# Dorchester Reporter

"The News and Values Around the Neighborhood"

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Thursday, December 5, 2019

"SEIU 32BJ (Francisco)," a portrait by Savin Hill resident Zach Horn, depicts Francisco Gil, a member of the cleaning crew at UMass Boston.

Daniel Sheehan photo

# 'Dot Now' exhibition reflects artists' keen sense of community

By Daniel Sheehan REPORTER STAFF

A new exhibition at UMass Boston's University Hall Gallery titled "Dot Now" features work from a diverse group of a dozen artists based in  $Dorchester\,or\,with\,significant$ connections to the neighbor-

'Inspired by requests from our visitors to highlight more local artists, 'Dot Now' presents artworks made by artists living and/or working in our neighborhood of Dorchester," reads a press release about the exhibit, which continues:

The exhibition seeks to foster a stronger sense of

community between artists in the area and UMass Boston while celebrating their work within the Greater Boston Area. 'Dot Now' gathers a set of intergenerational artists who are working in a variety of media, connected through their locale and shared social concerns, but distinctive in their artistic practices and personal narratives." Among the artists spotlighted in the collection is Joanna Tam, who is based at Dorchester Art Project in Fields Corner. Her piece, 'Make a Wish for Dorchester,' presents a visual and auditory portrait

(Continued on page 4)

# Codman Sq. residents hear what pot shop hopefuls have in mind

### Proponents talk of 'educational programs' for users

By Katie Trojano REPORTER STAFF

A proposed recreational marijuana shop that would open in in what is currently a residential property on Washington Street in Codman Square was the subject of a public meeting held last Monday at the Great Hall. About 50 people, some of whom relayed their concerns about how the process was playing out, were in attendance to hear a presentation by representatives of the Grazin Group, which is co-owned by Cheryl Crawford and Stephen Suida.

They were joined by Mike Ross, the former Boston city

councillor who represents them, and Derrick Small, a consultant and attorney, along with security consultant Daniel Linskey, a former superintendent-in-chief of the Boston Police Department.

Christine Brandao from the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services facilitated the city-mandated session.

Crawford, who owns 51 percent of the business (Suida owns 49 percent), said that as a long-time Dorchester resident, she hopes to improve the community. "As I've grown up, I've supported this neighborhood, and I still live in this neighborhood. I do see, as we're building movements in our community and throughout the state, the opportunity to be here and bring about economic empowerment."

Although the property at 533 Washington St. is within an area that is zoned as a neighborhood shopping district, the house is on a plot of land that is zoned as residential. Grazin Group, which has a ten-year lease on the property, needs to win a conditional use permit from the city's Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA) to open a dispensary.

Ross, who noted that the team hopes to submit an ap-

(Continued on page 15)

# Walsh signs on to City Council's

# cannabis equity push

By KATIE TROJANO REPORTER STAFF

Mayor Martin Walsh signed a city ordinance last Tuesday that creates a Cannabis Equity Board meant to ensure that at least half of the potential licenses issued in Boston go to companies owned by people of color. The legislation was approved by the City Council the week before by a 12-1 margin, with Councillor Kim Janey of Roxbury its lead proponent.

'This ordinance that I'm about to sign today helps right the wrongs of the past, certainly since the 1970's and the American war on drugs which has been devastating to a lot of people," said Walsh, "but most importantly in communities of color."

He added: "Across the country people of color have been disproportionately arrested for low-level drug crimes over the past four or five decades.



Mayor Walsh joins Councillor Kim Janey and other city and state elected officials for a signing ceremony of the ordinance. Katie Trojano photo

This has contributed to cycles of poverty and pain over generations. We have an opportunity here in Boston to undo some of that damage."

The law allows for the creation of a Boston Cannabis Equity program, which will include funds for technical equipment and resources for applicants. The City Council has set aside \$500,000 for the program over the last year and Walsh said that amount will be matched out of the first three percent of cannabis revenue. Janey spoke about the importance of multi-faceted collaboration in aiming for economic equity in the city.

"This is an important step when it comes to economic development. We have to do everything that we can to dismantle this pipeline to prison that continues to criminalize black and brown people, particularly our young people,"

(Continued on page 15)

# A homecoming at South Bay ramen shop

By Daniel Sheehan REPORTER STAFF

Totto Ramen South Bay is the latest eatery with a local connection to open up at the shopping complex's budding Town Center commercial

The owner of the noodle shop - a New York-based franchise that already has locations in

Allston and Somerville — is Nghi Nguyen, a Dorchester native who grew up in the St. Mark's neighborhood and owns the other two Bostonbased shops as well.

Still, the 37-year-old Nguyen said in an interview at the eatery site, opening one near to where he was raised is special.

"Before all this came, this

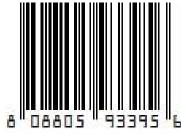
used to be a giant Super 88 supermarket," he said, gesturing to the buildings around him. "And then when the landlord

(Continued on page 16)

Totto Ramen's signature chicken paitan ramen, a noodle dish made with chicken broth, is now being served up at South Bay.

Daniel Sheehan photo





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### **DOT BY THE DAY** Dec. 5 - 9, 2019

A snapshot look at key upcoming events in and around the neighborhood for your weekly planner.

Thursday (5th) - The Provincetown Film Society presents a special screening of the recently restored "Different from the Others" at the Strand Theatre, 543 Columbia Rd., Dorchester. The film screening and live performance begins at 7 p.m. General admission tickets are \$25 per person. A limited number of VIP tickets are available for \$75 and include a reception featuring the different flavors and tastings of Dorchester, preferred seating at the Strand Theatre and a meet & greet with Billy Hough. The VIP event begins at 5:30 p.m. Contact Philip.finch@gmail.com.

Friday (6th) - The Mayor of Boston's Enchanted Trolley Tour will take place from Friday, December 6 to Sunday December 8 this year in several Boston neighborhoods. The event will include tree lightings, holiday performances, and children can meet Santa. It's the 24th edition of the citywide event, and the event will kick off at 5:30 p.m. in Mattapan Square Friday night (Dec. 6). Dorchester will be the first neighborhood the festivities hit Saturday (Dec. 7) at 1 p.m. in Codman Square, and the tour will end in Adams Village at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 8. The

event is sponsored by Bank of America. **Saturday** (7th) – Pearl Harbor Day. National Parks of Boston will host a commemorative service and a wreath laying ceremony on the World War II-era destroyer USS Cassin Young, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. to remember and honor those who perished in the Japanese attack on the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The commemoration will be held in Charlestown Navy Yard. USS Cassin Young was named for U.S. Navy Commander Cassin Young who was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions during the attack on Pearl Harbor.

• The Boston School of Music Arts Pro Department Singers will perform a holiday concert at 3 p.m. at Gilman Chapel in Cedar Grove Cemetery. A mix of teenage and adult students in the school's pro division, which offers professional voice coaching and stage performance mastery courses, will perform a collection of traditional carols and holiday-themed tunes. The concert is part of a Gilman Chapel series brought about through a collaboration between the school and Cedar Grove Cemetery. Gilman Chapel is located at 920 Adams St. (across from Cedar Grove Gardens). Doors open at 2:30 p.m. Admission is free. Light refreshments will be served.

Sunday (8th) – Join Boston Children's Chorus for cherished tales paired with music celebrating light, joy, and peace in a concert at the Strand Theatre on Sunday, Dec. 8 at 3 p.m. Contact: info@ bostonchildrenschorus.org.

Monday (9th) - Higginson School Site Council meets from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at 160 Harrishof St., Roxbury, room 102 to discuss playground dedication.

### December 5, 2019

Boys & Girls Club News	17
Opinion/Editorial/Letters	8
Neighborhood Notables	10
Business Directory	14
Obituaries	18
Days Remaining Until	
Days Remaining Un	ıtil
Days Remaining Un	
	20
Christmas	20 26
Christmas  New Year's Eve	20 26 46

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# Plane's exit slide falls into front yard of Milton home

Delta Air Lines Flight 405 from Paris reported hearing on Sunday as his lowering plane was clearing Adams Street on Milton Hill en route to Logan Airport was the sound of the right rear slide exiting the aircraft, according to local and federal officials as well as eyewitnesses.

The equipment landed in the front yard of 310 Adams St. in Milton, and the plane, a Boeing 767-300, landed safely, officials said in noting on Monday that an FAA investigation of the incident was ongoing and that no injuries or property damage had been

The Boston Globe, quoting Milton Police Deputy Chief James O'Neil, reported that "the homeowner had been outside speaking to a neighbor" when

The loud noise that the pilot of he heard a loud noise and then found the chute in his front yard.

Milton resident Amy Caldwell told the paper that she was driving on Adams Street shortly before noon when she spotted the slide falling through the air. She didn't know what it was at first. "It was way up in the sky," she said. "It looked like a trash bag but it was falling. My husband and I said, 'Oh my God, what is that?'

Delta Air Lines said in a statement on Sunday that maintenance crews were inspecting the plane. "Delta is investigating an inflatable over-wing slide that was retrieved following an aircraft's landing into Boston's Logan Airport," the statement said. "The flight landed without incident and taxied to the gate.



Presidential candidate Deval Patrick stopped by the "Politics & Eggs" in New Hampshire on Nov. 25. The event was sponsored by the New England Council and the Institute of Politics at Saint Anselm College. Gov. Patrick is shown here with Dorchester's Jim Brett, the president and CEO of the New

# Gigi, 30-year resident of zoo at Franklin Park, is dead at 47

Gigi, a western lowland gorilla who has lived at the Franklin Park Zoo since 1989, died last week at age 47. She had been suffering from renal disease and liver and uterine cancers and was humanely euthanized "due to her poor prognosis and quality of life concerns," according to zoo officials.

We hope that people will keep Gigi's care team in their thoughts during this sad time. The staff is incredibly dedicated and attentive, and they doted on Gigi,' said John Linehan Zoo New England President and CEO.



Gigi

member of the gorilla troop at Franklin Park Zoo and among the oldest gorillas living within the North American popula-

"I loved walking Gigi was the oldest through the Tropical

Forest seeing Gigi on exhibit and watching the movement in her face and chest signifying that she grumbled at my presence and was happy to see me. If Gigi really liked you, she would turn her back and sit next to you at the exhibit glass -checking every so often to make sure you were still there," said Erica Farrell, Assistant Cura $tor\,of\,the\,Tropical\,Forest$ at Franklin Park Zoo.

"She played an integral role in our gorilla troop and has a special place in all of her caretaker's hearts rell. "We are all going to miss her."

- REPORTER STAFF

### Police, Courts, & Fire



State Police released this image of what investigators believe is the car involved in the hit-andrun on Day Boulevard.

Public's help sought after hit-and-run on Day Blvd. - State Police are looking to the public for help in identifying the hit-and-run driver who fled after striking a pedestrian in South Boston Monday morning. According to their investigation, a 60-year-old woman was crossing Day Boulevard in the area of K Street at about 7:15 a.m. Monday when she was struck by a car traveling toward L Street. After the car hit the woman, knocking her to the ground, the driver continued to travel eastbound before turning left onto L Street and then taking an immediate right onto Columbia Road. The victim was transported by EMS to a Boston hospital with serious injuries and remained hospitalized as of Monday morning. The hit-and-run vehicle is believed to be a mid-to  $late\hbox{-}2000s\,Lincoln\,Town$ Car, possibly silver or light beige in color. The vehicle has dark tint on its rear passenger windows and its rear window, but no tint on the front windows. Also of note, the vehicle sustained damage to the front driver's side in the crash. Additionally, the driver's sideview mirror was broken off in the impact and recovered at the scene. Anyone who has information about the crash, the vehicle seen in these images, or the driver is asked to contact State Police-South Boston at 617-740-7710.

### **UPCOMING CIVIC ASSOC. MEETINGS • FULL LISTINGS ON PAGE 10**

Kids Christmas Party at Polish Club – The Polish American Citizens Club on Boston Street is hosting its annual Kids Christmas Party on Sat., Dec. 7 from 1-4 p.m. Event is open to all children and families - you do not need to speak Polish to attend. There will be face painting, pizza, and Holiday treats. Santa Claus will be stopping by for a visit and parents should bring a wrapped gift with their child's first and last name written on it, for Santa to hand out. Admission is \$5 per child. RSVP at polishclubboston. com/kidschristmas.

