

Dorchester Reporter

"The News and Values Around the Neighborhood"

Volume 37 Issue 42

Thursday, October 15, 2020

50¢

BPS: Hold off on test for exam schools

Allocate instead for the next year

By MAX LARKIN
WBUR REPORTER

Boston Public Schools' three prestigious exam schools will not use an exam to select their next incoming classes under a recommendation by Superintendent Brenda Cassellius. Under the plan, 20 percent of seats available next year would be allocated to students with the city's top grades. The remaining 80 percent would be admitted to the schools based on their GPA ranking within their home ZIP code, with eligible students from the lowest-income ZIP codes given first choice.

Cassellius said last Thursday afternoon that she was "extremely pleased" with the plan as developed by a nine-member task force this summer — especially its mechanism for favoring the city's underserved precincts.

(Continued on page 4)



CULINARY ADVENTURE—The Ashmont Grill in Peabody Square, where bar manager Andrew Visconti, above, prepared one of his signature cocktails last week, is one of the restaurants participating in the 23rd annual Men of Boston Cook for Women's Health on Oct. 29. The event is virtual this year, but will include a delivery and dine-at-home option. Story, Page 6.

Photo by Bill Windeknecht

Baker, courts offer \$171m proposal to deal with eviction, landlord situation

By MICHAEL P. NORTON
STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

Expanded rental assistance, rapid rehousing efforts, and streamlined application processes are cornerstones of a \$171 million plan announced Monday by the Baker administration to keep tenants in their homes and support landlords after the state's eviction moratorium expires on Oct. 17.

The plan represents an alternative to extending the moratorium, which Baker is authorized to do under a law passed earlier in the pandemic and is a path that many community activists and some lawmakers say is preferable for the safety of tenants struggling due to job losses and other COVID-19 pandemic hardships.

Baker's team said the plan was developed in coordination with the Massachusetts Trial Court and others "to manage the end of the moratorium" on Saturday. It uses federal funds as well as existing

(Continued on page 16)

The search for Sgt. Beard's remains (cont.)

A story on the front page of the *Reporter* on Sept. 9 posed the question: "Have they found Sgt. Joseph W. Beard? The answer is "no." But there's more to the story about a soldier from Dorchester who was reportedly taken off the infamous "Bataan Death March" in the Philippines in April 1942



Sgt. Joseph W. Beard
The quest continues

and sent back to work in Manila where he died two months later.

See Page 3.

O'Bryant students lose on two counts: A trip to Europe, inadequate refunds

By KATIE TROJANO
REPORTER STAFF

For the students at the John D. O'Bryant High School, a school-sponsored trip to Europe has become a rite of passage.

While it was bad enough that last spring's trip — set for April vacation week — was cancelled by BPS officials in March because of the pandemic, what happened to the 44 students and their families who saved and scrimped to pay for the adventure was much worse: They have yet to get most of their money back, despite having purchased insurance.

Mya Bent Monegro, an 11th grader at the O'Bryant, was excited about the trip, which had on the schedule visits for her and her classmates to Rome, Geneva,



Mya Bent Monegro and her mother, Carolina Monegro De Bent, decry the disruptive experience for all the O'Bryant students.

Family photo

Paris, Caen, and London. It was a costly venture: Each student paid \$3,600 to book it and \$45 to insure the booking, no small task for many of the kids from working-class families in city neighborhoods.

"When the trip was cancelled, I thought it would be fine because the insurance should have covered anything that happened," said Monegro. "There was a global pandemic and nobody could control that."

But, like her peers and their families, Monegro is upset that she has to date received only a partial refund \$899 or 25 percent of the \$3,600. Each family was issued an initial payout of \$818 in September and another \$81

(Continued on page 14)

Electric power seen as key boost for Fairmount

By KATIE TROJANO
REPORTER STAFF

Transportation advocates last week pointed to a newly released report on regional rail improvements as a roadmap to transforming the Fairmount Line into an electrified rail line with far-more-frequent and accessible service to the city neighborhoods it runs through.

The 18-page document—titled "Plan for Regional Rail Phase 1" and prepared by the advocacy group Transit Matters—includes cost estimates and timelines for the several regional rail lines—not just the Fairmount. But a significant section of the report zeroes in on the 8-mile section of rail that

(Continued on page 10)

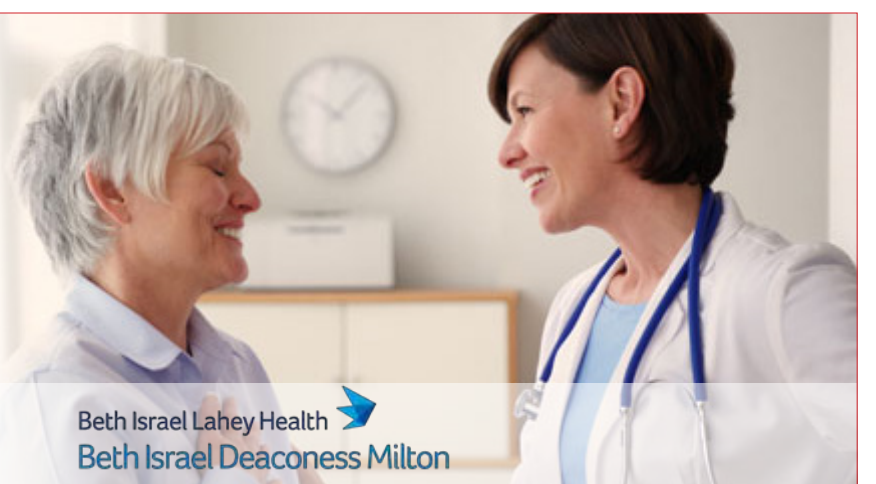
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Police, Courts & Fire

Man sought in attack on woman near JFK-UMass – Transit Police are looking for a man they say attacked a woman near the JFK/UMass MBTA station a week ago Tuesday (Oct. 6) about 5:15 p.m. The suspect, who was dressed in a gray puffy jacket and black pants, trailed behind a woman near the fare gates where he allegedly kicked and spat at her. Police say that when they catch up to the man, they'll charge him with assault and battery with a dangerous weapon (a shod foot) on a person over 60.

According to Transit Police, he may be the same person who punched an Uber driver downtown last Friday afternoon, according to the driver's passenger at the time. The rider said he had just gotten into an Uber car outside 33 Arch St. when the guy - dressed in the same gray puffy jacket and black pants as shown in the MBTA surveillance photos - walked up to the driver's side window, accused the driver of "looking at him," and wound up to slug the driver. The passenger said the driver had good reflexes and hit the gas, but not before the assailant connected with the driver's face.

The passenger added that the driver was not seriously hurt while that the suspect managed to also punch the car before the driver got completely away. If the assailant



looks familiar, Transit Police detectives ask that individual(s) dial 617-222-1050 or send an anonymous tip to 873873.

Two Dorchester residents were placed under arrest last Saturday night after Boston Police noticed a "large bayonet" in the backseat of their car during a traffic stop on Woodrow Avenue. According to a BPD account, officers on patrol along Blue Hill Avenue pulled the vehicle over because its license plate was reported as stolen. After noticing the bayonet, police officers removed the driver and passenger— and found one was carrying a loaded .22 caliber gun.

That individual, 36-year-old Corey Hinds, will be charged with a gun offense. The driver, 40-year-old Carolena Shephard, was also arrested for allegedly driving on a suspended license. "The bayonet was recovered and removed from the vehicle," police reported. Both parties were to be arraigned in Dorchester District Court.

After getting his shot, Walsh urges Bostonians: Get vaccine for regular flu

Mayor Walsh got a flu shot at City Hall last week as his administration urged all Bostonians to get vaccinated "as soon as possible" before the flu season begins in earnest. "By getting vaccinated, you will help us slow the spread of the flu and ease the strain on our health-care system that continues to treat patients battling Covid-19," the mayor said.

Boston typically experiences a flu outbreak between October and March. Many of the symptoms — fever, cough, muscle aches, headache, runny nose, sore throat and general weakness— are similar



Mayor Martin Walsh received his annual flu shot on Oct. 9 at a clinic held at City Hall. Isabel Leon photo/Mayor's Office

to Covid, for which there is no vaccine yet. The duration of the annual flu illness, however, is usually much shorter. "The flu is a serious

virus and it is possible to have both the flu and Covid-19 at the same time," said Jennifer Lo, MD, the medical director of the Boston Public

Health Commission. "While there may not be a vaccine for Covid yet, there is a vaccine for the flu. That is why it is critical that everyone six months of age and older get a flu vaccine as soon as possible."

Many pharmacies in the city are offering flu shots to anyone three years old or older for no fee. It is best to call ahead. You may also get vaccinated by your own doctor at no cost or co-pay. If you don't have insurance, you can call the Mayor's Health Line at 617-534-5050 to get a voucher for a free flu shot.

— REPORTER STAFF

Rebuilding Together pitches in to help projects in Dorchester and Mattapan

More than 50 volunteers will help improve two outdoor spaces in Dorchester and Mattapan this weekend as part of National Rebuilding Day, which was re-scheduled from its original date in April. The Boston effort is led by Rebuilding Together Boston, which helps corporate sponsors and volunteer partners focus their energies on city neighborhoods.

Saturday's efforts will provide improvements to two outdoor areas at the Mattahunt Elementary School in Mattapan and the Ballou Farm in Dorchester. All the work is being planned and executed according to COVID-19 safety guidelines established by the US CDC, the City of

Boston, and Rebuilding Together.

"Rebuilding Together Boston is the only nonprofit in Boston to do hands-on critical repairs at no cost to the homeowner or community center," said Karen Clay, executive director of RTB. "We're excited to be able to hold these outdoor events with additional COVID-19 safety guidelines as it allows us to continue to support our community and provide an opportunity for volunteers to help give back when so many are in need." At the Mattahunt, a pre-kindergarten through grade three elementary school that houses Toussaint L'Ouverture Academy, a first-in-the-nation Hai-

tian-Creole pre-K dual language program, the work will focus on creating usable outdoor space in an overgrown two-acre wooded area and clearing access for a nature trail. The school was awarded a landscape expansion grant in 2019 by Cambridge, Mass.-based COGdesign that provided designers to work with the Mattahunt community to create an ideal plan for an expanded outdoor learning area. Thanks to the sponsorship of Lowe's Home Improvement Centers, Inc., volunteers from RTB's network will spend the day implementing elements of this plan including an outdoor classroom.

In Dorchester, volunteers will pitch in at Opportunity Affirma-

tion-Sustainability-Inspiration-Success (OASIS), an urban farm run by the Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corporation. It is located at a formerly abandoned and neglected site at 96-100 Ballou Ave. A group of volunteers from the site sponsor the Huber Family Action Fund along with residents from the Codman Square community will work safely outdoors to prepare the Farm for spring planting. Work to be performed includes preparing the site for winter by clearing weeds and debris, applying mulch, constructing grow boxes, and painting a tool shed and watering station. To learn more, see rebuildingtogether-boston.org.

— REPORTER STAFF

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Drawbridge to close for repairs

The drawbridge at Granite Avenue near Exit 11B will be closed for the weekend from Fri., Oct. 23 through Mon., Oct. 26 as workers replace a steel beam on the span over the Neponset River. The emergency project will result in detours and the closure of expressway on-and-off-ramps at exit 11.

The area will be closed off to all traffic at 8 p.m. on Oct. 23. "All lanes will be open to traffic by Monday, October 26 at 5 a.m.," a statement from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) said on Wednesday.

UPCOMING CIVIC MEETINGS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Dorchester Bay City public meeting on Oct. 19— The Boston Planning and Development Agency will host a virtual public meeting on Monday, Oct. 19 to kick off the review process of Dorchester Bay City, the proposed redevelopment of the 34-acre site at Bayside on Dorchester's Columbia Point. The meeting, which will give an overview of the project, will start at 6 p.m. Subsequent virtual meetings will focus on specific topics. See page XX for zoom link or call-in info.

McCormack Civic meets online on Oct. 20 – The John W. McCormack Civic Association will host its first virtual membership meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 20 at 7 p.m. Polish Triangle residents who would like to attend the meeting should email mccormackcivic@gmail.com or go to the Association's web page at mccormackcivic.org to request the link no later than Sunday, October 18. Because of the Pandemic, all members

whose dues were up-to-date as of January 21, 2020 will continue to maintain valid membership status until January 19, 2021. All members whose dues expired prior to January 21, 2020, and wish to vote at the meeting are encouraged to send dues (checks preferred) to: John W. McCormack Civic Association, c/o Travis Stuart, 8 Saint Margaret St., Dorchester, MA, 02125. Dues for residents are \$5 or \$10 per year, depending on the ability to pay. Business dues are \$25 per year. Please make check payable to: John W. McCormack Civic Association.

