# Dorchester Reporter

"The News and Values Around the Neighborhood"

Thursday, January 28, 2021 Volume 38 Issue 4



"The Avenue in the Rain," by Childe Hassam

### Childe Hassam painting back in the Oval Office

By Daniel Sheehan REPORTER STAFF

Mayor Walsh's appointment as US Secretary of Labor means that a Dorchester personality will be heading down to D.C. in the coming weeks, but the work of another Dot native has already re-staked its claim to a position in the White House.

On Inauguration Day last Wednesday, President Joe Biden's administration revealed that in the course of redecorating the Oval Office, they had chosen to display "The Avenue in the Rain," a painting by American Impressionist artist and Dorchester native Childe Hassam.

(Continued on page 2)

## Election override vote set for next week Walsh's departure date remains unclear

By Katie Trojano REPORTER STAFF

Pressure is mounting on the Boston City Council to set aside a special election that would be triggered by the city charter if Mayor Walsh vacates his seat before March 5, a scenario that appears likely as Biden cabinet nominations are moving through US Senate confirmation hearings at a quick pace.

On Tuesday, a Home Rule Petition that would

override the requirement for a special election was largely embraced by councillors and citizens who logged on to testify during a virtual hearing of the council's Committee on Government Operations. The panel's chair, District 1 Councillor Lydia Edwards, confirmed that there will

be a vote on the petition during next week's (Feb. 3) regular meeting, following a working session scheduled for this Friday If approved by the majority of the council, the petition, put forth by Councillor Ricardo

Garrison: "I'll be on the ballot" More election news, Page 11

Arroyo, will also need the

support of the mayor, the

Legislature, and Gov. Baker, who has indicated he would sign such a bill if it was sent to him.

A spokesperson for Walsh told the Reporter on Tuesday that the mayor "has not taken a position on the bill, but he will follow the will of the Boston City Council.'

In his opening comments on Tuesday, Arroyo criticized a legal memo written by a council attorney last (Continued on page 10)

## Covid relief a moving target

## Pressley says rollout must be improved

By BILL FORRY

US Rep. Ayanna Pressley said last week that she is frustrated with the vaccination rollout so far in her congressional district, characterizing it as "delayed and disorganized" and calling for a better-coordinated effort to get the medication to people in city neighborhoods hit hardest by Covid-19.

"How can Massachusetts be ranked 29th in the nation for vaccine distribution when we are a healthcare Mecca and have the infrastructure," she said in an interview with the Reporter on Jan. 21, adding, "We've got to center equity and prioritize vaccinations in our hardest hit communities. This is about saving lives and I just feel that the vaccine rollout to date, frankly, has been delayed and disorganized."

Pressley did not specifically point blame at city or state offi-



Rep. Ayanna Pressley We've got to center equity"
WBUR photo

cials in her comments. She had been a fierce critic of the Trump administration's response to the pandemic. On Thursday, she said she expects the Biden-Harris administration to move quickly to improve coordination and dis-

tribution of the vaccines.

"I am optimistic," she said. "I know that President Biden will make an announcement today about a national vaccination

(Continued on page 8)

## 'Encouraged' Walsh eases business limits

By Katie Trojano REPORTER STAFF

The city's Covid-19 numbers are heading "in the right direction," Mayor Walsh said on Tuesday as he announced that more Boston businesses-including fitness centers and movie theatres that have been closed since a post-holiday surge -can re-open with limited capacities next month.

The numbers are still too high for where we want them to be right now, but we've seen positive test rates go down in every neighborhood," Walsh said. "That's a good sign, and we are encouraged."

Phase 3, step 1 of the reopening plan, which kicks in next Monday, Feb. 1, will still set strict limits for indoor and outdoor gatherings at 10 and 25 people, respectively.

We will only move forward with reopening if the public health experts feel it is safe to do so," said the mayor.

(Continued on page 9)



**Dorchester Tire owner Gary** Saks and his father, Alan, bade farewell to the community in a Facebook post last week.

## Dorchester Tire has fixed its last flat Owner cites business shifts, pandemic in closing

By Daniel Sheehan

Dorchester Tire Service, an auto repair stalwart that has operated out of its Dot Ave. location in Savin Hill for nearly 60 years, closed its doors for good last Friday, owner Gary Saks confirmed to the Reporter this week.

managed the company for the last 15 years. He pointed to a slew of industry shifts, along with blows dealt by the pandemic, as main contributors to the decision to shut down the business.

"Our model is both retail and trucking, but historically we've

Saks, whose father Alan been built on the truck tire bought the shop in 1982, has business, and with real estate in Boston going crazy, we've seen a lot of industrial companies leave the city and head out to the suburbs," he said. "That has taken a big chunk out of our market, and the pandemic has taken a huge chunk out of the business on top of that.'

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President Barack Obama on a call with the Childe Hassam painting on the wall behind him.

### Childe Hassam painting back in the Oval Office

Born in 1859, Hassam grew up on Olney Street on Meetinghouse Hill, where he first took art lessons as a student at the Mather School. After two years at Dorchester High School, he left to study wood engraving and began painting watercolors before eventually moving on to oil paintings.

His work, influenced by the French Impressionists, was featured in Boston art galleries at the time. After studying at the prestigious Academie Julian in Paris and spending years traveling across Europe, Hassam established himself at the forefront of the American Impressionist movement.

"The Avenue in the Rain" depicts a soggy streetscape draped in

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Quadricentennial of Dot 3,619

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(Continued from page 1) American flags. It is part of Hassam's Flag Series, a set of his most famous and typically patriotic works painted before and during the first World

The avenue in question is not Dorchester Avenue, but rather 5th Avenue in Manhattan, where Hassam created the piece in 1917.

The painting has been in the White House's permanent art collection since the Kennedy administration and was on display in the Oval Office during Bill Clinton and Barack Obama's terms in office. It was removed during Donald Trump's

Now, to the left of the Resolute desk, the work of a son of Dorchester once again is on display in the White House.

-DANIEL SHEEHAN

Dorchester Reporter

(USPS 009-687)

POSTMASTER: Send address chang-

es to: 150 Mt. Vernon St., Suite 120,

Mail subscription rates \$50 per year,

payable in advance. Make checks

and money orders payable to The

Dorchester Reporter and mail to: 150

Mt. Vernon St., Suite 560, Dorchester,

News Room: (617) 436-1222

ADVERTISING: (617) 436-1222

FAX PHONE: (617) 825-5516

Subscriptions: (617) 436-1222

Published Weekly Periodical post-

age paid at Boston, MA.

Dorchester, MA 02125

## Struck by a car in a freak mishap on Jan. 7, Larry DiCara is on the mend

By BILL FORRY **E**DITOR

Dorchester native Larry DiCara, a former Boston City Councillor and one of the city's most sought-after attorneys on municipal matters, is recovering from serious injuries after he was struck by a vehicle in a tragic accident earlier this month in Marion, Mass., where he has a

DiCara, 72, was injured on the afternoon of Thurs., Jan. 7, as he walked on a sidewalk near his part-time home. The motorist- later named as Scott Erdman, 74— appeared to have suffered a medical emergency behind the wheel, according to an account of the incident from Beth Stone, a spokesperson for the Plymouth County District Attorney's office.

Erdman's gray Honda Accord was seen swerv-



Larry DiCara

ing and driving erratically before it jumped the curb and struck DiCara.

The operator was trapped in the vehicle and was unresponsive and not breathing," Stone said in a statement. "Marion emergency medical personnel removed the driver, who was transported to Tobey Hospital, where he was pronounced dead at 2:55 p.m." His cause of death is under investigation by

the Medical Examiner.

DiCara was rushed to a hospital in the region suffering from broken bones and other injuries that required surgeries. In an email to friends and family on Jan. 12, his daughters said they "are happy to report that he is recovering and his medical team is satisfied with his progress."

DiCara has been a constant of Boston's political and civic landscape since the 1970s. A graduate of Boston Latin School and Harvard, DiCara, at 22, was the youngest person ever elected to the Boston City Council when he won a seat in 1972. He served as the council's president in 1978 and was a candidate for state Treasurer in 1978.

A first-generation Italian-American from Dorchester's Irish-heavy Ward 17, DiCara chalked up a record of fairly pro-

gressive votes at a time when Boston was hardly a hotbed of progressivism. DiCara came up short as a candidate for mayor of Boston in 1983 in an election that was ultimately won by Ray Flynn.

While his career in elected office ended in the 1980s, DiCara is considered an expert in municipal matters and his law practice has made him a fixture at City Hall. His is a sought-after voice and opinion on city politics and his essays typically musings on Boston's future growth or its not-so-distant pasthave been published frequently in the *Reporter*.

In 2013, DiCara wrote a riveting political memoir — "Turmoil and Transition in Boston"— that chronicles his experience as a young politician during the city's desegregation era.

### Police, Courts & Fire

## 2 violent street robberies put Ashmont-Adams area on alert

Boston Police in Area C-11 are warning the public to be watchful after a pair of violent street robberies in the Ashmont-Adams neighborhood on two recent Saturday nights that could be connected.

The first assault happened on Sat., Jan. 16, around 12:50 a.m. near 656 Adams St. Police report that a male victim was accosted by three suspects who beat him and stole his cell phone, air pods, wallet and about \$40 in cash.

A similar incident, in which an adult male was jumped by two suspects in their late teens, took place on Sat., Jan. 23, around 10:30 p.m. in the area of 490 Ashmont St.

That victim, who was sent to a local hospital for evaluation, was punched repeatedly in the face, causing "facial lacerations and a contusion to his right eye," according to a BPD report.

"The suspects were able to get away with the victim's cell phone as well as a bag containing his personal belongings, police said, adding that the suspects fled on foot down Adams Street toward Pierce Street and noting that officers and additional responding C-11 units searched the area for the suspects to no avail.

Boston Police say a woman was shot to death on Friday afternoon near Four Corners in Dorchester. Police responded to the area of Bowdoin Avenue and Washington



Firefighters responded to 24 York St. around 7:15 p.m. last Friday, Jan. 22, for a fire that started on the second floor, then spread to the third. The department reports the fire displaced 14 people, but that there were no injuries. Damage was put at \$75,000.

BFD image

Street at about 12:40 p.m. where they "located an adult female victim suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. The victim was transported to a local hospital where she was pronounced deceased," police said.

The victim's identity has not yet been released by authorities. Please call BPD at 617-343-4470 if you can assist in their investigation.

### **UPCOMING CIVIC MEETINGS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS**

JFK Library will host a Black Heritage Greater Month celebration online on Wed., Feb. 17 at 11:30 a.m. featuring the Benkadi Drume and Dance group. Register at jfklibrary.org/Celebrate.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has implemented a right lane closure along Morrissey **Boulevard** (inbound) from Freeport Street to the I-93 off-ramp through Fri. Feb. 5, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. to accommodate sidewalk repair work. Pedestrian accommodations will be clearly detoured. Traffic patterns will be clearly marked and a police detail will be onsite.

The Melville Park Neighborhood Association meets the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. The link is posted on Nextdoor Melville along with the agenda.

Fields Corner Civic Association postponed its January meeting. The next meeting will be held via Zoom on Tues., Feb. 2 at 6:30 p.m. The association is seeking candidates for president, vice president, treasurer and secretary. Please contact Hiep Chu at hiepchu@hotmail.com.

