Dorchester Reporter

"The News and Values Around the Neighborhood"

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Cardinal Seán O'Malley joined volunteers at the Yawkey Center on Columbia Road on Saturday for Catholic Charities' annual turkey give away, held in drive-through fashion this year. Across the agency, some 4,000 complete dinners were made available. "This year with the pandemic there are many complications — shortages of food in our homes, people struggling to pay rents or mortgages, and so many people sick and dying — so the event is more important than ever," said O'Malley. "It's a sign of solidarity and a sign that we are a community that wants to help each other."

Katie Trojano photo

'Oh, The Hunger That Many Suffered'

Thanks in short supply for the Puritans in Nov. 1630

By Peter F. Stevens REPORTER CONTRIBUTOR

On Thursday, the aroma of roast turkey and all the trimmings will drift from Dorchester's kitchens as Covid-wary families gather around dining room tables piled with all the fixings of the holiday. Three hundred and ninety years ago, however, Dorchester's first English settlers sat at rude wooden tables not to feast and say thanks, but to stay barely alive.

The colonist Roger Clap wrote of the Mary and John passengers facing their first brutal New England winter in 1630-31: "In our beginning, many were in great Straits for want of Provision for themselves and their little Ones." There would be no Thanksgiving



To the Meeting House: A sketch suggesting winter time in Puritan

for that beleaguered band of settlers clinging to their footholds near "Rocky Hill" (latter-day

Atlantic gusts lashing the rough wooden cabins, "lean-to's," and shelters of Dorchester's early colonists, and dipping temperatures all along the bay heralded a harsh winter. Having arrived too late to plant sufficient crops, the settlers confronted winter with meager stocks of "salt junk [meat] and hard-tack [rock-hard biscuit] left over from the voyage.'

With barely enough food for their own families, "Dorchester's Freemen" had to "turn loose [their indentured servants] to fend for themselves.

(Continued on page 19)

Neighbors wary of new plans for apartments on Old Colony site

By KATIE TROJANO REPORTER STAFF

The development team hoping to transform the former Phillips Old Colony House on Morrissey Boulevard into a 219-unit apartment complex unveiled their latest proposal to a largely unreceptive group of neighbors via Zoom last Thursday evening.

The acre-and-a-half site at 780 Morrissey Blvd. once home to the popular dining and function hall that closed in 2017, is now being used by a neighboring car dealership as a storage area for its vehicles.

The parcel is owned by Phillips Family Properties, which also controls Boston Bowl, Phillips Candy House, Ramada Inn, and Comfort Inn among its Dorchester holdings. Phillips Family Properties $partnered\ with\ the\ national\ developers\ the\ Michaels$ Organization and Cube 3 Studio Architects to commission the project.

Jay Russo, vice president of development at Michaels, said the team amended its most recent (Continued on page 14)

Other projects

• Uphams Corner residents get an update on planning for the long-stalled "Arts & Innovation District."

• Developers of 706 **Dudley Street condo** project tell residents they have "hit the reset button."

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Want to showcase your special house? DHS offers one way

By Daniel Sheehan REPORTER STAFF

Do you live in a historic house? If so, the Dorchester Historical Society is offering you a new way to showcase it.

In an effort to celebrate the rich architectural heritage of Dorchester and



Mattapan, the Society has set up a historic marker program for older homes in the community.

If a property meets the criteria for recognition and its documentation has been confirmed, the homeowner can purchase an attractive oval marker to affix to the house that will include the year of construction, the DHS name, and - if desired - the name of the architect, the original owner, or a resident of historic significance.

(Continued on page 15)

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Baker: Let's limit plans for holiday gatherings

By KATIE LANNAN STATE HOUSE News Service

s Thanksgiving proaches, state officials this week reiterated their calls for people to gather with only their household members around the table, pitching a small-scale celebration as a sacrifice that will help ensure many

holidays to come with under construction, ing, and getting tested

Public Health Commissioner Dr. Monica Bharel said she's "very worried that Thanksgiving could lead to many super-spreader events,» and Gov. Baker cautioned that, with case counts climbing and a field hospital

holidays the same way we-ve done it in years

A new #GetBackMass public awareness campaign aims to underscore the message that taking precautions like social distancing, mask-wear-

safe and healthy loved Massachusetts residents is the best way to get «can)t afford to do back to the things people Thanksgiving and the love – sporting events, concerts, dates, birthday parties and family activities, to name a few cited in the ads – sometime in the future.

While case numbers continue to climb nationally — and in Mas-(Continued on page 12)



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Council: Step up enforcement of speeding laws

By KATIE TROJANO REPORTER STAFF

Motorists speeding along city streets — and striking pedestrians and bicyclists - have become a hazard across Boston, city councillors said during a hearing held virtually on Monday.

"Unfortunately, we have witnessed a spike in serious and fatal crashes, recently in South Boston and elsewhere," said Councillor Ed Flynn, who called for the hearing. "I believe it's time to call speeding cars on unsafe roads what they actually are — a public

health emergency."

Flynn and District 3 Councillor Frank Baker have called for the city to reduce the speed limit on its streets to 20 mph from its current 25 mph. It was reduced to the latter figure in 2017.

The need for steppedup police enforcement of speeding laws was raised by Councillor Michael Flaherty, who renewed "my call that the Boston Police Department establish a bona fide traffic division in each district and have it staffed every

Chris Osgood, chief

of streets for the city, said that Mayor Walsh's Vision Zero plan includes enhanced safety measures on Columbus Avenue and American Legion and Cummins highways.

'Targeted interventions aimed at increasing safety," he said, "include additional funding for BTD; adding radar feedback signs; faster implementation of speed humps on streets: and looking at signalized intersections and re-timing them to make sure we are optimizing safety" said Osgood.

Adam Pieniazek, a BPS teacher and re-Dorchester resident, urged all elected officials to walk, bike and take the train to work. "There's no replacement for firsthand experience," he said. "People in Dorchester have no safe way to bike into the city. If we're going to prioritize safety, we really need to look at the biggest neighborhood in Boston." He asked: "Why has the Dot Greenway taken so long if we're prioritizing safety?"

"Jin-Virginia ny" Chalmers, 70, of Dorchester, a longtime tired principal of the Young Achievers K-8 Pilot School, died on Nov. 17 after she was struck by an Eversource truck as she bicycled near Mattapan Square in Milton. The crash occurred at around 3 p.m. on Blue Hills Parkway near its intersection with Eliot Street. That area has been identified by Mass-DOT as a "high-crash cluster."

Chalmers was nearing the bridge that leads over the Neponset River to Mattapan Square, just two blocks ahead, when

she was struck by a large utility truck traveling northbound on Blue Hills Parkway and taking a right onto Eliot St. The unidentified operator of the truck, a $6\bar{2}$ -year-old man, was transported to an area hospital and Chalmers was determined to be deceased at the scene.

She leaves her wife, Ilene Carver, an organizer with the Boston Teachers Union.

The crash remains under investigation by the State Police.

Markey taps Dot's Walsh as his chief

of staff

John Walsh, who managed the reelection campaign of US Sen. Edward Markey, is moving inside government. Markey announced last Wednesday that Walsh, a Lower Mills resident who also helped engineer Deval Patrick's successful first run for governor, will join his office as chief of staff.

"John drove my re-election campaign to a historic victory. He is a brilliant strategist, an effective leader, and a committed public servant," Markey said in a statement. "John has the experience and visionary thinking to drive our progressive movement forward and pass a Green New Deal. I look forward to continu-



John Walsh

ing our partnership and friendship, and creating bold, progressive change across our country together."

Walsh served as chair of the Massachusetts Democratic Party from 2007 to 2013. A graduate of Cardinal Spellman High School in Brockton and Princeton University, Walsh was a selectman in his hometown of Abington for 10 years beginning in 1983.

- STATE HOUSE **NEWS SERVICE**

City sets up drop boxes for used textiles

Do you have old clothes that you plan to throw away? You can now recycle them through drop boxes instead. The city has installed drop boxes at several locations- including three in Dorchester-for residents to dispose of household textiles, including clothes, shoes, sneakers, bags, stuffed animals, bedding, and towels.

The initiative, run by the Boston Public Works Department in partnership with Helpsy, a textile recycling company, aims to expand recycling services and reduce trash at landfills or incinerators.

According to a press release from the mayor's office, 95 percent of the textiles collected are reused, upcycled, or recycled, with 75 percent being reused, and 20 percent being recycled.

Items in good condition are resold to thrift stores in North America and

other second-hand markets around the world while others get turned into rags for industrial use or alternative functions like stuffing or insulation, according to the release.

Residents must dry and put the items they want to dispose of in the drop boxes in a secured plastic bag. In Dorchestdr, the boxes are now in municipal parking lots, including Fields Corner (191 Adams St.), Grove

Hall (20 Georgia St.) and Codman Square (575 **Washington St.**)

The city has also expanded its leaf and yard waste curbside collection program from 17 to 20 weeks a year, continuing through Dec. 11. Residents can also drop off yard waste at the Public Works composting facility on American Legion Highway.

> - HA TA THE SCOPE

Police, Courts & Fire Two large fires burn homes, displace 21

A three-alarm fire that erupted around 5 a.m. last Friday at 36 Robinson St. left nine people homeless and resulted in an estimated \$1 million in damages while causing no injuries. The **Boston Fire Department** said the fire started in a carriage house behind the three-decker, but

that it also did some damage to the house itself.

On Saturday morning, a fire that started at 16 Nightingale St. shortly before 7:45 a.m. spread to 12 Nightingale and went to four alarms before firefighters were able to bring it under control. Some 12 residents were displaced and two fire-



36 Robinson St.

fighters suffered minor injuries, the department reported. Officials said that after the fire started in the rear of 16 Nightingale, both buildings' rear porches collapsed, and their power lines came down.

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DUI charge for Dot man in NH crash

weekend that left his passenger, cording to the station. a 37-year-old Dorchester resident, seriously injured. CBS Boston happened on Interstate 293. Three arrested on illegal weapons charges District Court last week.

was charged with causing a head-on were injured in the crash, which loaded Smith & Wesson handgun. collision in Manchester, NH, last happened just before 2 a.m., ac-

reported that Paul Bartlett was Police say was illegally parked in arm was later found to have been arrested and charged with drunk a bus stop near Four Corner last reported stolen in South Carolina. driving after the incident, which Tuesday morning (Nov. 17) was He was arraigned in Dorchester

A 31-year-old Dorchester man other people in two other vehicles after he was found to be carrying a

According to a BPD account, Daryl Wade, who resisted his arrest, was not licensed to operate the A Roxbury man who Boston vehicle he was driving. The fire-

UPCOMING CIVIC MEETINGS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Covid-19 tests, Flu vaccine at Russell Auditorium— The Codman Square Health Center is offering Covid-19 testing and flu vaccines to the community by appointment at the Russell Auditorium, 70 Talbot Ave., Dorchester on Monday, Tuesday and Thursdays from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Wednesdays 10:30 a.m.- 7 p.m.; alternating Fridays 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and on select Saturdays (Dec. 5 and 19) from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Call 617-822-8271 to schedule

Lane closures planned for Granite Avenue bridgework

Ongoing repairs and painting on the Granite Avenue drawbridge will trigger more lane closures through Dec. 9. The bridge will stay open through the work, state officials say, but the lane restrictions will likely cause back-ups during daytime hours. Lane closures began on Nov. 19 and will happen seven days per week through Dec. 9 with nighttime lane



takings from 7 p.m. until 6 a.m. the following day. No lane closures will occur between Nov. 24 through 5 a.m. on Mon., Nov. 30. "Drivers who are traveling through the area should reduce speed and use caution," the MassDOT advisory continued. "All scheduled work is weather dependent and may be impacted due to an emergency."

Tree lighting tour cancelled this year — The Saturday that follows Thanksgiving is traditionally the date of the Dorchester "Light and Unite" tree lighting tour,

sponsored by the Mayor's Office. While neighborhood trees will be installed and lit throughout the season, there "will be no in-person gatherings or events that typically accompany these lightings," according to Patrick Fandel, Mayor Walsh's Dorchester liaison. "I know some neighborhood groups across the City are getting creative this year with wreath hangings throughout the respective neighborhood or celebrating via a virtual event," Fandel added.

On Dec. 3 at 7 p.m., a pre-recorded virtual ceremony will be broadcast on WCVB-TV as Mayor Walsh officiates at the Boston Common Tree lighting. The tree, which is sent from Nova Scotia each year as a gift to the people of Boston, was installed last week.

Hearing on proposed South Bay zoning change — Boston's Zoning Commission will host a virtual public hearing on Wed., Dec. 9 at 9:45 a.m. to review an

application filed by the BPDA to change the zoning of three parcels of land located at in an area generally bounded by Jan Karski Way, Enterprise Street, Boston Street and West Bellflower Street in Dorchester from "3F-5000," indicating a three-family residential subdistrict "CC," indicating a Community Commercial Subdistrict. This meeting will only be held virtually by going to https:// bit.ly/36Kgjcx. A copy of the petition and a map of the area involved may be obtained from the Zoning Commission electronically, and you may also submit written comments or questions to jeffrey. hampton@boston.gov.

