

Dorchester Reporter

“The News and Values Around the Neighborhood”

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‘We must do the big and the small...’



Mayor Michelle Wu is shown being sworn into office on Tuesday by Judge Myong J. Joun, who administered the oath as Wu’s husband, Conor Pewarski, and their two sons held the Bible used for the occasion.

Mayor’s Office photo

At swearing-in, Wu says ‘our charge is to see every person and listen’ to them

By GINTAUTAS DUMCIUS
MANAGING EDITOR

Michelle Wu took the mayoral oath of office on Tuesday, becoming the first woman and person of color elected to steer the city of Boston as its chief executive and the municipality’s third chief executive this year.

The oath came after Wu, a 36-year-old Roslindale resident, tendered her resignation from the City Council, where she had served for eight years, winning reelection four times and topping the ticket twice, before launching her mayoral run in September 2020.

Judge Myong J. Joun, an associate justice with the Boston Municipal Court, administered the oath to Wu as Acting Mayor Kim Janey, US senators Elizabeth Warren and Edward Markey, Gov. Charlie Baker and Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley looked on inside the City Council chamber. Standing next to Wu were her husband Conor Pewarski

(Continued on page 5)

Fields Corner civic group affirms support for makeover of historic Post Office site

By SETH DANIEL
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

A proposal to redevelop the Fields Corner Post Office building got a second airing at the Fields Corner Civic Association (FCCA) meeting last week, with continuing support from the group as developer Travis Lee approaches a make-or-break closing date on the property in the second week of December.

Lee and his company, TLee Development, appeared at a September meeting of the group to present preliminary plans for the redevelopment of the existing building and construction of a new building at the rear of the site. The plan would accommodate all



A rendering of the new building from Leonard Street with an entrance and landscaped courtyard facing the street.

Davis Square Architects image

the existing businesses at ground level and would feature 45 units of all-affordable housing. A sticking point that still hasn’t been resolved is what to do with the former Fields House – the namesake of Fields Corner – and how they will be able to move it for the redevelopment and also somehow preserve it. It is one of the oldest remaining homes in Boston, though there is very little of the original home left.

Said Lee: “We have engaged with [the preservation folks] seriously and they have been very thoughtful and gracious with their time to help us think about how to accomplish many of our goals.

(Continued on page 15)



Last rites ahead for St. Brendan’s?

St. Brendan’s church on Gallivan Blvd. would close – and the grammar school would remain open – under a proposal outlined by the pastor of St. Martin de Porres parish, which also includes St. Ann church in Neponset. Editorial, Page 10

Parents alarmed over Covid outbreaks in city schools

By GABRIELLE EMANUEL
WBUR REPORTER

Shortly before Halloween, Kate Mitchell got an email from her children’s school, Manning Elementary in Jamaica Plain, letting her know that someone had “recently accessed the building and has

tested positive for Covid-19 ... it does not appear that anyone will need to quarantine.”

Mitchell, who has a third grader and a first grader at the school, said shortly after that initial vague but official communication parents started sending each other a flurry

of WhatsApp messages.

“The message that really stuck with me was from one parent who said that a fourth-grade parent had told her of six cases in the fourth-grade classroom,” Mitchell said. “And that parent wanted more people to know about it.”

As the next several days unfolded, Mitchell tried to piece together what was happening, and what the Boston Public Schools (BPS) system was doing to address the situation. She’s one of many parents who expressed alarm about what

(Continued on page 11)



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Police, Courts & Fire

Sax thief sought by MBTA police

The Transit Police Department is seeking the public's help in finding a man who stole a high school student's \$3,000 saxophone as she waited for an outbound Red Line train at Fields Corner last month.

Police say the 16-year-old BPS student was at the Fields Corner Red Line station with her BPS-issued saxophone around 12:45 p.m. on Oct. 29, when she turned away briefly:



"At that time an unknown adult male absconded with the saxophone exiting the station." If you recognize the person or if anybody's offered to sell you a saxophone



of unknown provenance, please contact detectives at 617-222-1050 or send an anonymous tip to 873873.

Woman shot to death on Deering Road

A 48-year-old woman from Allston was shot to death and an adult male was wounded last Tuesday night (Nov. 9) on Deering Road in Mattapan. The shooting was reported to Boston Police around 11 p.m. The victim has since been named as Rosa Hicks. There have been no reports of arrests Police have asked anyone with information to assist in the investigation by calling detectives at 617-343-4470.

...

There have been 37 homicides in the city of

Boston so far in 2021, according to statistics released by the Boston Police on Monday. That is down from 52 recorded during the same time span— through Nov. 14— in 2020. Overall crime across the city is down by 15 percent year to year, with even steeper drops reported in three police districts that include Dorchester and Mattapan: C-11 (-25 percent); B-3 (- 28 percent); and B-2 (- 20 percent).

...

Boston Police arrested a 36-year-old Roxbury

man on gun charges on Sunday afternoon on Edson Street, where, police say, they were called to respond to a report of "a person with a gun." According to a BPD account, officers found the suspect— Ronnie Powell— sitting behind the wheel of a vehicle that was blocking a driveway. Powell was taken into custody "without incident," but police say they found a loaded 9mm handgun in the car, which he was operating without a valid license, according to the report.

UPCOMING CIVIC MEETINGS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Greater Ashmont Main Streets plans Holiday Pop-Up Market on Sat., Nov. 27 from 3-7:30 p.m. to coincide with the Peabody Sq. Tree Lighting at 7 p.m. Food trucks, local artisans, live music, gift shopping.

A proposal by VietAid to build a 36-unit, four-story building for senior housing at 25-33 Hamilton St. in Dorchester will be the subject of a virtual public meeting on Monday, Nov. 22 at 6 p.m. See page 15 for more details on how to join the meeting.

The BPDA will host a virtual public meeting on Thurs., Dec. 2 at 6 p.m. to discuss a proposal to build a 45-unit residential building at 9-19 Vaughan Ave. in Dorchester. For more info, contact Ebony DaRosa at 617-918-4419 or ebony.darosa@boston.gov.

The Ward 15 Democratic committee will host its monthly meeting via Zoom on Sat., Nov. 20 at 10 a.m. See page 5 for

details on how to participate.

The Dorchester Historical Society will host a virtual program on Dorchester authors, past and present, on Sun., Nov. 21 at 2 p.m. via Zoom. Go to dorchesterhistoricalsociety.org for more info.

The Martin Richard Foundation, in partnership with the Boston Bruins Foundation, New Balance and DMSE Sports will host the fourth annual MR8K at Boston Landing on Sat., Dec. 4. Registration is now open at mr8k.org. The Martin Richard Foundation established the MR8K in 2019 as its signature annual fundraising event, giving more people an opportunity to run for Team MR8. Registration is \$45. The event is open to runners, walkers and para-athletes of all abilities, as well as families with small children.

Franklin Park Turkey Trot will be held Thurs., Nov. 25 Thanksgiving morning at

9 a.m. We're back running (or walking) in person with safety measures in place to protect your health. Participate in this timed 5k and support programs in Franklin Park. All ages, strollers, and race-friendly dogs on leash are welcome. Prizes for best costumes and by age-group. Sign up your running group, a family team, or just yourself: fpc5k.com.

The City of Boston, the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, and the Friends of Copley Square welcome the holidays with the annual Copley Square Tree Lighting on Mon., Nov. 29, starting at 5 p.m. This free event will feature appearances by Santa Claus, Frosty the Snowman, and Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer along with musical performances by vocalist Ackeem Hill, the Boston Children's Chorus, the Boston Pops Esplanade Brass Ensemble, and Berklee College of Music's own Esperanza Delgado. Other 2021 holiday celebrations

hosted by the Boston Parks and Recreation Department include the lighting of the trellis at Christopher Columbus Park on the Boston Harbor waterfront Nov. 22, the lighting of the ship in Martin's Park at the Children's Wharf Harborwalk on Nov. 27, and the Boston Common Tree Lighting followed by the lighting of the trees on the Commonwealth Avenue Mall on December 2. The arrival of Boston's official 2021 Christmas tree, a 48-foot white spruce tree donated by L'Arche Cape Breton of Orangedale, Nova Scotia, will be celebrated on Boston Common at approximately 11 a.m. on Nov. 17. Visit bit.ly/LightsOnBos or call 617-635-4505 for more information.

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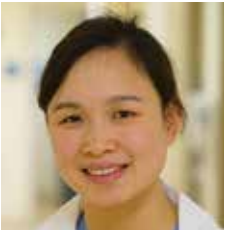
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More US support needed for Haitian migrants, says Baker

By MATT MURPHY
STATE HOUSE
NEWS SERVICE

After years of fallout from natural disasters and political unrest, an influx of Haitian migrants has been arriving in Massachusetts and they are showing up at shelters and in emergency rooms because they lack the documentation needed to qualify for state and federal benefits, Gov. Baker said in a recent letter to the Biden administration.

Baker wrote to Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra last week requesting guidance for how to “better plan for and serve these individuals and families” and ensure



People gathered for the Solidarity with Haiti demonstration on Sept. 24 at John F. Kennedy Federal Building in Downtown Boston to protest the inhumane treatment of Haitian immigrants at the Texas border. *Jesse Costa/WBUR photo*

their access to services and financial supports that they are entitled to receive.

The governor said the

state has “great compassion for those who have left Haiti,” but is bumping up against roadblocks to help them start a new life in the United States and looking to the federal government for guidance on how many people to expect and their immigration status.

“While many of the arrivals qualify for Haitian entrant status, entitling them to federal and state benefits, a significant portion either lack the documentation or possess unclear documentation, rendering them ineligible for any federal or state assistance at this time,” Baker explained.

The situation, the governor said, is not unique among states with large

Haitian populations. The federal government has released thousands of migrants seeking entry into the United States at the southern border, and many have made their way to Massachusetts, which has the third largest population of Haitians in the country, behind Florida and New York, with more than 80,000 people living mostly in and around Boston, according to the US Census Bureau.

“I do recognize that this is not an organized resettlement, but the Commonwealth currently has received little to no information from the federal government after processing these arrivals before they left the Del Rio sector in

Texas or from check-ins of arrivals at the ICE/ERO office in Burlington, Massachusetts,” Baker wrote.

He contrasted the preparation for Haitian arrivals to that of Afghan refugees for whom there has been “robust communications and federal support,” including weekly emails from the Afghan Placement and Assistance Program alerting state officials to the number of weekly arrivals that allow the state and partner resettlement agencies to prepare.

Specifically, Baker asked Becerra for updated guidance on what documentation is needed to confer Haitian entrant status and qualify a person for Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) benefits, or state administered benefits like Medicaid, food stamps (SNAP) and Transitional Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

He wrote a separate letter to the state’s congressional delegation requesting their assistance in obtaining the necessary guidance from the Biden administration to serve the refugees.

Baker said many arrivals have said their passports were confiscated at

the border, and the state is also seeing a number of mixed-status families who left Haiti after the 2010 earthquake but are only just arriving in the United States after stays in South American countries.

The governor sought clarification on the status of those families, and also urged the Biden administration to consider the children of Haitian nationals born outside of Haiti, but also not in the United States, to have the same status as their parents, qualifying them for federal resettlement benefits, as well as TANF and SNAP.

Lastly, Baker asked that Haitian arrivals who do not qualify for Office of Refugee Resettlement benefits to be extended humanitarian parole, thereby qualifying them as ORR-eligible Haitian entrants.

“Massachusetts is proud to welcome individuals and families seeking asylum and refuge and is dedicated to helping these families live with dignity, but without the federal government’s significantly improving the process outlined above, these families will not be able to access the necessary resources,” Baker said.

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Quadricentennial of Dot 3,433

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Wu names those who will support her at City Hall

By GINTAUTAS DUMCIUS
MANAGING EDITOR

Mary Lou Akai-Ferguson, who served as Michelle Wu’s mayoral campaign manager, has signed on as interim chief of staff for the nascent administration.

The announcement of Ferguson’s new role, and the names of others who will be joining Team Wu inside City Hall, came hours before Wu took the oath of office on Tuesday. Attorney General Maura Healey’s former chief of staff is also entering City Hall as chief of policy and strategic planning.

“Each brings a wealth of knowledge, experience, and passion for service to City Hall, and they will be instrumental in helping our administration hit the ground running, continue to build and listen to community, and deliver for the people of Boston,” Wu said in a statement.