Mattapan Council (GMNC) hosts its monthly meeting via Zoom on Mon., Feb. 1 at 6:30 p.m. John Barros, the City's Chief of

Economic Development, will be a guest speaker. More info online at: g-mnc.org. Fuel assistance available — ABCD urges low-income individuals and families who are struggling to get by to apply for home heating assistance. To keep everyone safe during the pandemic, ABCD fuel assistance staff members are taking most applications over the phone by calling 617-357-6012. A fuel assistance staff member will take down application information and explain how to provide needed documentation, including mailing it, leaving it in a drop-box at ABCD headquarters, photographing and sending from their phones and other options. Applicants can go to bostonabcd. org for more info. There is a wide range of eligibility based on income and number of household members. Read the guidelines at masscap.org. ABCD pays the household's fuel vendor directly. Right now the maximum fuel assistance

was \$1,140.

The city of Boston's Community Choice **Electricity program** to provide Bostonians with greater local control over the electricity that powers their homes and businesses launches in February 2021. Visit the City of Boston's Community Choice Electricity webpage to learn more and access webinar recordings in English and 11 other languages. These recordings are a valuable resource for learning more about the Community Choice Electricity Program. Virtual "office hours" will be offered each Tuesday and Thursday from 12 - 1 p.m. and will run to Feb. 2. Visit boston.gov for more info.

The MBTA's new Winter schedule aimed at aligning service with the lower ridership levels experienced during the pandemic— went into effect on Sat., Jan. 23. Commuter rail will only offer weekend service on the Newburyport/Rockport, Framingham/Worcester, Fairmount, Providence, and Middleborough lines. All other Commuter Rail lines will not have weekend service.

**Neighborhood** benefit is \$875. Last year the top benefit The new Winter Service Schedule includes additional trains on the Fairmount Line, which runs through Dorchester and Mattapan. "These added trains help to fill in service gaps that existed in the previous schedule and help to offer more consistent train intervals, such as clockface service which makes riding simpler for passengers," according to an MBTA statement.

For instance, on the Fairmount Line, the new Winter Service Schedule offers clockface service every hour. From Readville, a train will depart on weekdays every hour at 30 minutes past the hour between 6:30 AM and 10:30 PM. This consistent interval is maintained for all stops on the Fairmount Line, and during higher ridership times additional trains are available. The new schedules are available at mbta.com/CommuterRail.

SEND UPDATES TO NEWSEDITOR@DOTNEWS.COM SEE NEW EVENTS DAILY AT DOTNEWS.COM

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## Affordable housing numbers in city in 2020 earn good reviews

By Katie Trojano Reporter Staff

Boston permitted 1,023 affordable housing units in 2020 the largest total since 2017— and that bodes well for the city in the coming years, said Sheila Dillon, who leads the Department of Neighborhood Development (DND). She added that the onset of the coronavirus and the subsequent construction pause infused the effort to create additional income-restricted housing with even more urgency.

"I was pleasantly surprised when we ended the year and saw that number, and that we were able to get as many affordable units permitted with all of the extra barriers," Dillon told the *Reporter* this week.

"These new units will provide safe and secure homes for seniors, families, and our homeless. The pandemic has reinforced that safe and affordable housing is a critical public health response."

Of the new housing permits granted in Boston last year, a record 30 percent were income restricted. Nearly 20 percent of the city's overall housing stock—and 25 percent of rental units—are reserved for low- and moderate-in-



The Indigo Block in Uphams Corner is one of several larger projects now underway that will contribute to the city's stock of affordable housing. Of the project's 80 units of housing, 44 are designated affordable and funded with low income tax credits for households earning 60 percent of AMI or less.

\*\*Katie Trojano photo\*\*

come residents, according to Dillon.

Of the 1,023 total permits issued, 50 units were set aside for homeless individuals, and 80 for households earning at or below 30 percent of Area Median Income (AMI), or \$38,350 per year.

Another 523 units were reserved for households earning at or below 60 percent of AMI, or \$65,000 per year for a family of three.

The remaining 477 units will be deed-restricted and available for households with a combined income of up to 80 percent of AMI, or about \$85,000 for a family of three.

Another priority for city officials has been transit-oriented affordable housing. That value, too, is reflected in last year's numbers: 911 of the 1,023 affordable units that were permitted are within a half-mile of rapid transit.

The need to shelter in place throughout this crisis has underlined the need for safe and stable housing for all Bostonians, particularly its most vulnerable residents, and those suffering from job or income loss.

"It's one thing to lose income when you're in an affordable unit and you know the management company can work



Sheila Dillon

out arrangements, and that the city can help," said Dillon. "It's another thing when, even before the pandemic, you were stretched. Any loss of income is going to be catastrophic.

"Our goal is to build enough affordable housing that all of our residents can afford and be with good management in the event that there is a loss of wages due to the pandemic or other circumstances," said Dillon.

"We certainly do want to build housing for everyone in the city. We are happy that a lot of the affordable housing that was permitted this year is more deeply affordable because we know that is one of the greatest needs."

In 2020, the Walsh administration invested \$40 million in public resources into income-restricted, affordable housing, and that money leveraged another \$270 million in other public and private investment sources.

In the midst of addressing mounting coronavirus-related unemployment numbers, and difficulties around ensuring proper space to quarantine, Dillon said city housing officials "learned there are families in parts of the city that are struggling to pay rent and living in overcrowded conditions. That, too, is leading to the spread of Covid-19," she said. "So getting people into units that are the right size for their families, and at a rent they can afford, is very important.

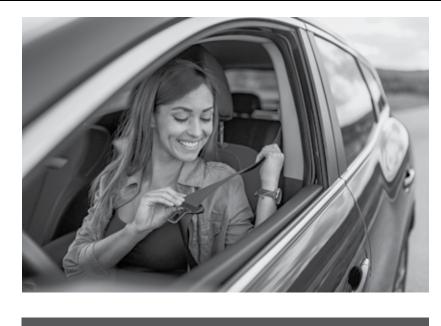
"At the beginning of the pandemic, we were able to reach out to all of the owners we partner with and they were great, and now we are working on a fund with others that will help supplement loss of incomes. Just to have that partnership and commitment to keeping people in their homes is so important," said Dillon.

With a mayoral transition imminent, Dillon expects that the deep commitment to affordable housing in Boston will remain intact.

"Mayor Walsh and his team are really dedicated — and we're all working on it right now— to a very smooth transition," she said. "There isn't one candidate running that isn't very concerned about affordable housing and displacement issues, which is great. All of the candidates share that concern."

With the Biden-Harris administration now in charge in Washington, Dillon is optimistic about more federal funding in the years to come. When the mayor outlined a goal of 15,000 new affordable units by 2030, she said "it was based on need, but also on how much state and federal resources were available to Boston.

"We have not had a good federal partner making housing a priority for the last four years, so if that is going to change, that number is going to change as well," she said.



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### **Editorial**

## Skip the special

Should Boston hold a special election this summer to replace Mayor Walsh when he leaves City Hall to become Labor Secretary? The consensus answer, judging by the public debate surrounding a home rule petition *against holding one* proposed by City Councillor Ricardo Arroyo, is a resounding "no."

Secretary of State William Galvin, the Boston Municipal Research Bureau, NAACP Boston, Mass-VOTE, Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, and the majority of councillors who are on the record about the matter have all spoken up clearly to say what we also believe: It does not make sense to schedule a special this year, particularly when there is already a municipal election set for September and November. The council should expedite its efforts to get this sensible proposal to the Legislature for its approval. Gov. Baker has already indicated that he will sign it.

As it stands today, it is possible that Walsh could be confirmed as soon as next week. The Biden cabinet nominees are moving through the Democratic-controlled Senate at a brisk pace for the Capitol. Walsh himself is needed on deck to run one of the federal administration's most important departments. It is highly unlikely that he will still be our mayor by Valentine's Day. He will resign promptly after his confirmation, which is virtually assured.

Under the city charter, once that resignation is filed with the city clerk, a special election will be ordered "forthwith" and scheduled for late spring or early summer. In that scenario, with City Council President Kim Janey filling the vacancy until a new mayor is installed via the preliminary and final special elections, another mayoral campaign would then begin for the regular scheduled elections in September and November.

So in following the charter's mandate, the city would be compelled to stage four distinct elections through November with all of the attendant costs and, in the time of the coronavirus, public health risks.

In the unlikely event that Walsh leaves his post here on or after March 5, the call for a special election would be moot under the charter, and the next election would be the scheduled primary in September, with Janey serving as "acting mayor" until a new mayor is elected in November.

The Home Rule petition authored by Councillor Arroyo gives us a welcome safety valve if Walsh resigns in the next week, or at least before March 5. It would override the city charter and let us wait until the fall to pick the next mayor.

During a committee hearing on Tuesday afternoon— which stretched into the evening— councillors heard testimony from each other and from advocates for voter rights, all of whom urged the council to support the petition.

As committee chair Councillor Lydia Edwards noted at one point: "There's not much disagreement in this room." Indeed, no one who testified even tried to make a case for a special. The most compelling testimony came from the men and women who are paid to actually run our elections, both at the city and state levels. Sabino Piemonte, a longtime election official for the city, testified that each citywide election day costs between \$700,000 to \$750,000 to mount— and that's without additional expenses related to Covid-19.

The cost of staging the elections is one thing. But what about the cost of having to juggle a massive public health emergency while also worrying about coordinating four elections in a relatively short span of time. Shouldn't the full attention of city government— indeed of all of us— be on getting this blasted vaccine into as many arms as possible?

The simple answer is "yes." We hope the council, mayor, state lawmakers, and the governor will get this measure passed without delay. - Bill Forry

### The Reporter

"The News & Values Around the Neighborhood"

A publication of Boston Neighborhood News Inc. 150 Mt. Vernon St., Dorchester, MA 02125 Worldwide at dotnews.com

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Member: Dorchester Board of Trade, Mattapan Board of Trade

Next Issue: Thursday, February 4, 2021

Next week's Deadline: Monday, February 1 at 4 p.m.

Published weekly on Thursday mornings

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### **Media Notebook**

# A Globe story about you rates follow-up? Ask paper for a digital 'fresh start' on it

### By Tom Mulvoy Associate Editor

Last week, the *Boston Globe* announced with a front-page mention an editorial initiative it has dubbed "Fresh Start: Revisiting the past for a better future." It is a program, the paper said, meant to address the lasting impact that "stories about past embarrassments, mistakes, or minor crimes, forever online and searchable, can have on a person's life."

## **FRESH START**

Revisiting the past for a better future

Confronting such stories and then doing something about them will involve a Fresh Start Committee, made up of 10 employees from across the Globe's editorial departments and on boston.com, taking applications from readers asking the newspaper to update stories in the newspaper's digital archive that have been published about them, and maybe render their names anonymously for searches on sites like Google.

Said the paper's editor-in-chief, Brian McGrory, in the announcement: "It was never our intent to have a short and relatively inconsequential Globe story affect the futures of the ordinary people who might be the subjects. Our sense, given the criminal justice system, is that this has had a disproportionate impact on people of color. The idea behind the program is to start addressing it."

As a retired managing editor of the Globe, I salute the spirit that is driving this "experiment," as one ranking editor called it. My sense is that a laying out of all the coverage in the Globe's local news pages over the last 60 years or so allowed many readers to assume that life in the neighborhoods of Roxbury, Jamaica Plain, Dorchester, and Mattapan, where large numbers of people of color live, has been for the most part unremittingly about crime and violence. Of course, that has hardly been the case; traditional news stories from and about those neighborhoods abound in the Globe library.

