Dorchester Reporter

"The News and Values Around the Neighborhood"

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HELPING HANDS

Staff from the Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester and volunteers from the Milton restaurant Steel & Rye prepared and distributed 75 cooked meals on Thanksgiving morning to help those in need from our neighborhood. Shown above with the prepared Thanksgiving dinners, left to right, are Steel & Rye chefs Brian Niggl, Steve Lherisse, and Jeff Seibold. ***Photo courtesy BGCD***

Legislature delivers police reform bill to Baker

Officer union blasts 'final attack'

By Matt Murphy and Chris Lisinski
State House News Service

Six months after George Floyd died under the knee of a Minneapolis police officer, Massachusetts lawmakers on Tuesday night sent Gov. Charlie Baker a policing tactics reform and oversight bill, shifting the focus to the Republican governor whose views on qualified immunity and other thorny details of the legislation remain unclear.

The House and Senate both voted to accept a compromise bill (S 2963) that has been under negotiation between them since July. The legislation would create a new oversight panel responsible for licensing all law enforcement officers in Massachusetts every three years, and it would put limits on the use of force, including tactics like chokeholds.

Baker said he was still reviewing the legislation, which was only released Monday night, but already he was facing pressure from both sides to either sign it quickly, or reject it and start over in the new session in January.

"I'm glad the Legislature moved forward on this. I'm glad that this was something that was part of what they considered to be important to get done before the end of the session. But

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City, state brace for holiday-driven surge of coronavirus cases

By Katie Trojano
Reporter Staff

City and state officials braced for a potential surge in new Covid-19 cases this week after a long holiday weekend that saw the largest travel volume since March amid a worsening public health crisis.

"In the two weeks leading up to Thanksgiving, our cases [in Boston] were going in the right direction," Mayor Walsh said on Tuesday. "We may see increases with the impact of the holiday and that's why it's important for us to get tested to see if there has been any spread of the virus during Thanksgiving."

Mayor Walsh
Next weeks will tell

Boston recorded 407 new positive cases on Monday, bringing the city's caseload to 27,632, a significant increase

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Vietnamese artists take spotlight

in virtual sharing of experiences

By Daniel Sheehan
Arts & Features Editor

Two years ago, the artist and activist Tran Vu, a Fields Corner native, organized Viet Family Stories, an intergenerational storytelling project that brought together a group of Vietnamese American artists, the young and the older, to share and reflect on their experiences.

This month, Vu and a handful of local artists are reimagining the event in a virtual livestream format that will take place Sat., Dec. 12, from noon to 2 p.m. and continue as a monthly series thereafter, providing a platform for community members to explore and unpack themes of diaspora, resiliency, memories, mental health, and healing practices in Vietnamese families.

Vu explained that the bilingual nature of the event welcomes community members of all ages and walks of life to listen to one another and build common-

(Continued on page 13)

Vol. 2 will feature performances by an intergenerational group of artists aiming to build community. Clockwise from top left: Tuyen-Oliver Nguyen; Ngoc-Tran Vu (director); Kim Chi; Ah Moons; Anny Thach; Tu Anh Phan; Diep Tung; Candace Nguyen.

Child-care providers finding ways to get testing on their own

By Kathleen McNerney
WBUR Reporter

As more people get Covid-19 across the state, it's inevitable that cases will pop up in preschools and child care despite health precautions such as wearing masks and rigorous cleaning.

That's what happened at Nurtury, which operates six centers and supports 130 family child-care providers in Greater Boston. Since they reopened their facilities in July, they have had a few isolated cases of the coronavirus as their daily health screenings usually caught any potential cases before a child or caregiver came through the doors.

But in late October, that changed. "It was two days back-to-back. It was a tough two days," Nurtury CEO Laura Perille said. A teacher at one location had tested positive. At a different location, a parent had Covid. A third site: an-

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Sunday Strollers: A gobbler family crosses Mount Vernon Street on Columbia Point. *Ed Forry photo*

Rollins consults with Biden/Harris transition team

By Michael P. Norton
State House
News Service

While she said, "Right now I'm sticking exactly where I am," Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins has been in touch with President-elect Joe Biden's transition team on criminal justice issues.

"There are four DAs in the country that have just had a meeting with them and I'm doing a lot of work to make sure they understand at the local level the importance of DAs and how we need county, state, and federal legislation or executive orders that are consistent with each other so we can have significant change in the system," Rollins told Jon Keller of CBS Boston in an interview that aired Sunday morning.

Noting her status as the first woman and first woman of color to serve as Suffolk County district attorney, Keller asked Rollins if she was considering a run for another office or taking a job in Washington. Rollins said she was "focused on the people of Suffolk County and making sure we are as safe as possible entering this holiday season."

Rachel Rollins
Eyes "significant change"

She also said she's watching "very, very closely" to see who joins the race for mayor of Boston. Mayor Martin Walsh has not said whether he will seek a new term next year and City Councillors Andrea Campbell and Michelle Wu are announced candidates. In addition to seeing if Walsh departs to join the Biden administration, Rollins said she wants to see who else gets in.

"There are three people I know and respect. Andrea Campbell endorsed me when I was a nobody and the mayor and I have a good relationship right now and I've worked with Councillor Wu," she said.

Miller to lead city's civic engagement efforts

Aisha Miller of Mattapan will serve as Mayor Martin J. Walsh's Chief of Civic Engagement for the City of Boston. She will fill the role left by Jerome Smith, who is leaving city government on Dec. 4. She is currently the Assistant Commissioner of Constituent Services for the Boston Inspectional Service Department (ISD).

"Aisha brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in civic engagement to this new role, and I am proud and excited to appoint her as my Chief of Civic Engagement," said Mayor Walsh.

Miller said she would build on "the initiatives spearheaded by Chief Jerome Smith and creating new initiatives under the leadership" of Mayor Walsh.

"I was born and raised in Mattapan, enriched with families and hard-working parents like my mother that instilled values in their children. Moments like these prove to young people of color that opportunities are at their fingertips through hard work and dedication. For me, it's simple; a girl from Mattapan has the chance to give back to the people who have prepared her for this moment."

The mayor saluted Smith, who he said was "an integral part of my team for many years, and greatly contributed to the continual improvement of delivering City services. It has truly been a pleasure to work with him and we wish him the best in his future endeavors."

– REPORTER STAFF

Aisha Miller
"A chance to give back"

December 3, 2020

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SJC upholds conviction in 2011 Fayston St. murder

By Reporter Staff

The Supreme Judicial Court ruled on Monday that a man convicted of gunning down another man on Fayston Street in Dorchester in 2011 received a fair trial and will spend the rest of his life in prison, with the possibility of parole. Frederick "Drano" Henderson and a second defendant—Frankie Herndon—were convicted of murdering Derrick Barnes on the porch of his former home. Prosecutors said Henderson held a grudge against Barnes because he felt Barnes had snitched on him in a criminal case.

Barnes, who had grown up in the area, had moved away, but returned on Aug. 27, 2011, to visit with family and friends. According to a court summary of the case, he was standing on the porch of his former home when Henderson and Herndon walked up and the victim and Herndon got into an argument over Barnes's alleged snitching.

"After this exchange, the codefendant and the defendant, standing side by side on the sidewalk, pulled out handguns and fired multiple shots at the victim. The victim dropped to the floor. Both assailants walked away from the porch. The codefendant turned around, approached the fallen victim, and shot him again at close range. The victim suffered five gunshot wounds, including a fatal wound to the head."

On his appeal, Henderson's current attorney raised several issues related to the alleged ineffectiveness of his trial attorney, focusing in part on how well one key witness knew him.

The court agreed the lawyer had made some mistakes, but that none of them were egregious enough that the jury would have come to a different conclusion.

UPCOMING CIVIC MEETINGS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

The City of Boston will provide two hours of free parking at the city's 8,000 metered spaces on Saturdays during the holiday season. The program began on Nov. 28 and runs through Dec. 26. While payment at meters will not be required on these five days, the time limit on the meters will be in effect.

The Greater Mattapan Neighborhood Council will host its monthly meeting via Zoom on Mon., Dec. 7 at 6:30 p.m. The guest speakers are Matthew Moran and Alexandre Renaud from the Boston Transit Team Policy & Planning Dept. Go to g-mnc.org for more info.

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

Lane closures planned for Granite Avenue bridgework – Ongoing repairs and painting on the Granite Avenue drawbridge will trigger more lane closures through Dec. 9. The bridge will stay open through the work, state officials say, but the lane restrictions will likely cause back-ups during daytime hours.

Lane closures began on Nov. 19 and will happen seven days per week through Dec. 9 with nighttime lane takings from 7 p.m. until 6 a.m. the following day. "Drivers who are traveling through the area should reduce speed and use caution," the MassDOT advisory continued. "All scheduled work is weather dependent and may be impacted due to an emergency."

Tree lighting tour cancelled this year — The Saturday that follows Thanksgiving is traditionally the date of the Dorchester "Light and Unite" tree lighting tour, sponsored by the Mayor's Office. While neighborhood trees will be installed and lit throughout the season, there "will be no in-person gatherings or events that typically accompany these lightings," according to Patrick Fandel, Mayor Walsh's Dorchester liaison. "I know some neighborhood groups across the City are getting creative this year with wreath hangings throughout the respective neighborhood or celebrating via a virtual event," Fandel added.

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

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

zoning of three parcels of land located at in an area generally bounded by Jan Karski Way, Enterprise Street, Boston Street and West Bellflower Street in Dorchester from "3F-5000," indicating a three-family residential subdistrict to "CC," indicating a Community Commercial Subdistrict.

This meeting will only be held virtually by going to https://bit.ly/36Kgjcx. A copy of the petition and a map of the area involved may be obtained from the Zoning Commission electronically, and you may also submit written comments or questions to jeffrey.hampton@boston.gov.

Ryan Playground set for makeover meeting – The city's Parks and Recreation Department will host a virtual community meeting on Thurs., Dec. 10 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. to give an update on a project to re-design Ryan Playground on Dorchester Avenue. Designers will provide a presentation with status updates followed by a Q&A session. Interpretation and translation services will be available. The playground, originally built-out in 1960, currently includes swing-sets, play equipment, a splash pad and picnic and game tables. The $1.4 million makeover is expected to include comprehensive upgrades to the play area and passive areas as part of the Mayor Martin Walsh's FY21 capital budget. The meeting information is below:

Meeting Link: bit.ly/Ryanplayground
Join by phone: 1-312-626-6799
Webinar ID: 818 3958 1685

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Healey sues Boston Sports Club for charging members during pandemic

By Chris Lisinski
State House
News Service

Boston Sports Clubs gyms showed "total disregard" for members during the Covid-19 pandemic by continuing to charge fees to customers who tried to cancel, Attorney General Maura Healey alleged last week as she unveiled a lawsuit against the company.

On Tuesday, Healey sued BSC's parent company, Town Sports International (TSI), for violating sections of state law governing health clubs and consumer protection, arguing that it failed to honor scores of member cancellations and violated terms of an earlier agreement with her office.

Members of health clubs had the right under state law to cancel their contracts without penalty due to substantial changes in operations amid the pandemic that upended public life, but BSC continued to charge monthly fees while gyms were closed and improperly sought cancellation fees, Healey alleged.

AG Maura Healey "Total disregard for its members"

"From the start of this pandemic, Boston Sports Clubs has shown a total disregard for its members, for good business practices, and for the law," she said in a statement. "This company claimed it wanted to do the right thing, but it reneged on its promises. We are taking action today to secure relief for the thousands of people who have been cheated by BSC."

BSC closed its gyms on March 16 to comply with mandatory shutdown orders, but it charged members a full monthly membership fee in April even while closed, Healey alleged. Those who had tried to cancel memberships in March or April were "rebuffed," she said, and told they could only do so if they paid a cancellation fee, gave between 30 and 45 days of notice, and submitted the request in-person or via certified letter.

In April, Healey sent a letter formally demanding that BSC locations stop billing members while health clubs were closed, freeze all accounts at no cost, and allow cancellations with no fee.

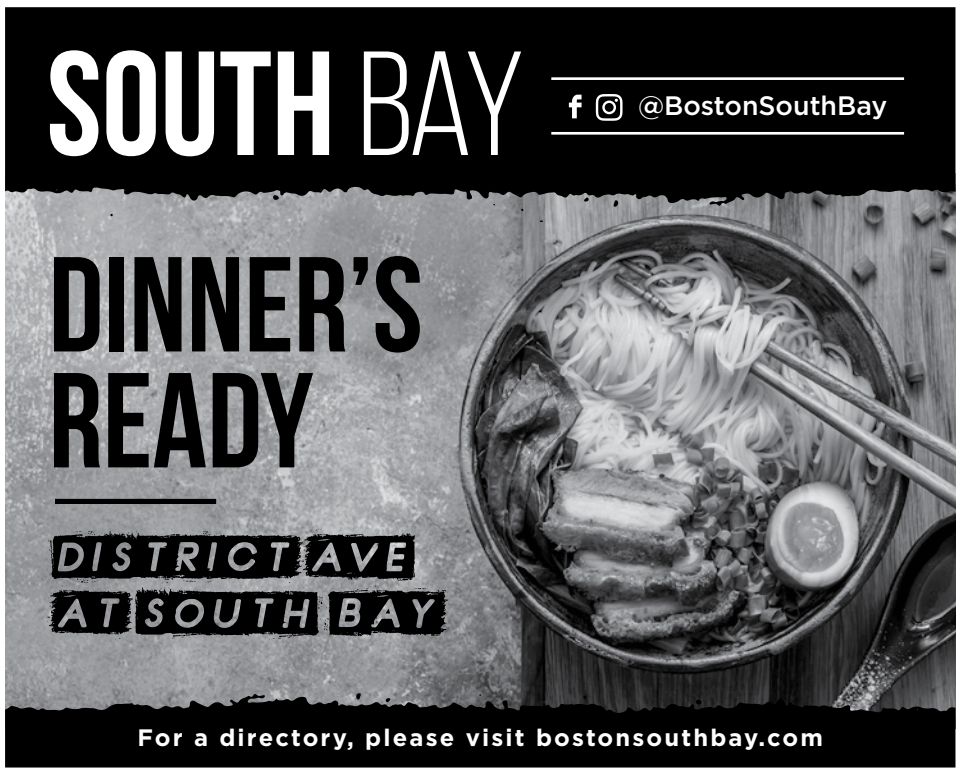
She was not alone: attorneys general in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C. also sent a joint letter to BSC's parent company in April warning that it was violating similar laws in their jurisdictions by ignoring cancellation requests and charging excessive fees.