Virtual meeting on Willow Baker project next to South Bay— the BPDA will host a virtual public meeting on Thurs., Oct. 22 from 6-8 p.m. on a proposal to build three new residential buildings at Willow, Baker and Fields Court in Dorchester, next to South Bay Mall. The buildings would include approximately 236 units of housing, commercial space (office and

retail) and 59 garage and on-street parking spaces for vehicles. See dotnews.com for info on joining the Zoom or phone call.

A proposal by Shipway Development, LLC to build two, four-story buildings at 1700-1710 Dorchester Ave. will be the subject of a virtual public meeting convened by the BPDA on Monday, Oct. 26 at 6 p.m. The proposal includes 36 units of housing and about 1,500 sq. ft. of commercial space. The project is under review and can be viewed in more detail online at bostonplans.org. The Zoom link for the meeting is bit.ly/3db1eDH or dial in: 833-568-8864 with a meeting ID of 160 519 5561.

The Men of Boston Cook for Women's Health gala to benefit the Codman Square Health Center will be held virtually on Thurs., Oct. 29 from 6-7 p.m. Anyone can attend the virtual event free of charge— or you can purchase a dinner ticket and have a special event meal

delivered. You may also make a donation to support the event. See codman.org for more info.

DotHouse Health offers "community" COVID-19 testing at no cost at its headquarters, 1353 Dorchester Ave. Please bring your insurance card and photo ID, if available. No one will be turned away and there is no appointment necessary. The testing is conducted from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday; and from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday. Call ahead to the COVID Triage Line: 617-740-2292.

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The search for Sgt. Beard's remains (cont.): We're still looking, Defense Dept. says

By TOM MULVOY
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

A story on the front page of the *Reporter* on Sept. 9 posed the question: "Have they found Sgt. Joseph W. Beard? The answer is "no." But there's more to the story about a soldier from Dorchester who was reportedly taken off the infamous "Bataan Death March" in the Philippines in April 1942 and sent back to work in Manila where he died two months later, according to US Army records.

As to his remains and burial site, the US Army told Staff Sgt. Beard's mother in 1950 that after an extensive half decade of searching for that information, it had determined that her son's remains had been irretrievably lost.

In late August, the Dorchester Historical Society received a letter from Jim Opolony, the curator of the Bataan Project, which keeps track of all manner of information related to those who were forced on the march a month before US Gen. Jonathan Wainwright and the Filipino commonwealth surrendered all their forces to the Japanese.

In his letter, which the historical society forwarded to the *Reporter*, Opolony wrote that, as a Bataan specialist, he had been contacted by an official with the US Defense Department's POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) about Sgt. Beard, a native of St. Peter's parish. Opolony noted that the case might be considered active by the Department of Defense and that it is doing research on him. This would mean, he wrote, that officials will be attempting to find family members for DNA. "If you go to bataanproject.

com and search for Joseph W. Beard, his page will come up," he wrote. "Open the page and you can read about him."

He added: "All I am doing is attempting to make his relatives aware that DNA is wanted so his remains will be identified and possibly returned home. In particular, children or grandchildren of his sisters will be wanted for DNA. The family can initiate the testing, but does have to wait for the DPAA to contact them."

A call to the DPAA offices in early September elicited a reply saying that the agency would respond after conducting internal inquiries of its own.

Late last month, the *Reporter* received the following from Sgt. First Class Sean P. Everette, a Public Affairs officer with the POW/MIA Accounting Agency:

"DPAA's historians and analysts will regularly review the cases of service members who were declared unrecoverable back during their respective wars to determine if we might be able to identify them now. Greg Kupsky [of DPAA] did contact Mr. Opolony about his website, bataanproject.com, to ask about his source material for Sgt. Beard.

"As part of our historians' review of unknown remains from World War II, we have been compiling information on individuals who died in the vicinity of Clark Field and Fort Stotsenburg, to include Sgt. Beard. The long-term goal is to see if we can initiate a disinterment project for some of the unknowns recovered from that area.

"We are not actively seeking DNA for these individuals yet. However, family members are welcome to contact the



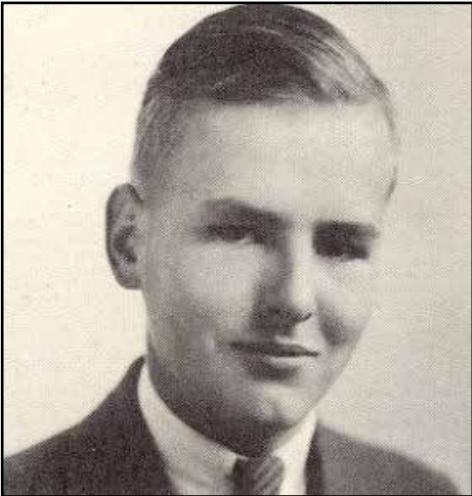
A scene from the Japanese-organized POW march on Bataan in the Philippines in April 1942 that Joseph Beard, below, was forced into. AP/US Marines photo

Army to contribute a reference sample so that we have it on file. I hope this answers your questions."

It seems that the "irretrievably lost" message to Mrs. Beard in 1950 is being revisited by Defense Department experts in MIA searches, with family members being told they can play an active role in helping the government to do what it can, more than 78 years after the fact, to certify the closure of Joseph W. Beard's life and death in wartime service to his country.

Following is how Beard family members can contact the department:

Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, 241 18th St. South, Suite 800 Arlington, VA 22202 (703)-699-1420



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BPS violating safety pact, teachers allege

By Max Larkin
WBUR Reporter

After Boston passed a pandemic threshold, BPS educators say a district policy requiring teachers to report to work in person now violates a prior formal agreement.

According to Boston Public Health Commission data published on Oct. 8, 4.1 percent of the city's tests for the coronavirus came back positive in the past week. The Sept. 9 memorandum of agreement signed by the city's school committee and the BTU states that the district "will transition to full remote learning for all students and BTU bargaining members will have the

option to be remote as well" if the weekly city-wide positivity rate rises above 4 percent.

But BPS Superintendent Brenda Cassellius wrote staff on Oct. 7 to say that number was "conservative," and that educators currently teaching the district's high-needs students would "be expected to report to their school buildings" the next day. Multiple school principals have repeated the message to their own staff, saying that failure to report for work could result in discipline.

District officials cite the next sentence of the Sept. 9 memorandum, which reads: "When the

Boston Public Health Commission or other City or State authority determines that the school district can re-open, BTU bargaining unit members will be expected to return to BPS buildings."

After the surge in cases in Boston, Mayor Marty Walsh postponed the next phase of school reopening, which would have seen larger groups of students return to the classroom.

But BPHC officials told BPS on Oct. 7 that they and the city's Covid-19 task force believe it is "appropriate to continue offering in person instruction for our high needs students, and that we are in compliance

with the MOU between the parties."

In a bulletin shared on Oct. 8, BTU president Jessica Tang advised members that their in-person presence is now optional under the Sept. 9 agreement — and that the union will "support any educators that may face undue repercussions as a result of exercising their right to work safely."

At the Mather Elementary School in Dorchester, Lea Serena, a second-grade teacher and BTU representative, said that about 14 teachers were absent last Thursday, but didn't know how many were out in response to pandemic-related concerns.

Serena said that the building, normally home to around 560 students, welcomed just 35 children last week, and that roughly half of the school's 65 staff have been in the building since it reopened.

Serena — who contracted COVID in the spring — said the building felt reasonably safe. But she added that "we haven't received [personal protective equipment] from the district," that staff struggle to open the building's windows, and that they were given "\$20 Walmart box fans" for ventilation. She noted that the school has had trouble with both mold and rodents in the past. At a press conference

in Government Center on Oct. 7, Cassellius and Mayor Marty Walsh announced that they would delay the wider reopening of BPS's buildings by at least one week, to Thurs., Oct. 22.

But alongside parent-organizer Roxann Harvey, they also made an impassioned plea that in-person learning should continue to be available for the 3,500 or so "high in-person priority" students invited in so far — among them, students with disabilities and English learners.

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

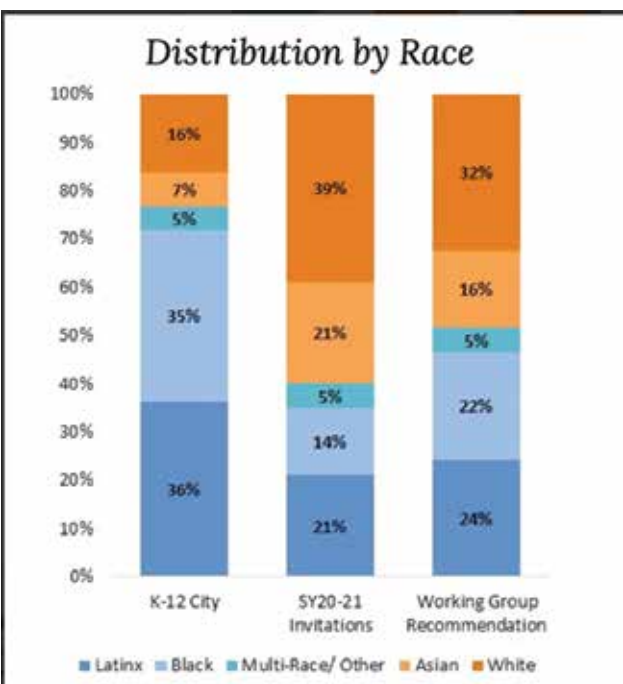
BPS: Hold off on test for exam schools for next year

(Continued from page 1)

"Often times, when children come to us with less, they get less," Cassellius said. "In this instance, they're getting first access. ... That part of it really warmed my heart."

Student demographics at the three selective schools — the O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science, Boston Latin Academy, and the Boston Latin School, in particular — don't mirror the district as a whole.

For instance, 72.4 percent of all Boston Public School students were Black or Latino in the last school year, compared to just 21 percent at the Boston Latin School. Similar gaps — again, especially wide at BLS — appear among the share of students classed as "economically disadvantaged."



Under the plan to be presented to a remote meeting of the school committee Thursday night, the district would draw up a pool of eligible students who either maintained a B average

in school this academic year or who "met or exceeded expectations" on the 2019 MCAS test.

The students' schools — whether public, charter, or private — would also need to certify that

those students are learning at grade level under the state's curriculum frameworks to be judged eligible.

If implemented, the plan projects a rise of 15 percentage points in the number of seats apportioned to Black and Latino students.

Tanisha Sullivan, president of the Boston branch of the NAACP, sat on the task force that developed the proposal alongside BLS headmaster Rachel Skerritt and her predecessor, Michael Contompasis.

Sullivan said last Thursday that these measures reflect concerns about administering a test during a pandemic that disproportionately disrupted the lives and learning of thousands of students.

The data are "clear about the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on

communities of color and, specifically, low-income communities," Sullivan said. "The final decision of the group, as a result, was that it was neither fair nor feasible to administer an exam" for the following school year.

The School Committee is tentatively scheduled to vote on the proposal on Oct. 21.

Speaking for himself, school committee chair Michael Loconto described the proposal as an "elegant" adjustment to the difficult circumstances of this year.


Both Loconto and Sullivan confirmed that, if approved, the plan would only apply to student candidates for the 2021-22 academic year, for now. But Loconto said the task force has asked to continue its work into the future in search of a permanent



Superintendent of Schools Brenda Cassellius, above, said she was "extremely pleased" with the plan as developed by a nine-member task force this summer — especially its mechanism for favoring the city's underserved precincts.

Jesse Costa/
WBUR photo

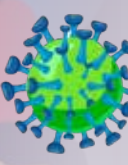
solution that would also foster equity.




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NOTICE

The Dorchester Historical Society is always looking for photographs and high school yearbooks from Dorchester's past.

Due to the pandemic, the Society is closed to the public at this time.



