsiveness we are already experiencing.

While an elected body will always have its own set of problems, it still would remain answerable to the people for whom it serves through regular elections.

Fortunately, City Councillors Ricardo Arroyo and Julia Meija have introduced a Home Rule Petition that would —over five years— transition the school panel from its current all-appointed 9-member body status to a fully-elected 13-member body by 2026. Please contact your district and at-large city councilors in support of this petition, which would help us create momentum to make this transition a reality.

Matthew J. Shochat
Dorchester

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Activists, MIT media specialists take up ‘disappointing’ Black candidates’ races

By SETH DANIEL
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

The many facets of the Sept. 14 preliminary election are still being debated in many corners of the city, but within the Black community – particularly among activists and Black former candidates – the sentiments of disappointment and frustration were made clear soon after the polls closed.

For the first time ever, three Black candidates – Kim Janey, Andrea Campbell, and John Barros– were running for mayor, with many more seeking at-large and district seats on the city council. Activists like Ron Bell of Dunk the Vote say the lackluster performance of most Black candidates in the preliminary has been a blow.

“Now is the time for Black folks in particular to face some hard realities about the mayor’s race, and to start getting behind Black candidates and stop bringing the other stuff to the table,” said Bell, who is among a small team of community leaders who have partnered with media specialists from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to combine boots-on-the-ground activism with the emerging technology of using computer learning to analyze recorded viewpoints and conversations.

The effort, known as Real Talk For Change (RTFC), had its beginnings in 2019 during the 12th Suffolk legislative race, eventually won by now-state Rep. Brandy Fluker Oakley. A new phase of the project kicked off in August to do an expanded analysis of under-heard voices in the 2021 municipal election.

Recently, RTFC gathered several of the Black candidates and activists in Codman Square to talk about what happened – and to use those opinions as part of the larger analysis of the election. Those in attendance included former at-large candidates Reggie Collimon, Said Abdikarim, and Nick Vance. Will Dickerson III, who ran unsuccessfully in the District 4 race, was also on hand.

Collimon, who finished second to last in at-large balloting, said he never dreamed he would finish that far down. “Money is a key factor,” he said. “I ran my own campaign. The money that people spend on ads shows what a barrier it is for so many people in our communities. It’s a business,” he said.

Collimon, who was born in Haiti and worked as a liaison for former Mayor Martin Walsh,



Corey Thompson, of Dorchester, discusses the Sept. 14 preliminary election as former at-large candidate Said Abdikarim (right) listens.

said he didn’t expect to come in at the top of the ticket, but he felt that the Haitian American vote alone would be enough to carry him into November.

“There are thousands of Haitians in Boston. I was on a show every Wednesday and Thursday since I announced talking about the issues. I felt that if I were to get 20 percent of just them, I would have made it to the other side. It saddens me to see that that didn’t happen,” he said.

Ruthzee Louijuene, a first-time candidate of Haitian descent, had a far better showing, placing third in the at-large contest behind two incumbent councillors, Michael Flaherty and Julia Mejia.

Abdikarim, who finished 12th out of 17, said he knew very little about politics before jumping in as a first-time candidate, and came to learn that it was much harder to get elected despite the demographics of the city.

“When it comes to campaigning for the last nine months, I gained a lot of knowledge,” he said. “I decided to get into politics not knowing what politics was like. I learned a lot.”

Dickerson III said he left feeling it is very important to get a Black man into office as an at-large candidate, and even though he didn’t prevail in the District 4 race, he is continuing to try to get the vote out. He has thrown his support behind David Halbert –the only Black man left in the at-large race.

“I’m really hoping David is able to be our voice on the City Council; it’s been a long time since a Black man was elected at-large to the City Council,” he said. “To thousands of Black men in the city of Boston, that does matter in having someone that looks like you as a voice. It defi-

nately matters on a lot of levels.”

Mattapan activist Lillie Searcy said her opinion is that people need to get engaged and start doing their homework – and don’t vote for those that simply stop in during election season.

“We have to also get rid of the idea people have in that they won’t vote in the preliminary and they’ll only vote when it matters. The preliminary is when it really counts for us. You have to know what you’re working for. I don’t mean this with disrespect, but because you look like me doesn’t mean you’re for me. Too many people come into our community when it’s time to vote – drive-bys,” she said.

All of that and more was fodder for the RTFC and MIT academics who will continue to interview people through the Nov. 2 election campaign and beyond.

“A key focus... is to reach beyond academia to collaborate with experienced, locally-based organizations serving underrepresented and underheard communities,” says Deb Roy, MIT

Professor of Media Arts and Sciences and Director of MIT’s Center for Constructive Communication. “By engaging with pilot programs like RTFC we hope to leverage data-driven analytics to better understand community issues and, with this knowledge, to design new tools and communication networks capable of bridging social, cultural, and political divides.”




Former at-large Council candidate Reggie Collimon talks about expresses the frustrations he felt on Sept. 14 after running a lively campaign but finishing out of the running in the Preliminary. Ron Bell, left, and former District 4 Candidate Will Dickerson III are also shown. Bell and other community leaders have combined with MIT media specialists in an effort called Real Talk for Change (RTFC) that aims to collect stories such as Collimon’s and merge them with computer learning to create a new public dialogue around Boston’s 2021 municipal election. Seth Daniel photos

Karilyn Crockett, former chief equity officer for the city of Boston and Assistant Professor of Urban History, Public Policy and Planning at MIT, is also part of the RTFC effort.

“Real Talk for Change understands this moment and the urgent need to get more and more residents engaged in the political process before and after election day,” said Crockett. “As part of a generation of Bostonians who have waited decades for the

city’s political establishment to reflect its demographic makeup, I’m proud to be a part of this important and timely effort.”

Added Dorchester’s Corey Thompson, who spoke at the Codman Square session: “After this election, it feels like the Black community is metaphorically in chains because it won’t vote or move forward...If they feel their vote doesn’t matter, they won’t come out...We still have a long ways to go.”



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To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Georgette P. Daly of Boston, MA, a Will has been admitted to informal probate. Georgette P. Daly of Boston, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

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Published: October 7, 2021

Worrell, Carvalho push messages in D4 council race

(Continued from page 1) focusing his support now for mayoral candidate Michelle Wu and At-large Council candidate David Halbert.

“I am not going to be endorsing in District 4,” he said. “I like and am friends with both candidates left in the race and I wish them both well... I will be out on Election Day and working to get the vote out in this and other races.”

Former District 4 candidate Deejo Jibril indicated through a spokesperson that she would not be formally endorsing anyone, although a photo of Jibril

and Worrell was posted on social media. Former candidates Joel Richards and Leonard Lee didn’t return e-mails about their intentions.

Both finalists are unfazed by the absence of formal endorsements from the rest of the field. Both Carvalho and Worrell have been very active on the trail since Sept. 14, carving out their own messaging in the race.

“No one person can do this alone,” said Worrell. “I’ve been meeting with the candidates that were in the race to continue conversations about the issues they talked about and the energy and cam-



Brian Worrell, who topped the ticket in the District 4 preliminary, is shown last week with campaign volunteers as they go door to door canvassing voters.