The company agreed to the changes sought, but in July, when clubs reopened in a limited capacity, it unilaterally unfroze accounts and automatically charged membership fees to those whose accounts had been frozen without notification, according to Healey. BSC refused at that time to process any new cancellation requests without a $10 fee and threatened to refer any members who did not pay for previously canceled memberships to debt collectors.

"Over 2,000 Massachusetts consumers submitted complaints to the Attorney General's Office about TSI's practices," Healey's office wrote in its legal complaint. "This number of consumer complaints in a timeframe of only several months represents one of the most significant influx of complaints the Attorney General's Office has received in recent years."

Towns Sports International filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in September.

Healey's office said it reached another agreement with BSC in October requiring the company to provide refunds to members and allow cancellations without penalties, but alleged the company "has since refused to make any effort to live up to the terms of the agreement."



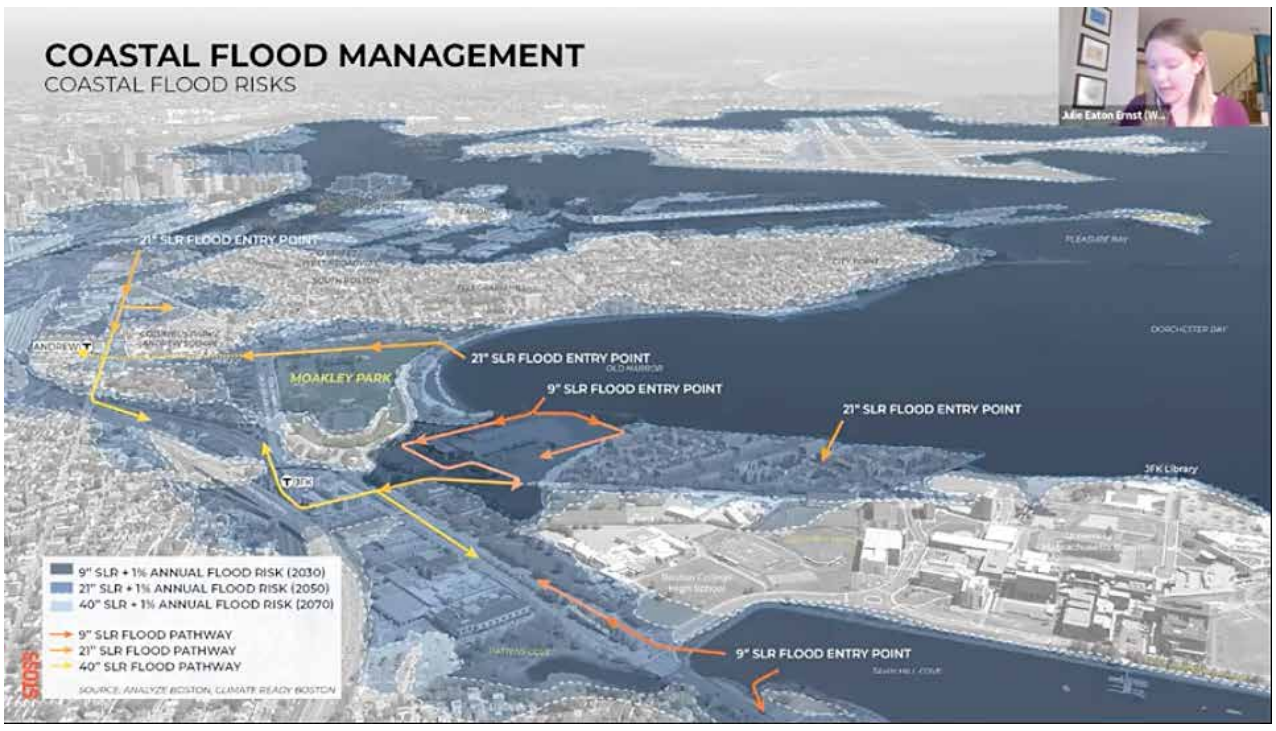
Mission to modernize Moakley could see work start by 2024

By Katie Trojano
Reporter Staff

In the fourth and final public meeting on a massive re-design of Moakley Park last week, discussion centered on climate resiliency plans for the 60-acre park and surrounding neighborhoods. About 170 people participated in the online "Moakley Talks," a sequence of meetings held over the last month meant to give the public a look at still-evolving city of Boston plans to simultaneously improve the park and create a waterfront buffer against the threat of rising sea levels and flooding.

Many elements outlined in a 2018 vision plan remain in the latest iteration, including four major sports and athletics fields at the park's core surrounded by trees and new paths and spaces for events and markets. It also posits a number of new facilities and additional parking, restrooms scattered throughout the park, and community buildings operated by a full-time maintenance staff.

The project, by the city's latest estimate, could eventually cost in excess of $240 million over more than a decade of work. Allison Perlman, project manager for the city's Parks Department, told attendees that the plan could be ready for "Phase 1" construction in two to three years.



"I would say we have around another two years for design and after that we have construction," she said. "That is really going to depend on funding sources and we're thinking that it will be a phased construction over time. We're thinking that Phase 1 will start in 2 to 3 years and then we'll continue to build over a 10-to-15-year period."

"I think in our minds if we could build it all at once that would be the best way to do it, but we have to be flexible and take advantage of different opportunities that come up," Perlman added. "We also want to balance out the construction with existing usage so we can make sure that people still have access to the park."

The city-owned park is surrounded by state-owned assets— Carson Beach, Kosciuszko Circle, Morrissey Boulevard, and Old Colony Avenue s— that will require buy-in and coordination from state officials.

"The city only owns the park itself," Perlman said. "We don't own the surrounding streets or roadways, so we can really only advocate for change there."

Environmental concerns have been a key driver of the Moakley re-design since the Parks Department kicked off its planning process in 2018. Some of the concerns identified by planners and community members over the last two years include coastal and stormwater flooding and the "urban heat island effect" that comes with higher summer temperatures. Improving access and safety for pedestrians and bicyclists have also been key planks in the design effort.

Preliminary design features of a reconstructed Moakley would mitigate coastal flooding and storm surge by creating "coastal landscapes," including berms, stormwater gardens, porous pavement, underground storage systems, and tree trenches. Experts hired by the city have projected a sea level rise of as much as 40 inches by 2070.

To address the concerns, measures include doubling the current tree canopy in the park and implementing other shading structures as well as water and cooling systems.

Amy Whitesides, studio director at Stoss Landscape Urbanism, said the social benefits of the design are tied in with its resilience structures. For an example, she pointed to the "dual purpose roles" of areas along the side of Moakley Park closest to Day Boulevard and the beach, most notably an amphitheater space.

"The area creates a highpoint in the park which is functioning as an amphitheater on the water side, and in coastal storm conditions the same place really serves as the barrier," she said. "So, we're being protected by this on the backside from the storm surge, but on a day-to-day basis this space is really about social function and connection to the community."

Julie Eaton Ernst, lead resiliency engineer at Weston & Sampson, highlighted the team's proposed environmental strategies, which a few of the planners said would include a holistic approach.

"We're really looking at implementing these strategies throughout the park— it's not one individual feature. It really works together as one large integrated system and it's all a big part of how Moakley Park is evolving in the future," said Eaton Ernst.

The team hopes to increase connections to the city's existing and proposed bike routes and make improvements to bike lanes along Old Colony and Day Boulevard, according to Whitesides. "We will be working with MassDOT and the owners of those roads so that we can continue to look at how we can make sure they're safe," she said.

Added Perlman: "We still have a little more design to do, as you can see it's still pretty high level. We're going to move into a schematic design and we have a lot of permitting to do."

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Pandemic challenge: Keeping ex-gang members out of trouble

By Daniel Sheehan
Reporter Staff

Junior, a 21-year-old from Mattapan, is days away from getting his driver's license. For him, the milestone means opportunity and legitimacy in the form of an official ID, which could open more doors for him going forward. "I can't wait to get my license," he told the *Reporter* in an interview last week. "I never realized how big a thing it was, but having a license, you have more opportunity, you don't have to worry about nothing."

Junior (whose last name is omitted here to guard his privacy) moved with his family from Haiti when he was 13. Forced to become the sole provider for the family at a young age, he dropped out of school and turned to the streets and a gang lifestyle as a way to keep his siblings fed. He eventually found himself in custody. Following his release three years ago, he was offered a chance for a fresh start through Roca, a Chelsea-based organization that helps at-risk young men escape the clutches of gang violence.

Tha Thai, assistant director of Roca, with Kevin Ryner, TR3 youth worker.
Image courtesy Roca

Intervention work there is rooted in consistent, relentless contact with targeted program participants, many of whom have been in and out of jail due to gang activity. For team members on the ground, that means searching out troubled youth and calling or knocking on their doors until they get through to them.

"I get calls and messages from them pretty much every day," explained Junior. "If they don't hear from me for two weeks, they'll show up at my house."

That approach is key at Roca, and in its work to reduce recidivism rates, the organization has been largely successful: Of the 79 young men who took part in programming for the last two years, 93 percenthad no new incarcerations.

But when Covid hit in March, it disrupted the outreach work at the heart of the organization's mission.

"Covid, like everything else, has been quite a challenge for us. Fortunately, out of the gate we were able to shift with the use of technology to virtual outreach, so for about a month we were pretty much only virtual," explained Scott Scharffenberg, executive director of Roca Mass. "But physical touch and physical contact is such an important piece of our work in being able to be with our young people and help build that trust.

"Since July, we've been able to use a hybrid approach to the work, so both virtual and in person...our young people are savvy in terms of technology, but they don't all necessarily have access to it, so that's been a struggle. We've been pushing out some Chromebooks and hotspots to young people so we can stay connected to them if they don't have means to connect with us."

Maintaining those connections requires time and care. Since youth targeted by the program are prone to dropping off the grid for weeks at a time, those lapses can deteriorate the levels of trust built up between them and Roca staff. That fact, along with the spikes in vulnerability among at-risk and gang-affiliated populations, gave team members reasons to work even harder to get to their guys.

"Covid affected our staff, it affected our participants in adverse ways, but it also made our team in Boston stronger and more effective," said Carl Miranda, Boston director. "From March to November we saw 171 young men. Sixty-one percent of those met weekly contact standards, meaning we contacted them face to face via video or phone or in person twice in a week. That's a pretty big deal...it's about being able to sustain a level of relationship with young men driving violence."

But keeping those interpersonal links alive is only the first step. From there, Roca looks to engage youth in some form of programming — whether it be through a transitional employment program, educational classes focused on resume building or HiSET (High School Equivalency Test) tutoring, or Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), the tool at the core of Roca's strategy.

Team members use CBT, Miranda explained, to help former gang members and others in close proximity to gun violence change their behavioral patterns by learning to implement their frontal lobe (the part of the

(Continued on page 15)

Strolling down Dot. Ave and shopping the world

By Meg Campbell
and Bill Walczak
Special to the Reporter

The pandemic has curtailed international travel, but fortunately you can shop the world for special holiday gifts by walking along Dorchester Avenue from Andrew Square to Lower Mills. A silver lining of the pandemic has been the introduction of sidewalk cafes, making our main street much more inviting and pleasant. We hope this change is permanent. Following are ten highlights from a recent stroll. Your walk "On the Avenue" will provide additional discoveries, and your purchases will support our neighborhood's main street.

Baltic European Deli
Balticeuropeandeli.com
632 Dorchester Ave.
Phone: 617-268-2435

Walking into Baltic European Deli transports you to Poland, complete with language, many foods, and gifts from Eastern Europe. You'll find beauty products, wines, hats, t-shirts and chocolates in colorful holiday packaging. Great stocking stuffer: Ziaja Goat's Milk day cream under $10.

Banh Mi Ba Le

Balebanhmiboston.com
1052 Dorchester Ave.
617-265-7171

Teleport yourself to a bustling food market in Vietnam, where you'll be tempted to sample the buffet while shopping for Vietnamese gifts as well as hard to find Cafe du Monde coffee from New Orleans.

Shanti

Shantiboston.com
1111 Dorchester Ave.
617-929-3900

Travel to South Asia via take-out and gift certificates for stellar Indian and Bangladeshi cuisine. Long a neighborhood favorite and winner of Best of Boston awards.

Saigon Pharmacy
1167 A Dorchester Ave.
617-282-9134

Find the perfect pandemic gift item - Face Shields - for only $3 each at this sparkling drugstore. Safety measures include allowing one customer to shop at a time.

Pho Hoa
Phohoarestaurant.com
1370 Dorchester Ave.
617-287-9746

Manhattan relatives who are foodies declare Pho Hoa their favorite Vietnamese restaurant. Your relatives and friends will appreciate gift certificates for take-out. Don't forget to enjoy the vibrant mural with a Vietnamese scene on the side of the building.

Zia Gianna

Ziagianna.com
1739 Dorchester Ave.
617-436-2368

Zia Gianna is a delightful Italian food market/restaurant with beautiful Sicilian ceramics and curated gift baskets with gourmet delicacies. The cheery decor provides a one-way ticket to Sicily, and is much closer than Eataly.

El Barrio Mexican Grill
Elbarrioboston.com
1782 Dorchester Ave.
617-297-5205

El Barrio's outdoor seating is graced by a brilliantly colored Aztec-inspired mural. No need to go to San Miguel de Allende when you can purchase gift certificates for Mexican meals, including Tres Leches take-out for the holidays.

American Provisions
Americanprovisions.com
1971 Dorchester Ave.
617-514-4599

Back home from your travels, you'll enjoy selecting locally made gifts such as Dorchester Cream Ale and McCrea's handcrafted caramels where they'll gladly assemble a gift basket for you. When their first store opened in South Boston with incredible grilled cheese sandwiches, we begged the owner to open a second shop in Dorchester. Neighbors have become loyal fans as well.