Akai-Ferguson, who was born in Japan, raised in Atlanta, and graduated from Wellesley College, previously worked on US Sen. Elizabeth Warren’s 2020 presidential campaign. The daughter of parents who were involved in a school for English language learners and immigrant students in East Atlanta, Akai-Ferguson first went into education, working for two years as a math teacher in Louisiana.

“It’s not about these big lofty ideas,” she told the Wellesley College student newspaper in 2019, a few weeks after she was hired by the Warren 2020 campaign. “It’s really about the people that it’s going to affect — it’s about the



Mike Firestone
Policy and Strategic Planning

voters, just like it was about the students.”

Mike Firestone, a former top aide to Attorney General Healey and US Sen. Elizabeth Warren during her presidential campaign, will serve as Wu’s chief of policy and strategic planning.

Before taking the chief of staff job under Healey, Firestone worked as an assistant attorney general and director of strategic initiatives for her. He also managed her 2014 campaign for attorney general.

Before he was spotted inside City Hall as a member of Wu’s transition team, Firestone was working as director of the Coalition to Protect Workers’ Rights, opposing a proposed ballot question on the status and benefits of drivers for app-based transportation



Mary Lou Akai-Ferguson
Interim Chief of Staff

companies like Uber and Lyft.

Like Wu, Firestone graduated from Harvard University with a degree in history before attending its law school. He was a field director for Warren’s 2012 Senate campaign, which Wu also worked on before turning to her at-large council run in 2013.

He is the son of Karen Firestone, the CEO of Aureus Asset Management who often appears on CNBC. His father David is the president of Firestone & Parson, a jewelry and antiques company in Back Bay, according to the *New York Times*.

His start in politics came courtesy of his grandmother, who was a housing rights activist in Allston-Brighton, he told Commonwealth magazine in 2014, after running



Brianna Millor
Senior Adviser

Healey’s winning campaign. “She would go door to door and she would take me along,” he said. “I remember leaf-letting apartment buildings all around Commonwealth Avenue and Cleveland Circle, even when I was little. That’s really where I got my start.”

The post of chief of policy and planning has been previously held by Michael Kineavy under the late mayor Thomas Menino and Joyce Linehan under former mayor Marty Walsh, who now serves as President Biden’s labor secretary.

Other newly named Team Wu members:

- Brianna Millor, civic engagement director in Wu’s City Council office, to serve as senior adviser;
- Tali Robbins, policy direc-

tor in Wu’s City Council office, to serve as senior adviser.

- Mariangely Solis Cervera, constituency director on Wu campaign, to serve as senior adviser.
- Dave Vittorini, chief of staff in Wu’s City Council office, to serve as senior adviser
- Dr. Mariel Novas, Mayor-elect Wu’s transition director, “will continue to lead efforts related to the transition through the early days of the administration”

Separately, Wu announced her first cabinet picks last week: Dr. Monica Bharel, who served as the state’s public health commissioner before stepping down in June, is to become a “senior adviser” to Wu, focused on the substance use disorder and homelessness crisis at Massachusetts Avenue and Melnea Cass Boulevard.

Wu also said she is reappointing Sheila Dillon, the housing chief who has previously worked for the Walsh and Menino administrations. Dillon, who also lists director of development for the Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation on her resume, will work closely with Bharel on the issues at “Mass. and Cass,” as the area is known.

Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, executive director of the city’s Public Health Commission, will be elevated to Wu’s cabinet, and Marty Martinez, health and human services chief under Walsh, is staying on to support the transition as a “senior adviser.”

State House News Service reports were used in this story.



Better

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Project

Making transit better together

<h3>MBTA Bus Electrification and Arborway Facility Public Meeting</h3>	<h3>Reunión pública sobre la electrificación de los autobuses de la MBTA y las instalaciones de Arborway</h3>	<h3>Reyinyon Piblik nan Etablisman Arborway + Elektrifikasyon Otobis</h3>
Virtual Zoom Meeting Thursday, December 9 6:00 -7:30 PM	Reunión virtual por ZOOM Jueves 9 de diciembre, de 6:00 a 7:30 PM	Reyinyon vityèl atravè Zoom Jedi 9 Desanm apati 6:00 - 7:30 PM
The MBTA will host a virtual meeting via Zoom Thursday, December 9th 6:00 -7:30 p.m. to kick-off its plans to replace the Arborway Bus Maintenance Facility located at 3600 Washington Street in Boston with a new, modern facility to accommodate a 100% battery electric bus (BEB) fleet and reduce emissions. At this meeting, staff will provide an introductory overview of the project and facilitate a Q&A period to gain feedback and address community concerns. Register for the meeting at MBTA.com/ArborwayBus . The meeting will be recorded and posted online for those who cannot attend.	La MBTA convocará una reunión virtual por ZOOM el jueves 9 de diciembre, de 6:00 a 7:30 p.m., para dar inicio a sus planes de reemplazar las instalaciones de mantenimiento de autobuses de Arborway, ubicadas en el número 3600 de la calle Washington, en Boston, por unas nuevas y modernas instalaciones que albergarán una flota de autobuses 100% eléctricos a batería (BEB) y reducirán las emisiones. En esta reunión, el personal proporcionará una visión general del proyecto y facilitará un período de preguntas y respuestas para obtener comentarios y abordar las preocupaciones de la comunidad. Inscribirse para la reunión en MBTA.com/ArborwayBus . La reunión se registrará y se publicará en línea para aquellos que no puedan asistir.	MBTA a pral òganize yon reyinyon vityèl atravè Zoom Jedi, 9 Desanm apati 6:00 -7:30 p.m. pou demare plan li pou ranplase Etablisman Antretyen Otobis Arborway ki lokalize nan 3600 Washington Street nan Boston avèk yon nouvo etablisman modèn pou akomode yon flòt otobis 100% elektrik batri (BEB) epi redwi emisyon. Nan reyinyon sa a, anplwaye yo pral bay yon apèsi entwodiksyon sou pwojè a ak fasilite yon peryòd K&R pou jwenn kòmantè epi adrese enkyetid kominote a. Enskri pou reyinyon an nan MBTA.com/ArborwayBus . Reyinyon an pral anrejistre epi afiche anliy pou moun ki pa ka patisipe yo.
Accommodations This meeting is accessible to people with disabilities. The MBTA provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request, including but not limited to interpreters in American Sign Language (ASL) and languages other than English, open or closed captioning for videos, assistive listening devices, and alternate material formats, such as audio tapes, braille, and large print, as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact Lydia Rivera at 617-851-1095, or email ArborwayBus@mbta.com . Requests should be made as early as possible prior to the meeting. For more difficult-to-arrange services including ASL, captioning in real time (CART), or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least seven business days before the meeting.	Adaptaciones Esta reunión es accesible para las personas con discapacidades. La MBTA ofrece adaptaciones razonables y/o asistencia lingüística gratuita si se solicita, incluyendo, pero sin limitarse a ello, intérpretes en lenguaje de signos americano (ASL) e idiomas distintos del inglés, subtítulos abiertos o cerrados para los videos, dispositivos de asistencia auditiva y formatos de material alternativo, como cintas de audio, braille y letra grande, según esté disponible. Para solicitar adaptaciones o asistencia lingüística, póngase en contacto con Lydia Rivera en el 617-851-1095, o envíe un correo electrónico a ArborwayBus@mbta.com . Las solicitudes deben hacerse lo antes posible previo a la reunión. Para servicios más difíciles de organizar, como ASL, subtitulado en tiempo real (CART) o traducción o interpretación de idiomas, las solicitudes deben hacerse al menos siete días hábiles antes de la reunión.	Akomodasyon yo Reyinyon sa a aksesib pou moun ki gen andikap. MBTA bay akomodasyon rezonab ak/oswa asistans lang gratis sou demann, enkli men li pa limite pou entèprèt nan Langaj Siy Ameriken (ASL) ak lang ki pa Angle, ouvé oswa sou-tit ouvé oswa fèmen pou videyo, aparèy pou ede tande, ak lòt fòm materyèl, tankou kasèt odyo, bray, ak gwo enpresyon, jan sa disponib. Pou w jwenn asistans lang oswa akomodasyon, tanpri kontakte Lydia Rivera nan 617-851-1095, oswa imèl ArborwayBus@mbta.com . Demann yo ta dwe fèt pi bone ke posib anvan reyinyon an. Pou sèvis ki pi difisil pou fè aranjan enkli ASL, sou tit nan tan reyèl (CART), oswa tradiksyon lang oswa entèpretasyon, yo ta dwe fè demann yo nan omwen sèt jou ouvran anvan reyinyon an.

Wu says ‘our charge is to see every person and listen’ to them

(Continued from page 1) and their sons, Blaise and Cass.

“Not only is it possible for Boston to deliver basic city services and generational change, it is absolutely necessary in this moment,” Wu said in her speech, before a nod to the late mayor Thomas Menino, with whom she worked 10 years ago. “We’ll tackle our biggest challenges by getting the small things right, by getting city hall out of City Hall, into our neighborhoods, block by block, street by street.”

Her elected predecessor, US Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh, was unable to attend but sent Wu a text message Tuesday morning. Walsh, a Dorchester resident, was spotted on the White House lawn on Monday behind President Biden as he signed a federal infrastructure bill.

After the inaugural ceremonies, Wu headed across the fifth floor to the mayor’s office. “We still have much to do in terms of continuing to build out the team in City Hall,” she said. “Every single briefing I’ve had with departments, there are many, many roles that need to be filled quickly. We are approaching the winter, and that means being prepared for the weather, continuing to move quickly with the crises at the intersection of Mass Avenue and Cass Boulevard, and really supporting our school system.”

Expectations are already high for the new mayor, who on the campaign trail pushed for a municipal-level “Green New Deal” to stem the effects of climate change. The plan includes a “climate corps” that would focus on the installation of green infrastructure, and the expansion of cooperative housing and community land trusts.

“She is going to be a historic mayor because this is going to be the Green New Deal city for the United States and the whole world. It’s going to be the model,” Markey told reporters after Wu’s swearing-in ceremony. “And she is going to be the leader who shows you can have enormous economic prosperity and economic justice at the same time.”

Markey said the federal infrastructure bill has money for ideas Wu supports such as electric buses and protecting coastlines against climate change.

“We’re going to help her to get her share, more than her fair share of the funding,” he said as he stood with Warren and Pressley, who pointed to Wu having a “decisive mandate from the



Mayor Michelle Wu’s son Blaise, left, helped his mom settle into her new fifth floor office in Boston City Hall on Tuesday as the newly-sworn-in mayor joined Council President Kim Janey, right, in a tour. *Isabel Leon/Mayor’s Office photo*

people,” referring to her 28-point margin of victory over City Councillor Annissa Essaibi George. “I have great confidence in Michelle’s vision and also her resolve.”

Other issues that Wu pushed for on the trail include a fare-free MBTA and a return to rent stabilization, or rent control. Those would require sign-off or buy-in from lawmakers on Beacon Hill. Mike Moran, a Brighton state representative who serves as assistant majority leader in the House and supported Wu’s campaign, was as positive as Pressley about what the next four years hold for Wu’s mayoralty.

“One of the reasons I really appreciate her is that she doesn’t talk

at you,” he said. “She develops ideas and plans with you.” He added: “I think that’s going to be probably the biggest difference in her mayoral ship from the last four mayors preceding her. She’s a person who likes to collaborate, she likes to talk. I really believe it’s going to be a discussion, not her telling us everything she wants.”

Before the ceremony, as Wu walked down the hall to the City Council chamber with family and aides in tow, state Rep. Russell Holmes, a Mattapan lawmaker who didn’t endorse in the mayor’s race, stood off to the side and noted that Wu is the third mayor of Boston in one year, with Janey as acting mayor for eight months, replacing Walsh, who

left for the Biden administration in March.

“I think it’s best that

we finally have an answer and we’re all moving on,” he said. “I think

that’s good for the whole city.”

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November 20, 2021
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Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88402343341>

‘Things don’t have to be as they always have been’

Following are the remarks Mayor Michelle Wu prepared for delivery after her swearing-in on Tuesday at Boston City Hall.

Good afternoon Wu Train family, we’re back together so soon! I’ve missed you over the last two weeks. Thank you Mayor Janey for your beautiful remarks and your trailblazing leadership, and thank you Senator Warren, Senator Markey, Congresswoman Pressley, Governor Baker, and all our colleagues in state, county, and local government for sharing this moment.

