

# Dorchester Reporter

"The News and Values Around the Neighborhood"

Volume 36 Issue 4

Thursday, January 25, 2018

50¢

## Cedar Grove Gardens property sold, but landmark store will remain open

By BILL FORRY  
EDITOR

The owner of Cedar Grove Gardens, which has become one of Dorchester's iconic businesses since it opened in 1979, sold the Adams Street property last week, but he intends to stay open in the same location across from Cedar Grove Cemetery.

Richard O'Mara told the *Reporter* this week that he plans to keep his landmark store in operation for up to another six years through the terms of the sale, which allow him exclusive lease options for the site.

The property has been sold to Adams Street LLC. The price of the transaction has not been disclosed.

The 11,413 square-foot site at the corner of Milton Street was valued at \$799,000 by the city in its most recent assessment for tax purposes.

The 63-year-old O'Mara said that two back-to-back bouts of health scares — heart surgery in 2016, and cancer treatments last year — prompted him to think about a potential sale. His health has improved significantly in recent months, he said, but the timing was right to pull out some of the money from the property to retire debt and plan for the future.

"People should feel confident that I'll continue to run the business," said O'Mara. "I will be looking

(Continued on page 11)



Cedar Grove Gardens at 911 Adams St. has been a neighborhood anchor since 1979.

Cedar Grove Gardens photo



Students and faculty of Boston Arts Academy, above, will take over the Strand Theatre this week for the school's 20th anniversary production, "Dancing in the Streets." Photo courtesy BAA

## Boston Arts Academy students' show at Strand employs live art 'to heal and engage people'

By ELANA AURISE  
REPORTER STAFF

Boston Arts Academy (BAA) will present a three-day production of "Dancing in the Streets: A 20th Anniversary Celebration" at the Strand Theatre this week. The Motown-infused contemporary performance ties

together song and dance and features 60 student singers, dancers, and musicians. The original and collaborative performance, conceived and directed by BAA Dance Department co-chair William McLaughlin, will integrate the performers to express and

rejoice the journey of BAA.

"The students express themselves in the most unique ways and BAA gives them the opportunity to be themselves and live in their art and be respected for that," says BAA teacher Maura Tighe. "And to gain the

self-esteem they need to get to the next path."

The performances will be held this week on Thursday and Friday at 7:30 p.m., and on Saturday at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Tickets will be sold at the door with prices set at \$15 for adults and

(Continued on page 4)

## Forbes Museum exhibit recalls a special mission

By DANIEL SHEEHAN  
REPORTER STAFF

The newest exhibit at the Forbes House Museum in Milton tells the story of Captain Robert Bennet Forbes's humanitarian aid mission to Ireland during the height of the Great Potato Famine of the 1840s. It will officially be unveiled this Saturday, Jan. 27, at an open house event at the museum from 4



The wheel of the Jamestown, Captain Forbes's adapted warship. Forbes Museum photo

p.m. to 6 p.m. that will be catered by Dorchester's Greenhills Irish Bakery.

In February 1847, Ireland was experiencing a particularly harsh winter in the throes of the potato famine. Stories began to emerge of entire towns being wiped out by starvation, freezing temperatures, and famine-related diseases

(Continued on page 9)

## Elected? Selected? Councillor wants to revisit options for school panel

MADDIE KILGANNON  
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

The new chair of the City Council's Education Committee, Councillor-At-Large Annissa Essaibi-George, said this week that she wants to discuss options for how the School Committee is constituted and that she expects a hearing will be on the agenda within the next few weeks.

While conceding that the discussion might be interrupted by the budget process in the spring, the councillor said that the hearings offer a chance for the community to discuss the benefits and potential fallbacks of what she sees as three options — keep

the current model of an appointed committee; or change the city charter and allow for either a fully elected or a partly elected committee.

"Residents deserve this conversation publicly... and parents and students deserve a seat at the table," Essaibi-George said in a phone interview with the *Reporter* on Monday, adding, "I don't know what the answer is for the School Committee. This is a process that will take and should take a significant amount of time and energy."

Joining her on the council's Education panel are councillors Kim

(Continued on page 16)

## Daily Table opens Dudley Sq. location

By DANIEL SHEEHAN  
REPORTER STAFF

Mayor Martin Walsh officiated at a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new Daily Table location in Roxbury's Dudley Square last Friday. The company's second store will seek to build on the success of the original Daily Table in Codman Square.

"We've had a lot of success with the Dorchester location, so much so that people from around here would go all the way over there just for

produce," said Carolyn Luc, director of advancement at Daily Table. "Now they'll have that right here."

(Continued on page 3)



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DOT BY THE DAY  
Jan. 27 - Feb. 3, 2018  
*A snapshot look at key upcoming events in and around the neighborhood for your weekly planner.*

**Saturday (27th)** – The Dorchester Winters Farmer Market opens for the season today— and every Saturday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at The Great Hall in Codman Square, 6 Norfolk St., Dorchester through March 31. Check their Twitter feed for the latest at @dorchesterwfm.

• Join Mattapan Food and Fitness Coalition for Snow Shoeing at Boston Nature Center, 500 Walk Hill St., Mattapan from 3-4 p.m. This is a free event is an introduction to snowshoeing and snow shoes will be provided. For more info, please call 617-983-8500.

• Franklin Park Zoo fairy tale event. Meet, sing, and enjoy story time with your favorite winter princesses from 10:30-2:30 p.m. Inside the always balmy Tropical Forest, get creative at the craft table, and at 2 p.m. don't miss the zookeeper encounter at the western lowland gorilla exhibit where you can learn more about these incredible animals. For tickets and more information, visit franklinparkzoo.org.

• The YMCA of Greater Boston kicks off the '18 Summer Day Camp Season with an Open House from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Dorchester YMCA, 776 Washington St., Dorchester. Go to ymcaboston.org/camps for more information.

**Saturday (3rd)** – Boston Ward 18 Democratic Caucus – Registered Democrats in Boston's Ward 18 will hold a caucus on Sat., Feb. 3 at 10 a.m. at the Hyde Park Municipal Building, 1179 River St. to elect delegates and alternates to the 2018 Massachusetts Democratic State Convention. This year's convention will be held June 1-2 at the DCU Center in Worcester. Those interested in getting involved with Boston's Ward 18 Democratic Town Committee should e-mail Rob Consalvo, Ward Committee Chair at ward18boston@gmail.com.

• Dorchester Day Parade Committee's second annual Character Breakfast to raise funds for the June parade is set for at 9:30 a.m. at First Parish Dorchester atop Meetinghouse Hill. Characters such as Poppy and Branch from Trolls, Batman, Minions, Mickey, Minnie, Moana, Peppa Pig, Cookie Monster and Elmo will be on the scene. A delicious breakfast will be served by Season's Catering and ice cream will be available from Chill on Park. \$20 per adult, \$10 per child 12 and under. Children under 2 are free.

January 25, 2018	
Boys & Girls Club News .....	17
Opinion/Editorial/Letters .....	8
Neighborhood Notables.....	10
Business Directory.....	14
Calendar .....	15
Obituaries .....	18
Days Remaining Until	
Presidents' Day .....	25
Patriots' Day .....	81
Memorial Day .....	123
Dorchester Day.....	129
Quadricentennial of Dot..	4,608

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A rendering shows the proposed re-development project at 1120-1132 Washington St. in Lower Mills. Image courtesy Epsilon Associates, Inc.

Lower Mills housing proposal to get public review next month

A community board appointed to review a proposed four-story housing development on Washington Street in Lower Mills met on Monday evening at Carney Hospital.

The Impact Advisory Group, which includes members of the Lower Mills Civic Association and abutters to the site at 1120-1132 Washington St., huddled with representatives of City Point Center LLC to discuss the proposed

building, which would occupy six lots, including the former Molloy's funeral home.

The 66,859 square-foot building, if it wins approval from the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA), would include 57 units of housing. In documents filed with the city last year, the proponents said that they intended to sell the units as condos, but reserved the right to convert the project into a rental apartment

complex instead.

Michael Rooney, the project manager for the BPDA, said that the next step in the process will be a public meeting, which he expects will be held in mid-February. The IAG will also meet at least one more time, Rooney said. Public comments on the plan, which can be reviewed online at the BPDA website, are now being accepted through Feb. 23.

– BILL FORRY

Two years after cancellation, T revisiting late-night bus service

By ANDY METZGER  
STATE HOUSE  
NEWS SERVICE

Nearly two years after canceling its special late-night weekend bus and train service, the MBTA is asking for proposals to run bus service daily from 1 a.m. to 4:15 a.m. from Mattapan to Chelsea starting in July.

"We're trying to see what the appetite is to provide this service, what the cost of the service would be, and then we'll try to make a thoughtful decision about what's a sustainable financial model for night bus service that's also consistent with kind of our previous actions around what's financially sustainable for the T," MBTA Fiscal

and Management Control Board member Steve Poftak told reporters on Monday.

The T wants a vendor who can provide vehicles, drivers, and supervision for a pilot program of overnight bus service, according to a request for responses issued Friday. The pilot would create "24-hour service for MBTA customers," the MBTA wrote in a solicitation, saying the planned route "runs from Mattapan through Downtown Boston to East Boston to Chelsea."

WGBH reported on the solicitation Monday morning.

In February 2016, the MBTA Fiscal and Management Control Board decided to cancel

its extended weekend service because of declining popularity, high costs, and competing needs to perform track work during the over-night hours.

Bids are due Feb. 14 and the contract would run one year starting July 1 with two one-year extension options, according to the solicitation, which noted the service would be evaluated after nine months.

During the pilot period the service would be operated without fare collection, according to the solicitation.

"So we're looking forward to getting responses but we'll have to see what comes in," said Poftak.



BPD: Fields Corner raid nets illegal guns, drugs

An early-morning raid at a Fields Corner house on Saturday netted two illegal guns and a small quantity of crack cocaine. Two men — Lacroix Pledger, 20, and Mysiah Pledger, 18— were arrested at the scene of the search warrant at 73 Charles St. and charged with a series of drug and firearm offenses. A police SWAT team joined the C-11 drug unit in the action, which took place around 1:30 a.m. The items confiscated included a loaded Kel-Tec PF9 9mm gun with obliterated serial number and a loaded .22 caliber LA's Deputy pistol. Boston Police say they have obtained a warrant to arrest a third man on firearm related charges.

Suspect held in connection with store robberies

A 35-year-old Mattapan man was arrested last week for allegedly robbing several stores in the city over the last few weeks. Thomas Huggins was arrested on Jan. 16 after what police say was a "violent struggle" in his residence. He was later charged with illegal gun possession for a 9mm police confiscated from his home— along with a series of armed robberies in Brighton and Mattapan. Boston Police say that Huggins robbed six stores in the city at gunpoint, including a Cricket Wireless and Papa John's pizza shop on River Street.

Many voices, many perspectives, many ideas. Here, they come together.

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UPCOMING CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEETINGS • FULL LISTINGS ON PAGE 10

**McConnell Park Community Meeting on Jan. 25** – The Boston Parks and Recreation Department invites the public to a meeting regarding capital renovations to McConnell Park located at 30 Denny St. in Dorchester. The meeting is Thurs., Jan. 25 at 6:30 p.m. at Cristo Rey High School Boston, 100 Savin Hill Ave., Dorchester. For further information, please call 617-961-3058.

**Bowling event boosts Dot Day efforts** – The first annual Gutterball Bash, an 21-plus event to benefit the Dorchester Day Parade Committee, will be held on Thurs., Feb. 1 from 7-9 p.m. at Boston Bowl's Experience room, 820 Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester. The cost is \$25 per person and includes shoe rental, bowling, pizza and appetizers. There will also be a cash bar. Tickets will be sold at the door.

**Chili Cook-off Kicks off Dot Day season** – 12th annual Dorchester Chili Cook-off, a major fundraiser for the Dorchester Day Parade on Sunday, March 11 from 4-7 p.m.

at the IBEW Local 103 Hall, 256 Freeport St., Dorchester.

**Dot Day Parade Character Breakfast on March 3** – Dorchester Day Parade Committee's second annual Character Breakfast to raise funds for the June parade is set for Saturday, March 3 at 9:30 a.m. at First Parish Dorchester atop Meetinghouse Hill. Characters such as Poppy and Branch from Trolls, Batman, Minions, Mickey, Minnie, Moana, Peppa Pig, Cookie Monster and Elmo will be on the scene. A delicious breakfast will be served by Season's Catering and ice cream will be available from Chill on Park. \$20 per adult, \$10 per child 12 and under. Children under 2 are free.

**Free Tax Clinics in Codman Square** – Taxpayers who earned less than \$54,000 in 2017 can have their taxes prepared, and claim important tax credits such as the Earned Income Tax Credit, at free tax clinics held at the Wellness and Fitness Center, at 450 Washington St. Dorchester,

running through April. Hours are Mondays and Tuesdays from 4-8 p.m. and Saturdays from 9-1 p.m. The free tax preparation is offered by the Codman Square Health Center in partnership with the Boston Tax Help Coalition.

**Boston Ward 18 Democratic Caucus** – Registered Democrats in Boston's Ward 18 will hold a caucus on Sat., Feb. 3 at 10 a.m. at the Hyde Park Municipal Building, 1179 River St. to elect delegates and alternates to the 2018 Massachusetts Democratic State Convention. This year's state convention will be held June 1-2 at the DCU Center in Worcester. Those interested in getting involved with Boston's Ward 18 Democratic Town Committee should e-mail Rob Consalvo, Ward Committee Chair at ward18boston@gmail.com.

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# Daily Table opens second location in Dudley Square

(Continued from page 1)

Daily Table is a not-for-profit business leading the charge for greater access to fresh, healthy, and affordable foods in Boston's neighborhoods. Doug Rauch, its founder and president and former president of Trader Joe's, described his vision for the business at a press conference preceding last week's ceremony.

"Daily Table's designed around tackling this issue of food insecurity and access to healthy, nutritious foods for all at any budget, and doing it in a manner where it's at a dignified setting where people feel better after they've exchanged and interacted with you," Rauch said. "This way people have a sense of agency, of coming and choosing and picking foods to provide for their families."

As with the Dorchester location, the Roxbury store will stock recovered foods as a manner of offering affordable products while at the same time reducing food waste.

"The primary way we stock the store is through recovered foods, so we work with a lot of vendors who are going to essentially get rid of their food because it's approaching the sell by date," explained Luc. "So we're able to work with them to get a lot of produce before it's wasted and thrown away."