Ashmont Cycle
Ashmontcycles.com
1977 Dorchester Ave.
617-282-6552

Cycling is an ideal mode of transportation during a respiratory pandemic. The ideal stocking stuffer for the cyclist in your life is a $4.99 reflective leg band from a store that carries or can order and service any kind of bicycle you can dream up.

Sweet Life Bakery & Cafe
Sweetlifelowermills.com
2243 Dorchester Ave.
617-696-6510

A taste of Paris is available here in delectable macarons ($1.50 each). Sweet Life Bakery & Cafe also offers take-out and gift certificates. These sweet meringue-based confections are available in strawberry, caramel, chocolate, vanilla, blackberry, and pistachio flavors. Close your eyes as you savor a macaron for yourself at their outdoor seating and you're under the Eiffel Tower!

Bred Gourmet
2255 Dorchester Ave.
617-698-0103

Back in the USA, any hamburger-loving person on your gift list will thank you for a gift certificate or classy t-shirt from this acclaimed neighborhood eatery. Adapting to the pandemic, the pick-up station is outside, as is some seating.

Reporter's People

News about people in and around our Neighborhoods

Dot writer introduces 'Stacey' who 'became a frog' to young readers

By Daniel Sheehan
Arts & Features Editor

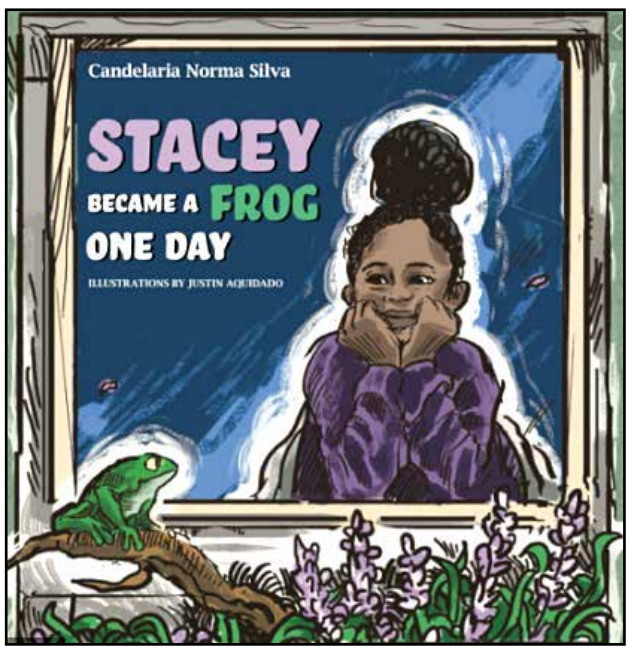
During the last several months, the Dorchester-based author/arts coordinator/consultant Candelaria Silva used the ample free time brought on by the pandemic to achieve a long-delayed goal of hers: publishing a children's book.

Silva, who said she had written several stories and manuscripts in the past that never reached this stage, is now officially a published author following the release of "Stacey Became a Frog One Day." The story is about a young Black girl who transforms into a different animal each day of the week — beginning on Monday morning, when she suddenly becomes a frog.

Silva said she was inspired to write the book by her lifelong love of reading and a desire to see more books with Black and brown characters. "Children's books have always been my love," she said. "I write stories because I loved reading as a child, and later reading to my children and grandchildren. I just love the joy of seeing kids get lost in a story."

"Stacey Became a Frog One Day" pays tribute to the children in Silva's life while giving families an adventure to experience together. It's a book "designed to be read aloud" to children, she explained, that teaches kids about animals and the days of the week, while building vocabulary and listening comprehension.

"I wanted to start with my simplest and most straightforward book," said Silva. "Thinking back to the books my kids loved — like "Mike Mulligan and his Steam Shovel" or "The Monster at the End of This Book" — the biggest thing is making them compelling and fun to read.



When kids decide they have a favorite book, you will read it over and over and over again until it somehow gets 'misplaced.' For picture books like this, I spend a lot of time thinking about the oral experience of it, how does it sound? Can I read it more than once without regurgitating? So I was careful about the rhyming and language I used."

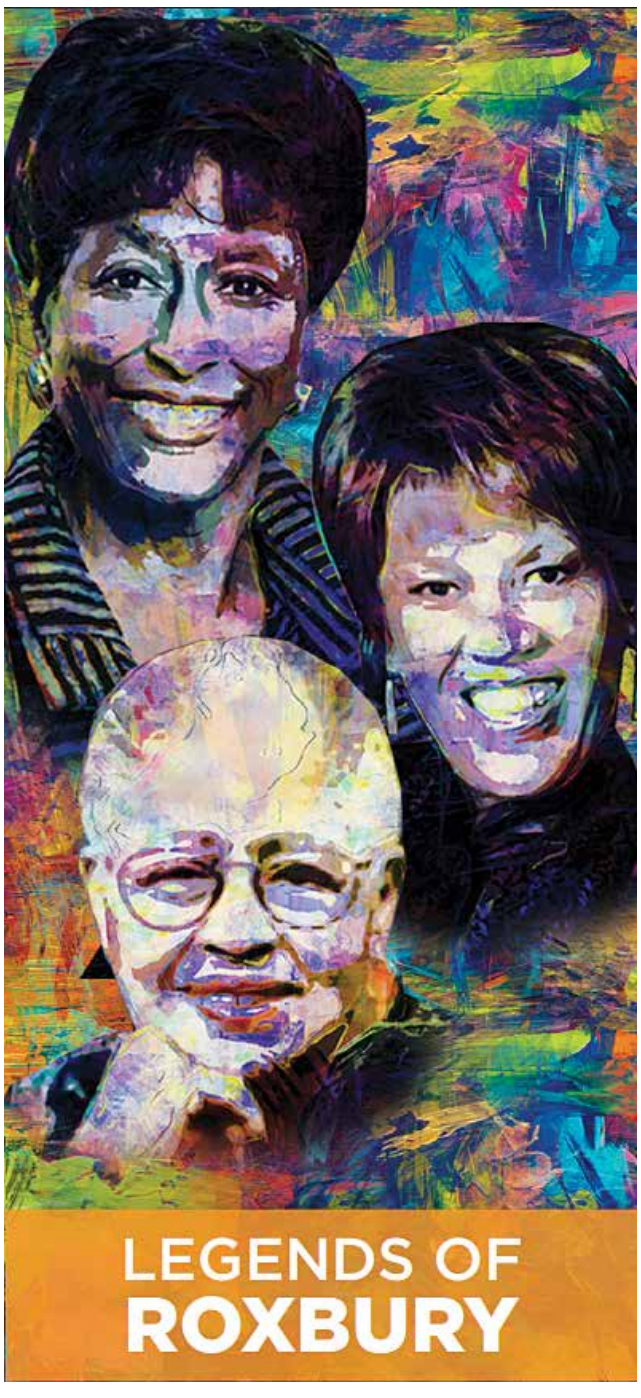
Candelaria Silva Achieves her goal

After a string of adventures featuring different species of animals, the story ends with Stacey deciding to become a girl again, a decision that represents her "acceptance and celebration of being a Black girl," said Silva, who added that she ultimately wanted happy Black families and "Black girl joy" to be main takeaways from the book.

According to Silva, this isn't the last we will hear from Stacey; she's already planning a sequel, which figures to be the next in a long series starring the young protagonist.

"Stacey Became a Frog One Day" is available for purchase in both hardcover and digital formats,through Amazon, Amazon Kindle, Frugal Bookstore in Roxbury, and through Silva's website at candelarianormasilva.com.

RCC gala will pay tribute to trio of pioneering Black women



Three pioneering Black women from Boston will be toasted at a virtual gala hosted by Roxbury Community College on Thurs., Dec. 3. Sarah-Ann Shaw, Carmen Fields, and Rev. Liz Walker will be the guests of honor at a tribute to three "Boston legends in the field of broadcast media." Funds raised during the virtual celebration, which begins at 6 p.m., will fund scholarships and student support services at RCC.

Sarah-Ann Shaw, a lifelong resident of Roxbury, was the first Black woman reporter at WBZ-TV, where she worked for 31 years. Since her retirement, Shaw has been a leading activist and organizer in her hometown.

Carmen Fields was part of a Pulitzer Prize-winning Boston Globe reporting team who also worked as a reporter and anchor at WHDH-TV and WGBH-TV.

Rev. Walker, an Emmy-award winner, was the first Black news anchor in Boston on WBZ-TV. She is in the Massachusetts Broadcasters Hall of Fame.

Visit rcc.mass.edu/2020legends to watch the event beginning at 6 p.m.

Mayor Marty Walsh made a visit to the acclaimed Haitian bakery Le Foyer in Mattapan Square on Sat., Nov. 21 to speak with longtime owner Edna Etienne, right, who has operated the business since 1976. The store specializes in breads and patties. Pictured in middle is Edna Etienne Duprie, the granddaughter of Mrs. Etienne. ***Isabel Leon/Mayor's Office photo***

YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE

Dorchester Historical Society

"View on Blue Avenue" was drawn by O. D. Greene in 1891. By that year, two decades after Dorchester's annexation to Boston, residential development in the city's new neighborhood had steadily encroached on its agricultural land. This illustration represented a way of life that would soon be but a memory.

The Boston Directory for 1891 has an entry for "Oliver D. Greene, salesman, 121 South Street, h. 1 Hanes Pk." By 1900, the entry listed him as age 39 working as a roofer. It read in part, "Oliver D. Greene (Green & Haley), 19 Howard, Rox. rms. 41 Wheatland Av." It appears that he was an amateur artist. By 1910 he was living at 33 Aspinwall Road with his wife Lillian and her mother. He was still working as a roofer.

From 1891, a Blue Hill Avenue scene

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

Editorial

Next up: Challenge the vaccine skeptics

The Trump circus is finally starting to strike its tattered tent, but just how many dung piles and muddy craters will these deranged elephants leave on their way out as the big top collapses? "Too many" is the correct answer.

Trumpist dead-enders have spent the past fortnight jammed in the contortionist clown car, squeezing out occasionally to juggle the canard of a supposedly "stolen" election with the relentless stream of laugh-'em-out-the-door court rulings and election certifications. By Tuesday, even Trump's sad sack flunky— Attorney General Bill Barr— had to concede: There's no evidence to suggest any tampering or malfeasance. The only real fraud in this presidentially besmirched republic is the one being advanced by his poached-faced boss and his Bozo understudy, Rudy Giuliani.

The triumphant Team Biden might be permitted a guffaw or two as they take in the spectacle of their vanquished foes humiliating themselves slapstick-style on the world stage. But what glee can one take when confronted by the terrors of a deadly, rampaging virus and its calamitous cousin, economic despair. As Trump and his Capitol Hill enablers dither and dodge, no relief in the form of a stimulus package that might aid stricken industries teetering on the brink of bankruptcy— or offer to a tenant or a landlord of a light and a rope ladder from their deepening hole of indebtedness— has yet been advanced.

The promise of imminent vaccines— reputable and effective— should help puncture the national malaise. On Tuesday, Gov. Baker told us that doses for frontline health care workers, adults over 65 with underlying health conditions, and other essential workers could begin as soon as this month. Most citizens, he said, won't be able to get vaccinated until the spring.

"It would probably be Q2 before just Joe Q or Jane Q Citizen would have access to a vaccine," Baker told reporters.

And yet, too many of us— including one-third of people here in our own enlightened Commonwealth— have indicated an early reluctance to take the requisite shots when they do come on line.

A report released this week from the Western New England University Polling Institute found that 29 percent of Massachusetts people know at least one of the more than 10,000 people who have died from the virus in our state so far. Ninety percent are on board with a mask mandate. But about one-third told pollsters that they are "not convinced about the value of getting a vaccine," institute director Tim Vercellotti told State House News Service.

The most recent national polling is even more troubling. A Gallup poll conducted last month found that only 58 percent of Americans are likely to take the vaccine. As Vercellotti told the News Service, "these numbers may fluctuate as the public receives more information and as distribution of vaccines gets under way."

It will surely help some that we will soon have a commander-in-chief who won't maliciously undermine the message of the scientists and doctors. And yet, whether he barks it out from behind a toddler desk on Pennsylvania Avenue or taps it into his phone from a perch at Mar-a-Lago, there's little doubt that Donald Trump will persist in his penchant for passing along misinformation.

We can do our part by challenging those who, for whatever reason, refuse to consider the adults-only vaccine as the only viable path forward.

As Dr. Anthony Fauci counseled on Monday: "So, if you want to be part of the solution, get vaccinated and say, 'I'm not going to be one of the people that is going to be a stepping stone for the virus to go to somebody else; I'm going to be a dead end to the virus.'"

Amen to that. **Bill Forry**

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Commentary

Fed dollars needed now to blunt crisis

By John J. Drew

This holiday season is punctuated by unrelenting need – a need sparked by pandemic-induced job loss in neighborhoods already afflicted by poverty, health and economic disparities, and racial inequity. Children, families and seniors in Dorchester and other city neighborhoods can't wait any longer for the federal government to pass virus relief funding that will keep food on their tables and a roofs over their heads. Without immediate action, the suffering will be unbearable. Small businesses that are struggling to survive will also shut their doors, putting more people out of work and adding to the blight of our communities.

ABCD is seeing long lines at its food pantries, non-stop calls for heating assistance, and desperate requests for help with rent and mortgage payments. Many of those seeking help never expected to need public assistance. They are grateful for the food, for the fuel, for the rent payment, and for the holiday gifts for their children. But community organizations can't meet the overwhelming needs out there. The federal government has to step up — now.

One single mother of three young children spoke to a reporter about her fear of eviction, noting that she was six months behind on her rent and had $36 in her bank account. Her hours working at a community agency were cut from 35 to 5 hours a week when the state implemented the emergency shutdown in March. They have not been restored. With her children needing supervision and assistance with remote learning, it is hard for her to find another job.

Her story is just the tip of the iceberg. In November, the number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits rose in one week from 748,000 to 778,000, evidence that the economy and job market are experiencing increasing difficulty as Covid-19 surges again. Nationally, 11.1 million people were unemployed in October, and the unemployment rate was at 6.9 percent, nearly double the 3.4 percent in February before the pandemic.