Thank you especially to the Boston City Council for hosting us here. President Pro Temp O’Malley, sitting members, and incoming new Councilors-elect: Ruthzee Louijeune, Erin Murphy, Brian Worrell, Kendra Hicks, and Tania Fernandes Anderson — Congratulations, and I can’t wait to celebrate your Inauguration in January!

Thank you, Boston. I am honored to stand here, in this chamber that has meant so much to me, as your next Mayor.

The first time I set foot in Boston City Hall, I felt invisible— swallowed up by the maze of echoing concrete hallways, intimidated by the checkpoints and looming counters, reminded that my immigrant family tried to stay away from spaces like these.

But our family’s struggles brought me to an internship with Mayor Menino and his chief of staff, Mitch Weiss, and an unexpected full-circle journey over the last decade.

Today, I know City Hall’s passageways and stairwells like my own home. And this space is most special. I learned the ropes of city government and politics on this floor, held the gavel on this floor, nursed babies on this floor, delivered paid parental leave on this floor, language access, food justice, housing protections, climate progress, and I have reveled in the growing representation and power of our communities that our Boston City Council continues to embody.

But since we’re here today, I must share that the Council floor wasn’t always this way. When I joined the Council, this space wasn’t fully accessible to everyone. The floor that some are sitting on right now was much lower, designed as a pit three steps down — a striking feature part of what many of I



Mayor Michelle Wu was sworn in as the Mayor of Boston during a ceremony in the City Council Chambers at Boston City Hall on Tuesday, Nov. 16.
Mayor’s Office Photo by Jeremiah Robinson

would call the beautiful architecture of City Hall.

Three steps prevented Bostonians in wheelchairs and with mobility challenges from coming down directly to testify on this floor and advocate for change. Those three steps were a barrier between our government and the people we are here to serve.

So we changed what this space could be, reshaped it to be accessible for everyone, and brought the floor level up three steps. When we make City Hall more accessible, we are all raised up. When we communicate in many languages, we all understand more.

Most of all, when we connect the power of city government to the force of our neighborhoods and communities, we see how much is possible for our city.

City government is special. We are the level closest to the people, so we must do the big and the small. Every streetlight, every pothole, every park and classroom, lays the foundation for greater change. Not only is it possible for Boston to deliver basic city services and generational change — it is absolutely necessary in this moment.

We’ll tackle our biggest challenges by getting the

small things right, and by getting City Hall out of City Hall and into our neighborhoods, block by block, street by street.

After all, Boston was founded on a revolutionary promise: that things don’t have to be as they always have been. That we can chart a new path for families now, and for generations to come, grounded in justice and opportunity.

And we can take steps to raise us all up to that promise, together.

Several weeks ago, at Roxbury Community College, I met a young leader and student in our community. Brandon lives in Mattapan and takes the 28 Bus to class. He found out one day from a local business on Blue Hill Ave that the mayor of Boston had worked to make the 28 Bus free, and it changed his life. What used to be a frequent headache of asking mom for \$2 to get to class, opened up into justice and opportunity.

For Brandon and for our communities:

Our charge is to see every person and listen. To meet people where they are. To give hope. And to deliver on it. To find joy, in the words of the amazing Kim Janey, and spread it. Let history note not just who she was in this office, but all she got done, and all she will continue to do for our city.

Our charge is to fight urgently for our future, for the young people at the Burke High School who are here with us today, for Blaise, Cass, Ellie, and Addie, for all our kids, and their kids to come.

The first time I set foot in Boston City Hall, I felt invisible. Today I see what’s possible in this building, and I see all the public servants raising us up — frontline workers, first responders, teachers and bus drivers, building inspectors, city workers. I am deeply honored to work alongside you and I ask everyone to join me in expressing our gratitude for your service. And I ask everyone to join us in service of our communities.

Boston, our charge is clear. We need everyone to join us in the work of doing the big and the small, getting City Hall out of City Hall, and embracing the possibility of our city.

The reason to make a Boston for everyone is because we need everyone for Boston, right now. We have so much work to do, and it will take all of us to get it done. So let’s get to work.

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

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Super PAC spending stacked up during mayoral race

By GINTAUTAS DUMCIUS
MANAGING EDITOR

With the tallying of votes complete, an accounting of super PAC spending is in order. The outside groups, also known as super political action committees (PACs), raised \$5.6 million, almost \$2 million more than the \$3.8 million spent in the 2013 race, the last open contest for mayor. In 2013, much of the super PAC spending came from unions looking to support Marty Walsh, then a Dorchester state representative and labor leader, in his successful quest

for the mayor's chair. But union support was split among the 2021 candidates, and one of the biggest spenders was Jim Davis, the New Balance chairman and a top Republican donor. A back-of-the-envelope tally indicates Davis, who dumped \$600,000 over two days into the contest between City Councillors Michelle Wu and Annissa Essaibi George, spent roughly \$12 per vote. Essaibi George, who was supported by the Davis-backed super PAC "Real Progress Boston," received 50,879 votes to Wu's 91,239, a winning

margin of 28 percent for the winner. "Real Progress Boston," and the similarly named "Bostonians for Real Progress," also received funding from police and firefighter unions as they took to TV and radio in an effort to support Essaibi George and knock down Wu. Essaibi George had asked her super PACs to stay out, a request they ignored along with Wu's ask that they stay positive. Under campaign finance rules, super PACs are not allowed to coordinate with candidates. Wu had super PACs of her own — mostly funded

through environmental advocacy groups and attorneys. They stayed positive throughout the campaign, and together, they spent \$1.9 million in their efforts to bolster her candidacy. One super PAC, "Boston Turnout Project," was run by Jason Burrell, who, like Wu, is a former aide to US Sen. Elizabeth Warren. The group focused on TV ads and digital advertising. The other super PAC, the Environmental League of Massachusetts Action Fund, took in money from the Environmental League and the League of Conservation

Voters, as well as the Green Advocacy Project, a Palo Alto-based outfit with veterans of Bernie Sanders's 2016 run for president on its board. That group focused on turning out environmentally minded voters who showed up for the 2020 Democratic Senate primary between incumbent Ed Markey, who supported a package of environment-friendly proposals called the "Green New Deal," and then-US Rep. Joe Kennedy III. The super PAC promoted Wu on social networking apps like Snapchat, along with mailers, according to Casey Bowers, the outside group's treasurer. In a wrap-up summary of its efforts provided to the Reporter, the super PAC said it was "informed by the strategic landscape facing the candidates; available public polling; and the overarching goal of elevating and highlighting the importance of climate and environmental policy." The group sought to "consolidate liberal and progressive support" behind Wu's candidacy. The super PAC also focused on engaging Hispanic voters. "Noting that public polling showed Hispanic voters remained split between



(Acting Mayor) Kim Janey and Michelle Wu during the preliminary election, ads were translated into Spanish and targeting was segmented to ensure native Spanish-speakers would receive Spanish-language ads, improving our ability to break through and engage these voters," the summary said. Their mailers went out to 15,000 households in three waves during the preliminary election, and helped turn out their "universe" of voters. In the general election, the super PAC spent \$75,000 and focused on digital ads. Their summary says 90,000 Boston voters were reached.

Essaibi George thanks supporters, and adds, 'I promise I am not done'

As she winds down her time on the City Council, Annissa Essaibi George took to Facebook and email last Friday to thank supporters of her mayoral campaign. "We all worked so hard in this race, and while I do wish the outcome was different, I will support Mayor Michelle Wu in her efforts to lead this City," she wrote. "We have work left to do—no doubt—it will take all of us to move this City forward." Wu was sworn in as may-

or on Tuesday inside the City Council chamber. Referring to her Nov. 2 concession speech, Essaibi George said her supporters can still "paint the city pink" through "acts of kindness, shopping local, and supporting each other." She added: "Boston needs me and you to stay engaged—whether that be in your community or in City government." A city councillor at-large since 2015 and a Dorchester native, Essaibi George said she

was grateful for the calls, texts and flowers. "I love you for all of it ... getting back into the swing of life has been difficult with a series of starts and stops." She said she plans to be back "out and about" in the city's neighborhoods. "No beach for me! I've dried my tears (a healthy dose), spent time with the kids (football, homework, laundry) and took some time to sleep (I was tired!)," she wrote. Both she and Wu gave up their 1 at-large seats

to run for mayor this year. Essaibi George wrote that she plans to "wrap up" her work on the City Council and celebrate her birthday, asking supporters to mark their calendars for Dec. 11, with a toy and coat drive planned at the Polish Club. "After all that, we'll see what comes next. I promise I am not done, and when I'm ready for what is next, I will tell you first," she wrote. — GINTAUTAS DUMCIUS



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Reporter's

People

News about people
in and around our Neighborhoods

Black lawmakers want portrait of Bunte added to State House

First Black woman
elected to Legislature

By COLIN A. YOUNG
STATE HOUSE
NEWS SERVICE

Doris Bunte was the first to do a lot of things, like being a Black woman elected to the Massachusetts Legislature. Though she died earlier this year, a group of Black women who said they follow in her footsteps as reps want for Bunte to claim another first — being the first Black woman to have an official portrait hung in the Massachusetts State House.

Reps. Liz Miranda, Brandy Fluker Oakley, and Nika Elugardo made the case last week for H 3204, a resolution that calls for a commemorative memorial portrait of former Rep. Bunte

to be created and hung in the State House in a location determined in conjunction with the Black and Latino Legislative Caucus.

Rep. Chynah Tyler, an early bill co-sponsor who was not present for the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight hearing last Wednesday, told the News Service that she is “absolutely supportive” of having a pioneer like Bunte prominently represented at the State House.

“We are the only four Black women serving in the Massachusetts House of Representatives, standing on the shoulders of giants who came before us. We are



Doris Bunte

also only four women out of the 14 total Black and Latinx women who have ever served in this body since 1630,” Miranda said of herself, Elugardo, Tyler, and Fluker Oakley. She added, “There are currently no portraits of Black women or men in the entire State House” though a portrait of former Gov. Deval Patrick, the state’s first Black governor, was

unveiled in 2015 and hangs in the lobby of the governor’s suite.

Bunte, who died in February at the age of 87, would be a fitting first, the representatives said. She was the first Black woman elected as a state representative in Massachusetts, serving as a member of the House representing Roxbury from 1973 until 1985. Bunte left the House to take the job of executive director of the Boston Housing Authority, the first Black woman and the first BHA tenant to lead that agency.

“Her representation and leadership were so important and have sculpted how our institutions operate today. Rep. Bunte was also a founding member of both the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus and the Massachusetts Caucus

of Women Legislators. She was also the first woman to chair a legislative committee,” Fluker Oakley said. “These accomplishments deserve recognition, not only to honor Rep. Bunte but also to inspire each of us to continue working towards her vision of an equitable future.”

Miranda said that Bunte was “essential in getting funding for Roxbury Community College and persuading her colleagues to create a majority Black state Senate seat and district” during her time in the Legislature. When she led the BHA in the 1980s, Miranda said, Bunte “championed efforts to integrate and desegregate Boston Public Housing, laying the groundwork for a stronger, better and more equal BHA.”

The Joint Committee

on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight is accepting written testimony on the Bunte portrait bill and others that had a hearing last Wednesday until this Friday (Nov. 19). At least one member of the committee said she would like to see the Bunte bill move soon thereafter.

“I want to encourage you and my fellow committee members to report 3204 out favorably and to do it, potentially, before the end of the year so that we could get our ducks in a row and get that bill to the floor before Black History Month, which is in February,” Rep. Michelle Ciccolo (D-Lexington) said. “I think it would be incredible if we actually look toward that strategy to have the Doris Bunte bill move forward.”



Soneka Anderson



Anthony Pires

Two from Dot star
in “Passing Strange”

Soneka Anderson and Anthony Pires, both Dorchester residents, will perform in an upcoming production of “Passing Strange,” the Tony and Drama Desk Award-winning musical by Stew and collaborator Heidi Rodewald.

The show from Moonbox Productions opens on Dec. 10 and runs through Jan. 1 at the Boston Center for the

Arts Roberts Theater.

“Passing Strange” is described as “a toe-tapping, gut-wrenching, whirlwind theatrical pilgrimage through sex, politics, love, and loss.” Tickets are available at <https://bit.ly/PStrangeTkt> or by calling 617-933-8600. Pay-What-You-Can tickets are available two hours prior to showtime at the box office.