All donated and purchased foods are held to nutritional standards, which means



Mayor Walsh participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Friday celebrating the opening of Daily Table's new Roxbury location. From left: Doug Rauch, Daily Table founder and president; Martin Clark, store manager; the mayor; John Lebeaux, Mass. Agricultural Commissioner.

Photo courtesy the Mayor's office

Daily Table will not carry certain unhealthy products such as sugary snacks and drinks.

"We offer voluntary nutritional guidelines, so that limits the amount of food that can be donated," said Luc.

"When you come to Daily Table, you'll find organic items, occasionally you'll find items from Whole Foods, Organic Valley or Amazon Fresh, which is one of our big partners. It varies depending on the day, but we do have

high quality items."

Daily Table was one of the businesses chosen as a recipient of the state's Massachusetts Food Venture Grant, which it used to help complete the final phase of construction.

In the press conference, Mayor Walsh extolled the opportunities that a new Daily Table location will provide.

"Food insecurity is a big issue," he said. "It's been a big issue in this particular neighborhood for a long time.

Two out of every ten families in Boston are struggling for access to good, healthy food. Here, that will be available seven days a week."

The mayor went on to explain how a pilot program in East Boston was showing the effects of nutrition on young people, in particular. "It's showing that young people are learning better and are better prepared in class because they're getting good healthy food. On top of that, Daily Table will be an important employment agency where a lot of young people get their start in business."

Luc said the business would bring about fifteen new full and part-time jobs to the community, with an emphasis on hiring locally.

Daily Table will complement other local supermarkets like Tropical Foods on Melnea Cass Blvd. to provide another affordable option for Roxbury residents. "We see ourselves as part of the food shopping experience," said Luc. "Our intent is not to be the sole place where you get all your groceries, but we're gonna be where you can get your core items: your dairy, your meat, your bread, your eggs, and your produce."

The Roxbury location is scheduled to officially open for business on Friday, January 26. Membership is free and open to all, and the store will accept cash, credit, EBT and SNAP.



A look inside the new store in Dudley Square.

Daniel Sheehan photo

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# In Uphams Corner, discussing the interplay between the new library and the next-door Strand Theatre

By JENNIFER SMITH  
NEWS EDITOR

Planners and community members are working to stitch together ideas for the new \$18 million Uphams Corner library and updates to its neighbor, the iconic Strand Theatre, as the village’s planning implementation process chugs along.

About 50 people participated in a group discussion at the Cape Verdean Adult Day Care center on Hancock Street on Jan. 17 where they considered the pros and cons of alterations to the Strand and imaginative connections to a next-door library with 21st century features.

Colorful cards speckled the walls, remnants from a November meeting on the future of the Strand. Comments on them addressed programming and performance spaces, the theatre as a cultural hub, gentrification, a sustainable business

model for the theatre, its role as a center for arts in the community, the library as a complementary resource – and the time frame for the planning process.

Feedback from the Jan. 17 meeting will inform a follow-up meeting on Wed., Feb. 28.

Some capital improvements are already under way at the Strand, said Julie Burros, the city’s chief of arts and culture. Modifications will bring it up to code, “particularly with life safety and accessibility for people with disabilities,” she said. The theatre is closed while construction is ongoing.

Priscilla Foley, director of neighborhood services for the Boston Public Library, said the library was sorting through requests from community members on aspects of the new facility – green space, a community art tie-in, and gallery areas – that could be included in the

planning.

“We want the operation of the library to be as flexible and accessible as possible,” she said.

As to the Strand, the use of the 1,400-seat theatre can be limited by its monolithic nature – renting it out means booking the entire building, even if only a small portion is needed. Community members were asked to consider whether its should be preserved in its entirety, partitioned in some way, and to what extent should it interact with the new library.

The Uphams Corner Implementation Plan will stretch out across two phases. The first, about planning, is under way and will conclude with the city releasing a Request For Proposals this spring. Officials expect to select development teams next fall after considering RFP responses, with the ultimate goal of kicking off 24-30 months of con-

struction on the parcels in the fall of 2019.

“This is about development without displacement,” said John Barros, the city’s chief of economic development. “In fact, this is a pilot project for the city. We are trying to figure out if the city can come in before a neighborhood flips, and do as much value capture as possible, so that we can have as much affordability as possible.” He added, “We think that there is a way to develop, improve, enhance the Strand and make sure we do that for the residents who live here now, and not for some other group of people who can afford it if they’re priced out.”

The planning process is focused on a number of city and land-trust-owned parcels in Uphams Corner. The city has partnered with Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative, a local land trust, to buy several parcels around

the prominent Columbia Road and Dudley Street intersection, including two early 20th century bank buildings and adjacent parking lots.

Barros noted other community partners “with land that we do not own, who are game to work with us,” saying the Santander Bank branch at the corner of Stoughton Street and Columbia Road “is in this process” and Uphams Corner Health Center is “entertaining their sites.”

Initial implementation plan materials identified other key Uphams Corner sites for “potential redevelopment,” including the Santander location, the Maxwell property on East Cottage Street, ATCO Supply parcels on Columbia Road, retail parcels on Hancock Street, and the Leon Electric Building, a longtime neighborhood frustration abutting the Uphams Corner

commuter rail station. Although the focus of Wednesday’s meeting was the connection between a new library and the Strand, the city continues to weigh its options regarding other parcels.

“We recognize that as soon as we started doing this, that some other folks – and this is what happens in the real estate market – start thinking about how much more they can sell their property for,” Barros said.

If this implementation process is successful, then RFPs could inform similar planning across the city, said Barros. “Once we get this right,” he added, “we’re going to scale this throughout the city and do more of this, where the city goes in ahead and tries to assemble as much property as possible before the private market comes in and gobbles it all up.”

## Arts Academy show at Strand employs live art ‘to heal and engage people’

(Continued from page 1) \$10 for children and seniors.

The Strand has become an important venue for BAA, the city’s only public high school for the visual and performing

arts, which is located next to Fenway Park. The city-owned theatre on Columbia Road has hosted the academy’s annual concert since 2015, bringing in large audiences for shows in-

cluding “In the Heights” and “The Wiz.”

More than 3,000 people watched last year’s production, “The Wiz,” over three shows. It was a huge show of support for the school

and for the theatre.

Johnny Del Jesus, a student and performer, said this season’s presentation is preparing him for his career. “My artistry is expanding. My performance quality

is getting better. As a dancer, I feel really strong and I’m developing versatility,” he said.

Tighe described the performance as abstract, but in a connected way. The first act will tell a story, the intermission will include a slide show, and the last act will feature dancers and musicians doing solos on stage.


The academy will host a special reception on Friday to honor Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey. The ticketed reception (\$100) includes admission to the show and benefits the school. Healey is being honored for a “career spent fighting for social justice and equal rights, as well as her incredible passion for the arts,” according to the school.

Tighe, who has been teaching and producing events for the past eight years, wants the audience to perceive how vital a role BAA plays in Boston neighborhoods. “We’re hoping that people see Dorchester, Roxbury, and Mattapan, and how these neighborhoods have a vibrant cultural life, and how these kids have a cultural life to share,” she said. “Last year, we had our show right after the election and it was a healing place. People really felt the power of performance and art. We want to make that part of what we do all the time.

“Everyone needs to be happy,” she added. “Things are so tense right now, and we want to celebrate our diversity, our talent, and our neighborhoods.”

“The show is a piece of social justice that uses art to heal and engage people, and to bring people under one roof,” said Tighe. “[Healey] has been so integral to some of the issues we really care about, and that Boston cares about. It was the right time to acknowledge her. She’s really a force and a change agent, and we feel like in our own way, we are too.”

BAA acknowledges that they want people to see the performance whether they can purchase tickets or not. The doors are open. To donate to Boston Arts Academy or to buy tickets to “Dancing in the Streets,” please visit [bostonartsacademy.org/dancinginthestreets](http://bostonartsacademy.org/dancinginthestreets).



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# Alvin Ailey dance workshops set for Dot, Roxbury

BY ELANA AURISE  
REPORTER STAFF

Celebrity Series of Boston will host two free public workshops next month offering Boston area residents of all ages and abilities the opportunity to learn and perform choreography from Alvin Ailey's best-known modern dance work, "Revelations."

The workshops will take place on Saturday, February 24 at 1:30 p.m. at the Salvation Army Kroc Center Gym, 650 Dudley St., Dorchester and Sunday, February 25 at 2:30 p.m. at the Reggie Lewis Athletic Center, 1350 Tremont St., Roxbury.

The "Revelations Celebration Community Workshop" is part of Celebrity Series' 50th anniversary celebration of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's 1968 Boston debut. The workshops will be led by former Alvin Ailey dancer and Master Teacher Nasha Thomas and Ailey teaching artist Cheryl Rowley-Gaskins. "Revelations" was in-



Three dancers from the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater visited Henderson Upper School in Dorchester on Jan 19, sponsored by the Celebrity Series of Boston for its celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Ailey company's 1958 Boston debut. Shown above l-r: Belen Pereyra-Alem, dancer; Shaumba Dibinga, Henderson School dance teacher; Chalvar Monteiro, dancer; Solomon Dumas, dancer; Shekia Scott, from the office of City Councillor Andrea Robert Torres photo

spired by Alvin Ailey's childhood memories of his Baptist church in Texas, which created a dance work inspired by the universal messages of grace, spirituality and hope. The workshops will feature choreography from the dances "I Been 'Buked," "Wade in the Water," and "Rocka My Soul" sections. Families, children, dancers and non-dancers are encouraged to join this fun, inclusive and rare event.

"The most common thing I hear from audiences at our Ailey performance is, 'I wish I could dance like that.' We're excited to give people a chance to do it now [...]" said Celebrity Series President and Executive Director Gary Dunning. "At Celebrity Series, we believe live performance is a life-long, shared and valued experience, whether on stage, in schools, at home, or in public places." Each class will include

props used onstage in "Revelations" and live music from Ailey teaching artist and percussionist, Roderick Jackson. Before the Dorchester workshop begins, The St. Paul AME Church choir led by Donnell Patterson will perform. Comfortable clothes or dancewear is suggested. All are welcome. Pre-registration for the workshops is required. For more information, visit [celebrityseries.org/ailey50](http://celebrityseries.org/ailey50).

# Milton Players take on the Sycamores in latest production

BY ELANA AURISE  
REPORTER STAFF

The Milton Players will perform the classic-comedy production of "You Can't Take It With You," a Pulitzer Prize-winning American tale centered around the Sycamore family. The show will feature Dorchester resident Katie Weintraub, who has previously performed with the Company Theatre and Boston College Theatre. She joined The Milton Players this year and will portray the "normal" member of the Sycamore family, Alice. Directed by Ed

Churchill, the play is a social commentary about an eccentric family full of colorful characters that will leave the audience with a timeless message full of hope for humanity. Performances will be held on Friday, January 26 and Saturday, January 27 at 8 p.m., Friday, February 2 and Saturday, February 3 at 8 p.m. with a matinee performance on Sunday, February 4 at 2 p.m. at the Pappas Rehabilitation Hospital for Children, 3 Randolph St. in Canton. The theatre is handicap accessible and all shows include free parking. All evening performances include complimentary wine, cheese and crackers. Seating is cabaret



Carolyn Cafarelli, left and Dorchester's Katie Weintraub in a scene from "You Can't Take It With You." Elizabeth Bean photo

style with four seats to a table. For additional information or to buy tickets, visit [miltonplayers.org](http://miltonplayers.org) or call 617-698-7469.

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Grove Hall  
41 Geneva Avenue • 617-427-3337

Mattapan Branch  
1350 Blue Hill Avenue, Mattapan • 617-298-9218

**ADAMS STREET BRANCH**

**Thurs., Jan. 25,** 10:30 a.m. – Baby & Toddler Time; 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help; 4:30 p.m. – LEGOs Builders Club. **Fri., Jan. 26,** 9:30 a.m. – Baby & Toddler Playgroup. **Mon., Jan. 29,** 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help. **Tues., Jan. 30,** 10:30 a.m. – Preschool Story Time; 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help; 4:30 p.m. – Kids' Art Club. **Wed., Jan. 31,** 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help. **Thurs., Feb. 1,** 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help; 4:30 p.m. – LEGOs Builders Club. **Fri., Feb. 2,** 9:30 a.m. – Baby & Toddler Playgroup. **Mon., Feb. 5,** 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help. **Tues., Feb. 6,** 10:30 a.m. – Preschool Story Time; 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help; 4:30 p.m. – Kids' Art Club.

**CODMAN SQUARE BRANCH**

**Thurs., Jan. 25,** 2 p.m. – Black History on Line; 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help. **Mon., Jan. 29,** 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help. **Tues., Jan. 30,** 10:30 a.m. – Quilt Making for Generations; 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help. **Wed., Jan. 31,** 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help. **Thurs., Feb. 1,** 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help. **Mon., Feb. 5,** 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help. **Tues., Feb. 6,** 10:30 a.m. – Quilt Making for Generations; 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help.

**FIELDS CORNER BRANCH**

**Thurs., Jan. 25,** 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help. **Fri., Jan. 26,** 9:30 a.m. – Lapsit Story Time; 10:30 a.m. – Reading Readiness. **Mon., Jan. 29,** 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help. **Tues., Jan. 30,** 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help; 6 p.m. – Hatha Yoga. **Wed., Jan. 31,** 10:30 a.m. – Preschool Films and Fun; 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help. **Thurs., Feb. 1,** 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help. **Fri., Feb. 2,** 9:30 a.m. – Lapsit Story Time; 10:30 a.m. – Reading Readiness.

**GROVE HALL BRANCH**

**Thurs., Jan. 25,** 3 p.m. – USCIS Information Hours at Boston Public Library Branches; 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help; 5:30 p.m. – Thursday Night Movies. **Fri., Jan. 26,** 10:30 a.m. – Preschool Movies. **Sat., Jan. 27,** 1 p.m. – Girls Who Code. **Mon., Jan. 29,** 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help. **Tues., Jan. 30,** 10:15 a.m. – ESL High-Beginner English; 10:30 a.m. – Preschool Story Time; 3:30 p.m. – Free Drop-In Homework Help. **Wed., Jan. 31,** 11 a.m. – Toddler Time 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help. **Thurs., Feb. 1,** 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help. **Fri., Feb. 2,** 10:30 a.m. – Preschool Movies. **Sat., Feb. 3,** 12 p.m. – Peter Rabbit Craft Party; 1 p.m. – Hollywood Goes to School.