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paigns they ran. I don’t need to be the person in the spotlight all the time...Others may want to take on leadership roles, too. I’ve been having those conversations with the candidates... It’s going to take all of us and that’s what I want to push forward. It’s going to take everyone in this district.

He added: “I’m not going to take the usual political route. I’m taking the community coalition path. I’m coming with a new approach, a new set of directives, and a new set of actions.”

Carvalho said he expects to gain more vocal support from leaders in the weeks to come.

“I have lost a campaign and I know how hard it is to know what is next, but...in the final stages of the campaign, hopefully we’ll get some of them on board with us,” he said.

Both Worrell and Carvalho are not unknown in the district, even though both are first-time candidates for City Council. As a former state representative for the area, Carvalho said he rarely runs into someone who doesn’t know him already or doesn’t know of the work he has done in the State House or leading the city’s Human Rights Commission.

“I’m day-one-ready and people know I’m day-one-ready,” he said. “They remember I served



District 4 candidate Evandro Carvalho at a stand-out in Grove Hall last week. Seth Daniel photos

them for five years on Beacon Hill. My brand is out there – people don’t have to guess what they’ll get from me... We need fresh ideas but we also need someone with stability and someone like me ready to hit the ground running.”

Meanwhile, Worrell and his family are deeply rooted in District 4. His grandparents moved to Dorchester in the 1960s and he has lived there all his life. When knocking on doors, he said, there rarely is a time when those who answer don’t know someone in the Worrell family. But his strategy in the election has been to get in the race early, and then to simply do the job of a city councillor – sort of an on-the-job test run while conducting a campaign.

“Like Maya Angelou said, ‘When someone shows you who they are, you believe them,’” he said. “I’m trying to show our community what I’ll be doing if elected. It’s not that I’ll start doing something then. If you truly care about the community, you’ll do the work now and there’ll be a sense of urgency. It’s not that on Day 1 I’ll start. It’s what are you doing now. In this campaign we have been in close contact with our city councillor to help fix constituent issues, to fix street lights, stop signs,

and crosswalks. If you do care, you’re not going to wait. You’ll do it all now as a candidate...”

As the only candidate who has served as an elected official, Carvalho is focusing on issues he worked on as a state representative, such as police reform.

“I was Black Lives Matter before it existed,” he said. “I just turned 40 and I was elected at 32 and have the experience to know the issues in the community. I’ve been there to unapologetically – as everyone says now - push the issues that matter...I can come in and be a major influence in that space right away.”

Worrell, on the flip side, said he brings a new way of doing things to the seat, if elected. He said his idea of collaborative leadership will change the way residents are represented.

“We have this window where everyone is talking about equality and inclusion and I don’t know any neighborhoods in Boston that need that more than Dorchester and Mattapan,” he said. “The old ways of doing things have not worked. I’m not a career politician and I’m not looking to use our community as a steppingstone to get to the next level. It’s about doing the work and doing it now.”



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Developer’s scaled-back pitch for Meetinghouse Hill condos aired at short public meeting

By KATIE TROJANO
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

A developer’s proposal to replace a single-family home in Dorchester’s Meetinghouse Hill neighborhood with a 3-story, 15-unit condo building was given a speedy airing on Monday evening during a virtual meeting hosted by the Boston Planning Development & Planning Agency (BPDA).

The size of the \$4.2-million project at 22 High St. has been scaled back since the team filed initial plans with the city in September that called for 27 rental units and an equal number of parking spaces.

“After working with members of the community, the Meetinghouse Hill Civic Association, many of the direct abutters and with the BPDA, we have shrunked the project to the smaller footprint that you’ll see today. We feel that it is a great project as it currently stands,” said Matt Eckel, a senior associate at Drago + Toscano, LLP.

“The building has been redesigned multiple times to better fit in the context of the neighborhood,” said Eckel,

noting increased open space, the creation of a roof deck and a larger “family-style” layout of unit types.

The team also amended its proposal to include condominiums instead of rental units and change the unit breakdown to consist of 8 two-bedrooms and 7 three-bedrooms. The proposal also calls for 15 parking spaces in a garage under the three-story building.

The 17,948 square-foot lot sits across the street from where another developer wants to replace a different single-family home with a 23-unit building. Eckel noted that their plans are in-step with several other newly proposed, approved, or constructed housing projects nearby, and would be much smaller compared to the massive \$200 million DotBlock development in nearby Glover’s Corner.

Ricky Beliveau, a developer with South Boston’s Volnay Capital, said the project would “fit the character of the neighborhood and provide needed housing units for the community.” He noted that the building would have

several private decks as well as a common roof deck for residents, who will get to enjoy “an unobstructed view of the Boston skyline.”

In compliance with the city’s Inclusionary Development Policy (IDP), two of the fifteen proposed units would be set aside as affordable, or income restricted.

In a short Q & A session, a handful of attendees, most of whom submitted their comments anonymously, raised concerns over the project’s lack of affordability, some saying that just two income-restricted units wouldn’t be enough to help meet the community’s need for affordable housing.

“For the community at large, the pricing of this project puts this neighborhood off the range to purchase in their community,” said Shirley Jones, a Dorchester resident.

Beliveau said that scaling back the overall number of units in the project affected the number of affordable condos. “For this project to be built, it has to be a number that is financially feasible for us,” he



A rendering shows a 3-story, 15-unit condo building proposed for 22 High St. on Dorchester’s Meetinghouse Hill. A map shows where the site in question is located.
Images courtesy Zephyr Architects



said, adding: “We have spoken to the community group regarding other ways that we could aid them.”

A few others on the call said they liked the project as it is. The public comment section of the meeting was wrapped up in less than 30 minutes.

The development team’s plans will need approval from the BPDA, along with variances from the city’s zoning board. There are currently no other public meetings planned for this project.

The public comment period for this project is now open, but scheduled to end on Oct. 18. Comments and feedback can be submitted online at bostonplans.org.