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Parental concerns – and divides – emerge in a poll on pandemic-time education models for K-12 students

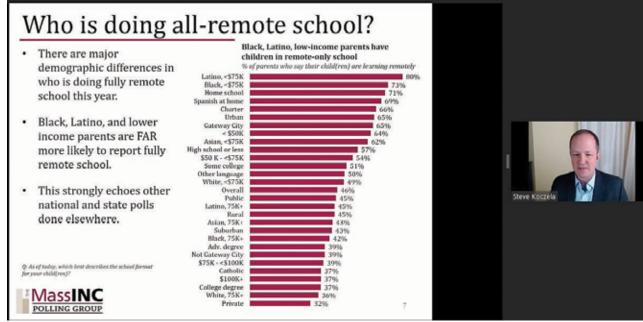
By Katie Lannan State House News Service

Parents of K-12 students participating in hybrid learning models have a more pessimistic outlook on the impacts of this pandemic-disrupted school year than those whose kids are receiving entirely remote or fully in-person education, a new poll shows.

The survey, conducted by the MassInc Polling Group and sponsored by The Barr Foundation, found that around half or more of parents anticipate the current school year will have negative effects on their children's academic learning, mental or emotional health, opportunities for friendships, and social or behavioral skills.

Presenting the findings in a webinar last Thursday, MassINC Polling Group President Steve Koczela said higher-income and white parents were more likely to perceive negative impacts, and that parents whose kids were attending full-time, in-person school saw more positive impacts.

Koczela said the poll of 1,549 parents, conducted from Oct. 16 through Nov. 1 via phone and



MassINC Polling Group President Steve Koczela said that a new survey of K-12 parents highlights "big divides" about remote, in-person, or hybrid learning.

online interviews in English and Spanish, gauged parents' perceptions rather than assessing student achievement and outcome.

With the school year in progress and the Covid-19 pandemic ongoing, it's still an open question what the ultimate learning impacts from various academic models as strategies will be.

"Will it be clear at the end that even though it was a miserable experience for parents, that hybrid really was better?" Koczela said. "That's the kind of thing we don't really know yet. We don't know if it's going to turn out that one of the learning models actually did produce better results, but if we're just listening to parents, there's a lot on their minds."

Angst about hybrid instruction, which can involve a "chaos factor" from switching back-and-forth between modes, and added burdens for parents supervising asynchronous learning, does not necessarily translate

into a desire for more in-person school time, Koczela said.

The polling group said that the 28 percent of parents who now say their student is behind grade level is up from 22 percent in May and "represents a steady rise in concern since before the pandemic, when 13 percent of parents said their child was behind grade level."

Across learning modes, the jump in parents concerned their child was falling behind grade level was most pronounced for the hybrid-learning parents, rising to 31 percent from 10 percent pre-pandemic.

Most respondents said their children were engaged in remote or hybrid instruction (46 percent each), with 11 percent saying their children were attending entirely in-person school. Some parents answered for multiple children involved in different set-ups.

The poll showed "big, big, big differences" in which demographic groups are participating in which type of learning, Koczela said.

Latino and Black parents with household incomes below \$75,000 were the most likely to say their kids were in all-remote schools, while private-school parents and white parents with household incomes above \$75,000 were the least likely.

"There is this big divide that I think we're going to be learning a lot more about as time goes on, in terms of what the impacts of this are, but one of the things we wanted to do with the survey is, because there is no official data on this yet, we just wanted to document who is actually doing what, and how does that actually break down," Koczela said.

Half of respondents said they believed their school district was doing the best it could under the circumstances, and 13 percent said they had children enrolled in a different school than they'd normally attend because of the coronavirus. Eleven percent said they had hired someone, like a tutor or part-time teacher, to help out because of this year's schooling changes.





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City reports positive results from 'Healthy Streets' effort

By Daniel Sheehan REPORTER STAFF

Officials from the Boston Transportation Department last week outlined a handful of recent infrastructure changes during a virtual "six-month update" about the city's Healthy Streets Initiative.

The targeted improvements include newly installed protected bike lanes and traffic calming measures on American Legion Highway in Dorchester and Cummins Highway in Mattapan, two stretches of road that in the past have been notoriously dangerous for cyclists and pedestrians.

MayorWalshlaunched the initiative last May with the dual focus of supporting safe travel during the pandemic for essential workers and transit-dependent residents and addressing Healthy Streets Boston: Supporting Cycling

6.5 Miles New Miles of Protected Bike Lanes



Connecting downtown residences, businesses, hospitals

Key Bike Network Connections

- Esplanade
- Connect Historic Boston
- Southwest Corridor via Columbus Ave



Connecting Franklin Park, Dorchester, Mattapan &

Key Bike Network Connections

- Southwest Corridor via Franklin Park
- Cummins Highway

Cummins Hwy

Connecting Mattapan &

Key Bike Network Connections

- Neponset Greenway
- American Legion Highway

some of the long-term goals laid out in Boston 2030 to make roads safer and more reliable.

In the last six months, the city has added new bus lanes, 6.5 miles of pop-up protected bike

lanes, and calming measures including lane reductions at multiple targeted throughways across the city that were in the top 3 percent of streets with the highest

number of vehicular

crashes.

"The Healthy Streets initiative outlines our goals to support a safe reopening and equitable recovery in Boston, and I'm pleased to see substantial progress $made\,on\,these\,important$ projects," Walsh said in a statement. "Safe and reliable transportation, especially for our essential workers and commuters, is one of our top priorities as we respond to the COVID-19 pandemic."

Chief of Streets Chris Osgood outlined the slew of recent modifications during a Zoom meeting, noting that the changes reflected feedback compiled through community engagement processes and collaboration with neighborhood groups like Livable Streets.

"We placed a huge emphasis on pedestrian safety, given the history and the data we were looking at," said Osgood, with the goal of not just a safer biking experience, but making it great for pedestrians as well."

Speeding motorists

were the main source of worry for residents in a Livable Streets survey on American Legion Highway conducted over the summer: 66 percent of the roughly 500 respondents listed speeding and drag racing as top concerns, while a traffic study revealed that between Morton Street and Walk Hill Street, 59 percent of cars drove faster than 40 mph. The city inter-

vention introduced lane reductions in targeted stretches (including in that span between Morton and Walk Hill, which has seen lanes reduced to one in each direction) and improved pedestrian crossings.

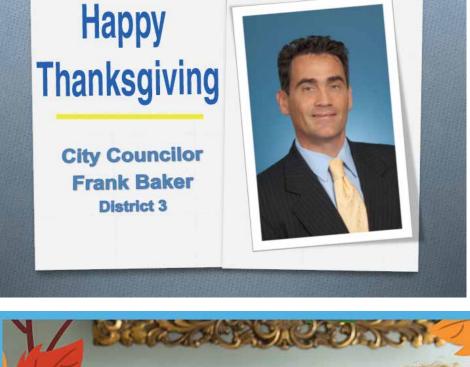
In a survey of design options for Cummins Highway, 71 percent of respondents supported interventions that calmed traffic and re $duced\ speed-\ and\ some$ of those modifications are already seeing results.

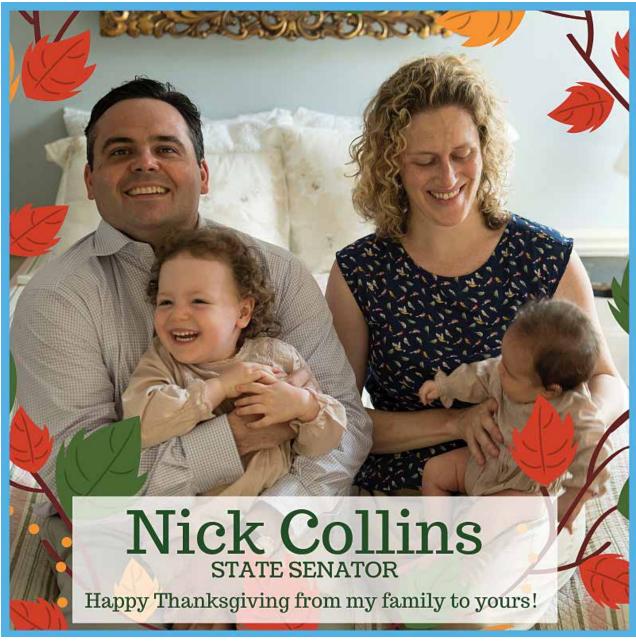
When transportation officials measured speeds on the roadway over a two-day span in October 2018, they found that between 35 and 39 percent of drivers traveled 35 mph or faster. But when measuring speeds at the same location in August 2020, they observed only 10-11 percent of drivers traveling faster than 35 mph.

Beyond pedestrian safety, the new protected bike lanes seek to provide greater connectivity between the neighborhoods of Dorchester, Mattapan, and Roslindale by creating key network connections linking Franklin Park to American Legion and the Neponset Greenway to Cummins Highway.

While most of these "pilot program" interventions have been made through temporary infrastructure such as plastic barriers, transportation officials said they are working to make those changes permanent in the coming months.

For a more detailed breakdown of modifications made through the Healthy Streets initiative, visit boston.gov/ healthy-streets.





CharlieCards to be distributed to a number of health centers

setts League of Com $munity\, Health\, Centers,$ the Boston Foundation, and five neighborhood health centers to provide CharlieCards to more city residents.

The T will provide 5,000 Charlie Cards preloaded with five dollars each to the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center, Mattapan Community Health Center, South End Community Health Center, Uphams Corner Health Center, and Whittier Street Community Health Center. Each Health Center will receive 1,000 CharlieCards to distribute to its clients.

"Too many of our customers have difficulty getting CharlieCards,' said MBTA General

The MBTA is partnering with the Massachu
Manager Steve Poftak.

"This is especially true in transit-dependent communities where bus service is often the predominant mode of transportation. With today's partnership announcement, we are addressing this issue by making CharlieCards more widely available and making taking the T more accessible.'

CharlieCards are reusable plastic fare cards that can be loaded with cash value, or 1-day, 7-day, or monthly passes. By providing easier access, the T says, it hopes to incentivize riders to utilize Charlie-Cards and fare vending machines throughout their travels, thus saving time and improving customer convenience.

New chairperson takes charge of School Committee

By Max Larkin WBUR Reporter

The Boston School Committee will navigate a fraught school year under new leadership. New chair Alexandra Oliver-Dávila promised to "work together to heal" after the committee's former chair was heard mocking the names of commenters at a meeting last month, which prompted his resignation.

Oliver-Dávila has been the executive director



Alexandra Oliver-Dávila

of Sociedad Latina, a non-profit offering enrichment opportunities for young people in Boston, since 1999. Mayor Walsh appointed her a school committee member in 2016 and she formerly served as vice-chair of the panel.

All of the committee members used the beginning of a Nov. 18 meeting to acknowledge Michael Loconto's remarks from the prior meeting on Oct. 21, and to apologize for failing to confront them at the time. The Boston Globe found that members discussed the remarks in text messages amongst themselves during the course of that

contentious meeting.

After Wednesday's vote, Oliver-Dávila told committee members that she is "charging us with learning from this painful incident, and holding each other accountable — especially during difficult and uncomfortable moments."

The Loconto controversy was the latest incident to inspire an ongoing push for the Boston School Committee to become, once again, an elected body. (Since 1991,

the committee's members have been appointed by the mayor, which is unusual in the state.)

"While we are pleased that the Boston School Committee has finally selected its first Latina chair, the underlying problem of accountability remains," said Kristin Johnson of the Boston Coalition for Education Equity, which supports a return to elected school committee.

Johnson added, "A school committee that's

appointed rather than elected will continue to be more responsive to the mayor than to the families and children of Boston Public Schools."

Oliver-Dávila's current term lapses at the beginning of 2024. Former committee chair Michael O'Neill will take over as vice-chair.

This article was first published by WBUR 90.9FM on Nov. 20. The Reporter and WBUR share content through a media partnership.

Cannabis retailer eyes switch on its Gallivan Blvd. location

By Katie Trojano Reporter Staff

After strong pushback from neighbors, a team that hoped to site a 3,000-square-foot retail cannabis store in a key commercial building in Adams Corner is now eyeing a location closer to Neponset Circle. CNA Stores, Inc., a company based in Amesbury, MA, originally pitched a retail location in a commercial space inside 540 Gallivan Blvd., which currently houses Supreme Liquors, Boston Sports Club, a dental office, and the specialty clothing retailer College Hype.

The plan was met with fierce opposition at an October meeting of the Ashmont-Adams



The former Verizon store building sits on a site cannabis retailer CNA stores is looking at for a new outlet.

Neighborhood Association and again this month during an online forum organized by the proponents. The team also met with the Cedar Grove Civic Association,

whose members voted 169-11 against the proposal after a meeting held virtually last week.

