

Dorchester Reporter

“The News and Values Around the Neighborhood”

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50¢

A DEVELOPER'S PARADISE



The DotBlock construction site as seen from a vantage point above Hancock Street on Monday. The complex in Dorchester's Glover's Corner will eventually include 480 units of housing with room from retail and restaurant space and below-grade parking. *Reporter photo*

Projects dominating Dot neighborhoods; residences are rising at DotBlock village

BY GINTAUTAS DUMCIUS
MANAGING EDITOR

Frank Baker remembers that when he was first elected as a city councillor in 2011 the area around Dorchester Avenue and Hancock Street was in rough shape, featuring a meth lab, prostitutes, and johns at the prominent neighborhood intersection.

A crane towers over that area today with new buildings and a new village, including an underground garage, taking shape below it. The massive residential project, known as DotBlock, has been in

the works for eight years, with shovels finally hitting the ground about a year ago. Developers are aiming to build 480 units in two stages, with the first, holding about half of the units, expected to be completed in the spring of 2023.

“My hope is they'll be good neighbors,” said Baker, who recently completed a tour of the construction site.

Add DotBlock to the list of big projects that are springing up across Dorchester. There is Dorchester Bay City, a commercial, residential, and laborato-

ry-focused project on Columbia Point, which is expected to take 20 years to fully build out. The project is currently in the middle of an intensive review process under the auspices of the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA).

And there's The BEAT, the refashioned 695,000-square-foot former Boston Globe headquarters on Morrissey Boulevard that last year held leasing talks with the fitness apparel company Nobull and Flagship Pioneering. *(Continued on page 10)*

City's ask for bids on Strand, library, housing package attracts no takers

Back to drawing board for BPDA

BY SETH DANIEL
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

When the city issued Requests for Proposals (RFPs) last fall looking for bidders on a three-part package focused on a critical piece of the Uphams Corner puzzle – operating the Strand Theatre, building a branch library adjacent to it, and adding affordable housing to the mix above the library – the move was hailed as a milestone in a process that has been in the works for years.

The upshot: No bidders when the deadline for proposals passed, the city confirmed last week.

Some in the community consider the lack of interest a major setback in the process as the package under consideration is seen as an anchor piece in promoting Uphams Corner as an Arts and Innovation District. The city had high hopes after two pre-bid conferences drew an optimistic guest list from the development and artistic communities, but all on the list passed on the opportunity. Others weren't

(Continued on page 12)

Feeney bids City Hall goodbye after 34 years

BY GINTAUTAS DUMCIUS
MANAGING EDITOR

Thirty-four years after she walked into City Hall as an aide to a Dorchester councillor, Maureen Feeney, who served nine terms on the council herself before taking the job of city clerk in 2011, is retiring.

The 74-year-old Feeney leaves as her fourth three-year term as clerk ends on Feb. 1. Her career spans five Boston mayors, from Ray Flynn to Michelle Wu.

(Continued on page 11)



Maureen Feeney



Bantam AAs: From left, Jake Cahill, Ronan Ezekiel, Michael Scully, Robbie Lavey-Concannon, Nolan Stock, James Neff, Liam Tangney, Jack Coppney, Brendan Donahue, Nick Loschiavo, Goalie Conor Olsen, and Isabelle McQuaid. Coaches are Anthoney Joyce and Conor Boyle.

Jon Seamans/Boston Parks Department photo

Dot Chiefs dominate citywide hockey play

BY SETH DANIEL
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

Dorchester swept the Bantam AA, Bantam AAA, Mite AA, and Pee Wee A divisions in the 28th Annual Mayor's Cup Hockey Tournament that played out at the end of December.

The tournament be-

gan on Dec. 18 and the finals were held on Jan. 2 at Boston University's Walter Brown Arena. A total of 128 games were played citywide in 15 divisions at 7 rinks with 1,235 youth hockey players from 7 separate programs.

(Continued on page 16)

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A Boston fireman knocked down a fire inside the Ramada Inn on Sunday. *BFD photo*

Ramada Inn rooms damaged in two fires

Boston firefighters responded to the Ramada Inn at 800 Morrissey Blvd. twice this week to contain two fires that caused damage to rooms on the hotel's second floor.

The first incident took place around 2:50 p.m. on Sunday when the department declared a second alarm to bring in additional firefighters to aid in evacuating guests. There were no injuries reported. The department estimated damage at \$75,000. On Monday morning, shortly after 11 o'clock, firefighters were again called to the scene for a fire in a different unit. The cause of the incidents is under investigation.

Dot man shot to death inside Braintree mall

A Dorchester man was shot to death inside the South Shore Plaza on Saturday afternoon. Dijoun C. Beasley, 26, was shopping inside a store when he was shot by another man with a handgun, according to a statement from Norfolk District Attorney Michael Morrissey and Braintree Police Chief Mark Dubois. He was rushed to a Boston hospital where he was pronounced dead. No arrests have been announced.

On Saturday, police said the victim was apparently targeted. The shooting sent shoppers fleeing from the mall, which has been the site of previous violent acts in recent years.

Gang members exchanged gunfire inside a department store in 2017, and in 2020, a 15-year-old girl described as an innocent bystander was hit twice during a shooting. A 22-year-old man pleaded guilty earlier this month to armed assault to murder and other charges in connection with the shooting of the girl, who survived.

Braintree Mayor Charles Kokoros called the latest shooting "unacceptable," and said he would work with the mall's owners to ensure safety. Universal Hub reports that the victim in Saturday's shooting was himself awaiting trial on gun charges after he was arrested by Boston Police last July.

Suffolk DA: No charges in death of BU professor near JFK/UMass station

The Suffolk County District Attorney's Office will not bring any charges in the death of David K. Jones, a 40-year-old Boston University professor who fell from a dilapidated staircase by JFK/UMass MBTA Station.

The DA's office said Jones, an associate professor and Milton resident who was out for a run, "attempted to ascend" the stairs, which had been blocked off for more than a year. He was found under the stairs on Saturday, Sept. 11 by a passerby. The stairs connect the Columbia Road overpass to Old Colony Avenue.

"Any death is a tragedy and his family, loved ones, students, and colleagues continue to mourn his untimely passing," Kevin Hayden, the interim district attorney, said in a statement.



David K. Jones

"Based on a thorough and careful review of the evidence, however, we have determined that criminal charges are not warranted in connection with Dr. Jones' death."

Days after his death, state workers demolished the stairs. While it was initially unclear which state agency oversaw the stairs. Officials with the state Department of Transportation later acknowledged that they received custody of



The stairs, as seen on Sept. 13, 2021. *Gintautas Dumcius photo*

the staircase from the Department of Conservation and Recreation under a 2009 transportation reform law. The stairs had been blocked off and in disrepair for months, with a sign with MBTA branding saying they would be closed until "Fall 2020." They were never repaired.

Jones, a Utah na-

tive who was raised in New York's Washington Heights area, was remembered in his obituary as a "devoted husband and father of three children, a beloved teacher and a writer who dedicated his work to health justice," according to his obituary.

-GINTAUTAS DUMCIUS

Zoning Board says no go to Downer Court condo building

The Zoning Board of Appeal last week rejected a proposal for a four-story, nine-unit condo building at 9 Downer Ct. off Bowdoin Street. Board members said the proposed building was simply too large for its context - a dead-end street with much smaller buildings.