**LOWER MILLS BRANCH**

**Thurs., Jan. 25,** 1 p.m. – Drop-In Computer Help; 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help. **Fri., Jan. 26,** 1 p.m. – Grace Kelly Movie Series. **Mon., Jan. 29,** 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help; 7 p.m. – Pajama Storytime. **Tues., Jan. 30,** 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help. **Wed., Jan. 31,** 10:30 a.m. – Music & Movement; 12 p.m. – Mosaic Workshop; 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help. **Thurs., Feb. 1,** 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help.

**MATTAPAN BRANCH**

**Thurs. Jan. 25,** 2:30 p.m. – 90s Nostalgia; 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help; 5 p.m. – Technology Series: Drop-Ins; 6:30 p.m. – Yoga. **Fri., Jan. 26,** 2:30 p.m. – Movie Friday. **Sat., Jan. 27,** 10 a.m. – 4Spirit/4You/4L Story Time; 2 p.m. – Teen Resume Building. **Mon., Jan. 29,** 10:30 a.m. – HISET/GED Preparation Class; 2:30 p.m. – Cartoon Afternoon; 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help. **Tues., Jan. 30,** 12 p.m. – Towering Tots; 2:30 p.m. – 90s Nostalgia; 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help; 5 p.m. – Technology Series: Drop-Ins. **Wed., Jan. 31,** 10:30 a.m. – HISET/GED Preparation Class; 2:30 p.m. – Cartoon Afternoon; 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help. **Thurs., Feb. 1,** 2:30 p.m. – 90s Nostalgia; 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help; 6:30 p.m. – Yoga. **Fri., Feb. 2,** 2:30 p.m. – Movie Friday. **Sat., Feb. 3,** 2:30 p.m. – Creole for Beginners.

**UPHAMS CORNER BRANCH**

**Thurs., Jan. 25,** 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help. **Mon., Jan. 29,** 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help. **Tues., Jan. 30,** 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help. **Wed., Jan. 31,** 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help. **Thurs., Feb. 1,** 3:30 p.m. – Drop-In Homework Help.

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# Dot's Colon plans first Boston run to help domestic violence survivors

**BY ELANA AURISE  
REPORTER STAFF**

Dorchester native Jeremy Colon, 25, will run in the Boston Marathon for the first time this year. Founder of Jeremy Colon Enterprises, a physical fitness center focused on mind and body transformation, Colon is running because he wants to continue to help survivors of domestic violence. He is competing as a member of Team Casa Myrna, Boston's leading women's shelter for survivors of domestic violence.

A certified personal trainer and life coach, Colon earned his certification while working towards his degree in business management at Lesley University. He developed and executed the idea of an in-home training facility with a more personal and private approach for the people he trains. He



Jeremy Colon running in the TCS NYC Marathon on Nov. 5.  
Team for Kids/New York Road Runners photo

has his clients focus on progressing to the next level of self-sufficiency through goal-setting not only for their physical fitness, but also for their mental well-being.

Colon chose to help raise funds for Casa Myrna, an organization that offers services, shelter, and support to over 1,000 survivors each year.

"Not all violence has to be physical," he said.

"It can be emotional, too. When I was in that situation, it brought me down and I didn't feel like myself anymore. Nonetheless, it was damaging, and it left a scar on me. When the

opportunity came up to run for Casa, it was a no-brainer for me to do something for those that were in the same boat."

A survivor himself, Colon wants to give a voice to the voiceless. He wants to raise awareness about the root causes of domestic violence and how people can start over and get back on their feet.

"A lot of things happen in our homes and in our lives that we don't speak about. I want to spread awareness and let those know that there's an option. There's hope, and they can get out of those situations," expressed Colon. "I didn't talk to anyone because I was stubborn. We can't always do everything by ourselves, and there are people out there that are willing to help. There's always a way out so that's why I'm running; for them. I want to give them that option."

Colon completed the NYC Marathon last November, but he's preparing for April's Boston Marathon by customizing his program with kickboxing and hit-training in addition to running four times a week.

Amid the training haze, Colon will focus his fundraising efforts to reach his \$10,000 goal by putting together charity boot camps at kickboxing gyms in Quincy and hosting various events at restaurants and breweries in and around the Boston area.

To learn more about Casa Myrna and donate to Colon's cause, visit his fundraising page at [bit.ly/JeremyColon](http://bit.ly/JeremyColon). If you'd like to mail a donation, please make it out and send it to: Jeremy Colon's Marathon Fundraiser, 53 Edwin St., Dorchester, 02124.

# Codman Academy students mail messages to White House

**BY ELANA AURISE  
REPORTER STAFF**

Students from Codman Academy Charter School marched to the nearby Codman Square post office last Friday to mail hand-written postcards and letters to President Donald J. Trump about kindness and inclusion.

The letter-writing campaign started after staff, families and students were upset, angered and saddened by the alleged derogatory comments made by President Trump about people in Haiti and Africa this month.

"In a staff meeting, we discussed ways to respond positively and spread messages of love, kindness and inclusion throughout our country.

We thought the first place to start would be in the most iconic places we have, the White House," said Pamela Casna, K1-8 principal at Codman Academy. "We shared our plans with families, invited them to join and then gave the students the time and space to write messages to President Trump."

K1-4 students worked on postcards and grades 5-8 wrote their own letters and offered support to the younger students. The students mailed 125 postcards and letters that expressed and addressed the importance of kindness, respect and love for others, according to Casna.

"We are a social justice school and we will work hard to build our

students up. We will work even harder to do so when we hear or see things that are trying to tear them down. Whether the words were true or not, they were echoed throughout our news stations, households and public spaces," said Casna. "The damage of hearing messages of hate about all that makes you you can only be voided with consistent, loud and clear messages of love about all that makes you, you. We will continue to provide those messages to our students, our community and our leaders."

**Second and third grade students with their postcards.**  
*Photo courtesy Thabiti Brown/Codman Academy*



## YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE

DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tenean Creek, now filled in and covered over, was one of Dorchester's distinctive early geographic features. Its serpentine route can be best seen on this 1850 map of Dorchester.

The mouth of the creek was located at approximately where the Stop & Shop is now at the bottom of Pope's Hill. The neighboring Murphy School sits on part of the filled-in creek, which stretched from there northward past Park Street. The Philip McMorrow Playground, between the Murphy School and Victory Road, is on the creek site that was filled, as was the land where the Armory is located on the north side of Victory Road, formerly Mill Street.

In the illustration, there is a circle with a cross in it that indicates a mill at the Armory location. That was the Breck mill, which was built in the 17th century to use rising tides to fill the mill pond. By the time the map was drawn, the property



**Tenean Creek**  
belonged to the Blake and Tileston families. North of Mill Street, Tenean Creek meandered up to Park Street and

a little beyond. Since the creek was navigable by small boats, it was useful for low-level shipping. When the Old Colony Railroad was constructed to the east of the creek, it seemed logical to create a street next the railroad, giving property owners access to the creek.

Field and Drake had their business there on Exchange Street, a precursor to the Field's Store in Fields Corner. The Mattapan Bank was located here. Exchange Street is now gone along with the creek, replaced by Mapes Street, which is lined with industrial and commercial properties.

The flat nature of the filled-in land is now the only reminder that Tenean Creek once flowed across the neighborhood.

You can reach us at [dorchester-historical-society.org](http://dorchester-historical-society.org). Check out the Society's online catalog at [Dorchester.pastperfectonline.com](http://Dorchester.pastperfectonline.com); the archive of these historical posts can be viewed on the website.



Editorial

# Widening the assault on opioid abuse

The city of Boston is preparing to open a new front in the widening offensive against the scourge of opioid addiction and overdoses. Mayor Martin Walsh said this week that he will invite attorneys and public health experts to respond to a Request for Information next month as his administration weighs legal action against pharmaceutical companies that he blames for flooding the market with lethal medications.

“I strongly believe that the pharmaceutical industry is the main offender and sustainer of the opioid crisis,” Walsh said in a remarkably blunt statement released by his office this week. “Their distribution and marketing of narcotics is unforgivingly reckless, causing irreversible devastation to our families and significant damages to cities nationwide.”

On Wednesday, two of the city’s four at-large councillors—Dorchester’s Ayanna Pressley and Annisssa Essaibi-George—signaled support for such legal action. They plan a hearing to review the results of Walsh’s RFI.

Essaibi-George called the opioid epidemic “the most pressing public health challenge of this generation.” She added: “Pharmaceutical companies should be held responsible for the unethical practices that contributed to this crisis.”

Pressley agreed, adding that she’s encouraged by the collective approach to treating the crisis as a public health issue, rather than criminalizing victims.

“For many of us who struggled as our loved ones and friends fell victim to the crack epidemic in the 1980s and were met with criminalization, I am encouraged by our collective response to treat this epidemic for what it is— a public health issue,” said Pressley.

The RFI will be issued on Mon., Feb. 5. Walsh’s office says city attorneys have already begun meeting with law firms to prepare for “potential litigation.”

In his State of the City address, Walsh pledged to rebuild the bridge to Long Island and invest in “a comprehensive, long-term recovery facility” on the city-owned island. Clearly, the city is tracking toward seeking a judgment against the drug companies that will help defray the costs of abuse and recovery and emergency services— much of it absorbed by the city.

Boston’s moves come as Gov. Charlie Baker has unveiled his latest comprehensive plan for attacking the problem statewide. A central element of Baker’s proposal would authorize doctors to commit addicts against their will for up to 72 hours of treatment, a potentially life-saving order that did not make it into the last state opioid law passed in 2016.

Baker says it’s time to revisit the idea— and Walsh agrees. “I think sometimes the 72-hour notice might give a little clarity to the person that might be under the influence of drugs or alcohol in a severe way and also there’s an opportunity there to get them into treatment,” the mayor told reporters last week.

We agree. Let’s use every tool at our disposal.

– Bill Forry

### Correction

A story in last week’s *Reporter* about a homelessness prevention program that offers financial assistance to eligible households misidentified the organization that administers the program. The correct name of the organization that runs the Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) program is Metro Housing/Boston, a non-profit that is not affiliated with the state government.

The article also incorrectly named a RAFT case manager, who was quoted discussing the program. The correct name is Darnell Wallace. The *Reporter* regrets the errors.

– Bill Forry

## The Reporter

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Dorchester Youth Hockey’s Squirt AA team celebrated after winning the district championship after defeating Winthrop 5-0 on Jan. 15 at Dorchester’s Devine Rink. The boys are coached by Sean Coppney, Pat Brophy and Mark Loschiavo. The players include James Neff, Jack Coppney, Finbar Brophy, Nick Loschiavo, Dominic Conte, Kevin Fitzgerald, Max Ryan, Charlie Kelly, Conor Kelly, Robert Lavey, Conrad Magoon, Thomas Misilo, Conor Olsen and Liam Tangney. The team next plays for a state championship in March.

Photo courtesy Christopher Neff

Commentary

# Fulfilling a lifelong dream

By Roy Lincoln Karp

When I was a boy, I had a secret hiding place in a musty closet in my bedroom, a room that doubled as my father’s office. I would scamper up a set of angled shoe shelves, past out of season clothing, to the very top of the closet. This was my office. Like my father’s work space, it was equipped notebooks, pens, and an old-fashioned typewriter. In my mind, I was a writer who, like my dad, used words to expose the wrongdoings of the bad people.

Looking back on this memory, I am struck by my lack of creativity. I had no castles to storm or dragons to slay. I created a fantasy world in a closet that was a little kid’s version of the world right outside that closet. My imagination took me no more than several feet from my lived experience as the son of a working writer. This was the fantasy of a child who felt safe and comfortable, who felt no psychic need to escape to a different world.

What I wanted more than anything else was to feel connected to my dad. He was my greatest hero, my knight, my dragon slayer. His life work as a political writer was a noble calling, one in which I took great pride. My sister once recalled how much she loved writing “Freelance Writer” in school forms asking for our father’s occupation because it had the word “free” in it. Our father was beholden to no one, and with his freedom he wrote biting critiques of the most powerful people and institutions in America.

When my father passed away after my freshman year of high school, my childhood sense of safety came to an abrupt end. I can still remember the last time I saw him alive. I was heading to my aunt’s house on Long Island to get out of the city for a few weeks. My father and I said goodbye to each other and I went into the hallway to wait for the elevator. But then I went back into the apartment. I stood silently by the closet in my bedroom as I watched my father working at his desk. “Goodbye Dad,” I called out, but he was deep in thought and did not hear me. He died a few weeks later in St. Luke’s-Roosevelt Hospital due to complications from a colon infection. He was 55 years old.

During my senior year, I started a student newspaper, The Free Spirit, which I dedicated to my father’s memory. The paper featured lengthy political essays with strident headlines like, “How our School System Stifles Free Thinking” and “Why We Won’t Be Drug Free, Just Unfree.” When administrators at my school threatened to suspend me and my peers for distributing the newspaper on school grounds, we waged a successful campaign for our First Amendment rights.

As I entered adulthood, though, I put aside my dream of becoming a writer. I did not want to

live beneath the long shadow cast by my father, who wrote six books and was a contributing editor at Harper’s and American Heritage. Instead, I charted my own career path in the field of secondary education. I took on a variety of roles including teacher, mock trial coach, curriculum writer, and most recently director of an alternative high school in Lowell for students facing significant barriers to their education.

In November 2014, I stepped down from my job to care for my daughter Lucy, a micro-preemie with complex medical needs. I’ve been a full-time stay at home dad since my wife Courtney and I brought Lucy home from the Beth Israel NICU, where she spent the first five months of her life. Lucy came home requiring 24/7 Oxygen support through a nasal cannula. We also had to monitor her heart rate and blood oxygenation levels day and night and feed her exclusively by feeding tube.

Lucy’s first winter home was incredibly stressful, as we struggled to keep her out of Children’s Hospital. That spring, I began carving out an hour each week to write in a local coffee shop, which provided a brief respite from all the medical equipment and alarms. At first, the writing helped me process some of the traumatic events of the previous year. Then I went further back in time to memories from childhood, including many stories about my father.

I continued to write regularly for the next three years. Lucy, with her resilience, irrepressible spirit, and sense of humor, became my muse. As I watched her grow, I filled up notebook after notebook with fiction, poetry, and personal stories. Writing became a deeply meaningful practice for me and an important part of my life. I shared pieces with Courtney and she encouraged me to start a blog, advice I resisted.

In September, Lucy started pre-school at the Henderson Inclusion School in Dorchester, which gave me more time to focus on my writing. I started exploring opportunities to share my work with a wider audience. One idea was to write a piece for the Dorchester Reporter about our experience sending Lucy to the Henderson School. I sent my proposal, along with a resume and writing sample, to its editor Bill Forry.

