

Dorchester Reporter

"The News and Values Around the Neighborhood"

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50¢

New polling finds Wu with big lead over Essaibi George

By **BILL FORRY**
AND **GINTAUTAS DUMCIUS**
REPORTER STAFF

City Councillor At-Large Michelle Wu has a wide lead over fellow mayoral contender Annissa Essaibi George, according to a new poll of Boston voters that put Wu ahead by 30 points, with a higher favorability rating and

name recognition than Essaibi George, who is also a councillor at-large.

Wu received 52 percent to Essaibi George's 22 percent in the survey of 501 likely voters conducted by MassINC Polling Group for the Dorchester Reporter, the Boston Foundation and WBUR.

Twenty-five percent of the

Poll shows Julia Mejia, Michael Flaherty atop at-large council field; Ruth Louijeune, Erin Murphy are tied. Page 16

voters survey remained undecided, according to the survey, which took place between Oct. 6 and Oct. 12. The margin of

error was 4.9 percent.

The poll's release on Wednesday morning came hours before Roslindale's Wu and Dorchester's Essaibi George were set to face off at 7 p.m. on CBS Boston (Ch. 4) in a debate moderated by Jon Keller.

When undecided voters were asked who they were leaning toward, Wu's share rose to

57 percent in the poll, while Essaibi George increased to 25 percent.

The poll found that Wu was more popular in Boston than Gov. Baker, a moderate Republican who is in his second term and who nearly won deep-blue Boston in the last election. Wu posted a 61

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NEW KIDS HOUSE A LANDMARK?

Neighbors petition city panel for historic status

By **SETH DANIEL**
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

A group of Dorchester neighbors have filed a petition with the Boston Landmarks Commission (BLC) to make the former Melville Avenue home of New Kids on the Block phenoms Jonathan and Jordan Knight a city landmark site and the enthusiastic group believes they have the right stuff to make it happen.

The group filed the petition on Oct. 7 with the BLC and the first hearing on the matter was scheduled for Tuesday of this week. The neighbors are taking the process step-by-step in order to preserve a home that has recently gone up for sale, a property that had as much significance in the past as in recent history when it was a top gathering point for so-called "Block-head" fans.

Dorchester resident and BLC Commissioner



A current photo of 10 Melville Ave., which is now being sold by the Salvation Army after being under its stewardship since 1996. Seth Daniel photo

John Amodeo filed the petition, but he was not able to comment on the matter.

Earl Taylor, who is one of several people advancing the idea, said the home has significance through time, up to its 1990s heyday when so many teens and pre-teens would stand in front of 10 Melville Ave. just to get a glimpse of the Knights or any other



New Kids, Back in the Day— Brothers Jordan, left, and Jonathan Knight circa 1990.

Photo courtesy NKOTB/Twitter

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BPL, city mull housing link to new Codman Square library

By **SETH DANIEL**
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

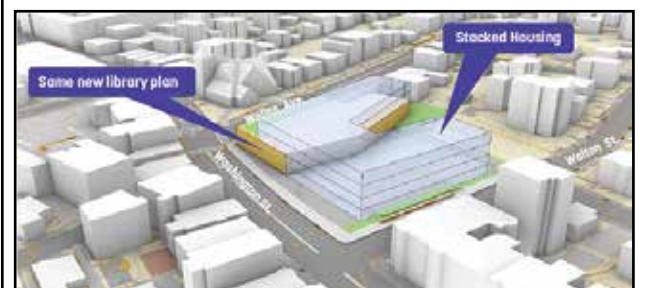
The good news is that no matter what, the Boston Public Library (BPL) has committed to either a major renovation or a brand-new branch library at Codman Square on the existing site.

The pause in the matter for both the city and the community involves the matter of implementing affordable housing with rehabbed or new library as part of an initiative called "Housing with Public Assets."

The question was first broached last Tuesday night during the third community meeting for the Codman Square library renovation/replacement project. Previously, BPL and the city had announced that the new Uphams Corner branch library would be part of an affordable housing development project, an idea that is being explored at other library projects across the city.

The concept has been used successfully in places like Chicago, and now it's a housing initiative from the Department of Neighborhood Development (DND) that is included in discussions for almost all city building projects, particularly libraries.

"No matter what happens with the housing idea, there will be a great new library in Codman Square," said BPL Director David Leonard. "We don't have to do housing on this site. This is one of six sites



One of the concepts for the library project in Codman Square calls for housing to be placed on top of a new or renovated branch building.

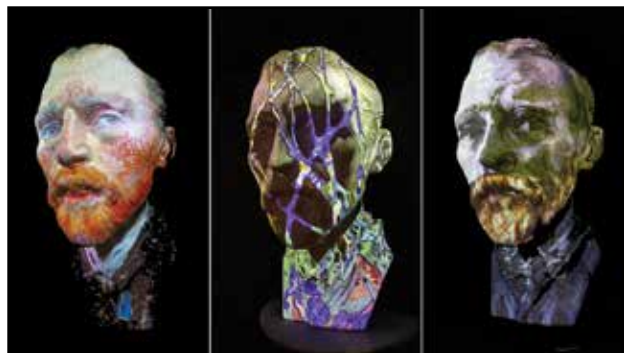
Graphic courtesy Sasaki

(Continued on page 14)

Van Gogh comes alive at Strand exhibit

By **MAGDIELA MATTA**
WBUR ARTS FELLOW

As I entered the Strand Theatre in Dorchester on a recent Tuesday, it was hard to stop looking around me. The immersive room was awash in color, displaying digital projections that danced over the walls, floors, and seating. Sunflowers, candles, scribbled writing, and images of Vincent van Gogh cascaded around the



A bust of the Vincent van Gogh, which sits at the entrance of the exhibit, goes through a transformation using various light projections.

Jesse Costa/WBUR photo

room as classical music played.

This was my introduction to "Van Gogh: The Immersive Experience," which officially opened its doors on Oct. 6. The exhibit takes you through the life of the artist with voiceovers sharing biographical facts, posted descriptions, light projections, interactive displays, and 3D installations.

(Continued on page 10)

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Police, Courts & Fire

2 fatal stabbings in a week:
Virginia St. Monday night,
Harvard St. last Thursday

An adult man was stabbed to death on Virginia Street in Uphams Corner on Monday evening. Boston Police were called to the scene near 9 Virginia St. around 6:40 p.m. “The victim was transported to a local area hospital, where he later succumbed to injuries and was pronounced deceased,” police said.

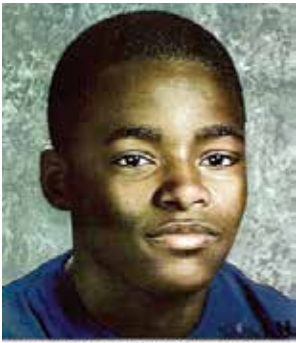
A man later named as Ralph Boggs, 50, was fatally stabbed last Thursday (Oct. 7) on Harvard Street. Police were called to that scene around 11:20 p.m. where the victim was found suffering from stab wounds. He was pronounced dead at a Boston hospital.

Another homicide took place last Wednesday (Oct. 6) just before 11 p.m. near Blue Hill Avenue and Walk Hill Street in Mattapan. Police hurried to the scene after a ShotSpotter activation and found an adult male victim with a gunshot wound. His identity has not yet been released.

Anyone with information about these cases is asked to call detectives at 617-343-4470.

...
A 27-year-old Dorchester man was arrested by police last Friday (Oct. 8) in connection with a shooting that took place on Dudley Street in Uphams Corner three days before that left another man with gunshot wounds. The suspect in that incident, Tyreem Horton, 27, was arrested “without incident” by members of the Youth Violence Strike Force and District B2 officers. Horton will be charged with armed assault with intent to murder and an assortment of firearm offenses.

...
Boston Police are renewing their call for tips into a decades-old double-murder mystery



Composite image of victim, “Clayton”

centered in Four Corners where the bodies of two young men were found in a vacant lot on Eldon Street on Oct. 6, 1988.

Investigators believe the two victims— who have not been identified— were from Brooklyn, NY, but were living in the vicinity of the Eldon Street location at the time of their deaths. Further, the men, who may have gone by the names Clayton and Hooker, were thought to have been associated with a person known as ‘Flip,’ also a NY City native.

Police are asking anyone who may have information— “no matter how small or seemingly insignificant”— to call 617-343-4470.

...
The FBI’s Boston division is “surging resources” to respond to a 25 percent spike in reported hate crime incidents nationally over the last five years. In Massachusetts last year, the agency noted 310 hate crime reports involving 408 victims.

“We know that some people are afraid to come forward because of a fear or distrust of law enforcement, fear due to their immigration status, or a fear of retribution from their attacker,” said Joseph R. Bonavolonta, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI Boston Division.

“We understand that, but please know that hate crimes are a huge priority for the FBI,” he added.

Man escapes injury when part of
Savin Hill T staircase collapses

Tim Shannon says he’d just gotten off the Red Line at Savin Hill on Sunday night when he heard a cracking sound just before a 2 to 2 1/2-foot-long metal slab, the bottom of one of the staircases leading up to the exit, crashed at his feet.

Shannon, who commutes on the Red Line to his job in Harvard Square, said that slab was not connected to the staircase he’d been worrying about — it was the other one that now wobbles as you get to the very bottom, which it has been doing for a few weeks now.

Shannon said he feels really lucky that he had paused to put in his earbuds so he could listen



A chunk of metal fell from a stairway at the MBTA Red Line station in Savin Hill on Sunday.

Tim Shannon photo
to music on his five-minute walk home from the station.

The MBTA is investigating the incident. Minor repairs were made at the station on Monday, and engineers have determined the steps are structurally sound and safe. The MBTA says

it regularly inspects its stations.

“With the safety of customers and employees of paramount importance, regular maintenance is a central component of the MBTA’s asset management program and includes inspections, preventative maintenance,

and corrective maintenance of station infrastructure,” an MBTA spokesman said in a statement.

The spokesman pointed to capital spending that is expected to exceed \$2 billion in this fiscal year, after expending \$1.92 billion in the last fiscal year.

Last month, a man died falling through a set of stairs next to the JFK/UMass station that were supposed to have been fixed a year ago, but weren’t. They had been fenced off. The Massachusetts Department of Transportation owns the stairs and sent a crew to remove the stairs a week after the fatality.

—REPORTERSTAFF

Meeting on Monday to take up new
‘free-standing’ BCYF facility in Dot

By SETH DANIEL
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

The city will kick off what looks to be a long process to find the proper site for a new, free-standing community center somewhere in Dorchester. The Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services, along with the Boston Centers for Youth and Families (BCYF) and the Public Facilities Department, will host an online public meeting next Monday.

“The topics to be discussed include introducing the study team, discussing study goals, identifying potential site(s) for a new stand-alone community center in Dorchester, and gathering feedback from the community on desired programs and facilities,” read a statement from BCYF about the meeting.

Most BCYF facilities are tied to a school building or some other city building, such as at the Lee School or the Murphy School. The

upcoming process will determine a location and a menu of programming for a facility that isn’t tied to any existing building — likely introducing a new resource for young people in Dorchester.

Earlier this year, the *Reporter* featured a story from Grove Hall’s Project RIGHT advocates, who have long called for a standalone community center on a vacant parcel of land behind the Jeremiah Burke High School. At that time, leaders of BCYF indicated that there would be a process to study and look at a stand-alone community center in Dorchester, and next week’s meeting will be the beginning of that.

Councillor Andrea Campbell’s office said they have been working behind the scenes with BCYF for some time on the idea and believe that BCYF should look seriously at the Grove Hall neighborhood for any such center.

“Grove Hall residents have for years been ad-

vocating for increased youth programming and dedicated space in community to support positive youth development and violence prevention efforts,” read the statement from Councillor Campbell. “While these programs continue to be under-resourced in the City despite a large need, I encourage BCYF to meaningfully respond and incorporate these long-standing needs and

advocacy of Grove Hall and their youth in this engagement process.

The city will be releasing flyers in Spanish, Vietnamese, Haitian Creole, and Cape Verdean Creole in the coming days. Residents will need to register for the meeting and request translation if necessary, beforehand. The link to register for the meeting is <https://forms.gle/xcb-CJHuwHWvPXbuvT6>.