Still, the daily headlines and article placements – done almost by rote as part of newspaper tradition that says "this happened, we reported on it, so put it into the paper" – have suggested the bleaker story overall.

The Globe's approach to covering local news underwent significant changes during those six decades. By the late 1970s, when circulation outside Boston was growing at a steady pace, small-bore breaking news of fires and assaults outside a bar and roadrage incidents faded as fodder for substantial metro report display; the stories on the local news budgets scheduled for attention involved political issues and electioneering, racial matters — busing, housing, redlining, displacement — trends and cultural arts and medicine and science and business and sports that appealed to a larger audience, much of it comprising subscribers living outside the city proper where circulation was undergoing a decline.

The small-impact stories were still happening, and being reported on, and many of them deservedly were allotted space in the paper as part of the daily budget. Then there were the pop-up news items that occurred just before and after midnight.

For most of my last 25 years with the Globe (1976-2000), I was the last senior editor to leave the

newsroom in the evening, often toward midnight, the time when the only official sources available to reporters on large-bore breaking stories — homicides, fatal fires, a multiple crash that blocked the Expressway, a riot near the Garden — are municipal police and fire officials. Those who will take a call from the newsroom or talk to a Globe reporter at the scene are usually working with barebones information about aggressors, victims, other participants, and related circumstances.

The potential for misinformation, with, perhaps, some of it delivered from a biased viewpoint, from these exchanges making it into the paper is ever present, and while the Globe will correct the facts when errors are presented to them, there mostly is no accounting in the paper afterwards for the personal effects published misinformation has had on individuals involved in the event.

I suspect those sorts of stories will be well represented in the filings the Globe will get with this new program. While many Globe articles about crime and punishment do get follow-up reporting and story play, too many others, often singular episodes that leave determinations of innocence or guilt for later on, receive no second mention in the paper. Rectifying situations where journalistic and humane justice has not been done will be a plus for the Globe and its readers.

I suspect, too, that patience will be a virtue as commission members go about their tasks, which seem likely to involve some re-reporting of old, even very old, stories and, in some cases, a re-thinking, of sorts, of the thinking of the reporters and editors who wrote the stories and headlines and captions and selected the photographs and then placed them and the stories on this page and not that one.

As with all such experiments, there certainly will be other such ruminations going forward, as in: What about the print archive? Is the assumption that stories long ago set and published in print only will not be changed, but maybe additionally carry an adjacent notice from the "Fresh Start" panel?

•••

The Boston Globe has been publishing continually since March 4, 1872, producing some 55,000 editions. It was strictly a newspaper until Oct. 30, 1995, when the website boston.com signed onto the media sphere and offered both subscribers and just folks a digital copy of the daily editions at no cost. News for free was a gift that stopped giving in 2011, when bostonglobe.com, a subscriber-only pay website, entered the market.

Circulation has risen and fallen with the times, reaching peak numbers of about 510,000 on weekdays and 830,000 on Sundays over the last 15 years of the 20th century. In the ensuing years to date, internet-fueled Goliaths like Google, Twitter, and Amazon have essentially stripped print media outlets of all stripes of their lifeblood, advertising, both display (the big ads), and classified (the small ones).

In the last 20 or so years, Globe print circulation numbers have dropped by more than 85 percent on weekdays and by some 80 percent on Sundays, according to published reports. On the other hand, paid digital-only Globe subscribers numbers passed 200,000 early last year, according to the paper, a figure the company had long pointed to as a marker along the road to a reinvigoration of the organization's role as the dominant news media force in greater Boston and beyond. Stay tuned.

### Letter to the Editor

## Special election would be unfair burden

To the Editor:

The past year has been one of immense awakening for the city of Boston. The joint crises in public health and racial injustice have forced us to confront the vast inequalities that plague our city. Yet as the city makes progress on many fronts, it is poised to suffer a frustrating setback.

If Mayor Walsh joins President Biden's cabinet as Labor Secretary prior to March 5 – a very likely scenario – then the city must hold a series of special elections to fill his seat. But because the city is already set to hold its regularly scheduled mayoral elections this fall, these special elections are likely to retain little benefit. In fact, they will almost certainly cause voter fatigue and confusion. As a result, fewer individuals will cast ballots, leaving the voices of many unheard.

Forcing voters to turn out in these special elections will disproportionately impact the city's under-represented communities. Boston's Black and brown, low-income, and immigrant communities have suffered especially due to the pandemic. Not only has the coronavirus harmed their health, but it has greatly impeded their employment and housing opportunities. Leaving the special elections in place will make it far more difficult for these individuals to turn out and have their opinions accounted for.

The city and state must eliminate these burdensome special elections. In doing so, they may prove that they have taken the lessons of the past year to heart.

– Cheryl Clyburn Crawford

Cheryl Clyburn Crawford is the executive director of MassVOTE, a non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization dedicated to voting rights. She is also the first vice president of the NAACP Boston Branch.

**January 28, 2021** THE REPORTER dotnews.com Page 5

**Looking Up Longfellow Street** 

## Questions to ask, and answer: Who is us? And who is them?

### By Edward M. Cook SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Immigration is very personal to me in the present and in my past. After four years of hateful talk about immigrants by the previous resident of the White House, President Biden is going to work on legislative reform, rather than attacking the people who have always brought energy, prosperity, and vision to our country.

I have mentioned in earlier pieces in this space that in the 43 houses on Longfellow Street there live natives of Dominica, Haiti, Jamaica, Honduras, the British Virgin Islands, Guatemala, Panama, Dominican Republic, Cape Verde and Vietnam alongside Puerto Ricans, Irish Americans and African Americans from Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, and Boston. We are all friends who watch out for each other's kids, attend family weddings, baptisms, graduations, and cookouts. And we all, or our families, came here from somewhere else. We are all close to immigration.

I have been thinking about my own family. Three of my grandparents were early 20th-century Irish immigrants. The fourth was from Providence, R.I. Her Irish family came across fleeing the potato famine and gave up three boys who died for the Union in that first insurrection.

The established Yankees hated the Irish who came to Boston in the mid-1800s in wave after wave, destitute, illiterate, praying in a foreign religion, and speaking more Gaelic than English. The so-called Paddies were the immigrant "caravans" of the nineteenth century. During the Great Famine on the island of Ireland, English landlords found it cheaper to drive entire villages onto ships bound for Boston than pay to feed them. Photos of those who survived the squalid, disease-ridden death ships show scrawny, hollow-eved creatures in rags looking like the cast of The Walking Dead. They were fleeing poverty and looking for asylum.

And how about the poor who fled the medieval servitude and destitution of early 20th century Sicily and Calabria. Many of the depredations visited on their Irish predecessors were repeated on them as Papists, non-English speakers, illiterate, and unskilled. They were fleeing poverty and looking for asylum.

And the Jews who fled Russian and Polish pogroms. Poor, with the wrong religion, "Christ killers," non-English speaking. They were fleeing poverty and violence and looking for asylum. Hundreds of thousands of Chinese laborers were brought across the Pacific in the mid-to-late 1800s to

build the railroads that straddled the American continent. Their reward? Ruthless bosses, unprovoked killings, the lowest wages, and, finally, the 1875 Page Act that forbid the immigration of Chinese women (lest they make anchor babies) and the 1880 Chinese Exclusion Act, the only law ever passed to exclude people based on race or ethnicity - the Muslim ban of its time. They were fleeing poverty and looking for a better life for their children.

This space for this column is inadequate to contain the story of the horrors of the Middle Passage slave trade that produced the largest enforced movement of humanity ever recorded, and which Massachusetts Governor Dewey permitted in the Bay Colony. Nor is there space to go into the European invasion of North America and massacre of the native peoples to establish the Empire of the United States. But those first nation natives also wanted freedom and were destroyed by violence.

The hatred generated against immigrants is embedded in current US immigration policy that President Biden is seeking to put on a rational, fact-based footing. His US Citizenship Act of 2021 will stabilize our immigration system, and show the world that we are a nation of rules

combined with honor. No more Muslim bans. Citizenship for the DACA kids. A clear, step-by-step path to citizenship for the more than ten million "noncitizen" residents so that they can unleash their full economic potential for the country.

An estimated three out of four undocumented residents are essential workers. Millions more entered this country in Temporary Protected Status programs after devastating hurricanes, earthquakes, and other disasters crippled their home countries. They became the farm workers, health care workers, office cleaners that we depend on. We need these people to help us rebuild our economy and speed the national recovery from

the pandemic.

We also need to answer to the ideals that our democracy was built on. Biden's reform is not merely a bureaucratic improvement. Speaking for our higher angels, it will help define answers that we are giving to questions that are central to our human condition, "Who is us? And who is them?" "How do we treat us and how do we treat them?" What so many of us forget is the way our "us" was treated once upon a time. It is time to add "forgetfulness" to the list of the deadly sins.

## Dear Marty, How about a US workers' Bill of Rights?

### By Jeff Klein SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Congratulations, Marty Walsh, on your new job as US Secretary of Labor! We'll miss you here in Dorchester as a neighbor and as our mayor, but we are excited to know that a Boston union veteran will represent the interests of workers in Joe Biden's cabinet. And we're hoping you will lead with big and prompt actions to address the needs of a US working class that has been battered by rising inequality, unchecked corporate power, and the decline in numbers and clout of labor unions.

Here's an agenda for you to press for with your new boss. I call it The American Workers Bill of Rights.

1. The right to a raise. It is a disgrace that the current \$7.25 minimum wage has not been raised for more than 11 years, while prices and the cost of living have soared. US workers – especially those at the bottom of the wage scale - badly need a raise. Experience shows that raising the minimum wage has a positive effect on workers' earnings across the board. We expect you to push the Biden Administration to make it an urgent priority for a federal minimum wage of \$15 an nour, implemented immediately, with a provision for automatic increases in line with inflation. It would be great if some Republicans supported this measure, but you and your boss should say loudly and publicly that if Republicans oppose a \$15 minimum wage, they should be made to face the consequences with their voters. Raising the minimum wage is overwhelmingly popular in red as well as blue states.

2. The right to a decent, secure **job.** End trade and tax policies that directly or indirectly subsidize corporate removal of jobs to low-wage regions. Enforce and strengthen plant-closing legislation so that eliminating jobs will be more costly to businesses. Launch major public works investments that will create millions of good-paying jobs and improve our crumbling infrastructure, while also moving us toward a more energy-efficient and sustainable economy. Legally recognize that socalled gig workers have the same rights as other employees.

3. The right to belong to a union. A weakened labor movement has become less able to redress the balance of power that lets corporations keep wages and benefits down. Make it public policy to support workers' rights to organize without fear of retaliation and to bargain on a level playing field with employers. Make appointments to the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) so that it is tilted toward labor, not corporate rights. Legislate against state "Right to Work" laws-which union members understand as "The Right to Work for Less"-that discriminate against and weaken unions.

4. The right to safety at work and healthcare at home. Bolster funding and enforcement for OSHA. Enforce environmental laws to protect communities from irresponsible corporate polluters. Legislate nationwide paid family and sick leave (and minimum standards for vacation time). Ensure universal access to affordable public health insurance so workers are not tied to a job to keep their health coverage.

5. The right to equal pay and enging job discrimination. Employment and wage discrimination against women, people of color, and immigrants puts downward pressure on compensation for all workers. Vigorous enforcement of wage and hour laws, equal pay for equal work, and ending the super-exploitation of immigrant workers, (documented and undocumented) will benefit working people as a whole.