"There was a very similar response to the Ashmont-Adams meeting. We heard a lot of the same issues that the location wasn't right for the neighborhood," said Rob DiFazio, the owner and CEO of CNA Stores "After the Ashmont-Adams meeting, we started actively looking for other locations, DiFazio said, noting that they talked to "probably seven, maybe eight landlords" and took a look at locations that people had suggested to us at that meeting." He said the company is now considering shifting the proposal to 770 Gallivan Blvd., formerly the site of a Verizon store.

"Wa're currently

"We're currently talking with that landlord about getting a lease and potentially switching the location," said DiFazio. "A lot of the other options got shot down because they were either near a school, or they have a mortgage on the building and the bank won't let them lease to our business because it's not legal federally."

He added that community feedback is important to him, and said it has changed the trajectory of the team's proposal. "We're here to get their feedback and input and the big thing for us is to listen to the community and the neighborhood. I know that if people are against marijuana, they're going to be against marijuana no matter what we do, but when it comes down to it, it's a legal business," he said.

"That said, I do want to get their feedback and we have heard it."

I want to wish all Bostonians a healthy and safe Thanksgiving. While this year the holidays will look different than what we



are used to and our gatherings will be smaller than usual, we are all still in this together. This has been a year that gives us a new perspective on gratitude, and I am more grateful than ever for this City's ability to come together even while keeping our distance in

the battle against COVID-19. Today, let's all take time to honor the frontline workers who have fought to keep our City safe and moving forward through this pandemic. Let's show them thanks by wearing our masks, practicing social distancing, washing our hands, and getting tested. I know that if we stay vigilant this holiday season, we'll be able to fit all of our loved ones around the table at this time next year. I wish everyone a safe and healthy Thanksgiving, and I am thankful for everyone who has kept Bostonians safe during this pandemic. Together, we will get through this stronger and more grateful than ever before.



Uphams Corner gets update at planning for long-stalled 'Arts & Innovation District' and two other area parcels

By Daniel Sheehan Arts & Features Editor

In a virtual meeting last Thursday, the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) updated the public on the status of the Uphams Corner Arts & Innovation District, laying out a potential timeline for the three-parcel project, which has stalled in recent years, announcing a few tweaks to the plans, and clarifying a collaborative vision for the neighborhood.

Preliminary plans made in 2017 as part of Mayor Martin Walsh's "Imagine Boston 2030" program spoke of a revitalized Strand Theatre and a brand new Uphams Corner branch of the Boston Public Library as the key anchors of the project, which would help reestablish the neighborhood as an arts hub and spur "development without displacement.

After the city conducted a community engagement process in 2017 and 2018, legal issues delayed the release of the project's Request for Proposals (RFPs), which had been expected in 2019. Then came the coronavirus pandemic, which has delayed planning operations this year.



"It's been a long time since we've been together to discuss the work of implementing the community's vision and the community's plan in Uphams Corner," acknowledged John Barros, the city's chief of economic development, at the start of the meeting.

The presentation shed some light on the future of three parcels slated for development. Parcel 1 includes the historic Strand, a city-owned property for which the city is seeking a new operator to activate the space with more programming and partner with local organizations to better utilize the space. While there have been conversations about new possibilities or configurations for the interior, most community feedback indicated a wish to preserve the historic nature of the 1,400 seat theater as it is.

An adjoining property also owned by the city—the former Bank of America Building at 555 Columbia Rd. and the Citizens Bank parking lot next door—could be

reworked or razed and replaced with a new mixed-use entity, said Andrew Grace, director of economic and strategic development.

"The RFP will allow for the potential to either reactivate the building or remove it and build a new structure there," he said. "We expect commercial space to remain on the ground floor – we heard a strong preference for local commercial that can remain affordable – and there would be some type of housing development above it, most likely apartments."

Cushing Avenue, which runs off Columbia Road next to the site, would be included in the development of that area, with the potential to use it as an access point and to improve loading to the Strand.

This core parcel is adjacent to a property containing the Santander Bank branch and the Massachusetts Association of Portuguese Speakers (MAPS) building, which the city envisions as the site of its new branch library. The city is in talks to acquire the property.

"Those negotiations and conversations are far enough ahead that we feel confident that this will be the result," said BPL president David Leonard, "and we're moving as quickly as we can to complete those negotiations."

In a departure from initial plans, the future library building will likely not include mixed-use provisions for housing, as had been previously hoped for. Barros explained that the way the city plans to acquire the property— through a mechanism called a demonstration project plan— prohibits using the site for anything other than municipal use.

"Our vision was to have a mixed-use library, but legally, we don't think we can do that given how we're going to acquire the land," he said. "We spent a lot of time and energy trying to do that, which is why it's been delayed a little bit."

Parcel 2 of the project is a city-owned municipal parking lot located next to Hamlet Street behind the CVS and Brothers Supermarket on Dudley Street, which has potential as a commercial and arts-adjacent space.

"The community has said they would like to make sure parking remains there, and that whatever is built, it continues to have parking for the community," said Barros. "They've indicated that a more residential building doesn't make sense back there it should be commercial, and it should be complementary to our neighborhood innovation and arts district vision.'

Reflecting that feedback, a stipulation of the RFP for the lot is that any proposed development must include the existing amount of parking spaces.

The Dudley Square Neighborhood Initiative (DSNI) owns Parcel 3 of the project, the former Citizens Bank building at 568-574 Columbia Road, through its land trust, Dudley Neighborhood, Inc. (DNI). Tony Hernandez, managing director for DNI, announced last Thursday that the group is moving forward with the development process independently from the city.

"After what feels like a long pause due to so many things going on in the world, we're looking forward to rolling this out," he said. "The big news for DNI is we're ready to move ahead with an RFP for this former Citizens Bank building, and the goal will be to release an RFP in mid-December."

Fernandez added that DNI will be looking to designate a developer "no later than late April/ early May." In the meantime, he said, the space in the Citizens Bank building will be rented to a number of local community businesses and organizations until DNI hands it over to the developer, including Boston 24 Fit, Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation, Fairmount Innovation Lab, and DSNI.

"I've kept my focus on making sure that if I was going to activate this building, it would be activated by those who live locally and are aiming to serve locally," said Fernandez.

He clarified that DNI is still in collaboration with the city.

"It's not a breakup, but we're moving ahead," he said.

According to the timeline presented in the meeting, BPDA expects to issue RFPs for their sites early next year, with proposals due by spring and a round of community meetings beginning in the summer. A developer would be designated by late summer, and a public review would take place during those months with the goal of submitting funding by the fall

During the Q & A portion of the meeting, several attendees, including local artists, implored officials to better include artists in the planning stages and to make sure the process doesn't proceed too quickly.

Tania Anderson, an artist who has put on productions at the Strand in recent years, called for better community outreach.

"When these processes go on, they're not well advertised to Black and brown people; somehow there's a disconnect. You need to be more transparent about reaching out to Black artists."

Jaypix Belmer, a photographer who has lived in Uphams Corner for ten years, asked "How do we get hired in some of these organizations so we can be leads on some of the projects? It's important that we're looking to hire in the community."

Others asked if neighborhood artists would receive priority for any creative space or housing, to which Barros replied "That's the idea. We're all about being local first."

To other concerns about artists being pushed out, Barros, himself a lifelong Uphams Corner resident, pointed to the roots of the project as aiming to drive "development without displacement," and emphasized the importance of community feedback going forward.

"If what comes back isn't for the community, we'll start over. We're not trying to jam anything down people's throats. I want people to feel good about this project. I'm amped about this project; this is about making sure this community is for us," said Barros.

Virtual Public Meeting

Dorchester Bay City

Thursday, November 4 6:00 PM

Monday, November 16 6:00 PM

Wednesday, December 2 6:00 PM

Register: bit.ly/DBCNov4 **Call-in:** 833-568-8864 **Webinar ID:** 161 909 0401

Register: bit.ly/DBCNov16 **Call-in:** 833-568-8864 **Webinar ID:** 160 760 2881

Register: bit.ly/DBCDec2 **Call-in:** 833-568-8864 **Webinar ID:** 160 776 4081

Project Description:

The Boston Planning & Development Agency will be hosting a series of Virtual Community Advisory Committee ("CAC") and Public Meetings in connection with the proposed Dorchester Bay City project. A Virtual Kick-Off Public Meeting was held on October 19th, which was followed by an Urban Design focused Virtual Public Meeting on October 28th.

The next topic-specific Virtual Public Meetings are as follows:

- Wednesday, November 4th: Open Space, Public Realm & Resiliency
- Monday, November 16th: Transportation & Infrastructure
- Wednesday, December 2nd: Topic TBD

mail to: Aisling Kerr

Boston Planning & Development Agency

One City Hall Square, 9th Floor Boston, MA 02201

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Reporter's People

News about people in and around our Neighborhoods

Cartee thankful for five years at Ashmont Main Street helm

By Katie Trojano Reporter Staff

Jenn Cartee, who has been the executive director at Greater Ashmont Main Street (GAMS) since July 2015, will step aside in the middle of next month. The organization is currently searching for a successor to the Dorchester resident and attorney who has led the organization through a major rebranding effort and assisted small business owners through the unprecedented coronavirus pandemic. On her watch, Greater Ashmont was named one of eight semifinalists for the national 2020 Great American Main Street Award.

Cartee spoke to the *Reporter* recently about her experiences over the last five years.

In the Beginning

After spending a couple of years doing contract work for other attorneys, Cartee found exactly the opportunity she was looking for when an opening was listed by the then-St. Mark's Area Main Street.

"I was looking for a mission-based organization, preferably in my own community, where I could feel I was making a tangible difference in the civic environment around me," she recalled. "I really believed strongly in the overall mission of Greater Ashmont Main Street and the Main Street model in general in terms of the importance of the vibrancy of our historic smaller commercial district and the participation of residents, business owners, and institutional partners together envisioning what they want their community to be.'

A New Name

In 2016, St. Mark's Main Street became Greater Ashmont Main Street. Although a rebranding effort was identified as a strategic goal by her predecessor, Meaghan Overton, Cartee led the process, which was fueled by a \$25,000 grant

from Citizens Bank. "Meaghan had already gotten them (St. Mark's Area Main Street) to the point of developing a fiveyear strategic plan recognizing that the use of St. Mark's Area to designate this commercial district from Mercier to Melville avenues, though understandable in its origin, was Dorchester parochial in a way that no longer served The Main Street organization best." Cartee said.

"Atthetime, St. Mark's area carried the Main Street name and there wasn't this revitaliza-



Jenn Cartee with Mayor Martin Walsh.

tion [From Melville Ave. up to Ashmont] that had happened in Peabody Square. One of the organization's significant goals was connecting up St. Mark's Village and Peabody Square and supporting the continued transformation of the light industrial and auto uses in the middle [so that it would] be a walkable, connected, seamless commercial district," she added.

On a normal (pre-Covid) day, some 17,000 commuters would come through Ashmont Station by train or trolley, so the name of the station was something Cartee and the team wanted to incorporate in the rebranding.

"To have a terminal destination station in your district is a huge boon for publicity and promotion of your area," Cartee said. "The Citizens Bank grant through the Boston Foundation allowed us to really do the rebranding in a professional way, thoroughly, and re-do the bylaws with proper outside counsel. I think everyone came together to embrace it and then celebrate it following the unveiling during the April Gala in 2016. In the fall of 2018,

Greater Ashmont Main Street pivoted from scheduling regular business breakfasts to hosting more targeted busi $ness\, support\, workshops.$ 'I think the answer to that lies in the distinction I make between Main Street organizations and say, Chambers of Commerce or Boards of Trade, which have a narrow band of constituency, and that's the business owners. Whether it be a local one or the Greater Boston Chamber- they're focused on networking and connection among business owners. Being a Main Street organization means that we also have constituencies of residents and visitors from out of the area."

Setting New Traditions

Cartee is proud that the neighborhood trusted her and embraced her vision for events, including the Bike & Brew block parties and a jazz series staged in Peabody Hall in All Saints Church. One early breakthrough, she recalled, was the creation of an annual event to accompany the annual tree lighting ceremony in Peabody Square. "In Dorchester for 30-plus years now, the Saturday after Thanksgiving has been the day of the Trolley Tour with the tree lighting. My first bigdeal event, at the same time as the rebranding process, was adding a holiday pop-up market at the Ashmont MBTA plaza in the hours leading into the tree lighting.

"I know it wasn't easy for people who have

planning to endorse that, but they did. I'm sure it made them nervous," said Cartee.

been doing really amaz-

ing community events

"I feel so grateful that they trusted the organization with it and it was wonderful. It has been a great event, to have local artisans and bakers, Girl Scouts selling wreaths, and the farmers market from the summer coming back, and everything all twinkly. The market gave people a much broader experience from that day. It was a privilege that they let me do that so early, and I'm glad that it has become a tradition."

The Coronavirus Cometh

When the Covid-19 pandemic caused, among other things, government mandated shutdowns last spring, small business owners struggled and Greater Ashmont Main Street moved quickly to assist them.