Developer John McCallum had originally proposed a twelve-unit building, but reduced that to nine after nearby residents and neighborhood associations



A rendering shows a proposed building on Downer Court. The city's Zoning Board voted down the idea last week. *Image courtesy ZBA*

protested, saying that they could live with six. McCallum's attorney, Joseph Feaster, however, said that was too small to make the project financially feasible.

"It feels a little hulking," board member Eric Robinson, an architect, said, adding he was concerned about the proposed building's height and density and relative lack of greenspace, given

how much of the lot the building would occupy. "I just think it's too big," he said.

Robinson moved to reject the proposal without prejudice, which would let McCallum come back with a new proposal within a year, perhaps, Robinson suggested, with smaller, if not fewer, units.

-REPORTER STAFF

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UPCOMING CIVIC MEETINGS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Boston Ward 17 Democratic committee will hold its annual caucus virtually, on Wed., February 16. The purpose of the caucus is to elect delegates to the Massachusetts Democrats 2022 State Convention. Doors open for registration at 5:30 p.m., and all participants must be registered and in the virtual room by 6:45 p.m. All are welcome, and any registered Democrat in Ward 17 can run and/or vote. To register for the caucus, please visit <https://bit.ly/w17caucus>.

A BPDA-hosted Article 80 public meeting will be held on Thurs., Jan. 27 at 6 p.m. in connection with the proposed Martin Richard Dorchester Fieldhouse project. See bostonplans.org for more

information on how to join the meeting, which will be held via Zoom. A comment period on this project will be held through Feb. 7.

The BPDA will host the next in a series of virtual public meetings on Jan. 31 at 6 p.m. to review specific topics of the Dorchester Bay City project. The Jan. 31 meeting will focus on inclusive public realm improvements and placemaking. Please register in advance by going to the link: bit.ly/3ysaUEy. Additional, topic-specific public meetings include one on Feb. 17 (urban design and open space.) View more documents related to this project at bostonplans.org.

The next monthly general membership

meeting of the Columbia-Savin Hill Civic Association will be held on Monday, Feb. 7 from 7-9 p.m. via Zoom. Go to columbiasavinhillcivic.org for info.

Ashmont Hill Chamber Music will host a recital by violinist Randall Goosby and pianist Zhu Wang on Sun., Feb. 13 at 4 p.m. at Peabody Hall, 209 Ashmont St., Dorchester. Proof of vaccination required. Children under 13 are admitted free, but this is a ticketed event. See ahchambermusic.org for prices and more info on the program.

Fields Corner Civic Association will host its next meeting via Zoom on Tues., Feb. 1 at 6:30 p.m. Agenda items include a community safety report from BPD Area

C-11, a discussion of a proposal to turn a single-family house at 27 Greenwich St. into a three-family; and an update on development at 1463 Dorchester Ave. Jim Doyle is the newly elected president of the civic group, with Shamia Hicks elected vice-president, Tran Le as secretary and Hiep Chu, treasurer.

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New reporting adds nuance to Covid counts

By COLIN A. YOUNG
STATE HOUSE
NEWS SERVICE

The state-reported Covid-19 data better reflect the realities of the pandemic now that the number of patients hospitalized is broken down between people hospitalized to be treated for a Covid infection and people who have tested positive but are hospitalized for another reason, Gov. Baker said on Monday.

The Department of Public Health (DPH) two weeks ago began collecting, and last week began reporting, data differentiating between patients who wind up in the hospital for serious Covid cases and those who test positive for the virus while seeking treatment for another issue. Baker



Mayor Wu held a press conference on Monday to update the timeline of a vaccination requirement for city workers.
Jeremiah Robinson photo

said the more detailed data matched what he had been hearing from the health care sector.

“It’s important that the data we make available to each other and to our colleagues in the

health care community accurately reflect what’s going on,” he said after meeting with House Speaker Ron Mariano and Senate President Karen Spilka on Monday afternoon. “And what I would say that data showed is that we have far more people in the hospital who are there because they are sick for some other reason, which is a message we’ve heard loud and clear from our colleagues in the health care community for a while now.”

In Monday’s update to its “Incidental Covid-19 report,” DPH said the nearly 3,000 hospitalized people with Covid-19 were split almost exactly evenly between being hospitalized *for* Covid and being hospitalized *with* Covid.

Of the 2,984 statewide patients, 1,487, or 49.8 percent, were reported as being hospitalized due to their infections and 1,497, or 50.2 percent, were reported as having tested positive despite being hospitalized for something else.

Mariano was among the first to cheer the reporting change when DPH first announced it earlier this month. He said on Monday that he began talking with state Rep. Jon Santiago over the holiday break about what the rep was seeing during his shifts as an emergency room doctor at Boston Medical Center. After a trip to see what the situation at BMC was like for himself, Mariano also stopped in at four other hospitals.

“We started in Weymouth because it’s in my district, but went all the way down to the Cape and we saw basically the same thing. There was a change in who was coming into the emergency room and who was staying in the hospital. They were all listed as Covid-related, but they were there for other things,” Mariano said Monday. “The primary reason was there for other things, but they got caught in the stats that we were counting, so we weren’t really finding out how many people were there because of Covid... and that was the nuance that I think that I was referring to, that we’ve got to start talking about why these numbers are so high.”

City workers get extra week to comply with vax mandate

By KATIE LANNAN
STATE HOUSE
NEWS SERVICE

Boston municipal workers now have until next Monday (Jan. 30) to comply with the Covid-19 vaccination mandate the city announced in December, Mayor Michelle Wu said Monday as she pointed to “major steps forward over the weekend with several of our unions.”

Wu said 18,270 employees, or 94 percent of the workforce, are in compliance, including more than 1,600 who newly submitted proof of vaccination after she announced the rule on Dec. 20. A previous policy allowed for weekly testing in lieu of proving vaccination status. Through Jan. 30, no employees will be placed on unpaid leave for

noncompliance with the policy, which originally called for workers to have their first dose by Jan. 15.

“We are giving our employees one more week because conversations are going very well with several of our municipal union partners and looking to make progress and see where we are at the end of this week, but this policy will be

implemented and we’re getting there,” Wu said. “We are basically there.”


The city’s office of labor relations has been meeting with each collective bargaining unit, she said, and vaccine clinics will be available over the next week.

Boston Firefighters Local 718 has been demonstrating against the mandate and calling Wu “anti-labor,”

charging that she “does not respect collective bargaining.”

Wu said almost every city department has a vaccination rate above 90 percent. The parks department is at 97 percent, inspectional services 96 percent, Boston Police above 95 percent, the city’s public library 95 percent, Boston Public Schools 94 percent and Boston Fire

at 91 percent. She said several departments have 100 percent vaccination rates, including the registry and treasury departments, the clerk’s office, the Office of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion, the youth employment and engagement office and the office of streets.




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With Healey in governor run, Campbell mulling AG campaign

BY GINTAUTAS DUMCIUS
MANAGING EDITOR

Andrea Campbell, who represented Dorchester and Mattapan on the City Council for six



years before her failed run for mayor last year, is considering mounting a campaign attorney general, according to sources close to the former councillor.

The statewide job is open now that Maura Healey, who has held the elected aposition since 2015, has joined the race for governor. Healey, a Boston Democrat, launched her campaign in East Boston's Maverick Square last Thursday (Jan. 20).

Campbell, a former deputy legal counsel to Gov. Deval Patrick, won the City Council seat in 2015, beating Charles Yancey, who was first elected to represent District 4 in 1983. She was reelected in 2017 and in



Andrea Campbell outside Ashmont MBTA Station in November 2021. Gintautas Dumcius file photo

her second term served as Council president, the first African American woman to hold the job.