An added threat is the expiration of two supplemental federal unemployment programs on the day after Christmas – ending benefits for 9.1 million jobless people.

ABCD is calling for the immediate passage of stimulus legislation that reinstates the $600-a-week federal unemployment lifeline; that provides eviction protection and funding for health care, housing, education and all the services that keep people safe at work, school, and home; and that delivers an infusion of federal support for cities and states whose budgets have been ravaged by the virus.

Vaccines and better days are on the horizon, but a treacherous winter has to be navigated first. A Biden administration relief bill is still two to three months away. We ask our representatives in Congress to not consider going home for Christmas without a Covid deal. Please.

John J. Drew is President/CEO of Action for Boston Community Development, Inc., the antipoverty and community action organization serving low-income residents of Boston, Cambridge, and the Mystic Valley area.

Think more about parkways and bikes, less about the dreams of the auto-centric

By Bill Walczak
Reporter Columnist

During my six years working in the South End, I tried very hard to ride my bike from my home in Savin Hill into Boston. I rode for health and also in an effort to pry myself from frustrating fossil-fueled trips by car in rush hour traffic. Curiously, the ride took just about the same amount of time by car or by bike. The frustration of driving just three and a half miles in stop-and-go traffic was replaced by more go than stop on a bike, but, generally, it was also a ride where fear replaced frustration.

Boston, with its narrow streets, offers few roadways that can safely accommodate both cars and bikes commuting into Boston. From the south, Blue Hill Avenue seems wide enough to allow for dedicated bike lanes, but there are no real options east of there – except for Morrissey Boulevard.

Since the 1990s, the state and city have debated what to do about that roadway, which was the subject of three articles in the Nov. 19 *Dorchester Reporter*. The biggest problem is that it floods regularly during full moon tides, a problem that is expected to get much worse as the earth continues to warm. The auto-centric response is to build up Morrissey so that it doesn't flood as often.

But this reaction clashes with the plans to deal with global warming. The climate crisis has led to the Massachusetts Global Warming Solutions Act and Boston Climate Action Goals that call for a complete reduction in CO2 emissions by 2050. Since transportation is the single largest contributor to CO2 emissions, you would think that the state and city would plan on roadways with their focus on how to reduce automobile traffic and promote other forms of commuting. But it seems that when given the opportunity, they punt the CO2 ball down the highway.

There is an alternative. Morrissey Boulevard is a parkway, one of many so named that are part of the state's Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) rather than municipal highway departments. They are called parkways because they are intended to be limited-access roadways with landscaping, connecting people to parklands, and beaches.

This system, which includes dozens of parkways that date back to the 1800s, was profoundly altered after World War II, when our never-ending desire to make life easier for people in the suburbs resulted in Morrissey being effectively turned into a six-lane highway, rendering it impossible for pedestrians and bicyclists to use, and blocking neighborhoods from easy access to Dorchester Bay.

Turning those parkways into high-speed highways prompted a backlash that resulted in the Commonwealth creating the Historic Parkways Preservation Initiative in 2001 "to protect the historic features of the parkways and to make all (of) them as useful and enjoyable as possible for people visiting our parks or traveling by foot, bicycle, or car."

Recently, the Commonwealth has put off a decision on how to handle the rebuilding of the Allston interchange, where the Mass Turnpike, the Storrow Drive and Soldiers Field Road parkways, railroad lines, a pedestrian walkway, and the Charles River come together. This delay is due to a clash between auto-oriented state decision makers and residents who want better access to the river, including bike paths and walkways.

A true 21st-century city would recognize that we need to curtail automotive traffic by encouraging biking. This is where the Allston interchange and Morrissey Boulevard come into play. If we want to encourage a multi-modal transportation system that includes biking and the restoration of historic parkways, these two locations are essential steps.

The DCR developed its most recent plan for Morrissey Blvd. in 2017; it included bike lanes, pedestrian paths, greenery, and flooding mitigation. It also concluded that its restoration as a parkway involved removing a lane in each direction. The planners said that since the congestion on Morrissey was related to traffic lights and access roads, it could sustain the loss of the lanes.

The plan was about 25 percent completed when Mayor Walsh met with the planners and expressed his concerns about dropping a lane. He then said that he would have the Boston Transportation Department look at the plans.

Three years later, the plans are still at 25 percent, although state Rep. Dan Hunt says that planning could begin again soon. It needs to. The Dorchester Bay City project has ballyhooed its plans for multi-modal access. Kirk Sykes, one of the developers of this 18-block mini-city, noted "We're … excited to be accessible by the T, pedestrian, and bike-centric paths." Hopefully, those bike paths will connect to roads that will allow bike riders to move around safely.

Boston needs a transportation plan that details how it will meet its legal requirements to reduce CO2 emissions. It won't be easy. Each time we build, or rebuild, our transportation infrastructure, we must make sure that these investments get us closer to our goal of zero emissions and a livable, thriving Boston. The Allston interchange and Morrissey Boulevard rebuilds should reduce car lanes, include bike lanes, and reconnect our communities to their finest natural resources – the Charles River and Dorchester Bay. We can return these DCR assets to their original vision as historic parkways while creating key elements of the multi-modal system we need to meet our climate goals.

Dorchester is just a few miles from the city's downtown. Being able to bike into Boston in safety would be a tremendous benefit to our environment and community health, and it will make for an easier commute for everyone. We have limited time and a limited budget, and each and every infrastructure investment we make should count. State and city decision makers with vision and courage are needed now.

Yes, Dorchester's John King is Ireland's newest household name

By Larry Donnelly

WICKLOW, Ireland – One of the things that American visitors to Ireland are commonly confounded by is the extent to which people here are steeped in and informed about politics 3,000 miles away. The transatlantic ties sewn by emigration, family and, increasingly, business are largely responsible. And Irish people love their politics. Over the past four years, it has been with a mixture of disbelief and horror that they have looked on at the Trump administration.

Accordingly, they weren't about to stop watching until they knew, for sure, who would be inaugurated on Jan. 20, 2021. A man who is known throughout the US and to people across Massachusetts owing to his lengthy, stellar career at CNN, but who is especially familiar to Dorchester natives and residents because he grew up in St. Mark's Parish, thus made an extraordinary entrance onto Ireland's collective radar screen: It is no overstatement to say that John King was the most listened to and trusted individual in this country in the days after Nov. 3.

More on Ireland's newest celebrity momentarily.

Back in East Milton, where I grew up, it's fair to say that politics was invariably to the fore in our house. My father, another Larry, was a fount of wisdom about the toughest business of them all. He grew up in and around it. I wish he had stood for office himself.

His brother Brian was a Massachusetts state representative from Dorchester who later spent seven terms in the United States House of Representatives and served as ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago while Bill Clinton was president. Their uncles, Frank and John Kelly, had been Boston city councillors, with Frank later serving as lieutenant governor and attorney general and running unsuccessfully for governor.

THE EXPLAINER: John King worked with CNN's Election Central tally board during the long hours after the polls closed on Nov. 3.

It's in the blood. A related bad habit I picked up from my Dad at a young age was incessantly hollering back at the television and radio when politics and current affairs were being discussed. I've frequently thought that "I know better!" and have to get my two cents in. In truth, I was jealous of those who earn a living from talking about what is my passion.

But Boston Irish lawyers with a strong interest in politics and an affiliation to the Democratic Party are more dime a dozen than diamond in the rough in the land of my birth. One of the many unexpected benefits of relocating to Ireland nearly two decades ago, however, has been realizing what has always been a dream and taking on what has morphed into a second career for me: media punditry on the politics of the two places I will forever consider home.

Since 2008, it has been a privilege to analyze the results of US presidential elections as they come in on what is usually the first Tuesday in November on RTÉ, the national broadcaster. Given the time difference, it's an overnight shift. This year, the coverage was anchored by Caitríona Perry, who reported on American politics brilliantly in her tenure as the network's Washington correspondent and has written two insightful books on the election of Donald Trump and the influence of Irish America.

We were joined by numerous high profile guests from the US, such as former White House Chief of Stuff Mick Mulvaney, former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley, former New York Congressman Joe Crowley, and sitting Philadelphia Congressman Brendan Boyle. Our live program wrapped up shortly after 4 a.m., Irish time, when the outcome wasn't entirely clear, but the key indicators were all pointing to a win for Joe Biden.

Then, thanks to satellite technology, a guy who was brought up in a three-decker between Ashmont and Fields Corner came into sitting rooms in every city, town, village, and rural area.

Irish people are accustomed to protracted election counts and couldn't get enough of it as John King broke down the results state by state and county by county, demonstrating a vast knowledge as he kept going on almost no sleep and buckets of coffee. The "magic wall" of the US he and others use at CNN took on a life of itself. And inevitably, the viewers had to find out: Could they claim him? The screenwriter of the hit comedy "Derry Girls" asked if he was Irish in a tweet. King's succinct reply – "Always"- sealed the deal.

In a subsequent interview with the much beloved Miriam O'Callaghan on her Sunday morning radio show, King downplayed the multiple compliments offered by the host and her listeners. Having done his homework, he described Miriam as Ireland's Oprah.

He also spoke movingly about his family, in particular his late father Chris (who, coincidentally, was a Dorchester contemporary and pal of my Dad's) and his Connemara-born grandparents, as well as the valuable lessons learned in childhood that have remained with him. Like so many Americans before him, King is now planning a visit back "home" to Galway to reunite with his cousins and get a fuller sense of his roots.

He has said that he looks forward to a few pints in Keogh's in his ancestral village of Ballyconneely – so deep in the west of Ireland that the next stop literally is Boston. He'll have a tough time buying his own, though.

In his typically expert communication of what actually happened in Election 2020, John King won the rapt attention and sincere admiration of the Irish people. He did his family and the neighborhood that shaped him very proud.

Larry Donnelly is a Boston-born attorney, a Law Lecturer at the National University of Ireland, Galway and a regular Irish media contributor on politics, current affairs and law on both sides of the Atlantic. He is on Twitter @LarryPDonnelly.

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Child-care providers finding ways to get testing on their own

(Continued from page 1)

other positive teacher.

"I had some level of exposure in three different centers, in three different neighborhoods, in three different towns, and no cross pollination of staff," Perille said.

After consulting with public health officials in Boston and Cambridge, Perille closed three classrooms at one location for a week. She completely shut down another center for nearly three weeks, affecting 18 staff members and 50 families. She encouraged all staff and families to get tested.

At the location that closed, four teachers and two children ultimately tested positive. Perille said contact tracers had trouble determining which cases were contracted in the center, and which ones were from elsewhere in the community. It appeared to be a mix.

The state continued to pay Nurtury the enrollment fees for the subsidized families during the closures, softening what would have been a $54,000 financial hit to roughly $14,000. But there were other losses: four families and a staff member who had health concerns decided not to return to that location.

"That's really when we felt that this was a sign of things to come and we needed more testing support and a better testing solution," she said.

If families and staff were able to get test results more quickly, Perille thinks she could have reopened three days sooner.

Laura Perille, former Boston school superintendent and now CEO of Nutury, received a covid test at the Greater Roslindale Health and Dental Center. ***Jesse Costa/WBUR photo***

According to the latest state data, Nurtury isn't alone. The coronavirus cases reported in child-care settings have been increasing recently. At the beginning of the month, the state reported roughly 190 children and 240 staff across the state had tested positive for the coronavirus at some point since late August. By Nov. 22, those totals had more than doubled.

As community spread increases, child-care providers believe they need access to on-site coronavirus testing with rapid results in order to remain open.

Childcare doesn't have any systematic testing right now in Massachusetts. In K-12, the Baker administration is rolling out rapid antigen tests – called BinaxNOW– at 134 districts as part of its strategy to keep schools open.

Some care providers are finding their own solutions – creating partnerships and pilot programs to add to their prevention tool kit. One partnership came about almost randomly: a cold call from a doctor who struggled to get a test for her own child to return to preschool.

"As a parent, I didn't know where to go," said Dr. Jennifer Trieu, medical director at Greater Roslindale Medical and Dental Center. It wasn't immediately clear to her which of the free sites would test children. "The last thing a parent wants to do is bring a child to a testing site expecting a test, and then they say, 'Oh, I can't test you because you're under a certain age.' "

Her medical center is a free coronavirus testing site, but she said she likes to navigate testing as a regular parent instead of leveraging resources she has because of her position. It also helps her get a sense of what her community needs.

If it was a problem for her to find a testing site, she thought others may be having similar challenges. She started Googling childcare in Roslindale to find out, leaving messages at several businesses.

"I wasn't sure what Nurtury or who Nurtury was, but I found it on Google and I got a call back from Laura [Perille]," Trieu said. They launched a simple partnership: Any Nurtury employee or family who calls for an appointment will be prioritized. It didn't cost anything extra. It's prioritizing public resources.

Perille, who was the interim superintendent of Boston Public Schools before leading Nurtury, thinks this partnership can be replicated across the city for childcare and K-12 schools.

"It would be amazing if any child-care worker could go to any testing site in the state and say, 'Hey, I work in child-care' and have their results expedited," Perille said.

But providers said they need more.

Doris Yepez is a family child-care coordinator with Nurtury. When one of the providers has a possible exposure to the coronavirus, she said they are often in "panic mode." Yepez calmly explains what they need to do, and that they or any assistant or family they enroll can get tested at the Roslindale clinic.

"I have found myself booking appointments for like 2 o'clock, which is right away, and the parents say, 'No, I'm still at work. I can't leave my work and go get my kid tested,' " she said. "They find it upsetting that their employer is waiting for them to go back to work, but they can't."

What caregivers and families really want, according to Yepez, is something they can get on site, which is exactly what a new pilot program by the nonprofit Neighborhood Villages is aiming to do.

"We are hemorrhaging women from our workforce, largely related to child-care breakdowns," cofounder Lauren Kennedy said. "Many women are leaving their jobs or losing their jobs because they don't have the care solutions that we need."