Mel King, seated, was the man of honor in Boston’s South End on Saturday, Nov. 13 as a new city square was named in his honor. The intersection of Columbus Avenue and Yarmouth Street is now named “Mel King Square.” Above, former Boston Mayor Raymond L. Flynn, right, greets King as acting Mayor of Boston Kim Janey looks on, center.
Photo by John Wilcox/Mayor’s Office

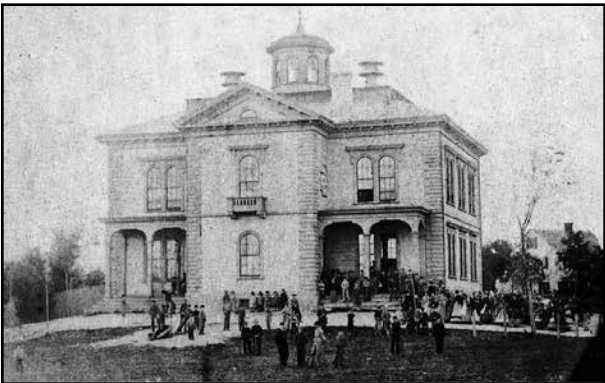
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DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Christopher Gibson School

The Gibson Schoolhouse on School Street was named in honor of Christopher Gibson, an early donor to the schools of Dorchester. When he died in 1674, Gibson left the sum of 104 pounds to the town of Dorchester for the benefit of the schools. The money was invested in land and, by 1895, had grown to a value of \$14,000. The Gibson School Fund is administered by the City of Boston.

The school building in the illustration was



built in 1857, a portion of the expense being met by generous gifts from the Hon. Edmund P. Tileston and Roswell Gleason. The upper

image shows the front of the building, while the lower image, from about 1910, shows the back side. The Oliver Wendell Holmes School



had been built in 1905, nearly obscuring three sides of the former Gibson School building.

According to William Dana Orcutt, in 1881

the name Gibson School was moved to what later became the Atherton Building on Columbia Street (now Road). Later the name was moved

to another building on Ronald Street (formerly Avenue).

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

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

Boston Nature Center breaks ground on its new solar array



Officials from the Boston Nature Center and Mass Audubon pitch in at groundbreaking for a new solar array at the Mattapan sanctuary on the grounds of the former Boston State Hospital.

Photo courtesy BNC

By KATIE PEDERSEN
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Work is underway on a new solar array at Mattapan's Boston Nature Center (BNC). The environmental organization Mass Audubon earlier this month broke ground on the array, which, once operational, will produce all the energy required annually by the George Robert White Conservation Center and neighboring preschool buildings.

The array represents a major step forward for the organization's commitment to carbon neutrality by 2022. The groundbreaking took place on Nov. 5 at the Center, a sanctuary on the grounds of the former Boston State Hospital.

Installed by ReVision Energy, the array will include the rooftop panels on the Conservation Center, Boston's first "green" municipal building, and ground-mounted solar panels nearby. In all, Mass Audubon estimates that the solar panels will produce enough electricity to eliminate the equivalent of carbon dioxide emission from 102,678 pounds of coal burned annually.

In addition to the solar array, the BNC plans to convert the three brick cottages that house its preschool and educational programs from natural gas to electrical heating systems.

The impetus for the solar array came at "a pivotal time," according to Julie Brandlen, Mass Audubon director for the Boston region. "If we got that close [to carbon neutrality with the George Robert White building], we wanted to make sure we were redoing all of the buildings," she said. "We were making sure that we had enough solar capacity, combined with the photovoltaics we already had on the campus, to produce all the energy that we consume in a year."

Much of the funding for the \$600,000 project came from the city's

George Robert White Fund and the Tern Foundation's TernSOLAR challenge grant program, with private donors supplying the rest. "We feel like the city, the state, and Mass Audubon are well-aligned in this, and we're ready to help in any way that we can," Brandlen said.

The Rev. Mariama White-Hammond, the city's energy and environment chief, attended the groundbreaking ceremony to promote Boston's energy regulations for new build-

ings. Bethany Card, the state's undersecretary of environmental affairs, also attended to talk about the state's goals of slashing carbon emissions by half by 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality by 2050.

"Having both the city and the state perspective at the groundbreaking was important to us, and we look forward to working on both the city and the state level to advance this as much as we can," Brandlen said.

Mass Audubon's agenda includes fostering climate resiliency, increas-

ing access to nature in under-resourced communities, and mobilizing to address climate change.

In addition to its camp programs and "Pathways to Nature" preschool, the Nature Center offers community-scale events such as "Rockin' with Raptors." The Center also has longstanding partnerships with several Boston public schools, offering nature-based programming at the Young Achievers Science and Mathematics Pilot School in Mattapan among others. Additionally, it opens up the BNC for private weddings, showers, repasts, and retreats.

For each of these initiatives, cost and access are taken into account, according to Brandlen.

"We see Mass Audubon's Boston Nature Center as a community nature center," Brandlen said. "We love to provide an array of public programs so that folks who want to engage with nature can do so right in Mattapan. Part of our intentionality about location is so that neighbors can see that there is nature all around us. We don't have to go to the Grand Canyon. It's right here."

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Pastor: St. Brendan Church should close

Under a proposal outlined by the pastor of St. Martin de Porres parish, which also includes St. Ann’s in Neponset, St. Brendan’s church on Gallivan Blvd. would be closed while the adjacent parish school would remain open. The proposal is still subject to approval from Cardinal O’Malley, but the pastor, Rev. Chris Palladino, said last weekend that the roughly \$3 million in maintenance needs at the church building has forced his hand.

“As your pastor, I am not going to kick the can down the road any longer,” he wrote in a letter published in the church bulletin last weekend. “The parish is struggling with poor attendance and mounting debt. St. Brendan church is estimated to need nearly \$3,000,000 in repairs with even more in needed upgrades.”

He added: “We must face reality that the church is beyond our ability to fix and most certainly beyond our capacity to pay for... We cannot expect our young families or prospective parishioners to worship in a church that is in such disrepair.”

If St. Brendan’s does shutter as a worship space, it will be a deep cut to hundreds, perhaps thousands of families from that section of Dorchester, for whom the parish church has long been the center of weekly, if not daily life. But it will not come as a complete surprise, either. A succession of church leaders have telegraphed the likelihood of a closure for several years now.

In 2018, parishioners met throughout the summer to probe the worsening financial straits that parish leaders warned could result in potential closings. An audit of finances and activities showed declining revenue amid a dip in Mass attendance at both churches, coupled with a heavy debt burden tied to operating and maintaining the aging buildings. The deferred maintenance trouble was particularly acute at St. Brendan’s and was unlikely to get better, since the dual parish was continuing to fall deeper into debt.

“The cash flow is impossible to meet,” wrote the two priests who were then in charge, Fr. Brian Clary and Fr. Robert Connors. “Despite being as generous as they can, those who attend can’t support all the expenses of a parish. Hard decisions are necessary.”

Losing St. Brendan would be just the latest in a cascade of closures that have battered Catholic Dorchester in the last 15 years. In 2004, the archdiocese closed St. William’s church on Dorchester Avenue (it was absorbed into a newly named parish— Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta, housed at the former St. Margaret’s church on Columbia Road) as part of a sweeping diocesan consolidation. St. Kevin’s school closed its doors in 2008 and the church of the same name that once stood next door in Uphams Corner has since been replaced by an apartment building. St. Matthew’s church on Stanton Street closed last year and the building is likely to be re-developed, possibly beginning in the new year.

And what will become of the church on Gallivan Boulevard— and how long might it take for an actual shutdown to happen? That’s not yet clear. In his communication to parishioners, Palladino said that his recommendation for the “consolidation of our worship sites” would be on the agenda of the parish council this week with more “listening sessions” likely to come after that.

“I ask for realistic dialog and not anger,” Palladino wrote, closing his letter with this appeal: “And please pray for me.”

– Bill Forry

‘The First, But Not The Last’

By Kim Janey

When I arrived at the Mayor’s Office eight months ago, I hung two prints on my wall. The first is an iconic Boston Magazine cover, with a heart-shaped collection of running shoes memorializing the strength and resilience of our city after the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing. The headline reads, “We will finish this race.”

The second depicts a silhouette of Kamala Harris, the first woman and the first person of color to be Vice President of the United States, alongside the shadow of a young Ruby Bridges, the first Black student to integrate New Orleans Public Schools just 61 years ago. Below the two iconic figures, an inscription reads: “The First But Not the Last.”

These two prints offered daily reminders of my two-part mission to provide comfort and stability for a city in crisis and to make equity the urgent work of our city government.

I took office as acting mayor during a time of uncertainty when Boston was facing serious questions about the future. A year of the global pandemic had exhausted our city’s public health infrastructure, depressed our economy, and shut down our schools. Additionally, Covid-19 had laid bare the structural inequities that have characterized the challenges facing Boston residents since long before the pandemic.

Disparities in wealth and health outcomes came to the fore, along with an urgent need to reimagine public safety in light of a national reckoning on race and policing. As a city, we encountered obstacle after obstacle, but through it all, Boston stayed strong.

Now, as I leave office, I am proud that our strength and unity in these times of great uncertainty have yielded results. Since March, we have witnessed the reopening of our city; the lowest crime levels in five years; and the return of in-person learning with the highest student attendance record. Most

significantly, we came together and equitably distributed vaccines to more than 75 percent of our total population, giving us one of the highest vaccination rates in the country among big cities.

I have loved this city my whole life. As a little girl from Roxbury cheering on the runners at Boylston Street on Marathon Monday, I could have never imagined that one day I would be crowning the champions of the 125th edition of our city’s trademark race. Boston has always been home to me - my home by birth, but also my home by choice. And nothing helps you see your city and its people for all their richness and beauty like being mayor.

To the incredible teachers, police officers, firefighters, EMS workers, frontline workers, custodial staff, and all of those providing services that keep our city running: Thank you for being the backbone of our city. I have sought to emulate your dedication and commitment to our community during my time as mayor. My staff has also worked extremely hard over the past eight months to keep Boston moving forward, demonstrating what we can do when we work together. And to the residents of the great City of Boston, thank you for supporting me and helping me lead this city - it has been my greatest honor serving as Boston’s 55th Mayor. And now, like every woman before me who has broken barriers, I am honored to pass the baton.

I congratulate Michelle Wu on becoming the first woman and person of color elected mayor of Boston. I know she will continue to lift up those who have been left out of power and work to make our city more equitable, just, and resilient. The framed words in the mayor’s office became reality. “The First, But Not The Last.”

I will always cherish the time I spent as your mayor and I encourage you to continue to find joy in every corner of this great city.

Boston, thank you.

Here are a few recommendations for your consideration, Mayor Wu

By Bill Walczak
Reporter Columnist

Following a tumultuous year during which we have had three mayors, this month has given us Mayor Michelle Wu. Riding a 28-point landslide victory, Wu, who ran on a platform of substantial change in how Boston is governed, has the support necessary to make change happen. But, as President Biden knows, that level of support doesn’t necessarily last long, so moving quickly is the new mayor’s best bet to accomplish her goals for the city.

Here are some recommendations for our new mayor to consider:

1. Take strong action to ensure that Boston can withstand climate change. We are a very small city geographically, and availability of large tracts of land that can help curtail heat domes is extremely rare. Two immediate actions can help the city deal with current and future heat domes: 1) Tell the state that it needs to both restore the 13 acres taken from Franklin Park in 1949 to build Shattuck Hospital when the hospital is demolished in 2024, and to use the Arborway Yard as the location for the human services and housing that is needed for the homeless 2) Purchase, through eminent domain if necessary, the 24 acres of forest at Crane Ledge Woods in Hyde Park. In addition, it’s time to start spending money implementing projects that will take decades to complete, such as protecting our coastline and subway lines, as one bad hurricane could cost billions of dollars to repair.
2. Make the tough decisions on how our children are educated. There is no reason why Boston can’t have an exceptional school system, except that we haven’t cared enough to build it despite spending more than \$24,000 per pupil, a number among the highest expenditures per pupil in Massachusetts. Here are a few ideas to help create that exceptional system: (a) Create seats for K-0 to help prepare children for reading at grade level, and to relieve low-income residents of day care expenses. (b) Make Madison Park Vocational Technical School a regional school with separate governance and funding sources. (c) Create early college programs at all high schools in collaboration with community colleges. (d) School buildings matter – fix them.
3. Transportation: Work with the state to re-establish Morrissey Boulevard and Storrow Drive as parkways that can be used by pedestrians and bicycle riders, as they were originally intended. Create safe bike lanes on major roads to encourage bike commuting. Work with the state to have trees planted along all state highways and parkways to curtail pollution. Rework roadways and traffic lights so that public transit is actually faster than driving your car.