October 14, 2021

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UPCOMING CIVIC MEETINGS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

An at-large city council forum will be held on Thurs., Oct. 21 at 7 p.m. at St. Brendan’s Church Lower Hall, 589 Gallivan Blvd. Moderated by Gintautas Dumcius and Katie Trojano of the Reporter.

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.

Men of Boston Cook for Women’s Health, a virtual event to support the Codman Square Health Center, will be held on Thurs., Oct. 28 from 6-7 p.m. For ticket and donation info, see [Codman.org/menofbostoncook](https://codman.org/menofbostoncook).

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.

The Charles Overton Group performs in concert on Sat. Oct. 16 at the Salvation Army Kroc Center as part of the Celebrity Series of Boston’s Neighborhood Arts program, featuring live jazz. Free.

The Clam Point section of Dorchester is having a neighborhood-wide yard sale on Sat., Oct. 23 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Rain date is Oct. 24. Clam Point is a residential section of Dorchester between Victory Road and Freeport Street.

Live music in Savin Hil Park on Sunday, October 24, from 1-4 p.m. Enjoy local acoustic music, featuring the Savin

Hillbillies. All are welcome to join an open jam at the conclusion of the event. Bring your own chairs, blankets, and instruments. Interested in performing? Contact: savinhill@outlook.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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Long-awaited Indigo Block mixed-use housing complex opens its doors on Maxwell Box site on East Cottage Street

By Grace Mayer
Special to the Reporter
The Indigo Block, an 89-unit mixed-use housing complex in Uphams Corner, formally opened its doors last Wednesday with a ceremony that drew Acting Mayor Kim Janey.

For some, including Deshaun White and his 13-year-old daughter, the East Cottage Street housing complex offers a sense of security in an uncertain time. After bouncing between shelters for the past two years, White, a single father, moved into the development last month.

"I appreciate that we had a chance to move into Indigo Block, to have a stable house—something that my daughter can call home, finally," White, 36, said.

The project, which saw some delays due to a construction moratorium earlier in the pandemic and the supply chain slowdown, has provided 80 mixed-income apartments. Of those, 44 are for individuals who earn up to \$56,400 per year, and 36 are for people earning up to \$76,100.

Nearly 3,000 applicants have entered into a lottery system to secure one of the units, fifteen of which have been filled, according to Detra McGovern, regional property manager for Indigo Block.

The project's nine first-time homebuyer units and 23,000 square feet of industrial and office space, also part of the



Acting Mayor Kim Janey joined leaders from Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corp, Boston Capital Development, Escazu Development, Newmarket Comm Partners, DSNI and residents for a ribbon cutting at the newly opened Indigo Block in Dorchester's Uphams Corner last Wed., Oct. 6.

project, still need to be completed.

Roughly 60 people gathered outside the apartment complex at 65 East Cottage Street for the ribbon-cutting, including employees from Boston Capital, Escazu Development, and Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation (EDC), some of the companies and groups behind the development.

"Anytime that we are seeing more opportunities for affordable housing, or homeownership in our city, I believe it is a great day in our city," Janey said. "We need to make sure that everyone who wants to

call Boston home can do so."

Until everyone can afford housing, Janey said, the city's job is to keep creating affordable housing in Boston, where rents have been rising while increasing numbers of residents cannot afford to live within city limits.

Janey shared her own experience living in subsidized housing, like Indigo Block, as a single mom. "Folks who know me know that housing is an important part of my story," she said.

It was through a first-time homebuyers program that she was able to buy her own home, said Janey, who now

lives near the Indigo Block.

More than seven years ago, the Dorchester Bay EDC drafted plans to renovate what used to be the Maxwell Box Company warehouse site into a transit-oriented property along the MBTA's Fairmount Line. The city's planning and development agency gave the green light in 2016.

Keith Greenway, president of the board of directors for Dorchester Bay EDC, said that the organization will amp up its efforts to provide affordable housing opportunities to individuals and families in Dorchester.

"Dorchester Bay will re-

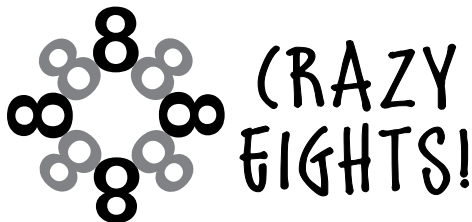
double its efforts from this point," Greenway said, "not only to provide reasonable housing and facilitate the development of businesses within our communities, but also to make a difference in individual empowerment and the narrowing of the wealth and income gap."

Over the past decade, as Boston Capital, Escazu Development, and Dorchester Bay EDC worked on developing the project, it received funds from 16 organizations, in addition to a \$100,000 grant from the Kresge Foundation focused on creating sustainable policy solutions in low-income communities. Dorchester Bay EDC and its partners in the Fairmount Indigo CDC Collaborative won the award in September 2019.

"Especially during the pandemic, to get this building up and running, and have the opportunity to present this opportunity to the community has been a phenomenal experience, and it's a great asset to the community" said McGovern, the property manager.

For White, he and his daughter are no longer worried about having to pack up their things to move to another shelter. Inside his Indigo Block apartment, he said, he's setting up his space for the long haul.

"I'm just so happy that I get a chance to be here, somewhere where I can call home," White said.



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In Boston at-large council race, state GOP backed boxer who pushed anti-Asian posts

BY GINTAUTAS DUMCIUS
MANAGING EDITOR
Massachusetts GOP officials spent thousands of dollars to help



a Boston City Council at-large candidate who has taken to social media with anti-Asian posts, falsely claimed the 2020 election was stolen, and lashed out about vaccine requirements.

Donnie Palmer, a professional boxer who hails from Dorchester, was among the 17 candidates to run for City Council at-large in the Sept. 14 preliminary election. He was knocked out of contention for the Nov. 2 final election after finishing in 14th place with 6,823 votes.

In a recent filing with state campaign finance regulators, the Republican State Committee disclosed it spent \$3,697 on Facebook ads supporting Palmer in

August. The panel did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

“ARE WE ABOUT TO ELECT A CHINESE CITIZEN TO CONTROL THE CITY OF BOSTON?” Palmer said in an Aug. 29 message that he posted to Twitter. It was accompanied by a photograph of mayoral contender Michelle Wu, who was born in Chicago and is the daughter of Taiwanese immigrants. Palmer paired her photo with one of Chinese leader Xi Jinping.

“The Arabs and Chinese want to do to Africa what the Europeans did to America. Wipe out the indigenous people and set up a super colony,” one person posted to Twitter in early September. “Correct!” Palmer responded in another Twitter post.

In early October, Palmer posted a photo of Wu and Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, who was raised in Chicago, and asked, “Do you think that Chicago would allow a bunch of gangsters from Boston to come in and take over their city??? NO WAY... and neither should we.”

Responding directly to Wu after her campaign posted her TV

ad on Twitter on Aug. 19, Palmer echoed former President Donald Trump in calling coronavirus a “Chinese” virus and asked, “Does China run Boston?” In another Twitter post, Palmer claimed Australia is “controlled” by China and added, “WE ARE NEXT.”

Wu said in a statement to the *Reporter* there is a “responsibility to stand together against the scourge of Anti-Asian racism and hatred of all kinds.” She added: “Funding campaigns built on discrimination only perpetuates the alienation so many have from our political process. I’m committed to joining our communities to stand up against racism, and see and value every person.”

Palmer, an unabashed Trump supporter who sought to be the first Black Republican on the City Council, has also shared content on Facebook that has been flagged as factually inaccurate, posted to Twitter about how the 2020 US election was stolen, and claimed politicians are “forcing us to take a vaccine that’s killing healthy people all over the country.” Palmer

also called Acting Mayor Kim Janey a “fascist dictator” after she required vaccines for city workers.

The Boston Police Patrolmen’s Association (BPPA), a top police union, also endorsed Palmer in August and sent him \$500 in September. He was one of five candidates the union endorsed in the preliminary.

“We were completely unaware of these postings and we do not condone these racist statements,” Larry Calderone, head of the BPPA, said in a statement. He noted the postings referenced by the *Reporter* occurred after their Aug. 18 endorsement of Palmer.

“Further, at that time, we were unaware of these or any other postings that reflected racist attitudes by Mr. Palmer,” Calderone added. “The BPPA abhors all forms of racism and Mr. Palmer’s statements do not reflect our values.”

In a July 10 post, Palmer wrote, “Earlier in the race I felt that the GOP were not interested in supporting me. That has all changed. Jim Lyons, the Mass. GOP chairman, is giving me



Mass GOP chairman Jim Lyons, left, with Donnie Palmer, who ran unsuccessfully for at-large city council this year. Photo: Twitter

massive support.” The post included a picture of Palmer and Lyons, who has worked to remake the Massachusetts GOP, known for moderate candidates who served as a check on Democrats on Beacon Hill, into a pro-Trump outfit.

Since losing the preliminary, Palmer has set his sights on running against Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, who is up for reelection next year. Before his at-large run this year, Palmer previously ran and lost to District 3 City Councillor Frank Baker of

Dorchester in 2015.

According to campaign finance records, Palmer received thousands of dollars in campaign contributions for his at-large run, but he has not disclosed the donors. He appears to have spent much of the money on local eateries. In his most recent filing, his campaign account is nearly \$450 in the red.

State campaign finance regulators have sent him several letters asking him about missing information in his filings on donations and expenditures.

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Rep. Hunt: If lawmakers divide Ward 16 in redistricting, legal action likely to follow

By GINTAUTAS DUMCIUS
MANAGING EDITOR

Massachusetts lawmakers tasked with redrawing the state's political boundaries this week proposed the breakup of a Dorchester ward, which could lead to a legal challenge to stop such a move, which also drew opposition from the neighborhood's civic groups. The redrawing of the state's legislative and Congressional district boundaries follows every decennial US Census. Districts are made up of wards, which in turn are made up of precincts. On Tuesday, a special committee of legislators in the Massachusetts House and Senate released drafts of new boundary maps meant to ensure that districts are more or less equally sized in population. The Senate side is seeking to move three Ward 16 precincts out of their current Senate district, where they are represented by Nick Collins of South Boston, and shift them into the district of Sen. Walter Timilty of neighboring Milton. Timilty's district also includes Avon, Canton, Randolph, Stoughton, West Bridgewater, and

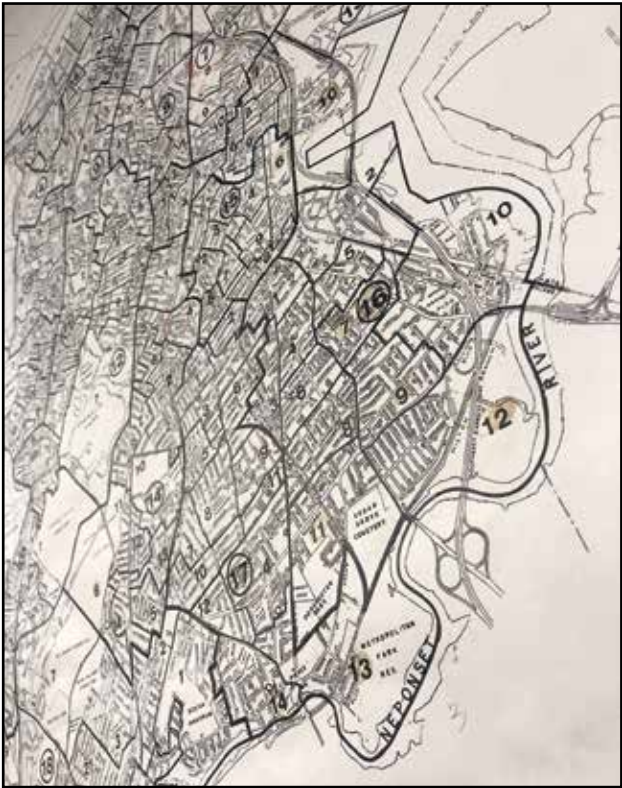


Rep. Dan Hunt

parts of Braintree, Sharon, and East Bridgewater. The three Ward 16 precincts – 16-9, 16-10 and 16-12 – are in the Adams Corner, Neponset, and Port Norfolk neighborhoods. Rumors of the changes were in circulation during the weekend, before the release of the draft maps on Tuesday. The public comment period on the proposed remapping is open through next Monday, Oct. 18. “Ward 16 has never been divided and doing so goes against the principles of redistricting -- to keep cities and towns and wards whole,” said state Rep. Dan Hunt, who represents most of Ward 16 in the House and serves as a member of the redistricting committee. A former legislative aide who succeeded Marty Walsh in the House in 2014, he is also chair of the Ward 16 Democratic Committee.