Over the next 12 weeks, nearly 500 staff across seven early childhood and after-school programs will get tested for coronavirus once

(Continued next page)

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

- Give a Hug: Do you notice weight changes, increased frailty?
- Ask about Friends: Especially given the current state of our world, are there still signs of active friendships?
- Open the Medicine Cabinet: Is Mom taking her medications as prescribed?
- Check the Mail: Look for unopened mail or unpaid bills
- Inspect the Kitchen: Look for expired food, broken appliances

Use this checklist to look for warning signs during your holiday visits. If your mom isn't doing well at home alone, **Compass on the Bay or Standish Village** may be the perfect solution. We offer an innovative enriching approach to senior living and alzheimer's care.

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City, state brace for holiday-driven surge of coronavirus cases

(Continued from page 1)
that Walsh said has his administration concerned.

"We're going to be monitoring the numbers closely to make sure we don't see these large spikes," he said. "That 400 number has been the largest, honestly, since June." He added: "We have to see what's going to happen now and I think over the course of the next 10 to 15 days we'll know what the impacts, if there are any, of Thanksgiving. Hopefully there are none, but, unfortunately, I think there will be some."

The mayor urged business to allow their employees to work from home if possible— "especially for these next coming weeks in the city as we are starting to see the numbers fluctuate and get a little higher than we'd like to see them," he said.

Prior to the holiday, the city was seeing another gradual decline in positive cases— even though testing has been happening at a higher volume. For the week ending Nov. 23, the city recorded a daily average of 4,860 tests, up from 4,200 the week before.

"No neighborhoods had a positivity rate over 8 percent, but Dorchester, East Boston, and Hyde Park were over 5 percent," the mayor said, referring to the pre-Thanksgiving trend. "Every neighborhood saw positivity rates go down in last week's seven-day average, which is good to see."

"These numbers do reflect the strong demand for testing ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday. We are encouraged and thankful that everyone got tested. Even though you got tested before Thanksgiving, it's important for you to get tested after as well," said Walsh. "Especially if you were a part of large gatherings or came into contact with people you didn't know."

The city currently offers free testing at more than 30 locations, including at community health centers and three mobile testing sites.

Also on Tuesday, Gov. Baker raised new concerns about in-person worship in the Commonwealth's churches, noting that dozens of Covid-19 clusters have developed in houses of worship since the pandemic began, leading to hundreds of confirmed cases of the coronavirus. Faith leaders have responded "admirably," Baker said, implementing creative strategies such as remote or in-vehicle services to limit transmission of the disease.

"But our data still found there are too many clusters that stem from houses of worship," he said, " and these cases spread out into the community at large."

While Baker said he is not asking anyone to avoid churches, temples, and other places of worship, he flagged their role in driving new infections as he stressed taking additional precautions this holiday season.

Services should continue to operate differently, with the pandemic still raging and Massachusetts in the grips of a second surge, he said, and residents should alter holiday plans to emphasize safety — much like he advised ahead of Thanksgiving.

"Recognize and understand that if you're going to get together with people you don't normally spend time with, be safe," Baker said. "Wear the mask. Encourage them to wear the mask. Keep your distance. Wash your hands. Don't share food and beverage. Treat it a little more formally than you might normally."

As of Dec. 1, outdoor dining in the city of Boston is on pause for the winter, but the mayor said that business owners who own private property could extend those programs. "We are working on an aggressive plan to come back strong in April with maybe some new and improved additions to outdoor dining," he said.

When asked about ending the city's curfew, beginning at 10 p.m. and extending through 5 p.m., Walsh said he wouldn't recommend it. "At this particular moment, we have seen two weeks of lowering numbers, but a high number of cases today," he said. "I think if we can get through the next couple of weeks and get our numbers in the right direction, then we can look at lifting the curfew, but right now it's not the right time."

Child-care providers finding ways to get testing on their own

a week with a method called pooled testing. It uses the gold-standard PCR tests, which are much more sensitive than rapid antigen tests.

Here's how it works: Saliva samples are taken from staff, then tested in one batch. If that batch comes back negative, it's unlikely anyone in that group has the coronavirus. If it comes back positive, those same samples are retested in pairs. The pairs that test positive will have to get tested individually.

"The name of the game is basically finding potential asymptomatic spreaders and moving them out before they can transmit it to anyone else," said Jonathan Kolstad, a health economist at UC Berkeley who works on pooled testing.

Colleges, as well as private and more resourced K-12 schools — like Wellesley Public Schools — are using pooled testing. There are similar pilots in some public schools. Kolstad said other municipalities and businesses are interested, too.

"It's not lost on them that if everyone I know has been tested this week, I'm a lot safer," Kolstad said. It's a complement to health measures such as cleaning, wearing masks, social distancing when possible and grouping kids and staff in cohorts.

Perille said it's important for her staff, who are almost entirely women who have been at the "front lines" of the pandemic. "They are at higher risk than those of us who work virtually," Perille said. "They're showing up and they're in the classrooms every day. And if it gives them greater confidence to know that they and all their peers tested negative that week, then that seems to me to be the kinds of things we do to keep child care open."

Many public health experts believe pooled testing could — and should — be scaled up across childcare and K-12 schools, particularly in places with low transmission. "The return on investment from a federal or state government is off the charts," Kolstad said. "Even if you simply value the lost productivity of parents who are unable to work at all or work completely, that alone would pay for the testing many times over." He estimates that to be $50 million to $100 million a month in family incomes in Massachusetts.

This story was first published on Nov. 27 by WBUR 90.9FM. WBUR and The Reporter share content through a media partnership.

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Kemecsei, Zsolt	Kemecsei, Leslie	Medeiros, Ryan M	Medeiros, Caitlin	24 Mill St #1	Dorchester	11/12/20	775,000
Benitez, David		Alkass, Sally R	113 Pleasant St #3	Pleasant St	Dorchester	11/09/20	490,000
Livingston, Elizabeth		Capodi, Jon	Capodi, Lauren	34 Victory Rd #1	Dorchester	11/12/20	475,000
Philbrook, Kyle	Philbrook, Lauren	Sato, Stephanie	27 Washburn St #2	Washburn St	Dorchester	11/13/20	700,000
Jackson, Kierston		2 Dons LLC	6 Dewey St #2	Dewey St	Dorchester	11/12/20	400,000

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Legislature delivers police reform bill to Baker

(Continued from page 1)

I can't speak to the specifics of this until we have a chance to review it," Baker said at a press conference where he was discussing the state's response to Covid-19.

Baker could sign the bill, veto it, or return it with amendments that the Legislature would have to consider. Based on the margins Tuesday, Democratic legislative leaders do not appear to have the votes they would need to override a veto. Republicans in the Legislature all voted against the bill and they were joined by a significant number of Democrats in both branches.

The 92-67 vote in the House to accept the conference committee report fell short of the two-thirds majority that would be needed to override a veto. The Senate›s 28-12 vote barely cleared that threshold.

In both branches, votes on whether to approve the compromise bill -– taken during a lame-duck session – were narrower than passage of the original reform legislation from which it was built. The Senate's original bill passed 30-7 in July, while the House approved its version ten days later with a 93-66 vote.

Rep. Carlos Gonzalez, the Black and Latino Legislative Caucus chair who participated in the private negotiations on a final bill, said the legislation addresses "inequity that for too long, for too many years, has gone with rhetoric and no real action."

"Even when you only have a few bad apples, the process as we know it today and the internal investigation process of police policing themselves needs an overhaul," said Gonzalez, a Springfield Democrat, citing news coverage of Boston police officers whose legal troubles vanished and a Department of Justice investigation that found serious problems in a Springfield police unit.

"Police misconduct must not be given a pass anymore," Gonzalez added. "The time is here and the moment is now."

The two unions representing State Police troopers and more than 4,300 uniformed police officers in cities and towns around the state blasted the compromise, with one union calling it a "final attack" on law enforcement. "They seek to punish police just for being police," said Scott Hovsepian, the president of the Massachusetts Coalition of Police. (MassCOP).

State Reps. Carlos Gonzalez and state Sens. Sonia Chang-Diaz and Will Brownsberger delivered their committee's compromise policing reform bill to Senate Clerk Michael Hurley around 5 p.m. on Monday. ***Sam Doran/SHNS photo***

The organization said it planned to lobby Baker to reject the Legislature's reforms to qualified immunity, as well as some of the disciplinary procedures laid out in the bill that the union views as undermining officers' due process rights.

Baker supports the creation of a commission to certify and decertify police officers, but a bill he filed in June proposed a different makeup of the panel and did not address controversial issues like qualified immunity for police officers.

Throughout the process, Baker has not discussed his feelings about specifics in the various legislative proposals.

The governor in June outlined his own reform bill, under which Massachusetts would start a wide-ranging effort to crack down on police violence and improve transparency by implementing a certification system and stripping licensure from officers who commit egregious violations.

"The murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis at the hands of police officers made clear that now is the time to get this done," Baker said at the time. "There are no easy answers, and improving our law enforcement is only one piece of this process, but I think we've put together a solid set of reforms that everyone, including the law enforcement community and the folks who are here with us today, can work on to advance this bill together."

The six-member conference committee, led by Rep. Claire Cronin and Sen. William Brownsberger, spent just over four months negotiating the final product that passed the Legislature Tuesday.

Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz, the only woman of color in the Senate and a member of the conference committee, called the final bill "bold," crediting those who protested in the streets after the killing of George Floyd with pushing policy makers on Beacon Hill to act.

The Senate observed a moment of silence for eight minutes and 46 seconds in memory of Floyd before voting to accept the compromise.

In the House, Cronin said video of Floyd's death at the hands of police was an image she could never forget. "I believe in my heart and soul that history will look back on this vote kindly and we will be on the right side of history, so I ask you to make your grandchildren proud by joining me in support of this measure," Cronin, an Easton Democrat, said.

During debate in the House and Senate, many speakers cited the names of victims of police brutality, warning that violence by law enforcement is disproportionately directed at people of color.

"If you don't understand that Black Lives Matter means that police lives matter and your life matters and my life matters and that LGBTQ lives matter, then you don't understand," Gonzalez said, his voice rising.

The bill creates a nine-member police accountability panel, known as the Massachusetts Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Commission, that would certify officers every three years and could revoke certification for officers found to commit wrongdoing, such as excessive use of force or falsifying timesheets.

Brownsberger said the six civilians on the POST commission was an important aspect of the Massachusetts model and unique in a country where other POST boards are dominated by law enforcement. This new panel would have three seats for law enforcement, including one police chief and one minority officer.

The Belmont Democrat said 90 percent to 95 percent of police officers are doing the job the right way for the right reasons, but he said public trust has been destroyed by the actions of just a few.

Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr, who voted against the bill, said the POST Commission should have been more balanced, with a stronger voice for law enforcement, and added that he worried that lawmakers were moving too rashly to limit the use of facial recognition technology and were risking unintended consequences in the manner it proposed banning chokeholds.

Republicans in the House slammed the short timeframe for considering the bill – the vote on accepting the conference committee's report came just about 24 hours after the panel finished its private negotiations – and reiterated their concerns with its scope.

Rep. Timothy Whelan, who, alongside Tarr, was one of the two Republicans on the conference committee, argued that lawmakers can "do better" on a reform package that works for stakeholders across the spectrum. A former State Police trooper, Whelan took particular issue with the bill language removing qualified immunity protections in cases where an officer's actions result in decertification by the oversight board.

"We're stripping it just from law enforcement here, and rest assured, we'll be coming after somebody else's qualified immunity tomorrow," he said. "It's the same as in the House bill. Sixty-six of you voted against this bill in July because you disagreed with qualified immunity. It still exists in this bill."

US Rep. Ayanna Pressley, a Boston Democrat and the only Black member of the state's Congressional delegation, credited the bill with "a number of long overdue reforms that will help increase police accountability in the Commonwealth," and said she hoped Baker would sign it into law. Pressley specifically noted the ban on chokeholds and limits on no-knock warrants, standards for the use of force, and restrictions on the use of facial recognition software.

"In this moment of national reckoning on police brutality and systemic racism, it is incumbent upon all of us at all levels of government to be bold and relentless in our pursuit of policies that address the crisis of police brutality plaguing Black and brown communities," Pressley said.

But she also said the bill did not go far enough in restricting the application of qualified immunity to protect police from civil lawsuits for actions taken on the job, saying, "There can be no justice without healing and accountability, and there can be no true accountability with qualified immunity."

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Vietnamese artists take spotlight in virtual sharing of experiences

(Continued from page 1)

ality. "There's this ongoing need for immigrants and refugees to have community, so I wanted to bring intergenerational community members together, using multimedia, music, live performances, as a way to engage families with hard topics not talked about," said Vu.

"Growing up in my house, to give an example, my parents would often speak in Vietnamese and I would respond in English," he said. "Language is not necessarily a barrier but it's definitely a factor in the way we relate to each other, and in that way sometimes it can be hard communication-wise to even talk about our family histories and our memories."

Vu recalled the first event in 2018 being "intense" but also effective in how it inspired dialogue.

"I was nervous about utilizing arts to talk about hard issues, but people were open to it," she said. "It sparked a lot of emotions and feelings. For example, we had an artist talk about his experience coming out to his mom, and he did a live performance in drag. There were people in tears; it was really powerful."

This time around, the pandemic has made shifting to a virtual format a bit tricky, albeit potentially more accessible to Dorchester's younger generations. Reaching older folks has been more difficult, but it could prove rewarding, Vu noted: "Right now a lot of people are in isolation, so this could be a great opportunity to bring people together virtually and let them connect."

In recent weeks, local artists have recorded short videos in which they tell stories from their own points of view. Those films will air in the first hour of the virtual event, followed by an hour of Q&A with the audience and open discussion.

Featured artists include Ah Moons, a dancer who was at the forefront of the "waacking" street dancing scene in Vietnam before moving to the US four years ago; Anny Thach, a poet who will express through the written word her experience of being a young Vietnamese and Cambodian woman; Candace Nguyen, a trans artist with a goal of boosting queer and trans visibility in the Vietnamese community; and a pair of older artists who have created a skit about coming to understanding on political issues and the responsibility of the older demographic.

Poet Anny Thach, top, and artist Candace Nguyen are two of the featured performers in the virtual Viet Family Stories, which will be livestreamed on Sat., Dec. 12.

Images courtesy Tran Vu

Recent tendencies to separate generations into labeled identities like "millennials" or "boomers" reflect what some describe as an increasing disconnect and general misunderstanding between age groups. For Vu, maintaining those links between young and old generations is crucial to building a caring, functional community.