4. Boston Planning and Development Agency: Although candidate Wu called for abolishing the BPDA, I do not believe it is necessary to abolish it entirely. What we need is to separate the BPDA’s planning function from its development function, and appoint leadership that will balance the desires of developers and the needs of Bostonians. A new Planning Department can take on re-zoning the city so that zoning reflects the needs of the 21st Century rather than what Boston looked like in 1965, the last time the municipality was re-zoned. A revamp would allow developers to know what is possible to develop and what will not be allowed in every part of the city.
- In our current system, most proposed projects are initially rejected, which results in projects going before the Zoning Board of Appeal, which typically grants variances that allow developments to go forward, despite being forbidden by zoning. Thoughtful re-zoning will allow the city and its neighborhoods to plan their own futures, and be thoughtful about how much infrastructure, open space, schools, and services are needed as communities develop
- Mayor Wu should place people who care about urban design rather than urban wealth in charge of planning and development. And we need to change permitting so that it includes preserving trees on private as well as public property. Current allowances are a major reason for the loss of tree canopy.
5. Take Boston out of police civil service for the purpose of hiring police officers. Currently, police are hired based on veteran status (90 percent of whom are white and 95 percent of whom are male) instead of whether or not the candidate will match up with our desire for a diverse police force and a safe and peaceful city.
6. Follow the money. Boston’s budget is close to \$4 billion per year, and, while we have an annual audit, we do not have one that measures what we spend vs. what we need to spend to get desired results. A mayoral transition is a great time to evaluate what we’re spending money on, and if it’s being spent well. We should look at best practices around the country and determine how we can have all our departments working at an optimal level. Build budgets based on what goals the city hopes to accomplish, rather than last year’s number plus inflation.
- Boston’s voters have given our 56th mayor a strong mandate for change. This is Michelle Wu’s moment to deliver on the promises she has made.

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For a listing of links to background story sources for this column, please check the online version at dotnews.com.

The Reporter

“The News & Values Around the Neighborhood”
A publication of Boston Neighborhood News Inc.
150 Mt. Vernon St., Dorchester, MA 02125
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Parents are raising alarms over Covid outbreaks in city schools

(Continued from page 1) they see as gaps in the district's planning for school outbreaks.

In the past couple of weeks, Covid cases have spiked in BPS, with three schools grappling with outbreaks and case numbers reaching their highest level this school year.

At Manning Elementary, the outbreak appears to be contained. However, at least 16 people — or roughly 10 percent of the school — have tested positive for the virus. The nearby Curley K-8 School in Jamaica Plain is now shut down for 10 days as officials try to get a handle on the spread of the virus. And Orchard Gardens K-8 Pilot School in Roxbury has also seen Covid cases in the low double-digits.

Some parents with children at these schools say communication from BPS has been frustratingly slow. They say there has not been sufficient contact tracing or investigation, and that BPS does not appear to have an emergency outbreak plan in place.

At a community meeting held on Nov. 9 to address the Curley School closure, Superintendent Brenda Cassellius acknowledged that “it happened so rapidly that it has been challenging for our team to keep up.”

During the 10 days the Curley School will be closed, students and staff can quarantine and get tested, and BPS will increase staffing for its testing and contact tracing programs. Cassellius said the district will “put in new operational procedures,” too, to ensure “this does not happen again.”

Communication

Mitchell kept her kids home for several days based on information in the parents' WhatsApp group, which suggested the outbreak was more significant than BPS had yet acknowledged. Mitchell said a lack of timely information from BPS officials is more than frustrating. It's unfair.

“My bigger concern with those informal channels is the people who are not connected to them. A lot of us made decisions to keep our kids home from school based on what we learned from other parents,” she said. “There are families who never got linked up to these WhatsApp groups, or whose kids take the bus so they're not on the playground chatting with other parents.”

Another parent at Manning Elementary, Sharon Daura, compiled a timeline based on details she said were shared at a community meeting, suggesting five days elapsed between when the first person tested positive and when



Boston Superintendent of Schools Brenda Cassellius spoke at a press conference about the district's back-to-school plan ahead of the start of the 2021-2022 school year.
Jesse Costa/WBUR photo

the community was notified about it.

In an email to parents, school officials explained that they can't inform the community of a positive case until after all close contacts are notified.

“There's very strict protocols,” said Cassellius, speaking at a press conference last week. “There is often a lag in the information, and then sometimes rumors get ahead of us.”

Jennifer Lo, medical director of the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), which advises BPS, said school district officials are trying to balance sharing information about coronavirus infections with maintaining patient confidentiality.

“It's a very difficult line to balance,” she said, noting that in a small community like a school someone might be able to identify who tested positive if information is shared about what grade the case was in or what extracurricular they participated in.

But parents like Mitchell — who works in public health — counter that BPS has cited privacy concerns too often.

“It just makes me want to scream from the rooftops: We're not asking for personal medical information,” Mitchell said. “We're asking for very basic, broad numbers that can help us make decisions about what's safe for our families.”

Contact tracing and investigation

Mitchell said she eventually learned that her daughter, a third grader, sat next to one child who tested positive and behind another kid who tested positive. “I never received a phone call from any contact tracer,” she said.

Mitchell was not the only one. Other parents said they believe their children were in so-called “close contact” of someone who tested positive, but contact tracers never reached out to help explain protocols and collect information that might limit further spread.

Still, Cassellius warned parents against jumping to conclusions about who is deemed a close contact. “You

may think that you are a close contact, but indeed [according] to CDC guidance, you would not be,” she said. “I think that has created some frustration with parents.”

Cassellius acknowledged that testing and contact tracing have been hard to do in a timely manner at the Curley School, where, as of Nov. 9, at least 46 people have tested positive in 21 classrooms.

“We had up to 500 rapid Covid tests that we were having to give every single day, and we just weren't able to keep up with that and make sure that we were able to contact trace,” Cassellius said at the Curley School's community meeting. “And that's as transparently as I can share with you how challenging this is.”

By shutting down the school, BPHC's Lo added, “we are essentially treating the entire school campus as close contacts.”

BPS said they recently increased their contact tracing capacity to handle about 4,000 cases, up from 1,000.

Mei Elansary, a pediatrician and parent

to a child at Manning Elementary, said she'd like to see more than contact tracing. She'd like to see an investigation into where and how the spread happened: Was it likely at lunch, on the playground, on the bus? Was there transmission from teacher to students? Did it happen in a classroom where there is a low level of students consenting to testing?

“We assume there's some investigation going on as to understanding how this outbreak happened, but that information has not yet been shared with us,” Elansary said. “Until we know what happened, we can't really fix it.”

A push to improve plans

Some parents said they are still left wondering whether and why the district was caught unprepared. Bevin Kenney, a physician and parent at Manning Elementary, said it seemed like BPS was only ready for individual cases. “An outbreak is a whole other ball of wax. And I just don't think they had a plan for it,” Kenney said.

When requesting BPS's emergency plan for Covid outbreaks and how authority would be delegated, a spokesperson pointed to their coronavirus protocols

website and said in a statement: “BPS follows the guidance of the Boston Public Health Commission, as well as City of Boston HHS, the CDC, and other appropriate state and federal authorities.”

Kenney said that because Manning Elementary is a small school, with just 160 students, the principal was able to step in. She swabbed noses for hours — including on the weekend — and called all the families in a positive group test to inform them they needed to get individual tests.

“Basically, the principal has been deputized to be an infection control officer and to do some epidemiology,” Kenney said.

Parents at both the Curley School and Manning Elementary have joined a group of parents, guardians, and grandparents from 15 different BPS schools who say the district needs to upgrade not just its response to outbreaks, but some other Covid policies, too.

The group, calling itself BPS Families for Covid Safety, formed this fall, and meets weekly to compare notes across schools and advocate for things like vaccine clinics at every school, tents at every school so students can eat lunch

outdoors, and air quality monitoring in cafeterias.

Suleika Soto is one of the founding members. Her children are at Blackstone Elementary and TechBoston Academy, and she also serves on the Citywide Parent Council. She said she understands school officials are dealing with a lot, but she hasn't been satisfied with the response parents have been getting.

“It's really frustrating,” Soto said. “We are hearing a lot of reasons why things aren't possible.”

Both parents and school officials agreed that the recent spate of cases are an opportunity to once again evaluate and improve the district's Covid procedures.

“This situation here makes us just take a pause and make sure that we have everything in place,” said Cassellius, discussing the Curley School's closure. “We want to learn from this so that we can put in place the proper protocols in case we do have a rapid spread again and just be sure that we're keeping everybody safe.”

This article was originally published on Nov. 10 by WBUR 90.9FM. The Reporter and WBUR share content through a media partnership.

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Permanent patio at dbar receives unanimous OK from civic group

By SETH DANIEL
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT
The Dorchester Avenue restaurant dbar received the approval of the Columbia Savin Hill Civic Association’s planning committee on its bid to make their Covid-era patio area a permanent fixture. The panel okayed the move unanimously last Tuesday night.

Mitch Hayes and Brian Piccini, dbar’s owners, told association members that they had implemented the extended patio in June 2020 as a means of trying to survive Covid-19 regulations. It has gone over so well, they said, that they now want to make it permanent through an upcoming Licensing Board process.

By using a back part



An architectural drawing of the patio and extended patio space at dbar that has been in effect on a temporary basis since June 2020. The owners want to make the extension granted in Covid time permanent.

of the parking lot and outfitting it with two 8-by-20 cargo containers and some creative construction, the restaurant was able to create a space

to complement their existing patio behind the restaurant. “Having that patio extension is what helped us survive,” said Piccini,



A rough sketch from the developer of 841 Columbia Rd. shows the changes recently made to the back of the building to try to accommodate neighbors.

who opened dbar in 2005. “The patio there helped us get through 2020 using heat lamps and social distancing. It got us through the pandemic and now it’s become an integral part of what we do... We can’t imagine dbar without this space now.”

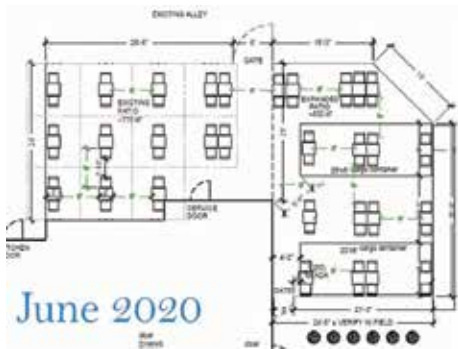
The extended space has protection, but it is still exposed to the elements. It remains usable in colder temperatures via heat lamps. “We were very excited to bring in local artists to paint the space,” said Hayes. “The patio has

recently allowed us to give back in many ways. The smaller patio doesn’t allow us to do fundraisers. Now we have a whole outside area with heat lamps and lighting. We’ve donated the space out to many organizations. Guests have really loved it.”
Neighbors were enthusiastic and cast a rare unanimous vote in approval of the plan. “I will support their proposal,” said Eileen Fenton, a planning committee member. “They’ve been around a long time and this was one of Brian’s first restaurants and he’s moved on to very big and successful restaurants in the city. He’s stayed on there and it’s a great addition to the neighborhood.”

Apartment building pitch for 841 Columbia Rd.

The developer Scott Kirkwood attended the Columbia Savin Hill planning committee’s online meeting representing the Boston Real Estate Collaborative of the South End to discuss with neighbors a forthcoming apartment building project at 841 Columbia Rd. – behind the Boomers Car Audio store.

The project called originally for nine units, but that has been cut down to eight units – though announced changes at the meeting could make it even fewer units. The project includes eight off-street parking spaces, with 16 required by zoning.



A recent rendering of the front of the building at 841 Columbia Rd., with Boomers in the foreground.

Kirkwood said in talking with abutters and neighbors, he learned that they have eliminated about 770 square feet off the back of the building, taking it from a floor area ratio (FAR) of 1.6 to 1.3.