“There are Supreme Court cases around communities of interest, and if a map comes out that divides 16, the Ward 16 committee will explore all legal options,” Hunt told the *Reporter* before the release of the maps. At a virtual press conference unveiling the proposal, state Sen. William Brownsberger, a Belmont Democrat who chairs the Senate side of the redistricting committee, did not address Hunt's comments. He said the draft map reduces the number of municipalities split across districts to 10, down from the current 21. Boston is one of the 10. Collins, who has represented the First Suffolk Senate district since 2018, declined to comment. Hunt argued that Dorchester's Ward 16 precincts make up an urban neighborhood, and if they are shifted to Timilty's seat, they will be combined with suburban precincts. “Dorchester deserves an urban senator, not someone who represents wealthy suburbs,” he said. Local civic groups also voiced opposition to splitting up Ward 16. The heads of three groups — Steve Bickerton of Cedar Grove, John Schneider-

man of Pope's Hill, and John Lyons of Port Norfolk — on Saturday sent a letter to the redistricting committee asking them to keep the ward in one Senate district. “Our urban community of Dorchester has drastically different concerns, pressures, and priorities than a suburban district which is made up of towns that are very different from Dorchester in many ways — demographically, culturally, and economically,” they wrote. “We are a cohesive community and for the last 30+ years have been represented by a member of the Boston delegation, and a resident of the City of Boston.” The last redistricting effort a decade ago did not draw any lawsuits. A legal challenge could slow down a redistricting process that is already on a tight timeline due to the pandemic, which hampered work on the federal Census by delaying the delivery of data to state lawmakers, who needed the information to redraw the maps. Rather than pulling together the maps over several months, the lawmakers had six weeks. The data show that while Massachusetts cities and their suburbs grew in



Ward and Precinct map of the City of Boston.

population, two counties in the western part of the state, Berkshire and Franklin, lost residents. For its part, Boston gained 58,000 people. Beacon Hill lawmakers are aiming to have the maps ready by Nov. 8 of this year since House lawmakers must be living within their district boundaries for at least one year before an election while state senators just have to be residents when elected. The draft Senate map would also make changes to the Second Suffolk District. Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz occupies

the seat, but she plans to run for governor in 2022, leaving it incumbent-free. Under the draft Senate plan, half of the voting-age population within the district would be Black. “Currently you have two majority-minority districts in Boston, but neither one of them is capable of electing the choice of the Black voters,” Brownsberger said. “We’ve rebalanced those two and also their relationship to the districts around them.” *Material from State House News Service was used in this report.*



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Dot's Clark a standout with 15th-ranked Coastal Carolina squad

By KEVIN PERRINGTON-TURNER
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Jerrod Clark is once again putting Dorchester on the national football map. The 19-year-old Brighton High alumnus is a redshirt junior on the defensive line for the Division 1 Coastal Carolina Chanticleers, currently undefeated and ranked No.15 in the nation.

Clark, who plays in the nose tackle position, has been a key part of the 6-0 start for the Coastal Carolina squad in the Sun Belt Conference.

"The ranking isn't the goal," Clark replied when asked about being on one of the top teams in the country. "The goal is to remain undefeated, win the conference championship, and a bowl game. That's the only motivation we need."

Clark, one of four kids, grew up off Talbot Avenue near the Lee School and was a regular at the Boys & Girls Club near Franklin Field. He played Pop Warner football for the Mission Hill Buccaneers program.



Jerrod Clark (above and inset) plays on the defensive line for Coastal Carolina Chanticleers football team, currently undefeated and ranked No.15 in the nation. Photos courtesy Coastal Carolina Athletics

But he stood out even more for his gridiron play. He caught 26 touchdowns passes as a tight end and was named to its All Scholastic squad by the Boston Herald.

"Football is my place where I can forget all my problems and just step into a zone where the only thing that matters is what goes on between those side lines," he said.

Clark's collegiate career started slowly. He was redshirted his freshman year in 2018 and missed the 2019 season because of injury. However, last year he played in all 12 games and posted a total of 31 tackles. And he's made it on to the Dean's list for the 2021 spring semester.

Under head coach Jamey Chadwell, the Chanticleers have been blowing out most programs, including UMass, LA-Monroe, and Arkansas State, running the scores up over 50 points. Although the offense is high powered, it has been the defensive line making the big stops, holding opponents to well under 30 points per game.

"There has been a target on our backs," Clark said. "Outsiders don't believe in our success. They believe it is a fluke and that we play a weak schedule, etc. But we don't care about outside talk because we lace up our cleats and play 60 minutes of football just like everyone else in the nation does."

Clark credits Chadwell and teammates for the success to date this season.

"Playing for Coach Chadwell is life changing. His philosophy on family and God is what makes the team come together."

He continued, "We believe that brotherly love is what carries us to our wins, playing the brother beside you instead of for yourself is what makes us play as one unit."

The biggest adjustment for Clark has been the change of scenery.

"Coming from [Dorchester] to the country took some getting used to," he said. "A 5-minute-drive down here is a 45-minute walk. Then there's the student environment. I had never been around this many people on a daily basis until I came to college."

"I've never been naive to my circumstances. What keeps me going on tough days is that I know I'm one of the few who make it to play Division 1 straight from the city. I value and cherish my position in life, because I know a lot of people can't relate. So, I don't leave anything up for chance and never take my life for granted."

...

The Chanticleers face-off next against conference rivals Appalachian State Mountaineers on Wed., Oct. 20.

METCO supporters cut the ribbon to celebrate the opening of the program's new headquarters at 11 Roxbury St. in Nubian Square, Roxbury on Oct. 5. The new space includes an exhibit of METCO's history and the struggle for educational equity in the Boston area. It also houses meeting spaces and a computer lab for Boston children and families and suburban partners to learn, gather, convene, and socialize together. METCO supports more than 3,100 families annually in 33 participating suburban school districts and 190 public schools, with graduation rates and college attainment far above state averages. Pictured (l-r) are Gregory B. Janey, President & CEO, Janey Construction Management; Sharon Scott-Chandler, Executive Vice President/Chief Operating Officer, ABCD; Tom Peyser, Massachusetts Secretary of Education; Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz; Patrick Kimble, Asset Manager, Davis Companies/METCO Board Chair; Milly Arbaje-Thomas, President & CEO, METCO; Hycie McLaren, former METCO Business Manager; Shay Edmond, Associate Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; Dr. Jean McGuire, former METCO Executive Director; Regina M. M. Robinson, Deputy Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; Cheryl Antoine, Vice President, Quality Heating & Cooling LLC/METCO Board member; and Darnell Billings, Real Estate Agent, Keller Williams/METCO Board member.



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The Clapp Family's 'Favorite Pear'

Today's illustration is from WGBH public television. They shared a piece from GBH News's The Curiosity Desk that digs into the story behind Boston's strangest historic statue, a 12-foot bronze pear in the Dorchester neighborhood. WGBH requested us to share this video with our followers. (You can paste the following into your browser: wgbh.org/news/curiosity-desk/the-giant-pear-of-dorchester)

As the saying goes, "If there are two things you can't spit without hitting in Boston, it's a Dunkin' Donuts and a historic statue," but how did this delicious fruit end up becoming immortalized on the



city's streets? The idea for the 12-foot pear statue was conceived back in 2007 by the artist Laura Baring-Gould as a response to the city's

desire to make a historic sculpture the centerpiece of a renovated Edward Everett Square in Dorchester.

Pears were once

grown in abundance in Dorchester, including a distinct variety of pear, "The Clapp's Favorite," which was invented at the family's 18th cen-

tury farmhouse, now home to the Dorchester Historical Society. The Clapps were among the founding families of Dorchester, sailing here from England in 1630.

Although pears are no longer be a Dorchester staple, Baring-Gould hopes that the statue will serve as a metaphor for Boston's most diverse neighborhood, a gathering of people who, according to her, "are tough. They're resilient. Their skins are thick," just like the Clapp's Favorite.

The video is part of a new weekly digital series from GBH News that provides answers to perplexing questions proposed by the audience. The Curiosity

Desk video series is hosted by reporter Edgar B. Herwick III, who has answered hundreds of questions since the launch of the "Desk" as a radio feature in 2014.

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

...

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

Editorial

Reboot needed on Red Line repairs?

Six weeks ago, a Milton man fell to his death through a rotted-out, fenced-off staircase next to the JFK-UMass station. This week, another man was nearly struck by a piece of metal that broke off from another stairway inside the Savin Hill station. And the concrete stairs at Fields Corner are clearly crumbling underfoot.

The recent rash of incidents along the Red Line aren't just a Dorchester problem. A train derailed along the platform at Broadway three weeks ago. Another person was injured when an escalator apparently malfunctioned downtown that same week.

It's been a tough string of events for the transit system and its customers, who rely on it for transport and want to be confident that it's safe for us— and our kids— to use.

The decaying conditions are particularly maddening since it was not that long ago – the early 2000s – that four of our Dot stations were rebuilt at a significant cost to taxpayers. The upgrades came after a resident-led movement succeeded eventually in getting state officials to agree to fix them, or in the case of Ashmont, to invest in a brand-new station. The organizing was pre-Twitter and pre-Facebook. Instead, residents “tapped into emerging e-mail chains to ferment an alliance of dissatisfied T-riders along the spine of the Dorchester Avenue corridor,” the Reporter noted in 2001. “The activists’ focused lobbying kept lawmakers laser-locked on their own efforts to push through bond money to fund the T improvements.”

The “tipping-point” came in 1999, when a few hundred people attended a meeting at what is now the Leahy-Holloran Community Center to demand action. Residents grilled T General Manager Robert Prince, who agreed on the spot that the Dot stations would get the attention on his watch that had evaded the neighborhood under other GMs.

“Short of my demise, we’re going to put things in place that are irreversible,” Prince assured the crowd. He was sincere, but he still needed the political heft of Democratic-led Legislature to get a bond bill passed to pay for the fixes. Things finally crystallized in the fall of 2000, when Speaker of the House Tom Finneran got Gov. Paul Cellucci to sign off on a \$66 million bill to renovate the Ashmont, Shawmut, Fields Corner and Savin Hill MBTA stations. Later, more money was allocated to do a complete tear-down and rebuild at Ashmont.

It took a few years, but by 2005 the first of the “new” stations had re-opened at Savin Hill, site of this week’s fallen section of stairway. In the interim 16 years, there no doubt has been plenty of wear and tear and weather impacts on the renovated stations. The current MBTA leadership— to their credit— has “increased capital spending every year since 2015 to help make transit services and infrastructure more reliable,” according to a T spokesman.

Still, it’s alarming to see people endangered by infrastructure that’s crumbling underfoot or overhead. Perhaps it’s time to dust-off a concentrated, 21st century version of the 1990s campaign that was so successful in getting needed maintenance done at these stations.

JFK-UMass station, which was not part of the early-aughts restoration jobs, is in urgent need of upgrade and, perhaps, a total redesign. It would also be an ideal place to consider an Ashmont-style redevelopment project—including air rights— to better utilize the location, create housing and pump private dollars into the T system. We can’t allow our vital public infrastructure to decay to the point that people are imperiled.

– Bill Forry



Tom Gannon, a Fields Corner civic activist, spoke about the decrepit nature of MBTA Red Line stations during a 1999 meeting at what is now the Leahy-Holloran Community Center. Behind him are panelists, including then-state Rep. Martin J. Walsh, the late state Sen. Brian Joyce, and MBTA General Manager Robert Prince. The meeting was one of several held to pressure lawmakers and state transportation officials to allocate funds to repair Dorchester Red Line stations. The meeting was sponsored by the now-defunct Dorchester Allied Neighborhood Association, DANA. Bill Forry photo

Where are our better angels who can help us cope with our nature’s flaws?