"During the pivot to remote in general, especially when we were in complete lockdown," Cartee said, "it was super hard to track down some of our business owners to offer them support and help with things like the federal Paycheck Protection Program, but I'm gratified to know that several dozen of the 120 businesses applied for small business funds from the city, and more than 10 participated in the PPP program.

Jenn Cartee, second from left, is shown in May 2019 with (l-r) Joy Gary, Great-

er Ashmont Main Street program assistant and Farmers Market manager;

Michelle Plummer, owner of Tasha Michelle Kloset, which won the Small Business of the Year award last year; and Philippe Saad, former president of

the GAMS Board of Directors. Photos courtesy of Greater Ashmont Main Street

"We did complete 16 weeks of food relief work leading up to farmers market season and \$42,000 was raised from private donors and some \$3,000 in in-kind donations."

In the future, Cartee said, she would like to see more industry- specific relief made available because, she noted, "different kinds of operations are affected differently. For example, personal services and sit-down dining have been much harder hit than, say, tax preparers or essential retail.

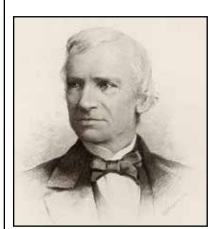
"I personally hope that additional federal or state relief packages are focused on industry specific small businesses and the working poor in ways that I feel earlier relief was more throwing everything at the wall and hoping something worked."

What's Next?

Cartee has not made a firm commitment on the next steps for her professionally. "I am considering all sorts of different policy work, potentially returning to legal practice," she said. "During my time as a director, our family has had a number of personal losses, in terms of loss of relatives and a devastating house fire in July of 2018. So, between the joyous break-neck pace of running a small non-profit and a lot of other things that have happened in the last five years, it's appropriate for me to take a moment and figure out what the next best path is."



Dorchester Historical Society Rev. Nathaniel Hall



Nathaniel Hall was the minister of the First Parish Church in Dorchester from 1835 until his death on Oct. 21, 1875. In the ante-bellum 1850s, he lent his earnest abolitionist voice to the anti-slavery cause in a number of his sermons, some 40 of which overall were published.

"No other pulpit in America," the *Christian Register* declared about Hall's ministry, "was more earnestly or powerfully outspoken in behalf of human freedom in the most critical day of the anti-slavery struggle."

Born in Medford, Massachu-



Today's illustrations show Rev. Nathaniel Hall and his house at the corner of Columbia Road and Sayward Street, approximately 468 Columbia Road.

setts, on Aug. 13, 1805, the young Nathaniel worked as a clerk in a store in Boston, and, subsequently, as a secretary in an insurance office. He graduated from the Harvard Divinity School in 1834, and in the following year became colleague pastor with

Dr. Thaddeus Mason Harris of the First Unitarian Parish in Dorchester. He became sole pastor a year later, and held the post until his death.

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

Editorial

Thanks, Gov. Baker, for inspired SJC pick

In the early weeks of the pandemic, an "OFD" reader from Pennsylvania — clearly a Republican, but a "Never Trumper" — rang the Reporter to renew his subscription. He enjoyed getting the news from his hometown and wanted to be supportive of our work, he said. But he also offered an admonition to your faithful servant. Allow me to paraphrase: "You're too liberal and too hard on Charlie Baker. He never gets a kind word from the Reporter."

Setting aside whether or not that's a full and fair assessment of our coverage, let the record show that on this day—during the week of Thanksgiving 2020—this space offers nothing but full-throated praise for our Commonwealth's chief executive.

Gov. Baker, in picking the Honorable Serge Georges as an associate justice of the state's Supreme Judicial Court, has hit a home run. And in the Dorchester context, his choice of nominee is more like a grand slam. The son of immigrants from Haiti, the 50-year-old Georges spent the bulk of his childhood in our neighborhood. He attended St. Kevin's Grammar School and went on to another esteemed Dorchester institution, Boston College High School, where he honed his talents with Jesuit instructors who urged him to be a "man for others." He now serves as the vice-chair of BC High's board of trustees. Georges went on to Boston College and then to Suffolk Law School.

Most recently, Georges, who was appointed to the bench in 2013 by Gov. Deval Patrick, has been assigned to the Dorchester division of Boston Municipal Court, where has presided over thousands of cases, the majority of them originating in our neighborhood.

Last year, the Reporter observed Judge Georges's courtroom for a day and found his style professional, respectful, and engaged. He was eager to find ways to divert the men and women—mostly young adults—away from jail cells and onerous penalties. He showed empathy and kindness to all.

Last week, when asked by reporters about how his Jesuit education influences his jurisprudence, Georges answered: "The Jesuit tradition of being men and women for others—as it pertains to how I preside—is that there are always going to be opportunities where you can extend a hand to someone or give them an opportunity to earn a dismissal of their case— or redemption. "When you're at the community level... there are plenty of people who have just made mistakes that need some guidance to get back on their feet, stop committing crime, and be productive members of society. That is a cornerstone principle of the Jesuit tradition and I try to do that."

Georges also saluted his parents, who raised him and his two sisters near Dorchester's Kane Square.

"It means everything to them," he said, adding: "It's important to acknowledge my Haitian heritage. It's incredibly important for them to see that they came with the hope of giving us a better life and I think that through some measure of our achievement, they feel that they have."

When Georges is confirmed by the Governor's Council—likely next week—Gov. Baker will have appointed all seven sitting members of the Supreme Judicial Court, a considerable achievement. More impressively, the governor has made excellent choices, resulting in an SJC that is diverse in more ways than just race or gender. Judge Georges's experience as a district level judge—one of only a handful ever elevated from that tier to the state's top court—adds a breadth and depth of experience and perspective that will be invaluable in the court's deliberations.

Coupled with his decision to promote Justice Kimberly Budd to fill the role of SJC chief, the Georges nomination made the past week a remarkable time for the Baker administration.

-Bill Forry

The Reporter

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Mortgage lenders must look beyond W-2s, open pathways for those without them

By NGOC-TRAN VU SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

I knew Boston was a tough town to buy a place to live when I started looking. The average prices for condos and single-family homes are between \$500,000 to almost \$1 million, a rate that has more than doubled from when I left Dorchester for college in 2006.



Ngoc-Tran Vu

It's hard to save enough for a down payment, at least not without a lot of help from family. But the current market is particularly hard for American millennials, aged 23 to 38 these days. And a lot harder for people of color — especially those who identify as Black and Latinx.

After finishing graduate school, I moved back in with my parents in Dorchester, my home community, to keep my

expenses low and allow me to save more. I am a working artist, but I also have a day job to make sure I have a regular income.

When I decided to start the home-buying process, I had a credit score of 783 and enough money saved to put 10 percent down on a place in my price range. Plus, I could afford the extra incurred costs like insurance and fees. I was pre-approved for a loan.

Still, it took me six months, more than a dozen bids, and two loans pulled from approval at the last minute. One loan was through a first-time home buyers program that initially miscalculated my income – it turned out I made slightly over the required income to qualify for it at the time – and the other claimed to be uncomfortable about my "work history being an artist and community activist."

Rebecca Steele, CEO of the National Foundation for Credit Counseling, concurs that my experience reflects a more challenging market for millennials in the traditional banking system than was the case with our predecessors. We stay single longer. More of us have student debt and are self-employed as freelancers and members of the growing gig economy.

Most banks prefer buyers with traditional W2 salaries because they show a more stable income stream than those who are self-employed or freelancers who may have fluctuating incomes. There are Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac guidelines that recommend taking a two-year work history or an average of Schedule C income for loan applicants who are self-employed, but, Steele says, the two-year measure is challenging for freelancers because their pay can be irregular. As an artist, I go through periods of time where I do not receive the commissions or grants I am hoping for. In addition, some clients haven't paid me on time.

Steele recommends that lenders adapt to the changing workforce by creating more expansive guidelines to support those who have 1099-MISC incomes or those who have multiple income streams. She also advocates for families and young people to start building credit and utilizing financial best practices early on to prepare for eventual homeownership.

The city of Boston could help, too. I went through the city's first-time homebuyer course, and while it was helpful, it lacked curriculum and resources for self-employed and freelance workers. The city runs Metrolist, which shares housing resources and has some programs in place to help with affordable housing — a first-time homebuyer mortgage, down payment support, and affordable condo lotteries. These programs are extremely competitive and often do not reach historically disadvantaged communities whose residents speak different languages.

I'd like to see the city create specific policies and add incentives for financial institutions to encourage homeownership among millennials, especially artists and cultural workers. Perhaps designate more housing and workshops specifically for artists, lessen the requirements for stable income documentation, and provide grants plus interest-free insurance to support freelancers with down payments.

And city government needs to stay vigilant about discrimination. A major investigative report found that in many cities, lenders still discriminate against people based on their skin color, their marital status, occupation, or zip codes. Boston was not on that list of cities, but only because of lack of data. As a young Vietnamese American woman, I worried that the mortgage process might be stacked against me. I did beat the odds and, fortunately, I was able to get my loan approval in the end.

Boston's future will be more and more diverse and homeownership should be accessible for young people and those who do not fit the archaic model profile of what lenders consider desirable. In fact, if things don't change, homes in the future will be predominantly owned by large companies, white families, or those with immense generational wealth.

Financial institutions and home loan providers need to start adjusting to changing demographics. Why shouldn't preference be given to local homebuyers who want to remain in their communities? This would help reduce the gentrification and displacement that is rapidly taking place in Boston and beyond.

I am a proud homeowner now in the neighborhood where I grew up and where I want to remain. This would not have happened if I hadn't been able to push back against a system that was not properly set up to support people like me, even as I had meticulously tried to prepare myself for success.

I can't help but think about the many others who have been denied the opportunity of homeownership, especially those who are committed to meaningful, long-term contributions to their home community beyond personal financial stability and profit.

To learn more about this issue, register for "Navigating Housing & Studio Spaces for Artists: Know Your Rights and Resources" with Ngoc-Tran Vu and Liliana Mangiafic with Assets for Artists next month, on Dec. 2.

This article was first published on the website artsboston.org.

Some school panel members must apologize, resign for racist actions

To the Editor:

People in Boston like me, with the last name Murphy, can rest assured that no one in public office and no members of the Boston School Committee are going to

Letter to the Editor

make fun of our names. In Boston, if your name is Murphy or Robinson

or Sullivan or O'Neil, no one mocks you as an outsider. We have the privilege of being considered insiders here, just because of our names.

But if your last name is Ng or Peng or Wong or Chen, forget it. You may think you are welcome, as a resident and taxpayer of our city, to address the school committee as a valued member of the community. But for our current Boston School Committee, the message is clear: Asians Need Not Apply. This Boston School committee will ridicule you on open mics. They will say they had to resist laughing at the racist tweets they were receiving. They will say that there are "too many Asian students" in our exam schools. This Boston School Committee does not respect Asian children and families, and the records and transcripts of their meetings prove it. The text messages that were sent secretly by school committee members to each other during last month's meeting are appalling. They are racist. They are unwelcoming to our Asian neighbors and friends. And they make it abundantly clear that this committee, and especially its new exam school admission policy, were tainted from the very beginning by anti-Asian

At the Oct. 8 meeting, member Geri Robinson

tasked the panel's Working Group with reducing the number of successful Asian applicants to our exam schools. At the Oct. 21 meeting, member Lorna Rivera secretly texted she almost "laughed out loud" when she heard Michael Loconto's racist joke. Then vice-chair Oliver-Davila secretly texted that the racist tweets she was receiving during Asian parents' testimony were funny.

Committee member O'Neil was secretly texting the chair during last month's meeting, suggesting plausible lies he might use to cover up his racist remarks. O'Neil, Sullivan, and Davila were texting each other about the vote before it was taken and while Asian parents were testifying before them about their heartfelt opposition to the new policy. The Boston School Committee has a long and ugly history of racism. Allowing that ugly past to be a part of our city's present is unacceptable. Anti-Asian racism cannot be tolerated by the Boston Public Schools, our mayor, or our City Council. School Committee members Robinson, Rivera, O'Neil, and Oliver-Davila need to apologize publicly to the Asian community of Boston and to resign their positions immediately. The committee needs to cancel the new exam school policy vote from last month because it made a mockery of any kind of transparency or democratic spirit, and because it was written and supported by School Committee members whose racist remarks are now public, permanently damaging this body's reputation.

- Darragh Murphy Dorchester

November 25, 2020 THE REPORTER Page 9 dotnews.com

The Urban Gardener

The Urban Gardener's Thanksgiving Day Schedule

(Editor's Note: Due to popular demand, we are pleased to reprint Mary Casey Forry's classic $column\,about\,her\,sched$ ule of activities around the house for Thanksgiving Day. This article first appeared in the Dorchester Reporter in November 1986.)

By Mary Casey FORRY

6:15 a.m. - Rise and attempt to shine. Find way to kitchen without falling over sleeping animals on the dark, narrow, back stairs. Remove cold, dead fowl from refrigerator and give it a sponge bath, remembering to remove innards in little plastic bags which butcher hides in any number of cavities throughout carcass. Preheat oven.