PLAN: Mattapan meeting on Dec. 17 - The Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) will host a community meeting for the PLAN: Mattapan initiative on Tues., Dec. 17 at 6 p.m. at the Mattapan BPL branch, 1350 Blue Hill Ave. The meeting will build on last month's conversation about Topic Areas (Corridors, Residential Fabric, and Squares) and Focus Areas (specific places in Mattapan). This meeting will continue the conversation about how the BPDA led team will determine success for

the planning process. Light refreshments will be available. Translated materials and interpretation services will be provided in Haitian Creole and Spanish. Contact: Muge Undemir at mugzy.undemir@boston.gov.

Halfway to Dot Day 5k on Dec. 14 – Dorchester Running Club sponsors the fifth annual Halfway to Dot Day 5k and Toy Drive on Sat., Dec. 14 at Pope John Paul II Park, Hallet Street entrance in Neponset, 9 a.m. Followed by a toy drive breakfast at Florian Hall, 9 a.m.- 12 p.m. Suggested donation: \$20 and unwrapped toy for a child in need. More info at DotRunners.org.

Enchanted trolley tour makes stops Dec. 6-8 – The Mayor of Boston's Enchanted Trolley Tour will take place from Fri., Dec. 6 to Sun., Dec. 8 this year in several Boston neighborhoods. The event will include tree lightings, holiday performances, and children can meet Santa. It's the 24th edition of the citywide event, and the event will kick off at 5:30 p.m. in Mattapan Square Friday night (Dec. 6). Dorchester will be the first neighborhood the festivities

hit Saturday (Dec. 7) at 1 p.m. in Codman Square, and the tour will end in Adams Village at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 8. The event is sponsored by Bank of America.

Strand Theatre concert on Dec. 8 features Boston

Children's Chorus - Join Boston Children's Chorus for cherished tales paired with music celebrating light, joy, and peace in a concert at the Strand Theatre on Sun., Dec. 8 at 3 p.m. Contact: info@bostonchildrenschorus.org. Hancock Street Civic Association – The Hancock Street Civic Association meets monthly on the first Tuesday at Uphams Crossing, 530 Columbia Rd., Dorchester. Meeting time is 7–8:30p.m. Annual dues are \$5; please contact hancockstreetcivic@gmail.com with any questions you

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may have. The next meeting is on Jan. 7.

# Columbia/Savin Hill civic wants to to leverage development boom

By Katie Trojano REPORTER STAFF

A sub-committee of the Columbia-Savin Hill Civic Association is leading a discussion about how to structure and seek out "community benefits" from the development projects that are expected to be built in the neighborhoods in the coming years.

The question was discussed in depth at Monday evening's general membership meeting at the Little House, which drew about 60 residents.

Don Walsh, a key member of the subcommittee, explained that the concept is to be pro-active and let developers know what the civic group wants to see prioritized.

"Rather than deal piecemeal with the planning efforts, we need the community, city, and the state to come together. I can't say this enough— we will be seeing 10,000 new housing units. That's unbelievable," he said.

On Nov. 26, the association sent letters to state and city elected officials requesting "cooperation and assistance in the creation of a planning team to develop a comprehensive response to the unprecedented current proposals for this area.'

The missive, which was signed by Columbia-Savin Hill President Desmond Rohan, was sent to City Councillor Frank Baker, state Sen. Nick Collins, and state Reps. Dan Hunt and David Biele. Representatives from Collins's and Baker's' offices and from the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services were in attendance Monday night.

The association asserts that the roughly "10,000 new residential units, and hundreds of thousands of square feet of new retail and commercial space, will impact an area already densely populated, strain public services, and further overwhelm outmoded transportation infrastructure."

Walsh invited the membership to attend the next sub-committee meeting on Wed., Dec. 18 at 7 p.m. in the basement of Savin Bar and Kitchen, saying, "We're going to talk about the next steps after issuing this letter, and we're also going to talk about issuing a survey."

Rohan told the gathering that the sub-committee is particularly focused on how to leverage private funds for public improvements to transportation and infrastructure. "We need

the state and city to be actively involved to start this process," he said.

Ted Schwartzberg, a senior planner at the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA, told the membership about ongoing planning efforts in Glover's Corner, Newmarket Square, and Columbia Point.

"I just want to pull back the curtain and let everyone know that the planners are thinking about this a lot," he said. "We're paying attention and there are some big projects coming." He added that the BPDA is trying to ensure that major findings from the 2011 Columbia Point Master plan are supported.

"Since then, there has been a lot of talk about 75 Morrissey [the property adjacent to the former Globe building] and, of course, the Bayside site," Schwartzberg said, "and we're thinking about how to look at all of these projects collectively. The thought is that there will be one single Impact Advisory Group (IAG) for both the Bayside site and the 75 Morrissey proposal, seeking representation from elected officials and all of the civic associations."

Longtime civic mem-

ber Bruce Shatswell more that this needs to weighed in, saying, "A lot of people in this room and in this community took part in the Columbia Point Plan," he said. "One of the reasons that the plan wasn't enacted was because it never became[incorporated]into zoning. I just want you to take the message back that these things need to be spelled out and coded in law or regulations so that we know what we're getting up front. It's a huge matter of trust with the community."

Responded Schwartzberg: "I couldn't agree be codified in zoning."

Civic group vice-president Eileen Boyle said she wanted to know why the city is selling its land to private developers. "I don't understand why the city is basically selling the Mary Ellen McCormack project to a private developer for 100 years," she said. "The taxpayers have funded those housing projects, and now they're going to be turned over with mixed-use," she added, asking: "Instead of the city developing the project themselves, why are

they selling to private developers?

Schwartzberg said the "short answer" is that older buildings, like many of Boston's housing projects, eventually need to be re-built. "When public housing gets replaced, it needs to be paid for by the federal govern-ment," he said. "The ideal way would be if Washington stepped up to the plate and paid for what they have historically been paying for, but they haven't taken that responsibility."

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NCUA







# 'Dot Now' exhibition at UMass Boston reflects artists' keen sense of community

(Continued from page 1) of the neighborhood in Dorchester residents' own words.

"For this project, I have done audio interviews with people who live, work, or study in Dorchester to share their personal stories about Dorchester and their thoughts about home, community and how to make Dorchester a even better neighborhood," said Tam.

"The audio material is played at the gallery," she said. "I want gallery visitors to learn more about Dorchester and its people through the voices of the people who have connection to Dorchester. It is important to me that the voices of ordinary people to be amplified at a prominent institution like UMass Boston, which is also in Dorchester."

cording, 'Make a Wish for Dorchester'also includes a section of wall on which Tam has written in pencil some of the most common responses and wishes from interviewees, as well as a book in which viewers are invited to write their own wishes for Dorchester.

work is displayed in the exhibition, Andrew Mowbray, crafted two pieces out of milk crates and driftwood that he salvaged from the shores of Dorchester.

"Raft," is a group of six block-shaped sculptures made of "reassembled castaway driftwood cut offs" that anchors the center of the exhibition. The second work, "Milkcrate Column," is a floorto-ceiling height tower of found and gathered milk crates that Mowbray describes as "a selected Taxonomy of modular forms from past to present." "My work is often project based," said Mowbray about his artistic vision. "I look a lot at common ubiquitous objects and materials found in the urban environment, and I think about how they are used and whom they serve...in this work. I am interested in exploring and archiving the milk-crate's use

as a functional, architectural object within the urban environment and within the gallery.'

co)" is a portrait by Zach Horn, a Savin Hill resident who is an artist and lecturer at UMass Boston, that depicts Francisco Gil, a member of the cleaning crew at UMass Boston. The work is a selection from Horn's 'United We Bargain' exhibition that spotlights workers who "normally are

considered numbers in

the system of a corpora-

porations as numbers

rather than individuals."

Ngoc-Tran Vu, a visual

artist and activist who is

an active member of the

Dorchester community,

project I did when I was

working in the darkroom

heavily. I was photo-

graphing my family in

the everyday when I

saw a photograph of my

dad when he was in the

South Vietnamese mili-

tary and I asked him to

hold it up for me by the

"SEIU 32BJ (Francis-

tion, company, or in this case a state university." For the piece, Horn used asphaltum, a quick drying tar-like asphalt paint, which he applied to Tyvek, a synthetic polyethylene fabric used to protect buildings during construction. The materials "allude to In addition to the rethe labor of construction and other service workers that are oftentimes only recognized by companies or cor-

contributed her photo-Another artist whose graph "My Vietnamese Father" to the exhibition. The photo depicts her father holding a second, older photograph of himself from his time as a soldier in the Vietnam War. "I took this photograph The first work, titled in 2007, I believe," wrote Vu. "It was a family

light. The context of the photograph is of my dad while in his first year of military school training in 1970. He later became a lieutenant in the South Vietnamese army. "Consequently, it was because of my dad's involvement in the war that my family and I were able to come to the US as political refugees through the Humanitarian Operation (HO) program in the early '90s

as part of the third wave of Vietnamese resettlement."

In much of his recent work, Dorchester-bred artist Marlon Forrester has utilized elements of basketball culture to evoke ideals of transcendence and issues of race associated with the game within American popular culture.

In his piece "Ballupface," he uses ink and collage to depict a black figure wearing a "ball up face" expression, a look of intensity and preparedness to play in a game.

According to Forrester, his paintings, drawings, sculptures, and multimedia works "reflect meditations on the exploitation implicit in the simultaneous apotheosis and fear of the muscular black figure in America."

The artist and Savin Hill resident Cristi Rinklin turns her artistic lens on the issue of climate change in two pieces from her "HARBINGER" series, inspired by the ongoing process by which rising temperatures are melting the Siberian tundra and releasing methane gas into the air. Rinklin's painting depicts a thermokarst, a hole or depression formed by thawing ice, to create "an unsettling feeling of depth and impending danger."

Joe Wardwell, who lives in Jamaica Plain but works at Humphreys Street Studios in Dorchester, layered stencils to create his piece titled "What Causes the Room to Shutter." The work combines a scene of a sunset with superimposed lyrics from 1970s Boston punk band The Girls' song "Jeffrey I Hear You" to create an unsettling feeling.

Jamal Thorne, another artist based out of Dorchester Art Project, uses an interpretation of hip hop duo Run The Jewels' album cover design as the centerpiece of his work "Untitled #22." While the album cover features a hand shaped in the likeness of a gun and a closed fist grasping a gold chain, Thorne's mixed media piece includes partial fragments

of a real gun as well as layered boxes of tape and peace symbols to form a collage that illustrates his anger about racial and gun violence across America.

The way Thorne layers complex drawings and media on top of each other, then cuts through them to reveal different pieces underneath relates, he says, to "time and memory, the complexity of societal issues, and the collision of personal and public narratives."

Rixy Fernandez, a recent graduate of UMB's Art Department, used her 2019 Ruth Butler Travel Scholarship to travel to Mexico City to explore the city's graffiti and street art culture. She created her featured piece during that trip.

"Another Round," said Fernandez, "is inspired by fighting and aggression in video games, and was a result of fury due to various situations. When unbearable, my emotions created the textures and accents shown, asking myself if I wanted to continue fighting during a 'time-out.'

"The series [that the work is from] collectively expresses my various emotions and their details that arose in each moment. Without constraints, planning, or a second shot, it became therapy to release a feeling of a relationship onto paper; not only the one with myself, but one of a new journey and myself. I surrounded myself with all my tools and mediums, and allowed my intuition to tell me what connects to the feeling. Cardboard, glass, and steel wanted to touch the purity of the page. Colors and texture had dialogue, and they wanted to shape the composition a certain way with a specific tool. From start to end, it became a conversation where everything spoke, until it stopped – then the diary entry itself stopped.

Deandra Shannon Spence, a student at the Helen Y. Davis Leadership Academy in Fields Corner, is the youngest artist to ever have a work shown at Univer-



Andrew Mowbray's "Milkcrate Column" is one of his pieces made from materials he found and gathered in Dorchester. Daniel Sheehan photo

sity Hall gallery. Her untitled piece draws from elements of afrofuturism to depict a black woman with an afro set against a cosmic backdrop of stars and planets. A pink brush stroke obscuring the woman's eyes, she says, "could be seen as symbolizing the erasure of vision and access to sight, or enlightenment through the transcendence of art."

Fields Corner native Aiden Nguyen and cocollaborator Thanh Mai created Vanguard, an underground art and poetry zine, with the intention of creating a safe platform for the visibility and individuality of selfidentifying lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender/ trans, and queer (LG-BTQ) Vietnamese artists and writers. Several copies of the zine are on display at the Dot Now exhibition as part of a collection, which was the subject of a *Reporter* story on May 15 of this year.