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Le, Jennifer		Skahan, Kristin L		71 Sydney St	Dorchester	09/17/21	825,000
Worry Free RE LLC		NRG Holdings LLC		23 E Cottage St	Dorchester	09/15/21	660,000
NRG Holdings LLC		Gomes, Angela		23 E Cottage St	Dorchester	09/14/21	550,000
Keels, Linda	Keels, Hodari S	Kells Linda Est	Keels, Hodari	11 Grant Rd	Dorchester	09/15/21	350,000
Le, Hung V	Le, Thu L	First Washington 285 LLC		35 Ellington St	Dorchester	09/17/21	1,300,000
Zhang, Lisa		Z&S RTBartosik, Zofia A		28 Raven St	Dorchester	09/16/21	1,235,000
Ly, Henry	Ly, Dung	Orchardfield Street LLC		27-29 Orchardfield St	Dorchester	09/17/21	675,000
Luu, Noi B	Luu, Quang T	Pham, Bichcam		145 Fuller St	Dorchester	09/15/21	250,000
Feeney, Lauren	Feeney, Aiden G	Skrzyniarz, Stanislaw		115-117 Elmer Rd	Dorchester	09/15/21	810,000
Real Estate Boston LLC		Morin, Paul F	Morin, Marilyn C	65-67 Roseclair St	Dorchester	09/15/21	975,000
Mccarthy, Brenna A	Laurinaitis, Zachary S	Mccann Thomas J Est	Mccann, David T	85 Oakton Ave	Dorchester	09/15/21	600,000
Bender, Alexander		Ronan 953 LLC		6 Port Norfolk St	Dorchester	09/14/21	550,000
Saylor, Richard		Starling, Courtney		106 Lonsdale St #2	Dorchester	09/16/21	470,000
Hawkins, Mary E	Houseknecht, Derek P	Rooney, James E	Mccormick, Jaimie D	5 Mount Vernon St #3	Dorchester	09/17/21	775,000
Sbb Monterey LLC		Mortell, John		79 Florida St #12	Dorchester	09/16/21	333,000
Taylor, Justin K	Doherty, Bernard D	67-69 Auckland Street LLC		67-69 Auckland St #2	Dorchester	09/16/21	1035,000
Avanath Logo LLC		Affirmative Housing LLC		10 Copeland St	Dorchester	09/17/21	22,625,000
Avanath Logo LLC		Affirmative Housing LLC		12 Copeland St	Dorchester	09/17/21	22,625,000
Avanath Logo LLC		Affirmative Housing LLC		14 Copeland St	Dorchester	09/17/21	22,625,000
Avanath Logo LLC		Affirmative Housing LLC		16 Copeland St	Dorchester	09/17/21	22,625,000
Avanath Logo LLC		Affirmative Housing LLC		256-260 Warren St	Dorchester	09/17/21	22,625,000

Unequal tree canopy coverage called peril to city’s well-being

(Continued from page 1) in Boston.”

The Parks Department has mapped out the losses and gains in the so-called tree canopy – the percentage of land covered by trees – from 2014 through 2019. According to the report, total tree canopy coverage remained stable in the city over the six-year period, dipping from 26.6 percent to 26.5 percent.

The study narrowed in on where these slight losses occurred, and it showed that residential properties across Boston experienced the largest decrease in tree canopy coverage compared to nonresidential properties.

In Dorchester, close to 20 acres of tree canopy coverage were lost on residential properties—the highest loss of any neighborhood – but that decrease was offset by canopy gains on commercial properties, open spaces, and nonresidential lots.

As temperatures continue to climb due to climate change, White-Hammond said, planting more trees will become essential to combating the additional warmth. New trees could also prevent more areas in Boston from becoming “heat islands,” the term for urban spaces that are typically hotter than rural areas.

Residents who live and work in tree-starved neighborhoods are more likely to experience the adverse effects of the sun

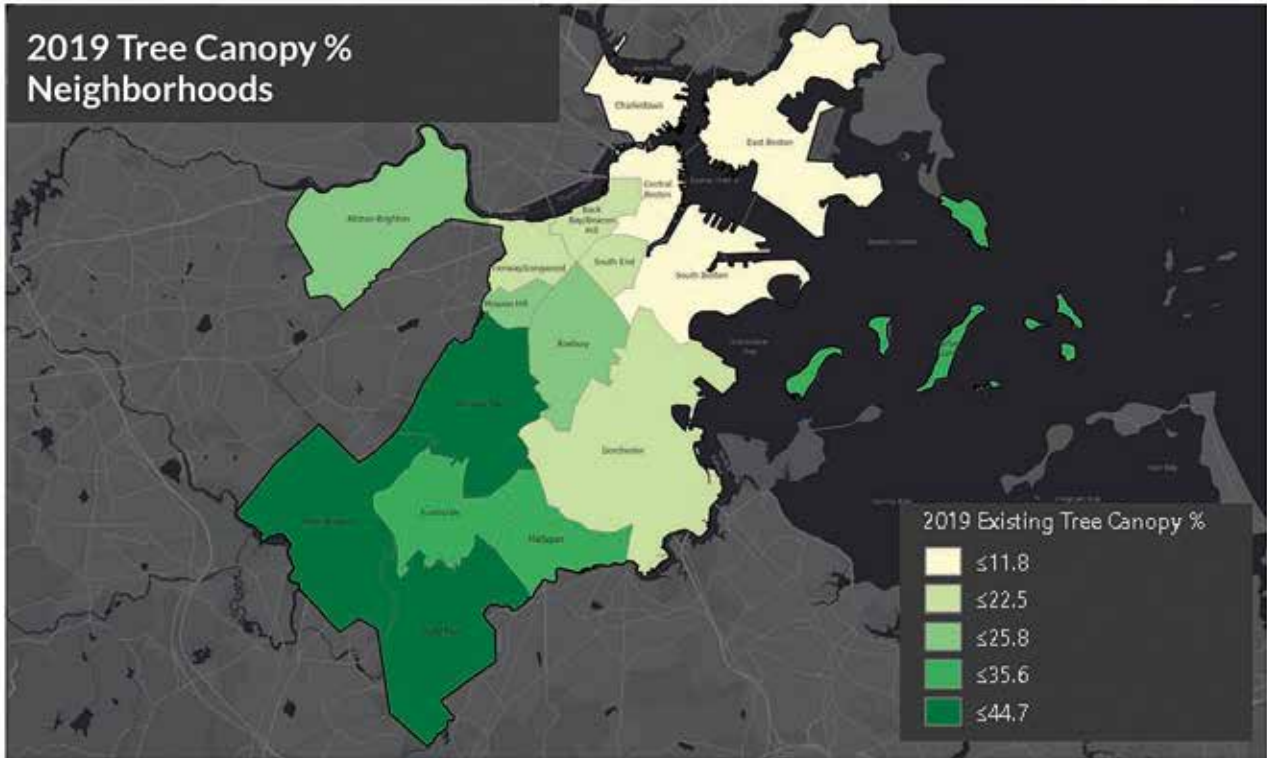


Figure 16: 2019 tree canopy cover percent summarized by neighborhood.

beating down on shadeless asphalt, including threats to their overall health and skyrocketing utility and electricity costs for air conditioning.

Without trees, White-Hammond added, residents will experience higher rates of asthma, an increasing number of hospital visits, and more cases of heat stroke, particularly for people who have to work outside.

“The ability to take a moment under a tree could be life-saving,” she said.

Some city neighborhoods are already experiencing the negative effects of lower tree canopy coverage. Chinatown comes to mind for White-Hammond as an



Trees, greenery, and flora distinguish Andrew Haile’s property on Millet Street west of Codman Square.

area that has been particularly affected by a lack

of leafy canopies. It has few trees to help clean

the air of pollutants, she said, so it’s no surprise that children who grew up in Chinatown are experiencing higher rates of asthma.

The unequal distribution of trees can be traced back to the 1950s and 1960s, said White-Hammond, when so-called redlining – banks and loan companies refusing to give financial services to applicants based on where they live, areas that were said to be outlined in red – segregated potential home buyers by race. Where residen-

tial streets were lined with trees, the values of the homes were usually higher.

“If you look at redlining and what parts of the city were redlined and what parts of the city had heat islands and low canopy, there is a striking overlap,” White-Hammond said.