“We had a really productive conversation with abutters,” he said. “I wanted to take a step back and see how we could change the building envelope to respond to those conversations... I think [the change] is quite a lot of relief for the neighbors behind us... I think this is a big step in the right direction.”

That said, there were still some

neighbors who weren’t hot on the proposal, which is situated on a non-traditional lot behind an existing business.

“I don’t see why we should give them eight units,” said neighbor Don Walsh. “It’s zoned for three and they’re asking eight. This is the South Boston approach to development. Squeeze in as much as you can.”

The proposal hasn’t yet been submitted to city officials, and there are ongoing discussions with Columbia Savin Hill residents.

– SETH DANIEL

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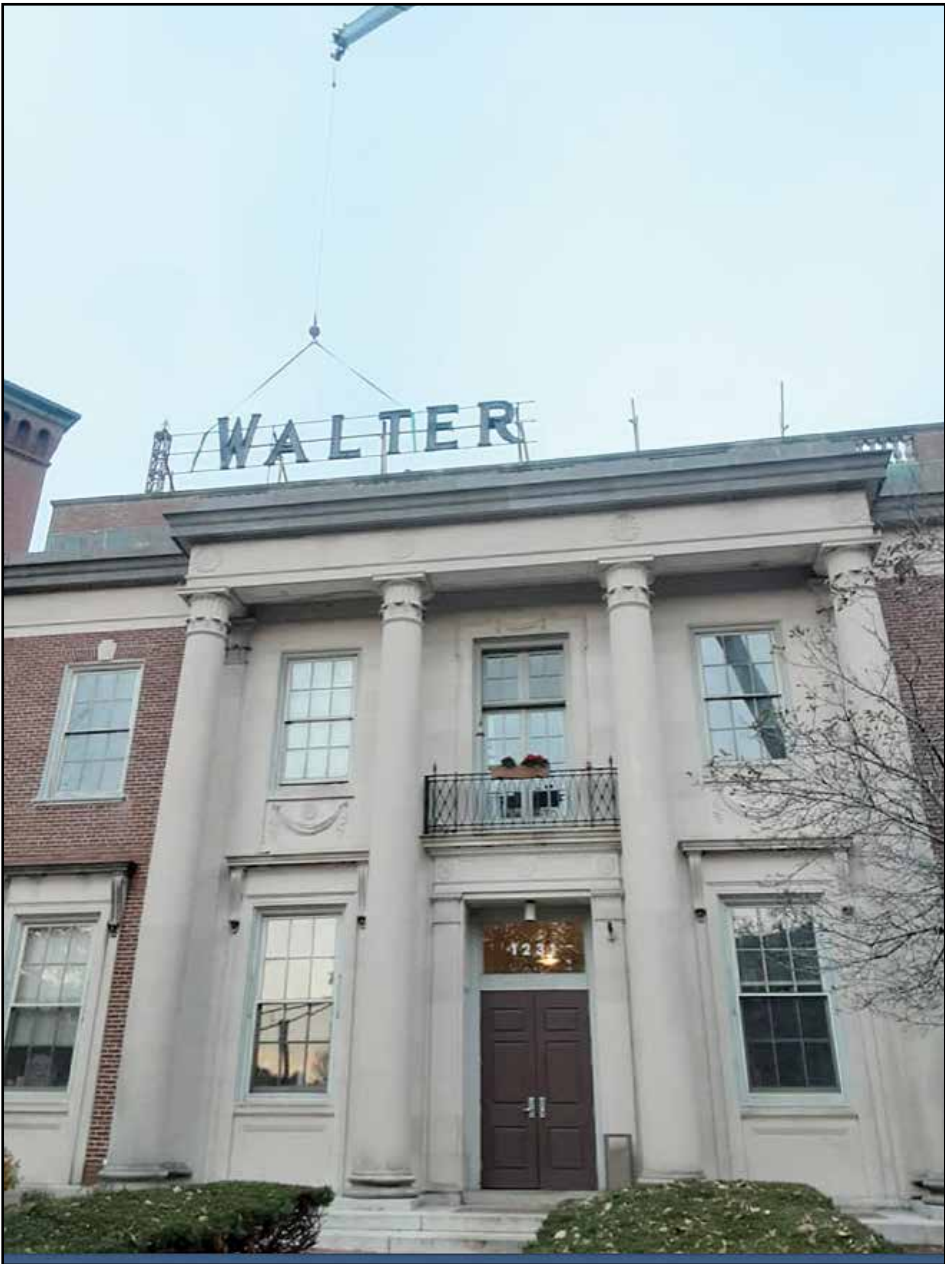
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The iconic Walter Baker sign, ‘visual anchor’ for Lower Mills, is taken down for rehab work



Photos courtesy Terry Dolan.



The iconic sign atop the former Walter Baker Chocolate factory in Lower Mills was dismantled, lowered to the ground via the use of a crane and shipped away for repairs last Wednesday. Neighborhood leaders behind the restoration project say that it will be replaced on its perch atop the Baker Loft building, which once housed administrative offices for the legendary chocolate company, in six to eight weeks.

The project—made possible by funds from the Community Preservation Act (CPA)—will allow the “visual anchor” of Lower Mills village to be illuminated again for the first time in decades. The sign, which was originally neon-lighted, will be updated with efficient LED bulbs and remounted.

The price tag for the project is around \$66,000, 83 percent of which (\$55,000) is being covered by the CPA grant. The proponents of the rehab include the Lower Mills Civic Association, WBL Artist Collective, Inc., and the non-profit sponsor DotArt.

To donate and to find out more about the campaign, visit dotart.org.

– BILL FORRY

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*Every year, Medicare evaluates plans based on a 5-star rating system.



Fields Corner civic affirms support for Post Office rehab

(Continued from page 1)

“The Fields House is on a tough spot on the site. It is in the way. The thought is to try to figure out another place for it...to relocate it. This is a part of Fields Corner history and is a significant building. It needs a lot of work and love and will take money that this project can’t generate to pay for it.”

He added that he is taking recommendations from the general public for a new home to where the building could be moved. Previously, he had been discussing demolishing the building and preserving the memory in the new building behind the restored Post Office buildings. The matter is up in the air as of now, but the closing on the property and movement forward on the overall project does have a rubber-meets-the-road deadline of mid-December.

TLee’s Daniela Vil-lon-Maya said they fully intend to keep the exist-ing ground-floor retail operations and the Post Office intact, but that would mean move the loading dock that the Post Office uses in the rear of that building. And she reaffirmed that the second-floor tenants –a security company, a dental clinic and Fields Corner Main Streets – would have to move, while adding: “If this moves forward we will identify plans for them... We do have space in our portfolio that would accommodate them...We want to work with them to find another home in Fields Corner.”

The price ranges identified for the afford-able home-ownership units are studios be-tween \$165,000 and \$222,000; one-bedrooms at \$203,000 to \$270,000; and two-bedroom

units from \$241,000 to \$315,000.

Neighbor Vivian Gi-rard said he supports the project and hoped that the historic build-ing won’t get in the way of the restoration and development project. He said the neighborhood prefers the development over the preservation concern.

Hiep Chu, the head of the civic association, said the association favors the project as they have a good history with TLee Development, and they are very excited about an all-affordable home ownership project right in Fields Corner.

“This particular proj-ect is in a location ev-eryone talks about,” he said. “Over the last 40 years there have been some plans for the site, but we’ve never had anyone willing to do more affordable housing for the community...We believe this particular project would give new life to Fields Corner in terms of the numbers of homeownership oppor-tunities. But the site, we acknowledge, has a lot of history.”

He also said it appears that the Fields House issue will come down to cost. “We got the sense in the meeting that the Fields House needs to be moved...because it’s in the way of making the project viable,” he said.

Lee told the civic group that if he gets the approv-al and does close on the property on or around Dec. 10, he will be back to the civic looking for their support.

“There could be a day in the near future when we need to call on you to be a supporter on our behalf with the City of Boston,” he said. “We



A rendering of the Dorchester Music Hall building in Fields Corner shows how the renovated building may look under a plan now being advanced by developer Travis Lee. The United State Postal Service office for 02122 would remain in place on the ground level. Davis Square Architects image

hope you’ll be there for us.”

Short move for Coco Leaf café

The popular Coco Leaf Dessert Café is planning to make a move a few doors up the avenue in Fields Corner, the FCCA was told. It opened at its 1480 Dot Ave. location in early 2016, and has since expanded to another location on Newbury Street in the Back Bay. Now the Café is looking to find more space near their Fields Corner home, and has proposed moving to the Dorchester Art Project building.

“Coco Leaf has become quite a successful business and the current space is small,” said Hiep Chu. “They’re looking for a larger space...At least a good business is staying in the community, which is good to us.”

Music store opens near Town Field

Nick Oleksyn reported that he plans to open a new musical instrument, tools, and electronics store in the plaza at Fields Corner off Gib-



An overhead view of the site plan of the Dorchester Music Hall building in Fields Corner shows a new addition (center) that would be built to include new housing units. Davis Square Architects image

son Street – where the former US Army Recruitment storefront was located. He has already gone through the Zoning Board and earned his permits. He said he will be opening in about three or four months and dealing in new and used musical instruments and

electronics allowing customers to purchase new equipment or trade in what they have toward other equipment in the store. He will be dealing with the Omni Supply network, he said.


Home.Stead reopens doors

The Home.Stead Bak-

ery and Café at the apex of Fields Corner re-opened its doors on Nov. 1 after being closed for more than a year due to the pandemic. The re-opening drew many cheers from the neighbors at Fields Corner civic.


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Two OD deaths reported in Adams Street parking lot

Members of the Fields Corner Civic Association (FCCA) were quick to bring up the topic of increasing homelessness and drug use in the area at the meeting after several months of burgeoning concerns – particularly in light of a drug overdose death in a parking lot on Adams Street the day they met.

Hiep Chu said neighbors and businesses are noticing more vagrancy, homelessness, drug use, and, sometimes, encampments in the entrances to businesses.

“There are a couple of corners I noticed myself,” he said. “The whole issue with Mass. and Cass; people here are concerned those people will come to our neighborhood and cause similar problems. The drug overdose death was a really concern for everybody.”

According to Boston

Police, around 1 p.m. officers responded to a parking lot across from 159 Adams St. Upon arrival, police, EMTs, and firefighters were directed by a member of Dorchester House Health Center to a known male in the parking lot. He was slouched over and unresponsive and pronounced dead at the scene.

That was followed up by what could have been a double overdose death

on Thursday afternoon around 2 p.m. on Columbia Road near Grove Hall. In that incident, two people were found unresponsive in their car for what was believed to be an overdose. However, BPD officials said that hadn’t been determined and at this point it’s possible that drugs were not involved.

On Sunday, a man was found dead in a park in the 300 block of Seaver Street (between Blue Hill Avenue and Columbia Road) of an apparent overdose. Neighbors at the scene indicated they were informed it was a drug-related death in the park, but BPD said that hasn’t officially been determined yet.

For Chu and FCCA, the problems with homelessness and drug-use have popped up in several hot spots around Fields Corner, including behind businesses and restaurants, and at the AutoZone and 7/11 properties. He also said there have been issues at the City parking lot on Adams Street, and on Lincoln Street near the Kit Clark Center.

“Business people in Fields Corner have told me there is an increase of people hanging around their properties,” he said. “These are the types of things we will probably be talking about more and we’ll be more aware of it in the future, too.”

– SETH DANIEL

Baker: Biden’s bill could deliver up to \$8b to state

Gov. Baker said on Tuesday that he expects between \$7 billion and \$8 billion to flow into Massachusetts from the federal infrastructure bill signed on Monday by President Biden, and pledged to be “pretty aggressive” about competing for other buckets of money that will be dispersed through grants.

Baker celebrated the passage of the bipartisan infrastructure bill after touring a biomanufacturing center in Watertown where he highlighted state investments in apprenticeship programs in the life sciences.

The governor’s estimate of formula funding that will be available to the state from the \$1.2 trillion infrastructure package is less than the \$9 billion estimate that came from US Rep. Lori Trahan’s office.

“Figuring out exactly how much is actually going to be available to the commonwealth through the infrastructure bill will take us a little while to sort out, because about 40 percent of it is competitive,” Baker said.

The governor said the formula-driven money, some of which will require state matching funds, will finance investments in things like broadband, water, roads, rail, bridges, and transit.