6:30 a.m. - Remove celery and onions from refrigerator; cut them into small pieces and saute them in pan while attempting to keep stomach under control. Add bread and spices and prepare to insert them into fowl. Do not, under any circumstances, attempt to cut corners by stuffing the fowl the night before, or everyone at table will die of food poisoning before sundown.

6:35 a.m. - Rummage through dark house looking for needle and thread with which to sew fowl back together again. Contort the fowl to fit into roasting pan by bending its little wings behind its back. If this does not work, cut them off (he's finished using them).

6:45 a.m. - Massage fowl liberally with butter or some other lubricant (other than motor oil) to keep it moist while cooking. This procedure never works, but it makes us feel like Julia Child.

 $6{:}50\,a.m.$ - Put fowl in oven and check cooking chart for time. Figure anywhere between five and 36 hours until fowl is done. If anyone asks later what time dinner is, be optimistic and say, "Sometime today."

7:00 a.m. - Remove bakery pies from trunk of car and line them up where everyone can see them. Throw boxes away and when family asks if you made them. look offended, lie and say, "Of course."

7:05 a.m. - Sit down and have morning beverage of your choice.

7:10 a.m. - Remove appropriate vegetables from refrigerator and peel or otherwise ready them for cooking. It is best to do this early because some juggling for burner space on stove is in order since there are only four burners and



Mary Casey Forry

17 side dishes. Neighbors are of no help at this time, since they are in same boat.

8:00 a.m. - First family member appears in kitchen demanding bacon and eggs for breakfast. Give them a dollar and point them in the general direction of the nearest McDonald's.

8:15 a.m. - Husband suggests that you accompany him to a football stadium where you can sit in 20 degree weather watching high school students maul and maim one another. Tell him you are much too busy, but to go and have a wonderful time and don't forget to take the children with him. Use next several hours attempting to make up lost sleep.

10:30 a.m. - Catch glimpse of Thanksgiving Day parade on television. Notice how spectators are smiling and waving at the camera. That's because they're having dinner at someone else's house and don't have to cook.

11:00 a.m. - Set dinner table with best linen, china, crystal and silverware and candles. Stop and admire it, because now is the best it's going to look all day.

12:45 p.m. - Husband and children arrive home and want to know when dinner will be ready. Smile and try to contain yourself.

1:00 p.m. - Set cooked fowl on platter. Assemble various vegetables, sauces, gravies, condiments, etc.

1:30 p.m. - Announce that dinner is ready. Husband will want to know if you can hold everything for 10 more minutes until halftime in the Stuffing Bowl. Tell him if he's not at the table in 20 seconds, he'll be the first casualty of the holiday weekend.

 $1:32\,$ p.m. - Family assembles at table. Say

some family member, usually the youngest, announces how bad they feel for the turkey, spoiling everyone's appetite.

1:50 p.m. - Dinner and halftime over. Remove dishes and food from table. Wash dishes, pots, pans, silver and crystal. Attempt to remove gravy and candle wax stains from linen.

2:30 p.m. - Set out desserts and beverages. 2:40 p.m. - Remove dessert plates and silverware, cups and saucers, and wash same.

3:30 p.m. - Finish removing debris from kitchen and dining areas. At this point, husband usually saunters into kitchen and asks what he can do to help. This way you know that the Stuffing Bowl is over and the Squash Bowl has not yet begun. Tell him thanks a lot, but his concern and good wishes are more than enough.

6:00 p.m. - Finish last chore and sit down with youngest child to watch "Santa and the Million Dollar Parents" on television.

6:30 p.m. - Husband and children want to know what's for supper. Tell them the kitchen is closed for repairs.

7:00 p.m. - Tell children for the last time that under no circumstances are there any Christmas decorations going up in this house tonight!

8:00 p.m. - Sit down to relax with newspaper. Realize from the ads

shopping days left until Christmas. Take a Prozac, wish one and all

Grace. At this point that there are only 26 a Happy Thanksgiving, co-founded the Reportgo to bed and cry self to sleep.

Mary Casey Forry

er in 1983. She passed awayin December 2004.

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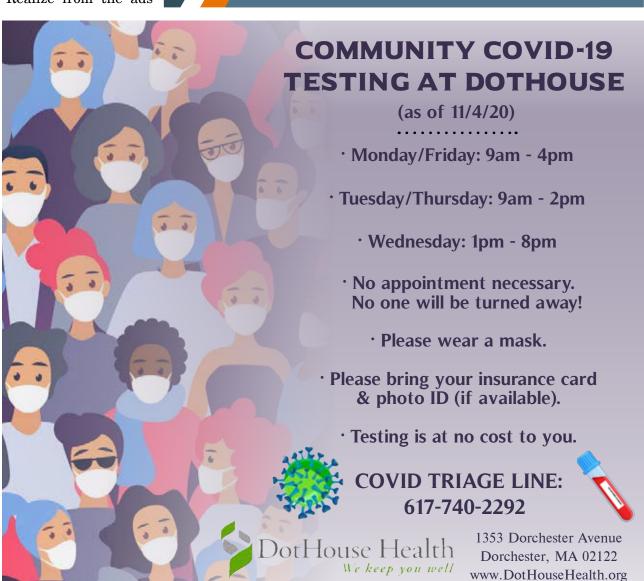
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Talk is of hitting 'reset button' on Dudley St. condo plan

By Katie Trojano Reporter Staff

The proponents of a five-story mixed-use development originally proposed last year for a vacant lot in Uphams Corner told about 40 people last Tuesday that they have "hit the reset button" on their review process during a virtual meeting hosted by the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA.)

Property owner Greg McCarthy's proposal for 706 Dudley St. calls for 26 two-bedroom condominium units – 3 on the first floor, 6 on the next three floors, and 5 on the fifth floor — and 17 parking spaces tucked underneath 2,747 square feet of commercial space at ground level.

The project would include three affordable housing units per the city's Inclusionary Development Policy.

Arthur Choo, project architect and associate at Choo & Company, Inc., said that design elements would "fit into the neighborhood" in terms of height, scale, and brick masonry. Choo also pointed to existing buildings in the surrounding area with similar heights to McCarthy's proposal and zero lot lines.

Some attendees voiced concerns over affordability, a lack of community outreach, and the process of the BP-DA-led Zoom meetings. Joanne Tuller, a nearby resident, said the project "represents gentrification in the neighborhood."



A rendering of the five-story building shown during the virtual meeting.

Courtesy of Choo & Company, Inc.

John Pulgini, an attorney representing McCarthy, said that the condos would likely be priced in the \$380,000-\$400,000 range.

"A \$380,000 price point I think is on the lower end. I think you'd be hard pressed to find anything in that price range on a condominium in construction," he said. "But your point is well taken. Our intent here is not to gentrify the neighborhood and force people out."

Added McCarthy: "If you look at what it costs even for a condo in a [three-decker] in this neighborhood, it's pretty much in line with that. It's not a more expensive project, there are just more units. The entire cost of the project comes out to be in the mid-\$300,000s per unit. So we're essentially on tight margins."

Tuller and a few others were also concerned about the Zoom format and meeting procedure. "I know we have to stick with Zoom and I'm totally in favor of that, but I would like it if we could see who else is here," she said. "I have no idea how many people are in this meeting and when we can't see the other questions that people are asking we can't really have a group dialogue the same way that we could in person. I would argue for the chat function."

Saba Ijada echoed that sentiment, saying: "We lose the ability to network when we are not able to see each other, even if it's virtually."

Stephen Harvey, BPDA project manager, said he would bring the feedback to the agency. "That's something that's been of debate on many other meetings that I've hosted. I do understand the difficulty of trying to have meetings in this format," he said. "However, the ability to have a discussion also can get eroded with the chat format. We're still looking at different formats, but I will take back your concerns and comments."

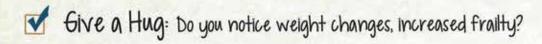
When the proposal was last aired to the community in September 2019, during a BPDA-hosted public meeting that was dominated by neighborhood residents, many were upset by what they claimed was an effort by McCarthy to clear out tenants in another property he owns nearby, at 6 Humphreys St., by giving no-fault eviction notices to everyone living there, a process that had been initiated by the building's previous owner.

Since then, in November 2019, a jury granted two tenants of 6 Humphreys, Jean Paul Doh and Tunde Kunnu, possession of their property and the right to remain in their apartments.

Pulgini said the team will be engaging in a "completely new" process with the community. But there was still much discussion about the issues at 6 Humphreys St.

"Why would the city allow a developer who has treated (Continued next page)

5 Ways to check on Mom's well-being this holiday season.



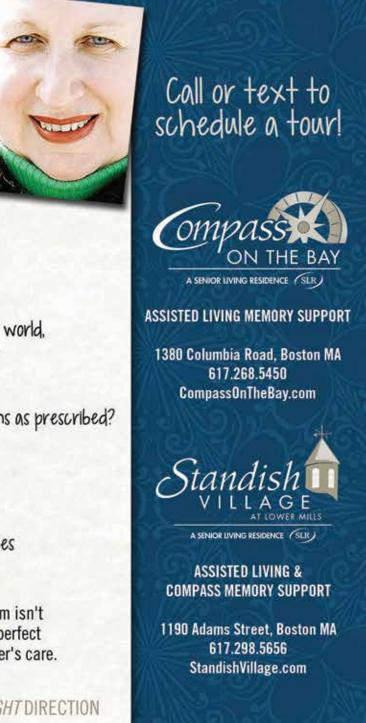
Ask about Friends: Especially given the current state of our world, are there still signs of active friendships?

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his tenants at 6 Humphreys St. terribly, who is dragging his feet and barely complying with court orders to repair that building, who is doing everything he can to avoid the law and maltreat the neighborhood, to develop a new property in the neighborhood?" asked Lori Hurlebaus, a Dorchester resident.

Harvey jumped in at that point: "I do understand the community's concern with this project. We've worked with city officials and tried our best to understand the 6 Humphreys situation and work with the developer. Every developer, no matter how the neighborhood or folks view them, has the right as a property owner to present proposals to the community.'

McCarthy then shared his perspective on the amends he has made since last year.

"Less than a year ago I had proposed to renovate the building and keep all of the tenants in there for a discounted rate. We're well on our way trying to renovate the full building. We offered them brand new apartments for the same amount they were paying—or actually not

Chen, Rosy L



An aerial view shows the vacant lot at the corner of Dudley and Humphreys Streets.

Google maps

paying,"he said. "I have never collected rent in this apartment for the two and a half years that I have owned it. Not one tenant has ever paid me, and I have been spending an enormous amount of money renovating. I don't know what else I could possibly do."

"In 2019 at our last meeting, this issue was the elephant in the room and it was a big sticking point for a lot of people; it hit a nerve. People were angry about it and they wanted action," said Pulgini, urging McCarthy to further elaborate on his efforts to honor the agreement reached with the tenants' attorneys last year.

"I'm giving them completely brand new units and five-year leases. I'm working toward good relationships with the tenants and I thought we were on a pretty good path," said McCarthy.

Hurlebaus doubled down: "The meeting definitely was contentious and there were a lot of concerns around 6 Humphreys, and those tenants did win their case, so I think there's some framing, Greg, that I don't think is fully accurate."

She added that there were also concerns raised around the process of the last meeting and a lack of community engagement prior to it. "People were concerned about having more community engagement that would allow for more

participation including interpretation and a more rigorous community outreach in multiple languages. Y'all did agree to that," she said.

Pulgini said that the team, having entered into an entirely new process, will be open and accessible to the community going forward.

"The last meeting—it was a dumpster fire—I think you'll all agree with me on that," he said. I think out of hun-

dreds of meetings that I have done that was probably the worst and after that meeting the whole thing got put on pause. The BPDA was upset about Humphreys Street. That was the real issue with a lot of people," he said. happened over a year ago and we hit the reset button and came back. We have a new BPDA project manager and the comment period is not closed. The whole project team will be available and we will make sure this project goes through a fair public process whether or not it gets approved."

Hurlebaus said she hopes that an affordable housing developer will acquire McCarthy's building at 6 Humphreys and convert it into deed-restricted affordable housing units. Such acquisitions are now a goal of Mayor Walsh whose updated housing plan calls for 1,000 apartments to be stabilized in this way.

The public comment period for the 706 Dudley project is open and accessible on the BP-DA's website, and additional community engagement meetings will be scheduled.



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Rollins orders probe into sex assault claims vs. former Suffolk prosecutor

THE REPORTER

By Deborah Becker WBUR Reporter

The Suffolk County District Attorney's office is investigating allegations of sexual assault made against one of its former prosecutors in an online post published last week.

District Attorney Rachael Rollins said on Friday that she has retained an outside law firm to investigate claims that former prosecutor

Adam Foss, a prominent criminal justice reform advocate, "engaged in behavior that was either inappropriate, an abuse of authority, unethical or illegal." He denies the allegations, which the writer and singer Raegan Sealy outlined in a Medium post published last week.