A few weeks later, Bill and I spoke on the phone. We talked about my writing, our shared love of history, and my dad. To my surprise, Bill then invited me to contribute a column to the Reporter. I told him he was helping me fulfill a dream since childhood of writing for a newspaper. When I got off the phone, I shared the news with Courtney and experienced the pure joy and giddiness of a little kid. I was right back in that musty old closet. I was with my dad once again.



# Isn't it time to stop subsidizing suburban sprawl?

## Carbon price & rebate no-brainer for Dorchester

By MATT GLYNN  
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

To residents of Dorchester: Congratulations on being among the greenest and most environmentally conscious residents in the state. Unfortunately, members of our House of Representatives aren't yet willing to accept our financial reward.

As citizens of the commonwealth's urban core, many who live in Dorchester trade in climate-controlled drives from home to work and back for the

alternative of walking from home to bus stop to subway to work and back. Urban commuting results in the average Dorchester zip code emitting 39.7 metric tons of CO2 equivalent per resident, according to a UC Berkeley CoolClimate Network study in 2013.

This is drastically lower when compared to suburban zip codes (Milton 60.5; Duxbury 68.4; Weston 82.3). When looking at emissions related to the transportation sector, the discrepancy grows shockingly large. Every zip code in Dorchester emits between 5 and 10 tons of CO2 equivalent due to transportation while most of our suburban neighbors emit between 20 and 30 tons.

Bostonians have long endured neglect by the state Department of Transportation. The 2018 budget for the Transportation Trust Fund, which largely funds roads, is \$303 million while the MBTA budget is \$127 million, according to MassDOT's FY2018 budget summary. Adding further insult to injury: In 2015, the MBTA brought in \$646 million in fares and ads payments while tolls and ads on roads brought in \$451 million, according to a review by the Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center.

Not only do we miss out on the transportation revenues, but we also bear the cost of higher asthma rates and higher rates of cancer due to increased levels of pollution in the city.

Let's not forget the Big Dig. Finished for the most part in 2007, the biggest infrastructure project Massachusetts ever undertook did wonders for suburban commuters traveling to and through the city. But after the roadwork blew through the budget, funding for the Silver Line and other mass transit projects has been an afterthought. This overdevelopment of roads versus public transportation plays a large role in the gridlock that ties up the city today.

The completion of three new stops on the Fairmount commuter rail line and a fourth planned for Mattapan in 2019 has been a welcome addition to local transit, but that is not far enough.



A commuter rail train entered Uphams Corner station on the MBTA's Fairmount Line.  
Chris Lovett photo

Residents situated along the line have been calling for a shift from a suburban style commuter rail system to a rapid transit line dubbed the "Indigo Line" with frequent service similar to the Red and Orange Lines, a switch that would improve commute times and employment options for riders. While former Gov. Deval Patrick announced plans to fund the rapid transit changeover to the "Indigo Line," Governor Baker has since delayed the project indefinitely.

The state still hasn't learned its lesson. Instead of funding improvements to the "Indigo Line," it has supported a \$150 million project to add lanes to I-95 over the last decade plus. The recent plans by the state to undergo a \$1 billion rehab of the I-90 viaduct in Allston while scrapping plans to build "West Station" on the land below further shows that Boston's State House delegation should be fighting harder for transit equity.

The state transportation budget subsidizes driving long distances to the detriment of public transportation. The cost of a commuter rail ride from Braintree to South Station is \$13.50 round trip, or \$207.75 for a monthly pass; from Plymouth to South Station it's \$23 a day, or \$353 a month. The tolls on Route 3 and the Expressway are \$0. Given these generous road subsidies and unreliable service on the commuter rail, it is easy to understand why most commuters choose to drive.

Massachusetts has passed legislation meant to reduce greenhouse gases by the year 2020 to 25 percent below the 1990 emission level, and to at least 80 percent by 2050. Given the current state of federal affairs, those goals only become more challenging. In recent weeks, the Trump administration has proposed subsidizing coal and nuclear power and mandating offshore oil drilling. This creates direct competition between the state's more than 100,000 clean energy jobs and subsidized out-

of-state fossil fuel interests.

Fortunately for us, the solution is surprisingly simple, and we can go a long way toward it without a muddy political discussion of increasing regulations, raising taxes, or raising spending. A bill (S 1821) promoting a revenue neutral carbon price and rebate system is currently under consideration in the state Senate. Rebate funds would come through a carbon fee on fossil fuel emissions in the transportation and home heating sector. One hundred percent of the funds would then be redistributed to residents and businesses.

If passed into law, the higher price on fossil fuels would create an incentive for more people to use public transportation. Increased demand for public transportation would result in more frequent and more reliable service over time. Suburban commuters would be more likely to use public transportation, which will attract additional support to fund operations. This would then spur investment and create jobs throughout our urban transportation infrastructure. Whether you side with the scientific consensus behind global warming or believe it to be a hoax, all residents of Boston should be able to agree that a carbon pricing system will create benefits for urban residents.

In areas like Dorchester, where residents lead a relatively green lifestyle and support public transportation, families would receive a rebate much larger than what they paid in extra fuel costs. This would have the added benefit of making our tax system more progressive since lower-income families, especially in urban areas, drive less and have smaller homes that require less heating fuel. Since the rebate would be applied equally, these families would find themselves better off financially.

State Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz, the first Dorchester legislator to back carbon pricing, has stated that passage

of S 1821 "would be a big win both for our climate and for Boston's lower-income communities." She also has asserted that S 1821 "would institute fiscally progressive measures" and "provide significant financial benefits to neighborhoods like Dorchester, that have a far smaller carbon footprint than most."

Last May, the state's Supreme Judicial Court ruled that Massachusetts hasn't met its obligations on greenhouse gas emissions and must fulfill them via legislation. Our representatives should fight to adjust the status quo system that relies on the state picking winners and losers and giving subsidies to larger-scale power plants. This approach directs money to the wealthy and corporations with access to fund large power production. Carbon pricing, on the other hand, allows all residents to capture the economic benefits of clean energy without unnecessary intervention from Beacon Hill. Even renters can benefit through increased access to community solar programs.

Sixty-nine members of the Legislature are sponsors of S 1821. Surprisingly, Senators Linda Dorcea Forry and Chang-Diaz are the only members of the Dorchester delegation to join in the effort.

As the constituents most likely to benefit from the carbon price and rebate system, Dorchester residents need to call on all our legislators to remember the lessons of the Big Dig and stand up to do their part to create an equitable system that rewards sustainable living, reduces pollution, and helps alleviate gridlock on our roads. Of the 20 legislators representing Boston, 14 publicly support a carbon pricing & rebate bill. Additional support from Reps. Evandro Carvalho, Dan Cullinane, Russell Holmes, and Dan Hunt would go a long way in showing a united urban coalition.

Dorchester can generate most of the power needed for homes and cars through solar panels on our roofs and geothermal heat in our land. A united urban delegation can help Dorchester residents capture the economic value of producing our own power with local labor working to build and maintain clean energy.

Our wealthy suburban neighbors are actually asking to reward us for our greener lifestyle. S 1821 has been presented by state Sen. Michael Barrett of Middlesex County who represents Weston, Lexington, and Newton (likely net financial losers if the bill passes). Dorchester's politicians need to take advantage of this gift and move to stop subsidizing dirty suburban sprawl and out-of-state competition for local jobs.

## Forbes Museum exhibit recalls a special mission

(Continued from page 1) like typhus. As news of the tragedy continued to filter across the Atlantic, Boston residents rallied to come up with a plan to help.

After a meeting at Faneuil Hall, the seed of a humanitarian aid mission emerged, with Captain Forbes at the helm. Born in Jamaica Plain in 1804 and raised in Milton, Forbes was an experienced seafarer who made several trade voyages to China in his lifetime.

Seeing the urgency of the food shortage in Ireland, he took the initiative and petitioned Congress to lend him the Jamestown, a warship docked in Charlestown

harbor, to ferry supplies across the sea. President James K. Polk approved the petition, marking the only time in history a warship has been leased to a private citizen.

In just five weeks, the Boston Relief Committee raised 800 tons of food and other provisions, receiving donations from Catholic and Protestant congregations alike throughout the Boston area and up and down the Eastern seaboard. Beginning on St. Patrick's Day, a group of volunteers comprising mainly Irish immigrants helped to load the ship with thousands of barrels containing flour, rice, cornmeal, dried meat, and clothing.

When it departed, the Jamestown rode low in the water due to its massive load of supplies, "a ship of war changed into an angel of mercy," as a pastor friend of Forbes described it in a letter.

With a volunteer crew, Forbes set sail on March 28 and arrived at Cork harbor in just two weeks. He was greeted with fanfare and celebration, but he didn't stop there; he was instrumental in assuring the supplies were distributed efficiently and equally across the Irish countryside. When a Catholic priest named Father Matthew brought him to rural villages decimated by the blight, Forbes witnessed firsthand the

devastation and realized that it was in these parts of the country where the need was the greatest. He resolved that he would use the ship for another voyage.

In collaboration with the Massachusetts Historical Society, the Forbes House Museum is retelling an overlooked story of goodwill, featuring various artifacts and documents from the journey including the Jamestown's wheel, Captain Forbes's personal letters and journals, the official US passport, a signed presidential petition from the voyage, and thank you gifts from the Irish people.

The collection of testimonials and newspaper

clippings details much about the famine story, the unprecedented US response, and the extensive records documenting which towns and families benefited from the aid.

Museum trustee Susan Lachevre emphasized how important it is that the story be remembered, and celebrated. "We've not yet been able to tell it altogether, as the things have been scattered around the museum and at Mass Historical until now," she said.

Relief efforts were a success, Lachevre explained, in spite of growing tensions in Boston as more and more Irish Catholics immigrated to the city. "That was

another wonderful thing about this, that people were rising above their political differences to help these starving people. There was a lot of religious friction as well, and people set all of this aside."

The success of the mission is mostly beyond common knowledge today, on both sides of the Atlantic. But the precedent set by the voyage inspired several like it during the remaining years of the famine, and provided a blueprint for humanitarian aid relief going forward. "It's been called one of the first large-scale philanthropic efforts in history," said Lachevre.



Reporter's Neighborhood Notables

civic associations • clubs • arts & entertainment • churches • upcoming events

FEB. 1 BOWLING EVENT BOOSTS DOT DAY EFFORTS

The first annual Gutterball Bash, an 21-plus event to benefit the Dorchester Day Parade Committee, will be held on Thurs., Feb. 1 from 7-9 p.m at Boston Bowl's Experience room, 820 Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester. The cost is \$25 per person and includes shoe rental, bowling, pizza and appetizers. There will also be a cash bar. Tickets will be sold at the door.

WINTER FARMERS MARKET IN CODMAN SQUARE

Every Saturday from January 27 to March 31 from 10-1 p.m. at The Great Hall in Codman Square, 6 Norfolk St., Dorchester, MA. Free admission. For updates and further information, check out their Facebook at dorchesterwinterfarmersmarket and Twitter @dorchesterwfm.

OPPORTUNITY FUND WORKSHOP AT MATTAPAN BPL

Tues., Feb. 13 at 6 p.m.; Public workshop at 1350 Blue Hill Ave., Mattapan to discuss the Boston Cultural Council Opportunity Fund, which provides grants to support meaningful one-time opportunities for artists to further develop their career and expand the reach of arts opportunities in Boston. Artist Resource Manager, Julia Ryan will be going over the application process as well as answering any questions people have about the grant. For further information, visit boston.gov/arts.

FREE TAX CLINICS IN CODMAN SQUARE

Taxpayers who earned less than \$54,000 in 2017 can have their taxes prepared, and claim important tax credits such as the Earned Income Tax Credit, at free tax clinics held at the Wellness and Fitness Center, at 450 Washington Street, running into April. Hours are Mondays and Tuesdays from 4-8 p.m. and Saturdays from 9-1 p.m. The free tax preparation is offered by the Codman Square Health Center in partnership with the Boston Tax Help Coalition.

RENMEN & FELLAS CONCERT AT ALL SAINTS

Renaissance Men, Boston's professional male vocal chamber ensemble, in collaboration with Boston City Singers' Fellas, performs "RenMen Branches" on Sun., Feb. 18, at 4 p.m. in Peabody Hall at All Saints Church, 209 Ashmont Street. Curated to explore the unexpected bridges between genres, the program



The Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra performed during a tribute service to Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at Boston University on Jan. 15. Mayor's Office Photo by Jeremiah Robinson

will range from classical to Bluegrass to 1960s pop. Presented by Ashmont Hill Chamber Music. Tickets, \$25, at the door or at ahchambermusic.org.

DORCHESTER CHILI COOK-OFF CALL FOR ENTRIES

Local groups and organizations are invited to participate in the 12th annual Dorchester Chili Cook-off on Sun., March 11 from 4-7 p.m. at IBEW Local 103, 256 Freeport Street. The \$50 registration fee for participants is due by Tues., Feb. 20; checks payable to "AANA/Chili Cook-off" should be mailed to Patricia O'Neil, 319 Ashmont Street, Dorchester

02124. Cook-off tickets are \$20/adult, \$30 for family up to 4, additional children \$5 each; mark your calendars now. Contact Pat O'Neill, 617-265-5397 or pattiashmont@gmail.com for further information.

MCCONNELL PARK COMMUNITY MEETING

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department invites the public to a meeting regarding capital renovations to McConnell Park located at 30 Denny Street in Dorchester on Thurs., Jan. 25 at 6:30 p.m. at Cristo Rey High School Boston, 100 Savin Hill Avenue, Dorchester. For further information, please call 617-961-3058.

(Continued on page 14)

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# Cedar Grove Gardens property sold, but landmark store will remain open

(Continued from page 1) at all aspects of my business and making decisions about what's worth while. My life is totally wrapped up in this business. I've put a tremendous amount of sweat equity and hundreds of thousands of dollars in this."

He insisted that any sale include provisions to keep Cedar Grove Gardens open for at least three years- with an option to stay even longer. "I think there's a correct way to do it," he told the *Reporter*. "It's very difficult to just close the door and sell everything when you have obligations to customers and the community. I'm very attached. I grew up a mile and a half away and I have a relationship with my customers." But, he added: "I'm getting older now, I had a year of health issues and I'm taking advantage of this current market."