Mount Bowdoin resident Suzie "Cookie" Smith made "Cara's House," a sculpture made of crimped cuttings of aluminum cans, wood, and collaged photos, with the aim of forming a miniature model of her grandmother's home in Alabama. A portrait of her grandmother adorns the roof of the model house, which is decorated

with a pattern of colors and photos resembling a patchwork quilt. Smith said the memory of her grandmother and the historical significance of the house, which she now owns, inspired her to craft the sculpture:

"She built it and owned it until the day she died in August of 2001," wrote Smith. "Her home sits on a parcel of cleared land that is located adjacent to her sister Rosie Steele's farm. This is of historical significance because this land is located on the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail.

'On March 22, 1965, this land served as Campsite #2 for marchers walking 50 miles from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, fighting for the right to vote. A sign was erected on the site by the National Park Service to commemorate this historic event. I see Cara's house as a bridge that links our family to a remarkable past that we must never forget."

"Dot Now" will be on display at UMass Boston's University Hall gallery through March 13, 2020. Gallery hours are daily from noon to 6 p.m. This exhibition is made possible with generous support from the Paul Hayes Tucker Fund and a gift from The Paul and Edith Babson Foundation.



dotnews.com December 5, 2019 THE REPORTER Page 5

# A Cherished Boston Tradition

The National Center of Afro-American Artists proudly presents the 49th season of Langston Hughes' Black Nativity. Based on text from the Gospel of St. Luke and interwoven with black vernacular narration, the song-play is dedicated to women and men of "good will". Its lively music is enthusiastically performed by children and adults and its dramatic dance uplifts the spirit of all.









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# Report: Dorchester leads city in homeless prevention funds

and originally it was

developed as a tool to

keep people out of the

emergency assistance

shelter system," said

Butman, who added:

"Based on FY19, we

looked at household com-

position and income and

found that about half of

the families that we as-

sisted could potentially

have entered the shel-

ter system if we hadn't

intervened with RAFT."

examined consecutive

repetition by families

and individuals need-

ing RAFT assistance.

Only six percent of par-

ticipants from FY19

received RAFT in FY18.

Data also found that 22

percent of FY19 partici-

pants had used RAFT at

least once in the past.

Butman said that some

regulations exist that

prohibit the consecutive

use for some populations.

sistance, a family of any

household composition

To qualify for RAFT as-

The analysis also

### By Katie Trojano REPORTER STAFF

Dorchester, the city's largest neighborhood in terms of geography and population, also has more families in need of emergency housing assistance than any other community in Boston.

In releasing its annual findings of housing stability on Tuesday morning, Metro Housing Boston noted a key finding: A total of 1,710 households citywide received Residential Assistance for Families in Transition(RAFT) funds in FY 2019. Of those households, 599 were in Dorchester, receiving a total of \$1.5 million, the most of any neighbor-

RAFT is a homelessness prevention program for families with very low incomes experiencing a housing crisis.

The total value of assistance to all Metro Housing communities was put at \$4.4 million, the average dollar amount of assistance per household at \$2,599, and net savings to emergency assistance shelter systems at \$33 million.

Molly Butman, assistant director at Metro Housing, said that the RAFT program assists people who are experiencing three common types of housing crises: those facing the threat of eviction; people or families who are "doubledup," living with friends or relatives in an insufficient amount of space; and those who have had utilities turned off.

"RAFT is the largest homelessness prevention program in the city,



Panelists at Metro Housing Boston's Forum on Preventing Homelessness & Promoting Housing Stability (1-r): Thea James, MD, Vice President, Boston Medical Center; Chris Norris, Executive Director of Metro Housing Boston; Eileen Murphy, RAFT recipient; Jillian Pinola, Regional Vice President, Beacon Communities; Molly Butman, Assistant Director, Housing Supports at Metro Housing; Amy Mullen, RAFT Manager at the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD); Sheila Dillon, Chief of Housing and Director of Neighborhood Development, City of Boston.

Photo courtesy Jeff Landis/Metro Housing Boston

income that's below 50 percent of the area medi-

an income. In the Boston region during fiscal year 2019, this was \$53,350 for a family of three.

Sheila Dillon, Boston's Housing chief, offered some context to where Boston is in terms of eviction executions in noting that the majority of citywide evictions happen in subsidized housing, because tenants in low-income housing generally make less money. Dillon also said that in the private market, eviction rates have

been on the decline. "The work isn't done, but our eviction rate compared to other cities is low. What we need to do is build more housing. Part of our problem is that we just don't have enough affordable housing across income bands," said Dillon.

"The reason that our housing costs are high," she said, "is because we have a growing population, more jobs, and we're not creating enough housing. We have a housing plan that requires us to build 69.000 new units— 15,000 of those will be deed-restricted. When we add that to our existing housing stock we should have 70,000 affordable units in the city."

At the session, Thea James, MD, vice-president of Boston Medical Center, talked about the impact of housing instability and health care. "As a [doctor] you see human nature, the human condition, and all of what constitutes life every single day. If you bother to dig deeper and go beyond treating disease to understand what's driving it, you will understand the root cause," said James.

"We're screening for determinants of health in all of our ambulatory care clinic now," she said, "and housing is one of the top things that people screen positive for in terms of where they have gaps and what they need help with."

James said that rentburdened patients often are forced to choose between paying their rent and utilities, or paying a copay for a medical appointment. "It's an easy decision for the patients," she noted. "Doctors are cnasing unstable disease in patients that are chasing unstable life. They don't align, and it's a perpetual cycle of instability.'

The last panelist to speak was Eileen Murphy, a RAFT program participant. "I've been a recipient of the RAFT program a couple of times over the last ten years," she said. "The first time, I was homeless and in a shelter with my 14-month-old daughter. It helped stabilize me, it put me back on my feet. If I didn't have it, I'd be homeless, or even worse. I'd probably end up dead. I'm a recovering addict and the more stress you have the more likely you are to relapse, and that's not an option for me."

Coming Up at the Boston Public Library 690 Adams Street • 617- 436-6900 Codman Square 690 Washington Street • 617-436-8214 **Fields Corner** 1520 Dorchester Avenue • 617-436-2155 **Lower Mills** 27 Richmond Street • 617-298-7841\ **Uphams Corner** 500 Columbia Road • 617-265-0139**Grove Hall** 

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**Mattapan Branch** 

ADAMS STREET BRANCH The Adams Street branch will be closed for the construction of a new building until 2021.

CODMAN SQUARE BRANCH
Thurs., Dec. 5 - 3:30 p.m. - Homework Help; 4 p.m. – BTU Homework Help; 4 p.m. – HISET/GED Prep Class; 4:30 p.m. – LEGO Club. Fri., Dec. 6, 11 a.m. – Stories, Stories, Stories; 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help. Sat., Dec. 7, 9:30 a.m. - Citizenship Class; 10 a.m. - ESL Conversation Group; Friends of the Library Open House; 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help. Mon., Dec. 9, 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help; 4 p.m. – BTU Homework Help; 5:30 p.m. – Community Game Night. **Tues.**, **Dec. 10**, 10 a.m. – Toddler Time; 10:30 a.m. - Unleash the Amazing Quilter in You; 11 a.m. -Stories, Stories, Stories; 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help. Wed., Dec. 11, 1:30 p.m. – Knit/Crochet Circle; 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help. **Thurs., Dec. 12**, – 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help; 4 p.m. – BTU Homework Help; 4 p.m. – HISET/GED Prep Class; 4:30 p.m. – LEGO Club.

### FIELDS CORNER BRANCH

**Thurs., Dec. 5**, 10:30 a.m. – Films and Fun; 3 p.m. - Tech Help; 3:30 p.m. - Homework Help. **Fri., Dec. 6**, 9:30 a.m. – Lapsit Story Time; 10:30 a.m. – Preschool Storytime; 2 p.m. – Friday Afternoon Fun. **Sat., Dec.** 7, 10 a.m. - Bilingual Vietnamese Storytime. Tues., Dec. 10, 3:30 p.m. - Homework Help; Healthy Cooking with Kids; 4 p.m. – BTU Homework Help; 5:30 p.m. – Salary Negotiation Workshop. **Wed., Dec. 11**, 10 a.m. – Adult Stress Relief Coloring; 2 p.m. – US

Census Job Fair; 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help. GROVE HALL BRANCH **Thurs., Dec. 5,** 3 p.m. – Zine Workshop; 3:30 p.m. - Homework Help; 4 p.m. - BTU Homework Help; - 4:30 p.m. - LEGO Club. **Fri., Dec. 6**, 10:30 a.m. - Short Preschool Movies; 2:30 p.m. - Teen Gaming. Sat., Dec. 7, 11 a.m. – ESL Conversation Group; 1 p.m. – Girls Who Code; 1 p.m. – In Knots: Cultivating Peace with Macrame and Yoga; 2 p.m. – Teen Resume Workshop. Mon., Dec. 9, – 11 a.m. – ESL Beginner English Class; 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help. Tues., Dec. 10, 10:30 a.m. – Toddler Time; Preschool Story Time; 3 p.m. – Zine Workshop; 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help. Wed. Dec. 114, 10 a.m. – Creative Writing Help. Wed., Dec. 114, 10 a.m. - Creative Writing Workshop; 11 a.m. – Toddler Time Stories; 1:30 p.m. – Knit/Crochet Circle; 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help. **Thurs.**, **Dec. 12**, 3 p.m. – Zine Workshop; 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help; 4 p.m. – BTU Homework Help; – 4:30 p.m. – LEGO Club.

LOWER MILLS BRANCH

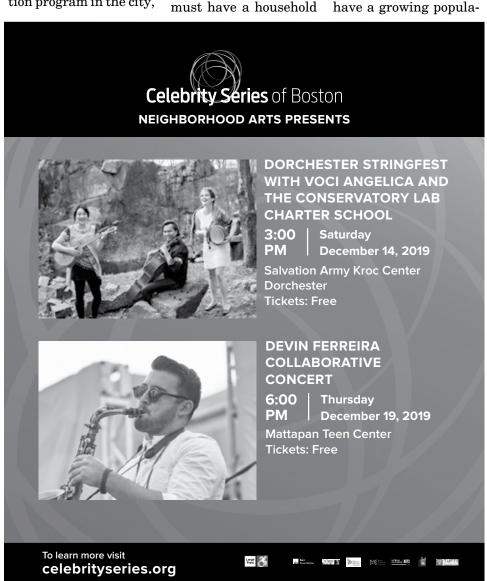
Thurs. Dog 5, 2:20 p.m. Homework Help; 4 p.m.

Thurs., Dec. 5, 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help; 4 p.m. BTU Homework Help; 5 p.m. - LEGO Club. Fri., Dec. 6, 10:30 a.m. – Little Wigglers' Lapsit. Mon., Dec. 9, 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help; 4 p.m. – BTU Homework Help;. Tues., Dec. 10, 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help. Wed., Dec. 11, 10:30 a.m. - Preschool Storytime; 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help. Thurs., Dec. 12, 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help; 4 p.m. – BTU Home-

work Help; 5 p.m. – LEGO Club.

MATTAPAN BRANCH Thurs., Dec. 5, 3 p.m. - BTU Homework Help; 3:30 p.m. - Homework Help; 4 p.m. - Grub Street Presents; 4:30 p.m. – LEGO Club; 5:30 p.m. – Family Board Game Night; 6:30 p.m. - Yoga. Fri. Dec. 6, 10 a.m. – ESL Beginner English Class; 10 a.m. – Baby & Toddler Lapsit; 10:30 a.m. – Hugs & Play; Smart From the Start Story Hour; 1 p.m. – WDts Mattapan; 3 p.m. - Crafternoons. Sat., Dec. 7, 10 a.m. - Computer Basics Class; STEAM Saturdays; 12 p.m. -Flower Arrangements; 12:30 p.m. - Zumba with Carlina; 3 p.m. – Book Reading & Signing. Mon., Dec. 9, 10:30 a.m. - Hugs & Play; 3:30 p.m. - Homework Help. Tues., Dec. 10, 10 a.m. – Toddler Time; 3 p.m. BTU Homework Help; 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help; 4 p.m. - Tinker Time. Wed., Dec. 11, 10:30 a.m. Toddler Time; 12:30 p.m. – Tai Chi; 1:30 p.m. – Knit/ Crochet Circle; 3 p.m. – Full STEAM Ahead; 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help. **Thurs., Dec. 12**, 3 p.m. – BTU Homework Help; 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help; 4 p.m. Grub Street; 4:30 p.m. – LEGO Club; 5:30 p.m. – Family Board Game Night; 6 p.m. - Sleepy Story Time; 6:30 p.m. - Yoga.