She lives in Mattapan with her husband Matthew and their two sons. In her mayoral campaign, she highlighted her personal story as a Boston Public Schools graduate who lost both her parents when she was young, and her twin brother when they were in their twenties. She graduated from Princeton University and

UCLA School of Law, and as a young lawyer focused on helping families in her district.

She came in third place in the 2021 mayoral race's preliminary, behind finalists Michelle Wu and Annissa Essaibi George. Campbell, who was endorsed by the *Boston Globe* in the preliminary, opted against endorsing a candidate in the November final.

If Campbell runs for attorney general, she would enter a Democrat-

ic primary that already has at least one candidate. Shannon Liss-Riordan, a labor attorney who worked on a class action suit against Uber and has previously run for US Senate, on Tuesday launched her campaign at the Ironworkers Local 7 headquarters in South Boston.

Quentin Palfrey, who ran for lieutenant governor in 2018, is also expected to run.

In December, when asked about her next steps, Campbell told the *Reporter*, "I don't want to make a decision right away. I can be thoughtful and considerate about it...Anything I do I want to align with my values... that's about serving others, and that won't change in whatever I do next."

Campbell raised \$1.6 million for her mayoral run. Like the other mayoral candidates, she drew support and opposition from outside groups known as super PACs. SuperPAC spending on her behalf came to \$3.2 million, according to a tally of campaign finance filings.

As of Dec. 31, Campbell had \$35,120 in campaign cash on hand.

In a Twitter post after Healey's announcement, Campbell called her a "champion for the people of our Commonwealth on climate change, student debt, immigration, and the opioid crisis." She added: "I'm grateful for her leadership and friendship and excited to see her launch her campaign today."

Healey joins governor's race

Endorsements from Dorchester's IBEW Local 103 and the Teamsters of Charlestown. More than \$200,000 raised in 24 hours. The backing of a former foe.

Maura Healey made a thunderous entrance into the governor's race last week, making official her intention to seek the Democratic nomination.

The move also meant that Dorchester's Marty Walsh, the former Boston mayor turned Biden labor secretary, will be staying out, as the understanding within Massachusetts political circles was that if Healey jumped in, Walsh would stay out.

The Democratic field includes state Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz, a former schoolteacher who has represented parts of Dorchester since 2009, and Harvard professor Danielle Allen.

"I recognize that some people know me because I've been attorney general for a few years now," Healey said during a press conference in East



Attorney General Maura Healey announced her candidacy for governor in East Boston last Thursday, Jan. 20. SHNS photo

Boston. "I also recognize that in a state of 7 million people a lot of people don't know me. So, we're just at the beginning now."

Healey's campaign also announced the hiring of Anthony Davis Jr. as organizing adviser. He previously served as field director of Michelle Wu's mayoral campaign and state organizer director in Georgia for US Sen. Elizabeth Warren's 2020 presidential campaign.

Davis Jr. is joined by Steve McKenna, co-founder of the Northeast Strategy Group. He worked for President Biden in Nevada and on Joe Kennedy III's challenge against fellow Democrat Ed Markey in 2020.

The Healey campaign said they'll both be working with Mindy Myers, a former chief of staff to Warren and executive director of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee (DSCC).

The Democratic primary is in September. Republican Geoff Diehl is also running for governor. Charlie Baker, the governor since 2015, decided against running for a third four-year term.

Galvin goes for eight terms

Longtime Secretary of State William Galvin said early Monday morning that he will run for reelection this year, telling voters that he would like to continue the work he's done since 1995 at a time when the "necessity of faithful election administration has never been more obvious."

The Brighton Democrat, who was elected to eight terms in the Massachusetts House beginning in 1975, could surpass former Republican Cook's record 28-year tenure in the constitutional post if he wins an eighth four-year term

this November. He faces at least one Democratic primary opponent, President of the Boston branch of the NAACP Tanisha Sullivan. Rayla Campbell of Randolph is running on the Republican side.

"At this time in our national history the conduct of an accessible, honest, accurate election is critical to our national future," Galvin, who turns 72 in September, wrote in a reelection message. He added, "I am proud of my record of innovative methods of increasing voter turnout while maintaining accurate transparent results. All our most recent elections have had record voter participation."



Secretary of State Bill Galvin. SHNS photo

"These results come about because of changes in laws that I have championed and because of the expertise and management skills I have consistently demonstrated and developed," Galvin wrote.

A statewide post, the secretary of state's office oversees a broad suite of functions, ranging from corporations and securities to public records, lobbyists, the decennial census, and the historical commission and state archives. It is also third in the line of gubernatorial succession, which occasionally results in the executive power of the state being transferred to the secretary for short periods of time.

— COLIN YOUNG
SHNS

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2014 Nissan Sentra SV	\$12,998			2019 Honda Civic LX	\$21,998
Stk# BH79544A, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 77,972 mi.				Stk# BH23665, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 17,366 mi.	
2016 Ford Fiesta SE	\$12,998	<div>RETURN YOUR AMERICAN HONDA FINANCE LEASE HERE AND WE'LL CUT YOU A CHECK FOR THE EQUITY!</div> <div>MILLIONS TO LEND REGARDLESS OF CREDIT!</div>		2017 Honda Civic LX	\$21,998
Stk# BH23647A, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 56,900 mi.				Stk# BH79350B, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 36,115 mi.	
2015 Chevrolet Malibu LT	\$13,998			2018 Nissan Rogue S	\$22,998
Stk# BH23579, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 87,106 mi.				Stk# BH79607A, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 63,515 mi.	
2015 Chevrolet Malibu LT	\$13,998	<div>RETURN YOUR AMERICAN HONDA FINANCE LEASE HERE AND WE'LL CUT YOU A CHECK FOR THE EQUITY!</div> <div>MILLIONS TO LEND REGARDLESS OF CREDIT!</div>		2019 Honda Civic Sport	\$23,898
Stk# BH23579, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 87,112 mi.				Stk# BH79261A, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 35,910 mi.	
2015 Honda Fit LX	\$15,998			2019 Honda Civic LX	\$23,998
Stk# BH23593, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 46,285 mi.				Stk# BH79619A, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 18,101 mi.	
2016 Hyundai Elantra SE	\$15,998	<div>RETURN YOUR AMERICAN HONDA FINANCE LEASE HERE AND WE'LL CUT YOU A CHECK FOR THE EQUITY!</div> <div>MILLIONS TO LEND REGARDLESS OF CREDIT!</div>		2020 Honda Civic LX	\$23,998
Stk# BH23690A, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 31,088 mi.				Stk# BH79469A, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 6,588 mi.	
2019 Ford Fiesta SE	\$15,998			2020 Honda Civic EX	\$24,945
Stk# BH23643, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 66,085 mi.				Stk# BH23711, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 13,204 mi.	
2017 Mazda6 Touring	\$16,998	<div>RETURN YOUR AMERICAN HONDA FINANCE LEASE HERE AND WE'LL CUT YOU A CHECK FOR THE EQUITY!</div> <div>MILLIONS TO LEND REGARDLESS OF CREDIT!</div>		2020 Honda Civic LX	\$24,998
Stk# BH78996B, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 106,132 mi.				Stk# BH79439A, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 29,220 mi.	
2013 Honda Accord Sport	\$16,998			2019 Honda Civic Sport	\$24,998
Stk# BH79630A, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 66,572 mi.				Stk# BH79303B, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 56,303 mi.	
2014 Nissan Murano Cross Cabriolet	\$16,998	<div>RETURN YOUR AMERICAN HONDA FINANCE LEASE HERE AND WE'LL CUT YOU A CHECK FOR THE EQUITY!</div> <div>MILLIONS TO LEND REGARDLESS OF CREDIT!</div>		2020 Honda Civic LX	\$24,998
Stk# BH23633, 2 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 74,397 mi.				Stk# BH79562A, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 25,951 mi.	
2019 Ford Fiesta SE	\$16,998	<div>RETURN YOUR AMERICAN HONDA FINANCE LEASE HERE AND WE'LL CUT YOU A CHECK FOR THE EQUITY!</div> <div>MILLIONS TO LEND REGARDLESS OF CREDIT!</div>			
Stk# BH23642, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 14,290 mi.					
2012 Honda Pilot EX-L	\$18,898				
Stk# BH79287A, 4 dr., 6 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 94,770 mi.					
2016 Honda Accord LX	\$19,998	<div>RETURN YOUR AMERICAN HONDA FINANCE LEASE HERE AND WE'LL CUT YOU A CHECK FOR THE EQUITY!</div> <div>MILLIONS TO LEND REGARDLESS OF CREDIT!</div>		2014 Lexus ES 350	\$19,998
Stk# BH79517B, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 90,069 mi.				Stk# BH79402A, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 94,968 mi.	
2020 Honda Fit LX	\$19,998			2018 Honda Civic LX	\$20,998
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Rebecca Zama, singer and activist, resists the pressure to ‘pick a sound’