Sealy also said that she has learned that other women witnessed or experienced Foss's misconduct but were afraid to come forward.

Said Rollins in a statement released Friday afternoon, "In any situation, sharing intimate details of deception, coercion, manipulation and sexual assault can be difficult and take courage. I am grateful to the women who have come forward."

Foss also released a statement Friday, saying "some of my callous and insensitive behavior has caused many people anguish, but I deny any allegations of nonconsensual sexual relations. With respect to District Attorney Rachael Rollins's recent statement referencing a pending investigation, I do not wish to compromise that process by commenting further. In addition, this is a more appropriate time for me to listen than to speak."

Foss, a former Dorchester resident, was a Suffolk County prosecutor from 2008 to 2016, serving before Rollins took office. But Rollins said she was friends with Foss, so she has retained the law firm Goodwin Procter to do an independent investigation. She said some of the allegations appear to have been from when Foss was a Suffolk County prosecutor. Boston police are also investigating the claims, Rollins said.

"This will not be a quick or easy process and it is important to give anyone that may have

their own story to share the time and space to do so in a safe and comfortable way," she said. "Every investigation will be investigated fairly and thoroughly."

Foss is well known for a 2016 TED Talk on criminal justice reform. He founded the group «Prosecutor Impact» to look at the role of prosecutors and mass incarceration.

This article was originally published by WBUR 90.9FM on Nov. 20. The Reporter and WBUR share content through a media partnership.

Baker: Please trim back plans for holiday gatherings

(Continued from page 1) sachusetts, where 1,785 new cases were logged Monday — a recent string of promising trial results have raised hopes for a vaccine that could bring about an end to the pandemic. A Massachusetts High Technology Council presentation said testing will be key until a vaccination program is ready.

There are currently 40,202 active cases of Covid-19 in Massachusetts, according to the Department of Public Health, which reported 18 new deaths on Monday among confirmed coronavirus patients, bringing the pandemic's death toll to 10,299, or 10,531 when the 232

deaths among people with probable

cases are added in. More than 7.9 million tests have now been administered in Massachusetts, and the seven-day average positivity rate stands at 3.06 percent, or 4.82 percent when higher education-related tests are excluded.

"We are in the midst of a surge in cases, there is community transmission across the commonwealth, and we are standing up at least one field hospital to treat a crush of ill patients," Baker said at a Monday press conference.

Massachusetts caps indoor gatherings at 10 people, and mandates that visitors from anywhere but Vermont and Hawaii, including returning college students and Bay Staters coming back from their own holiday trips, self-isolate for two weeks or test negative for the highly infectious virus.

Last week, the Department of Public Health removed New Hampshire and Maine from a list of lower-risk states exempt from that policy. The change could have major impacts on holiday travel, as those who may have planned trips to either of the two border states must now factor in quarantines or tests or else expose themselves, if caught not following the restrictions, to potential fines of \$500 per day.

Numbers from AAA and the US Transportation Security Administration indicate more people are traveling than has become the recent norm, but in numbers below pre-pandemic levels. AAA projections from Nov. 12 showed 50 million people expected to travel on Thanksgiving, down from 55 million in 2010

The TSA screened 1,047,934 travelers throughout the country on Sunday, less than half the 2,321,546 recorded the same weekday last year. Sunday marked only the third time since March that the total number of travelers had exceeded one million, along with Fri., Nov. 20, and Sun., Oct. 18.

Baker said the fact

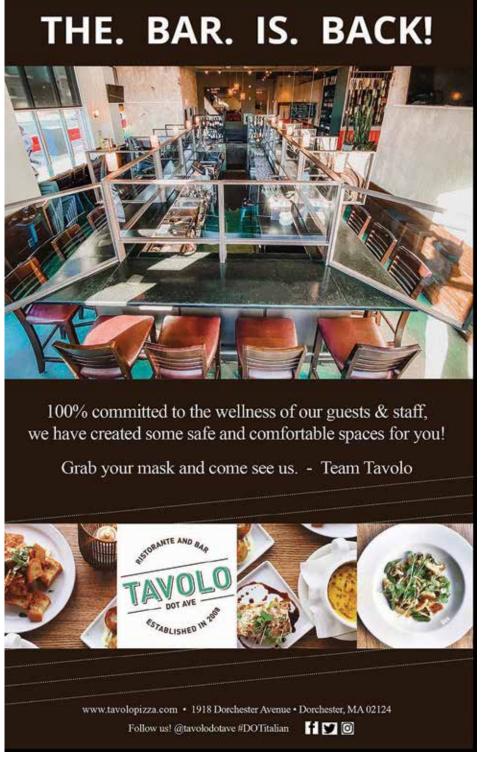
that TSA numbers are lower than they'd normally be pre-Thanksgiving "implies that the message that's been delivered by folks like us and by many others across the country has clearly resonated with many people," and said he hopes those who do travel take precautions like wearing masks.

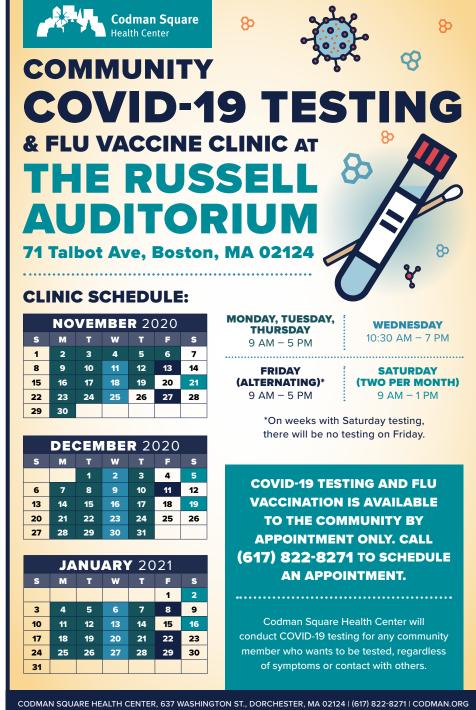
The Massachusetts Health and Hospital Association circulated a letter on Monday, signed by nearly 100 chief medical officers and chief nursing officers from across the state, urging people to think carefully about Thanksgiving by keeping gatherings small, setting up meal tables to allow for distance, celebrating outside when possible,

and staying mindful of seniors and those with chronic conditions.

"Throughout the pandemic, we have often been asked how people can support our caregivers as they combat Covid-19 with compassion and bravery," they wrote. "Wearing a mask and avoiding large gatherings is the greatest gift you can give."

Baker has said he's limiting his Thanks-giving festivities to his immediate family, and Bharel said her family made the decision to have everyone celebrate in their own households, in lieu of a tradition that involves people from ages 5 to 82 traveling to Massachusetts from six different states.





Testing called critical bridge to vaccine; but capacity 'far short' of what's needed

By Colin A. Young State House News Service

Promising vaccine trial results have offered a glimmer of hope that the end of the Covid-19 pandemic could be approaching, but testing capacity is still "far short" of what's required to avoid "further significant economic damage" until a vaccine is rolled out, the Massachusetts High Technology Council said Monday morning.

The council presented its latest update to the framework developed by some of the state's top health and life sciences business leaders and first unveiled in April to propose ways for the state to fully recover from the coronavirus outbreak and begin to open its businesses. The latest update, which was presented by Executive Committee member Steve Pagliuca, focused on the ways a federal, state, and local expansion of testing capacity and usage can keep the coronavirus largely in check until a vaccine is widely available.

"Testing will be critically important to our ability to continue to move the economy forward and to mitigate the impact and size of the second Covid wave we are experiencing as we transition to a nationwide vaccination program," Pagliuca, the Bain Capital cochair and Boston Celtics co-owner, said.

The updated framework envisions a "systematic, expanded testing regime to surveil the asymptomatic population to mitigate and suppress the viral spread" using multiple types of testing, public-private partnerships, education campaigns and encouragement that people get tested, and a financing plan that allows all citizens access to testing. To complement the testing program, governments should also boost their contact tracing capabilities so people who test positive can be isolated.

The update that Pagliuca presented takes into account that the second surge of Covid-19 gripping Massachusetts and the rest of the country is different from the initial wave of cases that threatened hospital capacity in the spring.

"This is more cases, more rapidly, than what we had seen before," White House coronavirus response coordinator Dr. Deborah Birx said last week. The High Tech Council cited a presentation Birx made last week in which she said testing would need to be increased tenfold to be able to test and monitor both symptomatic and asymptomatic cases.

In Massachusetts, the number of molecular tests performed each day over the last few weeks has ranged roughly from about 85,000 to 105,000 each weekday and about 30,000 to 40,000 each weekend day, according to Department of Public Health data.

Using a low-end estimate that may not have accounted for the recent increases in holiday-related testing demand, Pagliuca's presentation pegged the time to test the entire Massachusetts population once

at 86 days – far higher than academic estimates required to suppress the virus.

Pagliuca also presented information on testing regimens used in Singapore after the 2002 SARS outbreak and more recently to curb coronavirus activity in Qingdao and Wuhan, China.

When Pagliuca first presented the High Tech Council's reopening framework in the spring, it placed a great emphasis on the Rt for the coronavirus in Massachusetts — a measure of a virus's average transmission rate at a given point in time — and the need to keep that metric as low as possible. On Monday, he said that a robust testing and tracing program can work independently of workplace mitigation measures to keep the coronavirus in check in the workplace.

Using a hypothetical Rt value of 2.5, the High Tech Council



Steve Pagliuca Looking to mitigate the impact and size of the second Covid wave.

said the combination of mask-wearing, distancing, self-diagnosis, screening, ventilation, cleaning and "other" could reduce the rate to about 0.5. A testing and tracing program like the one Pagliuca outlined could "independently significantly reduce Rt" to about 0.5, the High Tech Council said.

"Good morning. We need more testing. MUCH more testing. Free is best and equitable but as inexpensive as possible is critical. We need more and better contact tracing," Massachusetts Medical Society President Dr. David Rosman tweeted Friday. "We are in trouble. There is a way out. TEST! Test us all. Regularly. We would be normal again."

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

www.dorchesterhistoricalsociety.org

Neighbors wary of new plans for apartments on Old Colony site

(Continued from page 1) proposal — last aired during a virtual meeting in August —to try to address some of the concerns raised by critics. However, much of the criticism raised in the last meeting came up again on Thursday night.

The current plan calls for two buildings— five and six stories in height with a roof deck, dog spa, and 136 parking spaces. The proposal once again received vigorous pushback from many of the 27 people on the call who complained about a lack of affordability, flooding, access to the sea, and

In response, John Harding, a senior associate principal at Cube 3, said that through coordination with the Boston Civic Design Commission (BCDC), the team altered its plans to answer the criticism.

"We've been able to make some pretty significant changes to the project that we think are hitting on all of the goals of the project— creating a better response to the site, and better public open space and benefits," he said.

Developers increased the number of units in the latest proposal— up from the previous iteration's figure of 206but kept the amount of parking spaces the same. They increased the square-footage of open space for both residents and the public to include 18,800 and 14,200 square feet for those groups, respectively.

The new proposal also features a design element that Harding said



The northern 5-story building, left, and the V-shaped 6-story building proposed for the Old Colony site at 780 Morrissey Blvd. are shown in an architect rendering.

breaks the larger of the two buildings proposed "into more manageable massing sizes."

'We've gotten a lot of positive feedback from the [design commission board] and this is the direction that they're encouraging us to proceed with," Harding explained. "We still have two heights. The northern building still has a longer footprint and will be 5 stories; the 6-story building is still in a U-shape, but the edges now splay open to increase the views out to the ocean."

The project's proponents say that it would enhance a state-led plan to create a multi-use path that would begin at Malibu Beach and end at Conley Street, providing a connection through Victory Road and Tenean Street.

"The park that we were considering to be one of our biggest benefits was seen as underwhelming, so we listened and tried to re-think it. We centered that around the future bicycle path connection," said Harding. "We've located better public space and more residential open space up on the eastern facing courtyard that has views over the future DCR multi-use path."

He added that the team is open to suggestions for local merchants, in their pop-up park, which will be used for "active events on a really high profile piece of property.

He also noted that the team will make a \$100,000 dollar contribution to the city's Climate Ready Boston Fund, which will be allocated to the design efforts for Tenean Beach and Conley Street, specifically to a deployable gate outlined in current city plans.

The bulk of the two

hour-long meeting was dominated by residents who spoke in opposition. Maria Lyons, a Port Norfolk resident and a member of an Impact Advisory Group for the project, led the charge.

"The mass and heights of this building are going to be creating a wall between Dorchester, Neponset, and the waterfront - worse than the expressway that's there

already," she said.
"The design and the area keeps being referred to as 'urban' and in Dorchester we consider this as a coastal area," she added. "I don't understand why the BPDA and BCDC is considering it that way when DCR and Climate Ready Boston are promoting changes in the area to become a more natural, coastal area."

Mark McGonagle, director of community affairs at the BPDA, explained that the project's proposed height and density are actually exactly what the BPDA is looking for in an area similar to that of 780 Morrissey.