**ÛPHAMS CORNER BRANCH** Thurs., Dec. 5, 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help; 4 p.m. – BTU Homework Help. Mon., Dec. 9. 10:30 a.m. - Baby and Toddler Lapsit; 3:30 p.m. Homework Help; 4:30 p.m. - Make It Mondays. Tues., Dec. 10, 10:30 a.m. – Relax and Release Yoga; 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help. Wed., Dec. 11, 3:30 p.m. – Homework Help.



# Reporter's

# People in and around our Neighborhoods

# News about people



Barbara Belony, NP, (left) of Dorchester and Michelle Sofi, served as committee members to organize the successful Heroes in Heath Care gala to support the Visiting Nurses Association last month. VNA Care, a nonprofit visiting nurse association with an office in Dorchester, honored three health care leaders while raising a recordbreaking \$340,000 at its sold-out gala held at the Mandarin Oriental, Boston.Tony Coles, MD, CEO and chairperson of Cerevel Therapeutics; Steven Strongwater, MD, president & CEO of Atrius Health; and Patricia Joyce, RN, community nurse with VNA Care, were the honorees. Roger Farrington photo

Dorchester's Dara Delaney has been named Vice President for Relationship Development at HarborOne Bank's new office on Broad Street. The branch is the bank's first office in Boston. Prior to joining HarborOne, Delaney served as Branch Manager at Century Bank. She received her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Massachusetts-Boston.



# Dot comedian Van Delft set to release debut album

By Daniel Sheehan ARTS & FEATURES EDITOR

Dorchester-based comedian Bethany Van Delft, the host of the monthly Artisanal Comedy show at Dorchester Brewing Company, will release her debut comedy album, "I'm Not A Llama," next Friday (Dec. 13).

Her "hip and grounded, laidback delivery" has earned her the honor of performing at the prestigious Just for Laughs Festival in Montreal, as well as SF Sketchfest in San Francisco, the All Jane Comedy Festival in Portland, Oregon, and on the 2 Dope Queens Podcast.

Van Delft, a Bronx-native who moved to Boston as a child, is a regular performer and producer for the Boston Comedy Festival and the Women in Comedy Festival, where she created the series "38/7%." Her storytelling show/podcast with co-producer Nick Chambers, "Starstruck: Close Encounters of the Awkward Kind, won Best Comedy Night in Boston from The Improper Bostonian, and earlier this year, she was named "2019 Best Comic" by Boston Magazine.

She is also a regular host and storyteller for The Moth, where her telling of her first postpartum



experience went viral with 15 million views and is included in the Moth book "All These Wonders."

"I'm Not A Llama," which draws on her experience as a wife and mother, will be available on streaming services beginning next Friday.



Mayor Martin Walsh joined Cardinal Sean O'Malley at the Catholic Charities Yawkey Center on Columbia Road on Sat., Nov. 23 to help distribute food for Thanksgiving.

Photo by John Wilcox/

Mayor's Office

### YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE

DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The following has been excerpted from a Dorchester Historical Society essay:

Promotional cookbooklets are well known today. They represent a special category of cookbook publishing in which a company distributes recipes that uses its own products. With a product code snipped from the package and a nominal handling fee, Knox Gelatine will send a pamphlet of recipes using its product, Durkee-Mower will send a pamphlet with recipes using Marshmallow Fluff, and Cuisinart will send recipes using its food processor.

Although this phenomenon may be waning as companies set up websites that distribute the recipes more efficiently, the publishing of promotional cookbooklets has been popular for nearly 200 years. In the early to mid-19th century, almanacs carried recipes, especially those published by the patent medicine companies. By the second half of the century, the practice was in full swing. This period also saw the proliferation of cookbook authors as minor celebrities. They opened schools of cookery and began to lecture for fundraising and for the promotion of efficiency and scientific methods.

Fannie Farmer, for example, is regularly cited for introducing the practice of level measurements in









The marketing of Walter Baker & Co.

cooking. And many authors endorsed the products of local companies and created recipes for them. Mary Lincoln, a principal teacher at the Boston Cooking School, wrote the recipes for a pamphlet published by the White Mountain Freezer company, a New Hampshire manufacturer of ice cream freezers. Miss Farmer, another head of the Boston Cooking School, wrote the recipes for the Rumford Cook Book, a publication of the Rumford Chemical Works, a manufacturer of baking powder in Rhode Island. Janet McKenzie Hill, yet another principal

at the Boston Cooking School, wrote Worcester Recipes for the Worcester Salt Company.

The first known recipe pamphlet issued by Walter Baker & Co. was entitled "An Account of the Manufacture and Use of Cocoa and Chocolate "and published in 1876. The next was "Chocolate Receipts," which was published a few years later. In addition to publishing recipes, Baker extolled the nutritional value of chocolate and cited many experts. Christoph Wilhelm Hufeland, a German physician, is quoted: "I recommend good chocolate to nervous, excitable persons; also to the

weak, debilitated and infirm; to children and women. I have obtained excellent results from it in many cases of chronic deseases of the digestive organs."

The first teacher at the Boston Cooking School, Maria Parloa, wrote many of the recipes for Walter Baker & Co.'s 1899 pamphlet, "Choice Recipes." The "Appledore Cook Book," her first, was published in 1872. Though little is known of her early life, she attended the Maine Central Institute when she was 28 years old. The Appledore book, published the next year, tells us that she had worked as a cook in private families and had worked as a pastry chef in several New Hampshire hotels.

She went into teaching in Mandarin, Fla., where she gave her first lecture on cooking to raise money for the purchase of an organ for the local Sunday School. Encouraged by her success, she opened a cooking school in 1877 on Tremont Street in Boston. In 1879 she agreed to teach at the Boston Cooking School, a project of the Women's Education Association.

Over the years she published Miss Parloa's "New Cook Book and Marketing Guide" (1881) and "Practical Cookery" (1884) as well as writing many articles for the Ladies' Home Journal, of which she was a part owner.

Like her other cookbooks, "Choice Recipes" went through many editions. In 1912, the publication was called "Chocolate and Cocoa Recipes by Miss Parloa "with  $a\,second\,section\,"Home\,Made$ Candy Recipes" by Mrs. Janet McKenzie Hill. Miss Parloa had died in 1909, and by 1925 the pamphlet was entitled "Chocolate and Cocoa Recipes by Celebrated Cooks."

In 1927, the Postum Cereal Co. acquired Walter Baker & Co., and in 1928 the company issued two cookbooklets with no authors listed: "Famous Recipes for Baker's Chocolate and Breakfast Cocoa," and Perfect Chocolates of Your Own Making. The Secrets of Dipping with Baker's DOT Chocolate. [Could DOT mean Dorchester?] Many other pamphlets followed in the ensuing years.

 $The \ archive \ of \ these \ histori$ cal posts can be viewed on the blog at dorchesterhistoricalsociety.org. The Dorchester Historical Society's historic houses are open on different dates. The Lemuel Clap House (1712 and remodeled 1765) at 199 Boston Street is open on the third Saturday of each month. The James Blake House, 735 Columbia Road (1661) and the William  $Clap\,House, 195\,Boston\,Street$ (1806) are open on the third Sunday of each month. Open hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### Editorial

# Census seeks you for next year's count

Preparations for the 2020 US Census are picking up steam locally. Two job fair events are planned in Dorchester next week to recruit men and women to fill various part-time positions - mainly as "enumerators," the people who actually go door-to-door to count the population.



On Wed., Dec. 11, the Fields Corner branch of the BPL at 1520 Dorchester Ave. will host a recruitment day from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. On Sat., Dec. 14, the Greater Four Corners Action Coalition will do the same beginning at 9 a.m. at its headquarters,

690 Washington St., Dorchester.

The Census Bureau says it plans to hire as many as 500,000 temp workers nationally. Depending on the position, they are good-paying jobs that offer paid training, weekly pay, and flexible hours, including daytime, evenings and weekends. The estimated pay rate in Boston (Suffolk County) is \$20-\$25 per hour, according to the site 2020census.gov.

The census will begin its official count in Alaska next month. Here in Boston, we should expect to see mail solicitations via the mail in March. Actual door-to-door interviews- which will target "nonresponsive" households that don't participate via mail, phone, or online— will begin next summer.

"We need people to apply now so they can be considered for part-time census taker positions next spring," said Timothy Olson, the Census Bureau's associate director for field operations, in a statement released this week. "Recent high school graduates, veterans, retirees, military spouses, seasonal workers, and applicants who are bilingual are highly encouraged to apply. It's important we hire people in every community in order to have a complete and accurate census."

To qualify for a 2020 Census job, you must be at least 18 years old with a valid Social Security number; be a US citizen with a valid email address; be registered with Selective Service (if you're a male); and pass a criminal background check, including fingerprinting.

What's at stake? Plenty. It's a critical measurement for how federal dollars are allocated. It's also used for allocating Congressional seats and will be the tool by which local political districts are re-drawn in the next couple of years.

Massachusetts Secretary of State Bill Galvin has said that estimates show our state currently has roughly 6.9 million people. "That's clearly enough people to justify the nine seats in Congress that we now have," he told WCVB-TV. "But if the count is badly flawed and we come in at a substantially lower number than that, then it presents a problem.

Next week's job fairs here in Dorchester won't guarantee employment. But it's essential that qualified job seekers apply now to enter the pool. The selection process for census taker positions starts next month, with paid training set for March and April. Workers will start going door-to-door to "nonresponding households" in May through early July.

For more information, you can call 1-855-JOB-2020 and select Option 3. Applicants may also contact the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339. Or visit 2020census.gov/jobs. - Bill Forry

# The Reporter

"The News & Values Around the Neighborhood" A publication of Boston Neighborhood News Inc.

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Next week's Deadline: Monday, December 9 at 4 p.m.

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# Decades of courageous organizing led way to the education equity law

By Sonia Chang-Díaz

Last week, I stood in a packed gymnasium at English High School right here in Boston and watched Governor Baker as he signed a nation-leading education funding equity bill into law.



Sen. Sonia Chang-Díaz

The bill corrects our Commonwealth's 26-year-old K-12 funding formula, delivering \$1.5 billion in state aid primarily to low-income students who have faced drastic underfunding for decades. These are the exact fixes that families, educators, and organizers across the Commonwealth have been fighting for.

Seismic progress like

this doesn't happen by itself and it doesn't happen overnight. It requires resilient advocacy and courageous commitment from people all across the state. This fight was no different, and it started long before this legislative term began.

Forty-one years ago, in 1978 (the year I was born!), eight-year-old Roburn Webby from Brockton was one of the first to call for reforming our state's education funding system. She saw that she and her classmates did not have the same opportunities as their peers in other communities. Roburn and her parents joined with 15 other families and stakeholder groups from across the state to sue for every child's right to a quality education.

The case took 15 years to wend its way through the system — so long that Roburn aged out of the Brockton school system and was succeeded by 13-year-old Jami McDuffy as the lead plaintiff. But at the end of the day, their work led to one of the most important changes to K-12 education in Massachusetts history. In 1993, the Massachusetts Supreme Court ruled that every child had a constitutional right to quality education. The Legislature's subsequent Education Reform Act that year set a national standard for

Yet, even as the Massachusetts education system climbed the national rankings, achievement and opportunity gaps persisted — and in some cases grew. So, these same communities continued to champion educational justice, calling for increased investment to make good on our constitutional responsibility. In 2010, these communities were joined by others across the state who were facing growing year over year budget cuts.

They got down to work, making their voices heard in calls, meetings, and long trips back and forth to the State House. Their grit and persistence achieved the rebirth of the Foundation Budget Review Commission, which I co-chaired in 2015 — whose mandate was to recommend updates to the state's decades' old formula for K-12 education aid, also known as the "Foundation Budget."

Still, parents, students, and advocates knew the work was far from over. For the next year, as we

on the commission held hearings across the state, communities turned out - sharing stories of damaging budget cuts year after year, and the double bind faced by low-income kids who endure a more difficult road to start with and who receive even less support along the way.

The next year, in October 2015, the commission issued our report with five clear recommendations to update the formula and provide necessary support to close the achievement gap.