By JAMES W. DOLAN
REPORTER COLUMNIST

Just how much discouraging news can we take to undermine our confidence in the institutions, government and otherwise, that we hoped would continue the incremental progress we experienced as a nation since World War II. Despite periodic setbacks, which sometimes weakened our resolve, progress seemed inevitable.



James W. Dolan

make us better human beings although it has the capacity to improve our understanding and performance. We are now able to develop the means to accomplish more complicated tasks than ever before. But we have not managed to understand or control those flaws in human nature that undermine and misdirect efforts to address the inequities so evident in the world or climate challenges that threaten the globe.

All one need do is look at the partisan dysfunction in the US Congress to see the distortions that exist as our representatives, at least in theory, struggle

Science and technology provided the assurance we could master the forces necessary to successfully manage the inevitable complications that accompany evolution. But technology, like any tool, has its limitations. It is only as good as those who invent, improve, manage, and apply it.

We can make things better but that does not necessarily translate into making ourselves better. It does not

to first identify and then to achieve the common good. Ambition, greed, self-interest, and dishonesty easily overcome efforts to fairly acknowledge and balance government’s obligation to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all.

It’s not easy to achieve and sustain the common good; to balance, as best we can, the shared but variable inequities inherent in the human condition. However, if the “common good” is not the “common goal,” there is no chance we can even come close. For example, so long as we view the unrestricted right to own and carry firearms as protected by the Second Amendment, we will have to contend with murder and suicide rates, which are viewed by other nations as a self-inflicted tragedy.

Are we so consumed with “self” that we are incapable as a society to sacrifice something we may desire in order to benefit others? Or do we tend to see others as a threat and their gain as our loss? How do we transcend self-interest? How do we make it more inclusive? When does your joy become my joy and your pain my pain? When does more become excess? When does empathy require sacrifice? When does truth illuminate the dark corners of ignorance, distortion, and neglect?

There is an old song suggesting such yearnings are “written in the wind,” and perhaps they are. So consumed with self we cannot hear the sweet melodies that float in the silence of our souls, the hymns of inspiration, love, and devotion that often are not heard or are too easily ignored.

In his first inaugural address on March 4, 1861, Abraham Lincoln invoked the “better angels of out nature” in calling upon the nation to avoid war. Regrettably, it sometimes appears that those “better angels” were casualties in the war that followed. While evident now in many of our aspirations, they faded in the fractious journey toward achievement.

James W. Dolan is a retired Dorchester District Court judge who now practices law.

Vote ‘no’ on Q. 1: All neighborhoods deserve to share in Boston’s growth

By PAM KOCHER
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

The momentum around this year’s mayoral election comes in part due to anticipation in the neighborhoods that new and diverse leadership will not only continue Boston’s strong growth, but also will ensure that all neighborhoods continue to share in that growth.

A roadblock to that positive growth and continued change is in the Question 1 budgeting initiative hiding on the Nov. 2 ballot. This question shifts some of the all-important budgeting powers of the mayor to the City Council, handing over valuable resources in the city’s \$6 billion annual budget to the loudest city councillors and their constituencies.

That shared budget-writing power would inject chaos and dysfunction into a process that currently works well. Such a change would whisk Boston back toward a time when neighborhoods with the best representation, and the loudest social voice, came out on top in Boston’s budget decisions.

On Nov. 2, when voters go to the polls to select their new city leaders, they will be choosing from one of the most diverse pools of candidates in Boston history—whether by race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, gender, or even by neighborhood geography. This is seen as a step in a new direction when it comes to representation and voices at the table in municipal government. To preserve the strength of new voices at the table, and to ensure that the new mayor can deliver a strong and equitable budget once again, as mayor’s have done throughout recent history, voters in all of Boston’s neighborhoods should vote ‘No’ on 1.’

Instead of relying on the new mayor for the city’s budget, voters who say “yes” to Question 1 will unnecessarily give 13 city councillors the ability to re-write the new mayor’s budget however they and their loudest and most powerful supporters see fit.

This will bring politics into the process and could return the long-retired practice of robbing one neighborhood for the benefit of another. Why risk that just at a time when so many new and different voices are coming to the table?

The city moved to a strong mayoral form of government so that a city-wide elected mayor, and his or her administration, would have the ability to distribute resources equally across the city. While there’s always more to be done on this topic, the current mayoral-driven budget process has improved how resources are delivered in all neighborhoods while also making huge strides in efforts to ensure

that no corner of the city is left behind.

What’s to stop a district city councillor, elected by voters in only one part of the city, from taking over the council’s new budgeting process and funneling money into his or her district—while leaving others starving for resources?

Boston voters should not want to create a city where one area has nice fields well-prepared for youth sports, while other areas don’t even have a field for kids to play on. Likewise, voters should be wary of ushering in an outcome where one powerful council district receives large allocations for ample numbers of firefighters, while less-vocal parts of the city suffer station brownouts, outdated fire engines, and bare minimum fire protection due to chronic funding shortages.

Do we want to enter into a time, unlike now, when residents have to travel to the most politically powerful neighborhood to enjoy a safe and well-kept park where crime is absent and the grass is clipped regularly?

As the city sets out next year with a new and diverse set of leaders, outcomes like those described above surely are the opposite of what voters going to the polls in this historic election want to see. That’s why it’s critical to vote ‘No on 1’ on Nov. 2.

Pam Kocher is the president of the Boston Municipal Research Bureau.

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Boston police figured the Black man was drunk, truth was he'd had a stroke. City paid out \$1.3m

By ALLY JARMANNING
WBUR REPORTER

Al Copeland was driving on Mass. Ave in Boston one night when he started to feel nauseated and realized he needed to pull over right away. He didn't know it in that moment, but the then-62-year-old was having a stroke.

"I was afraid," he recalls now. "I say, well, at least if anything happens to me, somebody will find me."

Boston police did find him slumped over in his car and barely conscious in front of the Berklee College of Music. But instead of calling an ambulance, they arrested him, writing later in their report that they smelled alcohol, even though Copeland says he hasn't had a drink since 1995.

His wife Valerie suspects she knows the reason Boston police mistakenly thought he was drunk. Al is Black.

"Why they didn't assume he was sick?" she asks. "I can only and strongly believe it's because he's a Black male."

That decision by police was one of a series of errors that night that ultimately led to a \$1.3 million settlement for Copeland with the city.

After he was arrested

Victim hopes that his story will change some things systemically, but adds, 'Who the hell knows?'

and taken to the police station, he could barely stand. When officers left him to use the bathroom in a holding cell, he fell to the ground and banged his head on the wall, according to police records. Officers left him in the cell to "sleep it off," the records show.

It was only after Copeland threw up— five hours after police first encountered him — that officers called an ambulance.

Valerie has watched all five hours of the footage captured at the station. "To see how uncaring they were," she says. "It is unfortunately— it should be shocking, but it's not."

Things didn't get better when Copeland got to Tufts Medical Center. Police records show that medical providers there also assumed he was drunk and left him in the emergency room for seven more hours.

It was only when Valerie finally tracked down her husband that doctors confirmed he had no drugs or alcohol in his system. He wasn't

drunk; he'd had a stroke.

But by then, the damage was done. Copeland remained in the hospital for weeks before he was moved to a rehab facility. He has had to give up his job with the MBTA, and he is still having trouble walking or enjoying a meal.

"I lost a bit with my balance, my attitude, my appetite," he says. "Tasting food, and some cognitive things that are still happening, and some physical things as well."

Now 64, Copeland doesn't remember anything about that night in April 2019. His first memory was waking up at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital two months later. There, he learned what happened.

"I heard ... they treated you like you was a drunk on the street," he recounts. "That's what I heard ... and it pissed me off. ... All these white addicts all over nodding all over the place, they treat me like I'm a drunk on the street."

Tufts apologized for its part in what happened,

but said it couldn't comment on his care or any legal dealings with the Copelands. Since then, they have added social workers to assist patients who can't communicate and also formed a center for diversity, equity, and inclusion to reduce disparities in care.

Boston agreed to pay the family \$1.3 million last summer, as racial justice protests surged across the city. But the Copelands say Boston police and the city have yet to apologize or even reach out to them.

Police records show the department launched an investigation only after the family's attorney contacted the city. Investigators faulted two officers and a sergeant for neglect of duty. But it wasn't because they treated Al Copeland like a drunk. Instead, investigators cited police for not responding fast enough after he fell and hit his head.

The department has yet to discipline the of-

ficers, even though the internal investigation wrapped up more than a year ago. That lack of accountability frustrates Valerie Copeland.

"People don't want this to happen to anybody else," she says. "That's what we're looking for. And so the [internal affairs investigation] report basically says: No lessons to be learned here."

The mayor's office declined to comment specifically on this case. And both the mayor's office and police wouldn't say what, if anything, they have done to make sure a mistake doesn't happen again.

That's a missed opportunity, said Oren Sellstrom, litigation director at Lawyers for Civil Rights, which deals with discrimination and police accountability. "If the impulse is let's just get this one matter behind us by paying out a settlement and then moving on, then what you run the risk of is having the situation repeat itself in the future."

The \$1.3 million settlement is one of the largest the city has made in the past decade for wrongdoing involving the police department, according

to the city's records. Most of the other settlements worth more than \$1 million involved wrongful convictions where people spent years behind bars.

It's also unusual because the Copelands never filed a lawsuit. The city quietly offered to settle. WBUR discovered the settlement and details about the incident through a public records request.

When WBUR first approached the Copelands about the settlement, they were initially reluctant to talk. But they eventually decided to tell their story, sitting down with a reporter in their Mattapan backyard. They hope sharing will prevent similar mistakes in the future.

But Al is uncertain what will happen next. "Hopefully some things can come out of this," he says. "To shed some light on it, to change some things systemically. But who the hell knows?"

He's just one person, he says. And he's not sure that is enough.

This story was first published by WBUR 90.9FM on their website on Oct. 12. The Reporter and WBUR share content through a media partnership.

BMC magistrate pick has experience in Dot's court

Gov. Baker's nominee for a clerk magistrate's post in the Boston Municipal Court, Helen White, arrives with nearly three decades of experience in the courts. The governor nominated her to serve in the Charlestown division of the BMC on Oct. 6.

Since 2015, White has worked as the assistant clerk magistrate for the Dorchester division of the BMC, a job where she has been responsible for reviewing police reports, criminal complaints, affidavits and warrants,

conducting show cause hearings, and presiding over small claims trials, according to Baker's office.

White started her career in 1993 as a courtroom procedures clerk for the Boston Municipal Court. From 1994 until 2000 she worked as a sessions clerk. In 2000, she became a BMC operations supervisor, a position she held until 2014.

She is also a certified official in basketball, hockey, and lacrosse.

The BMC has 30 judges serving in eight court divisions.

The court handles criminal and civil cases, and also has jurisdiction on matters like unemployment compensation appeals and firearms license appeals.

"Helen White's decades of experience in the Boston Municipal Court's Dorchester Division have greatly prepared her for this office," Baker said in a statement.

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Van Gogh’s works come alive at Strand Theatre exhibit

(Continued from page 1)

The experience — not to be confused with the exhibit coming to Boston in December, “Imagine Van Gogh” — is a break from reality that invites you to explore the artist’s life in an accessible and tangible way. Since 2017, the exhibition tour has made an appearance in more than 20 cities across the world.

“We try through visual technology to show the life, the lifestyle of the artist, and you can see his evolution as an artist,” says Mario Iacampo, the CEO of Exhibition Hub, the entertainment production company behind the experience.

In one part of the exhibition, there’s what looks like a relief painting with a vase attached to a white background. Images are projected onto this makeshift canvas that show the plethora of paintings that Van Gogh created, including irises and sunflowers. This is a good example of how the artist relentlessly painted the same subjects.

As you walk through the venue, there is also a life-sized model of Van Gogh’s bedroom — another renowned painting titled “The Bedroom.” The experience highlights information about the artist and the influences on his work, including the incorporation of Japanese techniques that remove the use of shadows.