Measures like these would directly improve the lives of millions of Americans in our diverse and racially mixed working class. They are also the best way to avoid a resurgence of Trumpism. Other initiatives – protecting voting rights and limiting corporate money in politics -- would have an indirect effect in democratizing our political system and in giving a stronger voice to workers' concerns in our elections and in Congress.

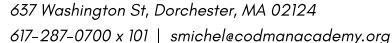
This is an ambitious agenda, but one that has broad majority support around the country.

Marty, stay true to your work-

ing class and union roots in D.C. We need your leadership in keeping the interests of US workers out front. We know. . . You Can Do It!

Jeff Klein is a retired local union president who lives in Dorchester. He has known Mayor Walsh for more than 25 years.

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# Reporter's People in and around our Neighborhoods

## **News about people**

## New permanent minister named at First Parish Dorchester

By KATIE TROJANO REPORTER STAFF

First Parish Dorchester has a new permanent minister. The Reverend Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd, who has served at the parish atop Meetinghouse Hill since last August, is the 24th "settled" minister in the parish's 391-year history.

Carrier-Ladd, who grew up in the Boston area, was a justice and outreach minister at All Souls Unitarian Church in Indianapolis before returning to Boston last

"First Parish Dorchester has been on my radar for many years as I've watched them do the real, important, deep work of interim ministry over the last several years," she told the *Reporter* this week. "When they posted the job opportunity, I jumped at it and really enjoyed my conversations from the beginning.



Reverend Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd is the 24th settled minister at First Parish Dorchester.

Photo courtesy First Parish Dorchester

I have just loved my time with them.

"There has been an incredible amount of alignment between who I am as a minister and who they are as a congregation from the beginning of our conversations that has only deepened in the six months that I've been with them," Carrier-Ladd said.

The congregation spent those months in discernment mode before voting on the installation.

In a statement issued on behalf of the congregation, church leaders said: "Rev. Elizabeth's call to congregational ministry is based on feeling her sense of purpose most strongly in the awe of worship, beside a hospital bed, helping work through a disagreement or get to an important decision in committee work, listening to youth share what is real for them in their lives, and standing up in opposition to injustice everywhere, including in the streets. We are lucky to have her join us and look forward to sharing her ministry with our community partners and the larger Dorchester community.

Going forward, Carrier-Ladd hopes to connect with the broader neighborhood and continue engaging in new and old community partner-

"The thing that the pandemic has changed the most is that I haven't been able to connect with the community as much as I would like to, and that's going to be my top priority coming out of the pandemic, however long it takes," she said. "I'm starting to see some light at the end of the tunnel.

"And I'm looking forward to re-engaging with community partners that First Parish has a long history with, and striking up new relationships with partnerships is going to be an important part of how the summer and fall unfolds in our ministry."

One of those key partners is Fair Foods Inc., which has distributed food to the community from First Parish Dorchester for the past 32 years.

"Our building is one of our biggest assets. We try as best we can to be lor of Arts degree from

really generous with it because there are people who need it and we are happy to share it with other people and organizations.

To that point, it was announced on Tuesday that the First Parish church will serve as a sevenday-a-week vaccine site for those with appointments beginning next Monday, Feb. 1, through a partnership with Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC).

Rev. Carrier-Ladd has had an impressive career in ministry, serving in several roles in the Midwest and California. She has also taught religious education, led several vouth programs and international social justice-aimed service trips. She received a Master of Divinity degree from the Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago, and a BacheHampshire College in Amherst, MA.

If it can be done safely at that time, the congregation plans to hold a celebration next fall featuring its new minister's formal installation ceremony. Until then, Rev. Carrier-Ladd will continue to lead Sunday services, support lay leaders, offer pastoral support to those in need, and work to deepen her relationships throughout the community.

"Our mission is really to return to that old notion of the meetinghouse, which is where the whole neighborhood or city would gather," said Carrier-Ladd. "We're still figuring out other ways of moving in that direction during the pandemic and planning for trying to build more connections that will lead us even further into that mission when we are allowed to reopen our doors."

## Plumbing the history of the Ronan Park sinkhole site

### By Adrian Ma WBUR REPORTER

Boston archeologists have unearthed a trove of historical details about a sinkhole that opened up in early December near a pathway in Ronan Park. At the time, a cursory investigation (involving an iPhone and flashlights taped to a paint roller) revealed the existence of a well that was likely built sometime in the 1800s. Only one "artifact" was found — a plastic liquor bottle probably tossed into the hole within days of its opening.

However, a report released on Jan. 22 by the Boston City Archaeology Program provides a fuller picture of the lives of some of the people who lived on the land encompassing the well.

In reading the report, one gets the sense of starting down the deep well of Boston's history, and in the darkness seeing nints of the ugly realities of the time, such



The Hannah Bliss home that was torn down to make room for Ronan Park. Dorchester Historical Society photo

indigenous lands, patriarchal laws, and deadly diseases. But one also gets a glimpse of how the land that we call Ronan Park came to be what it is today.

Although Ronan Park has never been surveyed archaeologically, the report stated, it is likely

in the park, as Boston as a whole is part of the ancestral homelands of the Massachusett. The closest intact sites are at Savin Hill and Commercial Point, both Massachusett burial places that date to the 17th century.

in 1650, European

north of the site. And in 1793, historical records show, Thaddeus Mason Harris, a minister of the Dorchester First Parish Church located just north of Ronan Park, bought the land on which the site sits.

In 1818, a bricklayer named John Pierce that some indigenous immigrants began col- purchased 10 acres of as the colonization of sites exist or once existed onizing the area just the land and built two

homes for himself and his wife, Catherine B. Pierce, and their family - the second one at 151 Adams St., on land where the well was found.

John's son, Charles, later married Mary Lyman of Springfield, in 1846. And by the 1850s, both appeared to be living in a house near 151 Adams St., along with their two children, a couple of Irish laborers, and two Irish-born women, Kate Fitzgerald and Margaret Kohn, who, the archeologists suggest, may have been domestic servants.

In 1857, Charles died of typhoid fever but didn't leave a will, and in the years that followed, Mary apparently fell on hard times. By law, she had to petition for an allowance from her husband's \$43,000 estate. And the \$355 she was awarded apparently wasn't enough for her live on. The 1865 state census found her living in a boarding house south of Fields Corner, along with 22 other people.

Later, Mary purchased the property at 151 Adams St., which had been willed to various family members by her husband's father, John. Among the heirs whose stakes in the property she had to buy up to obtain title? Her son, Charles Jr., and her daughter Elizabeth.

Mary died of cancer in November 1885. In her will, she left \$1,000 to her neighbor, \$100 to her servant, and \$50 to her nurse. Her daughter was left the Adams Street house, and the rest of her \$18,000 estate — unless she married.

Elizabeth died from kidney disease in 1892 and was buried at Mount Benedict Cemetery in West Roxbury. And while she remained unmarried and did not have children, the report states that «Elizabeth's will and probate reflects a social life filled with family and long-time friends." She named 28 people in the will.

The report goes on to state that in the will, Elizabeth made "a clear preference for the women in her life, with 20 women named ... and just nine men, and the women received the vast majority of her estate, totaling nearly \$30,000, with just \$5,000 given to men.'

In 1893, the executors of Elizabeth's estate sold the property to Hannah Bliss for "one dollar and other valuable considerations to us" historians do not know much about why or what that meant.

In 1910, at about 82 years old, Bliss died of a cerebral hemorrhage. And her heirs sold the property to the city of Boston, which later included it in the construction of Ronan Park.

There are more depths to plumb in this report, if you are a nerd for that kind of thing from geologic analysis to analyses to the history of waterworks in Boston. See DotNews.com for a link to the full report.

This article was first published by WBUR 90.9FM on Jan. 24. The Reporter and WBUR share content through a media partnership.

### YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE

**DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY** 

Todav's brief chapter. which is taken from a blog post that came to the society's attention, is about a merchant mariner (and America's first consul to Senegal) who died 100 years ago, and his now-demolished home at 102 Neponset Ave. that is shown in the accompanying photograph.

"For a quarter of a century – from 1880 to 1905 – shipmaster Peter Strickland lived on Goree Island in Senegal while

toiling as a US merchant mariner. He brought leaf tobacco from Kentucky and Tennessee to West Africa, and for return trips, he filled the cargo bay of schooners with goat hides, peanuts, and palm kernels.... The family moved to Dorchester, Massachusetts, to be near the busy port of Boston."

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



## Brookview House focus: pandemic's long-term impacts

### By Daniel Sheehan Reporter Staff

In her 31 years at Brookview House, a Dorchester-based organization dedicated to women and children experiencing homelessness, president and CEO Deborah Hughes has never seen a crisis wreak havoc on vulnerable populations as Covid-19 has done over the past year.

"I thought we had been through every possible crisis, but this one has hit us in a way I could have never imagined," Hughes told the *Reporter* in an interview last week. "People talk about the 'triple pandemic,' and it really did hit us in multiple ways. Nothing compares to this that I've seen, and 2008 was pretty bad."

From its headquarters in Franklin Field, Brookview House has for decades provided vital services and affordable housing to families that find themselves on the street due to factors out of their control like evictions or domestic abuse. Using a dual-pronged approach — with youth development programming like "Girls Who Code" and other after-school and summer tutoring and enrichment services working in tandem with education and job training programs



**Deborah Hughes** 

for adults — the organization has achieved a high school graduation rate of 88 percent for its youth participants, with 92 percent of Brookview mothers being able to maintain permanent housing after leaving.

But over the last several months, the pandemic has directly led to spikes in homelessness and domestic violence rates in the city, at once creating a greater need for and placing enormous stress on Brookview House's services.

Hughes didn't sugarcoat the situation that she and her organization are currently staring down: "With Covid, it's been really frightening," she said. When we look at what is going on for families experiencing homelessness, the challenges are huge.

"The level of unemployment has risen exponentially in our communities. Most of these folks who were working

in restaurants and at other low level minimum wages jobs have been laid off, and we've seen that effect in addition to having food insecurity. Folks are working around evictions and having to choose between rent, utilities, and food... it has been devastating for our community."

In terms of its services, the organization had to adjust for safety protocols and fill the gaps left by the closed public school system, on which homeless families normally depend for food and other resources.

Once the virus hit, Brookview House altered its normal after school and summer youth programming and moved to an 8 a.m.-4 p.m. schedule doing remote learning. Youth at Brookview House have been having morning classroom sessions before switching to enrichment activities that include a writing program, a podcast class, mentoring opportunities, and other arts activities.

"It's about broadening what we do and expanding the length of time we work with the kids," said Hughes. "On top of that, we've started doing more with tele-mental health because clinical services are a huge piece of what we do, and with Covid

we have even more of our participants dealing with depression, anxiety, and fear." vors of domestic violence, is another entity currently under considerable strain. The linguistically

Brookview House is working on putting together a vaccine clinic, Hughes said, to help its residents and neighbors get access to immunization. But even as vaccines continue to roll out in Massachusetts, she is cognizant that the threat of the virus will not completely disappear for some time, especially for vulnerable populations in places like Dorchester and Mattapan.

"It's going to take us a long time to recover... most of our constituents are Black and Latinx, so the vaccine is key to our recovery," she said. "We don't know what's going to happen in 2021, but for our communities, Covid will be around for the next two to three years. Everyone needs to get the vaccine in order to begin to move forward.

"Getting to herd immunity is important, so if we can't get folks to get on board with getting the vaccine, it will be an even longer process. That's our biggest challenge right now in addition to everything else."