KENNEAL PATTERSON
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Hunched in a dimly lit Dorchester recording studio last November, the Boston-raised singer Rebecca Zama tests her track: riffing in English, belting in Haitian Kreyol, murmuring in Spanish, and, when forgetting a lyric, cursing in French. As the young artist seamlessly flits from language to language, her hands dancing in the air, her pink Converse sneakers tap to the beat and a fusion of notes and sounds fills The Record Co. studio in Newmarket Square.

Afro-Cuban percussion beats thrum from her pulsating computer, providing a background for Zama to sing. She only stops to take another sip of her ever-present iced coffee that is half-finished at 6 p.m. A first-generation Haitian American born in Washington, D.C., Zama is enchanted by the rich sounds of so many different cultures. As she sings, her head bobs to the rhythm, her long black hair swaying behind her.



Boston-born singer Rebecca Zama's latest single "Oh My My" was set to be released this month. Zama, who is Haitian American, has been a fixture at community in Boston's Haitian community for much of her young life.

"If I can't say something the way I want to say it in English, I can say it in French," she said. "It just helps me to think outside the box and not confine myself during my songwriting." In the coming days, the 22-year-old Zama plans to release the recording she was working on in November, "Oh My My," a song with lyrics in four languages. The "outside the box" thinking she talked about three months ago has

long been a staple of her artistic approach, one that attracts critics who want to see her stay inside that box, to compartmentalize, to label. Over the years, Zama has faced pressure from Haitians telling her that she doesn't seem Haitian enough, R&B fanatics telling her that she should just "pick a sound" and onlookers wondering how a singer can self-identify as "genreless." Zama is no stranger to dropping new music. In 2020, she released a series of singles — poppy, jazzy ballads that surpassed previous songs in thousands of listeners. Although she hasn't released a full-length album since her teenage years, she's hoping that the preparation for her latest work will pay off. Niu Raza, a fellow artist and friend, said that Zama was very "unsure of herself as a musician" when they first met five years ago. "People expect you to choose one side or the other," said Raza. "Maybe the Haitian community wanted her to sound more Haitian

than the Black community, and the Black community wanted her to sound more Black. And she was both, but she just didn't want to pick sides." Rebecca's mother, Nunotte Zama, says it took a village to raise her daughter, who was brought up in Melrose, but is really a child of Greater Boston's tight-knit Haitian community. The young singer and activist has long been a fixture at churches and community events in Mattapan, Hyde Park, and Dorchester. Her mother encouraged her to embrace her roots and learn traditional Haitian songs, but also express gratitude for her home in America.

One of the first songs Zama learned was the Haitian national anthem. In 2018, she got a high-profile opportunity to perform the "Star Spangled Banner" at a Red Sox-Yankees game at Fenway Park. From a young age, Zama has surrounded herself with friends from diverse backgrounds. She felt immersed in a variety of cultures, and wanted to find a way to translate that into art. It wasn't long before she began expanding her performances and seeking wider audiences. Instead of performing at family-fun Haitian events, she began sneaking into bars and past bouncers to perform at local clubs. Soon, she was facing larger and larger crowds. Her music became more than just a hobby—it's equally a



Rebecca Zama on her multi-lingual songwriting: "What counts is the emotion that's put behind it." Photos courtesy Rebecca Zama

reflection of her dreams and a vehicle for her activism. Zama was deeply affected by the 2010 earthquake that devastated Haiti's capital city. She lost some extended family members who perished in the rubble in Port-Au-Prince. The shock was immediate, especially since she had just 11 days before arrived back in Boston from a visit to Haiti. As Zama grew older, she became more aware of the discrepancies between herself and her family in Haiti. "A lot of these kids that I played with, the only difference between me and them is just opportunity," she said. "If there was a fork in the road, maybe my mom went to the right

and others went to the left." In 2012, Zama helped her mother launch the Haiti Global Youth Partnership, which supports L'Asile, the 33,000-person town where Nunotte grew up in a one-bedroom home crammed with 12 people. "My kids could have been born in L'Asile and we would have all been subjected to the same fate... of not having running water or the ability to get a primary education," said Nunotte, who's now a lawyer. "They realize how blessed they are, and I don't want them to forget where we come from." The nonprofit organization, which focuses on alleviating issues that include unsafe water and food insecurity, supports hundreds of L'Asile's children. As Zama's following as a recording artist has grown, the advocacy work that she does keeps her rooted. She's "just Rebecca" in that role. "As an artist, you are the vessel of your career," she says, "it quite literally depends on you, right? So, I think it's easy to kind of forget about the world around you." Zama knows that music, in all its complex forms, is universal. It bridges divides between Haitians and Americans; the young and the old; the native speakers and the foreign-born; and artists and advocates alike. "Just because I'm saying something in one language and somebody is saying something else in another one, what counts is the emotion that's put behind it," she says. "When you're able to express yourself in a way that's organic and natural to you, it creates raw and honest music that will overcome whatever language barriers may exist."

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Gray & Pape staff are conducting a historical survey for the Camp McKay/Columbia Village housing area and we want to connect with veterans who lived there, their descendants, and any historical societies/military-related organizations in the area with information about this site. Though Camp McKay/Columbia Village was only active for around eight years, its history enriches the history of Dorchester, South Boston, and America's homeland World War II effort. Unfortunately, due to COVID variant increases, no in-person public events or engagements can be carried out. However, we welcome any information the community can offer. Please reach out to us by January 31st, 2022, at 401-273-9900 or ksmith@graypape.com if you can help!

Reporter's

People

News about people
in and around our Neighborhoods



A wide view of the practice green at William J Devine Golf Course, which co-hosted the Mass Amateur Championship with George Wright Golf Course in 2018. *David Colt photo*

Peers honor Russell Heller, superintendent at Devine course at Franklin Park

Since 2001, Russell Heller has supervised the maintenance and improvements at the second oldest municipal golf course in the country. As superintendent of Boston's William J. Devine Golf Course at Franklin Park, Heller has been a steady hand for the must-visit public track where he has overseen the gradual implementation of the course's master plan, including much-improved teeing grounds.