William Clapp House, 195 Boston Street
Lemuel Clap House, 199 Boston Street
James Blake House, 735 Columbia Road

www.dorchesterhistoricalsociety.org

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REBATE.....-4,750

CHRYSLER FINANCE BONUS.....-750

LEASE LOYALTY.....-500

FIRST RESPONDERS.....-500

QUIRK DISCOUNT.....-1,377

SUBPRIME BONUS.....-1,500



MONEY DOWN LEASE: \$3,995

PER MO. 39 MOS.*

\$89

ZERO DOWN LEASE:

PER MO. 39 MOS.*

\$169

ASSOC OF REALTORS....

QUIRK DISCOUNT.....

Quirk Price

\$18,998

NEW 2020 JEEP COMPASS SPORT 4x4

MSRP.....\$26,775

REBATES.....-6,500

CHRYSLER FINANCE BONUS.....-750

ASSOC. OF REALTOR.....-500

QUIRK DISCOUNT.....-1,277

FIRST RESPONDER DIS.....-500

SUBPRIME BONUS.....-500

LEASE LOYALTY.....-500



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PER MO. 42 MOS.*

\$95

ZERO DOWN LEASE:

PER MO. 42 MOS.*

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QUIRK DISCOUNT.....

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MSRP.....\$31,585

REBATE.....-4,000

CHRYSLER FINANCE BONUS.....-750

LEASE LOYALTY.....-500

ASSOC OF REALTORS.....-500

QUIRK DISCOUNT....-1,892

FIRST RESPONDERS DISCOUNT.....-500

SUBPRIME BONUS.....-750



MONEY DOWN LEASE: \$3,995

PER MO. 39 MOS.*

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PER MO. 39 MOS.*

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QUIRK DISCOUNT.....

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MONEY DOWN LEASE: \$3,995

PER MO. 42 MOS.*

\$229

ZERO DOWN LEASE

PER MO. 42 MOS.*

\$299

Quirk Price

\$31,330

NEW 2020 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE ALTITUDE 4WD

MSRP.....\$42,285

REBATE.....-2,750

CHRYSLER FINANCE BONUS.....-1,000

LEASE LOYALTY.....-500

ASSOC OF REALTORS.....-500

QUIRK DISCOUNT....-2,287

FIRST RESPONDERS DISCOUNT.....-500



MONEY DOWN LEASE: \$3,995

PER MO. 42 MOS.*

\$279

ZERO DOWN LEASE

PER MO. 42 MOS.*

\$359

QUIRK DISCOUNT.....

Quirk Price

\$34,748

NEW 2020 Dodge DURANGO SXT PLUS AWD

MSRP.....\$40,480

REBATES.....-2,950

FIRST RESPONDERS DISCOUNT.....-500

CHRYSLER CAPITAL.....-1,500

ASSOC. OF REALTORS.....-500

QUIRK DISCOUNT.....-2,834



MONEY DOWN LEASE: \$3,995

PER MO. 36 MOS.*

\$229

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PER MO. 36 MOS.*

\$329

DISCOUNTS/REBATE.....

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QUIRK DISCOUNT.....-2,683

CONQUEST LEASE.....-500

ASSOC. OF REALTORS.....-500

FIRST RESPONDERS DISCOUNT.....-500



MONEY DOWN LEASE: \$3,995

PER MO. 42 MOS.*

\$129

ZERO DOWN LEASE:

PER MO. 42 MOS.*

\$229

QUIRK DISCOUNT.....

Quirk Price

\$33,497

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MSRP.....\$44,585

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Culinary feast is on tap for Oct. 29 as Men of Boston Cook gala goes virtual

By DANIEL SHEEHAN
REPORTER STAFF

This year's 23rd annual Men of Boston Cook for Women's Health, the signature fundraising event presented by Codman Square Health Center, will take place in a virtual format on Thurs., Oct. 29, at 6 p.m. As in past years, the event will feature food prepared by a host of local eateries and served by local chefs, elected officials, and business leaders, with all proceeds going directly to women's health services and initiatives at the health center.

While the normal in-person tasting event is not happening, those interested in attending or supporting are encouraged to still purchase tickets and order take-out from participating restaurants. Men of Boston will offer three ticket options this year: a general attendance ticket, open to any member of the public who wishes to attend the virtual event free of charge; a \$150 dinner ticket, which includes a salad, entree, and dessert delivered to your home; or a direct donation benefitting Codman

Square Health Center. This year's event will also feature recorded messages from US Sen. Elizabeth Warren, Gov. Baker, Mayor Walsh, and others; musical performances; cooking and cocktail demonstrations; video visits from "Celebrity Chefs"; and photos of Codman's COVID Care in action. Channel 5 meteorologist Mike Wankum will again be the emcee for the occasion. In coordination with the event, several local restaurants will be offering a 10 percent discount on October 29 with the

code MENOFBOSTON, including Chill on Park, DW Brewpub, Lower Mills Tavern, Shanti, Tavolo, and Yellow Door Taqueria. The deadline for ordering a dinner ticket is October 23. Delivery is available within the Route 128 circle, including Quincy. If you are outside this area, please contact Nancy Petkunas at npetkunas@mpwi.org for more information. To register, view a full menu, and learn more about the event, visit codman.org/menofbostoncook/.



Joseph Caruso, executive chef at Ashmont Grill and Tavolo, on the job.
Photo courtesy Codman Square Health Center

St. Matthew's food pantry finds new home on Stanton St.

By DANIEL SHEEHAN
REPORTER STAFF

When Rich Green, director of the food pantry at St. Matthew's church, found out in early September that the church building was closing in a matter of weeks, the news was shocking. It sent him scrambling to find a new home for the pantry, which many members of the surrounding community rely upon as a source of food each week. Initially, the archdiocese of Boston had ruled out any chance for an ex-



Bishop F.J. Wilson of Greater Faith Church in Hyde Park, Martha Langley of Wesley Child Care and Rev. John Ahern, pastor of St. Gregory's, were on hand to re-dedicate the St. Matthew Food Pantry on Oct. 9.
Rich Green photo

tension while a possible move to St. Angela's in Mattapan fell apart due to a lack of space. "All our volunteers were set to hang up their aprons, and I felt a responsibility to do anything I could to keep it open," said Green. What happened next, Green said, was "a miracle. I was out of options, and in mid-September I just happened to knock on the door across the driveway from St. Matthew's rectory." That encounter introduced Green to Martha Langley, executive director of Wesley Child Care, located in the building on Stanton Street that was the former site of St. Matthew's Elementary School. Langley told Green that a room in the basement filled

with old school desks and furniture could serve as a space for a food pantry. Langley's son, a contractor, agreed to help retrofit the space. With a "ticking clock" due to thousands of pounds of refrigerated and frozen food in the old space, a team of volunteers filled two dumpsters worth of junk from the basement and retooled the room as a food storage facility in the span of two weeks. Last Friday, Oct. 9, the food pantry officially reopened to clients, with Langley posing front and center alongside Rev. Jack Ahern at the ribbon-cutting ceremony. "She salvaged this business," said Green. "She had a leap of faith and allowed us to continue our mission to feed the hungry out of her basement."

The stroke of fortune and generosity means the St. Matthew's Food Pantry can continue the mission of Sister Mary Damian, who founded the pantry in the 1980s and passed away in May of this year. Green said that more than over 35 patrons attended the event on Friday, each of whom likely fed up to four others at home with food from the pantry, for a total of around 140 people fed. "I'm so happy we could continue serving the community during this pandemic because people are so hungry, and it's so important to be able to fill that need...we were about a heartbeat away from closing. I know not as many people are religious these days, but I think it was a miracle."

Virtual Public Meeting

1700-1710
Dorchester Avenue

Monday, October 26
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/3db1eDH
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 160 519 5561

Project Proponent:
Shipway Development, LLC

Project Description:
Shipway Development, LLC proposes to construct two four-story, buildings that combined total approximately 49,710 square feet. One building is a mixed-use development and one building is a residential development. The proposed project will have a total of thirty-six (36) housing units including five (5) IDP Units, twenty (20) parking spaces total, and approximately 1,513 square feet of commercial retail space.

mail to: **John Campbell**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
phone: 617.918.4282
email: john.campbell@boston.gov

Close of
Comment
Period:
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Reporter's

People

News about people
in and around our Neighborhoods

Dorchester's Ceferina Murrell has moved from Sen. Nick Collins' office, where she has served as chief of staff, to Gov. Baker's office as the governor's new deputy director of legislative affairs. Longtime Collins aide **Leo Stella**, most recently policy and communications director, was promoted to succeed her. Murrell also served as chief of staff and communications director for Collins' predecessor, Sen. Linda Dorcena Forry. A Holy Cross graduate, Murrell was Greater Boston field director for Juliette Kayyem's campaign for governor in 2013 and 2014.



Standish Village at Lower Mills held a food drive for the Daniel Driscoll-Neponset Health Center this month. Above, Amanda Mastrangelo (left) from Daniel Driscoll-Neponset Health Center, and Hillary Tarr (right), Director of Community Relations at Standish Village, are shown with some of the donated items. Standish Village is an assisted living community. Photo courtesy Sarah Georges

MR8K set for Nov. 14

The Martin Richard Foundation, in partnership with the Boston Bruins Foundation, New Balance and DMSE Sports, will host the third annual MR8K virtually, providing a live race experience for runners to compete on the course of their choice. The starting gun will sound at 9 a.m. on Sat., Nov. 14. Runners unable to participate in the live event will be able to compete and register their time through Sunday, Nov. 15. While this year's race will look different, the virtual



race event will expand the potential field of runners even further, with geography no longer restricting runners' ability to participate. The event is open to runners, walkers and para-athletes of all abilities, as well as families with small children. Registration is \$40 for adults. Registration is now open at <http://mr8k.org/>.



People walking around the Seaport on a beautiful fall day can now experience the Boston Uncornered Photo Project Exhibit, a series of 30 stunning, 5'x8' black and white portraits of former gang members and public figures. The exhibit, which was created pro bono by PJA Advertising + Marketing in partnership with Boston Uncornered, Boston Seaport by WS Development and renowned photographer John Huet, highlights our shared humanity as we work together to end systemic racism, gang violence and urban poverty. The installation will be on view from October 6-25 on Seaport Common located at 85 Northern Avenue in Boston. (L-R) Yanni Tsipis, Senior Vice President, Development, Seaport at WS Development; John Huet, Photographer; Phil Johnson, Founder and CEO PJA Advertising + Marketing; Ronald Hopkins, Boston Uncornered College Readiness Advisor; Inita Jones, College Bound Dorchester Director of Operations; Mark Culliton, Founder and CEO College Bound Dorchester; Debra Brodsky, Director of Marketing, Seaport at WS Development.



Pygmy hippo calf born at the Franklin Park Zoo

Cleopatra, a pygmy hippopotamus, gave birth to a 13-pound male calf at Dorchester's Franklin Park Zoo a week ago Monday (Oct. 5). It was a joyous moment marking the culmination of years of work, careful planning, and dedication by the animal care and veterinary teams. The tiny male calf is the first pygmy hippo born at Zoo New England. The mom, affectionately known as Cleo, gave birth to stillborn calves in 2018 and 2019 due to prolonged labor. This time, it all worked out. "The calf was immediately so bright, strong and aware, and was holding his head up right



Staff from Zoo New England cared for a newborn baby pygmy hippo born last week at Franklin Park Zoo. away. It was introduced to Cleo soon after birth and was nursing within a few hours," said Dr. Eric Baitchman, Zoo New England Vice President of Animal Health and Conservation. "Each new birth contributes to the continued survival of this endangered species, and we are

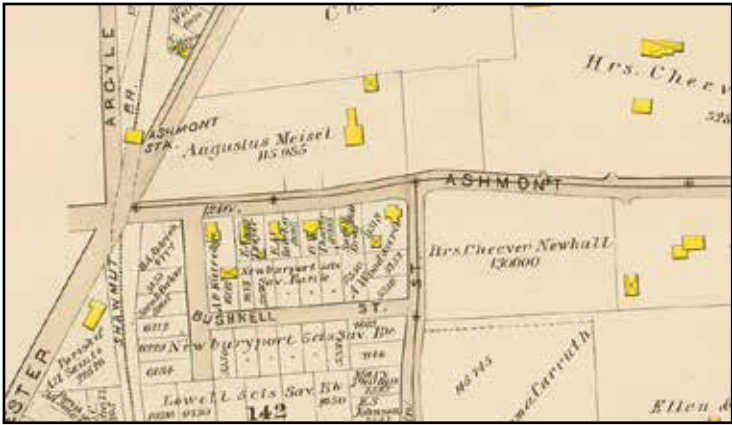
thrilled by this success," he added." Pygmy hippos are native to West African rainforests in the countries of Sierra Leone, Guinea, the Ivory Coast, and Liberia. The species faces increasing threats, including shrinking natural habitat as the result of logging, farming, mining, and human settlement. Because of their reclusive nature, the hippos are difficult to count in the wild. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), it is estimated that there are fewer than 2,500 individuals left in their native habitat in West Africa.

YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE
DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Looking back: Parish of All Saints

All Saints' Episcopal Church began in 1867 as a mission of St. Mary's Church, and in 1874 it became a separate parish in Dorchester's Lower Mills. In 1882, Col. Oliver Peabody and his wife, Mary Lothrop Peabody, paid to have the chapel moved along Dorchester Avenue from Lower Mills to Ashmont. The building was placed on a lot that is now home to the Ashmont T station. At that time, the railroad station was on the north side of Peabody Square, at the angle created by Dorchester Avenue and Argyle Street, today's Talbot Avenue. The building appears at



the left of the photograph in its location near Peabody Square. The detail from the 1884 atlas shows the location of the Parish of All Saints as well as Ashmont Station. The Peabodys endowed the parish with vast sums



of money. They contributed \$80,000 toward the \$115,000 budget needed to build, from 1892 to 1894, the new stone church in Peabody Square at 209 Ashmont Street. The archive of these historical posts can be viewed on the blog at dorchesterhistorical-society.org.

Editorial

Beacon Hill needs to show urgency in eviction crisis

As the expiration of the state’s eviction moratorium looms this weekend, there’s widespread anxiety among both tenants and landlords about just how hard the wave will crash, both personally, and for the larger good.

Gov. Baker, though, has signaled an unwillingness to extend the deadline protecting renters and landlords. Instead, he offered up a \$171 million plan on Monday that will make monies available directly to tenants to pay rent— and thus help landlords in dire need of cash as well. Plus, Baker’s team reasons, there is a federal moratorium in place through at least December, which tenants who are eligible can use as protection.

But the funding pitched by Baker on Monday falls well short of the target that housing advocates have said is needed. Of particular concern, the Baker plan budgets only \$65 million for the Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) program, a key mechanism for those facing eviction. Advocates had called for \$200 million for the RAFT pot.

Dorchester’s Lew Finfer, a longtime tenant organizer who has lobbied for more relief from Beacon Hill, said Tuesday that Baker’s plans will not meet the need. As an alternative, he urged lawmakers to speed up their work on an existing bill that would keep the state moratorium in place for one year after the state of emergency ends.

Finfer also proposes a fund that would help small landlords get through that time span. The bill passed a key Beacon Hill committee, but has not yet been taken up for a vote by Democrat leaders in the Legislature.

As we await action from the state, Mayor Walsh rolled out more stop-gap measures from City Hall last week, noting: “As a city, we must use the power of what we have to provide whatever we can do to help.”

Walsh said the city will begin accepting new applications to the city’s Rental Relief Fund for up to \$4,000 in assistance for eligible tenants. He also filed an ordinance with the City Council that would force landlords trying to evict tenants to also provide information on tenants’ rights and available resources. The city has sent out pamphlets to 46,000 households, targeting people who might be at risk.

“It tells them clearly that they don’t have to leave their homes if they receive a notice to quit,” Walsh said.

The real onus for finding a statewide solution rests on Beacon Hill. By some estimates, there will be as many as 100,000 renters and landlords who won’t be able to pay once the moratorium is lifted, effective Oct. 19.

Baker sounds open to the idea that his current plan might not be sufficient. “If it turns out it’s more than we need, that’s great. If it turns out it’s less than we need, we’ll figure it out,” Baker said, according to the State House News Service.

The situation is a recipe for high anxiety and a halting recovery. Massachusetts should not let its most vulnerable residents— including many people who own property and don’t want to displace people in the middle of a crisis— dangle with uncertainty right now.

The better course would be to adopt the more aggressive plan moving through the Legislature. Amid a deadly virus and national election crisis that still lurches to and fro, we should give people in this Commonwealth at least one sure-footed path forward into economic stability and recovery in 2021.

– Bill Forry

The Reporter

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We must help those on ‘Methadone Mile’

By FRANK BAKER

There is a very alarming trend growing in Boston. We have the famous “Methadone Mile” in our city and the conditions in this area – known as “Mass and Cass” – are worsening.

As a lifelong resident of this amazing city, I find myself saddened. The conditions in this area are terrible, but at the same time, I find myself motivated and driven to help fix this before it turns into the same situation affecting some West Coast cities.

For years, “Mass and Cass” has been home to a great deal of vagrancy and drug use — and residents there say it has only gotten worse, leading to recent protests over the continued devolution in the area and our own legislative inaction.

To enact the right solution, we have to open our eyes to the fact this situation was polluting our streets and endangering our children well before anyone on the “Methadone Mile” knew what Covid was.

As more people are coming in, there are, however, fewer people seeking treatment; they are, instead, seeking a safe harbor for their addiction. This goes beyond just drugs and addiction. This situation is *not* due to Covid, but it has in some way been exacerbated by it. We can blame a lot on the coronavirus: There are more people out of work and more people out on the street.

So, what do we do?

Mayor Walsh believes the situation at “Mass and Cass” is one of the biggest challenges the city faces. I agree with him. We have acted, but we need to do more. We have a dedicated “Mass and Cass” working group that has taken substantive steps to provide

mobile bathrooms and cleanup crews around the area. We need to implement a command center to respond more quickly and efficiently to the needs and concerns of the people on the street and to the people living in the nearby neighborhoods threatened by the sprawl of the problem.

We need a more robust Section 35 program and we need to educate as many people as possible about the availability of these programs and resources. If we utilize civil holds and get courts involved in this process, we can complement the hard-working recovery coaches out there trying to help these people get treatment.

We have approximately 1,000 units of homeless housing in the pipeline, but we cannot just house the people in them. Taking the problem out of our sight and tucking it into subsidized housing will not fix the problem. It will not deliver the help that people need the most.

We need real recovery campuses, like the ones Mayor Walsh has been pushing for on Long Island and at the Shattuck site. Long Island had been used as a home for people who were homeless or battling addiction, but the mayor is meeting resistance at every step in his effort to bring this type of resource back into the fold.

In an environment where Covid-19 is still afflicting the very highest levels of our government, we need actions and legislation that make things better... not worse. Our future depends on it.

Frank Baker represents District 3 on the Boston City Council.

A historian on why history matters

Boston College history professor Heather Cox Richardson, who writes a daily online newsletter titled “Letters from an American,” felt obliged this Columbus Day week to say something the role of the historian in society.

“Historians are not denigrating the nation when they uncover sordid parts of our past. Historians study how and why societies change. As we dig into the past we see patterns that never entirely foreshadow the present, but that give us ideas about how people have dealt with circumstances in the past that look similar to circumstances today. With luck, seeing those patterns will help us make better decisions about our own lives, our communities, and our nation in the present. As they say, history doesn’t repeat itself, but it often rhymes.

“If we are going to get an accurate picture of how a society works, historians must examine it honestly. That means seeing the bad as well as the good, because, after all, any human society is going to have both. Sometimes good human actions change society; sometimes bad ones do. George Washington’s heroic refusal to be a king is no truer than his enslavement of other human beings, and both changed our nation in ways that we need to understand if we are to make good decisions about

how to take care of our own society.

“History, though, is different than commemoration. History is about what happened in the past while commemoration is about the present. We put up statues and celebrate holidays to honor figures from the past who embody some quality we admire. But as society changes, the qualities we care about shift. In the 1920s, Columbus mattered to Americans who opposed the Ku Klux Klan because he represented a multicultural society. Now, though, he represents the devastation of America’s indigenous people at the hands of European colonists who brought to North America and South America germs and a fever for gold and God. It is not “radical activism” to want to commemorate a different set of values than we held in the 1920s.

“What is radical activism, though, is the attempt to skew history to serve a modern-day political narrative. Rejecting an honest account of the past makes it impossible to see accurate patterns. The lessons we learn about how society changes will be false, and the decisions we make based on those false patterns will not be grounded in reality.

“And a nation grounded in fiction, rather than reality, cannot function.”

– TOM MULVOY

Letters to the Editor

An unfair take on Ashmont-Adams civic

To the Editor:

A recent editorial in the *Dorchester Reporter* stated that “the knee-jerk NIMBYism afoot at the Ashmont-Adams meeting” concerning a proposed cannabis retail store in Adams Village “carried shades of earlier iterations of opposition in and around Adams Village.” The writer was reaching back some 25 years to controversies in the 1990s that were instigated largely by residents outside the Ashmont-Adams neighborhood. Not only was the editorial’s accusation unfair and premature, it was offensive to residents of Ashmont Adams and its civic association, which hosted the meeting.

The Ashmont Adams Neighborhood Association takes pride in its 20-year history of presenting information on proposals of interest to our members. From street lights to major real estate developments to social events, we look at issues, large and small, that may have an impact on our quality of life.

This was an informational meeting. For most in attendance, it was the first they had heard of the proposal from CNA Stores Inc. to open a cannabis dispensary and many expressed dismay at that fact. As is often the case when people feel left out or overlooked, their voices were loud in asserting their opposition. We considered it only fair to let them express their views and there is no argument that the opponents dominated the dialogue before the sunset forced our meeting to adjourn. However, the views and opinions of those few should not be taken as the consensus of the entire neighborhood.

It is much too early in the process for most people to take a position on the proposal. The editorial implied that people with closed minds had closed the door. That is an insulting and premature conclusion.

The thoughtful people of Ashmont Adams are open to new ideas and are weighing the proposal with care. Please give them credit for taking the time and interest to review such projects with consideration for all points of view. That is not NYMBYism.

Respectfully yours,
Ashmont Adams Neighborhood Association
Cindie Faddan, president
Maribeth Diener, vice president
Gail Ravgiala, secretary
Mary Kelly, treasurer

Push-back on cannabis shop is a merited action

To the Editor:

Regarding the editorial “NIMBYs should be challenged”: Hardly an accurate observation as school children gather at College Hype for uniforms or club gear, as seniors gather for tea and a scone at Green Hills side by side at a cannabis shop with an armed guard and 24-hour surveillance cameras. Do as they have done in Brookline. Put this proposed shop in a non-residential neighborhood. Maybe Morrissey Blvd?

The attendees at the Ashmont Adams Neighborhood were thoughtful and gave their opinions and alternative ideas for Mr. DeFazio. Pitting neighborhood associations against one another is so 2020 and the *Dorchester Reporter* fuels the ongoing dead-end partisan fire that is destroying our country.

Brianne Fitzgerald RN, NP, MPH
Van Winkle Street

Commentary

Our polarized country needs changes in the way our elections are conducted

By **BILL WALCZAK**
REPORTER COLUMNIST

These are scary times. One thing that the 2020 election season has determined is that our “democracy” is a mess. Voting has been called into question by the president, who also says that he won’t necessarily step down if he loses. Many states seem to see success as limiting the number of people who can vote. Fewer and fewer congressional districts are competitive due to gerrymandering, leading to a polarization of the two major political parties that is broadly felt among Americans.

A poll cited by USA Today indicates that nearly half of Americans (47 percent) do not expect the election to “be fair and honest.” More than half say that they expect they won’t “generally agree on who is the legitimately elected president,” and 56 percent said that they expect to see “an increase in violence as a result of the election.”

Many blame social media and the influence of money in politics, but these are mere symptoms of the disease. The United States has fundamental flaws in how elections are constituted. Let’s be clear: The United States is not a democracy. When President Trump said at the beginning of the recent presidential debate in answer to a question on choosing a jurist for the Supreme Court that “I tell you very simply that we won the election, elections have consequences, we have the Senate, we have the White House,” he was not talking about the ballots cast by the people of the United States, who cast 3,000,000 more votes for Hillary

Clinton than for him. He was talking about the Electoral College, a group of 538 people representing the 50 states, of whom 304 voted for Trump. The Electoral College was established by the 1787 Constitutional Convention to give more power to states than people in the election of the president as a way to ensure that southern slave states would support the Constitution.