The projection experience has garnered backlash from its confusion with ticketing, opening dates, and location, but it also drew criticism for having “little to do with art, and everything to do with spectacle,” said



The central area in the Strand Theatre where Van Gogh’s works stretch floor-to-ceiling in an immersive light projection show. Jesse Costa/WBUR photos



critic Murray Whyte from the Boston Globe. Personally, I’d say it is about art, and about get-

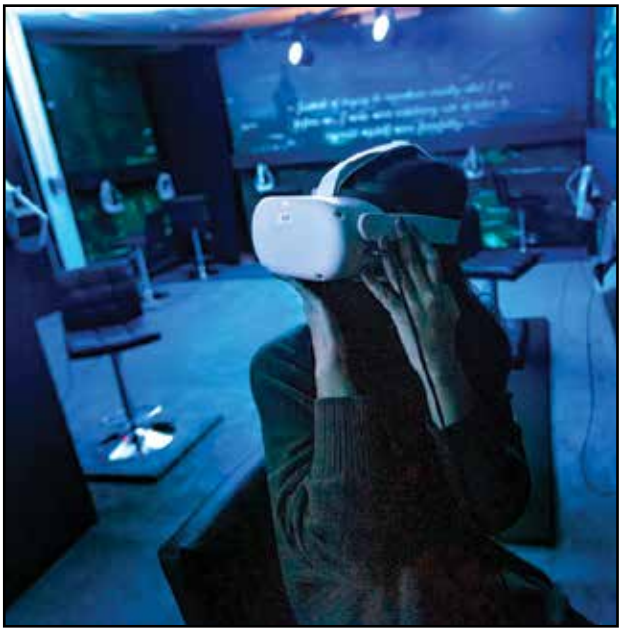
ting to know the artist. If we look at this from the perspective of someone who knew nothing

about Van Gogh except for “Starry Night,” this helps an outsider go deeper into his work.

Iacampo says this is exactly why the experience was created. “I think what I’d like for the public to take away is that they come, they discover the artist, and maybe then they go home and be motivated to go see an original somewhere. We’re not replacing museums. I think we’re complementary. I think it’s a different form of art. I don’t think for a minute that we’re replacing museums.”

It’s delightful to be able to view over 200 of Van Gogh’s works just a short drive or train ride away. The experience allows you to reimagine art and the way we’ve seen it before. It reaches beyond a canvas — it blankets the entire room with moving images and pairs it with music. It becomes an experience that brings out your inner child, one filled with curiosity and fascination.

The general admission price is \$36 and for an extra \$5, you can take part in a 10-minute virtual reality experience that lets you peek into a day in the life of the artist. The room is set up with



WBUR’s Magdiela Matta wears a VR headset to watch the Virtual Reality interactive portion of “Van Gogh: The Immersive Experience,” which guides you on a 10-minute journey through a day in the life of the artist.

multiple headsets and stools to sit on while you virtually walk through Arles, France.

The moment you put the headset on, you’re transported directly into Van Gogh’s bedroom. You then go down the stairs of his house, and then on to the scenes that inspired his paintings. Throughout, there are many details to take in. I looked up and saw a flock of birds flying overhead. I watched laundry dry on a clothesline, the moonlight shining on the surroundings, before ending back in Van Gogh’s bedroom.

These scenes allow viewers to imagine what Van Gogh was experiencing as he created some of his famous works. After exploring each scene, a frame pops up and an animated painting comes together right before your eyes. And if you didn’t know the name of the work before, you will by the end.

Through the entirety of the experience, you’ll learn about Van Gogh’s fascination with nature, his best-known paintings, his epilepsy and schizophrenia, and his relationship with his brother, Theo. The majority of the artist’s work was created in the last decade of his life, with an average of a new work every 36 hours.

The experience is not in depth. More so it’s an experience to gain rudimentary knowledge on the post-impressionist painter, his muses, and also, it’s great for photo opportunities.

The truth is, not everyone has access to high-end art, or feels comfortable going to museums. This experience allows you to walk through at your own pace in a relaxing atmosphere and take pictures that sometimes you aren’t allowed to take in museums.

Maybe one day I’ll be able to visit the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam. But for now, this experience will do.

This article was first published by WBUR 90.9FM on its website on Oct. 8. The Reporter and WBUR share content through a media partnership.



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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.

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Neighbors are asking historic status for Knight house

(Continued from page 1) members of the famed boy band.

“I think it’s a significant house with its unique design and its architecture and its association with various people, starting with John W. Fields and going up to two New Kids on the Block members, the Knight brothers,” said Taylor, who is also president of the Dorchester Historical Society.

“It’s an interesting building that should be designated,” he added. “In the recent past, the boy band connection is definitely an association worth celebrating.”

The home has some significant ownership and architectural history going back to 1880, when it was built by John W. Fields, of the Fields Corner family, who was a successful leather merchant. It was designed by the architect George Meacham, who also designed the Boston Public Garden, and the twin to 10 Melville Ave., the celebrated and preserved Haskell House in Newton.

All of those elements add up to a clear foundation for preservation, and potential landmark status, but clearly, the added wrinkle of having a prominent association with the New Kids on the Block – a band that is touring together again and reviving their 1980s and 1990s popularity – gives it added swagger.

The home was sold to the Knight family in 1972, according to the Landmarks application.

“W. Allen Knight was a carpenter who later became a minister,” reads the Landmarks application. “Marlene became a social worker



A photo of 10 Melville Ave. from some time in the 1990s with Kimberly O’Leary standing in the front hoping to get a glimpse of the Knight brothers, Jonathan and Jordan, of the New Kids on the Block boy band. Photo courtesy of Kim O’Leary

and later managed the New Kids on the Block fan club. Their sons, Jonathan and Jordan, rose to international fame as members of the boy band New Kids on the Block. Their first album, New Kids on the Block, was released in the spring of 1986. It eventually was certified as three-times platinum.”

In 1996, the Knight family sold the home to the Salvation Army, which created the Jubilee House there that was famous for giving out hot cocoa on Halloween. The house has been put up for sale by the Salvation Army, causing many to believe it could be in danger of the wrecking ball and a large development of some kind.

For original New Kids fans like Kim O’Leary, that doesn’t seem right. Now an adult, but still a die-hard, O’Leary said that when she was between 12 and 15, she and scores of her friends – and probably hundreds of girls throughout Dorchester – would con-

verge in large numbers on any of the regular spots where the band might be “spotted.”

Those places included Hi-Fi Pizza, the Daniel Marr Boys and Girls Club, the Wahlberg home on Mercier Street or Jones Hill, Danny Woods’s home near Wainwright Park, and of course, the Knight home at 10 Melville Ave.

The fact that it was such a treasured memory from O’Leary’s childhood, and for thousands of other girls in Dorchester, Greater Boston, and far beyond, would seem to make the property a piece of history worth Landmark status.

“My friends and I would sneak over there,” she said. “We would walk there after school and stand outside and hope for a glimpse. We never did get one...Most of the time my mom would drive us there and let us get out and stand there.

“I think it’s definitely neighborhood history and Boston history,” O’Leary continued. “I



First record album of New Kids on the Block, circa 1986.

think it was historic or part of the culture for hundreds or thousands of girls who would do the same thing we did. To put Dorchester on the map for something like that could be amazing and fun to see. I might be a little biased, though, because Jordan was my favorite.”

While Maureen Forry-Sorrell, who recalled sneaking over to the house as a pre-teen, thinks making the house a landmark is kind of “ridiculous,” she has her own stories of “Blockhead” activities.

She recalled that while others stood in front of the home, she and her friends outsmarted everyone and went to the back to wait for any of the boys to get within eyeshot.

“The biggest memory I have is when my mom flipped her lid when I was hanging out in Codman Square at the age of 12,” she said. “That was a grounding situation.”

She added, with hesitancy, “I guess if being the Knight house gets the designation and preserves the place, then I think it’s a good thing.”

O’Leary said that having more modern history alongside the neighbor-

hood’s traditional historic properties could bring more of an excitement about preservation to a new generation.

“Dorchester is historic in and of itself,” she said. “For something like this that’s more recent and popular, I think it would be great to recognize that. I think it deserves it, too. It is a big part of history and especially because they are still going. They have a show coming and they’re still relevant.”

Andrew Saxe, who is also part of the group petitioning the BLC, said he knew nothing about the connection to New Kids on the Block. However, he said, after moving many years ago to nearby Allston Street, he felt like the house looked a lot like his uncle’s former home in Newton, which turns out to be the Haskell House, the match to 10 Melville. He said he is all for preserving the home both for its distant past, and its more recent New Kids history.

Saxe said that many in the neighborhood fear that the home will be torn down by any new owner, and what will be put up is another “Marty Box,” a term he said he coined in honor of the many

apartment buildings that were built under former Mayor Martin Walsh’s administration.

“The developers want the lots on these old properties and not the history,” he said. “We’ll again lose the history and the green space. There’s a lot of stress along Melville Park right now. Many feel it’s open season on our neighborhood...If Boston cannot preserve 10 Melville, then just throw in the towel. Does it have an important architect? It was done by the same architect as the Public Garden. Is it architecturally important? It’s twin house in Newton is an iconic house that is protected. Is it associated with someone famous? Well, Mr. Fields was a prosperous merchant. However, a century later these kids came out of there who were a national phenomenon. It checks every box, for goodness sakes.”

Earl Taylor said he believes that the BLC will likely designate the property for a study. That is the beginning of the process to designate a property a Landmark, or not. If the petition were to clear the BLC after a process, it would also need approval of the City Council and the mayor.

Those submitting the petition aren’t going so far as to say they’re hangin’ tough, but they certainly are keepin’ their fingers crossed.

Meanwhile, for superfans like O’Leary, if ever the home were designated a Landmark, and there was a New Kids museum there in need of artifacts, she’s got just the thing.

“I may never have gotten a glimpse of the Knights, but I did once get the nozzle from the family’s garden hose,” she said with a laugh. “I still have it in a Ziploc bag.”

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. SU20P2339EA
ESTATE OF:
BEATRICE PETERS
DATE OF DEATH: 01/13/2004

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment has been filed by Delores Terry of Bridgewater, 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: Delores Terry of Bridgewater, 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 11/05/2021.

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 24, 2021
Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate

Published: October 14, 2021



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Neponset clinic is offering more hours for HIV testing

Harbor Health has expanded the hours for its THRIVE clinic at Daniel Driscoll - Neponset Health Center to every Wednesday morning from 9 a.m. to noon. THRIVE provides free, confidential HIV prevention and sexual and reproductive health services.

With these additional weekly hours, the clinic makes services, including HIV rapid testing and free feminine hygiene supplies, more available to those who need them the most.

“Our goal for the THRIVE clinic has al-

ways been to provide an inclusive, affordable, and safe place for people to seek information on HIV risk and family planning options,” said Ashley Prettyman, manager of Prevention Services at Harbor Health. “With the pandemic putting up barriers to accessing these resources, we hope expanding hours will help decrease those barriers

The clinic’s services are geared toward providing a free and easy way for all members of the community to get accurate and reliable sexual health information and connect

to care. THRIVE offers assistance in Spanish and Vietnamese, and other languages through Harbor’s language line. THRIVE will also host monthly afternoon clinics from 1 p.m. to 4 pm, on Fri., Oct. 15, at Gei-

ger Gibson Community Health Center, 250 Mt. Vernon Street, Dorchester, and on Fri., Oct. 22, at Daniel Driscoll – Neponset, 398 Neponset Ave., Dorchester.

Walk-ins and call-ins to (617) 533-2228

are welcome during all THRIVE clinic open hours. You can also reserve a spot using a first name or alias on the clinic’s webpage, HHSI.US/ThriveClinic.