Part of the motivation to sell the property is driven by changes

in the Boston flower industry, most notably the relocation last year of the Boston Flower Exchange to Chelsea from its longtime home in Boston's South End. O'Mara is a longtime buyer at the flower exchange— and needed to settle some debt with the exchange's owner.

"I've had a wonderful relationship with Gerry Cupp for the last 37 years," said O'Mara, who visits the exchange up to four times each week to stock up on flowers to sell in his store.

Born and raised in Mattapan and an alumnus of Boston Latin School, O'Mara was initially drawn to a career in law or politics, but switched gears while a student at UMass Amherst. He took a job right out of college and learned to grow plants and flowers in the greenhouse inside Cedar Grove Cemetery.

He always had a passion for gardening and landscaping — "to me it was never a chore taking care of my parents'

yard," he says—and he dived into his new career with abandon, developing a small base of customers among neighbors and people who visited the cemetery to decorate graves.

In 1979, the former president of the cemetery— Ted Anderman— encouraged the then 24-year-old O'Mara to open his own florist shop. At Anderman's urging— and with a \$5,000 loan from his own dad— O'Mara bought 911 Adams Street, which had been used for close to 80 years to carve and sell headstones.

Anderman, who was 80 years old and a mentor to O'Mara, sensed he might be getting "cold feet," so he made a loan for another \$5,000 to the younger man so that he could secure the property.

When Anderman died in 1982, O'Mara, who still owed him the bulk of the \$5,000 loan, launched a scholarship in Anderman's name at their alma mater,

Boston Latin. It remains in place to this day.

"I wouldn't be here without him. I think Ted saw promise and ability," O'Mara said. "And he had fun. Ted and his wife Bessie sort of adopted me."

The building — which was designed on giant granite slabs for the original headstone business— needed a complete restoration, which O'Mara undertook himself with his father and friends. He eventually moved into the house and lived there for a number of years without many comforts— like hot water.

The business grew into full bloom in the 1980s as it assumed a burgeoning wedding and special events focus. As a sign that Cedar Grove intends to remain a fixture for years to come, O'Mara pointed out that the business plans to host its wedding show on Feb. 23-24.

O'Mara has been a civic leader in Cedar Grove and Lower Mills for most of his life. He has been a key figure in the Lower Mills Merchants Association and still serves as vice-president of the Lower Mills Civic Association. He launched a fund to help make improvements to Dorchester Park and has chaired two successful gala events in the park to endow the fund. He remains the president of the Dorchester Park Association and is active in the Neponset River Watershed Association, which he credits as a driving force behind significant improvements to the nearby waterfront.

He is something of an expert in city zoning rules, having served in key voluntary advisory



**Richard O'Mara opened Cedar Grove Gardens in 1979. He intends to operate the business for several years to come.** Cedar Grove Gardens photos

roles in re-zoning efforts under Mayor Tom Menino. He is frequently called upon to serve on planning boards for projects in Lower Mills, in particular.

"I think you have to participate," he said. "I think there's a level of giving back and it's important to prepare for what we can and accept what we can't. I'm pretty proud of our record in Lower Mills."

O'Mara and his long-time partner, Robert Ferrini, own the house immediately next door on Milton Street. O'Mara says he will make sure that whatever eventually comes next at the current site of Cedar Grove Gardens is acceptable to the neighborhood. He notes, with authority, that the location is zoned for a couple of two-family houses.

"I still have a voice as a direct abutter as to how this property will be used," he said.

Whether it could somehow stay in operation as a garden center is something that remains an open question.

"If you've got the right

person, you can do anything," O'Mara said. "I've always maintained that it takes someone with vision and a strong work ethic to do it."

He notes, with pride, how so many of his employees are friends who have worked alongside him for decades. Others returned to assist in running the store when he was sidelined by illness last year.

"The business continues to evolve, but we've had remarkable consistency. When I was ill, people came from Maine and from Austria to help out. It makes me feel good."

The news of the sale, he acknowledges, will make some people uneasy. But O'Mara insists he's "not going anywhere. It does make you think about things," he said of his health battles, now in the rear-view mirror. "How long am I supposed to keep doing this? It's nice to get away once in a while, to come in a little later; but I'm not going anywhere. I'm heavily invested in this neighborhood."



**Richard O'Mara (center) pictured with youngsters at last year's Harvest Festival sponsored by Cedar Grove Gardens.**

## Nomination papers for state election available on Friday

The 2018 election cycle officially kicks off at noon Friday, when nomination papers for this year's state primaries and general election will be available. Potential candidates for state legislative offices and county posts will have until 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 1 to submit their paperwork to local officials to have their signatures certified.

For federal and statewide office hopefuls, the deadline is a week later, May 8. State and federal candidates not running with a party affiliation have until July 31. One U.S. Senate seat — now held by Sen. Elizabeth Warren — and all nine Congressional seats will be on the ballot, as will the constitutional offices of governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, secretary of state, treasurer and auditor. All 200 seats in the state Legislature will be up, for two-year terms. The signature-gathering requirements range from 150 for a state representative to 10,000 for U.S. senator, governor and lieutenant governor, and attorney general. Primaries are scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 4, and the state election is Nov. 6. Nomination papers will be available in the elections division of Secretary of State William Galvin's office, room 1705 in the state office building at One Ashburton Place in Boston, as well as Galvin's regional offices in Fall River and Springfield.

— Katie Lannan/SHNS



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# Dot man gets 10 years, six months in prison for bank fraud scheme

**By REPORTER STAFF**

A federal judge Tuesday sentenced Charles Washington, 44, to 10 1/2 years in federal prison last Tuesday and ordered him to pay \$1.84 million in restitution for his role in a ring that managed to impersonate wealthy customers of local banks and transfer money to dummy accounts.

Washington pleaded guilty to one count of bank fraud conspiracy and four counts of bank fraud in August for his activities, which included defrauding customers of Citizens Bank and Santander Bank in Massachusetts and New Jersey of nearly \$4 million.

According to the US Attorney's office, "Washington obtained bank account information, personally identifiable information, and sample signatures from bank

customers with high balances. He then recruited runners to impersonate the account holders in order to make unauthorized withdrawals by obtaining and distributing fake driver's licenses to the runners that bore the runners' photographs with the account holders' personal information. Washington instructed the runners on how to forge the victims' signatures. To avoid detection, runners withdrew money from victims' accounts at several different bank branches.

Washington and others also recruited runners to open bank accounts (known as drop accounts) in the name of non-existent businesses (known as shell businesses). The shell businesses were registered and named as if they were title companies, property management

companies, contracting businesses, and other businesses for which incoming large-dollar wire transfers would not be unusual. Washington provided the shell businesses' information to co-conspirators who made unauthorized wire transfers in the hundreds of thousands of dollars into the drop accounts. Once the drop accounts were funded with unauthorized wire transfers, Washington and the co-conspirators accompanied runners to bank branches to withdraw the money -- in cash, by check, or by wire transfers to other drop accounts -- before the victims of the unauthorized wire transfers realized that their accounts had been compromised."

In court documents, officials did not specify just how Washington and ring members Khary

Jones and Alvin Reeves obtained customers' bank information and signatures, but the indictments against them refer to "bank employees who were not authorized to disclose information."

Washington's attorney had asked US District Court Judge to impose a sentence of no more than five years. He wrote that Washington was a good family man - his only tattoos are the names of his wife and children - that he actually only netted a few thousand dollars from the scheme, that roughly half of the money allegedly stolen was still in bank accounts and that Washington was not actually a ringleader. And, he continued, the real ringleaders got much softer sentences. Alvin Reeves, who pleaded guilty to 11 counts related to the crimes, was sentenced

to just 3 1/2 years, he wrote.

But Judge Mark Wolf sided with prosecutors, who said 10 1/2 years was a fair sentence, partly because the \$1.8 million still unaccounted for - federal agents found just \$4,000 in cash when they nabbed Washington - is a lot of money.

But also, a prosecutor wrote, Washington has done this sort of thing before, if not to the same extent:

"He was first convicted of larceny in 1999 for dispatching runners with fake IDs to buy merchandise with counterfeit checks, an offense eerily similar to his offenses of conviction. He was convicted of larceny again in 2001, at age 27. At ages 29 and 30, two more convictions followed for dispatching runners to pass counterfeit checks at a Rockland

Trust. At age 34, he was convicted again and sentenced to two years in prison for passing fraudulent Traveler's Checks. Washington was then convicted of cocaine trafficking and sentenced to three years in prison - a conviction later vacated in April 2017.

"There is accordingly ample reason to fear that Washington might return to fraud upon release, especially where he was on probation when he launched the scheme charged in the indictment."

Washington was also convicted of cocaine trafficking, but had his three-year sentence overturned because the drugs in the case were tested by disgraced Massachusetts state chemist Annie Dookhan. The prosecutor's sentencing recommendation continues.

# Walsh seeks ordinance to control short-term rentals

**By KATIE LANNAN  
STATE HOUSE  
NEWS SERVICE**

Beacon Hill leaders have been unable to find common ground on a short-term housing rental regulation bill and Boston Mayor Martin Walsh, apparently unwilling to wait for a new law, is laying out his own rules to govern an industry that's competing with hotels and affecting the city's supply of long-term housing.

"This ordinance is an important step towards our goal of reducing housing costs by creating disincentives to taking units off the market for use as short-term rentals," Walsh said in a statement Monday.

Walsh said the ordinance he's filing would allow short-term rentals to continue "in scenarios that are non-disruptive" to neighborhoods. The regulations would prohibit the listing of any property with outstanding code violations and require owners to register each rental with the city and pay an annual license fee of \$25, \$100 or \$500 depending on how the unit is classified by the city.

Walsh's ordinance divides rentals into three tiers, differentiating between a space in a primary residence rented while the operator is present, a "home share" in which the entire primary residence is rented,

and an "investor unit" that is non-owner and non-tenant occupied.

There would be no annual limit on the number of booked nights for "limited share units" in a primary residence with the operator present, while home shares and investor units would be capped at 90 nights per year.

The mayor's office cited a 2016 UMass Boston study that found a 0.4 percent rise in rent prices due to increasing Airbnb listings.

City Councillor Lydia Edwards, who chairs the council's Housing Committee, called the move to regulate short-term rentals a "welcomed start to a necessary dis-

cussion about protecting our housing stock."

"The devastating impact of short-term rentals can be seen city wide, and is (exasperated) by absentee landlords and multi-unit owners," Edwards said in a statement to the News Service. "I hope we get a balanced approach that returns the short-term rental market back to its original intent of providing supplemental income to residents living at the property and provides a way to hold hosts accountable to their neighbors."

Under the ordinance, booking platforms would be required to submit monthly data and details on location

and occupancy numbers to the city to assist with enforcement of the regulations, according to Walsh's office.

State policymakers are grappling with the same questions around the housing market, public safety, and competition with hotels that are subject to the lodging tax as they seek to impose new oversight on the short-term rental market and web platforms like Airbnb, an effort that has stretched on since 2015.

"It's a very complicated issue, and so there is still a lot of nuance to it, and it's not necessarily cut and dry to just do taxes or just do a certain amount of regulations," Rep. Aaron Michlewitz, the House chair of the Financial Services Committee, said last week. "We're trying to find the right balance related to that. I think we'll get there, but it's not there yet."

Michlewitz is the sponsor of a bill (H 3454), which is before his committee, that would require Airbnb hosts and others offering short-term rentals to register with the state, establish a tiered taxation structure, and set health and safety standards for the units.

The Senate has twice passed legislation that would subject short-term rentals to the lodging tax, but leave regulation in the hands of local officials. Sen. Michael Rodrigues told the News Service Thursday that he thinks "the time is right" this session for an Airbnb bill.

"There's lots of pressure from local communities, because they're losing all these local room occupancy tax revenues, and I think people realize that this

is pretty simple," the Westport Democrat said.

In Boston, about two-thirds of the hosts listing Airbnb rentals downtown are offering multiple units, according to Ford Cavallari, chairman of the Alliance of Downtown Civic Organizations.

"What that tells us is we have essentially a market that's moving toward domination by professional hosts, by folks who are trying to do a hotel-like play without necessarily having to conform to hotel-level safety standards, to hotel-level labor standards, and to neighborhood notification that you have to go through, through the zoning process, if you're actually trying to put a hotel in," Cavallari said at a Common Wealth magazine panel Thursday. "And that's causing problems, livability problems, as well as a whole bunch of public service problems like trash collections, snow removal, for most of our downtown neighborhoods and other Boston neighborhoods."

During the panel, Will Burns of Airbnb pushed back against the idea that the proliferation of short-term rentals hinders housing availability and causes displacement.

"It's easy to point to short-term rentals as a cause for the affordable housing crisis in Boston, but the facts just don't bear that out," he said. "Part of it is that millennials have decided to move back into cities, starting in 2000, so you have more people who want to be in cities, so then businesses want to be in cities, because that's where the talent is."

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Community Health News

Senate marks dated abortion laws for repeal

By ANDY METZGER  
STATE HOUSE  
NEWS SERVICE

The Massachusetts Senate plans to take up a bill this week that aims to wipe old and mostly forgotten abortion and contraception statutes from the lawbooks.

The bill (S 784), sponsored by Acting Senate President Harriette Chandler, and filed before she attained the top leadership position, would repeal abortion and contraceptive crimes dating to 1845.

The bill would be a symbolic victory for women but would have no practical effect as the old statutes are no longer enforced, according to Planned Parenthood Advocacy Fund of Massachusetts, which supports the bill.

The Senate Committee on Ways and Means endorsed the bill Thurs-

day with 15 of its 17 members approving it. Sens. Vinny deMacedo and Richard Ross, both Republicans, reserved their rights – declining to vote for or against it – while the committee’s third Republican, Westfield Sen. Don Humason, voted for it.

None of the statutes that would be repealed are currently enforced, according to an aide the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. The attorney general’s office confirmed that the statutes are not enforced and said many of the statutes have been deemed unconstitutional.

The bill would remove the requirement that an abortion performed during or after the 13th week of pregnancy be performed in a hospital that has facilities for general surgery, according to a bill summary.

In 1987, the Massachusetts Appeals Court ruled that requirement should not be enforced in light of federal legal precedent, according to Planned Parenthood.

Twenty-two states require abortion facilities to meet surgical center standards, the National Conference of State Legislatures reported soon after the US Supreme Court’s 2016 decision striking down a Texas law deemed too burdensome for women seeking an abortion.

“There is no medical justification for this requirement and it serves only to create an unnecessary barrier to care,” Planned Parenthood spokeswoman Johanna Kaiser told the News Service about the surgical facilities requirement that is still on the books.