The US Senate is also undemocratic in its elections. Democratic candidates together outpoll Republicans by millions of votes in the aggregate. Pundits dispute how many millions of votes, as California has had general elections for the US Senate that did not have Republican candidates*, but even without California, there are millions more votes for the Democratic candidates. In the 2018 Senate elections, Democrats lost two seats despite outpolling Republicans by at least six million votes.

So Democrats have reasons to be angry. A Senate and a president, “elected” by a minority of voters, has moved the country in a radical direction. Republicans are angry because they perceive that the election may be rigged by the deep state, the media, and/or mail-in ballots.

If our country is to survive in a less polarized milieu, we need to make changes. A good starting point would be to take a look at the recommendations by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences Commission on the Practice of Democratic Citizenship. The Academy spent the last two years working with a national group of ex-

perts and conducted many “listening sessions” with people around the country to come up with an analysis of the problems with our electoral processes, and possible solutions. I will give a short summary, but you can read the entire report at amacad.org/ourcommonpurpose/recommendations.

- They are:
- Enlarge the House of Representatives and make larger districts with multiple representatives per district. Congressional representatives used to grow in number with increased population until that was stopped by Congress in 1929. Repealing this law would allow the Congress to expand, creating greater opportunity for more people to know their congressional representatives. Repealing a 1967 law would allow multiple representatives in larger districts.
 - Establish ranked-choice voting in all federal elections as a way to force winning candidates to appeal to a broader population.
 - Establish independent citizen-redistricting commissions to draw congressional districts, eliminating gerrymandered districts, such as in North Carolina, where Republicans won the congressional popular vote by two percent but won ten of the state’s 13 seats.
 - Amend the Constitution to authorize the regulation of election contributions, and pass campaign finance disclosure laws so that there is transparency in all political donations.
 - Pass clean election laws that enhance the power of small donations,



Bill Walczak
Something has to give

such as democracy vouchers and public matching donations.

- Establish 18-year terms for Supreme Court justices in staggered fashion.

All but the constitutional amendment for regulating election contributions can be done by the Congress and/or state legislatures. All we need is to elect people who have the political will.

*California primary elections place all candidates from all parties on one ballot, with the two highest vote getters advancing to the final election. Both final candidates for the US Senate in 2018 were Democrats, therefore both candidates’ votes would be considered Democratic votes, greatly increasing the aggregate Democratic vote. As a result, California’s Senate votes were removed from the total vote count.

Bill Walczak lives in Dorchester and is a columnist for the Reporter. He is the co-founder and past president / CEO of Codman Square Health Center.

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Questions? Contact Kate Lopci at klopci@quincycollege.edu

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Questions? Contact Lindsay Peckham at lpeckham@quincycollege.edu

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Electric power seen as key boost for Fairmount

(Continued from page 1)
carves through Hyde Park, Mattapan, and Dorchester on its route between Readville and South Station.

It is the latest push in a decades-long campaign from advocates who say the commuter rail should be converted into a subway line, with frequency similar to the Red and Orange lines. The MBTA this year launched a pilot plan to improve service on the Fairmount Line – eight additional weekday trips, bringing service up to 24 trips per weekday. But advocates say a far more dramatic and costly shift is needed— a sentiment amplified in this new report.

Electrifying the rail corridor and buying new electric vehicles to replace the current fleet of diesel-powered locomotives would save commuters valuable time and improve air quality, the report argues. Changing the power source is the key plank of the Fairmount section of the report, along with buying new “rolling stock” cars or Electric Multiple Unit (EMUs) and adding high level platforms at all stations. The report lays out more than \$2.6 billion in investments regionally over the next decade, including hundreds of millions for the Fairmount Line specifically.

“A lot of the stuff that we’re pushing for on the Fairmount line are things that advocates on that corridor have been pushing for a long time,” said Jarred Johnson, executive director of TransitMatters, during a virtual meeting to discuss the report last Thursday. “We’re really excited to be here and be echoing the work that has already been happening.”

In addition to electrifying the rail line in three segments over the next six years, the report calls for the installation of high-level platforms at Fairmount and Readville



Electrifying the Fairmount Line will “save commuters valuable time and improve air quality,” argues a new report by advocacy group Transit Matters.

stations by 2026. It also envisions major infrastructure fixes to relieve bottlenecks, free transfers, and lower fares overall.

Johnson said that the overhaul would also aid the region’s economic recovery from the pandemic. “We had a transportation crisis before Covid-19, but now the pandemic has exacerbated a lot of existing inequities and brought in new ones,” he said, citing a decrease in commuter rail ridership system wide.

“Service has decreased to 7 percent at peak a.m. rush hour, and the all-day average is around 11 percent. The bus service is trying to cope with both the rising number of people coming back but also trying to keep distancing in effect and keep crowding low,” he said.

“The only sort of silver lining from these terrible numbers is that it emphasizes the point that we’ve thought for a long time— which is that the commuter rail, as a model, is not very sustainable and is somewhat obsolete,” he added. “It’s

a very expensive system that is designed for a relatively small band of workers and then even within that, really limiting as far as the hours they’re able to travel.”

Ethan Finlan, a planner who works for TransitMatters, said the Fairmount Line, “along with the line from Brockton to Middleborough, has maintained most of its riders throughout the pandemic. Whereas the lines that entirely rely on suburban commuters have not done well, the Fairmount, contrary to what we’ve heard for years from skeptics – that it would never maintain ridership – in fact it has really been an asset throughout this time,” he said.

Finlan argued that adding overhead electrification along the line would speed up the modernization plans and was “essential” to meeting the state’s goal of zero emissions by 2050.

“Not only by making the rail lines more environmentally sound but also by improving reliability and speed, it can

lead to a shift away from single occupancy vehicles that cause pollution along I-93 that permeates into Dorchester,” Finlan said.

Fare equity is also discussed at length in the report.

“The whole line should really be in the same fare zone as the subway, and Readville is about equidistance to Braintree which is in Zone 1A,” said Finlan. “There’s no reason why riders should have to pay up to \$5 more to get anywhere on the corridor.”

Johnson said the group hopes to get a firm commitment from the Baker administration, the MBTA, and state legislators to move improvements forward.

“We’ve gotten the board to commit to modernization, but we haven’t necessarily gotten the Secretary [of Transportation Stephanie Pollack] or the State House,” he said. “We really need to have a firm commitment there in terms of a bond bill being passed and a clear plan laid out for how we’re going to get there.”

He added: “The next thing

we’ve got to do is almost immediately start the process of buying these new trains because unfortunately these procurements take three to four years, and we need to start that process now.”

State Rep. Liz Miranda said that a lot of the concerns she’s heard from constituents are reflected in the report’s findings.

“We’ve all been committed to pushing the T, and if this is another thing we could get an early win on, I’m committing to help fight for that,” she said.

Sue Sullivan, executive director of the Newmarket Business Association, backed the report’s finding that many essential employees are using the Fairmount Line— and have been doing so throughout the pandemic.

“Newmarket never closed through the pandemic and most of our businesses have been working straight through,” she said. “And so we’ve had a lot of our workers continuing to ride it, and 52 percent of our employees come from within a few miles of where they work. A lot of them are along the Fairmount Line.”

As the meeting wrapped up, Johnson said working toward the goals outlined in the report would be “an all-hands-on-deck thing”— arming neighborhood activists with information to “push back on some of the arguments like: ‘Oh, the ridership is too low.’”

He doesn’t buy that, he said. “It’s having those things so when people are talking to the media or elected officials they can really say ‘Isn’t the fact that the Fairmount corridor has some of the worst air quality in the city enough to justify the fact that we should electrify?’ The report is here to underscore a lot of the points that folks sometimes use to throw at why we shouldn’t transform the Fairmount Line.”

Morgan Chase Bank to fund \$5m for Fairmount corridor jobs

By MICHAEL P. NORTON
STATE HOUSE
NEWS SERVICE

A Boston-based collaborative has snagged a \$5 million award from JPMorgan Chase to create affordable housing

in Dorchester, Roxbury, and Mattapan and also to train and connect at least 500 Black and Latinx residents with full-time jobs in the health care, technology, and biotech industries.

The funds stem from

the company’s Advancing Cities Challenge, which drew more than 150 proposals from 79 communities across 35 states. Only seven cities won awards, which the bank says are part of its \$500 million, five-year

initiative to advance an “inclusive recovery” and economic opportunities in cities.

Boston Medical Center (BMC) is the lead entity in the eight-organization Boston Opportunity System Collaborative.

The collaborative “can bring new vitality to neighborhoods that have suffered through generations of inequity and disinvestment,” said BMC President and CEO Kate Walsh.

“At Boston Medical Center, we see the consequences of unstable housing and a lack of economic opportunity reflected in the health of our patients on a daily basis,” Walsh said. “The Covid-19 pandemic is only making these disparities worse.”

According to JPMorgan Chase, the collaborative over three years will train 1,100 individuals with plans to place at least 500 in full-time jobs, while also creating 100 affordable housing units and preserving another 150 affordable units. Housing construction and rehabilitation is expected to begin in 2021.

The other collaborative partners are Boston Children’s Hospital, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, and Health Resources in Action,

teaming up with the City of Boston and four community partners - the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative, BlueHub Loan Fund, Action for Equity, and Jewish Vocational Services.

“Safe, affordable housing and access to well-paying jobs are foundational to thriving communities, yet both are out of reach for many Bostonians,” said Peter Scher, head of corporate responsibility at JPMorgan Chase, who predicted the collaborative will make a difference in the underserved communities.

“I’m proud Boston is one of the cities being recognized as we work to champion equity across our neighborhoods,” said Boston Mayor Marty Walsh. “The BOS Collaborative receiving this grant from JPMorgan Chase will support the City’s work in advancing opportunities and creating resources for those who live and work along the Fairmount Corridor.”



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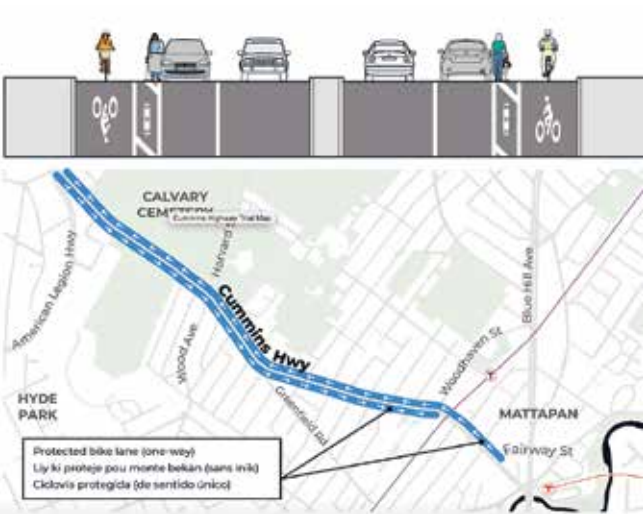
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Cummins safety measures to include more bike lanes

By Reporter Staff
A city pilot project aimed at making Cummins Highway safer by reducing the number of lanes from four to two and adding dedicated bicycle paths will be extended from Wood Avenue in Mattapan to American Legion Highway in Roslindale by the end of the month. The move comes as the city looks at more permanent changes along the thoroughfare, according to a city official in charge of the project.

In a video presentation posted on Oct.



A city of Boston graphic shows the scope of an existing Cummins Highway public safety project.

8, Cummins Highway project manager Jeffrey Alexis said the city hopes to begin construction next year on permanent changes to the road, including the elimination of the median strip, the installation of permanent bike lanes, wider sidewalks, intersection bump outs, better bus stops, new traffic signals, and better signal timing.

The ultimate goal is to reduce both crashes and the severity of the ones that still happen by slowing traffic along the roadway and by providing bicyclists and

pedestrians - always the most vulnerable in crashes - safer ways to travel along and across the road. The highway is currently in the top 3 percent of all Boston roads for crashes, Alexis said.

He added that by month's end, workers will begin replacing the construction-style barriers erected earlier this year with flex-posts and markings that should make the road less confusing for motorists. Also, the Boston Traffic Division (BTD) and police will begin issuing warnings — but not tickets — to motorists who use the bike lanes for parking. And a public-works crew will patrol the area to remove trash and debris from the lanes.

Alexis said data collected during the pilot to date showed that narrowing Cummins has slowed traffic. Average speeds are down 14 percent between Wood and Brockton, but up 6 percent on the stretches outside the pilot area, although he added there's still a significant number of people exceeding 30 mph when the official speed limit is 25 mph. Even with the slowdown, it now only takes about 30 seconds longer to get between Wood and Brockton, he said.