"In Vietnamese society it's something that is so central...families live together, so daily you interact with your elders, your relatives. The wisdom of the elders, thinking about the life lessons learned, that's central to the building block of family life in Vietnamese culture. Being in the US, I've noticed that's not always the case. For immigrant and refugee families, adapting to his new life can be really jarring at times, which is why it's so important to maintain that cultural link – shared by so many other cultures also – between not just elderly wisdom but youthful wisdom, too. We have to cultivate that ourselves as a village."

Viet Family Stories, Chuyen Gia Đình 2.0 will be livestreamed on Facebook and Youtube on Dec. 12 at noon. Bilingual translation will be provided with closed captioning in English and Vietnamese. You can register for the virtual event and learn more information at tranvuarts.com/viet-famstories.

The Viet Family Stories project is made possible by the 2020 Live Arts Boston (LAB) from The Boston Foundation, City of Boston Opportunity Fund, The Pollination Project Seed Grant, and the Mountain School's Garden Hill Fund Grant.

NOTICE

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

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

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

www.dorchesterhistoricalsociety.org

LEGAL NOTICES

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE
Docket No. SU20P0076EA
ESTATE OF:
CRAIG STEPHEN HILL
DATE OF DEATH: 07/06/2019
SUFFOLK DIVISION

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Pamela H. Hill of Boston, MA, a Will has been admitted to informal probate. Pamela H. Hill of Boston, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

Published: December 3, 2020

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
SUFFOLK DIVISION
24 NEW CHARDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
Docket No. SU20D1567DR
DOMESTIC RELATIONS SUMMONS
DOLORES M. MACHORRO VELIZ
vs.
ORSON G. MACHORRO VELIZ

To the above named Defendant:

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon: Dolores M. Machorro Veliz, 71 Norwell St., #2, Dorchester, MA 02121 a copy of your answer to the complaint for Annulment filed on 11/16/2020 which is herewith served upon you, within 20 days after service of this summons upon you, exclusive of the day of service. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file your answer to the complaint in the office of the Register of this Court at the above named court either before service upon plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney or within a reasonable time thereafter.

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

Date: November 20, 2020

Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate

Published: December 3, 2020

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Feds hold Dot man on weapon charges, and cite his 'anti-government' activities

By Adam Gaffin
Universal Hub

Federal agents arrested a Dorchester man on gun charges and found various materials in his McLellan Street house last week that could be used to create explosives, the US Attorney's office reported, adding that an investigation continues into his alleged "anti-government/anti-authority sovereign citizen extremist ideology."

Pepo Herd El, also known as Pepo Wamchawi Herd (El), 47, was arrested at the Ruggles T stop after he got off a bus from Dorchester wearing a bullet-proof vest under a jacket with "Security" written on it and packing a loaded pistol, three spare magazines that were also fully loaded, and a knife, according to an affidavit filed by an FBI agent on the case.

El was then charged with being a felon in possession of firearms because of two 2004 convictions in Massachusetts for unlawful firearms possession.

"The investigation remains ongoing," the US Attorney's office said. At the same time as he was being arrested, other federal agents were raiding El's house at 53 McLellan St., where they found "several of the household chemicals that they suspected El was using to create homemade explosives," Live Boston reported, adding that agents also found details of recent purchases on eBay that included copper bars, rods and tubes, various acids, wire, magnesium shavings and balls, tungsten powder, and a hot plate with a magnetic stirrer.

In the affidavit, the FBI agent described some of those purchases: "EL has also purchased several chemicals through his eBay and Amazon accounts. Each of these chemicals has an innocent household or industrial use. However, several can also be used or combined to create incendiary or explosive compounds.

"For example, I have been advised that EL has purchased all of the chemical precursors necessary to produce black powder, an explosive that can detonate an improvised explosive device. Black powder requires three chemicals. The first is potassium nitrate, which is found in Hi-Yield Stump Remover, a commercial product designed to remove tree stumps from soil. EL used his eBay account to purchase this product on or about June 2, 2020. The second ingredient is sulfur, which EL purchased in powder form on that same day via eBay. The third ingredient is charcoal, which El purchased using his Amazon account on or about December 2, 2019. Based on my training and experience, combining these three ingredients in specific ratios creates a low explosive chemical reaction.

"I further note that, on or about July 31, 2020, EL used his Amazon account to purchase 20 feet of model rocketry fuse. This material could be used to initiate black powder. When black powder is contained and initiated, it can detonate. Additionally, adding fragmentation to this mixture could increase the damage it causes when it detonates. Air rifle pellet ammunition could serve this purpose. According to EL's eBay records, between in or about May and July 2020, EL purchased at least 800 air rifle pellets, in addition to a pellet gun. Based on the substances and quantities listed above, explosive experts have informed me that EL has enough material to produce at least a pound of black powder, which could be used as an explosive in an improvised explosive device, such as a pipe bomb.

"EL's purchase history includes other fuels, oxidizers, and solvents. Some of these – such as magnesium, potassium permanganate, and iron oxide, all of which he purchased through his eBay account on or about June 2, 2020 – could produce incendiary compounds. EL also purchased a hot plate and stir bars, which are used to heat chemicals and to mix chemicals while they are heating. These are common techniques for increasing the speed and efficiency of chemical reactions."

In a 15 1/2-hour search of the house, however, agents did not find any black powder or actual explosives, the affidavit continues. The affidavit continues that additional searches will likely be made because of how "disorganized and cluttered" the house is. Also, agents did not begin searching until bomb technicians spent 3 1/2 hours on their own search to make sure there was nothing about to blow up while other agents were conducting their search.

El's last name is a common one among so-called Moorish sovereign citizens - Black people who, like their more commonly known white counterparts, believe they are not subject to most laws. The Southern Poverty Law Center characterizes them as an extremist movement: "Recently, Moorish sovereign citizens have engaged in violent confrontations with law enforcement. They have also been known to retaliate against government authorities through financial means - a process called 'paper terrorism.' Moorish sovereigns espouse an interpretation of sovereign doctrine that African Americans constitute an elite class within American society with special rights and privileges that convey on them a sovereign immunity placing them beyond federal and state authority."

According to the FBI agent's affidavit, El used a common sovereign-citizen notation when signing for the property agents took when arresting him at Ruggles: "After being advised of his Miranda rights, EL was asked to sign a property receipt for the items seized from his person (including the Glock 27). In addition to his name, EL signed "UCC 1308." I am aware from my training and experience that it is common for sovereign citizens to file numerous frivolous lawsuits and file claims using the Uniform Commercial Code ("UCC"). Section 1-308 of the UCC is a method of reserving one's rights in a contract."

El has ten "pins" on his Pinterest page, one a photo of a Kevlar bullet-proof vest, the other nine photos of messages about lawsuits and texts of articles about limits on federal powers.

Judge Dalila Argaez Wendlandt

Wendlandt gets okay for SJC seat

Judge Dalila Argaez Wendlandt was unanimously confirmed by the Governor's Council for a seat on the Supreme Judicial Court last Wednesday, where she will become the state's first Latina high court justice. Councillor Marilyn Devaney said Wendlandt, who earned a master's degree in engineering at MIT before embarking on a law career, brings a unique series of qualifications to the bench, and Councillor Terrence Kennedy called her a "fantastic nominee."

Wendlandt is Gov. Baker's sixth appointee to the SJC bench, with a hearing is set for Dec. 2 on his seventh nominee, Boston Municipal Court Judge Serge Georges. Devaney said she thinks Wendlandt will work well with Kimberly Budd, whom the council last week unanimously approved as the top court's new chief justice.

Wendlandt, 51, has served on the Appeals Court since 2017. Before becoming a judge, she was a partner in the intellectual property litigation group at Ropes & Gray LLP. Devaney said she has an extensive list of published writings and was once appointed to propose changes to Massachusetts patent laws.

– STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

Boston's credit is rated still strong

The pandemic is extracting a significant toll from Boston families and businesses, but it's not a major factor when considering the city's overall financial health, a credit rating agency said last week. Moody's Investor Services assigned a Aaa rating (its highest rating) and a stable outlook to $270 million worth of Boston general obligation bonds and said the city's reliance on property taxes nullifies some of the effects of the Covid-19 crisis.

"Despite a recent spike in the unemployment rate and decline in smaller economically sensitive revenue, the coronavirus pandemic is not a rating driver given the city's reliance on property taxes as the primary revenue source," the rating agency wrote. Moody's said it gave Boston the highest possible rating after considering "the very large and stable tax base and the city's prominence as the regional economic center of New England that is further bolstered by significant government, higher education, and health care sectors."

The stable outlook, the agency said, "further incorporates our expectation that the tax base will continue to grow and remain stable during the outlook time frame."

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Pandemic challenge: Keeping ex-gang members out of trouble

Carl Miranda, Director of Roca, Boston.
Image courtesy Roca

(Continued from page 5)
brain responsible for logic and reasoning) rather than their limbic system, the instinctual, 'fight or flight' part of the brain that responds in life-or-death situations. Learning to heal from those traumatic experiences, develop healthier coping mechanisms, and gaining better control over one's emotions are all processes embedded in the CBT approach.

Changing cognitive behavior can be slow work, especially when helping youth who trail their peers in literary skills and education levels, many of whom are immigrants learning a second language. But that change in mentality is often needed to hold down a job. That crucial step was placed in peril by the Covid shutdown, which snatched away salaries from many Roca clients who had just acquired them.

"We're really worried about employment for our young people," said Scharffenberg. "In the beginning we help change their behaviors and try to help them hold a job and keep a job – that's a way to keep them from future incarceration and hopefully help them get out of the life they're living."

But without that life vest, many in the program struggle. Tha Thai, Roca's assistant director, saw over the summer how desperate circumstances translated to higher rates of violence.

"I'm sure there are many factors in why [gun violence] is up. We're dealing with young men with mental health problems, who are laid off of work, who just have too much free time, and when they have idle time, that's when it's most dangerous. On top of that, it's survival. Some of them have families that are laid off, and they need to do what they can to put food on the table."

Roca team members often go above and beyond to provide support to their clients; this year, that meant dropping off food boxes and care packages to youth who were hungry and reluctant to leave home through a combination of Covid fears and fear of being recognized. For Thai, the physical boundaries brought on by the virus made intervention work harder.

"The challenging part is not having the ability to just go grab somebody off the street," he said. "We're pretty good if there's a situation that's a crisis. We'll pull up and talk to the kid and take him away from the situation. Because of Covid, we were not able to do that, so there were a couple of situations where kids just got back home from prison, and I would [usually] drive and pick them up; but with protocols I couldn't do that...One of the guys is back in prison now. I felt like if we were able to do that traditional outreach, it would have helped."

Junior is one of the guys that Thai and the Roca team were able to get through to. Three years in, he says, he's surprised by the progress and growth he has made. "When I started with the program, I didn't even know all the good that would come out of it," he told the *Reporter*. "Me and Tha and Kevin [Ryner], we ended up doing classes after work, and they'd get me to talk about things, go to meetings, and learn about CBT... We all have moments in life where we're spazzing out, but now I'm better at controlling it, controlling my feelings, and talking about it with Roca people."

In witnessing Junior's behavior slowly change, said Thai, he noticed increments of progress: he would wake up on time more consistently, and show up on time more often. When Roca helped him nail down a temporary job, he held tight to it, waking up at 5 a.m. every day to make the trek from Mattapan to Chelsea.

"Waking up that early was hard. I didn't realize it, but Roca was getting me ready for that," Junior said. "Learning how to stick with things."

Said Thai: "I think what shifted was his definition of a man – instead of being able to fight, being able to sacrifice and send money back to his family. That to me is an indicator of a young person's mind shifting values and what's important to him."

Junior's path to a new life is perhaps more tangibly measured in economic terms, but, he says, the biggest factors have been the constant social and emotional support from the Roca folks in his corner.

"Where I came from, I always believed that people left you, but at Roca they never gave up on me," he said. "They always tell me 'you're not alone, that there's always somebody willing to listen.' It's helping me go somewhere."

BLACK LIVES MATTER

CODMAN SQUARE HEALTH CENTER
STANDS WITH OUR COMMUNITY
IN FIGHTING RACIAL INJUSTICE

Codman Square Health Center

LEGAL NOTICES

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETT
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
SUFFOLK PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
24 NEW CHARDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATOR OR OTHER PROTECTIVE ORDER PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304 &§5-405
Docket No. SU20P0500PM
IN THE MATTER OF:
PHAREUS POMPILUS
of DORCHESTER, MA
RESPONDENT
(Person to be Protected/Minor)

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by St. Joseph Rehabilitation of Dorchester, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Phareus Pompilus is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that Velma Brinson of Hyde Park, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve Without Surety on the bond.

The petition asks the Court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **12/18/2020**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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

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

Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate
Date: November 17, 2020
Published: December 3, 2020

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETT
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
SUFFOLK PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
24 NEW CHARDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION TO EXPAND THE POWERS OF A GUARDIAN
Docket No. SU19P2248GD
IN THE INTERESTS OF:
DUNG DANG
of BOSTON, MA
RESPONDENT
(Incapacitated Person/Protected Person)

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by St. Joseph Rehabilitation and Nursing of Dorchester, MA in the above captioned matter requesting that the court:

Expand the powers of a Guardian.