Heller has now been recognized by the Golf Course Superintendents of New England Associ-



Russell Heller

ation with the group's Distinguished Service Award for his many years in the golf industry.

When interviewed by a representative from

Mass Golf, the successor to the Massachusetts Golf Association (MGA), Heller said that the course at Franklin Park is "a good spot to work. Every place has its challenges, but I like the golf course. People are good here. The city's been willing to make some improvements every year, so it doesn't get boring over here. I also prefer playing the older style golf courses. I like the history behind everything here, so that's definitely been a positive aspect of the job."

REPORTER STAFF



Breanna Boothe

Dorchester resident Breanna Boothe will perform in Boston Arts Academy's annual student performance on Feb. 4 that will debut at the Champion Award reception honoring Gov. Baker. This year's BAA Rocks show showcases student's effort to survive, conquer, and flourish during the pandemic

through dance, music, and vocals.

The performance will be recorded and premiere as a screening during the Champion Reception. It will then be aired online the next day, Sat., Feb. 5.

This is a ticketed show and tickets can be purchased at givebutter.com/BAARocks.

Big Brothers Big Sisters cites Dorchester mentor for his work as volunteer

January is National Mentoring Month. To celebrate the occasion, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Massachusetts (BBBSEM) is highlighting Dorchester resident James Harvard, one of the hundreds of volunteers for the state's leading one-to-one youth mentoring program.

The nonprofit partners with under-resourced families to provide children with caring adult mentors who help them reach their fullest potential.

Harvard is a volunteer for Mentor 2.0, the group's technology-enriched youth mentoring program, which directly targets high school students. Mentor-mentee



James Harvard

pairs build their relationships through weekly online communication and monthly in-person meetings (virtual during the pandemic) at several of the non-profit's Boston-based partner high schools.

"Students often need additional support when transitioning into high school and moving on to college or the work-

force that sometimes isn't available to them," says Mark O'Donnell, BBBSEM's president and CEO.

"Taking the time to speak with young adults as they prepare to make some of their first major life decisions is a privilege that I deeply appreciate," says Harvard. "I remember so clearly being in their shoes and wishing that someone would take the time to answer my questions and help me through the complex process of post-secondary planning. I get so much satisfaction out of being that person for someone else."

For more information on the program, visit emassbigs.org.



Dorchester actors Woody Farrick (left) and Gary Mlinac will appear in the Walpole Footlighters production of *Calendar Girls* by Tim Firth, based on the Miramax motion picture by Juliette Towhidi and Tim Firth. To purchase tickets, call the Box Office at 508-668-8446 or go to footlighters.com.

Dan Busler Photography



Dorchester's Conan McCusker nailed a big three-pointer to help his Lasell University Lasers defeat Johnson & Wales University, 86-75, in men's basketball play on Sat., Jan. 15. McCusker, a freshman guard and graduate of John D. O'Bryant High School, plays alongside his Dot neighbor, Kevin Nunez, a senior who notched his 1,000th career point earlier in the season. Nunez posted 16 points and 12 rebounds in Saturday's game.

YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE

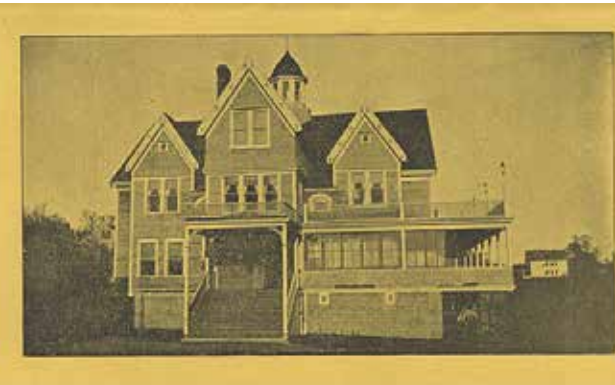
DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Hendries Restaurant

The following is excerpted from an essay published by the Society.

Hendries Restaurant, which was located at 22-30 Talbot Avenue across from Franklin Field and well known for its ice cream, was run by two brothers who were born in Scotland, Joseph A. Hendrie and Robert W. Hendrie. The bought the property on Talbot Avenue in 1891. Over the last century and more, Hendries products in ice cream stores and retail have carried the phrase "since 1885," and that is when Joseph and Robert established their company.

The *Boston Evening Transcript* reported on Dec. 24, 1900, that a "fire nearly destroyed the establishment of



Two views of the former Hendries Restaurant, which was located on Talbot Avenue near Blue Hill Avenue. The building on top was constructed soon after the section of Talbot Avenue running from Blue Hill Avenue to Codman Square was laid out in 1888, but definitely by the time the Hendries brothers purchased the property in 1891. The image at bottom shows an exterior that was probably remodeled after a fire in 1900.

Joseph A. Hendrie and his brother at 26 Talbot Avenue. The value of the damage was estimated to be \$2,000."

By 1903, the brothers had fallen behind in their payments to creditors, and an agreement

was reached for extending the payment schedule. The same year, they lost other property that they owned to foreclosure. It is not clear how long the restaurant remained open after that time, but today, a

Dollar Tree store sits on its Talbot Avenue location. The Hendries name lived on, though; it may have been part of a company that was purchased in 1930 by Eliot Creamery, which had an ice cream man-

ufacturing facility at the intersection of Eliot Street and Central Avenue in Milton's Lower Mills neighborhood.

Editor's Note: The long-vacant factory was demolished over the last few years to make way

for a condominium village, Hendries at Central Station, which comprises 38 one-and-two-bedroom condos with private balconies priced at between \$780,000 and \$1,030,000. The formal opening of the development is scheduled for this spring.

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

...

Reminder: A house history from the Dorchester Historical Society would make a great gift to a homeowner in Dorchester or Mattapan. Take a look at some of the completed histories on the Dorchester Historical Society website

We need to prepare for civil disruption

Is our American house divided enough to once again trigger widespread conflict between the states and regions? Among political scientists, historians, and journalists, there's now open dialogue about whether the Red-Blue divide that has deepened and calcified since the Jan. 6 assault on the US Capitol might actually spiral into wider violence, even civil war.

As far-fetched as it may seem, some experts who research the causes of civil wars globally say we are primed for such a calamity. It's easy to dismiss such chatter as sensationalism and, indeed, all parties should use caution when openly gaming out such an unraveling of the centuries-old American experiment.

Still, however surreal and unpleasant it may be, the possibility of upheaval prompted by Trumpist zealotry needs to be thoughtfully approached for the sake of preparedness and, ideally, prevention as there can be no doubt that an orchestrated effort to seize the mechanisms by which we seat duly elected members of Congress, electors, and the presidency is afoot among Trumpist Republicans.

Revelations in the last two weeks that rogue "electors" fraudulently presented themselves to Congress to cast votes for Trump in seven states that he lost— like Arizona and Michigan — provide the latest evidence of unlawful, organized aggression against our democratic institutions. The pace of prosecuting these alleged crimes—given the stakes and the precedent— is maddeningly slow. Those who participated must be prosecuted and punished in hopes of discouraging future attempts at such fraud. The Biden Justice Department's failure to act aggressively to date is a grave mistake.

We must do more than just hope for the best. If Republicans do prompt a more acute disruption of the transfer of power— whether in Congress next year or to the executive office in 2024— there could well be a fracture nationally, at least in function, that might look quite different from the secessionist movement of the 1860s, with combatants going full tilt at one another on battlefields. Secession was folly in 1860, and it's impossible to fathom a scenario in which it would be anything other than folly today. And yet, the forces at play in Red State America seem more and more inclined to folly and recklessness.