In the landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling, the

Supreme Court made abortion a legal right throughout the country.

The Senate opted to take up the bill on Thurs., Jan. 25, setting an amendment deadline of Monday at 5 p.m.

Some of the restrictions the bill intends to repeal harken to an earlier more puritanical era, such as the prohibition on selling contraceptives to unmarried people.

In 1879, Gov. Thomas Talbot signed a prohibition on the sale or advertising of contraceptives, a crime that then carried a penalty of up to five years imprisonment. In 1845 Gov. George Briggs signed a law that made it a crime to “maliciously or without lawful justification” assist in an abortion procedure, punishing offenders with one-to-seven years’ imprison-

ment or five-to-twenty years if the woman died. The bill would repeal both of those old statutes.

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Backlash grows over state’s GIC health plan

By MATT MURPHY  
STATE HOUSE  
NEWS SERVICE

The backlash against the Group Insurance Commission and its decision to reduce the number of health plans offered to state workers and retirees has been steadily growing, with more key lawmakers and the attorney general speaking up against the move.

House Majority Leader Ron Mariano wrote to the chair of the GIC, Valerie Sullivan, requesting that the Legislature be given a detailed explanation of how the agency arrived at the decision to slash the number of health plan options from six to three for state employees, and Attorney General Maura Healey called the rollout of

the changes “seriously mishandled.”

Meanwhile, House Democrats vented during a private caucus about being blindsided by the decision, according to members who were present, and some lawmakers are beginning to explore their options for a possible legislative response.

The swirling tempest around the commission’s health plan consolidation threatens to become a self-inflicted black eye for Gov. Charlie Baker as he kicks off his reelection year this week with a major address to the state and the release of his fiscal 2019 budget.

“The decision to consolidate the current commercial health plans from six to three leaves great uncertainty for individuals and families who rely on

the GIC for healthcare coverage,” Mariano, a Quincy Democrat, wrote to Sullivan. “This is a major shift in policy that leaves significant questions unanswered and no guarantees for folks that they would continue to have access to their same doctors and current services.”

The GIC voted 8-5 last Thursday to contract with three health insurance carriers – UniCare, Neighborhood Health and Health New England – to provide coverage to the nearly 450,000 state workers and retirees. The change eliminates Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, Fallon Community Health and Tufts Health Plan as carriers, and would save the state an estimated \$20.8 million next year.

The GIC has defended

the process that it says began in July and included regularly communicating with union representatives on the commission about the direction of the new carrier procurement and the possibility of consolidation.

The Group Insurance Commission is currently conducting nine listening sessions over ten days around the state to gather feedback and help it prepare for two upcoming votes in February to lock in benefit design and rates.

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# Neighborhood Notables

(Continued from page 10)

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH AT MILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY**

During the month of February, the Milton Public Library is pleased to celebrate Black History Month in the Wotiz Gallery by hosting an exhibit of photography by local artist Cheryl Clegg called “Faces of the Rasin Foundation, Haiti.” There will be a free and open reception for this display on Monday evening, Feb. 26 from 6-8 p.m. in the Gallery at 476 Canton Ave., Milton so please come and meet the photographer and view her work. For info contact Jean Hlady, Adult Services Librarian, at 617-698-5757 or miltonlibrary.org.

**LACROSS PROGRAM FOR KIDS AT CONDON CENTER**

A six-week introduction to lacrosse program hosted by BCYF and Boston Youth Lacrosse Association starts Sat., Feb 3 from 3:30-4:30 p.m at Condon Community Center gym, 200 D St., South Boston. BYL will be providing all equipment. No cost. The youth will be grouped as 1st-4th graders and 5th-8th graders. Coaches needed. For more information, please e-mail Bob Ferrara at [rwferrara@gmail.com](mailto:rwferrara@gmail.com).

**BOSTON BOWL SPECIALS**

All events held at 820 Morrissey Blvd, Dorchester. Fri., Feb. 16 from 8-10 p.m.; 80’s roll back bowling prices only \$3 per game. 80’s music and prizes! Family night every Sunday from 5-10 p.m.; For up to four people. Four sodas, one large pizza and one game of bowling with shoes for \$39.99. Monday madness from 9-6 a.m.; All bowling, billiards 50 percent off. College night every Tuesday from 9-close. \$2 games with valid college ID. Throwback Thursday’s from 9-12 a.m.; For just \$10 per person, bowl unlimited games. Weekend blowout Saturday and Sunday from 11-2 p.m.; 2 games of tenpin bowling including show rental and socks, \$12. For more info, visit [bostonbowl.com](http://bostonbowl.com) or call 617-825-3800.

**THOMAS ROCHER FUNDRAISER**

Sat., Feb 24 at 7 p.m. at Florian Hall with DJ Drew Erico. More information to be announced.

**DOT DAY PARADE CHARACTER BREAKFAST ON MARCH 3**

Dorchester Day Parade Committee’s second annual Character Breakfast to raise funds for the June parade is set for Sat., March 3 at 9:30 a.m. at First Parish Dorchester atop Meetinghouse Hill. Characters such as Poppy and Branch from Trolls, Batman, Minions, Mickey, Minnie, Moana, Peppa Pig, Cookie Monster and Elmo will be on the scene. A delicious breakfast will be served by Season’s Catering and ice cream will be available from Chill on Park. \$20 per adult, \$10 per child 12 and under. Children under 2 are free.

**JANUARY EVENTS AT FRANKLIN PARK ZOO**

Sat., Jan. 27; Feel like you’re in a fairy tale! Meet, sing, and enjoy story time with your favorite winter princesses from 10:30-2:30 p.m. and solve clues to a fairy tale inspired scavenger hunt as you stroll throughout the Zoo. Inside the always balmy Tropical Forest, get creative at the craft table, and at 2 p.m.

don’t miss the zookeeper encounter at the western lowland gorilla exhibit where you can learn more about these incredible animals. Kids are encouraged to wear their favorite fairy tale inspired outfit. For tickets and more information, visit [franklinparkzoo.org](http://franklinparkzoo.org).

**CHILI COOK-OFF KICKS OFF DOT DAY SEASON**

12th annual Dorchester Chili Cook-off, a major fundraiser for the Dorchester Day Parade on Sunday, March 11 from 4p.m.-7p.m. at the IBEW Local 103 Hall, 256 Freeport St., Dorchester.

**BOSTON WARD 18 DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS**

Registered Democrats in Boston’s Ward 18 will hold a caucus on Sat., Feb. 3 at 10 a.m. at the Hyde Park Municipal Building, 1179 River St. to elect delegates and alternates to the 2018 Massachusetts Democratic State Convention. This year’s state convention will be held June 1-2 at the DCU Center in Worcester. Those interested in getting involved with Boston’s Ward 18 Democratic Town Committee should e-mail Rob Consalvo, Ward Committee Chair at [ward18boston@gmail.com](mailto:ward18boston@gmail.com).

**DORCHESTER YOUTH SOCCER HOUSE LEAGUE SPRING 2018 SEASON**

Registration open until Mon., March 18. Registration will not be accepted after that date. Unpaid registrations will be deleted by the system. Age divisions and playing format: (K-1 and K-2) U6, 5v5 up to 12 players roster, Girls and boys separated. (1st and 2nd) U8, 5 V 5 with 10 players roster, Girls and boys separated. (3rd and 4th) U10 Co-ed played 6 v 6 with 12 players roster. (5th and 6th) U-12 Co-ed played 8 V 8 with 15 players roster. (7th and 8th) U-14 Co-ed played 8 V 8 with 15 players roster. Register at [dysoccer.com](http://dysoccer.com).

**LOWER MILLS BRANCH OF THE BPL UPCOMING EVENTS**

Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.; Preschool Story Time: Story time for ages 3-5 includes rhymes, songs, and stories. Fridays at 9:30 a.m.; Baby Story Time: Babies from 0-2 can join us for bouncing rhymes, finger plays, stories, and songs followed by play time. Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.; Music and Movement: Sing and dance to songs in English and Spanish with Ms. Celeste. Mondays Jan. 29 at 7 p.m.; Pajama Preschool Story Time: Our evening story time for ages 3-5 includes rhymes, songs, and stories. Young Maker’s Club Wed., Jan. 31 at 3 p.m.; Middle School students join Miss Celeste in art and STEM projects ranging from slime to puppetry. All events will be held at 27 Richmond St., Dorchester. For further information, call 617-298-7841.

**SNOW SHOEING AT BOSTON NATURE CENTER**

The Boston Nature Center invites you to join them on Sat., Jan. 27 from 3-4 p.m. for an introduction to snowshoeing. This is a free event and snow shoes will be provided. For more info, please call 617-983-8500.

**JAMMIN’ FOR JIMMY AT FLORIAN HALL**

Sat., Feb. 10 from 7-10 p.m. at Florian Hall, Dorchester. Join for an evening of fun and music to benefit the James P. “Jimmy” Cawley Scholarship at UMass

Boston. The Jimmy Cawley Scholarship was created in memory of a much-loved son of Dorchester whose life was sadly shortened by cancer. Jimmy’s scholarship is set up to benefit a student from Dorchester who is majoring in political science. For further information about the scholarship, visit [umb.academicworks.com/donors/the-james-p-jimmy-cawley-scholarship](http://umb.academicworks.com/donors/the-james-p-jimmy-cawley-scholarship). General admission is \$10 at the door. Raffle prizes, hors d’oeuvres, cash bar, and a cash drawing will be held. For more information or to purchase tickets for the cash drawing, please contact Elisa Birdseye at [jimmyscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:jimmyscholarship@gmail.com).

**COLLEGE PREP PROGRAM AT BU**

Boston University Upward Bound is currently accepting applications for their college preparation program from 9th and 10th graders. Program services include an academically intensive six-week summer residential program (where students stay at Boston University!) and an afterschool program of tutoring and courses, including MCAS English, Math and Science prep; and SAT prep. The program is free. To apply, students need to attend Brighton HS, The English HS, CASH, Margarita Muniz Academy or Snowden International School. Public school students living in Dorchester, East Boston, Mattapan, and Roxbury can also apply. Applications are now accepted on a rolling basis. For an application and more information on the program, contact us at 617-353-5195 or [reggie@bu.edu](mailto:reggie@bu.edu).

**CITIZENSHIP CLASSES AT NOTRE DAME ED CENTER**

New citizenship classes will be held on Mondays and Tuesdays starting this month at Notre Dame Education Center in South Boston. Call 617-268-1912.

**BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY’S HOMEWORK HELP**

Boston Public Library’s free Homework Help program is underway offering free afterschool help and mentorship provided by high-achieving high school students. The program, offered Monday through Thursday from 3:30 -5:30 p.m. is open to students in grades K-8; no registration required. Boston Teacher’s Union tutors are also available during select weekdays from 4-6 p.m. for students in grades K-12. Visit [bpl.org/homework](http://bpl.org/homework).

**POLICE DISTRICT C-11**

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

**POLICE DISTRICT B-3 NEWS**

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

**APPLE GROVE ASSOC.**

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

**ASHMONT-ADAMS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOC.**

Meetings are typically held on the first Thursday of each month at the Plasterer’s Hall, 7 Fredericka St., at 7 p.m. Contact Pat O’Neill at [pattiasmont@gmail.com](mailto:pattiasmont@gmail.com).

**ASHMONT HILL ASSOC.**

Thurs., Jan. 25 at 7:30 p.m. Light supper at 7 p.m. Meetings are generally held the last Thursday of the month. For info, see [ashmonthill.org](http://ashmonthill.org) or call Message Line: 617-822-8178.



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REPORTER'S CALENDAR

Thursday, Jan. 25

• The Boston Parks and Recreation Department invites the public to a meeting regarding capital renovations to McConnell Park located at 30 Denny Street in Dorchester at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at Cristo Rey High School Boston, 100 Savin Hill Ave., Dorchester. For further information, please call 617-961-3058.

Saturday, Jan. 27

• The YMCA of Greater Boston kicks off the '18 Summer Day Camp Season with an Open House from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Dorchester YMCA, 776 Washington St., Dorchester. YMCA camps and summer programs are among nearly two dozen Y camp experiences offered around the Boston metro area. Go to [ymcaboston.org/camps](http://ymcaboston.org/camps) for more information.

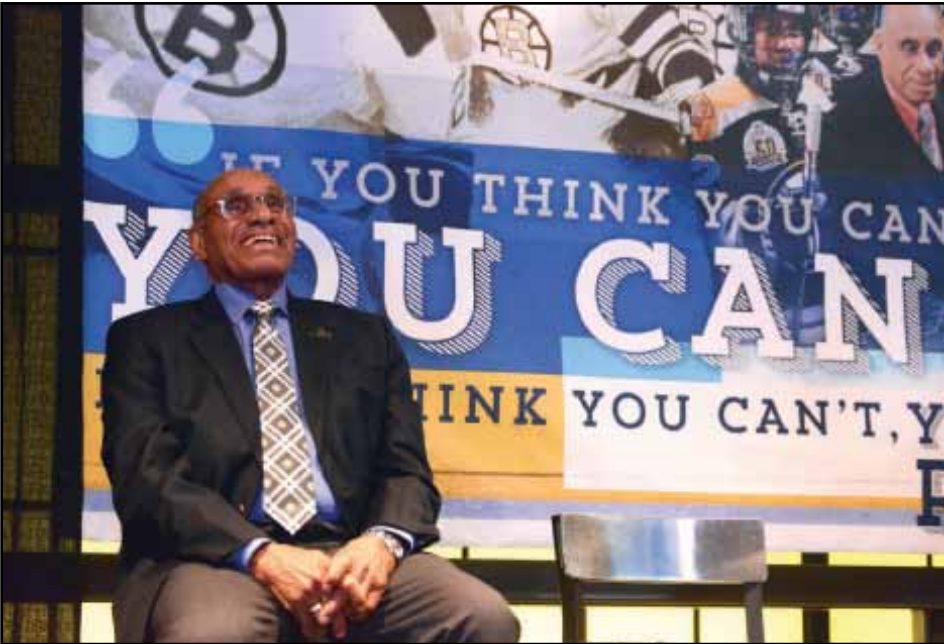
• The Dorchester Winters Farmer Market opens for the season today— and every Saturday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at The Great Hall in Codman Square, 6 Norfolk St., Dorchester through March 31. Check their Twitter feed for the latest at @dorchesterwfm.