Still, we all knew the work was far from over. The recommendations had no force of law, they would make no true impact by themselves. So, these stakeholders and advocates redoubled their efforts again — crafting legislation, organizing demonstrations, attending hearings, calling the State House, meeting with offices again and again. And, more than 40 years after Roburn Webby and her parents first led the charge for equity — these stakeholders filed another lawsuit.

On a cold morning this past January, 13-year-old Chelsea middle schooler José Cruz Jr. came to the State House and echoed these calls for an equal chance in life. He told us about how he and his peers deal with poverty, violence, homelessness, and few employment opportunities - and that he had no one at school to talk with about it.

"So, I ask you," he said to us. "Do you sincerely expect us to succeed under these circumstances? Are you aware of these issues? Can you do something to help us? Will you help us?"

The law we won last week will finally answer these calls. It includes all five of the Foundation Budget Review Commission's recommendations, with the full investment prescribed to close opportunity and achievement gaps at scale.

These provisions weren't politically easy, and getting here was never certain. But we always knew this was the right goal — and a diverse coalition of Democrats, Republicans, teachers' unions, charter school advocates, parent groups, student organizers, civil rights advocates, business leaders, and local officials all agreed.

Generations of Bay Staters tirelessly and passionately kept this cause alive, never giving up, even when political insiders believed the issue was dead. And now, future generations of Bay Staters will taste the fruit of their efforts: a public education to create the society we want to live in and support every child as they reach for their dreams.

We failed Roburn Webby 40 years ago, and we missed the mark on doing right by Jami McDuffy 26 years ago. But today, finally, this law is getting it right for José Cruz and the decades of Bay Staters who will come after him.

This is what generational progress for educational equity and economic justice looks like. This is what refusing to give up looks like.

I'm profoundly grateful to have had the chance to stand alongside so many of you in this fight. Never doubt that when we organize, we win.

State Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz represents parts of  $Dorchester \, and \, Mattapan \, in \, the \, Massachusetts \, State$ Senate's Second Suffolk district.

### Letter to the Editor

# It's crucial to keep up momentum on Education funding

Last week, the Student Opportunity Act was signed into law, securing \$1.5 billion in new funding for K-12 public education in Massachusetts. This is a historic victory for the students, parents, union educators, and allies across the state who for years have fought tirelessly to get here.



Jessica Tang

We mailed thousands of postcards to our representatives, knocked on doors. made phone calls, and met with legislators to share the impact of the funding crisis on our public schools and families. We asserted the right of our communities to have an equitable public education system that serves the needs of all students, regardless of their background.

This funding will have

a tremendous impact on communities who have endured years of disinvestment in our public education system. Low-income students, English Language Learners, students of color, and special needs students have historically been denied equitably funded

public schools by the state. We have long known what our students and families need, and now we are significantly closer to accessing the resources and support that all of our students deserve.

Now that the bill has been signed into law, it is crucial that we stay engaged and keep the momentum from this victory going. Statewide, we continue to advocate for social workers and counselors in every school, adequate staffing for ELL students, and increased support for families who are experiencing housing insecurity.

Wraparound services have been inaccessible to many families throughout the Commonwealth due to disinvestment in public schools, and this funding presents an opportunity to move toward rectifying that. New funding, particularly in Boston, is also critical to improving special education inclusion throughout the district.

Our fight is not over. We must continue to work with legislators to ensure that this funding is used effectively and purposefully. In our classrooms, our communities, and at the State House, we will continue to advocate so that the voices and needs of students, educators, and families are heard.

> Jessica Tang President, Boston Teachers Union

# Book tells the story of William Monroe Trotter and 'The Guardian'

By Tiziana Dearing and Zoe Mitchell WBUR Radio Boston

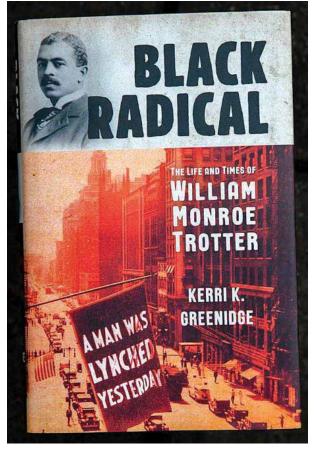
William Monroe Trotter was the co-founder and editor of the Boston-based black weekly newspaper "The Guardian," a powerful force in black journalism in the first half of the 20th century. Through vocal advocacy for anti-lynching laws and enforcement of the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments, Trotter built a reputation as an uncompromising fighter, working to prevent the rollback of Reconstruction. He also was a rival to another significant black leader of the time: Booker T. Washington.

**Kerri Greenidge**, director of Tufts University's American Studies Program, is the author of "Black Radical: The Life and Times of William Monroe Trotter." She was a guest on WBUR's Radio Boston last week. The following are excerpts from the interview.

On why Trotter's life is relevant to our time: "His last biography was written in the 1970s by a wonderful author named Stephen Fox, and he was coming from the turmoil of the 1960s; he was limited by the historical records that he had at the time. And since 1970, the field of African American history in particular — and American history generally — has evolved, as we all know, and the access we now have to certain records that were not available in the 1960s are available for this book.

"The other thing, I think, is that Trotter's life really illustrates life at a time when there was a promise of the end of the Civil War and the promise of radical Reconstruction. And then that promise was betrayed with the fall of Reconstruction and the rise of the late 19th century-early 20th century shift. And so, I think his life is relevant to our time because many people feel we're in the same moment of sort of all this promise happening in the '60s, '70s and into the '80s, and then there's this moment where people feel as though the political times are in flux."

On the role of *The Guardian* in the black press: "It's founded at a time when there's an explosion of black newspapers across the country, so *The Guardian* emerges amongst other known high circulating newspapers. His paper was different in that he did not accept support from sponsors. So what would typically happen — and this was true for the black press as well as the white press — was that political actors would support a newspaper, and support that newspaper as a way to help get their



political message across. Of course, this was before TV or anything like that.

"And so, Trotter was big on saying that *The Guardian* was not going to be bought, that he would fund it himself ... He wouldn't accept advertisements from skin bleaching [or] hair straightening companies. And so, his paper really became this institution that emerged at a time when many other newspapers, to survive, were doing that. He was fortunate enough to have his own fortune that went into the newspaper to support it without having to be dictated by political whim."

On his criticism of Booker T. Washington: "Trotter's main criticism was that, in the words of [W.E.B.] Dubois, Washington was a leader of two races, not one. That Washington was called in this very particular position of having to, number one, solicit

funding for Tuskegee Institute from very wealthy white donors; number two, create an organization and an educational institution in the South at a time when there's lynching, racial violence and backlash against emancipation. And three, Washington did that at a time when he's having his own family. He's currying favor with white donors often whom we're not very into black civil rights in terms of desegregation.

"And so, Trotter's issue with Washington was that he felt that Washington compromised the race for his own personal gain. And he was somebody also who realized and pointed out the damaging way that Washington's rhetoric propagated and participated in the deterioration of rights since the end of Reconstruction. Trotter's criticism was that Washington was not fit to be seen as a leader of African-Americans and that he had basically — he calls him an imported boss — that he was basically somebody who was seen as a leader by white Americans and that black Americans were [underserved by that.]"

On re-writing Boston's black history: "I remember when I started working on the book and I would tell other historians what I was doing, a lot of them reacted with the rhetoric that we know about Boston. You know, Boston was a place where there was abolition before the Civil War, and then we kind of learn a little bit that Martin Luther King, Jr. went to school here, and then we learned about busing.

"And really, the black community in Boston is one of the oldest African American, African-descended communities in the Americas. And despite the small numbers compared to cities like New York or cities like Philadelphia, the black community has always had an impact on the region's politics and has always had an impact on the way the region reacts and enacts racial policy and racial thought.

"And so, I really want to examine what does black civil rights look like in a city like Boston, where many people don't consider that that history is long and is as significant as it is. Trotter is somebody who was as much a part of the city of Boston as Boston was a part of him. And it's not to say that he's exceptional or the city is exceptional; it's to say what happens when we look at African American history through the lens of a city or region or a space that we don't traditionally think of looking at it."

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THE REPORTER Page 10 **December 5, 2019** dotnews.com

# Reporter's Neighborhood Notables

civic assoc's • clubs • arts & entertainment • churches • upcoming events

### HALFWAY TO DOT DAY 5K ON DEC. 14

Dorchester Running Club sponsors the fifth annual Halfway to Dot Day 5k and Toy Drive on Sat., Dec. 14 at Pope John Paul II Park, Hallet Street entrance in Neponset, 9 a.m. Followed by a toy drive breakfast at Florian Hall, 9 a.m.- 12 p.m. Suggested donation: \$20 and unwrapped toy for a child in need. More info at DotRunners.org.

### **ENCHANTED TROLLEY TOUR MAKES** STOPS DEC. 6-8

The Mayor of Boston's Enchanted Trolley Tour will take place from Fri., December 6 to Sun., Dec. 8 this year in several Boston neighborhoods. The event will include tree lightings, holiday performances, and children can meet Santa. It's the 24th edition of the citywide event, and the event will kick off at 5:30 p.m.  $in Mattapan \, Square \, Friday \, night \, (Dec. \, 6). \, Dorchester$ will be the first neighborhood the festivities hit Sat. (Dec. 7) at 1 p.m. in Codman Square, and the tour will end in Adams Village at 6:30 p.m. on Sun., Dec. 8. The event is sponsored by Bank of America.

### **STRAND THEATRE CONCERT ON DEC. 8 FEATURES BOSTON CHILDREN'S CHORUS**

Join Boston Children's Chorus for cherished tales paired with music celebrating light, joy, and peace in a concert at the Strand Theatre on Sun., Dec. 8 at 3 p.m. Contact: info@bostonchildrenschorus.org.

### **KIDS CHRISTMAS PARTY AT POLISH CLUB**

The Polish American Citizens Club on Boston Street is hosting its annual Kids Christmas Party on Sat., Dec. 7 from 1-4 p.m. Event is open to all children and families - you do not need to speak Polish to attend. There will be face painting, pizza, and Holiday treats. Santa Claus will be stopping by for a visit and parents should bring a wrapped gift with their child's first and last name written on it, for Santa to hand out. Admission is \$5 per child. RSVP at polishclubboston. com/kidschristmas.

### **PLAN: MATTAPAN MEETING ON DEC. 17**

The Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) will host a community meeting for the PLAN: Mattapan initiative on Tues., Dec. 17 at 6 p.m. at the Mattapan BPL branch, 1350 Blue Hill Ave. The meeting will build on last month's conversation about Topic



Family members of the late Vince Droser gathered in front of a newly-dedicated sign outside of Ashmont station on Sat., Nov. 30. The plaza was re-named for Droser, who died in 2011, but was a key advocate in the reconstruction of Ashmont station, Peabody Square and the creation of the Carruth Building. Droser's widow, Nancy Anderson, thanked a large crowd of more than 250 neighbors who turned out Bill Forry photo last Saturday for the plaza's dedication.

Areas (Corridors, Residential Fabric, and Squares) and Focus Areas (specific places in Mattapan). This meeting will continue the conversation about how the BPDA led team will determine success for the planning process. Light refreshments will be available. Translated materials and interpretation services will be provided in Haitian Creole and Spanish. Contact: Muge Undemir at mugzy.undemir@boston.gov.

### STRAND THEATRE SCREENING OF **PIONEERING LGBTQ FILM**

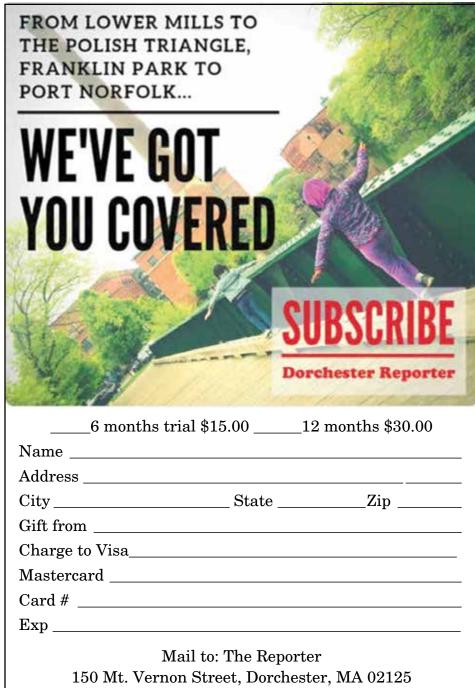
The Provincetown Film Society presents a special screening of the recently restored "Different from the Others" on Thurs., Dec. 5 at the Strand Theatre, 543 Columbia Rd., Dorchester. The film screening and live performance begins at  $7~\mathrm{p.m.}$  General admission tickets are \$25 per person. A limited number of VIP

tickets are available for \$75 and include a reception featuring the different flavors and tastings of Dorchester, preferred seating at the Strand Theatre and a meet & greet with Billy Hough. Well-known Provincetown musician Billy Hough will perform an original score for the silent film with the collaboration of a vocal ensemble including Grammy-winning tenor Jason McStoots. Following the film, there will be a panel discussion about the historic significance of the film which will include noted Harvard University Professor of the Practice in Media and Activism in Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality, Michael Bronski. The evening will conclude with an additional music performance by Billy Hough and Jason McStoots. The VIP event begins at 5:30 p.m. Contact Philip. finch@gmail.com.