"We often look for the first row of development that goes up against hard infrastructure like, in this case, a highway to be at least medium in terms of height and density because we try to block things like noise, etc., from that highway,' he said.

Vivian Ortiz, a Mattapan resident and member of the Neponset River Greenway Council, said that the portion of the path along Freeport Street mentioned by the developers was "going to be built a long time before this project," and that it would be not only a recreational path, but one used by pedestrians and bikers.

Said Stephen Harvey, BPDA project manager, "This bike path will be key in the Neponset Greenway Trail and allow for the growth and expansion of that and that area will be much more activated with changes that DCR has thought of making."

Robert Genduso, a Pope's Hill resident, offered that the latest plan was an improvement over initial designs, but said he is concerned about how the pandemic could affect the project's viability.

"The increase in occupancy is unfortunate, though," he said. "I'm not

going to belabor any of the points about height or density-most of us have come to grips that this is what the future is. But the city's rental market has changed as a result of Covid. There's a trend ongoing right now and that is that people are working from home. The city is already looking at 9 percent vacancies, and I worry about this plan in 3-5 years if this trend continues on."

A few attendees were unhappy with the amountof parking, which is proposed at under a 1:1 ratio. Harvey replied that part of the city's goals to support transit oriented and sustainable developments wouldn't encourage a 1:1 parking ratio.

A couple of meeting members, Gady Eason and Raheem Shepard, spoke from their perspective as representatives of the local carpenter's union, asking the developers to commit to contracting with the union if the project were to go forward.

Charles Cofield, a Dorchester resident, said the project "should be taken off the table. There are no true community benefits for this project, and it's almost like it will be on its own little island and will feel completely different from the rest of the area."

The project is currently under review by the BPDA, and more community input sessions will likely be scheduled.



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Want to showcase your special house?

(Continued from page 1)

"Markers like these spark interest in local history and can call attention to historic preservation efforts," said DHS President Earl Taylor. "Easily visible to the public, they reflect the importance a community places on its heritage," he added.

To be considered for a marker, a house must have been built at least 100 years ago and must have essentially retained the integrity of its original design and construction, though additions and alterations would not necessarily be cause for exclusion.

A house built less than 100 years ago would also be considered if it embodied the distinctive characteristics of a particular architectural style, or if a past occupant made a significant contribution to local, regional, or national history, culture, or the arts.

Marti Glynn, a DHS board member, told the Reporter that a program of this kind has been in the works for years. "This has been something that people have discussed on the board for some time, and to me it always seemed like a really good idea," she said. "I have an old house, many of us in Dorchester have old houses, but people don't know a lot about their old



An example of the oval historic home maker available through the Dorchester Historical Society. $Courtesy\,DHS$

sources such as deeds,

building permits, and

architectural drawings

are required in order to

establish the history of

a house and qualify it for

a marker. Photos, letters,

diaries, and other mem-

orabilia relating to the

house or its occupants

can expand on its history

but don't replace the key

DHS also offers re-

search to homeowners to

assist in the documenta-

tion of a property's histo-

ry. For \$60, a trained vol-

unteer will provide two

hours of research that

will focus on determining

the date of construction

and the original owner

and may also yield other

interesting information.

at \$30 an hour, may be

arranged to probe more

deeply into the history of

the house for details such

as previous occupants,

the architect, or changes

made to the house or the

Additional research,

documents.

houses. We thought this would be a good way to acknowledge the history here in the neighborhood and get people interested in learning more about where they live."

Glynn added that the program is designed to be open to all residents, regardless of what type of home they live in – as long as it's old enough.

"We wanted to make it affordable, and we wanted to be sure that those qualifications were not so rigid that only pristine, lavish Victorian houses would qualify. The iconic three-decker is absolutely a house we want to reach out to the homeowners about and illuminate some of its history. As long as you can identify the original design, we would consider it for a marker.'

Homeowners may submit their own research on their houses to DHS for consideration. Primary

property over time. A written report will be provided to the homeowner to document the research and its findings.

The house markers,

The house markers, which are being offered at \$130, measure 9 inches high by 14.75 inches wide, with a graceful cove molding at the edge. Made of weather-resis-

tant PVC and painted a cream color with black lettering, the design is compatible with every style of house.

Proceeds from the marker program will support the Society's programming and conservation efforts.

"In the last few weeks, we have done a lot of testing, researching houses, and the homeowner is always excited by what we

find," said Glynn. "Every house is different, every story is different."

The marker program is completely voluntary and does not imply or impose any restrictions on the property. Detailed information about the program and house research services is available on the DHS website, dorchesterhistoricalsociety.org, or by calling 617-293-3052.

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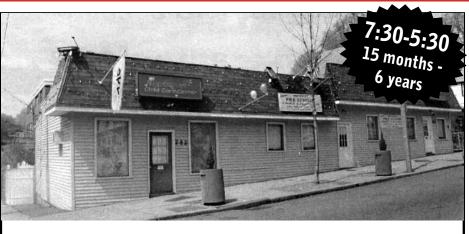
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Jobless rate in state falls to 7.4 percent; gains slowing

By Chris Lisinski STATE HOUSE News Service

Massachusetts employment data for October offered a mixed outlook on the state's economic recovery: The unemployment rate dropped 2.4 percentage points to the lowest level since the pandemic hit, but job growth continues to slow after unprecedented losses followed by sizable gains.

Labor officials reported on Nov. 20 that the Massachusetts unemployment rate was 7.4 percent in October, an improvement from the revised figure of 9.8 percent in September. The state's jobless rate was only half a percentage point higher than the 6.9 percent rate for the country.

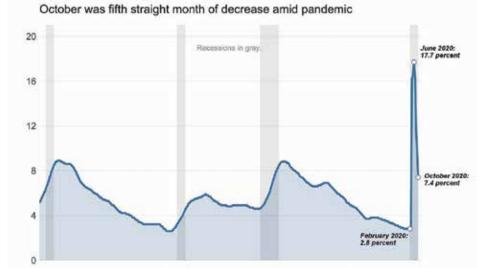
Employers reported adding 11,400 jobs in October, less than a third $of the \, gains \, in \, September \,$ and the smallest month-

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Unemployment rate continues to decline in Massachusetts



The state's unemployment rate continued its decline in October, dropping to Chris Lisinski/SHNS graphic a pandemic-era low of 7.4 percent.

over-month increase since May, according to a survey of employers separate from the household survey used to calculate unemployment rates.

Source: Executive Office of Labor and Worldorce Developm

Total employment in Massachusetts remains nearly 360,000 positions below its peak in February, before the virus upended public life and ushered in a national recession.

In March and April, Massachusetts businesses reported cutting about 690,000 positions, about 18 percent of the pre-COVID workforce.

Starting in May, when the Baker administration kicked off a phased reopening plan, increas $es \, in \, Mass a chusetts \, total \,$ nonfarm payroll surged, surpassing 50,000 for four straight months.

There are also signs that workers in Massachusetts may be giving up on job searches in a strained environment.

Based on a survey of households, officials estimated that the labor force in Massachusetts shed 155,600 workers in September, meaning those individuals effectively stopped seeking employment.

The rate of Massachusetts working-age adults participating in the labor force, either through employment or looking for a job, dropped from 66.5 percent in September to 63.7 percent in July.

Economists have cautioned that departing workers could make the state's recovery look better than it actually is, since a lower unemployment rate based on a $smaller\,labor\,force\,masks$ those who are out of work but have given up trying to find it or have left jobs permanently without finding new ones, such as retirements.

The largest monthly job gains came in the trade, transportation and utilities sector, which added 10,300 positions. Other industries that reported gains were professional, scientific and business services, construction, manufacturing, financial activities, and other services.

Education and health services cut 4,400 positions in October, more losses than any other sector tracked by the state Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, while government lost 4,200 jobs.

Information as well as leisure and hospitality also reported small



Nick Martin, a former aide to Boston Mayors Martin Walsh and the late Tom Menino, is returning to City Hall to helm the Walsh administration Communications office, effective Dec. 15.

Martin, who is currently the Director of Public Affairs and Communications for Coca-Cola Beverages Northeast, worked in the Walsh and Menino administrations for a combined eight-anda-half years.

"Nick established a reputation for being a strategic thinker who brings his colleagues together to tell the story of all that the city is doing to support and advance the lives of people in Boston," said Walsh in a press release.

Martin has spent the last four years working for the Coca-Cola company. In addition to managing public policy issues across a seven-state territory, he also oversees internal communications and has led several initiatives to improve employee engagement for the 3,400-person organization.

"In many ways, this feels like a homecoming for me," said Martin. "I started as a press assistant in the Mayor's Office in 2008, and it is truly the honor of my career to



Nick Martin

have the opportunity to lead the communications team 12 years later. I'm beyond eager to support Mayor Walsh in communicating his ambitious agenda for all the people of Boston, and I'm ready to hit the ground running next month."

Martin has volunteer roles with several community organizations in Boston, including Save the Harbor Save the Bay, where he's a board member and treasurer for the nonprofit, as well as the youth literacy organization WriteBoston, where he also serves on the board.

He is also an advisory member to The BASE, which helps student athletes achieve their full potential both on and off the field.

Martin holds an undergraduate degree in government from Dartmouth College. He and his wife Lyndsey, a clinical psychologist, live in South Boston with their dog Stanley.

-REPORTER STAFF



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dotnews.com November 25, 2020 THE REPORTER Page 17



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF DORCHESTER

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Thank You for Your Support! BGCD "A Night of Giving Gala": See details below.

CONNECT THE DOT: Thank You for Your Support! BGCD "A Night of Giving Gala": On November 21st, our BGCD community came together to celebrate the 33rd annual Grand Drawing Gala, virtually! Guests were entertained by our emcee, Comedian Steve Sweeney. We also heard some beautiful remarks from BGCD member Mallory and her mother Carlyn, as well as from Vice President of Youth & Teen Development Queenette Santos and President & CEO Bob Scannell.

BGCD would like to thank everyone for their love and support of this event and for making it a great success. Your generosity helps BGCD continue our mission of supporting members and families. Congratulations to our ten Grand Prize winners! For those who would still like to support BGCD post-event, please visit https://give.bgcdorchester.org/donatebgcd.

FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE: Happy Thanksgiving from our BGCD

Community: Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester would like to wish you and your family a healthy and happy Thanksgiving! Members of our Early Education and Learning Hub programs enjoyed a home cooked "Friendsgiving" meal of traditional Thanksgiving foods to celebrate the holiday together.

Today and every day, BGCD is thankful for YOU. We could not do this work without your help spreading the word about this great community of members, families, supporters and the thousands of people involved in making sure Dorchester has exceptional youth development opportunities. Your kindness and generosity allow BGCD to operate every day, giving our members a safe place to continue their out of school learning. Thank you for being a part of the BGCD family.



DID YOU KNOW:

St. Brendan's School Holds Walk-A-Thon Fundraiser for BGCD: Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester would like to thank the students of the 6th Grade Class at St. Brendan's School for making us the beneficiary of their Annual Charity event.

Students and teachers, under the leadership of Ms. Maeve McCarthy completed a walk-a-thon event that collectively raised \$3000 to support the programs here at Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester. Ms. McCarthy is an alumnus of BGCD and we are so glad to continue the partnership with her and St. Brendan's School.

Many thanks to this group of civicminded students for their efforts. We hope to see all of you soon here at Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester. #WeAreDorchester

UPCOMING EVENTS

Happy Thanksgiving! November 26

DIY Art Class December 1 *Pre-registration Required

Keystone Cooking Class December 9

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



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RECENT OBITUARIES



CLARKE, Kathleen M. "Marie" (Hegarty) of West Roxbury, more recently of Dedham. Daughter of the late Cornelius and Catherine (McGonagle) Hegarty formerly of Inishowen, County Donegal, Ireland. Wife of the late Robert B. Clarke. Mother of Robert M. Clarke and his wife Deborah Millar of Gloucester, Anne Baldyga of West Roxbury, and Victoria Clarke of West Roxbury. Grandmother of 2. Sister of Dr. James C. Hegarty of Chelmsford and the

late Jack Hegarty. Also survived by several nieces, nephews, and cousins. Marie was a graduate of $Carney School \ of Nursing.$ She was a Boston Public School Nurse for many years as well as past president of the Boston Home and School Association and the School Nurses Faculty Senate. Donations may be made in Marie's memory C/O Mass General Development Office, 125 Nashua Street, Suite 540, Boston, MA 02114-1101.