Given the potential for at least temporary unrest and disruptions, should not state governments in the Northeast, like our own Commonwealth, for example, be prepared for problems with food supply, fuel and electricity, and the whole gamut of interstate commerce considerations that we take for granted that could— in an extreme event— be interrupted if there was a prolonged constitutional crisis at the federal level?

It may, in fact, be time for us to prepare for such disruptions if other regions of the nation see fit to go down such an ill-advised path. We prepare for natural disasters, and we've coordinated and acted regionally before, most recently to respond sensibly to the demands of Covid-19 supply necessities and travel restrictions. It may be time to employ such coordination to the worst-case scenarios of existential threats to the federal system.

Perhaps passions will cool. One might think that the specter of a resurgent foreign enemy— Russia on the march in eastern Europe— would serve to strengthen our bonds of affection. In the meantime, responsible leaders at the state and regional level should do more than worry about local impacts from a potential crisis of disunion. We need to be prepared for it while seeking to block it at all costs.

– Bill Forry

In the doldrums of January, tales of woe and misery warm our hearts

By SETH DANIEL
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

Anyone who says they enjoy Boston winters has never heated their home with fuel oil. Heating oil. The dreaded necessity.

In the deep freeze of these January days – some of them accompanied by snow and some just with the cruel kind of cold that only Bostonians can understand - most of my free time is occupied with the 275-gallon oil tank in my basement and the deep path it is forging into my checking account as these dark winter weeks go by.

No one has truly experienced winter in Boston until they've had to look at the upcoming forecast, run down to the cellar to check the oil tank gauge, take measure of the bank account balance, and then make those three factors line up in a way that will keep the family somewhat warm and you not flat broke.

Winter is an adventure for sure in these old homes, and while a lot of people have switched to natural gas to avoid headaches, I'm still a die-hard for heating oil. A lot of people west of Washington seem to agree, as I still see many oil trucks paving a path through streets and getting honked at as they idle in the middle of a narrow road while filling up someone's tank. Also, many of my conversations with neighbors includes exchanging anxieties about the God-forsaken oil tanks in our cellars. It's all part of the story.

When I think about winters past, I always go back to one year in the late 2000s when a massive storm was approaching, and the weekend forecasts called for a major deep freeze to follow. I had made the call to the oil man, and he was scheduled to come on Friday to fill it all up. However, on Thursday night, Gov. Deval Patrick ordered all vehicles – including oil trucks – off the roads for the weekend.

The terror of running out of oil in a blizzard radiated down my spine.

I called the oil company and they said they couldn't come and would get in big trouble if they ventured out. I called a couple of my backup oil guys, and they said the same. Meanwhile, heavy snow was starting to come down, and the temperatures were taking a nosedive. Desperate, I called my oil company again and my guy sympathized, but he couldn't do anything until at least Monday or Tuesday, he said.

"I'm going to run out tomorrow morning," I said. "Diesel fuel," was his two-word reply. "What?" I asked.

He informed me that, while he wasn't recommending it as a routine, "in a pinch" I could get some diesel fuel from the gas station and pour it into the oil tank, that it wouldn't hurt for a few days.

My mission was before me. I jumped in my pickup and drove through the driving snow to the auto parts store and grabbed three five-gallon gas cans. From there, I became a winter warrior – determined to protect the home front. I got behind a snowplow and headed up Dot Ave to the 76 Station, filled up my cans, then headed back to west of Washington. Back and forth I went, grabbing 15 gallons at a time and confusing the cashier – who had no other customers in the blizzard conditions but me.

Now for those who may not have done such a bizarre errand, five gallons of diesel fuel isn't light

weight, and pouring three of them into the side of the house in succession during a cold, blizzard is the bottom of the barrel. It was during my second trip that the winter warrior excitement wore off. On the third trip slipping and sliding up Dot Ave. I asked myself why I was still living in New England. I hit my breaking point on my fourth time dumping fuel into the tank.

Now, I'm not a person who uses foul language whatsoever, but standing astride the house holding 30 pounds of fuel on my hip in the freezing cold, I had met my match.

I cursed the oil man.
I cursed Deval Patrick.
I cursed the aroma of the diesel fuel.
I cursed the winter.

As far as I know, only God and a little snowman in the front yard heard my expletive-laced outburst, and I'm hoping neither holds it against me in the long run. We made it through the storm, and circumstances have required such errands two other times in the years since. Each time I swear I will abandon oil and lay out the money for a natural gas line and a new gas boiler, but each time the winter rolls around, I'm lulled by the ease and sentimentality of the oil man and his truck.

And so, no, I don't like Boston winters, but like a lot of other people around here, I cherish being able to tell people how miserable winter is in Boston. Therein lies the joy.

MR. GILCHRIST

When we moved into our neighborhood west of Washington long ago, one of our neighbors was the Gilchrist family. They had been there for more than 50 years, and Robert Gilchrist was said to be north of 100 years old.

With the coming of our first snowstorm in our new home, and with three teen-age girls in the house at the time, I marshalled those unwilling troops and ordered them to come over to the Gilchrist home with me to shovel their snow. I was certain no one over 100 years old was going to be able to take care of the heavy, wet snow outside.

When Mr. Gilchrist answered the door, I introduced myself and the girls, and told him what we were about to do. He laughed and politely declined, saying he would be doing it himself. I couldn't believe it, but lo and behold, about 30 minutes later, he came out with a wool jacket, a thick scarf, a toboggan, and an old metal shovel.

Machine-like, he bent, scooped, and tossed the snow, stairs and all, in what looked like a ballroom dance maneuver. I watched him do the same thing storm after storm for a few years. It was incredible and I often look back and wish I had the stamina he had then when I was half his age. I gave up the shovel a few years back for a snow blower, but Mr. Gilchrist shoveled away right through his last storm.

Years later I told his daughter that story, and she got a good laugh out of it.

"Dad was really protective of his snow," she said with a chuckle. "No one was going to shovel his snow for him under any circumstances."

Here's to those sorts of hearty Bostonians with a hope that such tales don't dissolve into history like so many of the legends in our old city.

of seasonal affective disorder (SAD), it is a most unkind deprivation. April seems so far away, and the heating bills are piling up.

In a time when the dire threats posed by unchecked climate change/global warming have staked a claim on daily news reports worldwide, January seems an anomaly, at least in Boston. Records show that four of the five warmest Januarys in the city occurred more than 80 years ago: **1913** came in with a 39.3 daily average temperature) followed by **1932** (38.8), **2020** (38.0), **1933** (37.9), and **1937** (37.4).

Yes, January 2020, a startling anomaly on that listing: Daytime temperature dipped below freezing on but 4 days, and the thaw came early: Fri., Jan. 10, 50 degrees; Jan. 11, 64 degrees; Jan. 12; 74 degrees. As time goes by, and as warnings about the effects of un-blunted global warming become clearer and more dire, these sorts of meteorological quirks no doubt will continue to decorate Boston's weather charts, and we will continue to marvel at this changeable place we inhabit at the eastern edge of the country.

– TOM MULVOY

The Reporter

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‘Racist’ covenants remain a sticking point for some

By SIMON RIOS
WBUR REPORTER

In the bedroom community of Wilmington, just south of Lowell, sits a little white house, with paint peeling from the trim and a mailbox emblazoned with the American flag at the end of the driveway. While homeowners Edward Kaizer and his wife, Mary Tassone-Kaizer, note that the house has been in the family for generations, they were shocked when a WBUR reporter showed them a clause buried in their property records, from 1897, stating that their land cannot be occupied by “negroes or Irish” or anyone considered “disorderly people.”