Brookview's Women's Safety Network (WSN), a Dorchester program established to provide aid and resources to surviis another entity currently under considerable strain. The linguistically and culturally specific counseling, safety planning, coordinated case management, childcare, housing search assistance, legal advocacy, financial literacy, and life skills workshops offered by the WSN are all pieces of an approach that gets women out of dangerous situations and on a path to a new start.

Maintaining that network has taken a lot of above and beyond effort, said Hughes. "Incidences of domestic violence have increased, and because of Covid, it becomes difficult if not impossible for people to leave that situation. It takes a lot of safety planning and finding different ways to engage with them...it's on us to make contact and keep in touch, especially now that they are spending more time at home with the abusers. We've been doing more calls, providing counseling and other services, ensuring they can get PPP supplies."

Hughes cited one success story from last fall where a woman who had been homeless for the last seven years finally achieved permanent housing with the help of Brookview House.

"We doubled down on our housing search process; she was diligent; we were diligent; we put all our resources together," she said. "There are all these barriers that prevent homeless individuals from getting permanent housing, but we worked through and addressed those barriers, and that was one of the biggest things that sticks out from last year— for her, it was huge."

As difficult as the last year has been, Hughes doesn't count on things improving anytime soon for her organization, pointing to a recent PEW Foundation poll in which, she noted, 60 percent of respondents indicated they would not be able to pay next month's rent.

"The scary part for me is 2021. When it comes to ending the eviction moratorium, 2021 and 2022 will be even worse than what we saw in 2020," she said. "People can't afford to pay rent, and they've already reduced the unemployment aid people are getting."

A round of Covid-related grants received last year helped to ease the financial pressure on Brookview, said Hughes, along with a cadre of donors who "stepped up to the plate."



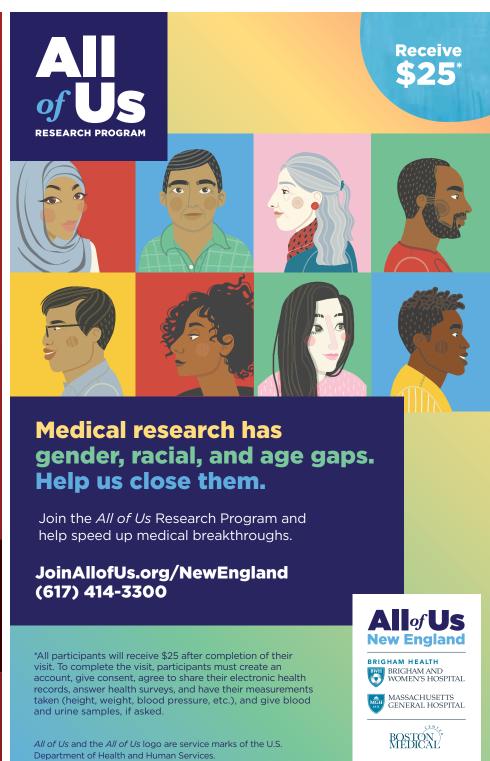
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## Pressley says rollout must be improved

(Continued from page 1) er groups, among them, strategy. So, hopefully that will also provide support to state local governments to expedite this process. States and municipalities have felt that they were going it alone for a long time, which is why I was always fighting for state and municipal aid."

Massachusetts is in the first phase of a vaccine plan that began last month with people in long-term care facilities, frontline medical workers and, more recently, first responders. On Thursday, the Baker administration said othdentists, medical and nursing students, and school nurses, will be added to the first phase.

Baker announced the addition at Gillette Stadium, the state's first mass vaccination site. Fenway Park is slated to open in that capacity on Feb. 1. After Pressley and others offered their critique last week, state and city officials announced plans to "standup" a mass vaccine center at Roxbury's Reggie Lewis Center.

There are currently 150 vaccination sites up and running in Massa-

chusetts and Baker added that he expects "a lot more site infrastructure" in the next ten days to two weeks.

Pressley told the Reporter that she wants to see community health centers in her district play a central role in more widespread vacci-

"I represent a district that has the highest representation in the community health centers, certainly in our delegation, and perhaps in the country," Pressley said, noting:

"One in three of my constituents get their

care at community health centers. We have the infrastructure. So, yes, I would like to see sites that are based in Roxbury and Dorchester, sites that are accessible [while] recognizing the limits and access based on transit deserts and other things."

Pressley's own home has been impacted in recent days by the pandemic. Her husband, Conan Harris, tested positive on Jan. 12 and experienced mild symptoms. Her office this week reported that Harris has tested negative.

Pressley was absent from last Wednesday's inauguration events in Washington because she is quarantining after she and Harris were exposed to mask-less members of Congress while sheltering from the Trump-incited mob that stormed the Capitol Building on Jan. 6. She worked from her home in Boston in the week after his diagnosis.

Pressley received her first dose of the Pfizer vaccine in December, along with other members of Congress, as part of a "continuity of government" program. She told the *Reporter* on Thursday that she did so despite her reservations about the vaccine's safety.

A study released this



Rep. Ayanna Pressley in Washington, D.C. last March. J. Scott Applewhite/AP photo

month by UMass Boston reported that 1 in 5 Bostonians who were part of a research survey conducted last fall responded that they probably would not get vaccinated. The survey also reported that nearly half of Black Bostonians surveyed said they had little or no interest in getting vaccinated, a result the report attributed in part to mistrust sown over a history of abuse by medical science.

Pressley said that such skepticism "is warranted, given the ways in which the medical community violated community trusts through acts of medical apartheid, like the Tuskegee experiment.

"To be transparent," she added, "I had to overcome my own fear and skepticism. But I did want to do my part to try to engender confidence in reminding people that this vaccine [was] developed by a black woman."

Pressley said she plans to lend herself to a public awareness campaign aimed at getting more people of color vaccinated.

"This was my fear all along, which is why early on we were just saying we need other resources, so that we'll be able to do the education and then to be able to reach the community to get word out. We knew that there would be that fear and that there would be that skepticism. But, you know, these are the communities that have been hardest hit. This is now the third leading cause of death for most Black Americans nationally."

"So, this is a matter of saving lives. I'm going to continue to use my platform and the weight of my office and my staff to partner with community-based efforts and organizations to help combat that fear and that skepticism," Pressley said. "And then to continue to push the state for access to the vaccine."

## WHY GET THE **COVID-19 VACCINE?**

### HERE IS WHAT OUR EMPLOYEES SAY!



"As a dentist working directly with patients all day, I want to do everything I can to protect myself and others."

"I work with people everyday,

both co-workers and patients.

I took the vaccine to protect

myself and the people that

COVID-19 Outreach Coordinator

I interact with."

Pauline Gill

Dr. Mohammad Majeed



"I got the vaccine for you, for my patients, to protect everyone else and increase herd immunity. I'm very excited to be a part of this amazing scientific accomplishment." Jesse Busa - Nutritionist



"I'd rather deal with any potential side-effects of the vaccine, over the side-effects of COVID-19."

Nate Smith Facilities Manager

### A COMMON QUESTION: CAN COVID-19 VACCINES CAUSE BELL'S PALSY?

Four cases of Bell's Palsy were reported among the Pfizer and BioNTech vaccine study, and four in the Moderna vaccine study, in December 2020, according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). All eight cases were in the group that received the vaccine and not the placebo, though that number of cases is not more than would be expected in the general population. The FDA is monitoring vaccine recipients for evidence of new cases of Bell's Palsy.

### OTHER QUESTIONS? PLEASE VISIT: CDC.GOV | MASS.GOV | BOSTON.GOV

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## 'Encouraged' Walsh: Numbers heading 'in right direction'

### (Continued from page 1)

On Monday, Gov. Charlie Baker detailed plans to move residents 65 or older higher up in the state's prioritization plan for vaccinations — just after those 75 years and older—and ramp up distribution infrastructure in the coming weeks.

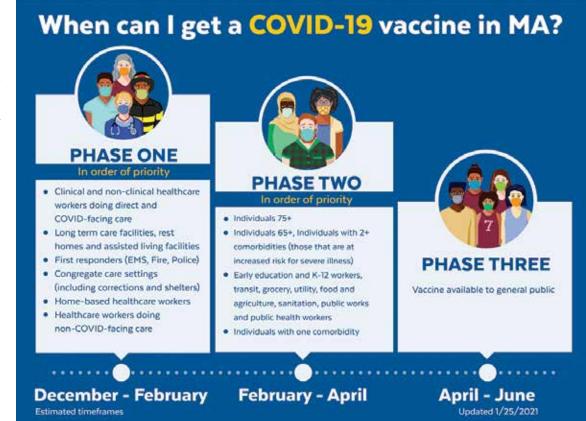
Baker also said that by Feb. 15, dozens of new vaccination sites will have been added to those already in place by Feb. 15, including First Parish Church on Meetinghouse Hill and the Reggie Lewis Center at Roxbury Community College, which will open next week for eligible Bostonians.

City residents who are eligible will also be able to get shots at Fenway Park beginning on Monday.

On that date, residents 75 and older will become eligible for vaccine shots as the state opens the second phase of its distribution plan. Residents 65 and older have been bumped up in priority in Phase 2 to right behind the age 75 contingent, joining people with two or more high-risk conditions.

After them, teachers, transit and utility workers and people with just one comorbidity will head the secod-phase line.

"We're setting up the capacity to administer far more doses than we are currently receiving or are projecting to receive from the feds," said Baker. "What this means is if we continue to get the same number of doses that we're getting now, we may end up



Gov. Charlie Baker held a press conference Monday at the State House to update the state's vaccination plan after a weekend in which his administration faced criticism from public health and political leaders worried that the state's vaccine program was lacking.

with some empty seats and empty appointments at some of our sites."

By the end of the week, Baker said, there will also be 103 public vaccination sites open at pharmacies, retail chains, and other providers. That infrastructure base will be capable of administering up to 242,000 doses per week.

Marty Martinez, chief of Health and Human Services for the city, said Boston is following the state's lead on vaccine prioritization and "will continue to ensure that Boston gets its needs met, especially in our hardest hit communities."

He added that the city is working closely with a few hospital partners on "priority clinics" to vaccinate first responders, health care workers, and, starting this week, school nurses

"Local access is key, and we continue to prioritize that," said Martinez. "Over the next few weeks, we will be finalizing additional sites in partnership with health centers, hospital partners and other clinical partners to assure that there are sites across the city as more people become eligible to be vaccinated and more doses are available."

He noted that vaccine distribution in Boston is dependent on the number of doses that come from the state. The city is "committed to making sure there will be access, especially in communities of color, when there are large numbers of folks eligible," he added.