DUNLAP, Carol (Wilson), 70, of Dorchester, Daughter to the late Harry Wilson and the late Anna Wilson (Graham). She was the youngest of three children. Carol is survived by her husband of over 50 years, John P. Dunlap. Mother of John P. Dunlap Jr., Annette

M. Dunlap, and Andrea J. Dunlap. Grandmother of 4; great grandmother of 3. Carol also leaves behind her sister-in-law, Lillian Wilson, many nieces and nephews, and her longtime childhood friend, Anne Howe. She is predeceased by her sister, Marjorie Stahl, and brother, Harry Wilson Jr. Donations may be made to Second Chance Shelter for Cats, Inc. in Jamaica Plain. Donations can be made via PayPal by visiting https://www. paypal.com/paypalme/ Secondchanceshelter or, by sending a check or money order payable to Second Chance Shelter for Cats Inc. Please mail to: Second Chance Shelter for Cats Inc. 675 VFW Parkway, Box 266, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467



FLAHERTY, Marie C., 74, of Plymouth, formerly of Dorchester.She was the mother of Carol Holland and her husband Kevin of Plymouth. Grandmother of 2. Sister of Paul Flaherty and his wife MaryAnn of Framingham, Frances Shields

and her husband James of Quincy, Walter Flaherty and his wife Diane of Nantucket, Barbara Pekenia and her husband John of Falmouth and the late Stephen Flaherty and his wife Ann. She was Auntie to many nieces, nephews and great-nieces and nephews. Marie was the daughter of Stephen and Agnes (Apostle) Flaherty. Memorial donations in Marie's name may be made to My Brother's Keeper, PO Box 338, Easton, MA 02356, mybrotherskeeper.org or the Jimmy Fund, 10 Brookline Place West, 6th Floor, Brookline, MA 02445-7226, jimmyfund.

KOVALSKI, John in South Boston, formerly of Dorchester. Son of the late Walter and Catherine (Scannell) Kovalski. Brother of the late Walter"Sonny," Joe and Jimmy Kovalski. Also survived by many nieces, nephews and cousins.

McGAUGH, Mary A. (Burns), 87 of Canton, formerly of Dorchester. Wife of 47 years to the late Harvey J. Mother of Dr. Mary Ann McGaugh and her husband Pedro "Manny" Armijos of Canton, Stacey I. Sullivan and her husband John of Canton, Margaret M. Burchsted and her husband Roy of Plainfield, IL, and James E. McGaugh

Catherine M. (Costello) Riva



Catherine M. (Costello) Riva of Dorchester passed away peacefully on November 22, 2020 surrounded by her family. Beloved wife of the late Albert L. Riva. Loving mother of Maryann Riva of Weymouth, Alberta Bermingham and Peter Wiencko of Pembroke, Joseph and his wife Sue of TX, Mario and his wife

Annie of Canton, Albert Riva and Angela Critelli of Quincy, Risa Riva of Dorchester, Rita Murphy and her husband John of Quincy, Angela Seelig and her husband Joe of Weymouth, and the late Catherine Riva. Cherished grandmother of Christina Bermingham-Tulum, Caitlin Watson, Nicole Ortiz, Patricia Boone, Cassandra Riva, Daniel Murphy, Andrew Riva, and her great grandchildren Oliver Tulum, Everett Tulum, Eleanor Boone, Olivia Ortiz, George Ortiz, and Liam Watson. Daughter of the late William and Mary (Dillon) Costello. Also survived by many caring nieces. Predeceased by her dear siblings and nephews. Catherine was a proud graduate of St. Peter and St. Paul High School in 1945 and of UMASS Boston in 1991. Donations in memory of Catherine may be made to St. Brendan's School or to Season's Hospice. Interment in Cedar Grove Cemetery. For directions and expressions of sympathy, www.oconnorandson.com.



and his wife Katherine of Needham. Grandmother of 8. Sister of Barbara J. Burns of Canton and the late Elaine Hastings and Paul Burns. Survived by many nieces and nephews. 31 year employee of the Carney Hospital. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to the Advancement Office, Saint Joseph Preparatory High School, 617 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02134 or made online at saintjosephprep.org/support/ make-a-gift.

SKAHAN, Edward F. "Teddy," 50, of Dorchester, formerly of Belmont. Husband of Kristin L. (LaFave) Skahan. Father

of Jack E. Skahan. Son of Edward F. Skahan of Falmouth and Mary Ann (Corcoran) Skahan of Belmont. Brother of Susan A. Skahan of Quincy and John K. Skahan of Northbridge. Contributions in his memory to the MGH Frontal Temporal Dementia Unit Research, 149 13th St., Charlestown, MA 02129 would be appreciated.

SÜLLIVAN, Madeline D. (Sheehan), 100, of Quincy, formerly of Mattapan. Wife of the late Christopher F. Mother of Michael F. Sullivan and his wife Joan, Christine M. Sullivan, Gail Sullivan, Maura A. Sullivan, John L. Sullivan and his wife Jun, Deidre M. Brod and her husband Staley. Sister of the late Margaret Sheehan, Agnes Zalewski, Zeta Geswell, Maryellen Hickey, and Josephine Randall. Nana of 6. Great-grandmother of 3. Also survived by many nieces and nephews.

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF

MASSACHUSETTS

THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT

SUFFOLK DIVISION 24 NEW CHARDON STREET BOSTON, MA 02114

BOSTON, MA 02114
Docket No. SU20D1235DR
DIVORCE SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION and MAILING
GOLFRED JEAN BAPTISTE

SUZETTE JEAN BAPTISTE

The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant

a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown The Complaint is on file at the Court

An Automatic Restraining Order has peen entered in this matter preventing

vou from taking anv action which would

negatively impact the current financial status of either party. SEE Supplemental

required to serve upon: Golfred Jear

Baptiste, 16 Mamelon Circle, Apt. 1, Mattapan, MA 02126 your answer, if any, on or before 1/28/2021. If you fail

to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action

You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the

Witness, HON. BRIANJ. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.

Published: November 25, 2020

Felix D. Arroyo

Register of Probate

Date: November 4, 2020

You are hereby summoned and

Probate Court Rule 411

Register of this Court

To the Defendant:

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT suffolk Probate & Family Court 24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU20P2104EA ESTATE OF: DENNIS CORBETT DATE OF DEATH: 07/18/2020

and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Teresa Jimenez of Brain-tree, MA requesting that the Court enter tree, 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: Teresa Jimenez of Braintree, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve on the bond in an unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the

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 12/25/2020.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline 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)

APersonal Representative appointed under

A Personal Representative appointed unde the MUPC in an unsupervised administration 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

administration.
Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 13, 2020

Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate Published: November 25, 2020

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LEGAL NOTICE

ZONING HEARING

The Zoning Commission of the City of Boston hereby gives notice, in accordance with Chapter 665 of the Acts of 1956, as amended, that a virtual public hearing will be held on December 9, 2020, at 9:45 A.M., in connection with Map Amendment Application No. 729, filed by the Boston Redevelopment Authority d/b/a the Boston Planning & Development Agency.

The proposed map amendment would amend "Map 5A/5B, Dorchester Neighborhood District," by changing the zoning of three (3) parcels of land located at in an area generally bounded by Jan Karski Way, Enterprise Street, Boston Street and West Bellflower Street in Dorchester from "3F-5000," indicating a three-family residential subdistrict to "CC," indicating a Community Commercial Subdistrict.

This meeting will only be held virtually and not in person. You can participate in this meeting by going to https:// bit.ly/36Kgjcx. A copy of the petition and a map of the area involved may be obtained from the Zoning Commission electronically, and you may also submit written comments or questions to jeffrey.hampton@boston.gov.

For the Commission Jeffrey M. Hampton **Executive Secretary**

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'Oh, The Hunger That Many Suffered'

(Continued from page 1)

The colonists were more than willing to hunt in the dense local forests and to fish the waters teeming with cod and other fish, but were hampered by a range of problems in any attempt to level a musket at a wild animal or to cast a line into the ocean.

In a letter to his father back in England, a local man lamented: "Here [in Dorchester and Boston] is good store of fish if we had boats to go 8 or 10 leagues to sea to [go] fishing. Here are good store of wild fowl, but they are hard to come by. It is harder to get a shot than it is in Old England...Therefore, loving father, I entreat you that you would send me a firkin[measure]ofbutter & a hogshead of malt... for we drink nothing but water....We do not know how long we may subsist, for we cannot live here without provisions from Old England."

The renowned historian Samuel Eliot Morison notes that the drastic changes in the customary diet of the band from the Mary and John and the other Puritans who had debarked from vessels along Massachusetts' shore was pronounced, weakening them by November and leaving them in poor shape to endure the coming winter.

"But the Englishman of that period considered himself starving without beef, bread and beer," Morison writes. "And even today, if you will try a steady diet of shellfish and spring water for a week, you might feel some sympathy for these Puritan colonists bereft of their stout British fare."

For many of the Mary and John settlers, one of the available foodstuffs — "Indian corn" — wreaked havoc with their digestive tracts. "There is one and another allusion to the fact that these people, bred to the use of English wheat, rye and barley," records Chronicles of the First Planters, "disliked the bread made of Indian corn. They probably had not yet learned the art, wnich is not an easy art to this day, of properly subduing that grain by the process of cookery." Cramps and worse bedeviled many settlers forced to rely on the harsh local corn as a staple.

By late November 1630, many of the colonists for-



A page of illustrations in the June 26, 1880 edition of Harper's Weekly imagined and drawn by Charles Graham depicted "Old and New Dorchester," including the "Landing of the Dorchester Settlers" aboard the *Mary and John* at Savin Hill in 1630.

aging from the Neponset to "The Neck" for food were taking on a gaunt, weakened collective visage. Thoughts of any day of Thanksgiving were remote to men, women, and children alike. Thoughts of scraping enough food for the daily larder consumed the hours. And, as Chronicles of the Planters asserts, "as the winter came on, provisions began to be very scarce....and people were necessitated to live upon clams and mussels and ground-nuts and acorns, and these got with much difficulty in the winter time. Upon which people were very much tired and discouraged." With hunger came two dread companions – scurvy and "a contagious fever, probably typhus."

On Christmas Eve, temperatures plummeted below freezing, with icy winds roaring in from the ocean. Relentless snowfall soon piled upon Dorchester and the nearby settlements. As John Winthrop and other locals described, "many of the people were yet inadequately housed, living and dying in bark wigwams or sail-cloth tents, 'soe [sic.] that

almost in every family, lamentation, mourning and woe was heard, and no fresh food to be had to cherish them." winter dragged on. "I took

notice of it," he wrote in his journal, "as a Favour

of God unto me, not only

to preserve my Life, but

to give me Contentment

in all these Straits; in-

Roger Clap's words captured the incessant misery and deprivation that the Mary and John settlers battled day by frigid day: "Oh, the Hunger that many suffered, and saw no hope in an Eye of Reason to be supplyed [sic.] only by Clams, and Muscles [sic.], and Fish.... Bread was so very scarce that sometimes I tho'ht the very Crusts of my Father's Table would have been very sweet unto me. And when I could have Meal and Water and Salt boiled together, it was so good who could wish better?...It was accounted a strange thing in those Days to drink Water, and to eat Samp [mush] or Hominie without Butter or Milk. Indeed, it would have been a strange thing to see a piece of Roast Beef, Mutton, or Veal."

The hardships notwithstanding, Clap battled his travails with stoicism and bedrock Puritan religious beliefs, as did many of the Mary and John contingent literally hanging on for dear life as the seemingly endless remember that I ever did wish in my Heart that I had not come unto this Country, or wish myself back again to my Father's House."

That tough-minded approach would carry

somuch that I do not

That tough-minded approach would carry Clap and many of his fellow Dorchester companions through the winter, ensuring that the fledgling settlement would survive.

In February 1631, Clap and company needed every last source of inner strength upon which they could draw, for their situation reached its desperate worst. Food stores had dwindled to virtually nothing, and profiteering was rampant — the princely sum of 5 pounds for a single pig and 3 pounds for a nearly starved goat the going rate.

Finally, in that grim February, a relief ship materialized in the waters alongside the Puritan settlements. The Lion, out of Bristol, England, was laden with supplies procured by one of Dorchester's "guiding lights," John White, and other supporters of the colonists. Among the most important items off-loaded from the vessel was lemon juice, "which cured the scurvy." To the delight of the haggard colonists craving a bit of bread and meat, sailors rolled and lugged sacks of grain and "barrelled

beef" ashore, as well as peas. Dorchester was one of "the several towns" receiving a share of the supplies. As John Winthrop noted, the Lion's arrival was "the occasion for a February thanks giving day."

That Thanksgiving day for the settlers of Dorchester and the region was not a "Pilgrimesque" feast, but a day of prayer and reflection.

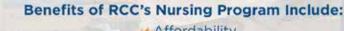
Roger Clap also offered thanks to another source of aid to the Dorchester Company: "Yet this I can say to the Praise of God's Glory, that He sent poor raven-nous Indians, who came with their Baskets of corn on their Backs to Trade with us, which was a good supply unto many."

This Thanksgiving, as families gather in Dorchester for turkey dinners, they might pause for a moment to ponder how blessed they are. Three hundred and eighty-two years ago, the town's first colonists truly grasped how precious family and a full table were.

Peter F. Stevens is the author of more than a dozen books, including The Voyage of the Catalpa and Notorious and Notable New Englanders. He is a regular contributor to the Reporter Newspapers. A version of this article first appeared in the Reporter in 2001.







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