“Oh, my God,” said Tassone-Kaizer, who works in accounts receivable for a local company. “Did your parents know about that?” Responded her husband, a high school teacher in Wilmington who grew up in the house: “If they did, they didn’t say so.”

Kaizer held the document with a stunned look, then said that his mother was an Irish immigrant. “It’s disgusting,” Tassone-Kaizer replied. “We don’t stand for any of that.”

So-called racial covenants can be found in property records all over the country, many of them restrictions written from the late 19th to mid-20th century. Some bar landowners from selling or renting to people who aren’t white, others target certain immigrant groups — like Poles, Italians, and Irish. A deed from Springfield in 1916 states that the “lot shall not be resold to a colored person, a Polande, or an Italian.” This language appears on the deeds for at least four separate properties sold by a single seller in Hampden County.

Experts note that the racist clauses have had no legal standing for decades, thanks to court decisions and legislation. In 1948, the US Supreme Court ruled that racial covenants were unenforceable, and in 1968, Congress outlawed them altogether as part of the Fair Housing Act.

The following year, Massachusetts also banned restrictions on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, and sex.

But some state lawmakers and judges remain concerned that the clauses are still included in property records, a reminder of the country’s — and the state’s — legacy of racism. And now they are trying to figure out what to do about the matter.

The Massachusetts Land Court recently started letting judges add a note to deeds saying the covenants are void. “It allows for a formal repudiation of the records,” said Lauren Reznick, an administrator with the land court, “and it does so without erasing history.”

Some say that’s not good enough. A quarter of state lawmakers have sponsored a bill to let homeowners erase the racist language from their property files altogether.

State Rep. John Barrett, of North Adams, proposed the legislation after some constituents complained they couldn’t remove racial covenants from their home records. “As one said to me: ‘It’s just not who we are and we’d like it removed,’” Barrett said.

“It doesn’t surprise me because I’ve lived it,” said Ron Bell, who runs the nonprofit Dunk the Vote. Bell cited the violent clashes over busing in Boston, the Charles Stuart case (in which a Black man was wrongly accused of murder) and “just being Black in Boston.”

Bell argues that the racial covenants are a reminder of that history — and that the problems persist. Black and brown residents are less likely to own homes in the state, and far more likely to face discrimination by real estate agents.

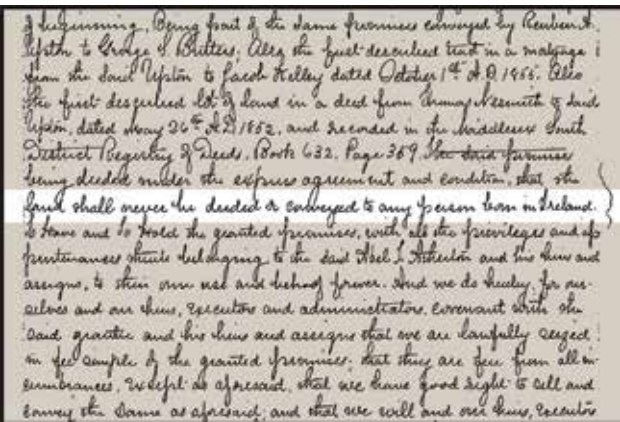
In the cavernous records room at the Middlesex North Registry of Deeds in Lowell, Register Richard Howe shares an example of a racist land covenant, tied to a property sold in Lowell in 1881: “*Said premises is being deeded under the express agreement and condition that the land shall never be deeded or conveyed to any person born in Ireland.*”

“You can’t get more specific than that,” he said.

The deed hits close to home for Howe. He said that seven of his eight grandparents immigrated to Lowell from Ireland in the late 1800s and may have personally faced this kind of discrimination. An aficionado of Lowell history, he said the anti-Irish deed language reminds him of the sentiment expressed at the dedication of a new Superior Court facility in 1898.

“The speeches were almost saying, ‘It’s important that we have this building that communicates the rule of law, because we’ve got all of these people who don’t speak English arriving on our shores,’” he said.

Howe says there’s no way to identify all the racist restrictions buried in old deeds — or even come up with a reliable estimate of how many there are. Property records in Massachusetts date back to the 1620s. And the vast majority are handwritten and not searchable. So any count would have to be done manually.



“It would take really going through every, every document,” he said, noting that there are 14 million pages of property records in his registry alone. And there are 20 other registries across the state.

So many of the racist restrictions will likely remain buried — until Howe, or someone else digging into the old records, finally stumbles on the passages.

Bill Owens, first Black man in state Senate, is dead at 84

Bill Owens, the first Black man to serve in the Massachusetts State Senate, died on Jan. 22 T at 84. According to a statement released by his family on Monday, Mr. Owens’s “health had been declining and 3 weeks ago he tested positive for Covid-19.”

Mr. Owens, an Alabama native who moved to Boston at age 15, was praised as a trailblazer by former colleagues and current office holders.

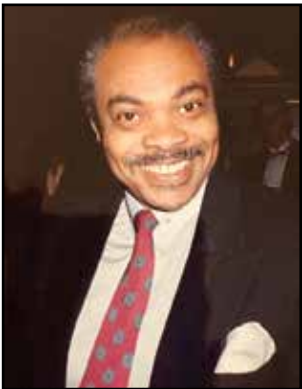
“Sen. Owens’s work on reparations and housing was historic, and we owe him a debt for the trail he blazed,” US Rep. Ayanna Pressley tweeted on Monday. “Holding his family and loved ones in my prayers.”

US Sen. Ed Markey, who served with Mr. Owens in the Massachusetts Legislature, called him his “friend and inspiration.” The late senator was a strong and vocal supporter of Markey’s in his 2020 re-election victory over Rep. Joseph Kennedy III.

“Bill Owens learned the lessons of our nation’s history, he rewrote them, and then taught the powers-that-be from his own textbook on building political and economic power,” Markey said in a statement. “His presence grounded me in the realities of today’s struggles, and his spirit lifted my gaze and countless others to the opportunities and justice that remained to be created for future generations.”



A deed, at left, from Lowell dated 1881 reads the “land shall never be deeded or conveyed to any person born in Ireland.” Above, Richard Howe, Middlesex North Register of Deeds, looks for an example of a racial covenant that sits among millions of handwritten pages of land documents. Photo at left courtesy of Middlesex North Registry of Deeds. Photo above by Simon Rios/WBUR.



Bill Owens

Mr. Owens served in the state Massachusetts House of Representatives for one term in 1973-74 and was then elected to the Senate, where he served from 1975 to 1982 and then again from 1989 to 1992. He represented parts of Dorchester, Mattapan, Jamaica Plain, South End and Roxbury in the Second Suffolk district.

In the statement issued on Monday, his family credited him with securing funds to build Roxbury Community College and the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center. “Until the end of his life, Bill continued to fight for inequities that exist in every corner of our society, and he pushed for reparations for descendants of slaves in the United States. He used his platform to change laws and advocate for equity in housing, healthcare, education, and economic opportunities for everyone,” the statement read.

Details about funeral services were not available before the Reporter went to press.

—REPORTER STAFF

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DotHouse Health 1353 Dorchester Avenue, Dorchester, MA 02122

Projects dominating Dot neighborhoods; residences are rising at DotBlock village

(Continued from page 1)

a venture capital firm that is behind some of the biggest biotechs, including Covid vaccine maker Moderna.