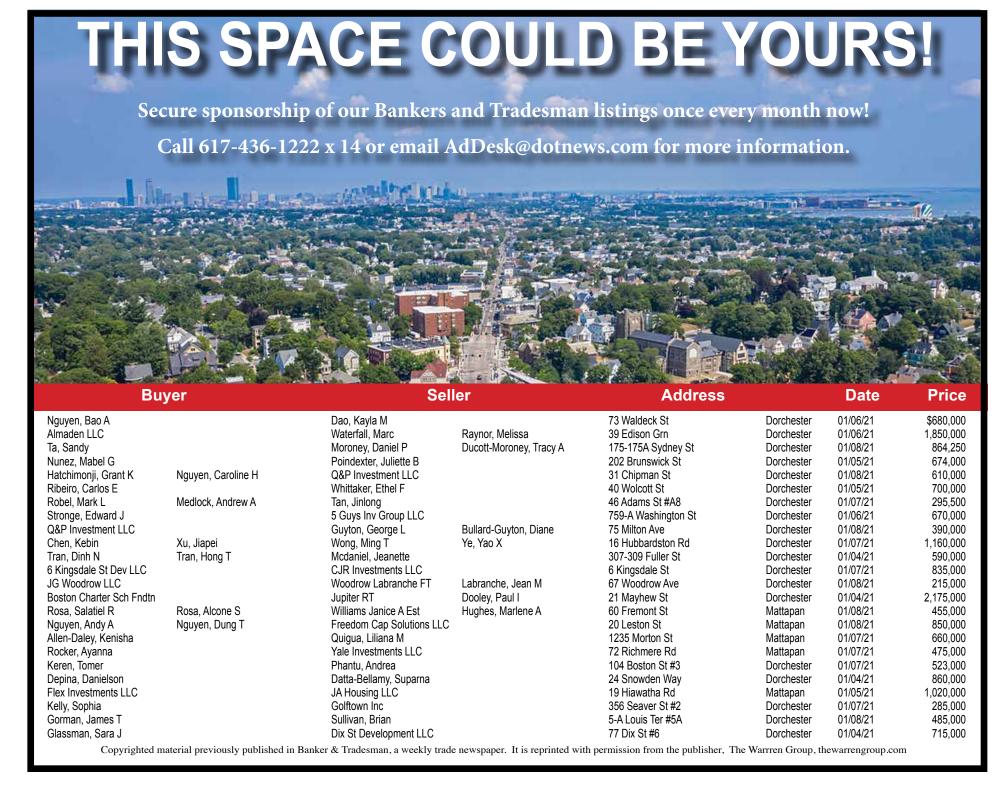
In Boston, there were 316 new confirmed cases and 5 deaths recorded on Monday, increasing those overall caseloads since the beginning of the pandemic to 51,506 and 1,133, respectively.

Metrics collected by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) for the week ending Jan. 17 show a decline in the average number of daily positive tests, and the community positive rates. East Boston, Dorchester, Hyde Park, and Mattapan still have the highest Covid rates in the city.

"We're asking people to just focus on one a day at a time," said the mayor. "We're about 11 months in now and we just need to continue to stay vigilant on all of this. We're encouraging people to continue getting tested as often as possible."

In that regard, the city has been operating a mobile testing site in Dorchester at Prince Hall Grand Lodge in Grove Hall and has opened a new test site at the Strand Theatre in Uphams Corner, which will operate on Monday and Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 n m

"The Strand is certainly a beloved cultural institution that the city and community have worked hard to revive in recent years. I'm proud of the way we are using this space to meet the needs of the community during difficult times," said Walsh.



## Council likely to support special election override measure

week suggesting that announced mayoral candidates Councillors Michelle Wu and Andrea Campbell -and Council President Kim Janey, who will be the acting mayor once Walsh resigns— might face conflict of interest violations if they registered a vote on the home rule measure.

Saying the memo was based on "a faulty application of law," Arroyo also noted that his proposal is not the first of its kind, that it follows very recent precedent

instance, a home rule petition filed to override a special election to replace Mayor Dan Rivera, who resigned early this month to take a new role as president and CEO of Mass Development, was signed by Gov. Baker after it had gained all the interim approvals.

Tanisha Sullivan, the president of the NAACP's Boston branch who supports the petition, also referred to the "questionable legal counsel that has been shared with this body. What I've seen is not legal analysis; it is a complete misread

(Continued from page 1) set in Lawrence. In that of the law on its face, she said. "We have to call it out as an attempt to oppress and subjugate."

Janey, who spoke strongly in favor of Arroyo's petition, pointed to a State Ethics Commission opinion that all councillors could vote on the matter, saying, "For anyone concerned about conflicts of interest, the Ethics Commission has the final say and can offer advice to anyone who has questions."

She offered her views on the merits of bypassing a special election: "Hosting multiple elections would cost

millions and jeopardize the health and wellness of our city, especially in the communities disproportionately impacted." A special election is "at best foolish and at worst dangerous," she added. Campbell, who an-

nounced her mayoral bid last fall and recently came out in support of the measure, confirmed that she would participate in the vote. Wu, who has also declared for mayor, supports the measure, but she did not participate in Tuesday's hearing.

Other councillors who spoke up included District 3's Frank Baker, who said he's "totally undecided" on the matter. but added: "I'm thrilled that people have found the financial light."

District 2's Ed Flynn said he has heard constituent concerns around a special election during the pandemic, and that he is open to "learning and weighing the details." At-Large Councillor Michael Flaherty said his "chief concern is that our residents have a voice in this process while balancing the public health needs, while balancing financial cost to our citizenry." And At-Large Councillor Julia Mejia expressed "full support" of the petition, as did Councillor Kenzie Bok, although she said the councillors shouldn't try to "silence concerns" about the "mixed political motives" at play in the debate.

Nearly 100 participants at the online hearing raised concerns about the cost and safety of holding four elections during public comment.

"Holding two additional elections in indoor venues creates an unnecessary risk for spreading Covid-19 and would cost about \$3 million," said Cheryl Clyburn-Crawford, executive director of MassVOTE, a nonpartisan voting rights policy organization.

Said Mimi Ramos, executive director of New England United for Justice, a community organization in Dorchester and Mattapan, "We need decisive and swift leadership from the City Council to pass the home rule petition within the next week. This is about putting our community's health and well-being before politics,"

During a panelist discussion, Michelle Tassinari, State Director of Elections said, "The Secretary of the Commonwealth has indicated his support to not have the special election in these circumstances. It is important to recognize that these are different circumstances than any other year."

Pam Kocher, president of the Boston Municipal Research Bureau, said the organization "concurs with arguments presented in the proposed Home Rule Petition" if Walsh resigns before March 5, citing financial and operational burdens, voter fatigue and reduced civic engagement, and disruption to city government and service delivery.

A few state officials testified in support of the petition, including state Representative Russell Holmes.

This is not a city issue for me ... it's fundamentally about special elections and how systemic racism disenfranchises our communities,' Holmes told the Reporter in a phone call on Tuesday. He pointed to a piece of legislation he proposed in 2019 that called for cancelling special elections across the board.

Holmes said the petition will pass if it's advanced to Beacon Hill. "After seeing what happened in Lawrence ... everyone can really see clearly that right now is not a great time for elections with Covid," he said.

Rep. Dan Hunt also supports the measure. "If Mayor Walsh is confirmed as Labor Secretary, it's more democratic to have an open election in the fall to allow for voters to fully vet the candidates. That said, it's unfortunate the council hadn't addressed this issue previously," Hunt said.

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# food for thought

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MIOH TAGEE S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale in a certain Mortgage and Security Agreement given by Sherika Alford dated May 20, 2019 recorded with the Suffolk County Registry of Deeds in Book 61145, Page 230, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the condition of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at 12:00 P.M. on the 23rd day of February, 2021, on the mortgaged premises located at 268 Itasca Street, Boston (Mattapan), Suffolk County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, as follows, to wit:

A certain parcel of land with buildings thereon, situated on Itasca Street, Mattapan, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, and heing shown as List 54, 25, 96, 87, on a plan of Homeward.

Terrace made by John N. McClintock, C.E. dated April 25, 1908 and recorded with the Suffolk Deeds in Book 3274, Page End and containing 8,000 square feet of land, more or less according to said plan.

For Mortgagor's title, see deed dated April 26, 2019 and recorded with said Suffolk County Registry of Deeds Book 61145, Page 228.

The Mortgagee reserves the right to postpone the sale to a later date by public announce-

ment at the time and date appointed for the sale and to further postpone at any adjourned sale date by public announcement at the time and date appointed for the adjourned sale date. These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

If the premises is a condominium unit, then the premises will also be sold subject to Massachusetts General Laws chapter 183A, as amended, the applicable Master Deed and any and all amounts as may be due, following such sale, to the applicable condominium trust.

If the successful bidder at the foreclosure sale defaults in purchasing the property according to the terms of this notice of sale or the terms of the Memorandum of Sale executed at the time of the foreclosure, the Mortgagee reserves the right to sell the property by foreclosure deed to the second highest bidder (or other successive bidders, in the order of their bid) provided that such other bidder deposits with Mortgagee's attorneys, Tamkin & Hochberg, LLP, the amount of the required deposit as set forth below within five (5) business days after written notice of default of the previous highest bidder and tille shall be conveyed to such other bidder within thirty (30) days of the default, which time periods may be reasonably extended by the

within thirty (30) days of the default, which time periods may be reasonably extended by the Mortgagee in its sole discretion.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of TEN THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$10,000.00) by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance of the purchase price is to be paid by certified or bank check at a closing to be conducted no more than thirty (30) days after the date of the auction. The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in the cubilitation.

in this publication.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

BRARM, LLC Present Holder of Said Mortgage By its Attorneys, Tamkin & Hochberg, LLP 313 Washington Street, Suite 202 Newton, MA 02458 617-964-2501 (phone) 1/28/21, 2/4/21, 2/11/21

## Garrison says she'll 'definitely be on the ballot' this year

## The question is: which one?

### By MADDIE KILGANNON REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

There likely will be a number of new names on this year's municipal ballot; there will also be a familiar one, says veteran campaigner Althea Garrison, now 80 years

"Oh yeah, my name will definitely be on the ballot," Garrison told the Reporter this week. She hasn't yet pulled papers, but it's probable she'll be aiming for an at-large seat on the city council. On the other hand, the race to succeed Mayor Walsh however the balloting schedule turns out, might be too tempting to Garrison to rule it out as an alternative candidacy.

If the city council is her choice, she will be seeking to regain a citywide seat on the council that she briefly occupied in 2019



Althea Garrison

after Avanna Presslev was elected to Congress. Garrison was elevated to the council having placed fifth in the 2017 election. Then she failed to retain her seat in the November 2019 election, finishing seventh in an eight-person run-off. Still, she notes with a chuckle: "A lot of people think that I'm still in office."

 $Garrison\,has\,lost\,count$ of the number of times her name has appeared on the ballot in Bos-

ton, but she has been campaigning daily for decades. In the past 30 years, she has sought multiple positions - from state rep and city council to, most recently, Register of Probate last year.

She has won an election outright just once- in 1991, when she was elected to represent the Fifth Suffolk district in the House of Representatives. In that instance, Garrison successfully petitioned to have her Democrat opponent, Nelson Merced, knocked off the ballot after challenging the validity of his nomination signatures.

She was unseated herself after a single term, losing decisively to Charlotte Golar Richie in 1993.

A resident of Woodcliff Street near Uphams Corner, Garrison said she will campaign on the same messages she has highlighted in previous election cycles: supporting public transportation, advocating for more affordable housing, and championing the police department.

Though she has not entirely ruled out a mayoral campaign, Garrison said she would love to support Boston Police Commissioner William Gross, who has expressed interest in running, but is not at this point a candidate.

She said it would be "wonderful" if Gross were mayor because "I work very well with the police. I think he would be outstanding."

Since leaving City Hall, Garrison said she has remained active with the Uphams Corner Health Center, where she serves as vice-president of the board of directors. She will never stop running for office, she told the Reporter, because "it keeps me young. I'm out every day talking to people. That's why I don't have to spend as much money."

She expressed her dis-

satisfaction over how her former colleagues on the council have handled the pandemic. "I didn't see any of them supporting businesses like I would have— like they should have," she said.