Not *actually* at the park, but

se enough

(Continued on page 14)



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# Why becoming a US citizen just got more difficult

By Shannon Dooling WBUR Reporter

Megeliea Adrian is sifting through a crinkled business envelope stuffed with her family's passports and green cards while a volunteer attorney reviews her citizenship application. She is one of 50 or so aspiring US citizens clutching fistfuls of documents and filling out paperwork in the conference room of a downtown Boston law firm.

For the 51-year-old Adrian, who was born in Haiti and has lived in the US for almost 20 years, citizenship means one thing: "You not citizen, you not vote. I love America, I'm [going to become a] citizen, I'm gonna vote," she says.

Becoming a citizen isn't easy and it's about to get harder. There are numerous eligibility requirements, heaps of paperwork and documents to process, and a pretty hefty application fee. Adrian, who currently has a green card, is surprised to hear it costs more than \$700 to apply for citizenship.

Melanie Torres is the director of programs and operations for Bostonbased Project Citizenship, which sponsors workshops like the one

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Mageliea Adrian is a green card holder from Haiti and has applied to become a US citizen. The federal government recently changed eligibility requirements for to waive the citizenship application fee.

Shannon Dooling/ WBUR photo

Adrian is attending. The nonprofit's goal is to eliminate barriers to naturalization. For most of their clients, Torres says, the main obstacle is cost. "The hardest thing is the payment, so the fee — not for services, but just for the application itself — is right now \$725," Torres says.

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The federal government has waived fees for people who can prove they receive federal and state benefits like food

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stamps or Medicaid. But as of Monday this week, that's not going to be enough.

US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will now require something called a tax transcript from the IRS. Torres says obtaining this document will be nearly impossible for many of their clients. "Most of them are transient, a lot of them are elderly and don't file taxes or are claimed as dependents on other people's taxes or live in sort of informal households, so it's really, really hard to prove their income," she says.

Project Citizenship recently filed a federal lawsuit in Boston against the Trump administration. The suit challenges the waiver changes, arguing it will ultimately decrease the number of eligible immigrants who are able to apply for citizenship. Nearly 40 percent of naturalization applications across the country included a fee waiver in 2017, according to the complaint.

A spokesperson for the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) noted in an email that the agency relies on fees to cover the costs of its operations. Fee waivers have totaled hundreds of millions of dollars a year and to balance its books USCIS says it's had to raise other fees.

But, Torres says, the Trump administration's reforms are motivated by more than fiscal concerns. "We know that the election is coming up. We know that everyone is more interested right now and in 2020, we're going to see a huge surge in interest and we know that this is because they don't want low-income immigrants to vote."

Jessica Vaughan heads up policy studies for the Center for Immigration Studies — a conservative group advocating for more restrictive immigration laws. She says the new eligibility requirements for fee waivers will spread the processing costs more evenly, and adds, "It's an effort to make it more fair and there will be some additional burden on some people to show that they qualify for the fee waiver, but it's important that we have a system with some integrity."

The Trump administration has proposed eliminating fee waivers altogether and has also proposed hiking the current naturalization fee from \$725 to \$1,170.

This article was first published on Dec. 2 by WBUR 90.9FM. The Reporter and WBUR share content and resources through a media partnership.



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TO CHANGE NAME
Docket No. SU19C0533CA

IN THE MATTER OF:
ANDREAS LINTER SCHWARTZ
A Petition to Change Name of
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Linter Schwartz of Dorchester, MA
requesting that the court enter a

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Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Suffolk Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/19/2019. This is not a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court. Date: November 27, 2019 Felix D. Arroyo

Register of Probate
Published: December 5, 2019

# **Community Health News**

# Year-to-date opioid OD deaths down 6 percent across state

By Colin A. Young STATE HOUSE News Service

The rate of deaths due to opioid overdoses is slowing in Massachusetts, but still nearly 1,500 people died of an overdose in Massachusetts through the first nine months of the year, the state announced on Nov. 25.

The 1,460 confirmed or suspected opioid-related overdose deaths in Massachusetts between January and September represent a decrease of about 6 percent from the first three quarters of 2018, the equivalent of 99 fewer people dying of an overdose, the Department of Public Health said. DPH has confirmed 1,091 of the deaths were caused by an overdose of heroin, fentanyl, prescription painkillers or other opioids and es- toxicology screen was

timated that another 332 to 407 deaths will eventually be confirmed as opioid overdoses.

For the second time in  $two\,quarterly\,opioid\,data$ releases, DPH officials said that the prevalence of the powerful synthetic opioid fentanyl has risen to "an all-time high" and is now present in almost every overdose death that's screened for drugs.

'Today's report affirms that our multi-pronged approach to the opioid epidemic is making a difference," Gov. Charlie Baker said in a statement. "Although we've made progress, we must continue to focus our law enforcement efforts on getting fentanyl off of our streets and out of our neighborhoods."

Of the 903 opioidrelated overdose deaths in 2019 for which a

93 percent -- tested positive for the presence of fentanyl, which is deadly in small doses. Last year, the fentanyl was found in 89 percent of opioid overdose deaths and was present in just 18 percent of opioid overdose deaths in the third quarter of 2014, DPH said.

Over the last five years, while fentanvl has been on the rise in Massachusetts, the rate of heroin or likely heroin found present in opioid-related overdoses has declined steadily, DPH said, and  $it was found in 24\, percent$ of overdose deaths that had a toxicology screen in the second quarter of this year.

Men aged 25 through 34 continued to make up the greatest demographic share (24 percent) of all opioid-related incidents treated by emergency

first half of 2019, DPH said. Men account for 74 percent of all fatal opioid-related overdoses in Massachusetts.

"Behind these quarterly data are real people and families in communities across the state whose lives are impacted by addiction," Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito said. "We remain invested in proven strategies across the spectrum of prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery to help individuals struggling with addiction and support local community efforts."

The Baker administration has focused on the opioid epidemic since the governor took office in 2015, but has seen overdose deaths

from the 1,351 deaths in 2014 to the 2,033 in 2018 despite having "doubled spending to address the opioid crisis" and having "increased capacity by more than 1,200 treatment beds." In terms of deaths, the epidemic peaked in 2016 when 2,095 people died of opioid-related overdoses.

The current state budget directs \$246 million or roughly 0.6 percent of the total state appropriation -- towards addressing substance misuse prevention and treatment.

Despite the surge in the presence of fentanyl, public health officials have touted declines in the number of overdose

present, 838 of them -- or medical services in the climb about 50 percent deaths. Between 2016 and 2018, total overdose deaths dropped by an estimated 3 percent, and the rate of deaths per 100,000 people fell by 4 percent in that same time period, DPH has said.

> "The release of this latest data indicates that our public healthcentered approach to the opioid epidemic is working," Public Health Commissioner Monica Bharel said. "As we move forward, we will build on this success by continuing to focus on the widespread availability of naloxone, behavioral and medication treatments, and sustained recovery services."

# New law extends health coverage for former foster youth



Gov. Charlie Baker picked up the pages of Massachusetts' new vaping and flavored tobacco law, seconds after signing the legislation last Wednesday in the State Library. It was Baker's third day in a row of major bill signings after lawmakers shipped him a bundle of bills last week before breaking for a holiday recess. Sam Doran/SHNS photo

Young adults who had been in the custody of the state will maintain health insurance coverage until their 26th birthday under a new Massachusetts law.

MassHealth, the state's Medicaid program, will provide the coverage for the former foster youth. Republican Gov. Charlie Baker signed the bill on Tuesday.

The new law also seeks to improve the accuracy of health insurance provider directories.

Supporters of the law say out-of-date and inaccurate directories make it difficult for people especially individuals with behavioral health conditions to find timely care.

Health Care For All

**Executive Director Amy** Rosenthal said maintaining health coverage is particularly challenging for young adults formerly involved with the Department of Children and Families.

The new law is also designed to help families with children facing complex medical challenges.

### **LEGAL NOTICE**

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Docket No. SU19P2681EA
ESTATE OF:
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RUTH LILYSBETH REYES VELOZ
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Raynham, MA requesting that the Court
enter a formal Decree and Order and for
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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 proceed. ing. 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

a written appearance and objection at this Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/08/2020. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

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Witness, HON, BRIAN J. DUNN, First

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Date: November 26, 2019
Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probat Published: December 5, 2019



The Dorchester Historical Society announces new items for the gift shop. Priced at \$10 each these wooden ornaments capture iconic Dorchester views of a three decker and of the gas tank.



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# Neighborhood Notables

(Continued from page 10) **BOSTON COMMON TREE LIGHTING** ON DEC. 5

Mayor Martin J. Walsh and guests from the Province of Nova Scotia will celebrate the 78th annual Tree Lighting on Boston Common on Thurs., Dec. 5, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The holiday lights throughout both parks will light up in sequence shortly before 8 p.m. when Mayor Walsh is joined onstage by members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Santa Claus, Rudolph, and Frosty. The show will close with a pyrotechnic display by Atlas PyroVision. WCVB Channel 5's Anthony Everett and Shayna Seymour will once again host Channel 5's live broadcast of the event beginning at 7 p.m. featuring multi-platinum singer-songwriter and Lexington native Matt Nathanson, award-winning Nova Scotian alt-pop stars Neon Dreams, Nova Scotian R&B singer-songwriter Zamani, performances by cast members from the new musical "Dolly Parton's Smoky Mountain Christmas Carol" and "Irving Berlin's White Christmas: The Musical," as well as Dorchester's Holy Tabernacle Church Choir. This is the  $48^{\rm th}$  year that Nova Scotia has given a tree to the people of Boston as thanks for relief efforts following the December 6, 1917, explosion of a munitions ship in Halifax Harbor. Within 24 hours of the disaster a train loaded with supplies and emergency personnel was making its way from Boston to Nova Scotia. For more information please call 617-635-4505 or go to boston.gov/parks.

### **DOHERTY-GIBSON PLAYGROUND COMMUNITY MEETING ON JAN. 7**

The Parks Department will host a community meeting on Tues., Jan. 7 at 6:30 p.m. at the Fields Corner BPL, 1520 Dorchester Ave. for the first in series of meetings on improvements to the Doherty-Gibson Playground. For more information call Annie Blair at 617-961-3028 or ann.frickblair@boston.gov.

### **BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY'S HOMEWORK HELP**

Boston Public Library's free Homework Help program is underway offering free afterschool help and mentorship provided by high-achieving high school students. The program, offered Monday through



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### **POLICE DISTRICT C-11**

Non-emergency line for seniors: 617-343-5649. The Party Line phone number, where you can report loud parties, is 617-343-5500, 24 hours/7 days per week.

### **POLICE DISTRICT B-3 NEWS**

For info, call B-3's Community Service Office at 617-343-4711.

### HANCOCK STREET CIVIC ASSOC.

The Hancock Street Civic Association meets monthly on the first Tuesday at Uphams Crossing, 530 Columbia Rd., Dorchester. Meeting time is 7-8:30p.m. Annual dues are \$5; please contact hancockstreetcivic@gmail.com with any questions you may have. The next meeting is on Jan. 7.

# WELLINGTON HILL NEIGHBORHOOD

The Wellington Hill Neighborhood Council will meet on Tues., Nov. 12 from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Mattapan branch of the Boston Public Library. Next meeting is Dec. 10. Updates can be found on Facebook page: @ wellingtonhillneighbors. Or Google Group: wellingtonhill@googlegroups.com

### RIVER STREET CIVIC ASSOC.

The River Street Civic Association meets on the second Thursday of each month from 6-8 p.m. at the Foley Senior Residences, 249 River St., Mattapan.