In Mattapan, its tree canopy has dropped nearly one percent over the last five years. On residential properties, close to 13 acres of tree coverage were lost, a change that Fatima Ali-Salaam, chair of the Greater Mattapan Neighborhood Council and a member of the Urban Forest Plan board, has seen happen. The community advisory board has roughly 50 members, including Millet Street’s Andrew Haile.

“Many trees that were on the street are no longer there, and you’ll see long stretches of it where there are no trees,” Ali-Salaam said.

She believes that replanting trees throughout the city is an urgent issue that, if addressed effectively, can help combat the impacts of climate change. Like the case in Chinatown, Ali-Salaam said, an increasing number of residents in Mattapan are also experiencing asthma.

“We can’t keep going the way we’re going,” she said. “There is a price to pay, and it’s going to be our health.”

Though the Parks and Recreation Department plans to plant trees in the areas they’ve noticed have experienced the greatest loss, residents, taking their cue from Haile, can always plant the seeds for trees in their backyards.

Not to be left out of the conversation is the fact that trees – the survivors and the newly planted ones – add beauty to neighborhoods. “I think we form a bond with those trees,” White-Hammond said. “They tell the stories of our neighborhoods, and they’re a part of our neighborhoods.”

Right off Dorchester Avenue where White-Hammond lives, she had grown especially fond of a tree outside her home that bloomed pink blossoms in the spring. Before it was uprooted due to its declining health, she said, it used to shade the front of her home.

Over time, her neighborhood has gotten less green, and it’s now considered a heat island – a situation that has become even more unbearable since she lost her favorite tree.

Trees “look like they’re just standing there,” White-Hammond said, “but they’re really putting in work that we can’t do ourselves.”

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LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE & FAMILY COURT SUFFOLK PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT 24 NEW CHARDON STREET BOSTON, MA 02114 617-788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME
Docket No. SU21C0425CA
IN THE MATTER OF: STEPHANIE ELISE AVTGIS
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Stephanie Elise Avtgis of Dorchester, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: **Stephanie Elise Vaknin**
IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Suffolk Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/21/2021. This is not a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
Witness, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 22, 2021
Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate
Published: October 7, 2021

Harvard Street Health event takes up community concerns on Covid issues, pushes urgent need for more vaccinations

By Katie Pedersen
Reporter Correspondent

A town hall put together by the Harvard Street Health Center on Sept. 30 was set up to address community concerns about Covid-19 vaccines and encourage people to get their shots.

The event at Prince Hall Grand Lodge was moderated by Charles Murphy, the center's president and CEO, with panelists Marty Martinez, chief of Boston Health and Human Services, Dr. Alice Lin, the center's medical director, and state lawmakers Liz Malia and Russell Holmes.

"Everybody at Harvard Street is proud to say that during the entire remote period, we never closed our doors," Murphy said. "The Harvard Street leadership team built a Covid-response program to address the needs of this community, which is comprised of the most vulnerable who have severe underlying conditions such as diabetes, blood pressure, and substance-use disorders. A strategy to address these challenges involved working with a large variety of organizations, such as the Prince Hall Grand Lodge, to reach these most vulnerable residents."

Murphy reminded the crowd that the center continues to offer walk-up Covid-19 vaccinations and testing Monday through Friday at several locations in Dorchester, Roxbury, and Mattapan, as well as its main location on Blue Hill Avenue. It also operates mobile vaccinations. He said that as of Sept. 30, the center had vaccinated more than 13,000 people.

For his part, Martinez pointed out that at least 72 percent of Bostonians have had at least one shot, that 65 percent are fully vaccinated, and that 93 percent of seniors are fully vaccinated.

Still, he stressed, more work remained to be done. "There's inequities that Covid shined a light on," he said. "That includes access to care and access to vaccines. It is still the case that Black American and Latinx populations are less vaccinated than the white community here in the city of Boston."

He added: "Here in our neighborhood, only about 50 percent of residents are fully vaccinated. We have to continue to do more, not only to give the right information so that people can make the best decision for them and their families, but to create true access to the vaccine."

Martinez cited the mobile vaccinations and partnership between



Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Center and Prince Hall Grand Lodge hosted a town hall last Thursday, Sept. 30. The forum, moderated by Harvard Street CEO Charles Murphy, included Boston Health and Hospitals Chief Marty Martinez, Dr. Alice Lin, HSNHC medical director, and state representatives Liz Malia, and Russell Holmes. Vaccines are provided weekly at Harvard Street's Mass Vaccine Site at Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Monday-Friday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m at 24 Washington St., Dorchester.

Gail Jackson-Blount photo

Harvard Street Health and the Black Boston Covid-19 Coalition as positive steps while emphasizing that they are not enough.

"We have to continue to talk to each other, talk to our neighbors, to ensure that we're creating opportunities and that folks can get what they need in order to be able to protect themselves," he said. "Vaccines are our way out of Covid. The least vaccinated population in our community is young people. We have to make sure that school-aged young people [who are eligible] get vaccinated. Only about 55 percent of 12-to-15-year-olds are fully vaccinated. If you have students in school, please get them vaccinated. It's a really important measure to make sure that we can stay in school."

Dr. Lin emphasized the safety and efficacy

of vaccines. "We have close to 700,000 Americans dead of Covid, and that's something we can prevent," she said. "Vaccinated people are less likely to be infected, hospitalized, or have severe outcomes."

Rep. Malia followed her, saying that she has started to feel somewhat like a turtle these days. "We get more people vaccinated, statistics start to improve, we all start coming out of our shells a little bit, and then all of a sudden there's more bad news, and you find out a friend or family member that's been infected, and you withdraw," she said. "I haven't been out in my community because I'm older and I have some health risks. I think about the mental health aspects of the pandemic in terms of how it has really impacted people's ability to relate to each other and get help."

Rep. Holmes spoke to the mistrust of the medical community among nonwhite and immigrant communities. "We can still be enthusiastic that the city of Boston is vaccinated at a high rate, but none of that matters until you think about the community you're standing in," he said.

"When we think about the Haitian community, the immigrant community," he said, "we must be passionate

about making sure we're translating things into Cape Verdean Creole [and] Haitian Creole. We must recognize the lack of trust in some communities. We need to get in there and have real conversations."

He also addressed learning loss among students, pointing to immaturity, mental health crises, and substance abuse as pressing corollary effects of the pandemic.

"We have to take this



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very seriously in all aspects, because these things are real. When we look at the money that's coming in from the Recovery Act, we need to spend that money immediately to get into these issues," Holmes said.

"The need is tremendous, and we need to treat it like the urgent emergency that it is. There are many neighborhoods that have done perfectly fine in this crisis, that are happy not getting on the commuter rail and coming downtown, that have not had their salaries impacted at all during this crisis. That is not our neighborhood."

LEGAL NOTICE

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

**CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Docket No. SU21P1063EA
ESTATE OF:
ARTHUR B. JONES
A/K/A: ARTHUR JONES
DATE OF DEATH: 03/25/2021**

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/11/2021.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

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


WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 30, 2021
Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate

Published: October 7, 2021



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Mattapan civic leaders put their focus on Madison Park High

By SETH DANIEL
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT
It's a long ride from Mattapan to Seaver Street via Blue Hill Avenue, but Madison Park High is near and dear to the members of the Greater Mattapan Neighborhood Council (GMNC) and many residents as well.