The petition asks the Court to make a determination that the powers of the Guardian and/or Conservator should be expanded, modified, or limited since the time of the appointment. The original petition is on file with this court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **12/16/2020**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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

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

Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate
Date: November 04, 2020
Published: December 3, 2020

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETT
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
SUFFOLK PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
24 NEW CHARDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Docket No. SU20P2175EA
Estate of:
ELIZABETH DEVLIN HART
DATE OF DEATH: 07/18/2020

To all interested persons:

A petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Charles Hart of Watertown, 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: Charles Hart of Watertown, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in an unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of **01/05/2021**

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

Unsupervised Administration Under The Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code (MUPC)

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

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

Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate
Date: November 23, 2020
Published: December 3, 2020

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETT
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
SUFFOLK PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
24 NEW CHARDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Docket No. SU20P2128EA
Estate of:
SARAH PLATT
DATE OF DEATH: 09/10/2018

To all interested persons:

A petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Allen E. Platt 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: Allen E. Platt of Boston, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in an unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of **12/30/2020**

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

Unsupervised Administration Under The Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code (MUPC)

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

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

Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate
Date: November 18, 2020
Published: December 3, 2020

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETT
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
SUFFOLK PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
24 NEW CHARDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Docket No. SU20P2116EA
Estate of:
SADIE V. MOCHAR
a/k/a: SARAH MOCHAR
DATE OF DEATH: 03/05/1997

To all interested persons:

A petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Anne Galvin of Dorchester, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Anne Galvin of Dorchester, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve With Personal Surety on the bond in an unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of **12/29/2020.**

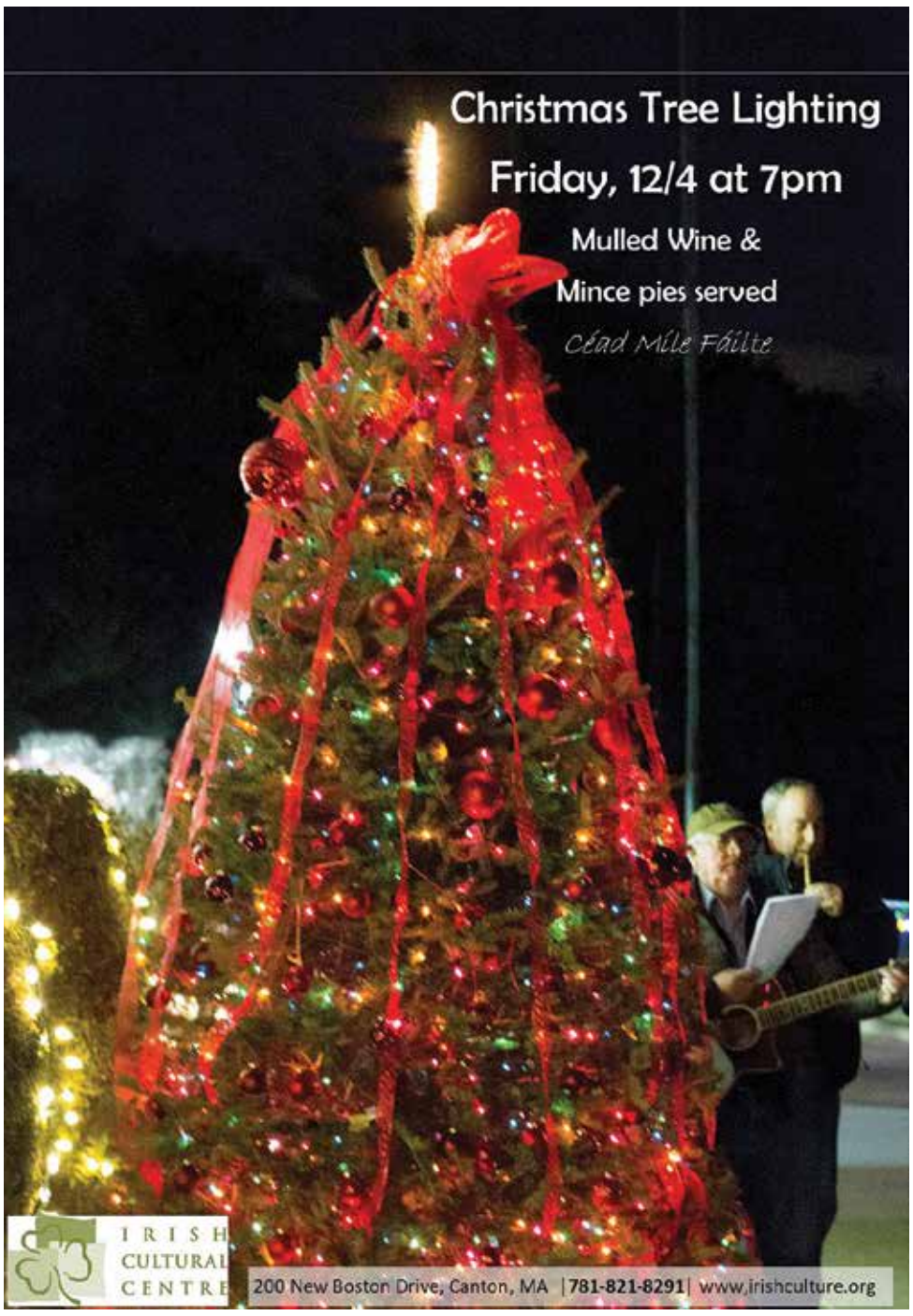
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without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

Unsupervised Administration Under The Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code (MUPC)

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

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

Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate
Date: November 17, 2020
Published: December 3, 2020



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-FREDERICK DOUGLASS, ABOLITIONIST

FROM A LETTER IN 1846 DESCRIBING HIS VISIT TO IRELAND

Virtual Presentation: Tuesday, December 1 at 6pm

The life of Frederick Douglass and his relationship with Ireland

Virtual Presentation: Tuesday, December 8 at 6pm

A look at Black Abolitionists in Ireland

IRISH CULTURAL CENTRE

RSVP to: mdooher@irishculture.org

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Visit with Santa Claus in his *winter wonderland* at the ICC Cottage

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5TH FROM 10:00AM—1PM

Visit with Santa by the fireside. Tell Santa your Christmas wishes as you sit in our special Christmas Chair. (6 ft apart)

- One family to enter at a time
- Socially distanced photo opportunity.
- Gift included
- **$5 per child/max $20 per family**
- **Reservations required.**
- **Email: iccpub@irishculture.org**

The ICC restaurant will also be open for breakfast at 10:30am—(menu includes chocolate chip pancakes!) *Reservations required.*

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BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF DORCHESTER

Steel & Rye Restaurant in Milton Provides Thanksgiving Meals to BGCD Families: See details below.

BGCD Partners with Elevate Youth to Provide Thanksgiving Meals: See details below.

CONNECT THE DOT:

Steel & Rye Restaurant in Milton Provides Thanksgiving Meals to BGCD Families: On Thanksgiving Day, Steel & Rye delivered 75 dinners with all the fixings to Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester. Steel & Rye partnered with the Milton community and would like to give a special thanks to Graham & Katie Foster as well as the Boston Maccabi Rugby Club for kicking off and funding this initiative. We would like to thank Steel & Rye and the Milton community who stepped up and put this together. Many thanks to the staff of Steel & Rye for their hard work and generosity during the holiday. During the upcoming holiday season, please keep Steel & Rye in mind for gift cards and other holiday dining plans. We are so grateful for all that Steel & Rye has done for BGCD in the past and hope we can all support each other in meaningful ways to get through this together.

FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE:

BGCD Partners with Elevate Youth to Provide Thanksgiving Meals: Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester took part in a special collaboration with our program partner, Elevate Youth to provide 50 Thanksgiving meals to families this past Tuesday. The package included turkey, produce, sides, spices and a yummy dessert.

Elevate Youth is a long-time partner that provides outdoor education to our members, including the current Hiking Club, which meets twice a month. The Elevate Youth team is always finding special and impactful opportunities for the members and families we serve. Today and every day, BGCD is thankful for this partnership and helping us to continue to serve our community in such meaningful ways.

DID YOU KNOW:

New England Patriots Donates PPE Hand Sanitizer to BGCD: Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester would like to give a huge thank you to the New England Patriots for donating 480 bottles of hand sanitizer to be used in our 3 Clubhouse locations.

This donation comes at a critical time and helps us continue to keep our staff, members and families safe. Since the pandemic began, BGCD has needed to purchase many unbudgeted items to keep our buildings clean and our members and staff healthy. The funds saved can be put towards programming and other needs.

Thank you New England Patriots, for your support of BGCD and working together to serve those who need us most.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Keystone Cooking Class
December 9

College Fellows/Middles
December 11

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

FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE.

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

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100% committed to the wellness of our guests & staff,
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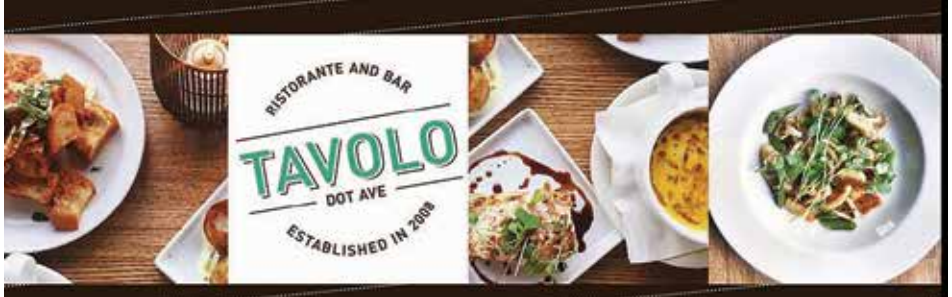

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Codman Square Health Center

COMMUNITY
COVID-19 TESTING
& FLU VACCINE CLINIC AT
THE RUSSELL AUDITORIUM
70 Talbot Ave, Boston, MA 02124

CLINIC SCHEDULE:

DECEMBER 2020

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

JANUARY 2021

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY
9 AM – 5 PM

WEDNESDAY
10:30 AM – 7 PM

FRIDAY (ALTERNATING)
9 AM – 5 PM

SATURDAY (TWO PER MONTH)
9 AM – 1 PM

On weeks with Saturday testing, there will be no testing on Friday. There will be no testing on Christmas Day.

COVID-19 TESTING AND FLU VACCINATIONS ARE AVAILABLE TO THE COMMUNITY BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. CALL (617) 822-8271 TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT.

Codman Square Health Center will conduct COVID-19 testing for any community member who wants to be tested, regardless of symptoms or contact with others.

CODMAN SQUARE HEALTH CENTER, 637 WASHINGTON ST., DORCHESTER, MA 02124 | (617) 822-8271 | CODMAN.ORG

RECENT OBITUARIES

ALESSI, Dominic J. in Dorchester, formerly of South Boston. Husband of Jane H. (Mankewich) Alessi. Father of Bill and his wife Cathy Alessi of Abington, Elaine and her husband Brian Goodwin of Canton, Diane and her husband Phil Skrabut of Dorchester, Jani and her husband Tommy Domenico of Saugus, and Dominic Alessi, Jr. and his wife Julie of Braintree. "Papa" of 7. Brother of Lucy Costigliola of South Boston, and the late Nino, Joseph, Don, Frank, Billy Alessi, and Frances Kelley. Survived by many nieces and nephews. Dominic was a retired employee of the MBTA. Donations in his memory may be made to Journey Forward, 5 Shawmut Rd., Canton, MA 02021, journey-forward.org.

Cedar Grove Cemetery

COVID-19 restrictions will be in place

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

ANTONELLI, John J. III. 35, in Dorchester, formerly of Readville, after a short courageous battle with a brain tumor. Husband of Mollie K. (Murphy) Antonelli. Father of Nora Catherine Antonelli and soon to be "Baby Antonelli." Son of John J. Antonelli, Jr. and Maureen R. (Hartin) Antonelli of Readville. Brother of Krista M. and her husband Edward Keohane and their children Lillian and Teddy Keohane of Milton, and Keri A. and her husband Brian Lewis and their children Brooke, Camryn, and Morgan Lewis of Hingham. Grandson of Dolores "Big Nana" Antonelli of Allston and the late John J. Antonelli, Sr., and the late Joseph F. and Rita Hartin. Son-in-law of James T. and Mary Anne Murphy of Dorchester. Brother-in-law of James and his wife Kathryn Murphy, Thomas and his wife Julie Murphy, Megan and her husband Brendan Raftery, Patrick and his wife Molly Murphy, and Brendan and his wife Jacqueline Murphy. Johnny is also survived by many adoring aunts, uncles, cousins, and dear friends. He was a graduate of Xaverian Brothers High School, Class of 2003, and Hofstra University, Class of 2007. Johnny was a former employee of Verrex Corp. and has been employed as an audiovisual project manager for State Street Corporation for the past 9 years. Donations in Johnny's memory may be made to The Antonelli Family Fund at johnantonellimemorial.com.

CHANCE, Ulpian, 65, of Dorchester. Brother of Agnes Lewis, Elsie Campeau, Leslie Chance, Ennis Chance, Rallston Chance, Lenox Chance, Veldon Chance, David Chance, Jeffrey Chance, and Vesta Chance-Sutherland. Uncle to Sandra Bobb.

GREELEY, Kathleen Helen of Dorchester. Kathleen is the daughter of Judith and the late Dennis Greeley of Dorchester. She leaves behind her brothers, Kevin and Kyle Greeley, Eric Watts, and half-siblings, Dennis Greeley and Tiffany Jefferson. Fiance of Josh Howe of Cape Cod. Granddaughter of the late James and Barbara Greene of Dorchester, and Louise and the late Wilfred of Cape Cod. Niece of Donna and Doug Ferrin, and Tommy Ng. Predeceased by uncles Jimmy, Tommy and Bobby Greene; aunts Gia Greene and Patty Greene-Ng; and cousin, Jamie Owirka. We ask everyone to do a random Act of Kindness in Kathleen's memory to light up someone's life the way Kathleen lit up ours.

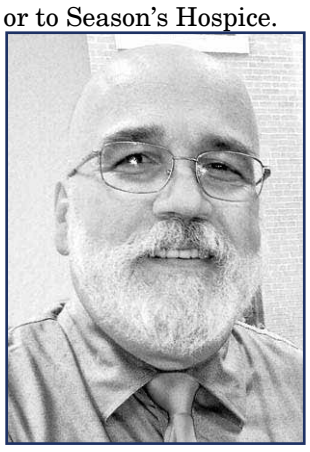
MARCH, Tiffany Yvette, 56, of Dorchester. Daughter of Zelma and Willie March. Tiffany was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary in Mattapan for 19 years. Tiffany worked in retail industry for over 25 years. Tiffany is survived by her parents , her son Nathan (Alyssa) March, granddaughter Lorena; siblings Willie Marcel March, Tiamekia Johnson, Crystal Mitchell, Sandra Alexander, Kirea Johnson, Cheryl Samuels. Aunts and uncles; Paul L. Cowan, Monta Wood, Maggie Tate and others in Washington DC. She leaves nieces, nephews extended family and dear friends.