But the 11 crashes between July 24 and Sept. 20 - two involving pedestrians - show the city still has more work to make the road safer long term. He added that comparisons between a pilot run during a pandemic and earlier years is valid, because total traffic volumes on the road have dropped only about 15 percent from pre-Covid-19 days, which he said is not statistically significant for traffic-planning purposes.

Alexis acknowledged concerns from residents that few bicyclists seem to be using the new bike lanes, but said that's typical for new bike lanes usage. He predicted it will pick up once the lanes are made more permanent, and once bicyclists realize that the debris now being dumped in the lanes will be picked up.

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Attention: Community Meeting

Boston Urban Dispensary LLC is hosting a virtual* Community Outreach Meeting for a Retail Cannabis license.

Schedule for:

Date: Thursday, October 29th, 2020

Time: 06:30 PM Eastern Time

Online: bit.ly/Budcares365

Meeting ID: 87204325581

Passcode: 617201

Call in: +1 (646) 876-9923

Meeting ID: 87204325581

Passcode: 617201

(This meeting is hosted online via ZOOM for COVID-19 safety accommodations)

The proposed location address:

1114-1118 Blue Hill Avenue

Dorchester MA 02124

The public is encouraged to ask questions.

If you have any questions about this meeting or have comments about the proposal, feel free to contact: Boston Urban Dispensary at:

BUDcares365@gmail.com

Please note, the City of Boston does not represent the owner(s)/developer(s)/attorney(s) The purpose of this meeting is to get community input and listen to the community's positions on this proposal. The proponents of the project distributed this flyer.



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O'Bryant students lose on two counts: A trip to Europe, and inadequate refunds

(Continued from page 1) in October, the result of months of discussion involving the school district, the state attorney general's office, and Augusta Musico, owner of All My World Travel, the Boston agency that booked the trip.

When Musico filed a group insurance claim on behalf of the families with Halsbury Travel, the agency based in the United Kingdom that she partnered with to book the trip, Halsbury denied the claim.

Carolina Monegro De Bent, Mya's mother, then filed a complaint with Attorney General Maura Healey's office in an effort to recover some of their money.

"Even if we can't get anything back from the international portion, Ms. Musico should be held liable," said Bent. "It's her travel agency that the school went through."

According to the Secretary of State's corporate database, Musico dissolved her East Boston-based travel company on Sept. 8. She also hired an attorney, Jeffrey Ment, a man-

aging partner at Ment Law Group, to help her negotiate with Halsbury Travel.

"From what we know, the insurance company is taking the position that for a few reasons they don't have to cover the claim," Ment explained in a phone call with the *Reporter*.

"First, they claim that they only provide insurance for residents of the United Kingdom. Second, they claim that they don't cover claims for trips that were cancelled for disinclination to travel at a time when the world hadn't completely shut down yet. So, it seems to have to do with the timing of the cancellation, and the decision by the school district to cancel the trip rather than have the travel company cancel it."

In an interview last week with the *Reporter*, Musico said: "I tried everything to get the refund from my correspondent in England, Halsbury Travel. Also, my lawyer tried to get all of the refunds from airline companies, hotels, etc. But I didn't

have success because they don't want to give me the refund. I gave the students and the families what I had in my pockets and then I closed everything because I don't have any more money. What more can I do?"

"I'm really sorry, I'm so frustrated, and I've suffered too much," said Musico, who says she is now on unemployment. "I closed everything because I don't have any more money. Now we are trying to speak with the mayor to try to help them. But I can't do anything more," said Musico, sounding distressed.

Sally Johnson, whose daughter also signed up for the trip, paid the full cost, something most of the other families weren't able to do.

"The biggest thing for me is that this is not a school of rich kids," said Johnson. "A lot of them saved themselves and worked their own jobs to get the money and buy the insurance. From my perspective, we were working with a travel agent based in Boston. I don't know what the technicality is there that they've managed to work out. It's just so unfortunate that everything went wrong."

Robert Carr, the father of an 11th grader, said that the insurance policy secured for the trip "had so many different holes in it, basically

absolving them from any potential trip cancellation, that it wasn't even worth the \$40 that we paid for it." At this point, he said, the only option the families may have to recoup funds from Halsbury would be to individually hire attorneys in the United Kingdom.

Meanwhile, Johnson has taken up the task of drafting a GoFundMe page, which cannot be associated with the O'Bryant School for legal reasons and has not gone live yet, in the hopes of raising money to help students and families regain some of what they have lost.

"If there is some money in a fund somewhere that's meant to help out underprivileged kids, this would be one of many good ways to use that money," said Carr. "That's really not something that anybody has the financial capability or will to do and at this point it looks to me like the avenue we go is either media attention that lights a fire under the mayor's office or we do a GoFundMe Campaign and try to raise money from donors."

He added: "Moving forward, if BPS does decide to run anymore trips, every trip should be bonded and insured at a million dollars to ensure that this never happens again."

When asked about the cancellation and the re-



The John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science on Malcolm X Boulevard in Roxbury.

sulting issues, a spokesperson for the Boston Public Schools said the department "has been exploring various ways in which these families might recover some or all of the expenses."

"We are also working to create a more centralized process for reviewing and vetting travel providers for future domestic and international trips," the spokesperson said.

Beyond that, Healey's office confirmed that it has logged nine complaints about All My World Travel's role in the O'Bryant trip, but did not say if the staff will pursue the issue.

A spokesperson said that Healey's office has received more than 4,000 complaints related to travel agencies and the pandemic and noted that the attorney has prioritized securing refunds and mediating complaints with domestic travel companies, resulting in roughly \$5.8 million recovered for consumers with com-

plaints related to other travel companies.

Mya Bent Monegro said that the ordeal has been a tough lesson for her and her classmates. "I would be more cautious and read the fine lines of all the policies to see what exactly the insurance covers to decide if I really want to go on a trip in the future," she said. "My family doesn't have \$3,600 to spare, but we were working hard this year. My mom had to take extra shifts. We stopped going out or buying things that we didn't really need — like clothes or fast food."

Her mom says the experience has been disruptive for her daughter during an already challenging time.

"Everyone is upset. Mya is upset because she felt like it's her fault that I am losing the money. She's still fighting hard at school to keep up her grades without letting it bother her too much — but it does bother her. We can see it."



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How you can help support our ‘community cats’



By Dr. Edward Schettino

As any animal lover knows, the annual calendar is peppered with dozens of national animal-themed holidays, such as Adopt a Rescue Dog Day and Dress-up Your Pet Day. For me, however, the most interesting of these animal holidays is National Feral Cat Day on Oct. 16, primarily because it’s a subject that’s commonly overlooked. It starts with the term “feral,” a word that is considered synonymous with calling a cat “bad.” In years past, any cat living on the streets or roaming freely around our community would be labeled as feral.

Biologically, feral cats are just like house cats, the only difference being that they have not been properly socialized with humans. Feral cats do not turn to humans for food, shelter, or comfort, and are survivors - in every sense of the word.

Feral cats also make up a larger population known as “community cats.” Community cats consist of feral, shy, owned indoor/outdoor cats, as well as friendly strays. In Massachusetts, there are an estimated 700,000 community cats, many of which live in established colonies—areas that provide protection, shelter, and have an abundant food source. Despite living on the streets, these animals deserve compassion and care.

The figure 700,000 may seem overwhelming; however, there are a number of proven ways to assist these cats to

help reduce this number drastically.

One of the greatest measures to mitigate community cat populations is by Trap, Neuter, Return, or TNR. The Animal Rescue League of Boston (ARL), along with a number of other organizations throughout Massachusetts, safely trap community cats and spay or neuter them so that they can no longer reproduce, before returning them back to their habitats. In addition, ARL also provides community cats with routine veterinary care and vaccinations.

TNR services also provide an opportunity to evaluate these animals behaviorally. In many cases, community cats are friendly and deemed to be adoptable. In 2019, ARL took in nearly 600 community cats and of those more than 60 percent were adopted into loving homes!

So what can you do as an individual to care for the animals that are living in community cat colonies?

First and foremost, you can report these animals to your local animal welfare organization (like ARL) or animal control officer to make them aware of these animals and to keep tabs on them.

You can also join a group in your area that takes an interest in community cats. These groups take on the task of keeping these cats fed, assisting in TNR, and also monitoring their condition and numbers.

Finally, you can help ensure that these cats are protected by providing outdoor shelters.

While shelters can be purchased, many animal lovers find it more gratifying to build a simple structure themselves, with the help of online instructional videos!

If you have an indoor/outdoor cat who may mingle with community cats, you can keep them

safe and secure and also help protect wildlife by building a catio—a space off your home that gives cats the outdoor experience, but keep them safe inside. Like outdoor shelters, a catio can be purchased, or if you’re adventurous, you can tackle it as a DIY project!

Without proper shelter and care, cats who are a part of our communities are vulnerable to illness and injury. It is up to all of us to care for these animals, and to make sure they are safe and healthy as we face the onset of another New England winter.

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

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS SALE OF REAL ESTATE UNDER M.G.L. c. 183A:6

By virtue of a Judgment and Order of the Suffolk Superior Court (Civil Action No. 1884 CV 1838), in favor of Myrna Santana and Juan Quezadas, Managers of the Blue Hill Place Condominium Association against Hershey Briscoe, et al, establishing a lien pursuant to M.G.L. c. 183A:6 on the real estate known as Unit 10 of the Blue Hill Place Condominium with a street address of 352R Blue Hill Avenue, Dorchester, Suffolk County, Massachusetts for the purposes of satisfying such lien, the real estate is scheduled for Public Auction commencing at 10:00 a.m. on October 27, 2020 at 352R Blue Hill Avenue, Unit 10, Dorchester, Massachusetts. The premises to be sold are more particularly described as follows:

DESCRIPTION:

The Unit designated as 352R Blue Hill Avenue, Unit 10 (the “Unit”) in Blue Hill Place Condominium (the “Condominium”) created pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 183A by Maser Deed dated May 1, 2006, recorded with Suffolk County Registry of Deeds in Book 39532, Page 130, as amended by First Amendment to Master Deed dated January 12, 2007 and recorded at Book 41143, Page 135, as further amended by Second Amendment to Master Deed dated December 18, 2007 and recorded at Book 42871, Page 209, as further amended by Third Amendment to Master Deed dated May 18, 2009 and recorded at Book 44960, Page 210, and as further amended by Fourth Amendment to Master Deed dated April 29, 2010 and recorded at Book 46340, Page 106 (the “Master Deed”). Capitalized terms used in this Unit Deed which are not defined shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Master Deed.

The Post Office address of the Unit is: 352R Blue Hill Avenue, Unit 10, Dorchester, MA 02121.

The Unit is shown on a plan recorded with the Master Deed, to which is affixed a verified statement in the form provided by M.G.L. Chapter 183A section 9, and is conveyed subject to and with the benefit of the obligations, restrictions, rights and liabilities contained in M.G.L. Chapter 183A, the Master Deed, the documents establishing the organization of unit owners and the By-Laws as amended of record. The Unit is conveyed subject to, and with the benefit of, all easements, restrictions and encumbrances of record insofar as the same are now in force and applicable.

Each of the units in the Condominium is intended for residential purposes as set forth in the Master Deed.

The undivided percentage interest of the Unit in the Common Elements is Four percent (4%). Notwithstanding the foregoing, Grantee, and Grantee’s successors in title, take title to the Unit subject to the rights of Grantor, as Declarant under the Master Deed, to add additional phases and additional units to the Condominium. The Unit’s undivided percentage interest is subject to reduction in case of the addition to the Condominium of additional phases and additional units.