Few neighborhood associations in Boston talk regularly about education, and even fewer discuss high school education, but the Madison Park topic has been on nearly every agenda of the GMNC since early 2019.

Now, with its celebrated new headmaster, Dr. Sidney Brown, in place and former executive director Kevin McCaskill (now a Boston Public Schools central office administrator) remaining the school's biggest cheerleader, there is a new push to get Madison Park, and technical vocational education in Boston, back on track.

Madison Park is the only technical vocational school serving Boston students, and GMNC's Fatima Ali-Salaam, the council's chair, said the neighborhood is concerned because they see Madison Park as a key

to helping young people stay in the neighborhood – with Mattapan and Dorchester being the largest neighborhoods that the school draws from.

"There has to be change at Madison Park," said Ali-Salaam. "There is no place for laziness or apathy. There is only a place for taking care of our children, and we have to step up and do that."

By and large, the GMNC and its membership express the sentiment that elected officials and past mayoral administrations have abandoned technical vocational training and have never devoted the proper resources to Madison Park to make sure students are challenged, trained, and encouraged to pursue a career in the trades, hospitality, or allied health.

David Lopes, a carpenter and resident, said the school has failed for many years to train students from Mattapan and connect them to jobs in the industry. He said he has high hopes for a new administration, but he is skeptical.

"It's not about any one person's failure," he said. "It's about the

system and the process that starts at the top of the administration. It's about our elected officials that have totally missed the point on vocational technical education and how to get to it."

Added resident Anthony Lewis: "It seems that someone is giving us the okie dokie on Madison Park. It doesn't make sense that BPS took all the trades out of the schools and there is a building boom in Boston. Someone isn't being up front with us. Boston schools trained people well in the trades when it was more of a white population, but as soon as the Black population started to increase, they took the trades out of the schools."

Brown and McCaskill and their team joined a virtual meeting on Monday night to talk about a new day on the horizon for Madison Park. Sidney Brown, who has just started his first term as the leader of Madison, comes from a storied past of turning around troubled technical vocational schools around the United States.

"My number one goal is to make Madison Park the best technical vocational high school in the state," he said. "Second, our students need to know they have a trifecta education where they have a trade certificate, an academic diploma, and a RoxMAPP (dual

enrollment) degree as well...I need a contingent from Mattapan, Roxbury, and Dorchester to provide mentors and business people and community members to come in and talk to the kids. This is probably the best curriculum I've seen at a technical vocational high school and this is the third school I've turned around."

That turnaround will be incremental, though, and it starts, he said, with getting parents and community members to stress better attendance for students. In 2020, the school had 76 percent attendance, and so far this year it is only at 83 percent. These numbers prevent students from being able to go out on internships where they can train hands-on and be paid at the same time.

"We have to get that up around 90 percent to make sure our students get to go out and do co-ops," said Brown. "A lot of our seniors don't get to go to co-ops, so we have to get that up."

McCaskill said that Boston has been slow to absorb the importance of technical vocational schooling, which suburban schools and areas like Worcester have embraced decades ago. That has led to a generation of students in Boston who have not been prepared to take advantage of the lucrative trades and technical industries that

flourish in the city.

"The narrative around Madison has always been negative," he said, "and that's because Boston is the last frontier in understanding the value of vocational education, especially for people of color."

McCaskill said there has been a change in the making, with the school increasing in enrollment by 30 percent (from 841 to 1,180) since 2015. He said Madison has been the only open enrollment school in the district to gain students.

"Parents are voting with their feet," he said. "Students no longer have to go to college to be successful. It's not taboo to say students don't need to go to college to achieve upward mobility."

Brown, however, explained that the task at hand is to enliven the student body to be motivated to achieve and to be reliable and excited. He said he needs parents and the community where students live to help students "get their minds right." He mentioned that McCaskill had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Mass General Hospital for 3,600 jobs to be reserved for Madison students. However, if they aren't prepared, those jobs – as well as the many construction, trade, and biotech jobs – will pass them by.

"They have to be on time, be drug-free, and have the right attitude," he said. "If they don't have those three things, there isn't much we can do for them...If we don't get them to that point, they won't be prepared for these MGH jobs either. We have a great MOU with them, but we have to produce the product now. We have jobs waiting for them, but we need role models and mentors and the ability to 'be what you see.'"

McCaskill said one way to start encouraging the students is to renovate

the existing building, which lacks important things like Wi-Fi in all areas and safety lighting in the stairwells.

"Renovate that building top to bottom and make it a 21st Century educational facility and just watch what happens," he said.

At-Large candidates Ruthzee Louijeune and David Halbert were on the meeting, and both said they fully support the vision of technical vocational training at Madison. The two mayoral race finalists, Councilors Annissa Essaibi George and Michelle Wu, have talked extensively about Madison in their campaigns. They were asked to comment for this story, but did not return messages before Reporter deadlines.

GMNC NOTEBOOK

- The organization wrote a letter of support, along with the River Street Civic, to support a new full liquor license for Mello Vibe Restaurant on River Street. The new restaurant has had a good following with the neighborhood, many on the meeting said.

- On Oct. 18, the city's Transportation Department will have a meeting to discuss the sidewalk space on Blue Hill Avenue – including what can and cannot exist on the sidewalk and the status of grant money for the corridor.

- The Zoning Committee of the GMNC sided with abutters against supporting a development proposal on 56-60 Oak Ridge St. The project would build new residential dwellings on two lots – one with a single-family now existing and the other a vacant lot with two significant oak trees. Abutters had rejected the proposal and the Zoning Committee also voted to ask the Zoning Board (ZBA) to reject it as well. There is a hearing set for Nov. 9 at the ZBA.



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Deadlocked in a panel, Rollins nomination goes to full Senate

By MATT MURPHY
STATE HOUSE
NEWS SERVICE

Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins’s path to making history as the first Black woman to become US attorney for Massachusetts got more complicated last week after a Senate committee deadlocked over her nomination, with Republicans unanimous in their opposition to the reform-minded prosecutor.

The Senate Judiciary Committee voted 11-11 on the nomination to the full Senate, breaking with the committee’s tradition of easily advancing White House nominees for US attorney that enjoy the support of home-state senators.

The Senate must now take two votes, instead of one, to bring Rollins’ nomination to the floor and to confirm her, both requiring a simple majority. Any opposition among Democrats in the evenly divided Senate carries the potential to derail President Joe Biden’s nominee.

While Democrats on the committee rallied to



Rachael Rollins
SHNH photo

her defense and pointed to bipartisan support in Massachusetts from political leaders and law enforcement, Republicans, led by Sens. Tom Cotton and Ted Cruz, challenged Rollins’s record of declining to prosecute some lower level offenses, calling her a “radical” and “pro-criminal.”