“The large message coming for us on this one is that this is a necessary piece of federal legislation,” Baker said. “States will be able to do a lot of good things with this, many of which are overdue, and we expect and anticipate that we’ll be able to make some very important and critical infrastructure investment around the Commonwealth over the next five or six years because of it. We’re very excited about it.”

Baker said the administration must still make decisions about where best to deploy the resources and understand whether it can be applied to existing projects, or must be spent on new projects, but he said he hopes that some of the money will start to be spent as soon as the spring construction season.

– MATT MURPHY SHNS

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CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Docket No. SU21P2209EA
ESTATE OF:
JT MATTHEW SULLIVAN
DATE OF DEATH: 08/06/2020

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/24/2021.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

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

Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 12, 2021
Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate
Published: November 18, 2021

State’s opioid OD deaths remain at elevated levels

By KATIE LANNAN
STATE HOUSE
NEWS SERVICE

An estimated 21 more people died of opioid overdoses in Massachusetts in the first nine months of 2021 compared to the same period of 2020, according to new state data.

Preliminary figures presented at a Public Health Council meeting on Nov. 10 tracked a total of 1,613 overdose deaths from January through September, up about 1 percent from the 1,592 recorded during the same months in 2020. The totals include both confirmed cases and estimated counts based on a modeling process.

“We know that these data are going to change over time,” Acting Public Health Commissioner Margret Cooke told the council.

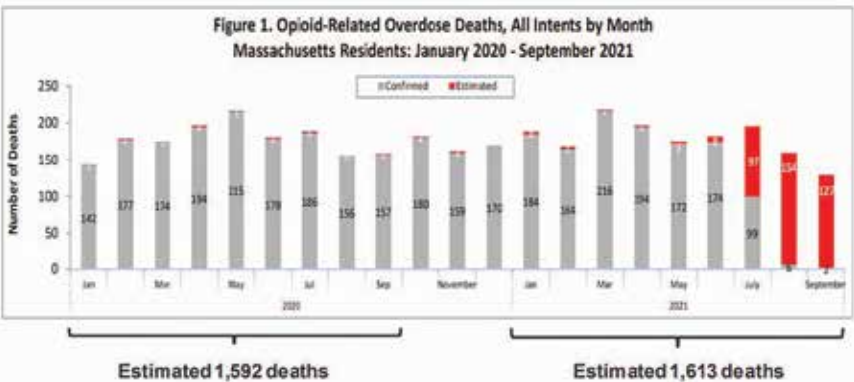
The state’s latest report on fatal overdoses shows that 2,106 people died of overdoses last year, the highest number since recorded overdose deaths peaked at 2,110 in 2016.

“The Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated substance misuse not only in Massachusetts, but across the country,” Gov. Baker said in a statement released by the Department of Public Health (DPH).

Baker said his administration works with a “focus on equity” in efforts to tackle both the coronavirus and opioid epidemics, and pointed to increased spending on substance misuse programs and greater numbers of treatment beds since he took office in 2015.

The rate of overdose deaths in 2020 – 30.2 per 100,000 people – was below the 2016 rate of 30.7 per 100,000, and up 5 percent from the rate of 28.8 recorded in 2019. The DPH said in its report that those differences were not statistically significant and the statewide opioid overdose death rate “has been stable for the past several years.”

Said Cooke: “While I’m sure we’d all much prefer to see a decline in these efforts, what we do know



New state data released last week tallied a total of 1,613 overdose deaths in the first nine months of 2021, an increase over the same period the prior year.
Department of Public Health graphic

is that nationally, rates of overdose deaths have significantly increased... with over 90,000 overdose deaths nationally last year. We will continue to do our work in this area, including expansive use of Narcan, innovative techniques and take-home doses, housing-first models. We know it’s at least making the death rate stable, but we will continue these efforts

because there is so much work to do.” Men accounted for 73 percent of all opioid overdose deaths in 2020, Cooke said. She said breaking the data out by gender and race “underscores our need to focus in on people of color who are being disproportionately impacted.” Cooke said the overdose death rate among Black non-Hispanic males in-

creased 75 percent from 2019 to 2020, rising from 33 per 100,000 to 57. The rate also increased for Hispanic and Asian-American/Pacific Islander men, and decreased for white non-Hispanic men. Calling the figures presented Wednesday “very sobering,” Public Health Council member Harold Cox asked if it would be possible for DPH staff to

provide a presentation in the future “on the coordinated effort across the state to address” opioid overdoses, including Narcan distribution, needle-exchange programs, and other practices.

Cooke indicated the department would be glad to do so at a future meeting.

Dr. Edward Bernstein, an emergency medicine professor at the Boston University School of Medicine, said he also wanted to receive information about the state’s role in responding to the addiction and homelessness crises at Massachusetts Avenue and Melnea Cass

Boulevard in Boston. “People are coming from other parts of the state, which goes back to some of the things we said around Covid that you can’t just look at one area in itself, but look at the state and how it interacts with one area, people moving in and out of different areas,” he said. “I think that might tell us something if we get the data on that area, we might be able to learn about where the hot spots are where people are not getting the services or the economic and social conditions that they face are forcing them into this setting.”

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LEGAL NOTICES

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
Suffolk Probate & Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300**
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Docket No. SU21P2305EA
ESTATE OF:
STEPHEN J. CLEGG
DATE OF DEATH: 09/03/2021
To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Francis X. Clegg of Pembroke, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Francis X. Clegg of Pembroke, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in an unsupervised administration.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
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Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 10, 2021
Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate
Published: November 18, 2021

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
Suffolk Probate & Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300**
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Docket No. SU21P2294EA
ESTATE OF:
KIET THANH HUYNH
DATE OF DEATH: 08/05/2021
To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Thuy Ai Thi Tran of Dorchester, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Thuy Ai Thi Tran of Dorchester, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in an unsupervised administration.
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Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 10, 2021
Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate
Published: November 18, 2021

The Dorchester Historical Society presents
Dorchester Authors, Past and Present
with DHS President Earl Taylor
Sunday, November 21, 2pm via Zoom*

Sarah Morton, Theodore H. White, “Oliver Optic,”
Mark Mirsky, Gladys Edson Locke, Richard A. Clarke,
Howard Bryant, Alice Stone Blackwell, Dennis Lehane

Learn about these and other Dorchester authors, whose works have provided information, insight and entertainment to Boston and the world. Earl Taylor will present authors of his choice in a breezy overview. Join us!

*Register for the event at dorchesterhistoricalsociety.org.

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Museum of Fine Arts Program Starts Back Up at BGCD: See details below.

CONNECT THE DOT: Museum of Fine Arts Program Starts Back Up at BGCD: Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester is excited to continue our partnership with our friends at the Museum of Fine Arts as part of their Community Arts Initiative. Our Club is one of 12 organizations across the City taking part as we all work with a Resident Artist to create a piece of artwork that will be displayed in the Museum next Spring.

Pictured above are members of our class taking part in a virtual lesson. Many thanks to our friends at the Museum of Fine Arts who provide a wide variety of opportunities for our members and families to engage in the Arts, both locally and at the Museum.

For more information on the Museum of Fine Arts programming please contact Fine Arts Director, Katy Farrar Sullivan at kfarrar@bgcdorchester.org.

FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE: BGCD Partners with Fresh Films for Teen Media Programming: This Fall, Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester is excited to partner with our friends at Fresh Films to provide a year-round program focusing on Film & Media for our high school students.

Members meet weekly at BGCD and are learning the skills to create different styles of film such as: a Movie Scene; Short PSA; Music Video; Movie Trailers; Social Justice Documentary; and a Short Scripted Film. The program is offered to our members at no cost and all equipment is provided by Fresh Films. Thank you to Fresh Films for providing this special opportunity to our members.

To register or for more information, please contact Director of Teen Development & Programming Chad Hassey at chassey@bgcdorchester.org.



BGCD Partners with Fresh Films for Teen Media Programming: See details below.

DID YOU KNOW: Support BGCD This Giving Tuesday - November 30th: During the giving season, please consider a gift to BGCD! Giving is simple and conveys your kindness and compassion. November 30th is Giving Tuesday, a global generosity movement unleashing the power of people and organizations to transform their communities around the world.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Elevate Youth Rock Climbing
November 20

College Fellows Workshop
November 23

Thanksgiving Break - Closed
November 25 & 26

Boston U Basketball Clinic
November 29



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City Hall puzzle: How to match up Bay City project with the 10-year-old Columbia Point master plan?

By KATIE PEDERSEN
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

City planners last week held an online discussion about how a 10-year-old master plan for Columbia Point will — and won't — inform their ongoing review of the massive, 34-acre Dorchester Bay City project on the Columbia Point peninsula.

The Nov. 10 forum — hosted by the Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) — was one of two held in the last week to prepare for what is expected to be a series of public meetings for the Bay City project that will start after Thanksgiving.

The current proposal calls for the former Bayside Expo Center site and adjacent parcels along both sides of Mount Vernon Street to be transformed into an expansive mixed-use community over the next decade. If built as envisioned, the project will add 5.9 million square feet of new office and retail space and 1,740 units of housing to the Columbia Point landscape, according to the latest plans.

How city planners will use existing tools to review and approve the existing plans for Dorchester Bay City was the main topic of conversation in last week's meeting. The master plan document was published in 2011, when the late Thomas M. Menino was mayor and the city's planning agency was called the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA). It was meant to be a guide for the reviewing of developments like Bay City in the intervening years, but, city officials acknowledge, the document is now more than a bit dated.

The master plan envisioned a "vibrant, mixed-use neighborhood," a main street connecting Mount Vernon Street to the Dorchester Harborwalk, dense, elevated construction toward the western end of the development, an alignment of new



A rendering shows the proposed Dorchester Bay City development from the vantage point of Dorchester Bay. *Accordia Partners/ARES image*

streets to Harbor Point, and new public spaces. "Not a lot of this vision has been realized," said Ted Schwartzberg, one of four BPDA planners who spoke during the meeting. "There was a need for a plan." Now, he added, "a lot of the conditions have changed."

Schwartzberg ran through a slide presentation that sought to explain the challenges and priorities for the Columbia Point neighborhood and the Dorchester Bay City Proposal, including the antiquated JFK-UMass Station, enhancing neighborhood connectivity, and aligning the community with the ambitious goals put forward by the city's Imagine Boston 2030 plan.

Additionally, he noted, BPDA officials have asked for the Dorchester Bay City proposal to incorporate greater access to affordable housing and plans for climate resiliency.

Another important dynamic that has emerged in the ten years since the master plan was published has been the growing awareness about climate change and how that will impact Dorchester's coastline and the Columbia Point peninsula in particular.

"Climate resilience is not addressed in any significant way in the Columbia Point Master Plan," said Schwartzberg. "At 40 inches of sea-level rise — expected in the 2070s — a significant part of Columbia Point is expected to be flooded. There's also an opportunity. The Bay City Project could plug a major point of water infiltration into the neighborhood from the harbor."

He added that the plans to re-design Moakley Park, Day Boulevard, and Morrissey Boulevard, which may include a berm to protect against sea-level rise, also have to be factored in.

Another outdated premise in the master plan,

Schwartzberg said, is the notion of "equitable development of housing."

Whereas the 2011 document focused on providing housing for a "full range of income groups and household types," updated scoping questions used by the agency now ask how "new income-restricted housing meets the needs of the community surrounding the proposal site, particularly with regard to target levels of affordability and unit sizes."

At the time it was written, the master plan called for "diversity" in housing by offering options for families, seniors, and disabled persons.

The scoping questions also include the search for descriptions of how the proposal will "provide pathways to employment and ladders of economic opportunity for residents of adjacent communities." Said Schwartzberg: "Another important part of the story for equitable outcomes is jobs and job access."

"The master plan uses the term diversity," Schwartzberg said. "If I were writing that document today, I would use the words 'equitable access.'"

During the public comment section of the meeting, Evan George of Dorchester asked about the provisions for affordable housing in the Dorchester Bay City proposal, to which Schwartzberg responded, "Where the housing numbers land in the end is not a done deal yet. That will be the product of the series of public meetings that will begin after Thanksgiving."

Markeisha Moore, also a Dorchester resident, asked where the numbers on affordable housing came from, saying, "If 20 percent [of income-restricted housing] is at 100 percent area median income (AMI) and 13 percent is at 70 percent, how much will be at market rate? That's above the income that many people in this area are making."

She later argued that "racial equity seems to be lost in all of these projects being approved across Dorchester. I have lived here all my life and raised my children here. This is my home! Rental units need to be truly affordable."