### **APPLE GROVE ASSOC.**

The Apple Grove Association meets on the second Tuesday of every month from 6-8 p.m. at 1135 Morton St., Mattapan. The contact is Ms. Myrtle Huggins at 617-429-8531

### **ASHMONT-ADAMS NEIGHBORHOOD** ASSOC.

Meetings are typically held on the first Thursday of each month at the Plasterer's Hall, 7 Fredericka St., at 7 p.m. Contact Pat O'Neill at pattiashmont@ gmail.com.

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### **ASHMONT HILL ASSOC.**

Meetings are generally held the last Thursday of the month. For info, see ashmonthill.org or call Message Line: 617-822-8178.

### ASHMONT HILL BOOK GROUP

Everyone is welcome to Book Group, whether you've read the book or not. For further info, please contact Lil Konowitz at klil@hotmail.com.

### ASHMONT VALLEY NEIGHBORHOOD

Meetings are usually the 2nd Monday or Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at 776 Washington St., Dorchester.

### **CEDAR GROVE CIVIC ASSOC.**

Cedar Grove Civic Association meets at 7 p.m. at Fr. Lane Hall, St. Brendan Church, 15 Rita Rd. The civic group meets on the Info: cedargrovecivic@gmail. com or 617-825-1402.

### **CLAM POINT CIVIC ASSOC.**

The meetings are usually held on the second Monday of the month (unless it's a holiday) at WORK, Inc. 25 Beach St., at the corner of Freeport St., across from the IBEW; on-street parking available.

### **CODMAN SQUARE NEIGHBORHOOD** COUNCIL

The Codman Square Neighborhood Council meets the first Wed. of each month, 7 to 8:30 p.m., in the Great Hall of the Codman Sq. Health Center, 6 Norfolk St. Info: call 617-265-4189.

### COLUMBIA-SAVIN HILL CIVIC ASSOC.

Columbia-Savin Hill Civic meets the first Monday of each month, 7 p.m., at the Little House, 275 East Cottage St. For info: columbiasavinhillcivic.org. The next meeting is Mon., Sept. 7.

### **DORCHESTER NORTH**

### **NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOC.**

The Dorchester North Neighborhood Association (formerly the Annapolis Street Neighborhood Association) generally meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the meeting room of 8 Annapolis Street. Please see our Facebook page (search Dorchester North) for updates and announcements. Send questions and agenda items to: dorchesternorth@gmail.com.

### FIELDS CORNER CIVIC ASSOC.

The FCCA meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 at the Kit Clark Center, 1500 Dorchester Ave. For more info. contact V. Girard, chair, at: vivian8120@gmail.com.

### **WOODROW AVENUE**

### **NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOC.**

WANA meets on the third Thursday of every month from 6-8p.m. at VFW Post 8772, 54 Woodrow Ave., Dorchester. Nina Johnson is the president. Email woodrowaveassoc@gmail.com or visit wanaboston on Facebook.

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# Codman Sq. residents hear what pot shop hopefuls have in mind

plication to the state early next year, called a community agreement a "starting block" for the team's goal of getting a license. Roughly 3,500 square feet of the building's 6,000 square feet would be carved out for adult retail use, which would be confined to the basement level, with entrances in the rear of the building and security surrounding the property, he said. The property also includes on-site parking for five cars, and is located along a heavily traveled bus route, and a few blocks away from the MBTA's Shawmut station.

The Grazin team said there would be opportunities to consider "educational programs" on the first floor to teach customers about marijuana use.

The proposed hours of operation would be 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week, with 15-30 customers expected per hour. Ross said that the facility would be accessible to individuals with disabilities, and include ample room for queuing inside. Delivery trucks would be expected at the store about two to three times weekly.

Since recreational cannabis use was legalized in 2016, only two marijuana dispensaries have opened in Boston. The team from Grazin said that this will change very soon, as many vendors are proposing shops all around the city and

"As these start to fill out, Boston is supposed to have 52 total," said Ross. "Ideally, every



State Rep. Russell Holmes addresses residents during the community meeting for a cannibis dispensary proposal in Codman Square. Katie Trojano photo

neighborhood is going to have two or three ... The idea is that people won't have to drive out of their neighborhood to fill their prescriptions. That's eventually what's going to happen with the industry." He added that the owners intend to hire locally.

"There are six-figure jobs in this industry, to be sure," Ross said. The business would create 15-25 positions. The company would also be required to honor a community agreement, pay 23 percent in taxes to the city, and make charitable contributions.

"This is a very highnetting business," he said. "There's a good opportunity to be good corporate citizens in this industry."

Linskey said his outlook on the legalization of recreational marijuana use changed after he saw how the drug benefitted a neighbor of his who was suffering from cancer. "I saw that there are better ways to treat people than opioids, and that

cannabis might be a way to relieve some people's suffering," he said.

He explained that security measures at the dispensary will be tight, and customers who don't follow the rules will be flagged and denied service.

"We're going to make sure that anything we're doing inside doesn't create issues in the community," Linskey said.

Some community members at the meeting expressed the sentiment that Grazin had "already set up shop," and that the group didn't actually care about an agreements and approval from the community.

"I apologize, the reality is that it's not done. We do need a postcommunity agreement. We've had a number of community meetings,' said Ross. Added Crawford: "It looks this way because this [proposal] and process is what's required by the state in order to apply for a

Many residents pushed

back, arguing that marijuana is a gateway drug that will bring more violence to the community. Some asked, "Why this neighborhood?"

Marilyn Forman, a Dorchester resident, said that although she understands that cannabis has already been legalized, she still worries about safety. "I just want to share that when the subject of legalizing marijuana came up, I voted against it. But the power of the people is what made the difference; people voted for it. When this came up they came out because they wanted it," she said while noting: "I'm concerned about the safety aspect of it. If someone comes in to purchase, how will

you prevent violence and muggings? I feel the pain of not wanting this in our neighborhood. How do we safeguard the residents here?" she asked.

Other residents argued that cannabis is already illegally sold all over the city, and that legalization of the drug creates a pathway for safer access and opportunities to give back to communities that were disproportionately harmed by the recent criminalization of the

"A lot of people ask, 'Why this neighborhood?' said Jaison Chavez, a Dorchester resident. "This neighborhood, among other neighborhoods, is the epicenter where people die over marijuana sales. What we have here is the opportunity to take the war on drugs and turn it around."

The Grazin Group argued that the business would benefit the community by making the product safer and investing back into the neighborhood. "We're able to control the substance, and provide a product that people can actually know what's in it," said Suida. "And this is a multi-million dollar business in the sense that it gives back to the community. We can spend money in the community.'

For his part, state Rep. Russell Holmes urged residents to consider the basics of the proposal, instead of spending their time arguing back and forth over the morality of recreational cannabis

"My point to you all," he said, "is whether or not you are pro or against, to please not let these opportunities arise without getting to the basics of the proposal. Let's try our best to question these folks, because there are going to be more proposals like this coming forward in the neighborhood. Going forward we need to make a very good assessment of who's the right person to pick."



### **Community Meeting**

### **PLAN: Mattapan**

# **Focus Area Deep Dive:** Implementing the Vision

**Tuesday, December 17** 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Mattapan Branch of the **Boston Public Library** 

1350 Blue Hill Avenue Mattapan, MA, 02126

### **Event Description**

Our December 17 meeting will build on last month's conversation about Topic Areas (Corridors, Residential Fabric, and Squares) and Focus Areas (specific places in Mattapan). We will present the places we plan on studying further, the methods for selecting these focus areas, the goals of each focus area, and how they achieve the PLAN: Mattapan Vision Statement. This meeting will continue the conversation about how we determine success for the planning process.

Light refreshments will be available. Translated materials and interpretation services will be provided in Haitian Creole and Spanish. PLAN: Mattapan is a planning initiative facilitated by the Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA), in collaboration with other City departments.

### **Contact:**

Muge Undemir Boston Planning & Development Agency One City Hall Square, 9th Floor Boston, MA 02201 617-635-4488 | mugzy.undemir@boston.gov

# Walsh signs on to City Council's cannabis equity initiative

Together the mayor and the council are taking a very important step

forward," she added. "I have to thank the many advocates, activists, and entrepreneurs who are all in this space. They gave time and attention to this."

Janey said Massachusetts is taking a national lead in mandating that equity be factored into the burgeoning marijuana industry. "While we all know that Massachusetts was not the first state to legalize [recreational marijuana,] it was the first state to mandate equity," she said. "And it is so important to make sure that communities that have been locked up are not locked out of this economic opportunity to build wealth and break cycles of generational poverty."

Walsh said he will work with the Council in moving the legislation along. "What we

(Continued from page 1) are about to pass is landmark when it comes to the cannabis industry in the country," he said. "We're going to create a Boston Cannabis Board that will evaluate and vote on license applications publicly using a criteria.

The bill creates a new category of municipal equity applicants," which will include companies with 51 percent or more of an ownership stake from three or more of the following criteria:

A person who has resided in an area of disproportionate impact for at least 7 of the past 10 years; a Boston resident who has a past arrest or conviction for possession, sale, manufacturing or cultivation of marijuana between 1971-2016 and who has been a resident of Boston for the past 5 years; someone who has resided in Boston for at least the last 5 years.

Also, someone who is of black, African American, Hispanic, Latino, or Asian descent; someone whose annual household income is at or below 100 percent of the area median income, or someone who is certified by the Cannabis Control Commission as an Economic Empowerment Applicant.

The Walsh administration has approved 14 host community agreements with marijuana businesses seeking to open in the city, which includes three statecertified empowerment candidates.

Janey said that she's looking forward to continuing her work with advocates and entrepreneurs to "create a pathway for all of us to win." For Walsh, "this ordinance is one of many steps taken to make our economic economy more inclusive. We're working to create pathways into the middle class, especially for women and people of color."

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# A sort of homecoming for South Bay ramen franchise

THE REPORTER

(Continued from page 1) approached me about coming back here, I saw that the area's pretty much getting gentrified and that Dorchester's sort of evolving.

"To be able to be a part of that growth, and to bring a different type of cuisine to the community was a big deal for me. And, you know, everybody wants to go home in some way. So, coming back here, literally at a place where I went grocery shopping at as a kid, it's pretty cool."

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Many restaurateurs are food service veterans who fulfill a life-long dream when they open up an establishment. Nguyen's path to becoming an owner has been a bit more circuitous: After graduating from Suffolk Law and moving to New York with his wife, he became a regular customer at the famous Totto Ramen in Hell's Kitchen, often waiting over an hour in line for a bowl of the Japanese noodle dish. A short time later, after work brought him

to Singapore, Nguyen realized it was time for a change.

"I was miserable," he said. "I was doing contract law, so I was reading like hundredpage contracts, sitting behind a desk all day. It wasn't me."

On a whim, he sent an email to Bobby Munekata, founder of Totto Ramen, asking if he had considered expanding his franchise to Boston. Munekata told Nguyen no "for two years" before finally relenting. In 2014, Nguyen opened Totto Ramen's first Boston location in Allston. "I kind of just happened to luck into it," he said, chalking up the turn of events up to "dumb luck."

He added: "I never thought of opening a restaurant. I didn't know how to do anything. The first time I ever worked in a restaurant was when I built it. I was never a dishwasher or a waiter or a cook or anything. So, it's been a learning experience. I'm making mistakes on the daily, but I'm learning from them." The streamlined layout of the restaurant space on Lucy Street in South Bay's Town Center is similar to that of the franchise's other locations, and the menu is



Above, bar stool seating at Totto Ramen South Bay. At right, a shot of the new storefront on Lucy Street in the shopping complex's Town Center district.

Daniel Sheehan photos

essentially identical, offering a handful of meat-based and vegetarian ramen options.

The secret to Totto Ramen's signature recipe is its homemade Paitan chicken broth, which, Nguyen says, takes hours to make every morning. The eatery also offers a selection of sake and local craft beer.

Totto Ramen South Bay made its soft opening two weeks ago — just in time for those looking to combat the cold with steaming bowls of broth. Nguyen says he expects business to begin ramping up as the eatery finds its feet and begins making a name for itself. Looking out the window across the street, he sees a business with which



he finds some common ground: Wahlburgers. "The Wahlberg guys did the same thing, right? They grew up in Neponset, then they opened this thing. For me, it was

the same thing; like, I grew up here and I was just, like, why not?"