• McCormack Civic Association requests assistance from our neighbors to take down 84 Christmas wreaths on light posts along Dot Ave and Boston Street from Columbia Road to Washburn Street. Volunteers will be needed beginning 10 a.m. at Paul's Triangle. Please sign-up at the Jan. 16 meeting or by e-mailing [mccormackcivic@gmail.com](mailto:mccormackcivic@gmail.com).

• Taxpayers who earned less than \$54,000 in 2017 can have their taxes prepared, and claim important tax credits such as the Earned Income Tax Credit, at free tax clinics held at the Wellness and Fitness Center, at 450 Washington St. Hours are Mondays and Tuesdays from 4-8 p.m. and Saturdays from 9-1 p.m. The free tax preparation is offered by the Codman Square Health Center in partnership with the Boston Tax Help Coalition.

Saturday, Feb. 3

• Registered Democrats in Boston's Ward 18 will hold a caucus at 10 a.m. at the Hyde Park Municipal Building, 1179 River St., Hyde Park to elect delegates and alternates to the 2018 Massachusetts Democratic State Convention. June 1-2 at the DCU Center in Worcester. The caucus is open to all registered and pre-registered Democrats in Boston's Ward 18. Those interested in getting involved with Boston's Ward 18 Democratic Town Committee should



Willie O'Ree, (above) the former Boston Bruins player and the first African-American player in the NHL, was honored by the City of Boston at an event at the TD Garden on Jan. 17. Mayor Walsh announced that the hockey rink at Smith Field in Brighton will be re-named in his honor. A native of New Brunswick, Canada, O'Ree debuted for the Bruins in January 1958.

contact Rob Consalvo, Ward Committee Chair, [ward18boston@gmail.com](mailto:ward18boston@gmail.com).

Saturday, Feb. 10

• Jimmy Cawley Scholarship benefit at Florian Hall, 7-10:30 p.m. features Boston ILL Harmonic performing music by the Beatles, followed by live band Beatles karaoke. Admission is \$10 at the door. Raffles, hors d'oeuvres and cash bar. Cash drawing. Contact Elisa Birdseye at [jimmyscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:jimmyscholarship@gmail.com).

• "Unmask the Real You" Comedy show and performance at Codman Square's Second Church of Dorchester, 600 Washington St. at 6 p.m. The Vibe Coffeehouse presents Lamar Callahan, actor, comedian and recording artist in a dramatic evening of laughter, music and fun interactions in an intimate atmosphere. Bring your most creative mask and you may win a prize! Cover charge of \$5 plus refreshments available for sale. First 10 ladies to sign up online are free! Visit [thevibecoffeehouse.org/tickets](http://thevibecoffeehouse.org/tickets).

Tuesday, Feb. 13

• Public workshop to discuss the Boston Cultural Council Opportunity Fund starts at 6p., at Mattapan branch of the BPL, 1350 Blue Hill Ave., Mattapan. The fund provides grants to support meaningful one-time opportunities for artists to further develop their career and expand the reach of arts opportunities in Boston. Artist Resource Manager, Julia Ryan will be going over the application process as well as answering any questions people have about the grant. For further information visit [boston.gov/arts](http://boston.gov/arts).

Sunday, Feb. 18

• Renaissance Men, in collaboration with Boston City Singers Fellas, presented by

Ashmont Hill Chamber, at 4p.m. in Peabody Hall, All Saints' Church, 209 Ashmont St., Dorchester. Music Renaissance Men, Boston's professional male vocal chamber ensemble, performs Ren-Men Branches. Curated to explore the unexpected bridges between genres, the program will include both classical and pop/bluegrass selections. Ren Men will be joined by Boston City Singers' Fellas group. Tickets (\$25) available at door or at [ahchambermusic.org](http://ahchambermusic.org). EBT card holders \$3. Children under 13 admitted free.

Tuesday, Feb. 20

• Today is the deadline for local groups and organizations who wish to participate in the 12th annual Dorchester Chili Cook-off on Sun., March 11 to register. The \$50 registration fee should be made payable to "AANA/Chili Cook-off" should be mailed to Patricia O'Neil, 319 Ashmont St., Dorchester 02124. Cook-off tickets are \$20/adult, \$30 for family up to 4, additional children \$5 each; mark your calendars now. Contact Pat O'Neill, 617-265-5397 or [pattiashmont@gmail.com](mailto:pattiashmont@gmail.com) for further information.

Wednesday, Feb. 21

• The Milton Junior Woman's Club presents the children's entertainment group, Toe Jam Puppet Band, at a special February school vacation week performance at Cunningham Hall, 77 Edge Hill Rd., Milton. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. for the 10 a.m. performance. Tickets are \$5 per person. Toe Jam Puppet Band offers a special brand of interactive children's entertainment that grown-ups can actually enjoy.

Thursday, Feb. 22

• Whittier Street Health Center celebrates Black History Month and its Annual Meeting from 12 – 2 p.m.,

2nd Floor Community Room. Keynote Speaker: Wanda McClain, Vice President, Community Health, Brigham and Women's Hospital and a President's Update from Frederica M. Williams, President & CEO. RSVP to Erin Gilligan at [erin.gilligan@wshc.org](mailto:erin.gilligan@wshc.org)

or Crystal Palmer: [crystal.palmer@wshc.org](mailto:crystal.palmer@wshc.org).

Monday, Feb. 26

• During the month of February, the Milton Public Library is pleased to celebrate Black History Month in the Wotiz Gallery by hosting an exhibit of photography by local artist Cheryl Clegg called "Faces of the Rasin Foundation, Haiti." There will be a free and open reception for this display this evening from 6-8 p.m. in the Gallery at 476 Canton Ave., Milton. Contact Jean Hlady, Adult Services Librarian, at 617-698-5757 or visit [miltonlibrary.org](http://miltonlibrary.org).

Saturday, March 3

• Dorchester Day Parade Committee's second annual Character Breakfast to raise funds for the June parade, 9:30 a.m. at First Parish Dorchester atop Meetinghouse Hill. Characters such as Poppy and Branch from Trolls, Batman, Minions, Mickey, Minnie, Moana,

HELP WANTED

FamilyAid Boston seeks experienced leader to serve as President.

FamilyAid Boston provides homelessness prevention, shelter, affordable housing, and supportive services including employment counseling and housing search to nearly 800 families every year. See [www.familyaidboston.org](http://www.familyaidboston.org). Requires management experience, successful fundraising experience, and ability to lead a strong nonprofit organization.

Please send cover letter and resume to Susan Egmont, Egmont Associates at [segment@egmontassociates.com](mailto:segment@egmontassociates.com)

Peppa Pig, Cookie Monster and Elmo will be on the scene. A delicious breakfast will be served by Season's Catering and ice cream will be available from Chill on Park. \$20 per adult, \$10 per child 12 and under. Children under 2 are free.

Sunday, March 11

• 12th annual Dorchester Chili Cook-off, a major fundraiser for the Dorchester Day Parade from 4 p.m.-7p.m. at the IBEW Local 103 Hall, 256 Freeport St., Dorchester.

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE & FAMILY COURT SUFFOLK PROBATE & FAMILY COURT 24 NEW CHARDON STREET BOSTON, MA 02114 Docket No. SU14P2418GD IN THE INTERESTS OF JONATHAN THOMAS OF DORCHESTER, MA CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR RESIGNATION OF A GUARDIAN OF AN INCAPACITATED PERSON RESPONDENT Incapacitated Person/Protected Person To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Cheri Myette, Esq. of Wakefield, MA in the above captioned matter requesting that the court: Accept the Resignation of the Guardian of the Respondent. The petition asks the Court to make a determination that the Guardian and/or Conservator should be allowed to resign; or should be removed for good cause; or the the Guardianship and/or Conservatorship is no longer necessary and therefore should be terminated. The original petition is on file with the 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 02/15/2018. 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: January 16, 2018 Published: January 25, 2018

LEGAL NOTICES

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate & Family Court 24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU18P0078EA ESTATE OF: JOHN LEO RUNKAL DATE OF DEATH: 11/08/2017 To all interested persons: A petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Leo F. Runkal of Abington, 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 Leo F. Runkal of Abington, MA be appointed as Personal Representative of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in an unsupervised administration. 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 02/22/2018. 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 date, action may be taken without further notice to you. Unsupervised Administration Under The Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court. Date: January 17, 2018 Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate Published: January 25, 2018

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate & Family Court 24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU17P1699EA ESTATE OF: MICHAEL J. COTE DATE OF DEATH: 06/09/2017 To all interested persons: A petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Paul Cote of Hollis, NH requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that Paul Cote of Hollis, NH be appointed as Personal Representative of said estate to serve With Personal Surety on the bond in an unsupervised administration. 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 02/15/2018. 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 date, action may be taken without further notice to you. Unsupervised Administration Under The Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court. Date: January 11, 2018 Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate Published: January 25, 2018

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate & Family Court 24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU17P2719EA ESTATE OF: ANNIE ELIZABETH PERRY DATE OF DEATH: 09/28/2003 To all interested persons: A petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Margaret A. Fletcher 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 Margaret A. Fletcher of Dorchester, MA be appointed as Personal Representative of said estate to serve on the bond in an unsupervised administration. 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 02/01/2018. 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 date, action may be taken without further notice to you. Unsupervised Administration Under The Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court. Date: December 26, 2017 Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate Published: January 25, 2018



# Expiring restrictions fuel anxiety for low-income tenants

By ANDY METZGER  
STATE HOUSE  
NEWS SERVICE

As old bulwarks of affordable housing give way to market forces, low-income tenants implored lawmakers to preserve their homes, warning that without action they might be on the streets.

"I'm here today a nervous wreck," Linda Mae Pittsley told the Housing Committee on Tuesday. "I don't like doing this kind of stuff, but if I don't fight for myself nobody will."

A resident of Riverview Towers in Fall River, Pittsley said the building that has offered her an affordable home went up for sale and she fears she might need to buy a tent and live outdoors if her rent is hiked.

"We're seniors. We have nowhere to go," Pittsley told the Housing Committee. She said, "You people have the power to help us out."

"I waited years to get where I am today," said Donna St. Cyr who lives in the same Fall River development and said market-rate rents would eclipse her monthly

income. Tenants of buildings with expiring affordable housing restrictions urged lawmakers to back legislation filed by Acting Senate President Harriette Chandler (S 716) and Brookline Rep. Frank Smizik (H 3019) that would allow cities to keep rents artificially low on privately owned buildings like Riverview.

A Worcester Democrat, Chandler has emphasized housing as a key Senate priority this session. Oftentimes for advocates that means easing restrictions on residential development and encouraging the creation of new affordable housing.

The residents who attended Tuesday's committee hearing want lawmakers to preserve rent restrictions on housing that was built to be affordable decades ago.

Government encouraged developers to create housing that would remain affordable for a period of decades through a variety of programs, according to Greg Vasil, CEO of the Greater Boston Real Estate Board. Imposing

rent restrictions on those properties once they are eligible to garner market prices would be a "quick Band-Aid" that ultimately puts tenants "in a worse position" because such properties fall into disrepair, Vasil said.

"It's just been proven to not work in terms of upkeep," Vasil told the News Service.

Chandler's bill would allow cities to restrict rent on certain units with expiring affordability protections and restrict an owner's right to sell. The local option bill would apply to developments of more than 10 units and to "certain subsidized units that were subject to Rent Control prior to the Rent Control Prohibition Act," according to a bill summary.

In 1994, Massachusetts voters passed a ballot law generally prohibiting rent control on privately owned housing and nullifying existing rent controls, according to the secretary of state's website. Only three communities – Boston, Cambridge and Brookline – had rent

control ordinances when voters passed the ballot measure 51-49.

Around the state, more than 8,637 subsidized apartments have lost their affordability as owners converted to market rents, according to the Massachusetts Alliance of HUD Tenants, which said 4,200 families could be displaced as state mortgages in the state's so-called 13A program expire over the next few years.

Created in the 1970s, the 13A program used a debt service subsidy to encourage the development of affordable housing, but as mortgages mature on those properties owners can move their units to full market rate, according to a post by the law firm Nixon Peabody.

"The program has faced

challenges in the past, but none as significant as the current challenge of preserving this valuable portfolio in the face of expiring mortgages," MassHousing reported on a webpage about 13A. Around the state, 43 developments are facing expiration of the affordability provision, and the estimated capital cost of preserving the entire portfolio at current rent standards is around \$300 million, according to MassHousing.

A law passed in 2009 to address expiring affordability restrictions has been a success, according to Vasil, who said, "We've been able to find a lot of preservation buyers for properties."

The law preserved more than 11,000 affordable units in the first five years, according to the

Housing Committee.

Chandler's bill would "undermine" that law, according to Vasil, who said the 2009 statute passed after "decades of intense debate and complex negotiation."

"The law has been effective establishing notification provisions for tenants, a right of first refusal for [the Department of Housing and Community Development] or its designee to purchase publicly assisted housing, and modest tenant protections for projects with affordability restrictions that terminate while preserving the constitutional rights of owners," Vasil wrote in testimony to the committee's chairman, Rep. Kevin Honan and Sen. Joseph Boncore.

## City seeks budget ideas from "youth" leaders

For the fifth year in a row, youth ages 12-25 in Boston have the opportunity to submit ideas for how the City of Boston spends \$1 million dollars of its Capital Budget through the "Youth Lead the Change" participatory budgeting process. The mayor's office is currently collecting ideas from young Bostonians until Wednesday, February 14.

"Thanks to the hard work and innovative ideas of Boston's young people, we have been able to complete unique, community-enhancing projects across the city," said Mayor Walsh. "By involving young people in the budget process, we are empowering our future leaders and supporting what really matters to them."

Over the past four years, thousands of young

people have nominated projects for funding. Past projects selected for funding have included expanding Wicked Free WiFi, installing water bottle refilling stations at parks, placing newer trash cans and recycling bins in select neighborhoods, Boston Public Schools renovation projects, new security cameras in Dorchester's Dr. Loesch Family Park, and many more city-wide capital projects.

"Youth Lead the Change gives Boston youth the opportunity to play a role in their government," said Vikiana Petit-Homme, age 16, Youth Director for Youth Lead the Change. "We are given the unique opportunity to change our surroundings and improve the quality of life of young people across Boston. Every

year amazing capital projects are made possible in Boston thanks to YLC."

Youth Lead the Change is managed by Boston Centers for Youth & Families' Division of Youth Engagement & Employment, and the Mayor's Youth Council oversees the process in partnership with youth organizations across Boston. The Mayor's Youth Council is a group of 85 high school-aged youth committed to improving their communities and empowering other young people in Boston.