“I knew this was not going to be easy and that the work we’re doing here in Boston is scary to some people who are deeply invested in the status quo because the system works incredibly well for them. So, although it is a tie, it is not a loss,” Rollins said, appearing hours after the vote at a forum hosted by the Greater Boston

Chamber of Commerce. The committee vote came after Cotton, of Arkansas, delayed consideration of Rollins’s nomination by a week. Sen. Dick Durbin, the Democratic chair of the committee, noted that not one of former President Donald Trump’s nominees for US attorney had a roll call in committee, and only three recorded votes on nominees for federal prosecutor positions have been held since 1975, with the last two in 1982 and 1993.

“During the Trump administration, Democrats respected that precedent out of comity and courtesy and an enduring belief that there should be norms in every institution,” Durbin said.

Cotton and other Republicans raised Rollins’s March 201 policy memo making it the default position of the office to decline to prosecute 15 low-level, non-violent crimes such as misdemeanor trespassing, drug possession, making threats

and breaking and entering. That memo caused some friction between her office and Gov. Baker at the time.

Cruz, of Texas, went through a detailed analysis of Rollins’s memo and the risks he saw as inherent in failing to prosecute the 15 enumerated crimes.

“If you want to steal a bunch of stuff, this is your person,” Cruz said.

Rollins said last Thursday that her office still prosecutes close to 25 percent of crimes that fall under those categories when warranted, but that over-prosecution of misdemeanors has been shown to increase the likelihood that the individuals prosecuted will get arrested again in the future.

“If you are a business owner and the same peo-

ple keep shoplifting, we prosecute them,” Rollins said, adding, “We know that tough on crime policies don’t make us safer.”

Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey have been lobbying for senators to support Rollins’s nomination, and after the vote both said they were confident Rollins would be confirmed.

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
Suffolk Probate & Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Docket No. SU21P0280EA
ESTATE OF:
ROBERT A. CAPPELLO
DATE OF DEATH: 01/18/2021

A Petition for S/A - Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Ira Grolman of Boston, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as 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 11/09/2021.

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

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

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

Date: September 28, 2021

Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate

Published: October 7, 2021

Notice of Public Meeting

Notice is hereby given that a Community Outreach Meeting for a Proposed Cannabis Establishment is scheduled for...

Date: Monday, October 25, 2021
Time: 6:00 pm
Location: Online (Zoom)

Three ways you can join the Zoom meeting...

- Go to www.tinyurl.com/injaga2 or
- Go to www.zoom.us/join
Enter this meeting ID when prompted:
823 5728 7748
Click “join.”
- Join by phone only by calling 929-436-2866 and entering meeting ID 823 5728 7748

The proposed retail cannabis establishment will be located at:

1102 Blue Hill Avenue, Dorchester, MA 02124

There will be an opportunity for the public to ask questions and share comments, and we would love to hear from you about your hopes and vision for the community! In addition, feel free to submit comments or questions in advance of the meeting by emailing Cleon Byron, CEO, at cleon@injagaglobal.com

All materials for the meeting will be available more than 24 hours before the virtual outreach community meeting at www.facebook.com/InjagaGlobal and www.twitter.com/InjagaG

Closed captioning will be arranged for the meeting.

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
SUFFOLK PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
24 NEW CHARDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
617-788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME
Docket No. SU21C0350CA
IN THE MATTER OF:
YUDELKA JULIAN

A Petition to Change of Adult has been filed by Yudelka Julian of Dorchester, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Yudelka Duran
IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Suffolk Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of. This is not a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

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

Date: September 21, 2021

Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate

Published: October 7, 2021

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to install new antennas at a center-line height of 90 feet on a building with an overall height of 94 feet at the approx. vicinity of 380 Talbot Avenue, Dorchester, Suffolk County, MA 02124. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Trileaf Corp, Kayla Lauer, k.lauer@trileaf.com, 8600 LaSalle Road, Suite 301, Towson, MD 21286, 410-853-7128.

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We're 'at zero again' says Flaherty of the at-large campaign

(Continued from page 1) had seen a 17-person preliminary.

Flaherty, 52, topped the at-large ticket that night, receiving 41,299 votes (15 percent). His fellow incumbent, Julia Mejia, grabbed 38,765 votes, while newcomer Ruthzee Louijeune and second-time candidate Erin Murphy picked up 33,425 votes and 22,835 votes, respectively.

The other four finalists who will be on the Nov. 2 at-large ballot are social worker Carla Monteiro, former City Hall aide David Halbert, perennial candidate Althea Garrison, and South Boston ironworker Bridget Nee-Walsh.

"The day after the elec-

tion, everyone's at zero again," Flaherty said in the interview inside his fifth-floor City Hall office. Behind him, the neon sign of the Union Oyster House peeked out from behind the rooftops across Congress Street.

He chalked up his preliminary win to being a recognized name and face throughout the city.



City Councillor Michael Flaherty, right, is shown in 2009 during a forum with the late Mayor Thomas M. Menino, whom he challenged that year in the election for Mayor of Boston. Menino won Flaherty re-joined the council in 2015. He was first elected citywide in 1999.

Chris Lovett photo



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Masks required

A former prosecutor and the son of a South Boston state lawmaker, Flaherty first ran in 1999, spending nine years on the council, five of them as the body's president.

He gave up his seat to unsuccessfully challenge Mayor Thomas Menino in 2009. When Menino opted against a sixth term in 2013, setting off a 12-person race to replace him, Flaherty ran and won an at-large seat on the council instead of taking another shot at the mayor's office.

"I enjoy helping people," Flaherty said. "This job is about helping people."

He cites a roster of South Boston politicians, from the late Congressman Joe Moakley to former Senate President Bill Bulger and former mayor Ray Flynn, alongside his father, Michael F. Flaherty Sr., as role models. He would answer the phone for his father when Flaherty Sr. wasn't home, taking down names with a pad and pen.

"You knew it was someone in need of some help and you needed to make sure you got the message right," he said. "Back then, their electricity was out, or they had no heat, or they were trying to get their mother into senior housing, or their street wasn't plowed. The list was endless."

He remembers his father coming home, grabbing a bite in the kitchen, and then going down the call list. "That's the environment I grew up in," he said.

For the people calling, whatever the issue is, it is likely the most important thing happening that their lives. Even when he's unable to help, Flaherty said he returns the call.

"If you either have no news or bad news, make sure you share that, too, because you want to make sure you're managing people's expectations. You don't want them thinking you didn't take their call seriously or you weren't working on their call."

Good jobs and affordable housing still top the list of what voters want. Boston's economy was booming before the pandemic, and city finances were in better shape than elsewhere in the US, allowing Boston to weather Covid-19 better than other cities. But even as the city keeps attracting companies to the Seaport neighborhood, there is an affordability crisis underway as housing prices outpace what many people can pay.

"What good is it when CEOs are bringing their companies to Boston, yet those basic career opportunities are not flowing out to the neighborhoods of Boston?" Flaherty said.

The councillor added that UMass Boston has one of the best nursing programs in the country. "We're missing a huge opportunity" for a feeder system to train the next generation, from Boston public schools to the vast internship system within the region's hospitals, he said.

The MBTA is another issue, he said, pointing to the Red Line derailment at Broadway last week.

"Boston's workforce depends on safe and reliable public transportation," but doesn't have a seat on the state transit agency's board of overseers, he said.