LEGAL NOTICES

**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. SU21P1562EA
ESTATE OF:
ROBERT LEE SUTTON
DATE OF DEATH: 12/08/2020**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Sharlene Sutton of Avon, 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: Sharlene Sutton of Avon, 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 11/16/2021.
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: October 5, 2021
Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate
Published: October 14, 2021


**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. SU21P1887EA
ESTATE OF:
IRENE MARIE RYAN
a/k/a: IRENE M. RYAN, IRENE RYAN
DATE OF DEATH: 03/19/2021**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Walter J. Ryan, III of Braintree, 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: Walter J. Ryan, III of Braintree, 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 11/12/2021.
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: October 4, 2021
Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate
Published: October 14, 2021

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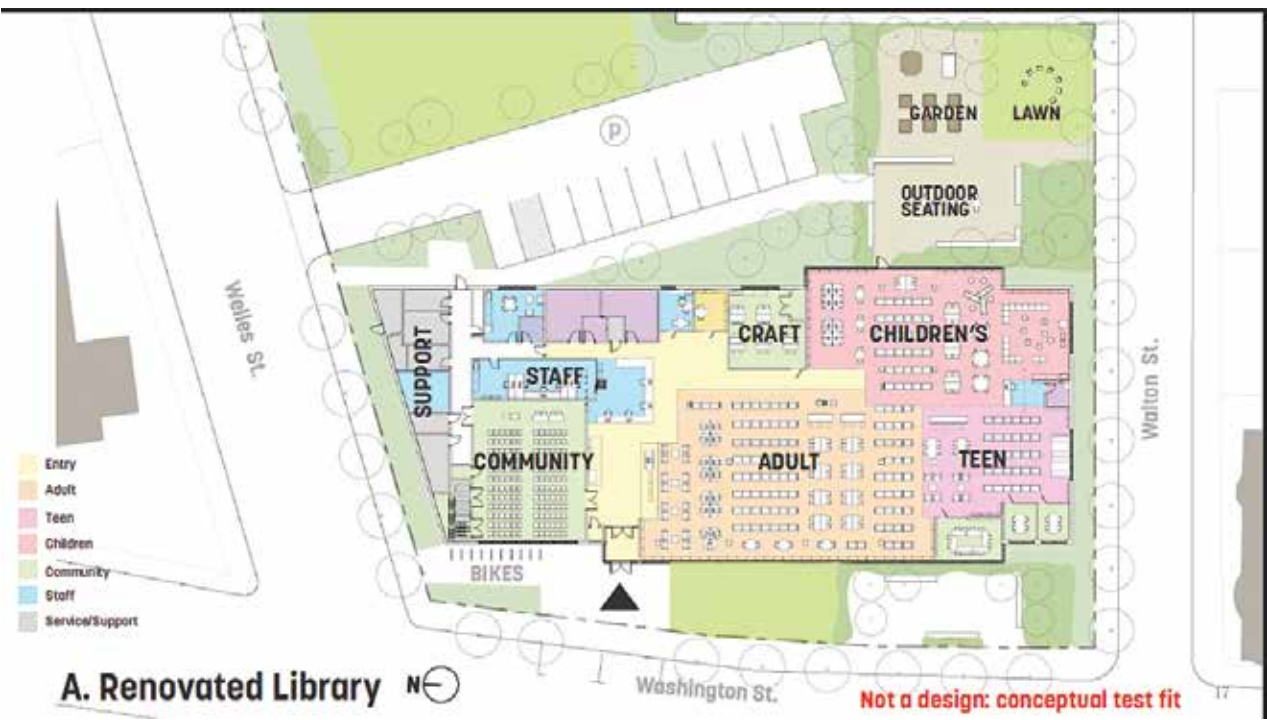
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BPL, city mull housing link to new Codman Sq. library

(Continued from page 1) where that concept is being explored. One site it isn't happening on is Fields Corner. It is definitely happening, though, in Uphams Corner and Chinatown, and maybe in the West End... The idea in Uphams was development without displacement. We want to ensure that no one should have to move if they don't want to move. We want to make sure there are affordable housing opportunities for people to take advantage of. There will be a state-of-the-art library as a baseline, but maybe there's an opportunity here to have a great library, plus housing, plus green space preservation."

At last week's the meeting, the lead consultants on the programming and housing study, Sasaki, presented three possibilities, with the last one seemingly being pointed to as the strongest proposal. The first proposes a fully renovated library where it currently stands, with the potential for a 5-story, 34-unit building constructed separately on the open space facing Welles Avenue.

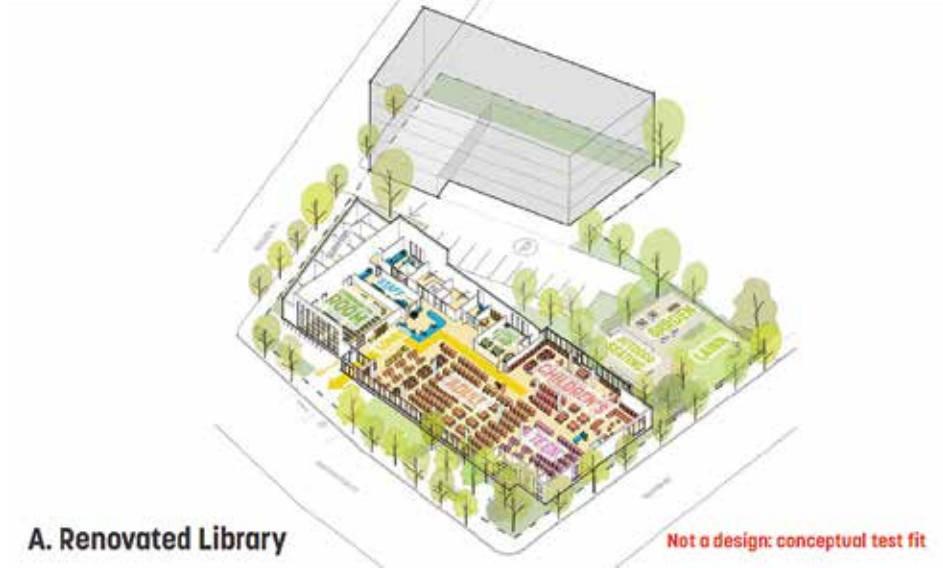
A second option features a new library building that would be situated on the corner of Welles Avenue and Washington Street, with a new housing building on the corner of Walton Street that could be 5 stories high with 44 units of housing. It's main entrance to the housing would be on Walton Street.



Above, a concept drawing of the Codman Square branch library illustrates how the building might be laid out if the project were to move forward without a housing component. The Boston Public Library and City officials are weighing whether to introduce housing on the site as part of a citywide review of BPL assets. Either way, BPL director David Leonard says that the Codman branch will renovated or rebuilt.

The final proposal blends a new library building in the same location hugging Welles and Washington, with stacked housing on top of it that would cover a good portion of the entire lot. That concept features a 4-story building on Walton Street that would recede to a 2-story building above the new library, forming a U-shaped structure. There are 69 units in that proposal, which allows for the least amount of retained green space retained (11,500 square feet) in a space that includes what is a now a very generous amount of green space (27,500 square feet).

DND representative Joe Becker said the final choice will almost certainly be 100 percent affordable housing at a



A 'test fit' concept shows how a residential building could fit onto the current site of the Codman Square branch library, which is bordered by Welles Avenue, Washington Street and Walton Street. The plans shown at last week's meeting are strictly conceptual and no specific plan has been solidified as the BPL moves through a community process. Images courtesy BPL/Sasaki

variety of income levels. The consultants said that the current library building is not sound enough structurally to be renovated and also support housing on top of it as a way to preserve

all of the existing open space.

While the notion of setting up housing above the library wasn't altogether rejected by neighbors, who numbered more than 50 online and in person, it was clear the city hasn't gotten total

buy-in just yet. Neighbors such as Cynthia Loesch-Johnson, Vicki Rugo, and Sally Graham commented that the housing discussion and the proposals seemed rushed, as if they were already decided on before the meeting.

Elnora Thompson, who teaches quilting at the library to senior citizens, said the green space there is valuable to residents. "There have to be better options," she said. "There are four schools and a YMCA right there... Don't take away the green space. You have a lot of vacant lots nearby for building housing."

Leonard stressed that BPL simply wanted to introduce the concept to see if "Housing with Public Assets" could work with the Codman branch. "I want to make it clear no decision have been made," he said. "The only thing that is definite is we want to restore or build a new library on this site."

Another criticism aired at the meeting was that the details of the renovated or new library were lost amid the adding housing discussions. Neighbors asked for a separate discussion only for housing going forward, separate from any further library programming meetings.

The process is now in the last stage of the Programming Study phase, which is expected to end in mid-November with a submitted report. That issuance of the report will mark the time for a decision on whether or not to include housing as part of the project. The design process is expected to last another 12 months, with construction scheduled over 18 to 24 months.



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Keep pets safe on Halloween

Moment of Paws

By Dr. Edward Schettino

For most of us, the best part of Halloween is the treats. For some of us, it's the tricks. When it comes to your pets, however, it's best to keep the fun limited to the humans in your household. Amongst the festive costumes, parties, trick-or-treating, decorations, and candy lurks potential danger and stress for our furry family members.

As you prepare for the spookiest night of the year, keep these tips in mind to keep your pets safe:

• **Keep treats out of reach.** The bowl of candy that we make easily accessible for tiny trick-or-treaters, is also within in paws-length for our pets. Chocolate in all forms can be dangerous for cats and dogs, as it contains theobromine and caffeine. The darker and more bitter the chocolate, the more harmful it can be. Additionally, the artificial sweetener xylitol found in sugar-free candy is toxic. Even ingesting small amounts can cause seizures, liver failure, and even death. If you suspect that your pet has ingested something toxic, immediately contact your veterinarian or the ASPCA Poison Control Center at (888) 426-4435.



Ria

• **Take care with decorations.** Halloween gives us the opportunity to set a spooky ambiance for the season. However, many decorations are not pet-friendly. Faux spider webs or plastic toys can be ingested. Curious puppies and kittens can easily knock over a lit jack-o-lantern causing severe burns or setting fire to your home. When in doubt, keep potentially dangerous objects out of the house, and admire your neighbor's elaborate décor instead.

• **Set up a calm environment for your pet.** If you have a pet that is shy, skittish, or anxious, Halloween can increase these behaviors. The constant ring of the doorbell, and a flurry of strangers coming and going can be too much for some animals. Set your pet up in a separate room with everything to make them comfortable and relaxed— toys, treats, and their favorite bed. You

can also put on the TV, radio, or a white noise machine to drown out the bustling activity.

• **Make sure your pet's identification is up to date.** With the front door frequently opening and closing, there is always a chance that your pet will dash out the door. In the event that your cat or dog becomes lost, you want to make sure your pet's ID tag and microchip information are current. Having these two things increase significantly the chances that you will be reunited.

• **Skip the costume (well, sometimes).** Dressing up your pet can be adorably cute, but it may also cause them undue stress and anxiety. Unless your cat or dog is completely comfortable with it, it's best to avoid costumes altogether.

With a little bit of planning and precaution, you can ensure that everyone in your household can enjoy Halloween spook-free.

Dr. Edward Schettino is the president and CEO of the Animal Rescue League of Boston. He has a doctorate in Veterinary Medicine from the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University. Pet questions? Email ARL at press@arlboston.org.

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BPDA Income-restricted Rental Opportunity

One Newcomb Place
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South End, MA 02118
3 Income-restricted Units

| # of Units | # of bedrooms | Estimated Square Feet | Rent | Maximum Income Limit (% AMI) | # built out for mobility and Deaf/hard of hearing |
|------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------|------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Micro 1-Bedroom | 386 | 1,269 | 70% | - |
| 1 | 2-Bedroom | 753 | \$1,597 | 70% | 1 |
| 1 | 3-Bedroom | 981 | \$1,789 | 70% | - |

| Minimum Incomes (set by owner + based on # of bedrooms + Area Median Income (AMI)) | | Maximum Incomes (set by BPDA + based on household size + Area Median Income (AMI)) | |
|---|------------------------|---|------------------------|
| # of bedrooms | Minimum Income 70% AMI | Household size | Maximum Income 70% AMI |
| Micro 1-Bedroom | \$45,684 | 1 | \$59,200 |
| | | 2 | \$67,650 |
| 2-Bedroom | \$57,492 | 3 | \$76,100 |
| | | 4 | \$84,550 |
| 3-Bedroom | \$64,404 | 5 | \$91,350 |
| | | 6 | \$98,100 |

Minimum incomes **do not apply** to households receiving housing assistance such as Section 8, MRVP, or VASH.

For more information please visit: www.OneNewcombLottery.com or contact us via email at OneNewcomb@maloneyproperties.com or phone at (781) 992-5310.

Applications are available during the application period for 15 days, from October 11, 2021, through October 26, 2021.