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# **BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF DORCHESTER**





# BGCD Hosts Annual Holiday Dinner: See details below.

### **CONNECT THE DOT: BGCD Partnership with Boston**

**Children's Hospital:** As part of Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester's partnership with Boston Children's Hospital Fit Kit Program, our members took part in a Chester Step Test to gauge wellness level and fitness ability.

This Fitness program was offered as part of our after-school Athletics program. The Fit Kit curriculum includes components that focus on health and wellness. Fit Kit specializes in programs that encourage good nutrition, combat sedentary time, better sleep and decrease stress.

Thanks to our friends at Boston Children's Hospital for this valuable resource for our members and families. Also, a special thanks to the New **Balance Foundation for supporting our** efforts to engage members in activities that promote a healthy lifestyle.

### FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE:

**BGCD Hosts Annual Holiday Din**ner: Last week, Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester hosted our annual family Thanksgiving dinner for Club members and their families at our Marr Clubhouse and Walter Denney Youth Center locations.

Members were treated to a full dinner and dessert as part of the Club's Nutrition and Healthy Lifestyle programs. These programs provide 250 members with a hot meal five nights a week while they are at the Club participating in the drop-in program and after school activities.

The holiday dinner included music, raffles, and fun for all who attended.

For more information about our drop-in program, please contact Brendan Mc-Donald at bmcdonald@bgcdorchester.

### **Upcoming BGCD Holiday Events:**

This holiday season, Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester has multiple parties and events coming up for you and your friends to attend!

Friday, December 6th, The Harp + Bard presents their annual Ugly Sweater Party! Stop by at 8pm wearing your most festive holiday sweater for food. fun and raffles! Tickets are only \$25 per person and will be sold at the door. Please consider bringing a new, unwrapped toy for a child as part of our

Thursday, December 12th, The Barking Crab presents our Jingle & Mingle from 6-10pm! The event will include great food, drinks, raffles, live music, photos with Santa and more! Tickets are \$40 per person and can be purchased at barkingcrabbgcd.eventbrite.com.

Please note that these events are 21+.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Ugly Sweater Party at Harp + Bard December 6

**Polar Express**December 7

Jingle & Mingle at The Barking Crab December 12

Winter Program Registration December 14

**Shawnee Peak Ski Trip** January 11



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### RECENT OBITUARIES

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### **LEGAL NOTICES**

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
Suffolk Probate & Family Court 24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU19P2348EA ESTATE OF: JAMES W. DUMAS DATE OF DEATH: 10/08/2014

To all interested persons:
A petition for Late and Limited Formal Testacy
and/or Appointment has been filed by Alcora
Dumas of Boston, MA and Kevin Dumas of
Boston, MA requesting that the Court enter
a formal Decree and Order and for such
other relief as requested in the Petition. The
Petitioner requests that Alcora Dumas of Petitioner requests that: Alcora Dumas of Boston, MA and Kevin Dumas of Boston, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety or the bond in an unsupervised administration

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceed. ing. 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 12/19/2019.

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

Unsupervised Administration
Under The Massachusetts Uniform
Probate Code (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding by which you must file a written appearance

n the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Persona Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First ustice of this Court.
Date: November 15, 2019
Felix D. Arroyo

Register of Probate Published: December 5, 2019

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. SU19P2600EA ESTATE OF: LESLIE DENISE RAMSAY

LESLIE DENISE RAMSAY
DATE OF DEATH: 05/26/2019

To all interested persons:
A petition for Formal Probate of Will with
Appointment of Personal Representative has
been filed by Akia I Obas of Dorchester, MA
and Saran Ramsay of Boston, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and
Order and for such other relief as requested
in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that:
Akia I. Obas of Dorchester, MA and Saran
Ramsay of Boston, MA be appointed as
Personal Representative(s) of said estate Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in an

IMPORTANT NOTICE IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the
Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court.
You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file
a written appearance and objection at this
Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day
of 01/07/200

Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/07/2020.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

Unsupervised Administration
Under The Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under

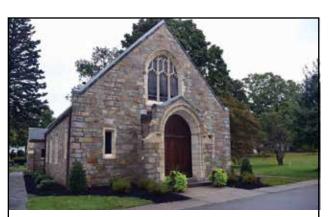
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annua is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from 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 26, 2019
Felix D. Arroyo

Register of Probate

youngest of the seven children of Agrippino and Antonetta (Speranza) Aloisi. His sisters Mary, Rose, Josie, and his brothers Joseph, Mike, Sam and Frank predeceased him. Jim married Rose Costa, an East Boston native,

four years after he returned from naval service in the second World War. They were born two weeks apart in the same month of the same year, and they died two months apart. He was a part of that "Greatest Generation," Jim served



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in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters, notably guarding ships on the perilous Murmansk Run. Jim and Rose were married in 1949. settled in East Boston, had two children, and lived through 70 years of marriage. In later years, he worked for the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities. heading the rate setting division. His son, James, Jr. and daughter, Carol Ann, would like to acknowledge the support and care of the Care Dimensions Hospice team, and the home care support provided truly wonderful people who seamlessly worked with the family to make a challenging time manageable. Donations be made to either St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105, or to Care Dimensions, 75 Sylvan Street, Suite B-102, Danvers, MA

01923 FORD, Mary J. (Oakes), 88 of Quincy-Born in Boston, she was a daughter of the late Ralph and Anna (Ford) Oakes. Mary was raised in Dorchester, and was a graduate of St. Patrick's High School in Roxbury. She worked for many years for the New England Telephone Co. Mary was a member of the Castle Island Association, and bowled

on candlepin leagues at Lucky Strike. Mary was the wife of 64 years of Martin X. Ford of Quincy, and the mother of Anne Brait and her husband Joseph of Mashpee, Martin X. Ford, Jr. and his wife MaryLou of Pembroke, Mary Nelson and her husband John of Quincy, and the late Dennis Ford and Kathleen Reynoso. She was the sister of Barbara Smith of Hingham, and the late Patricia Oakes, Anna Wilds, Isabelle Lazzaro, and James Oakes. Grandmother of 11 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Expressions of sympathy may be made in Mary's memory to Hancock Park Adult Day Health Center, 164 Parkingway, Quincy, MA 02169 or Hospice of the South Shore, 30 Reservoir Park Drive, Rockland, MA 02370.

**HESSION**, Jeanne M. of Braintree, 89. Daughter of the late Thomas P. and Elizabeth M. (Rhilinger) Hession. Sister of the late Mary "Kate" Boyd and her husband John and the late Marguerite E. Hession. Aunt to Jean Molendyke and daughter Molly her Molendyke, both of NJ. A 42 year resident of Braintree, Jeanne was raised in Dorchester. A graduate of Boston University, she later earned her Law Degree from Suffolk University School of Law, working for many years for BYN Mellon Bank. Donations in Jeanne's name may be made to the Propagation of the Faith, 66 Brooks Dr., Braintree, 02184.

NORTON, Mary F. of Jamaica Plain, formerly of Dorchester. Daughter of the late Michael J. and Anna M. (McCarthy) Norton. Mother of Jessica E. Fardy of Lynnfield. Sister of Atty. John J. Norton of Dorchester, Paul J. Norton of Dorchester, Michael W. and his wife Patricia Norton of West Roxbury, William G. and his wife Virginia Norton of Weymouth, Brenda A. Norton of Dorchester, and the late Robert M. Norton and Edward T. Norton. Sister-in-law of Anne Norton of Dedham. Mary was survived by 11 nieces and nephews, and 22 great-nieces and nephews. She is a retired employee of the MBTA and a retired public defender at Roxbury and South Boston District Courts. Donations in Mary's memory may be made to Mission Church, 1545 Tremont St., Boston, MA 02120, or the Carmelite Monastery, 61 Mt. Pleasant Ave., Roxbury, MA

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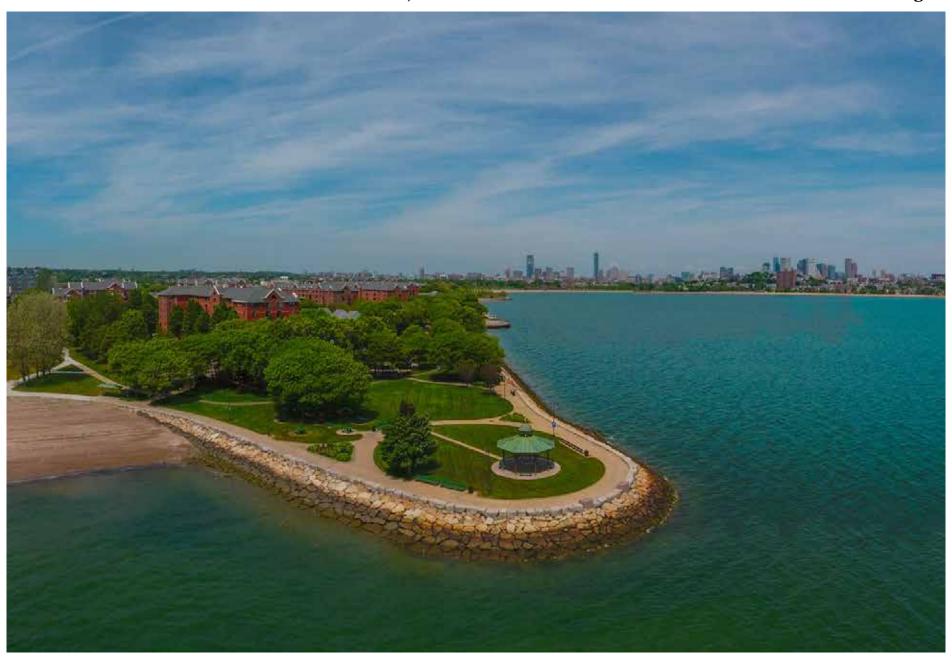
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366 Cummins Highway, Roslindale, MA 02131 Pricing information and maps available online at: www.BostonCemetery.org







Harbor Point on the Bay, Dorchester, MA



Doubletree Hotel, Boston Bayside Dorchester, MA



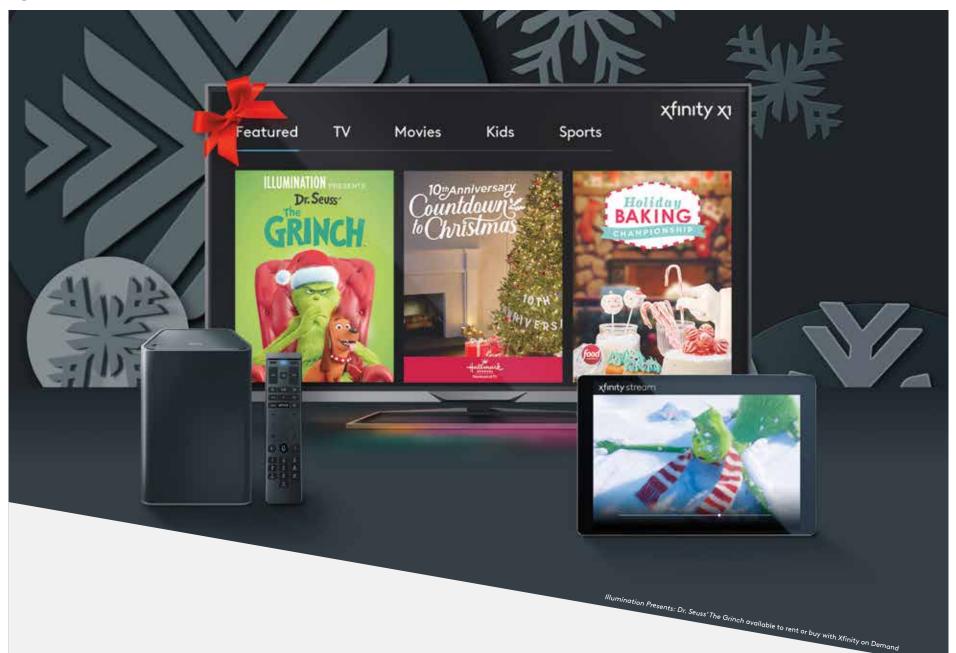
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Page 20 THE REPORTER December 5, 2019 dotnews.com

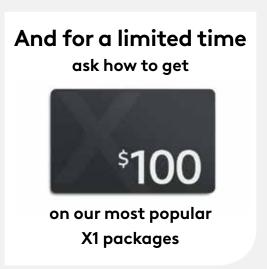


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