Asked whether the MBTA should be free, Flaherty answered with a question. "Is it realistic for us to think the T can be free?" There are employees and benefit packages to pay for and infrastructure needs, he noted, adding the caveat that he hasn't seen the numbers that could make such a proposal work.

"I leave that to other pioneers who want the T to be free," he quipped, an apparent reference to Wu, his colleague who is running for mayor.

Flaherty didn't endorse in the mayoral preliminary and doesn't plan to issue one in the final.

"I stayed in my lane then and it seemed to work well for me. I've got friends on all sides of this thing," he said. "I'm on the ballot and I'm just going to stay in my own lane and work on getting re-elected, and will use my experience to help whoever wins."



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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, Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester returned to the Ron Burton Training Village in Hubbardston, MA for a second Fall Retreat Day just for the girls.

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. Our young ladies took part in group games, STEM activities, Fitness Fun, and much more.

Many thanks to the Burton Family for their hospitality and to all of the staff and volunteers at RBTV for an amazing day for our members. We look forward to continuing this exciting partnership moving forward.

FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE: BGCD To Host Alumni Open House on October 9th: This Saturday, October 9th from 11am to 2pm, Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester will be welcoming back our alumni to the Club for an open house! The open house will consist of a delicious barbecue, tours of the Clubhouses and other fun activities.

Alumni will be able to relive their fondest memories at the Marr Clubhouse on Deer Street and share their nostalgia in a video series being created to help alumni connect.

This is one of our first events put on by the newly started Alumni Association, and will hopefully be the first of many to come! If you are a fellow BGCD alum and would like to attend, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Amy Gately at agately@bgcdorchester.org to RSVP.

DID YOU KNOW: IBEW Local 103 & NECA Greater Boston Hosts BGCD at Red Sox Game: This past week, our friends at International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 103 and NECA Greater Boston Electrical Contractors hosted a group from BGCD at the Red Sox game.

In addition to watching the game and seeing the Red Sox defeat the Mets, the members had the opportunity to tour Fenway Park and watch batting practice prior to the game. BGCD member Jarrell was even lucky enough to get a baseball during batting practice from one of the players.

Many thanks to IBEW Local 103 and NECA Greater Boston Electrical Contractors for including BGCD in the Annual Bullpen Buddies program. You've helped provide such a special opportunity to our members.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Challenger Soccer
Sundays at 10am & 11am

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October 6

Alumni Open House
October 9

Destination U Fair
October 20

Grand Drawing Galaween
October 29

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RECENT OBITUARIES



BARBOZA, Louis, 96, of Dorchester. Husband of 75 years of Mary (Meranda) Barboza. Father of Cheryl Barboza, (Oscar) of Allston, Diane Daye, (Peter) of GA, Kevin Barboza, (Andre) and the late Louis Barboza, Jr. Brother of Maria Luisa Gonsalves of RI, Marie Davis (Robert) of RI, Yvonne Barboza of RI, Antonia Rodrigues (Otelio) of Taunton and the late Dorothy Galvam,

Florence Silva, Delores Hines, George Barboza, Anthony Barboza, Lawrence Barboza, Stanley Barboza, Andrew Barboza, Edwin DeWillis, Edwin Barboza and Edward Barboza. Also survived by 12 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, 1 late grandchild and family friend, Michael Blakely. Army Veteran WWII. Donations may be made in his memory to the Sister Mary Hart Children's Program. Donations can be made online at stkdp parish.org and select fund for Sister Mary Hart Children's Program or at Venmo.com/srmaryhart

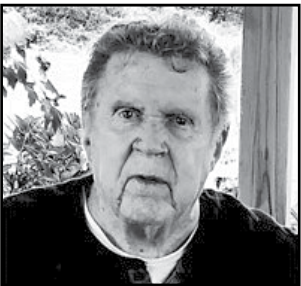
DOHERTY, Jane M. of Dorchester, formerly of Randolph. Daughter of the late John E. and Sarah J. Doherty. Sister of the late Mary Mandeville and



the late John F. Doherty. Also survived by many nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews, and great-grandnieces and great-grandnephews. Jane was a retired employee of New England Telephone. Please consider donating to a charity of your choice in memory of Jane.



DOWNEY, John Joseph Sr. of Dorchester, formerly of Tanvey, Ballinasloe, Athlone, Co. Roscommon, Ireland. Husband of the late Mary Madden Downey formerly of Moycullen, Killagoola, Co. Galway, Ireland. Father of John J. Downey Jr. of Neponset, Marian (Joseph) Wilson of Weymouth, Monica (Edward) Ferguson of Winchester, and Julia (Stephen) Greene of Milton. Predeceased by 9 siblings. John also a brother Michael Downey of Athlone, Ireland. Grandfather of 1. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Please consider making a donation in memory of John to CatholicTV, PO Box 9196, 34 Chestnut St., Watertown, MA 02471.



HIGGINS, Joseph P. "Joe" longtime resident of Quincy, 81. Retired

MBTA. He was the son of the late Thomas and Mary (Drew) Higgins. Brother of Thomas F. Higgins and his late wife Alice of Quincy, and the late John P. Higgins. Contributions may be sent in Joe's name to The Greater Boston Food Bank, 70 South Bay Ave., Boston, MA 02118 or The Jimmy Fund c/o Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, PO Box 849168, Boston, MA 02284-9168.



GREEN, Jerry, 58, of Dorchester. Jerry was a beloved father, husband, grandfather, sibling, son, and friend. Jerry is survived by his six children Jerry, Jr., Jibria, Javonna, Janelle, Janae, and Marcus and 4 grandchildren. He is also survived by a host of other relatives and friends.



KING, Marie Gertrude (Frank) of Norwood, 74. Wife of the late Francis X. King; mother of Timothy M. King and his wife Michelle of Scarborough, ME, Stephanie M. King and her partner Robert Barraco of Sandwich, MA; grandmother of 2. Donations may be made in her name to the American Heart Assoc., 300 5th Ave., #6, Waltham, MA, 02451.

KUKSTIS, Mary C. (Norton), 94. Born in Dorchester and a longtime resident of Roslindale, Mary is survived by her sister, Patricia McCue, of Brookline, four of her children, 8 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. Mary was preceded in death by her husband, Edward Kukstis, Sr., her eldest son, Edward Kuks-



tis, Jr., her brother, James Norton and countless friends. Donations can be made in Mary's name to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, CFC.org



MORRISON, Dorothy C. "Dot" (Cody) of Dorchester. Wife of the late Kenneth C. Morrison. Mother of Wayne and his wife Patti Morrison of Quincy, Kathleen M. and her husband Dick Greene of Braintree, David K. and his wife Kathy Morrison of Texas, Floyd R. and his wife Mary Morrison of Braintree, Christopher C. and his wife Mary Morrison of Billerica, Tricia A. and her husband Paul Caeran of Rockland, Gerard A. and his wife Kathy Morrison of Braintree, Maureen C. "Moe" Morrison of Dorchester, Derek W. and his wife Suzanne Morrison of Braintree, and Michelle M. and her husband Steve Lysakowski of Dorchester. "Grandma" to 24 grandchildren, "great-grandma" to 27 great-grandchildren, with 2 more expected. Sister of Barbara Campbell of Abington, Ruth Ryan of Quincy, and the late Mary Jean Curtis and Helen Sawyer. Dot was a former Cub Scout Den Mother and recipient of the Corrigan Medal. She was also active with St. Margaret's Color Guard Team for many years. Donations in Dot's memory may be made to John Adams Healthcare Center Activity Department, 211 Franklin St., Quincy, MA 02169.