Boston's municipal elections are non-partisan, but Garrison identifies herself as an independent who leans conservative, though she has also run as a Democrat and campaigned and served as a Republican during her one term in the Legislature.

In an election cycle already full with candidates touting progressive credentials, Garrison said she would like to see the council body swing more moderate.

If she decides to seek an at-large seat, she will join a so far small pool of candidates in the running.

Of the 13 seats on the panel, the 4 at-large seats are held by Michelle Wu, Annissa Essaibi George, Michael Flaherty, and Julia Mejia, who edged out the fifth-place finisher, Alejandra St. Guillien, by one vote in 2019.

Wu, who is an announced candidate for mayor, will leave a vacancy on the council. Essaibi George, who is seriously weighing a bid for mayor, would, if in the race, leave a second opening.

Several other candidates have already signaled their intent to run for at-large this year, including Dorchester's David Halbert, who finished in eighth place in 2019, and Domingos DaRosa, who ran unsuccessfully for a citywide seat in the last two election cycles.

Alex Gray, a Jamaica Plain Democrat who works as a policy analyst at City Hall, is also running for an at-large seat, as is Nick Vance, a Hyde Park resident who grew up in Dorchester and Mattapan and served as political action co-chair for the Boston NAACP.

## Campbell wants 'Mass & Cass' chief with cabinet-level credentials

### By KATIE TROJANO REPORTER STAFF

Councillor Andrea Campbell turned her mayoral campaign's focus to the public health

issue that addiction and homelessness pose to the city last Friday during a walking tour of the neighborhood around Massachusetts Avenue and Melnea Cass Boulevard — dubbed Mass & Cass-where the problem has long been out in the

The visit was meant to highlight a plan released on her campaign's website that day that includes a call for the

net-level official who will organize city resources to deal with the situation.

"The public health crisis at Mass & Cass has been building for years, but has been exacerbated by Covid-19, threatening the health and safety of everyone in the neighborhood," Campbell said. "It demands immediate leadership and action," she added. "My approach will establish dedicated leadership by appointing a cabinet-level Mass & Cass chief to drive a coordinated, public health response and decentralization plan that will build sustainable paths

ensure the health and safety of all who live, work, visit, and go to school in this neighborhood."

Campbell, who grew up in Roxbury and the South End and lived on Mass Ave., just blocks from Boston Medical Center, said that in addition to assigning a public health professional to lead a coordinated response to the crisis, she would deploy a "dedicated first responder unit" and "decentralize" treatment and recovery services by making them more widely available citywide.

Like the Walsh ad-

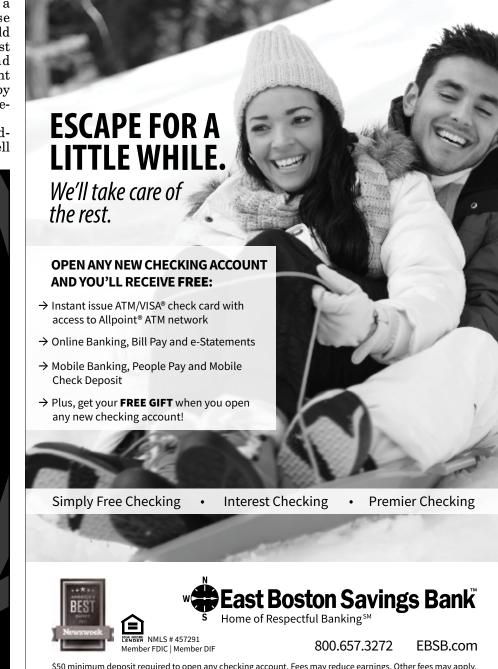
supports the construction of a new bridge to Long Island and she calls for more immediate construction of docks and infrastructure to re-boot the city's recovery services that have been shuttered on the Harbor island since 2015.

Campbell, a Mattapan resident, wants to create partnerships with hospitals and community health centers to decentralize treatment services and create more safe spaces, shelter, and supportive housing by activating vacant and

underutilized spaces and expanding mobile treatment services.

Campbell announced her candidacy for mayor last September. She has represented District 4 on the council since unseating longtime incumbent Charles Yancey in 2014.





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### Dorchester Tire has fixed its last flat

(Continued from page 1) Saks explained that the Covid-related im-

pact has been an industry-wide issue in recent months.

"Most of our customers are working from home now, and the behavior of our customers has changed so much...In general, people are driving a lot less, they're not going away on weekends, they're not driving to work... plus at this time a lot of people don't have money to spend on their cars.'

Another disturbing trend— a shrinking auto industry workforce— also factored into Saks's decision.

"Even when business does turn around, there's a dearth of quality help," he explained. "That's an industry issue; everyone I know in the tire and auto repair business is struggling to find good help right now. Those jobs may not be available next year, so I figured it made sense to strike while the iron's hot, when I know there's jobs for the guys.

"As far as I know," he said, "we've been able to get multiple opportunities for everyone [at the

While Saks had been considering relocating to a building in the neighborhood with a

smaller footprint, an eight-month-long search failed to turn up anything suitable. As it stands, he "has no plans to reopen, but never say never."

In recent days, news of the closing has prompted an outpouring of love on social media from loyal Dorchester Tire customers. Over decades, the shop had woven itself into the fabric of the neighborhood with reliable service and quality customer care. Mayor Walsh was a regular customer, and in years past, Mayor Tom Menino dubbed Gary's father "Alan the Tire Guy."

Looking back, Saks recalled when the actor Brendan Fraser stopped by with a flat tire in 2016

and the buzz he generated drew international scrutiny.

"The news was very popular with the ladies of Facebook, and soon I had Brendan Fraser fans reaching out to me from all over the world asking about the encounter."

But as far as Saks is concerned, he and his father earned the trust of their customers not with celebrity co-signs but with a straightforward philosophy. "We tried very hard to treat every customer like a guest.

"For us, being honest and developing that trust is far better in the long term than just trying to get everything you can out of them. We've benefited from a lot of loyalty and we're appre-



The now-closed Dorchester Tire complex on **Dorchester Avenue.** 

ciative of generations of customers who sent their kids and grandkids to us."

Saks said that he and his father, who is ready to begin enjoying his retirement, have no plans for the future at the moment, but he took the occasion to again express their gratitude for the Dorchester community for years of support.

"Dad and I are going to spend some time cleaning out 60 years of memories from the building, and then I'm going to spend some time with my family this summer. After years of getting up at 5 every morning, it will be nice to be able to read the newspaper in the morning...I just

want to thank the community at large for being so fabulous. Seeing all the comments on our Facebook post wishing us well, it just makes you feel good."

It is not yet clear what will happen at the now-shuttered Dorchester Tire building. The property is valued at \$1.2 million, according to the most recent assessment by the city of Boston. It was sold last year to Hasco Express Holdings, an LLC controlled by Gerald Chan, a billionaire investor who also controls other large parcels along the Dorchester Avenue corridor, including the massive DotBlock complex where construction is expected to begin soon.

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## Urban planner will direct the mayoral transition for Janey

By Michael P. Norton STATE HOUSE News Service

As she prepares to take over soon as acting mayor, City Council President Kim Janey is turning to a Jamaica Plain resident with experience in neighborhood planning and community engagement to lead the transition. Gustavo Quiroga is taking a leave from GraffitoSP.a real estate development and urban design firm where he has worked for seven years, to serve as Janey's transition director.

As council president, Janey is positioned to take over as mayor once Mayor Walsh is confirmed as US labor secretary. According to Janey's office, Quiroga will work with the Walsh team on daily briefings and updates, convene an advisory committee of leaders and experts from a range of policy areas,

**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. S1/20/92/05FA Docket No. SU20P2205EA ESTATE OF:
JAMES EDWARD WARREN
DATE OF DEATH: 08/15/2020

To all interested persons:

A petition for Formal Adjudication of A petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Jamika Robinson of Raleigh, NC requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that Jamika Robinson of Raleigh, NC be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in an unsupervised administration. unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the
Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court.
You have a right to object to this proceeding.
To do so, you or your attorney must file a
written appearance and objection at this
Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return do
10 275/2021.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline
by which you must file a written appearance

by which you must file a written appearance by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

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

Date: January 14, 2021

Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate

**COMMONWEALTH OF** MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE and FAMILY COURT
Docket No. SU18P2262EA Suffolk Probate & Family Court
New Chardon St., Boston 02114
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR ORDER OF
COMPLETE SETTLEMENT ESTATE OF: HILDA L. NORFLETTY a/k/a: HILDA NORFLETT DATE OF DEATH: 06/03/2018 A Petition for Order of Complete Setthement has been filed by Brian Thomas Salisbury of Franklin, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account (1st) Amended and other such relief as may be requested in the

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 02/25/2021

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

Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First

Justice of this Court

Date: January 14, 2021

Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate Published: January 28, 2021

plan for key full-time senior staff positions.

"Gustavo is an effective, capable organizer who will be instrumental in this crucial time," Janey said. "My focus is on a seamless transition so that we can address the crucial issues facing the residents of Boston.

"Along with the smart, committed public servants in City Hall, we are ready to meet the challenges of the pandemic head-on, ensure a robust vaccine rollout, and begin the equitable economic recovery that our residents need and deserve."

At GraffitoSP, Quiroga led a neighborhood strategy practice focused on neighborhood planning, community engagement, placemaking, and retail strategy. He previously held po-

and oversee a staffing sitions at the Allston Brighton Community Development Corpora-

> He serves on the board of the Boston Main Streets Foundation, is a member of the City of Boston's Complete Count Committee for the 2020 Census, and of the progressive Alliance for Business Leadership's board.

Quiroga, who is the son of veteran WCVB reporter Jorge Quiroga, has worked at GraffitoSP for seven years. According to LinkedIn, he was director of operations for the 2013 mayoral campaign of former Boston City Councilor Mike Ross, and earlier in his career was a program coordinator for Envirolution and cofounder and CEO of RePlant Building Solu-



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He earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a master's degree in business administration from Boston University.

Councillor Janey will assume mayoral duties immediately upon the resignation of Mayor Walsh, which could happen as soon as next week, according to sources familiar with the confirmation process in Washington, D.C. Under the city charter, the council president in this case Councillor Janey— takes charge as "acting Mayor" until a permanent successor is chosen by voters.

Janey has not yet said whether or not she will

seek a full, four-year term as mayor. She has hired a well-known Boston political consultant firm, Northwind Strategies, to handle her communications in recent weeks. Janey, 55, will be the first woman and the first Black person to serve as Mayor of Boston.

## **ATTENTION CONSTRUCTION WORKERS (All TRADES) JOB OPPORTUNITY**

Preservation of Affordable Housing and Nuestra Comunidad are seeking applications from candidates for work at the new construction project at Mattapan Station that meet the following criteria: City of Boston residents\*, people of color and women in and around the Boston area. All Mattapan and other local neighboring residents in construction trades are encouraged to apply. Requests for applications can be directed to the trailer at: 466-476 River St. Mattapan, MA. Applications and resumes can be left in

\*Proof of residency is a requirement a copy of your current driver license, MAID or current Utility bill will be accepted as forms of proof and should be submitted with your application.





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



### RECENT OBITUARIES

### **ROBERT J. NORTON**



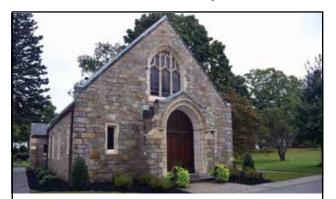
NEPONSET - ROBERT J. NORTON, age 62, of Neponset, passed away on July 20, 2020.