If Grantee intends to sell or otherwise transfer any interest in the Unit, including without limitation, the granting of a mortgage interest therein, Grantee shall so notify grantor in writing, describing the details of the proposed transfer. Within sixty (60) days after receipt of such notice (the “Notice Date”), Grantor may elect, by notice to such Grantee sent by certified or registered mail, to purchase such Unit at the then fair market value thereof, which shall be determined by an independent third party appraisal. If Grantor elects to purchase the Unit, the transfer shall take place on the business day specified in Grantor’s notice of election (which day shall be not more than ninety (90) days after the Notice Date), at the Suffolk County Registry of Deeds. Grantee shall convey the Unit to Grantor by quitclaim deed, with all tax and documentary stamps affixed and paid for by Grantee. Grantee shall pay all other taxes arising out of such sale. If Grantor shall fail to make such election within such 60-day period, then Grantee shall be free to sell

or transfer the Unit or any interest therein at any time within one hundred twenty (120) days after the Notice Date. If such sale or transfer is not consummated within such 120-day period, then Grantee shall not sell his or her Unit or transfer any interest therein unless s/he first complies again with the provisions of this paragraph. Grantor may release or waive its rights under this paragraph, either before or after receipt of notice from Grantee, in which event the Unit may be sold or conveyed free and clear of the provisions of the paragraph. A certificate, executed and acknowledged by Grantor, stating that the rights under this paragraph have been duly waived or terminated, shall be conclusive upon Grantor in favor of all persons who rely thereon in good faith. Such certificate shall be furnished upon request to any Grantee who has in fact complied with the provisions of this paragraph.

For title, see Deed to Hershey Briscoe dated April 29, 2010 and recorded with the Suffolk County Registry of Deeds in Book 46340, Page 117.

In the event of a typographical error or omission contained in this publication, the description of the premises contained in said Unit Deed shall control.

TERMS OF SALE:

1. A non-refundable deposit payable in cash, certified or bank check in the amount of \$5,000.00 for the unit shall be payable at the Auction.
2. The balance of the purchase price is to be paid within thirty (30) days of the auction.
3. An Auctioneer’s Release Deed will be issued to the purchaser, upon payment of the balance of the purchase price, within thirty (30) days of the auction. The Deed shall convey the premises subject to, and with the benefit of, all restrictions, easements, improvements, outstanding tax titles, municipal or other public taxes, assessments, liens, or claims in the nature of liens, and existing encumbrances of record senior to the lien hereby being satisfied, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, outstanding tax titles, municipal or other public taxes, assessments, liens or claims in the nature of liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.
4. Additionally, and not by way of limitation, the sale shall be subject to and with the benefit of any and all tenants, tenancies, and occupants, if any.
5. No representation is or shall be made as to any amount of taxes due and outstanding.
6. The successful bidder shall pay the future condominium common charges commencing with the date of the auction.
7. No representation is or shall be made as to any other mortgages, liens, or encumbrances of record.
8. No representation is or shall be made as to the condition of the Premises or the Condominium. The Premises shall be sold “as is.”
9. Other items, if any, shall be announced at the sale.
10. The sale is subject to and in accordance with the Judgment and Order, a copy of which may be obtained from the seller’s counsel, Attorney Dean T. Lennon, Marcus, Errico, Emmer & Brooks, P.C., 45 Braintree Hill Park, Suite 107, Braintree, MA 02184, (781) 843-5000.

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COVID rates are stable, but Dot still highest in city

By STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

More than 1,900 new people in Massachusetts were confirmed to have Covid-19 over the three-day holiday weekend as single-day positivity rates remained above 3 percent, continuing a trend that began in late September.

In Boston, Mayor Walsh said that Dorchester's zip codes 02121 and 02125 still have the highest positivity rate, although the rate citywide has remained fairly stable at roughly 4.1 percent for two weeks.

The state's Department of Public Health reported 587 new cases of the coronavirus on Saturday,

570 additional cases on Sunday and 765 fresh cases on Monday, though the agency said Monday's total included "data from a national laboratory that had a delay in reporting."

Along with the 1,922 new cases, DPH reported 39 recent Covid-19 deaths since Friday, bringing the death toll to 9,617 people. Since Feb. 1, 136,933 people in Massachusetts have become infected with the virus.

Although the DPH said on Monday that the seven-day average of the positive test rate of all tests conducted remained at 1.1 percent, the agency also reported that 4.2 percent of people tested for the first time Friday

were found to be positive for Covid-19, 3.4 percent of people first tested Saturday had the virus, and 3.2 percent of people first tested Sunday were confirmed to have the coronavirus.

The single-day positivity percentage has been above 3 percent since late September, according to DPH.

As of midday Monday, there were 501 people with Covid-19 hospitalized in Massachusetts. That's down by 30 patients from midday Saturday, but DPH said the three-day average number of hospitalized patients is up 70 percent from the low of about 300 patients in late August.

Also as of midday Monday, 82 people were being treated in an intensive care unit including 32 patients on ventilators.

Dr. David Rosman, president of the Massachusetts Medical Society, took to Twitter each evening this weekend to call attention to trend lines that he said "are still pointing up" and to encourage people to remain vigilant about social distancing and mask-wearing.

Gov. Baker on Tuesday outlined progress the state has made over the past several months and to prepare for a fall uptick in virus activity.

"Over the past few weeks we started to see

an increase in the number of Covid cases here and across the country and in many other countries," Baker said at a State House press conference. "For months, public health experts have forecasted this increase."

Massachusetts has built a "massive infrastructure to respond to this pandemic," Baker said, leaving the state "in a strong position to be prepared for what comes next." Baker added that the state will be able to rapidly expand hospital capacity if necessary, and that there are sufficient personal protective equipment supplies to meet the needs of health care and human service

providers.

The preparations, Baker said, "are of little use without the people of Massachusetts continuing to do their part."

He urged continued vigilance against the virus, "especially as we all move from our backyards to our living rooms and our family rooms" as the weather gets colder. "Household spread. Intergenerational spread. Expect to hear these terms a lot this fall," Baker said. "We all have a role to play here, and it doesn't end when we come home from work or the supermarket."

Dorchester Reporter staff contributed to this report.

Baker and courts outline \$171m plan to prevent evictions

(Continued from page 1)

authorizations under a Covid-19 supplemental budget and does not require any additional legislative appropriation.

The plan wouldn't be possible, according to the administration, if lawmakers hadn't granted flexibility for the Residential Assistance for Families in Transition program, which is assigned a \$100 million commitment this fiscal year to expand capacity. The plan's other major pot of funding is \$48.7 million for HomeBASE and other rapid rehousing programs that aim to put people in new housing after they've been evicted and prevent long periods of homelessness.

A new temporary emergency program will pro-

vide funds to households for up to 12 months to assist with moving expenses, rents, and security deposits.

"This strategy has been designed to be user friendly and easily accessible for tenants and landlords in need, and is comprised of new or expanded programs to help people stay in their homes," Baker, who had authorized one extension of the moratorium, said in a statement.

The maximum benefit available through the RAFT program will rise from \$4,000 to \$10,000 per household, which the administration says will help more families stabilize their housing for six months, or until the end of June if there are school-age children

in the household.

In a statement released by the governor's office, Trial Court Chief Justice Paula Carey said that court "has modified its procedures to provide for a two-tier process that will enable tenants and landlords to access resources and mediate their disputes in order to preserve tenancies."

The Trial Court, which includes the state's housing courts, has also "worked to increase its technological capacity to handle these cases safely when parties come into court and to provide those without assistance with information and access to technology where needed," Carey said.

Lew Finfer, a Dorchester resident who is co-director of the Massa-

chusetts Communities Action Network, said on Monday that the plan falls far short of meeting the financial needs identified for tenants at risk of eviction and called on the Legislature to "step up" and pass a bill (H 5018 / S 2918) that he said is cosponsored by 90 legislators and would guarantee housing stability during the state of emergency.

That bill, which the Housing Committee advanced on Sept. 30, would keep a moratorium in place for one year after the state of emergency ends, freeze rents during that span, and create a fund to help financially distressed small landlords.

Rep. Mike Connolly, a Cambridge Democrat who has been active in the housing debate, took to Twitter after the governor announced his plan to promote the housing stability bill and plans to hold a demonstration at the governor's house this week.

"If you think it's outrageous that we could allow 100,000 or more households to be displaced in the middle of a #COVID winter, then join our housing justice organizers for a demonstration at the governor's house this Wednesday at 5 p.m.," Connolly tweeted.

"I'm certainly letting people know about it," Connolly said about the demonstration in an interview. He said he was not sure if he would attend because his first priority is legislative business and he continues to push for advancement of the housing stability bill despite the Legislature being on recess from formal business.

"At this stage it has come down to: Do legislative leaders want to play an active role in crafting housing policy or not?" Connolly said. "And in this situation, it appears that the Legislature has really ceded its policymaking role to the governor."

Connolly said the governor's plan was put to-

gether behind the scenes, and with only a few days for feedback before the moratorium expires, he's worried about the state's ability to effectively stand up assistance programs so quickly and whether tenants will engage in the programs, or just leave their homes.

The plan also includes \$12.3 million to provide tenants and landlords with access to legal representation and services prior to and during the eviction process, as well as a new community mediation process to help tenants and landlords resolve cases outside of court.

It features \$6.5 million for nine Housing Consumer Education Centers, which the administration described as the "front door" for those facing a housing emergency, and \$3.8 million for the Tenancy Preservation Program (TPP), which provides case management support and is meant "to act as a neutral party to help tenants and landlords come to agreement."

At least 80,000 households in Massachusetts, including both renters and homeowners, will struggle to cover the costs of both housing and basic needs this month, the Metropolitan Area Planning Council concluded last week after studying unemployment and Census Bureau data.

The administration said its plan will provide direct financial support to 18,000 households, access to legal support or community mediation for up to 25,000 households, and access to Housing and Consumer Education Center services for up to 50,000 households.

Also, an unspecified amount of money will be provided to the trial courts to bring back judges to help handle caseloads once the moratorium ends and to add housing specialists to help mediate agreements. The Tenancy Preservation Program (TPP) will also be ex-

panded to serve more vulnerable households.

"We are pleased to provide new options for tenants and landlords to come together prior to an eviction and to quickly find a new home if a resolution is not reached," said Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito. "These new and expanded resources will meet residents where they are and provide enhanced assistance in navigating a complex process, which has been made even more difficult by this pandemic."

When the state moratorium expires on Saturday, a moratorium established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will become effective in Massachusetts, according to the Baker administration, and the CDC moratorium that runs through December will prevent evictions for non-payment "for qualified tenants who submit a written declaration to their landlord."

"Courts will accept filings and process cases, and may enter judgments but will not issue an order of execution (the court order that allows a landlord to evict a tenant) until after the expiration of the CDC order," according to the governor's office. "Protection is limited to households who meet certain income and vulnerability criteria."

Greg Vasil, president and CEO of the Greater Boston Real Estate Board, issued a statement supporting the governor's plan "to help people pay rent and stay in their homes without destabilizing the economy and forcing more owners to sell their property."

"Building owners have worked tirelessly to ensure people can stay safe in their homes through the COVID pandemic and we need leaders to continue to find new and significant ways to support struggling tenants and property owners who can't keep up with their bills as federal support runs out," Vasil said.

Pumpkin Decorating Contest and Harvest Festivities



YOU COULD BE A WINNER!

Drop off your pre-decorated sugar pumpkin before Friday, October 23 for voting. On Fri. the 25th From 12-3pm we will have upper- face painting-and trick or treating. Costumes are encouraged but face masks are required.

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BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF DORCHESTER

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF DORCHESTER





BGCD Begins Fall Body + Fuel Fitness Partnership: See details below.



BGCD “Learning Hubs” for Members During Remote School Learning: See details below.

CONNECT THE DOT:
BGCD Begins Fall Body + Fuel Fitness Partnership: As part of the Fall programming, we have resumed our fitness classes at Body + Fuel gym. Following all the recommended COVID-19 protocols, a small group of members have been meeting on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons to take part in the classes.

A huge thanks to our friends at Body + Fuel for hosting our members. Your continuous partnership and support of Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester is greatly appreciated by our members, staff and community. Also, a special thanks to The New Balance Foundation for supporting our fitness activities and encouraging health and wellness of our members.

For more information please contact Brendan McDonald at bmcDonald@bgcdorchester.org.

FIND OUT WHAT’S INSIDE:
BGCD “Learning Hubs” for Members During Remote School Learning: Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester is providing safe, supportive and supervised space to assist families in our community during the time children are learning remotely. Our newly developed Learning Hubs support cohorts of k-8 students during typical “school day” hours.

During the day we are incorporating enrichment activities and getting outside as often as possible! With a focus on supporting children’s social-emotional well-being, BGCD staff are providing opportunities for children to engage in the arts, fitness and other health and wellness activities throughout the day.

For more information, please contact Brendan McDonald at bmcDonald@bgcdorchester.org.