MILLER, Rev. Isabelle (Wilson), 100, of Mattapan. She was a daughter of Saul Wilson and Ella Nora Dones, the eldest of 9 children. Her father had worked taking care of a bowling alley and in maintenance at Boston Floating Hospital. Her mother had worked in the linens department at Massachusetts General Hospital. Known as Elder Miller, she had been the last living charter member of Holy Temple Church, which was formed when two churches merged more than 70 years ago. She was the wife of the late Bishop Lewis P. Miller, who predeceased her in 2011. They had four sons: Lewis III, Robert, Nathaniel, and Kevin. In addition to her sons, Robert and Kevin, and her niece Shirley, Isabelle leaves two brothers in Mattapan, Theodore Wilson and Bishop Frederick J. Wilson; five grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren..

MORRIS, Lillie M. of Dorchester, 85. Wife of the late Clarence Morris. Mother of Dana Thomas of GA, Clarence Morris, Jr. of Mattapan, Linda Strother of NC and Craig Morris of Boston. Sister of Martha Williams of GA, Sandra Miller of GA and Michael Lewis of GA. Also survived by 13 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren.

O'FLAHERTY, Matthew III "Manus" of Barna, Co. Galway, Ireland, formerly of Poulnaclough, Moycullen, Co. Galway, Ireland. Husband of the late Maureen (Conneely) O'Flaherty. Son of the late Matthew, II and Mary (Richardson) O'Flaherty. Father of Mary and her husband Paul Cluskey, John of Barna, Co. Galway, Joe and his wife Deirdre of Loughrea, Co. Galway, Matthew IV "Frank" of Weymouth, Tom and his wife Mary of Middleboro, and the late Bernadette. Brother of Margaret Daniels and her husband Charles of Ashbourne, Co. Meath, Ireland, Tony and his wife Maggie of Moycullen, Co. Galway, Ireland, Tom and his wife Mary, George and his wife Kathleen, of Dorchester, and the late Ann "Ciss" Callaghan and her husband Peter of Toronto, Canada, Patrick and his wife Carmel of Macroom, Co. Cork, Ireland, Philip and his wife Maureen of Walpole, MA, Sean of Dorchester, Frank and his wife Peggy of Newcastle, Galway, Ireland, and Walter of Shantalla, Galway, Ireland. Grandfather of 12. Great-grandfather of 12. Brother-in-law of Rose (King) Flaherty of Dorchester, Ann (Coyne) O'Flaherty of Shantalla, Galway and the late Jack Burke. Father-in-law of Karim Jivraj. Also survived by many nieces and nephews.

RIVA, Catherine M. (Costello) of Dorchester. Wife of the late Albert L. Riva. Mother of Maryann Riva of Weymouth, Alberta Bermingham and Peter Wiencko of Pembroke, Joseph and his wife Sue of TX, Mario and his wife Annie of Canton, Albert Riva and Angela Critelli of Quincy, Risa Riva of Dorchester, Rita Murphy and her husband John of Quincy, Angela Seelig and her husband Joe of Weymouth, and the late Catherine Riva. Grandmother of 7, and great grandmother of 6. Daughter of the late William and Mary (Dillon) Costello. Also survived by many nieces. Predeceased by her dear siblings and nephews. Donations in memory of Catherine may be made to St. Brendan's School or to Season's Hospice.



TORO, Edward L. of Dorchester. Husband of Margaret R. (Ross) Toro. Father of Gregory Toro, and David Toro and his wife Melba. Grandfather of 1. Also survived by a caring extended family. Ed was born and grew up in Manhattan. He began his career in Audiology at Mass Eye and Ear. Ed later graduated from Boston College Law School and began a career serving the public in various positions; primarily on behalf of abused and neglected children at the Department of Children and Families. In retirement, he loved being a Gallery Instructor at the Museum of Fine Arts and having more time to spend with his family.

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Meehan on UMass in 2021: 'We're hopeful' we'll be back

By Michael P. Norton
State House
News Service

Predicting more difficult times ahead, University of Massachusetts President Marty Meehan said on Sunday that UMass has been in a crisis situation since March but, he noted, it graduated 18,000 students in the spring, has held its own in retaining students, and has managed to launch a successful Covid-19 testing program.

"We're challenged, but we think that UMass is going to get out of this stronger than we got into it," Meehan said on WCVB's On the Record program. "And the fact of the matter is the Massachusetts economy needs a strong UMass. We're the third largest employer in the state. We do $684 million worth of research, so we need to build this economy and get out of this mess and UMass will lead getting us out of it."

Most students are attending UMass virtually, but the campuses have conducted more than 250,000 coronavirus tests with a 0.2 percent positive rate, Meehan said, expressing hope that a vaccine will restore normal campus operations.

University of Massachusetts President Marty Meehan: "We're challenged, but we think that [we're] going to get out of this stronger than we got into it." ***SHNS photo***

"We're hopeful that next year we're back," he said. "We do want to get students back into a situation where they're on campus as soon as we possibly can."

Meehan also said that UMass, which has waived SAT and ACT tests as part of its application, may permanently remove the tests from the application process. "Yes, we're considering that on a campus-by-campus basis. Absolutely," he said.

In sports, UMass's Division 1 basketball, hockey, and football programs are operating at the Amherst campus, with the UMass Lowell hockey team also competing in Hockey East.

"The difficulty, though, is that we don't have people in the stands," Meehan said. "We can't have people in the stands, and I look at the economics of sports, too, and one of the things we like about Hockey East - our hockey teams both in Amherst and Lowell – is that they generate the revenue to support those programs." Teams are following Covid protocols, he said, "but if we do have issues, we're simply going to have to shut it down."

The UMass system has furloughed employees as part of its plan to absorb a $350 million hit due to the pandemic, Meehan said while calling for the inclusion of public higher education in any federal relief package.

Certification ends Election 2020 in Mass.

The 2020 election came to an official end in Massachusetts on Wednesday, with a unanimous vote by the Governor's Council to certify the results. The Nov. 3 presidential election set a new turnout record and was the culmination of an unusual and extended election period in which new options for ballot-casting were offered in light the COVID-19 pandemic. According to Secretary of State William Galvin's office, 76 percent of the state's more than 4.8 million voters — or 3,657,972 people —participated in the election, and about 65 percent of those who voted did so either early in-person or by mail.

"With this certification, the 2020 Election is officially over," Galvin said. "By all measures, this was the most challenging and the most successful election year we have had in Massachusetts."

The certified results show 2,382,202 votes cast for President-elect Joe Biden, 1,167,202 for President Donald Trump, 47,013 for Libertarian Jo Jorgensen, and 18,658 for Green-Rainbow candidate Howard Hawkins.

U.S. Sen. Ed Markey received 2,357,809 votes, more than double the 1,177,765 votes earned by his Republican challenger Kevin O'Connor. Write-in Senate candidate Shiva Ayyadurai took in 21,134 votes.

Each of the seven incumbent Governor's Council members ran unopposed. Democrat Paul DePalo claimed a vacant central Massachusetts seat, with 97.4 percent of the vote over write-in candidate Peter Stefan's 0.3 percent.

- Katie Lannan/SHNS

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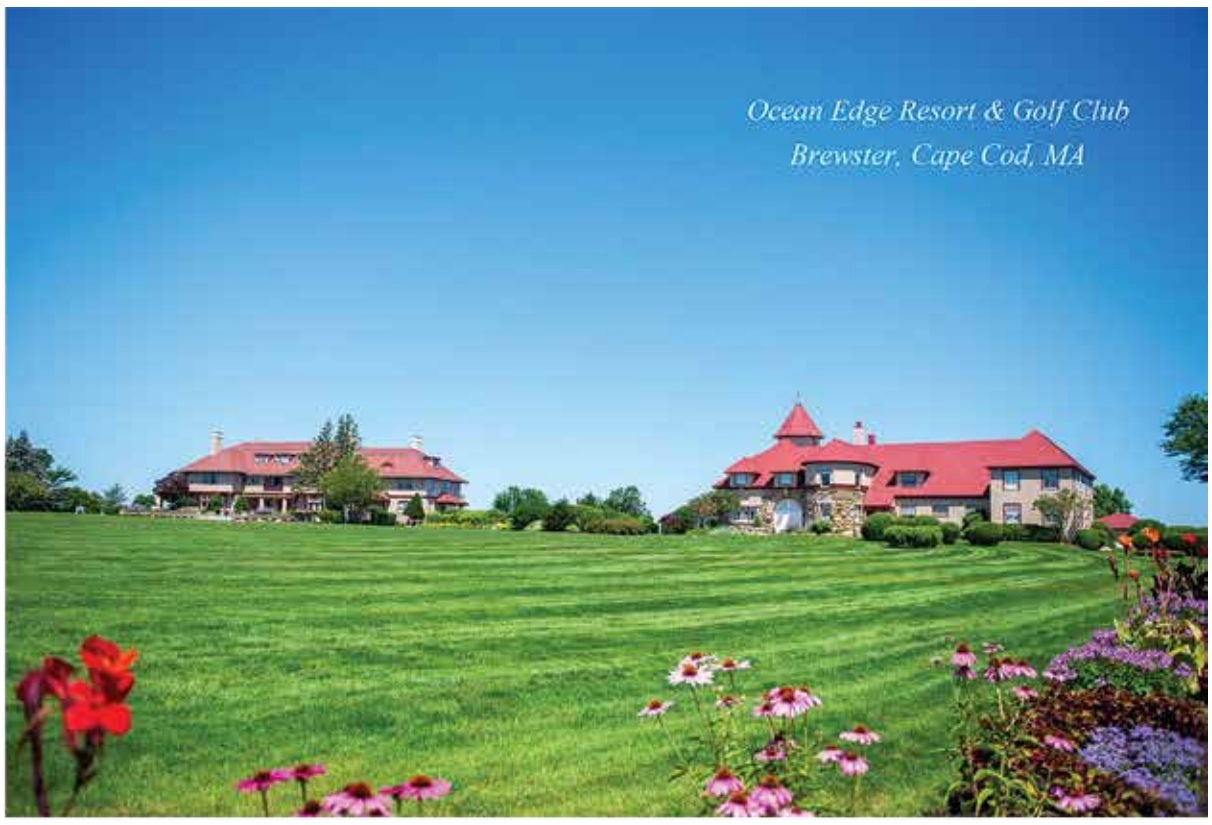

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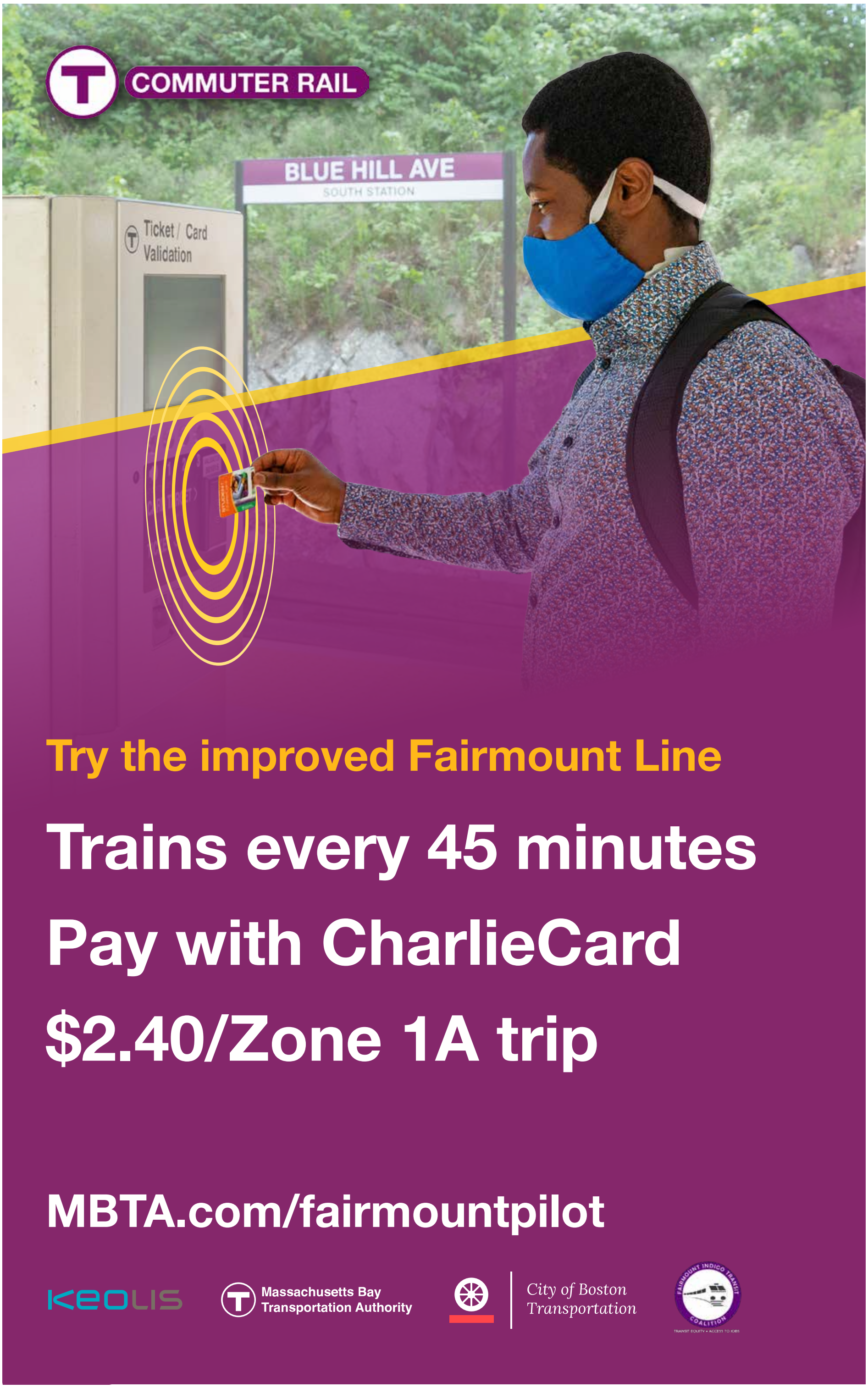
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