To request an online application or to have one sent by email visit www.OneNewcombLottery.com or call (781) 992-5310.

After careful consideration and an abundance of caution, the City of Boston has decided to cancel the in-person application distribution period. If you cannot complete the application online, please call us at (781) 992-5310, to request that we mail you one and to ask us for any support or guidance you might need to complete the application.

DEADLINE: Applications must be submitted online or postmarked no later than **Tuesday, October 26, 2021.**

Mailed to:
Maloney Properties, Inc.
Attn: 1 Newcomb Lottery
27 Mica Lane, Wellesley, MA 02481.

- Selection by lottery. Asset & Use Restrictions apply.
- Preference for Households with people with mobility impairments for the accessible unit
- Preference for Households displaced by urban renewal.
- Preference for Boston Residents.
- Preference for Households with at least one person per bedroom.

For more information, language assistance, or reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities please call (781) 992-5310 or email OneNewcomb@maloneyproperties.com.

For more on BPDA program eligibility, please visit <http://www.bostonplans.org/housing/faqs>

Equal Housing Opportunity

BPDA Income-restricted Rental Opportunity

BLDG 89
89 Brighton Avenue
Allston, MA 02134
17 Income-restricted Units

| # of Units | # of bedrooms | Estimated Square Feet | Rent | Maximum Income Limit (% AMI) | # built out for mobility impairments | # built out for mobility and Deaf/hard of hearing |
|------------|---------------|-----------------------|---------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| 7 | Studio | 454-546 | \$1,203 | 70% | 1 | 1 |
| 8 | 1-Bedroom | 540-763 | \$1,410 | 70% | 1 | - |
| 2 | 2-Bedroom | 814-855 | \$1,597 | 70% | - | - |

| Minimum Incomes (set by owner + based on # of bedrooms + Area Median Income (AMI)) | | Maximum Incomes (set by BPDA + based on household size + Area Median Income (AMI)) | |
|---|------------------------|---|------------------------|
| # of bedrooms | Minimum Income 70% AMI | Household size | Maximum Income 70% AMI |
| Studio | \$36,090 | 1 | \$59,200 |
| | | 2 | \$67,650 |
| 1-Bedroom | \$42,300 | 3 | \$76,100 |
| | | 4 | \$84,550 |
| 2-Bedroom | \$47,910 | 5 | \$91,350 |
| | | 6 | \$98,100 |

Minimum incomes **do not apply** to households receiving housing assistance such as Section 8, MRVP, or VASH.

For more information please visit: www.BLDG89Lottery.com or contact us via email at BLDG89@maloneyproperties.com or phone at (781) 992-5318.

Applications are available during the application period for 15 days, from October 11, 2021, through October 26, 2021.

To request an online application or to have one sent by email visit www.BLDG89Lottery.com or call (781) 992-5318.

After careful consideration and an abundance of caution, the City of Boston has decided to cancel the in-person application distribution period. If you cannot complete the application online, please call us at (781) 992-5318, to request that we mail you one and to ask us for any support or guidance you might need to complete the application.

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Mailed to:
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Attn: BLDG 89 Lottery
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- Selection by lottery. Asset & Use Restrictions apply.
- Preference for Households with people who have mobility impairments and/or who are Deaf/hard of hearing for accessible units.
- Preference for Boston Residents.
- Preference for Households with at least one person per bedroom.

For more information, language assistance, or reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities please call (781) 992-5318 or email BLDG89@maloneyproperties.com.

For more on BPDA program eligibility, please visit <http://www.bostonplans.org/housing/faqs>

Equal Housing Opportunity

Poll: Incumbents Mejia, Flaherty top at-large pack with plenty undecided

By SETH DANIEL AND GINTAUTAS DUMCIUS
REPORTER STAFF

With the Red Sox and a mayoral race dominating headlines and television sets, many Boston voters haven't tuned into the City Council at-large contest.

Forty-five percent of likely voters say they don't know whom they will vote for on the council balloting, according

to a new survey of likely voters from the MassINC Polling Group.

On Nov. 2, voters will get to choose the four citywide winners from among eight contenders.

The poll of 501 likely voters — conducted for the Dorchester Reporter, the Boston Foundation and WBUR — showed incumbents Julia Mejia and Michael Flaherty in the top two slots. Mejia,

a Dominican Republic native and Dorchester resident who was elected in 2020, received 21 percent, while Flaherty, a South Boston native who topped the September preliminary, took 20 percent.

Attorney Ruthzee Louijeune tied for third in the poll, the same as she did in the preliminary, which winnowed the field to eight from

seventeen candidates. Louijeune, who worked on Sen. Elizabeth Warren's 2020 presidential campaign, garnered 16 percent approval in the MassINC poll.

Former Dorchester teacher Erin Murphy, who ran in 2019, also came in third, followed by social worker Carla Monteiro at 13 percent, former City Hall aide David Halbert at 12



Julia Mejia



Michael Flaherty
Yukun Zhang photos

percent, South Boston ironworker Bridget Nee-Walsh at 11 percent, and perennial candidate

Althea Garrison at 8 percent.

As city councillors
(Continued next page)

New polling finds Wu with big lead over Essaibi George

(Continued from page 1) percent favorable rating, while Baker's number was 56 percent. Essaibi George's rating was put at 37 percent.

The Reporter spoke with some of the people who participated in the poll. Valardy Gomes, 36, lives in Dorchester and plans to vote for Wu because he thinks she'll be a bigger change agent as mayor.

"I want someone to go in and disturb the system," said Gomes. "She doesn't seem to be a puppet for any individual."

Matthew Malloy, 45, lives in Dorchester near Fields Corner and plans to vote for Essaibi George, in part because she is — like him — a product of the neighborhood. He also likes the fact that she's a former Boston Public School teacher and union member.

"She was always with Marty Walsh, who I always supported. I've known her a long time and still continue to support her," said Malloy, who also prefers her stance on reforming the Boston Police Department while still adding more officers to the streets. "I think things do have to change, too, but I don't think having less police is the right way to go."

Nelson Liriano, 43, agrees with Malloy. A 43-year-old Dorchester resident, he prefers Essaibi George because she "looks more centered. She's not leaning too much to the left, which to me is a good thing." He pointed to her position on policing as an example. "I think we should be reinforcing the police and helping them as opposed to defunding the police."

Toni Ambrogio, 28, who recently moved back to Dorchester after living

here during her college years, said she's excited about voting for Michelle Wu because "if she was to become mayor, Boston would be more of a community. People would be coming together rather than separating even more."

Ambrogio added that Wu's focus on improving public transportation is very important to her. She has been alarmed by recent incidents on the T system that shake her confidence in its safety.

"I moved to the city in hopes of acquiring a job and using the T to get to and from work and some things happening with the T are concerning," she said.

Wu, who announced her candidacy last fall, has stayed either near or at the top of polls throughout this year. She was the top vote-getter in the five-way Sept. 14 preliminary, garnering 35,888 votes (33 percent) to Essaibi George's 24,186 votes (22 percent).

An early October poll in 2013, during the last open race for mayor, showed City Councillor



Michelle Wu
Leads by 30 points

John Connolly with a 7-point lead over Marty Walsh, then a state representative who had topped the mayoral preliminary. Another poll weeks later showed Connolly with a slimmer lead over Walsh, who would go on to win the November election with 52 percent to 48 percent.

Much like Walsh, Wu has been gathering endorsements from a broad range of groups and elected officials. US Sen. Ed Markey and Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley announced their support for Wu earlier this month, as did several unions made up



Annissa Essaibi George
Debate crucial

of healthcare and service workers.

Building trades unions have largely sided with Essaibi George, including the influential IBEW Local 103, an electrical workers union based in Dorchester. The union, whose I-93 billboard has beamed with Essaibi George's hot pink campaign colors, also filed paperwork last week to set up its own super PAC, an outside group without limits on campaign fundraising and spending.

On Tuesday, Essaibi George noted the support of the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 4, which

includes 5,000 heavy equipment operators, mechanics, surveyors, and wastewater technicians in the Northeast.

"As a former longtime union member herself, Annissa understands the everyday challenges that face Boston's working class," William McLaughlin, business manager for Local 4, said in a statement. "We know she'll continue to show up for our members as the next mayor."

But in a break with the other building trades unions, the North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters, which has 30,000 members across seven states, last week endorsed Wu. Five thousand members live and work in the city.

The endorsement event was held last Friday at the union's Dorchester Avenue headquarters where Wu's face was on the projector screens and more than hundred union members joined Joe Byrne, the group's secretary-treasurer, in touting their backing.

"We're going to keep Boston a union city," Wu

told the crowd.

Byrne said Wu was the first mayoral candidate of the six in the race earlier this year to take a pledge, offered by the union and several developers, calling for union jobs, equal pay, and energy efficiency in real estate development. She was also the only candidate who picked up the phone the first day they rolled out the pledge and said they were not "far apart" on the issues, he added.

Wu has pressed for the abolishment of the Boston Planning and Development Agency and a revamping of Boston's development protocols.

"She is looking to change some things, but she promised that we will have a voice and a seat at the table," Byrne told the Reporter.

Outside the carpenters union hall, the area is an Essaibi George stronghold, with her pink and black campaign signs dotting the lawns of the homes across the street. The candidate's home is a short walk away.

Michelle Wu holds wide lead in Boston Mayoral Election

% of likely voters in Boston supporting / leaning toward each candidate for Mayor

| | Overall | White | Black | Latino | Asian |
|------------------------|---------|-------|-------|--------|-------|
| Michelle Wu | 57% | 57% | 57% | 62% | 63% |
| Annissa Essaibi George | 25% | 31% | 14% | 20% | 11% |
| Don't Know / Refused | 19% | 12% | 30% | 18% | 26% |

Sources: City of Boston likely voter poll, Oct 6-12, 2021. Chart courtesy of The MassINC Polling Group

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Mayoral debate set for Tues., Oct. 19, on NBC10 Boston, NECN



NBC10 Boston, Telemundo Boston, and NECN, in partnership with the Dorchester Reporter and the Bay State Banner, will host, broadcast, and livestream an hour-long live general election Boston mayoral debate inside the NBCUniversal Boston Media Center on Tues., Oct. 19, at 7 p.m.

The second and final debate with candidates Annissa Essaibi George and Michelle Wu will air on NBC10 Boston and NECN from 7 to 8 p.m.

The debate will also be livestreamed from 7 to 8 p.m. on NBC10Boston.com and NECN.com, and in Spanish on TelemundoNuevaInglaterra.com. It will

re-air on Telemundo Boston at a later date.

Dorchester native and NBC10 Boston morning news anchor Latoyia Edwards will moderate the event, and NBC10 Boston political reporter Alison King and Telemundo Boston news anchor Grace Gómez will serve as panelists.

The Dorchester Reporter welcomes questions from undecided voters to be emailed for possible inclusion in the debate. Candidates do not see the questions ahead of time. If you would like to send in a question, please direct it to newseditor@dotnews.com.



Ruthzee Louijeune



Erin Murphy



Carla Monteiro



David Halbert



Bridget Nee-Walsh
Murphy and Halbert photos by Yukun Zhang



Althea Garrison

have become more assertive over the last decade, helped along by a mayor willing to share credit, the four at-large seats have proved to be a political training ground and launch pad for advancement in mayoral campaigns and, in the case of Ayanna Pressley, a Congressional run that knocked off a 10-term Democrat. Other at-large councillors and their aides have later taken lucrative and influential jobs in the private and nonprofit sectors.

Councillors At-Large Anissa Essaibi George and Michelle Wu parlayed their time as citywide legislators into winning the September preliminary for mayor, and their decisions to leave their seats for a chance at the mayor's chair again offered an opportunity to this year's crop of at-large contend-

ers.

Louijeune's playbook involves dropping into as many places as possible ahead of the November election, a packed daily schedule not unlike the late Mayor Thomas Menino kept. That can mean Haitian radio in the morning, and meet and greets in Charlestown in the evening, she said.

"I was just on with a Haitian radio program speaking Haitian Kreyol," she said in an interview last Thursday. "A lot of the Haitian community is very excited about having me on the Council because it means representation at City Hall for the Haitian community... But I certainly try to get my message across to a broader audience."