DID YOU KNOW:
Calling all High School Students for BGCD College Fellows and Career Prep Programming: Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester’s College Fellows and Career Prep programming is preparing to kick off for the Fall. We’re calling all high school students to join us in our upcoming events to help with their journeys to college. Join BGCD on October 17th from 1 - 2 pm for our Kick Off Event. The event will take place outside at our Marr Clubhouse located at 35 Deer Street, Dorchester, MA 02125. There will be food, music and fun while connecting with friends. Don’t forget to mark your calendars for upcoming college tours to Mass Maritime Academy on October 20th and Wentworth Institute of Technology on October 27th.

For more information please contact Tricia Chapple at pchapple@bgcdorchester.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

College Fellow Kick Off Event
October 17

Challenger Soccer
October 18

Hiking Club
October 24

“A Night of Giving Gala”
Grand Drawing 2020
November 21


*Please note these events are either virtual or will be following all COVID-19 safety restrictions while meeting.



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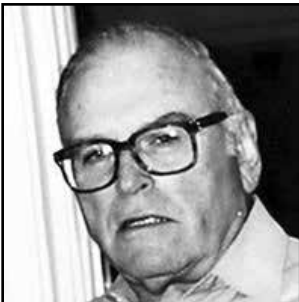


COBURN, Sylvester, 71, of Mattapan, known as Wes. He is preceded by his parents John and Maggie Coburn, two brothers Harry Lee Coburn (Judy Coburn of Boston, MA) and JB Coburn of South Carolina. He leaves his wife of 49 years Joyce A. Coburn, children Sylvester Wayne and Jason Ishan Coburn, Jocelyn Tameka Coburn Tirado all of Boston and Twanda Coburn of New York. Sisters Theresa

Coburn, Hope Williams (Jake) and Justine Ryan all of South Carolina, brothers Clyde Coburn of Boston, MA, and Leroy Coburn of South Carolina. He had a special love for his grandchildren, Denisha, Sylvester A., Elijah, Jaylan, Joy, Demiah, Is-han, Jace, Marisol, Dana, Dariez, Giovani, and Dashawn aka Goober. A host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

GREEN, Jane B. (Clougherty) at 75. Retired Fire Prevention, BFD, of Danvers, formerly of Charlestown, Dorchester and West Roxbury. Wife of 55 years to James E. “Jim” Green. Mother of Jane Mayo, Karen Green, James E. Green, Jr. and wife Lisa and Kathleen “Katie” DiBella and husband Vincent. Nana to Amanda,

Kasey, Mark, Olivia and Brooke. Sister of Patricia Roney, Joseph Clougherty (BFD), Leo Clougherty, Jean Harrington, Mary McNelley and the late Evelyn Hanf, Cecelia Clougherty, John (BFD), Robert (BFD), Paul, Bernard, Charles (BFD) and Peter Clougherty. Also many loving nieces and nephews. Kindly make a memorial donation in Jane’s name to The Boston Fire Department Relief Assoc., 115 S. Hampton St., Boston, MA 02118.



NOWAK, Joseph F. of Brookline, formerly of Dorchester, 91. Born in Boston, he was son of the late Maryan Nowak

and Caroline Stasiak. He was predeceased by his wife, Ann Bingham. He is survived by his cousins Geraldine McCarthy, Bob McCarthy, Susan Orlando, and Patrice Litvay. Joe served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He was a longtime member of the Polish American Club and leaves many friends there, especially Stasia Kacprzak and Terry and Paul Mooers.

PUTNICKI, Claire Marie (Riordan) of Burlington. Wife of Paul. Mother of Michael and his wife Michele of Monument, CO, Ann Johnson and her husband Duff of Winchester, Brian and his wife Monica of Phoenix, AZ and Amy Heymans and her husband John of Hampstead, NH. Grandmother of Jacob, Michaela, Riley and Luke Putnicki, Eric, Matthew and Nicholas Wollrath, and Samuel, Maya and Diego Cueva. Sister of Daniel Riordan of Concord, Paula Sweeney of Centerville,

Nancy O'Donnell of Hingham, Catherine Swan of Quincy, and the late Jean Martel. Donations can be made in her name to An Orphan's Dream, www.anorphansdream.org/howyoucanhelp/claire-putnicki-memorial-fund



THOMAS, Alexander (“Bruh”), Jr., 79, of Mattapan. He was born in Catherine, Alabama, the son of the late Alexander Thomas and the late Ida Mae (nee Crear) Thomas. Alex met and was married to his future wife, (Elva [nee, Moss]) and to this union born 18 children. He was preceded in death by three sisters—Eleanor, Elizabeth and Genda Thomas—and three brothers—Earl, Houston and Jerry Thomas. His beautiful life will forever be cherished in the lives of his 15 Children - Daughters, Yvonne, (NY) Sharon, (MD), Doreen, (Jacobie Williams), Darnell, Juanita, Felisha, Vegina, Deanna, all of Massachusetts. Sons, Alexander III, (Margaret Credle-Thomas), David, (Michelle), Anthony, Jeremy, Andrew, Jamar, and Donte, all of Massachusetts. 17 grandchildren, two brothers—John (Sylvia) Thomas (California), and James Thomas (Massachusetts); two sisters—Carol (Philip) Davis, Robin Thomas (both of Massachusetts), and one stepsister, Sandra Fay Rogers (Texas). He leaves one special and devoted aunt, Rosalee

Williams of Fairfield, Alabama, a host of nieces and nephews, cousins, friends. Special mention of the Angels waiting in Heaven for him, Nina, his baby girl, and two baby sons, Timothy and Nathaniel.



VAN CLEVE-ROCCIO, Margaret of Dorchester, formerly of New Jersey. Wife of Vincent F. Rocchio. Mother of Antonia, Giovanna, and Dominic Rocchio. Daughter of Eugene Van Cleve and the late Ann (Eltz) Van Cleve. Sister of Gene Van Cleve, Mark Van Cleve, Victoria (Van Cleve) Johnson, Matthew Van Cleve, Christine (Van Cleve) McGrath and Michael Van Cleve, all of New Jersey, and Nancy (Van Cleve) Ward of Pennsylvania, and the late Mary Van Cleve. Survived by many nieces and nephews. Margaret worked as a school nurse at the Samuel Monroe Trotter school of the Boston Public School system before becoming Senior Director of Health Services. Prior to that, she worked as a Visiting Nurse for Catholic Charities of Boston, a Nurse Practitioner and Medical Site Director for the Greater Lawrence Family Health Center, and a Visiting Nurse for the Dominican Sisters Family Health Service in the Bronx, NY. Donations in Margaret’s memory may be made to Boston Healthcare for the Homeless at bhchp.org/make-gift or the Camp Tevya Scholarship Fund at camptevyva.org/margaret



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COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE & FAMILY COURT SUFFOLK PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
24 NEW CHARDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304
Docket No. SU20P1603GD
IN THE MATTER OF:
LUCIE CHARLES of DORCHESTER, MA RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated Person

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Boston M Center of Boston, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Lucie Charles is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Marie A. Timothee of Malden, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond.

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

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 10/15/2020. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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

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

Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate
Date: September 03, 2020
Published: October 15, 2020

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE & FAMILY COURT SUFFOLK PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
24 NEW CHARDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304
Docket No. SU20P1750GD
IN THE MATTER OF:
CHAU K. NGUYEN of DORCHESTER, MA RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated Person

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Massachusetts G Hospital of Boston, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Chau K. Nguyen is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Thien Truc K. Lam of Dorchester, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond.

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

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 11/05/2020. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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

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

Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate
Date: September 23, 2020
Published: October 15, 2020

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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. SU20P1784EA
ESTATE OF:
BEVERLY ANN ROCK
DATE OF DEATH: 04/21/2020

A petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Edward Chin Chan of Boston, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/13/2020.

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

Unsupervised Administration Under The Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code (MUPC)

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

Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.

Date: October 02, 2020
Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate
Published: October 15, 2020

ST. JUDE’S NOVENA

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

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


– K.P.C.

ST. JUDE’S NOVENA

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

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


– C.B.



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Concerned about your safety and that of your family when visting your dental office?




Dr. Mohammad Majeed and dental assistant use the HEPA/SAS System on a HSNHC Patient

Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Center's Dental Office has invested in a new mobile HEPA/SAS System. Operating through a high grade air suction, which protects patients from aerosol air droplets – this system reduces the hazards to the patient and dental team as a result of the high grade air suction mechanism.

As explained by Dr. Mohammad Majeed of HSNHC's Dental Department, "In June of 2020, we began using this new HEPA/SAS system for our surgical procedures and dental appointments to reduce the hazards of aerosol through high grade air suction. Our number one goal is to provide patients with a sense of security that makes it easier for them to return to the dentist and to know that their health is our main concern. It's very important for people to maintain their dental hygiene."


HSNHC is one of the first health centers in Boston to offer the HEPA/SAS System which will soon be required by the ADA, DPH and CDC in all dental offices. "The great aspect about this machine is that it's portable which will also allow us to provide Mobile Dental care at each our operator. We want everyone to know that we are taking every precaution to keep patients safe and we encourage our patients and others to schedule an appointment."

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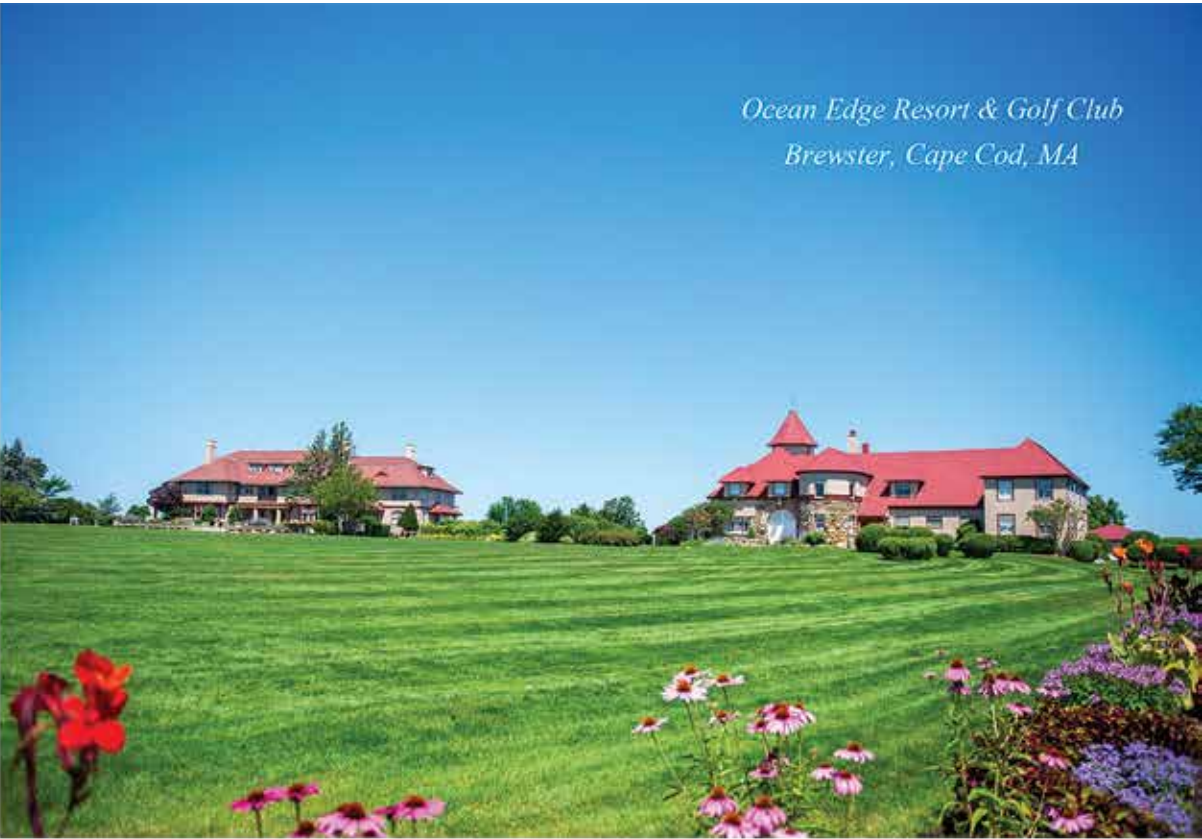
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Residences at Malden Station, Malden, MA



King's Lynne, Lynn, MA



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