SULLIVAN, Kevin C., 73 of Derry, NH, formerly of Quincy and Mattapan. Son of the late Paul and Anne (Wilson) Sullivan. Brother of Michael (Carol) Sullivan of Dedham, Maureen Johnson of Saco, ME, four nieces and one nephew. Predeceased by brother, John Sullivan.

in death by his parents (Cornel and Catherine Orn ), his brother (Jacques Crevecoeur) and sisters (Yolene Orn  and Bernadette Noel). He is survived by his sisters, Rose Paillant and Marlene Calixte, and brother, Ernst Ostine; his wife of 53 years, Marie Colette Ostine; his children, Shirley, Regine and Claude, Jr.; his seven grandchildren; and many family and friends.

RHILINGER, Sister Anne Frances, SND, 91. Sister Anne was born in Boston, Mary Agnes, daughter of Joseph P. and Ethel G. (Thomas) Rhilinger and graduated from St. Gregory High School in Dorchester. She entered the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur in 1947. She graduated from Emmanuel College in Boston with a concentration in French and History. Sister began her teaching career at Notre Dame schools in 1950 at St. Augustine's in Boston. She continued to teach for many years in several Boston area schools including Presentation in Brighton, St. Joseph's in Somerville, St. Mary's in Waltham, Annunciation School in Danvers and Our Lady of the Angels in Worcester. She was principal at St. Mary's School in Shrewsbury for several years. Sister leaves nieces, nephews, and her sisters in religion, the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. She was predeceased by her eight brothers, Richard, Joseph, John, Robert, Charles, James, Edward and Gerard Rhilinger. Memorial donations may be made to the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, 351 Broadway, Everett, MA 02149.

STEPHENS, Margaret L. known as Phyllis, of Dorchester. Wife of Emery Stephens, Sr. Mother of Emery Stephens, Jr. of Northfield, MN. She is also survived by a host of relatives and dear friends. Memorial donations in Margaret's honor can be made to: Codman Square Health Center, 637 Washington Street, Dorchester, MA 02124, Attn: John Galluzzo, or donate online at: <https://www.codman.org/donate/>



OSTINE, Claude, of Dorchester, originally of Port-au-Prince, Haiti. For almost 30 years, he worked as a machinist at St. Regis Paper (later IVEX Packaging Corp.), in Newton Upper Falls until his retirement in 2007. He was preceded



in death by his parents (Cornel and Catherine Orn ), his brother (Jacques Crevecoeur) and sisters (Yolene Orn  and Bernadette Noel). He is survived by his sisters, Rose Paillant and Marlene Calixte, and brother, Ernst Ostine; his wife of 53 years, Marie Colette Ostine; his children, Shirley, Regine and Claude, Jr.; his seven grandchildren; and many family and friends.



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Main Office located at:
366 Cummins Highway, Roslindale, MA 02131
Pricing information and maps available online at:
www.BostonCemetery.org
617-325-6830 info@bccacomcast.net

Pro-choice rally attracts large crowd to Franklin Park



Abortion-rights advocates gathered in Franklin Park last Saturday as others rallied in cities nationwide ahead of the US Supreme Court’s new session, which may determine the future of abortion in this country. While decrying Texas’s new law, which bans abortions after about six weeks of pregnancy, protesters fixed their eyes on the Supreme Court, which, with its conservative majority, will take

up a Mississippi law this term that limits abortion after 15 weeks. At the Playstead, Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley (above), Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey, and US Sen. Edward Markey spoke to the more than 1,000 people who had gathered there. Scenes from the event shown on this page were taken by WBUR photographer Jesse Costa.



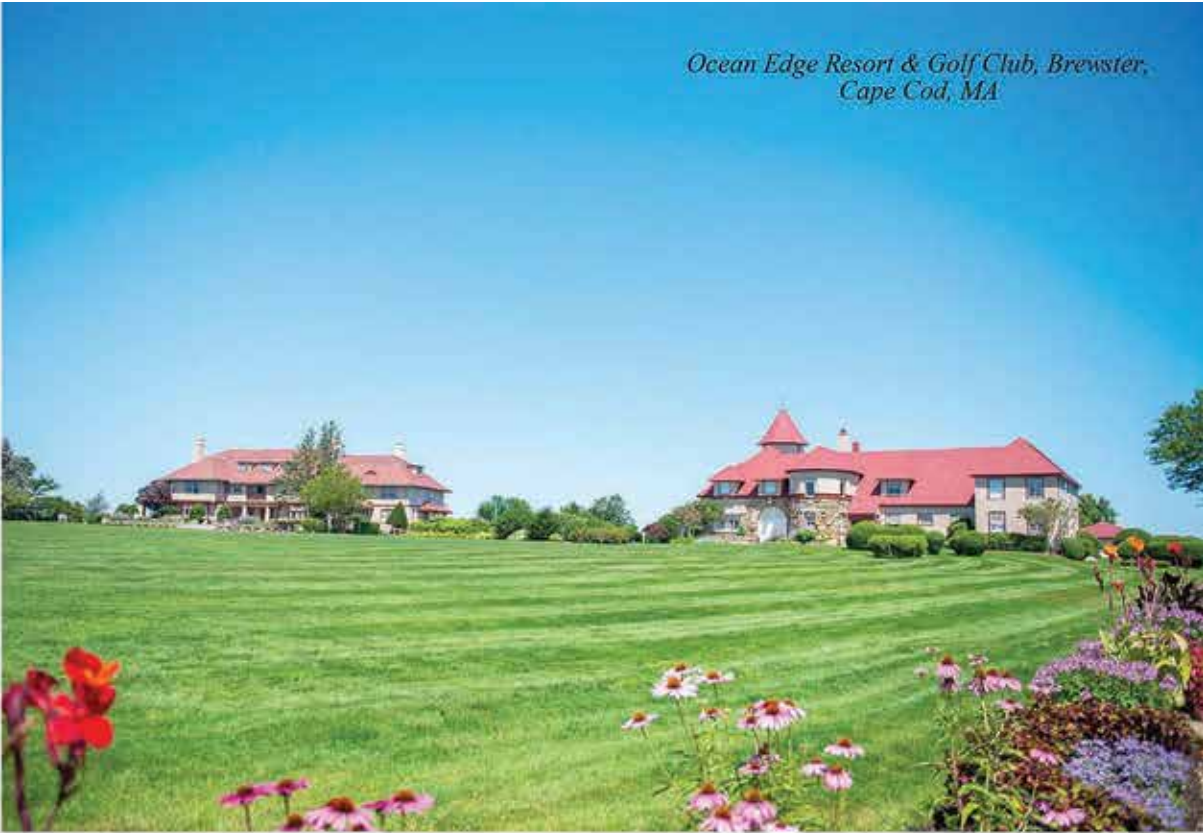
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