Young Bostonians between the ages of 12-25 who would like to participate in the idea collection phase can submit their ideas at [boston.gov/youth-lead-change](http://boston.gov/youth-lead-change).

## Elected? Selected? Councillor wants to revisit options for school panel

(Continued from page 1) Janey, Michael Flaherty, Lydia Edwards, Timothy McCarthy, Matthew O'Malley, and Michelle Wu.

In November 1989, the citizens of Boston approved replacing the existing 13-member elected School Committee with a seven-member mayorally appointed panel, a decision that voters reaffirmed in 1996 with a second referendum vote.

As things stand now, the city charter gives the mayor the power to appoint School Committee members from a list of candidates put together by a 13-member nominating panel composed of parents, teachers, principals, and representatives of business and higher education. Members serve four-year staggered terms. The panel's functions are to set the agenda for the public schools, establish and monitor the operating budget, and review district policies and practices to support student achievement, according to the BPS



Annissa Essaibi-George website.

Four members of the 2017-2018 panel were appointed by the mayor. Former District 7 city council primary candidate Angelina Camacho of the Boston Parent Organizing Network also serves on the committee.

Essaibi-George, a Dorchester resident now serving her second term on the council, said that she has heard from her constituents across the city that they would like the public school system to be more transparent. The proposed changes to bell times that was met with almost immediate pushback from parents

at the end of 2017 have elevated the conversation, she said.

"We ended the calendar year on a very low point with our families," she said, adding that she had heard from a number of constituents that the proposed changes, particularly for elementary school students, left many feeling uneasy. Some even seriously considered leaving the district, she noted.

"We now need to build trust and repair damage with so many families," Essaibi-George said. Convening hearings, she said, "is a part of what I can do." An elected school committee would force members to have to articulate their responsibility to voters, she added. "I need the school committee to be more transparent in how it does its work."

"I see the pros and cons on all sides. This has been a conversation for a very long time with a renewed interest," she said. "As a policy-maker, I'm really excited to have this conversation."

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# BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF DORCHESTER





**Tune It Up:** A group of members took part in their weekly guitar lesson last week. Members are grouped based on experience and skill level and meet weekly to practice instruments.



**Reading Buddies:** Teen volunteers from a local community group come to read and play literacy games with members once a week to strengthen reading ability and confidence through a nurturing mentor relationship.

**CONNECT THE DOT**  
**BGCD at the MFA:** On January 15th, members from Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester took part in the Martin Luther King Day Open House at the Museum of Fine Arts. As part of our art program's MFA Art Class, a group of members has visited the MFA regularly throughout the year and created a group project of inspirational tee shirts with quotes and images honoring Martin Luther King. The project was displayed as part of the annual MLK exhibit, and will be exhibited all month. The community was invited for an open house with free admission on MLK Day when family and friends were able to visit the museum and view the artwork. Our MFA Class is offered in partnership with the Museum of Fine Arts as part of the MFA Community Arts Initiative, which makes it possible for us to have access to this incredible resource throughout the year.

**FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE**  
**Challenger Basketball:** The Challenger Basketball program has begun, with games on Sunday mornings for children of all ages. The Martin Richard Challenger Sports basketball program is designed for developmentally and physically challenged youth, allowing them to enjoy the full benefits of basketball participation in a safe athletic environment structured to their abilities. Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester is glad to be able to offer this program again this year, in partnership with The Martin Richard Foundation. Ages 5-11 play at 10AM and ages 12 and older play at 11AM every Sunday throughout the six-week session. If you are interested in taking part you can still get involved by contacting BGCD Inclusion Coordinator Madeleine Butler at [mbutler@bgcdorchester.org](mailto:mbutler@bgcdorchester.org). Basketball season will be followed up with seasons for Challenger swim and baseball.

**DID YOU KNOW**  
**Fun in the Games Room:** The Games Room is a special area at Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester. It is the open area in the Marr building where members can relax and play games with friends after school, unwind, and also take part in learning opportunities. The Games Room is currently undergoing some changes as one of our long-time staff members, Evandro Miranda takes over as Social Recreation Director. Evandro got his start in the Games Room as a Junior Staff member there as a teenager! Now, coming full circle to run the program after years as the Athletic Director, he's looking forward to working with members in a new way. In addition, the Games Room is home to our Torch Club character and leadership group and our nutrition class, and it's also where our Healthy Meals dinner is served each night.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**LUNAR NEW YEAR**  
January 27 at 10AM-12PM

**MARR-LIN SWIM TEAM LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP MEET**  
January 27 & 28

**FEBRUARY ORIENTATION**  
February 13 & 14 at 6PM



FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE.

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**CALANDRELLA, Anne-Marie “Nancy” (Thomas)** of Acton, a Dorchester native. Wife of the late Richard J. Calandrella, to whom she was married for 56 years. Survived by two sons; Steven and wife Tammy, and Douglas;

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May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world, now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus pray for us, St. Jude, Worker of Miracles, pray for us. St. Jude Helper of the Hopeless, pray for us.  
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four grandchildren; Kristen, Lauren, Sarah and Kimberly; two great-grandchildren; Logan and Paisley. Memorial gifts to the charity of one’s choice.  
**CARR, Paul**, 45 year resident of Braintree, originally from Dorchester. He was the husband of Patricia (O’Brien) Carr to whom he had been married for 51 years. Mr. Carr was born to the late Richard Martin Carr and Mary Agatha (Owens) Carr. He is survived by his sister Nancy Carr Mullen of East Taunton whose husband John Mullen recently passed away, his nephew Richard Paul Mullen and his wife Linda of Taunton, his nieces Patricia Mullen Topoulos and her husband Andrew of Wareham and Andrea

Savisky and her husband Robert of East Taunton. He is also survived by six grandnieces and nephews. Mr. Carr was a Korean War Veteran of the US Army Signal Corps. He was a member of the John P. McKeon Post 146 Amvets of Dorchester and the American Legion Post 86 of Braintree. Mr. Carr was also a proud member of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts. He also belonged to the Charitable Irish Society, The Irish Georgian Society, and the Union Club of Boston. He also was active in the Town of Braintree serving on the Historical District Commission and as a longtime member of The Braintree Historical Society having served as its President. Those wishing to make a charitable donation in memory of Paul may send their gift to Massachusetts General Hospital, Heart Center, 55 Fruit Street, Boston, MA 02114 or the Braintree Historical Society, 31 Tenney Road, Braintree MA 02184.  
**SISTER KATHLEEN CROWLEY, SC** of Mt. St. Vincent, Wellesley Hills. A Sister of Charity for 52 years who was missioned Halifax, Nova Scotia; Renton, Washington; Cranbrook, Kelowna, Burnaby and Vancouver,

**LEGAL NOTICE**

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
THE TRIAL COURT  
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT  
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Docket No. SU17D2495DR  
DIVORCE SUMMONS  
BY PUBLICATION and MAILING  
FIDIAS MISAEAL MATEO LARA  
vs.  
KRISTINA STEWART  
To the Defendant:  
The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Incompatibility of Character. The Complaint is on file at the Court. An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.  
You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon: Fidias Misael Mateo Lara, 12 Albano St., Roslindale, MA 02131 your answer, if any, on or before 02/15/2018. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.  
Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: December 8, 2017  
Felix D. Arroyo  
Register of Probate  
Published: January 25, 2018

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**617-325-6830 info@bccca.comcast.net**

British Columbia and Edmonton, Canada. Locally: Salem and Lynn, MA. Daughter of the late James and Catherine (Brady) Crowley. Sister of James and Linda Crowley, Kevin and Aileen Kelly, Lucille and Gordon Siteman, Robert and Louise Crowley, John and Patricia Crowley and Mary and Tony Verlicco. Also survived by many nieces and nephews as well as all her sisters in community. Donations may be made to Sisters of Charity, Mt. St. Vincent Community, 125 Oakland St., Wellesley Hills, MA 02481.  
**DALY, Mary Christina (Heavey)** known affectionately as “Chris.” Born in Carrownabina, Sligo, Ireland, Chris attended St. Brendan’s Parish, Dorchester and Saint John the Baptist Church, Quincy. Wife of the late Edmund F. Daly, Chris was preceded in death by her sons, Edmund and Kevin; her sisters, Beatrice, Josephine, and Emily. She is survived by her daughter, Christina and her husband Joseph Doherty, and daughters-in-law, Gayle Daly and Mary Beth Tomaselli, who will miss her. Chris loved a large family of grandchildren: Christie Morgan Berg, Sean Morgan, Kimberly Morgan Reimers, Erin Daly Pasquantonio, Matthew Daly, Elizabeth Daly Roberts, Thomas Daly, and Neil Doherty. Additionally, she has four great grandchildren. Please consider giving to the Every Child Fund at Boston Children’s Hospital. Contributions can be made online at [bostonchildrens.org/givenow](http://bostonchildrens.org/givenow) or checks can be made payable to Boston Children’s Hospital and mailed to Boston Children’s Hospital Trust, 401 Park Drive, Suite 602, Boston, MA 02215-5301.  
**DEMPSEY, Joanne R.** 63, of Dorchester. Sister of Paul J. Dempsey of Cranston, RI and Stanley J. Dempsey of Dorchester and her other extended families members. Shipping clerk for General Motors.  
**FOLEY, Marilyn Theresa (Hughes)**

80. Marilyn was born in Dorchester in 1937, daughter of the late Thomas Hughes and Marion Leahy, she was the wife of Jeremiah Aloysius Foley, and mother of Susan Foley, Paul Foley, Brian Foley, (Francine) and Keith Foley and grandmother of Catelin Lombardo Foley. She also has three sisters Eleanor Fitzgerald, Regina Hughes, and Margaret Hughes. She is also survived by many nieces, nephews and untold numbers of cousins. Marilyn graduated from Woodrow Wilson Junior High School, Archbishop Cushing Central High School, and Boston State Teachers College. She taught fourth grade in Randolph at the Elizabeth G. Lyons Elementary School. She worked at Macy’s and then at the New York State Department of Social Services, retiring in the late 90s. From early childhood through to her later years, she was active in tap dancing, in Community Theater, and was a Timeless Tapper. The family requests donations to the Alzheimer’s Association, 4 Pine West Plaza, Suite 405 Washington Ave. Ext., Albany, NY 12205.  
**SISTER GERTRUDE CAROLINE GILLIS, SC (Margaret Elizabeth)** of Mt. St. Vincent, Wellesley Hills. A Sister of Charity for 82 years who was missioned in Woodside and Brooklyn, NY; North Sydney, Nova Scotia; Amherst, Nova Scotia; Mount Saint Vincent Academy, Halifax Nova Scotia; and Mount Saint Vincent Motherhouse, Halifax, Nova Scotia. Locally; Dorchester; Academy of the Assumption, Wellesley and Mount Saint Vincent, Wellesley. Beloved daughter of the late Dougald and Margaret (MacDonald) Gillis. Sister of the late James, Daniel, John, Ronald, Hugh and Dougald Gillis, Clara Crawford, Mary DeLibero, Isabelle Dattolie, Rita Stanley, Laura Murphy, Katherine Gale, Martina and Isabelle Gillis. Sister is survived by her nieces and nephews, as well as all her sisters in community. Donations may be made to Sisters of Charity, Mt. St. Vincent Community, 125 Oakland St., Wellesley Hills, MA 02481.  
**HEGARTY, Patrick** of Needham, formerly of Brighton and Doonaroya County Mayo, Ireland. Son of the late John and Bridget (Mulligan) Hegarty. Brother of Michael Hegarty of County Mayo, Ireland, and the late Helen Kean, Mary Bourque, Kathleen, Martin, John, Thomas and James Hegarty, all of Co. Mayo Ireland. Also survived by many loving nieces, nephews and cousins. Patrick was one of the proud owners of the Blarney Stone in Dorchester for many years and an employee of the MBTA. Patrick was a US Army Veteran of the Korean War. Expressions of sympathy may be made

in Patrick’s memory to the Alzheimer’s Association 309 Waverley Oaks Rd Waltham MA 02452.  
**KEARNS, James “Gonzo”** of Hyde Park, formerly of County Cork, Ireland. Partner of Kathleen Tyrell of Hyde Park.  
**MacAULAY, Beatrice “Bea” (Wilson)** of Dorchester. Wife of the late Emmett MacAulay. Mother of Gail C. Coughlin and her husband John of Dorchester, and Lois A. MacAulay of Dorchester. Grandmother of Robert F. Medeiros of Dorchester, Amy C. Carter of FL, and Craig E. Medeiros of FL. Sister of Tena Wilson of Dorchester. Also survived by four great-grandchildren.  
**MACOMBER, Robert L., Sr.**, “Big Daddy” of Milton. Husband of the late Virginia (Lynch) Macomber. Father of Diane E. Mahan and her husband, John of Milton, Robert L. Macomber, Jr. of Florida, Suzanne Dunphy of Florida, Daniel J. Macomber and his wife, Margaret of Norfolk, and Mark M. Macomber and his wife, Marina of Milton. Grandfather to eight grandchildren and one great grandson. He is also survived by several nieces and nephews. Donations can be made to Seasons Hospice & Palliative Care, 597 Randolph Ave., Milton, MA 02186.  
**SMITH, Ruby L.** of Dorchester. Wife of the late Earl Smith. Mother of Ellen Walker of Roslindale, Roland Smith and his wife Velma of Hyde Park, Margarite Smith of Watertown, Aben Smith of Louisiana, Mable Avinger-Smith and her husband James of South Carolina, Shirley Smith of Braintree, Raymond Smith and his wife Ester of Mattapan, Will Smith of Florida, Monalisa Smith-Marshall and her husband Lendele of Dorchester, Brenda White and her husband Billy of Randolph, Robert Smith of Dorchester, Bertha Smith of Canton, Johnny Smith of Dorchester, and the late Ronald Smith. Grandmother of 33 grandchildren, 42 great-grandchildren and 9 great, great-grandchildren. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews.  
**YETMAN, Patricia J. (Donahoe)** of Weymouth, formerly of Dorchester and South Boston, passed away on her 90th birthday. Pat worked for many years for Gillette Corp in South Boston. Wife of the late William T. Yetman and Bernard J. Sullivan. Mother of Maureen C. Barry and her husband, Tim, of Weymouth and Stephen P. Sullivan and his wife, Joanne, of Quincy. Grandmother of John A. Barry and his wife, Abigail, of Avon. Sister of the late Joseph and Paul Donahoe. Memorial donations may be made to Saint Jude Children’s Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN, 38105





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