Asked about her third-place finish in the preliminary, she said having grown up in Boston – in

Mattapan – and spending her professional life in Boston, allowed her to lean on friendships and relationships all over the city that went back decades.

"More people know who I am now," she said.

Murphy, the former Dorchester teacher, finished fourth in the preliminary on Sept. 14.

"Once people meet me and we can have a conversation, I know I can win them over," said the former kindergarten teacher who lives in the Adams Village area. "We budget our time and get into neighborhoods where we think we can do better... Even if I don't always look like them or live in the same neighborhood as them, I will show up and listen to them."

She previously ran in 2019, falling short but setting her sights on this year's at-large race.

"I had a base where I could jump into East Boston and Charlestown and go into Hyde Park," she said. "The last time, in 2019, I was wondering where should I go and if there was someone I should talk to that I didn't know. Having that head start from 2019 was really helpful."

Murphy got a boost last week when her candidacy was endorsed by US Rep. Stephen Lynch.

Monteiro, a Dorchester resident who finished fifth in the preliminary, touts her skills as a social worker and someone who has had to make do with less.

"Finishing fifth has definitely changed the energy," she said. "People kept saying it wasn't my race and that I wasn't a viable candidate. I heard that over and over again because I didn't raise as much money. I'm from an underserved community

and I'm a social worker and I don't have access to donors. We worked really hard to reach voters and we proved we are a hard-working group."

She is running on a "Basic Needs" platform, indicating that she wants to see resources directed to those who need it most so they can find success. "I truly believe people can do well if they have access to services," she said.

Meanwhile, many of Halbert supporters have spoken to the fact that they would like the perspective of a Black man in a citywide role – something that hasn't happened in the last 40 years. The sixth-place finisher in the preliminary, Halbert said he often speaks about being the only Black man in the race, but not with the idea of elevating his voice over other voices. He said it's more like making

sure every instrument in an orchestra is present to make the best music.

"If you think about an orchestra, you can pull any one instrument out and it's still music, but it doesn't sound right," he said. "Something is missing; some part of the music isn't being played. We have had an instrument missing on the City Council for a long time."

Nee-Walsh, the ironworker, came in behind Garrison in the preliminary. She held her final election kickoff at Loco last week, touting support from South Boston's elected officials, including Congressman Lynch.

"When we get a good person who recognizes the challenges but is willing to step up, it's our responsibility to support them and that's why I'm here," Lynch, a former ironworker himself, said at the event.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF DORCHESTER

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF DORCHESTER





Team BGCD Participated in Historic Running of 125th Boston Marathon: See details below.

CONNECT THE DOT:
Team BGCD Participated in Historic Running of 125th Boston Marathon: Team BGCD had fourteen Marathon runners who took on the challenge of running 26.2 miles on Monday. Each team member had his or her own personal goal and successfully crossed the finish. It was a beautiful Fall day filled with joy and triumph as Club staff, family members and spectators cheered for them all the way from Hopkinton to Copley Square. Our runners have spent months training for the Marathon and helping to fundraise on behalf of the Club. Our runners to date have raised over \$126,000 in support of our Clubs and the families we serve and we are so grateful for all of their efforts.

Congratulations to all the runners for achieving such an amazing accomplishment and for being champions to all of us at BGCD!

FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE:
BGCD Hosts "Dotoberfest" Kick Off For Teen Programming: This past Wednesday, Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester kicked off the College Fellows/Career Prep program for the new school year with a special "Dotoberfest" event.

Members enjoyed delicious food, played games with friends and roasted marshmallows over an outdoor firepit as part of the event. Those who attended were able to meet BGCD's new Teen Director, Evelyn Nunez, who is also a former member, Alum and now a Director at the Club. Our teens were able to find out more about upcoming events including College Tours and our Destination U event on October 20th. Destination U is an opportunity for teens to learn more about colleges, trades and other programs and workshops offered for teens at the Club.

DID YOU KNOW:
BGCD Welcomes Target Volunteers For Day of Service: Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester was pleased to host an amazing group of volunteers from Target last week who spent the morning sprucing up our outdoor space. In addition to making a generous contribution to BGCD, the volunteers placed special fiber materials in our playgrounds, added mulch to our outdoor play spaces and painted the exterior entrance to our Marr Clubhouse on Deer Street. BGCD would like to say a special thanks to all of the Target volunteers for choosing us as a partner for their day of service. We appreciate your hard work and look forward to continuing our partnership in the future.

For more information on BGCD partnerships, please contact Mike Joyce at mjoyce@bgcdorchester.org.

BGCD Hosts "Dotoberfest" Kick Off For Teen Programming: See details below.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Challenger Soccer
Sundays at 10am & 11am
Moakley Park

Destination U Fair
October 20

Grand Drawing Galaween
October 29
Purchase Tickets now at rsabid.org with the event code "02125"

**FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE.**

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

RECENT OBITUARIES

Henry J. Wiencek



Passed away peacefully on October 7, 2021. Born in Clinton in 1925, the son of Laura (Kowalczyk) and Alexander Wiencek, Henry lived almost his entire life in South Boston and Dorchester. He attended Our Lady of Czestochowa Church and school. After graduating from Mechanic Arts High School, he entered the U.S. Army Air Forces, flying 17 missions as a B-17 ball-turret gunner, earning the Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster for meritorious achievement in combat operations over Germany and occupied countries. He worked as a pipefitter at Jarvis Engineering and other companies. In 1951 he married Helen Manning, who predeceased him. He is survived by his sons Henry, Paul, and John, six grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. A private interment with military honors will be held in Cedar Grove Cemetery in Dorchester. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Henry's name to the Alzheimer's Association, P.O. Box 96011, Washington, DC 20090-6011, or by phone 800-272-3900. The family wishes to thank the staffs of St. Patrick's Manor, Carmel Terrace, and Good Shepherd Community Care for their loving concern and care. For guestbook, please visit jmurphyfh.com. Arrangements by the Murphy Funeral Home, Dorchester.



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



CABRAL, Patricia (Megnia) of Dorchester, formerly of South Boston. Wife to Robert Cabral; mother of Robert "Rocky" Cabral of Dorchester and Christine Cabral of Quincy; grandmother of 8; great-grandmother of 1; sister of the late Carol Bray, John, Robert and Francis Megnia; daughter of the late John and Catherine (Murphy) Megnia. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Longtime friend of Bill W. Donations in her memory may be made to the American Heart Association, 300 5th Ave., Waltham, MA 02451 or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.



JOHNSON, Ayesha Marie, 35, of Dorchester. Mother of Renee Kori Marie Johnson and Stephen Cameron Kai Johnson Bullard. Sister of Antwann Johnson. She also leaves behind a host of relatives and friends.



JOHNSON, Ayesha Marie, 35, of Dorchester. Mother of Renee Kori Marie Johnson and Stephen Cameron Kai Johnson Bullard. Sister of Antwann Johnson. She also leaves behind a host of relatives and friends.



KEY - GUERRA, Karen Leola, 68, of Dorchester. Daughter of the late Walter and Wilhelmina Key. Karen worked as a Graphics Designer for Baystate Banner and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts department of Transitional Services. She also did work for the MBTA as a Graphic Designer. Karen leaves her husband James Guerra; her sisters Victory Key of Stoughton, Joanne Luacaw or Charlestown, Yvette Key-Jackson (Danny) of Mesquite, TX and brother Spencer Key (Tammie) of Randolph; her father and mother-in-Law Ronald and Evelyn Guerra; sisters in law, Rhona, Liz, Kathy, Juliana, Marva, Pat and Laverne; brothers-in-law, Richard, David, Kevin, Tyrone and Ronne. As well as a host of nieces, nephews cousin, and friends.

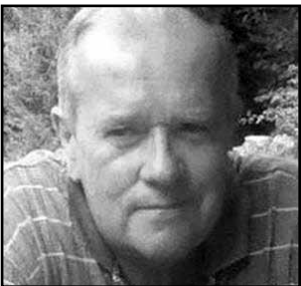


FOLEY, Adeline M. (Furlotte), 98, longtime resident of Braintree. Mother of Glendon A. Foley and his wife Kim of Watertown, Terrence J. Foley and his wife Kathleen (Coyne) Foley of Braintree, Winnifred Foley of Tampa, FL., Anita M. Wakim of Taunton, and Paula M. Foley of Hingham. Grandmother of 3; Great-grandmother of 1. Adeline was the sister of Celina Butcher, Allison Furlotte and Evelyn Hance all of Canada. She is also survived by many nieces, nephews and cousins. Donations in Adeline's memory may be made to the Braintree Council on Aging, 71 Cleveland Avenue, Braintree, MA 02184.

HURLEBAUS, Paul J., of Dorchester. Husband of Diane M. (Kelly). Father of Dylan Kelly. Brother of John



Hurlebaus and his wife Lynn, and the late Patricia, Buddy, Edward, and Ellen. Nephew of Anne Hurlebaus. Also survived by many nieces, nephews, and friends. Paul was a member of the Laborer's Union Local #223. Please consider making a donation to Merwin Memorial Free Clinic for Animals in Allston, MA at merwin-clinic.org.

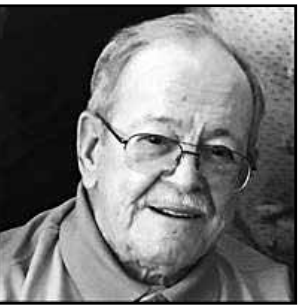


MCCARTHY, Richard D., 69, of Plainville, formerly of Dorchester. Husband of the late Loretta E. (Chaponis) McCarthy. Father of Richard D. McCarthy of Paxton and Danielle E. McCarthy of Plainville. "Grandpa" of 6. Son of the late Charles and Anna (Sweeney) McCarthy. Brother of Patricia Larkin, Joanne Burke, Eugene McCarthy, James McCarthy, John McCarthy, Kathleen Stout, and the late Charles McCarthy, Thomas McCarthy, Geraldine MacDonald, William McCarthy, and Maureen Cray. Survived by many nieces and nephews. Donations may be made in Richard's memory to The American Cancer Society at cancer.org.



MCCOLGAN, R. Evelyn (Baszkiewicz), 99, of Dorchester, formerly of South Boston. Wife of the late Frank "Sandy" McCollgan. Mother of Gale McMillen and Mark McCollgan of Dorchester, and of the late Sandy McCollgan and Evelyn Marie McCollgan. Grandmother of 3. Evie was preceded in death by two sisters

and five brothers. She also leaves many nieces and nephews. Beautiful in both body and spirit - in her youth Miss South Boston - she loved to travel and visited many remarkable places throughout her life.



MILLER, Albert Joseph, 88, of Dorchester. Husband of the late Roseanne (Campanello) Miller. Son of the late Grace (Carroll) and Dennis Miller of Boston. Father of Albert and wife Cynara, Dennis and wife Christine, Kenneth, and Gregory. Papa to his 4 grandchildren. Dear friend of Rosemary Symes. Albert was a Navy Veteran of the Korean War. He graduated from Boston College High School and was a retired custodian of Boston Public Schools.



RABOUIN, Carl D., 47, of Boston. He is one of two children born to Joyce Rabouin-Williams and he was raised by his Bonus Father Donald Williams. Carl leaves behind his mother Joyce Rabouin-Williams and bonus father Donald Williams; fiancée Charlene Smith; sons Jamari Legore, Carl D. Rabouin, Jr. and daughter Leilani Rabouin; bonus daughter Tatiana Smith; sister Tyesha Rabouin; granddaughter Taylin Legore; nieces Tyonnie Furtado and Ronnise Furtado. He also leaves several aunts, uncles, cousins, as well as extended family and friends who will all miss him dearly.

O'SULLIVAN, Steven M. of Dorchester. Father of Patrick O'Sullivan and his wife Jacqueline of Braintree, Mary Kate Delaney and her husband Matthew of Braintree, and Steven O'Sullivan of Braintree. Brother of John O'Sullivan and his wife Eileen of Dorchester, and the late Maureen Manning and Rosemarie Manning. Former spouse of Barbara Regan Tallent. Also survived by many loving grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. Companion of Alicia Vetere. Please consider making a donation to Braintree Youth Hockey, P.O. Box 850176, Braintree, MA 02184-0176.

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