He is the loving son of Doris (Madden) Norton and the late Thomas E. Norton. He is also survived by sister and brotherin-law, Laura and Mike Crowley, Braintree; brothers, Tom Norton, CA, Jack and Peter Norton, Maine, and many nieces

and nephews. He was buried, with kindness and dignity, through the Robert J. Lawler and Crosby Funeral Home, West Roxbury. The Norton and Crowley family ask that you please remember Bobby in your prayers and the many others still suffering with their addictions. Rest in Peace Bob

DePASS, Yourland E. of Poinciana, FL. Wife of Irvin A. DePass. Mother of Randall Dunn and wife Elizabeth of Chicago, IL, Deborah Street of Dorchester; stepmother of Barbara, Neville, Or-

lando, Errol, Neil DePass. She was predeceased by children: Yvonne Anglin, Jennifer Dunn, Nigel Dunn and stepdaughter Claudia DePass. Grandmother of 7. Sister of Wesley Miller of North



### **Cedar Grove Cemetery**

COVID-19 restrictions will be in place

A quiet place on the banks of the Neponset River

Chapel available for: Weddings, memorial services, and celebratory masses. Indoor Services available for winter burials. Greenhouse on premises for fresh flowers. Columbarium for cremated remains. Plant a tree program.

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617~698~6264

Service times and directions at: www.dolanfuneral.com



Carolina, Flona Jarret of the United Kingdom and Lurlene James of Jamai-

**DUCHANEY**, Thomas P. of Dorchester, unexpectedly. Father of Juliana O'Hara. Brother of Denise Megnia, Dale Feeney, James Duchaney, Jr., Christopher Duchaney, and the late Gerard Duchaney. Son of the late James and Carol Duchaney. Also survived by many nieces, nephews, and friends. Donations in memory of Thomas may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

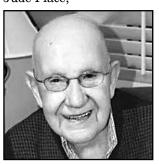


FITZGIBBON, **Thomas J.** of Plymouth, 79, formerly of Dorchester and Charlestown. He was the husband of Jane (Pamplin) Fitzgibbon; father of Tracey McPhillips and her husband Kevin of Florida, David Fitzgibbon of Hyde Park and Thomas "T.J." Fitzgibbon and his wife Janine of Randolph; grandfather of 5. Son of William and Edna (Thornton) Fitzgibbon. He worked as an Assistant Procurement Manager at Stone and Webster until his retirement.



KANE, Michael, 67. Husband to Pamela (Perrone) Kane; father of Michael, Gregory, Daniel, Lauren, and Katherine

Kane, all of Bolton.\_He leaves his siblings: Janice M. Goodwin of East Sandwich; Francis J. Kane of Forestdale; Deborah E. Kane of Medway; John P. Kane and Celeste of Foxborough; Elizabeth M. Maher and Raymond of Sebago, ME; and Daniel P. Kane and Catherine of Medway; nieces, nephews. and friends. Born in Boston, Michael was the son of the late Francis A. Kane, Boston Firefighter and BFD Roll of Merit recipient and Jane (Canning) Kane. US Marine Corps veteran. Michaelwas the owner of Kane Engineering in Bolton. Memorial contributions: St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place,



KEARNS, William J., Sr., 87, of Quincy. Husband of Ann M. (Gillis) and the late Patricia A. (Morris). Father of Elaine J. Cullinane and her husband Robert of Dorchester, William J. Kearns Jr. and his wife Elizabeth of Westwood, Paul J. Kearns and his wife Drena of Bellingham, and the late Denise McFarland and Patricia Kearns. Stepfather of Patricia McHale of Dorchester, Elaine Mc-Carthy of Abington, Ronald Gillis of Needham, Timothy Gillis of Quincy, Paul Gillis of Dorchester, Joanne Payne of Dorchester, and John Gillis of Winchester. Brother of Patrick "Frank" Kearns of Rockland and the late John J. Kearns, Mary Fay, and Anne Marklis. Also survived by 10 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren, 20 step-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. Donations may be made in his memory to Dorchester Youth Hockey, 15 Glide St., Dorchester, MA 02122 or to Season's Hospice & Palliative Care, 597 Randolph St., Milton, MA 02186. US Army veteran. Memphis, TN 38105.



LARKIN, James of Mashpee, formerly of Dorchester and Braintree. He was the husband of Mary Reardon Larkin. Father of the late Michael and wife Linda of Toronto, James and Joan of Lakeville, John and Elizabeth of Braintree, Allen and Mary Beth of North Andover. Grandfather of 6. Jim served in the armed forces during the Korean War. He had five brothers and one sister and many loving nieces and nephews. Gifts may be made to Dana Faber Cancer Institute, P.O. Box 849168, Boston, MA 02284. dana-farber. org/how-you-can-help/ ways-to-give/make-a-memorial-or-tribute-gift/.



McDONOUGH, Patrick J., 69, Retired BFD, of Quincy. Fiancé of Irene M. Foley of Hull. Brother of Margaret A. Prout of NH, Anne "Sandy" Clasby of Quincy, Michael A. McDonough of Milton, Karen W. Corbett of Worcester, John T. "Terry" McDonough of Stoneham, and the late Thomas J. and James B. McDonough. Father of Karen Plunkett of Dorchester and Mark McDonough of S. Boston. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Donations may be made in Pat's memory to the Boston Firefighter's Burn Foundation, 55 Hallet St., Dorchester, MA 02124.

NOLAN, Joanne E. (**DeViller**) of Dorchester. Wife of Freddie Nolan. Mother of Catherine Nolan and Joseph "Jay" Nolan. Grandmother of 6 and great-grandmother of 3. Sister of Ruth Boyle.



PROULX, Margaret A. (Slavin) of Weymouth and formerly of Roslindale. Beloved wife of Joseph L. Mother of Julie M. McKinnon and her husband Jake of Dorchester and David J. Proulx and his wife Lauri of Wilmington. Grandmother of 5. Sister of Michael D. Slavin of Ireland, Peter V. Slavin of CA, Phyllis Moriarty of Yarmouth and the late Theresa Slavin. Donations may be made in Margaret's name to The Dana Farber Cancer Institute, PO

Box 849168, Boston, MA 02284.



VASS, Dorothy Mae (Dubose), 78 of Mattapan. Wife of the late Kenneth Samuel Vass. Mother of Kenneth Vass Jr, Karen, James, and DonEarl Vass, Maria Grant, Alisa Muhammed, Kim Vass, and Domingo Vass. Proud grandmother of 27, and great-grandmother of 35.



WALKER, Anne Dora (Stokes), Dorchester.Anne was born in Richmond County Georgia to the late Jessie Mae Stokes and Willie Stokes. She was the oldest of five children and leaves one surviving sister, Bertha Saxon (Augusta, GA). She was the wife of the late Elbert Walker and mother of Linda Diane Smith of Dorchester (2 children, 3 grandchildren), Marilyn Smith of Dorchester (2 children, 5 grandchildren), Warren Walker of Dorchester (3 children, 6 grandchildren), Dwayne Walker of Delaware (4 children, 13 grandchildren), Dennice Smith of Dorchester (4 children, 12 grandchildren), Gaynell Stafford (and husband, Eugene Stafford. 4 children, 5 grandchildren)) of Brockton and Michael Walker of Dorchester. Sister of Bertha Sexton of Augusta Georgia and the late Ruby, Louis, Lester Cornelia, Thomas, and Willie. Cherished grandmother of 64 grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews and extended family, and friends.



WALSH, Ann (Connolly) of Milton, formerly of Dorchester and Lettercallow, Connemara. Wife of the later Patrick Walsh. Mother of Mary Morrison and her husband Floyd, Patrick Walsh, Peggy Conlon and her husband Tommy, Michael Walsh, and Ann Marie Walsh. Grandmother of 3. Sister of Joe Connolly of Lettercallow, Ireland, Bridget Goldberg, and the late Padraic Connolly, Michael Connolly, and Mary Connolly. Also survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

### **NEW CALVARY CEMETERY**

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> 617-296-2339 12 Month No Interest on Grave Purchases,

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

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## **BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF DORCHESTER**

f 🔰 🖸 in You Tube



BGCD Keystone Club Continues Community Service Projects & Collects

Donations for Tufts Medical Center Pediatrics: See details below.

**CONNECT THE DOT:** BGCD Keystone Club Collects Donations for Tufts Medical **Center Pediatrics:** Teen members of the Keystone Club at Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester have remained actively engaged in community service activities during the pandemic. Recently, one of our members visited Tufts Medical Center to drop off "Jared Boxes" for incoming pediatric patients. These boxes consisted of small toys, games, crayons and more. Members also recently completed a drive for items which were donated to the Boston Rescue Mission. The 35+ members of the group are now preparing a Canned Goods Drive for February and creating Greeting Cards for Seniors in the community.

For more information on the Keystone Club please contact Teen Director, Ariana Nazario at anazario@ bgcdorchester.org.

**FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE: Boston 25 News Features Members** of BGCD on Historic Inauguration Day: On January 20th, Boston 25 News visited Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester members at our Walter Denney Youth Center in the Harbor Point Point Community to talk to some young girls about what it means to them to see Kamala Harris, the nations first woman and woman of color sworn in as Vice President of the United States of America. Seven year old BGCD member Isabella said, "She looks like me," while twelve year old Fatoumata explained "I'm excited that she's going to be in the office not only as a woman but as a Black woman, too." Having our members be able to witness this piece of history encourages BGCD's mission of inspiring young people to make a difference and aspire to have bright, successful futures. Check out the full interview now on the Boston 25 News website!



DID YOU KNOW:
Opportunity For All High Schoolers
to Join BGCD's College Fellows &
Career Prep Program: Boys & Girls
Clubs of Dorchester's College Fellows
& Career Prep Program has started
College Workshops on Tuesdays at
6pm and Career Exploration Speaker
Series on Wednesdays at 4:30pm.
Upcoming events include workshops on
scholarships and financial aid, speaker
series with employees from TD Bank,

Non-Fiction Author Community, and many more! Please note our College Fellows session is open to all high school students and do not need to be enrolled at the Club. Keep an eye out for more upcoming College & Career Prep events and workshops coming soon!

For more information or to register for either of these programs, please contact Tricia Chapple at pchapple@bgcdorchester.org.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

College Fellows Workshop February 2

Career Exploration Series February 3

Let's Get Ready SAT Prep February 22 - April 30

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



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



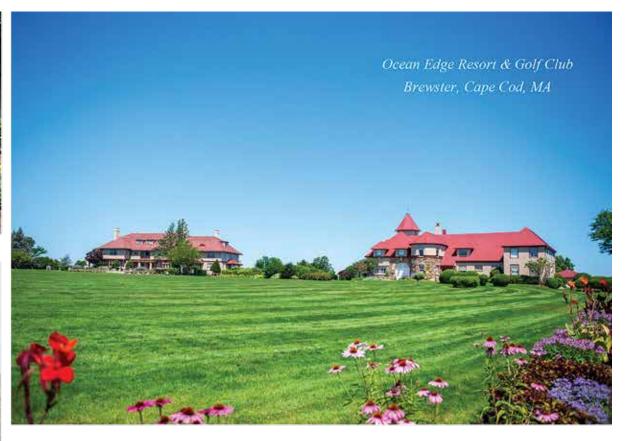
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