Ebuña Marc, a transportation planner from Jackson Square, asked about the possibility of reducing parking spaces as a means of keeping rent down in the proposed development. He said that the Dorchester Bay City proposal has been "of specific interest because of how close it is to transit. It's an opportunity to address the housing crisis."

Chris Soule, a Dorchester resident, presented an opposing viewpoint, saying, "Parking is paramount. People who live here have cars. They have to put their cars somewhere. Having no garage does not mean that they'll have less traffic."

Lori Hurlebaus of Dorchester urged BPDA officials to "not rush through a series of meetings in December" on the Bay City plans. In particular, she said, she hoped to see questions about housing affordability answered.

"How are we going to measure what contributes to displacement?" she asked. "What strategies are we going to deploy to prevent that? We need an anti-displacement plan that's part of it. The city needs to step up on what you're asking developers to come back with. Please don't rush this process. We need to see more about jobs — specifics." The alternative, she added, "is just not going to fly in the community."



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Baker again urges legislators to address drugged driving

By MATT MURPHY
STATE HOUSE
NEWS SERVICE

Five years after voters legalized the recreational use of marijuana, Gov. Baker last week returned to his stalled effort to crack down on impaired driving by refiling legislation that would set ground rules for enforcing laws that ban driving while under the influence of drugs.

Baker said the legislation, which he rebranded to honor the late State Police Trooper Thomas Clardy, focuses on “equalizing alcohol and marijuana,” and he expressed frustration that the Legislature hasn’t acted more quickly to address concerns about driving while high.

Since marijuana became legal in Massachusetts, the state has struggled to come up with a framework for enforcing impaired driving laws given the limitations of roadside tests for marijuana, compared to those available for alcohol, and the fact that marijuana can remain in someone’s system long after use.

“Unfortunately, our road safety laws have not caught up to the current public safety landscape with respect to impaired driving,” Baker said on Nov. 10, announcing his legislation from the

district courthouse in Worcester.

Baker was joined by Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito, Secretary of Public Safety and Security Terrence Reidy, Worcester District Attorney Joe Early, Cannabis Control Commission Executive Director Shawn Collins, State Police Colonel Christopher Mason, and Reissa Clardy, the widow of Thomas Clardy.

Baker first filed the legislation before the pandemic in January of 2019, but couldn’t push it through the Legislature, where the Judiciary Committee referred the bill for further study.

Like that bill, the governor’s new legislation would adopt the recommendations of the Special Commission on Operating Under the Influence and Impaired Driving by suspending the license of someone suspected of operating under the influence of marijuana for six months if they refuse to take a chemical test for impairment.

The bill would also prohibit drivers from having loose or unsealed packages of marijuana in their cars, in the same way open containers of alcohol are prohibited.

Baker said his new bill would be named after Thomas Clardy, a trooper who was killed in 2016 when he was

struck by an impaired driver while performing a routine traffic stop on the Massachusetts Turnpike. A blood test conducted on the man responsible for Clardy’s death revealed the presence of THC, the main psychoactive compound in marijuana, but he was never convicted of driving under the influence of an impairing substance.

David Njuguna, instead, was convicted of involuntary manslaughter and homicide by reckless operation of a motor vehicle.

“More needs to be done to keep our communities safe from the dangers of impaired driving and I think this bill is a great start to do just that,” Early said.

Clardy’s widow, Reissa Clardy, joined the governor at the press conference where she said no family should have to endure the “emotional, mental, and physical impact” that followed the death of her husband.

“There will always be a feeling of emptiness that will never be filled,” Clardy said. “My family and I feel that by implementing the Thomas Clardy Law it will provide measures that will improve roadway safety and prevent another senseless tragedy, another family torn apart by the loss of a

Baker pushed through out 2019 to see his impaired driving legislation get consideration in the Legislature, holding events and launching public awareness campaigns focused on the dangers of impaired driving. But after being heard by the Judiciary Committee in November 2019, the panel dumped the bill in a study order in 2020.

Still, Baker said he didn’t know why the legislation failed to gain traction, despite being based on the recommendations of a commission created by the House and Senate.

“The legislation basically drives off of the recommendations that were made by that special commission and it would seem to me that it would be fairly consistent for the Legislature to review, consider, and ultimately adopt a series of public safety recommendations that would come from an organization and a commission that was basically empowered by them to study those issues and make recommendations to us about how to make sure that the roads would be safe,” Baker said.

Baker’s bill would also authorize the courts to take judicial notice that ingesting THC does

vers; it also directs the municipal police training committee to expand training of drug recognition experts, who would be newly allowed to testify as expert witnesses in civil and criminal cases.

The bill would also legally recognize the effectiveness of the horizontal gaze nystagmus field sobriety test, and allow police officers to seek electronic search warrants for evidence of chemical intoxication, with all blood draws required to be authorized by a magistrate after a probable cause showing and performed by a medical professional.

“The courts can’t pursue information, guidance, expert testimony unless there’s a statutory framework for them to do that. So we’ve already lost two years, okay? And none of that was available when Trooper Clardy got rear-ended,” Baker said.

Law enforcement last session supported the governor’s legislation, but advocates behind the successful push to legalize recreational-use marijuana complained that not only does marijuana impact people differently, but it also can remain detectable in the body long after its use and its effects have worn off.

The ACLU of Mas-

sachusetts, which participated in the special commission, objected to the idea of license suspension for refusing to take a chemical test due to the limitations of testing and science to determine marijuana impairment.

Mary Maguire, director of public and government affairs for AAA Northeast, said roughly one-third of all roadway deaths in the United States can be attributed to drugs or alcohol.

“Cannabis and prescription drug use have complicated the equation making polysubstance abuse a growing concern. And just because recreational marijuana is legal, it’s not safe for drivers to use. So don’t drive high,” she said.

Maguire said she “shuddered” to think what might have happened to an impaired driver in the situation she found herself in last Monday night, when a deer darted out 10 feet in front of her car. Maguire said the collision was unavoidable, but she was able to brake immediately, reducing the impact.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration recently reported that traffic fatalities have reached a 15-year high in the first six months of 2021, with more than 20,000 deaths.

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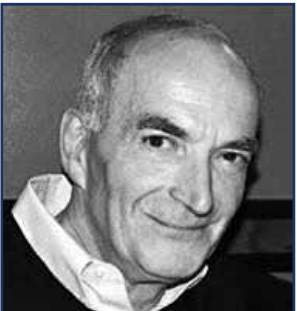
BEASLEY Muriel Alice (Wayne), 98, of Dorchester. Wife of the late Bradley K. Beasley and Charles T. Cooke. Former wife of Samuel J. Walker. Muriel Alice Wayne Beasley was predeceased by her parents, two sisters, Lucille Wayne Harris and Doris Wayne Tatum

and a brother Walter Wayne, Jr. Those who remain to celebrate her life and legacy are her children Rodney Walker (Bernice) of Dorchester, MA; Rondell Walker (Deborah) of New City, NY; Rev. Charmayne Cooke of Dorchester, MA; Janice Beasley Riley of Virginia and Darryl Beasley of Boston, MA; her 6 grandchildren: 11 great grandchildren. She also leaves a multitude of other relatives, including a brother-in law, Phillip Tatum; nieces, nephews, cousins, surrogate children, and a host of close friends to cherish memories of her.
BURKE, Jarlath M. "Charlie," 68 of Dorchester, originally of



Galway, Turloughmore, Ireland. Father of Joseph M. Burke and his wife Bailey of Allston. Brother of Johnny, William, Christopher, Gerald, Mary, Christina, Noreen, Margaret and the late Patrick and Theresa. Grandfather of 2.

Clare, Sister of Charity of St. Elizabeth (Eleanor Dennehy). Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Donations in memory of Paul may be made to VA Boston Healthcare System, Attn: Voluntary Service (135), 940 Belmont Street, Brockton, MA 02301.



HUNT, Eugene Michael "Gene" of Millis. Gene was predeceased by his parents Mary "Molly" and John Hunt and his sister Margaret "Peg" of Jamaica Plain. Husband to Margaret "Marge" (Fahey) Hunt. Father of Mary Beth McMahon and her husband, Charlie of Millis, MA, David Hunt of New Jersey and Natalie Hunt of Millis, Sean Hunt and his wife Christine of Hannover, Shannon Graham and her husband Robert "Bob" of Millis, and Katelyn Hunt of Milton. Papa of 12 and great-grandfather of 1. Also survived by his brother, John Hunt and his wife, Jacqueline, of Washington, DC. Gene's nieces, nephews, close friends, and family were a treasured part of his life. Donations may be made in Gene's memory to Special Olympics MA at 512 Forest St., Marlborough, MA 01752 or the Trustees of the Reservation at 20 High St., Boston, MA 02110.



JUDGE, James J. Jr. of Quincy, formerly

of Dorchester. Born in Boston he was raised in Dorchester, graduated from Dorchester High School. He was a proud Veteran of the United States Army serving during the Korean War. He was a member of the Boston Police Department for over 30 years before retiring in 1995. Jim was a devoted family man and enjoyed spending time with his children and grandchildren. He had lived in Quincy for 35 years and was a member of Sacred Heart Parish where he was a member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. He enjoyed playing the Irish Accordion and doing odd jobs around the house. Husband for 67 years of Catherine T. "Kay" (McCarthy). Father of James J. Judge III and his wife Mary (Cahill) of Harwich Port, and Kathy M. Morrissey and her husband Brian of Nashua, NH. Grandfather of Courtney (Ceurvels), James, Sean, and Jack Judge, and Kerry (Keeler), Brian, Andrew, Kevin, and Colleen Morrissey. Also survived by 15 great grandchildren. Brother of the late Margaret Roche and Mary McCutcheon. Donations may be made in his memory to Bayada Hospice 94 Pleasant St. Concord, NH 03301.



MALONEY, Vincent F. "Vin", 94 of Haddam, Connecticut, originally from Neponset. Son of the late Helen and Leo Maloney. He was one of nine siblings. Navy veteran. Husband of the late Helen (Yakovonis). Father of Janet and John. Father of Janet F. Roemer and her husband John of Stamford, CT, and John P. Maloney and his wife Dr. Louise M. of Chester, CT. Grandfather of 3; great-grandfather of 4. He is survived by his sisters Eileen Walsh of South Weymouth, and Janet Shaughnessy of Neponset. His siblings John, Leo "Bunny," Jimmy, Helen "Sis," Bernadette, and Mary Therese predeceased Vin. Donations may be made in Vin's memory to the VA Boston Healthcare System, ATTN: Voluntary Service (135), 1400 VFW Parkway, West Roxbury, MA 02132. Please note that the donation is for general post fund (GPF) 5101—Veterans General Welfare Account—West Roxbury Campus.

QUIRK, Mary Lorraine (Cooper), of Dorchester. Wife of the late James Morrison and



Robert Quirk. Mother of Mary Helena Morrison and "Mima" to James Morrison. Grandmother of 8. Daughter of the late Frank L. and Mary E. (Carney) Cooper. Sister of Karen and her husband Patrick Clements, Kathleen and her husband Michael Bakis, Stephen and his wife Virginia Cooper, Bernadette and her husband George Diamond, Patricia and her husband Brian Fitzsimons, and the late James and William Cooper. Mary is also survived by several nieces and nephews and many cousins. Donations in Mary's memory may be made to Dot Art, c/o Walter Baker Artist Lofts, 1231 Adams Street, Dorchester, MA 02124, or at dotart.org.



ROPER, Barbara T. (Drew) of Milton and Cotuit, formerly of Mattapan. Wife of the late William J. Roper. Mother of Liam M. Roper and his wife Christine Feeney of Westwood, Monica Burgess and her husband Paul of Wellesley, Celine Mahoney and her husband Brendan of Hingham and Brendan J. Roper and his wife Audra of Dartmouth. Grandmother of 9. Sister of John Drew of Scituate, Mari Drew of Milton and the late Elaine Duran. Donations may be made to St. Gregory Church, 2223 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester, MA 02124.



SHEA, Donald S., 64, of Dorchester. Son of the late Mary M. (Derwin) and Patrick G. Shea. Brother of Richard Shea, AnnMarie "Nancy" Ferrera, and the late Patricia McKenna, Barbara Wharton, William Shea, and Edward Shea. Cousin of James Bradford. Also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Please consider making a donation in memory of Donald to a charity of your choice.



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