Next door to The BEAT, Center Court Partners, the developers behind 75 Morrissey, the former site of the Ch. 56 studios and small retail outlets, have been quiet after filing a February 2021 letter with city officials saying they'd like to build a life science and office complex spanning 250,000 square feet, as well as 175 residential units. They have pitched residential towers of 24 and 21 floors. The developers, who also own the nearby parcels containing Star Market and the Beasley Media Group building, are likely to return to city officials and civic groups with a new plan.

Down the boulevard, there are residential complexes totaling 459 units going up by Boston Bowl. In the Port Norfolk area, the "Neponset Wharf" project, just approved by city planning officials, will remake the industrial marina and add housing (120 units) with a small retail component, as well as office space.

When he joined the City Council, Baker said, a 15-unit building was considered a large project. Now Dorchester is awash in building projects that will add thousands of residential units to a region that desperately needs housing as demand outstrips supply, leading to increases in rents and home prices. The median home price in Boston is \$775,000, according to Realtor.com.

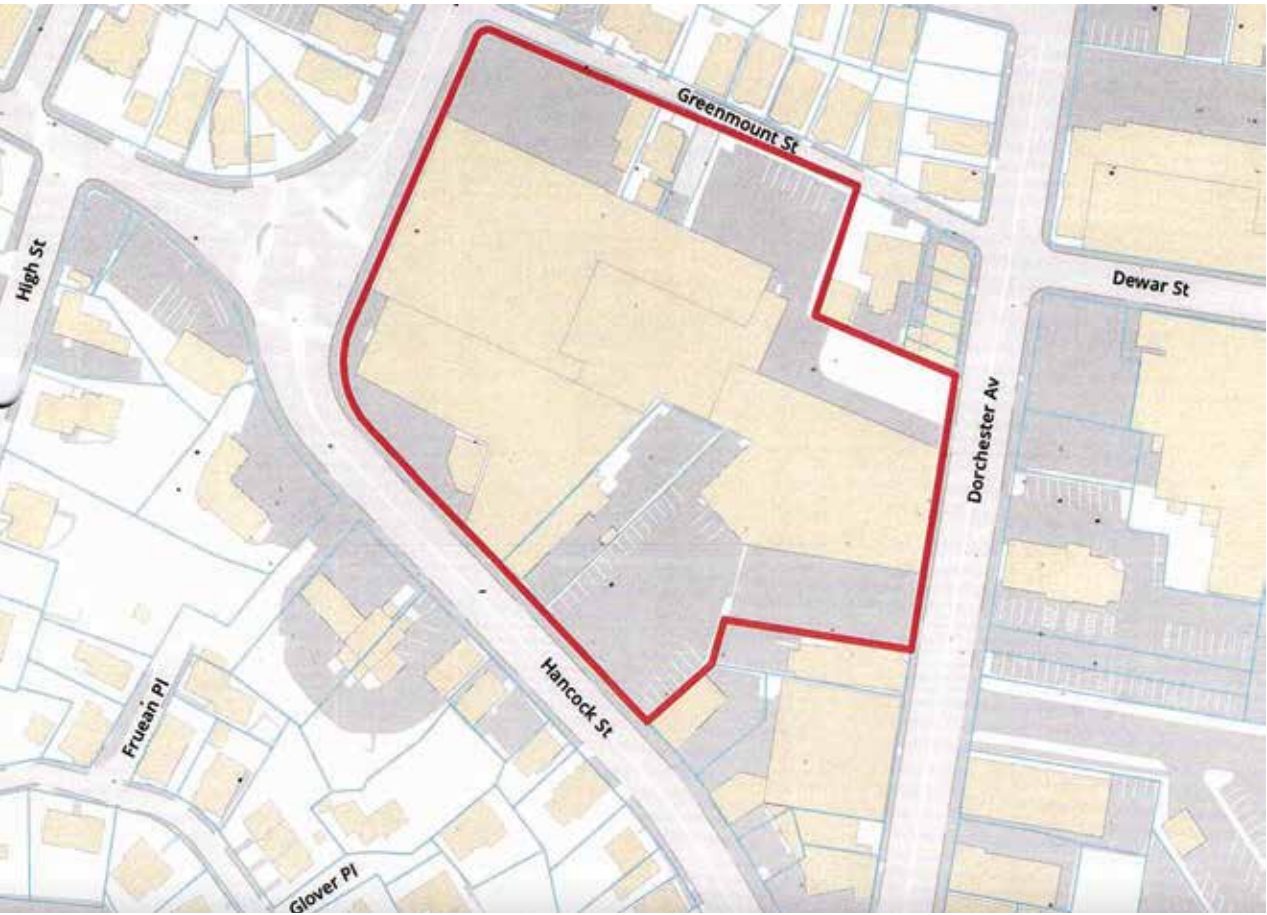
But, Baker notes, there is also heavy demand for lab space. According to the trade industry group MassBIO, Massachusetts built 5 million square feet of lab space between 2020 and 2021. New projects call for an additional 20 million square feet by 2024, creating a demand for up to 40,000 new jobs, many of which come with a higher salary than in other sectors. Dorchester has multiple stops on the MBTA's Red Line, which are considered part of a "life sciences corridor."

"The future in Dorchester is biotech, lab space, high-tech manufacturing space," Baker told the Reporter.

For its part, DotBlock is sticking to residential units, having increased the number to 480 from the original 362. When the first phase is done in spring 2023, half of the units will be occupancy-ready, and the landscaping and connections to the surrounding streets will be completed.



A rendering from a 2019 BPDA meeting shows what the completed DotBlock campus will look like, according to the development team. Four new buildings will house 480 residential rental units with amenities that include lounges, a rooftop deck and above-ground pool.
Image courtesy Stantec/Samuels & Associates/Wintergold, LLC



The site plan shows the location of the DotBlock project site, which includes nearly four acres of land between Dorchester Avenue, Hancock Street and Greenmount Street.
Image courtesy Stantec/Samuels & Associates/Wintergold, LLC



There is no target date for the completion of the second stage.

The project also includes space for roughly 23,000 square feet of commercial space for what the development team itemized as "neighborhood-oriented retail and restaurant uses." No specific tenants have yet been identified publicly.

Before the project got underway in the area popularly known as Glover's Corner, there were a number of auto body shops, a car wash, a gas station. The area, a 10-minute walk to the Savin Hill Red Line Station, has Meeting House Hill to its South and Jones Hill to its east.

The project broke ground in the "darkest days" of the pandemic, and was split into two parts to help keep financing flowing, according to Abe Menzin, principal and executive vice president of development at Samuels & Associates, one of the companies behind DotBlock.

Menzin said that the contractors, unions, and city officials worked closely on how to proceed as the pandemic wore on. "Some of the worst fears that people had about what it would mean to build were prevented," he said, adding that an open house is being planned for the coming weeks to publicize job opportunities.

The project did make one change in a shift to increasing electric-driven usage wherever possible, such as installing heat pumps, rather than relying totally on fossil fuels.

"The long-term goals of city and state are electrification and in this type of building, it is possible to drive more of that shift in electric versus fossil fuel heating," Menzin said.

As for developments across Dorchester, Menzin said he and his colleagues will continue to monitor the market. He declined to comment on other projects they might have in the works.

"We're paying close attention to everything that's happening, and what the community's goals continue to be," he said.

For regular updates on Dorchester development, see DotNews.com and follow @DotNews on Twitter.

Left: A view of how the DotBlock campus will look from Dorchester Avenue. The development yeam has not yet made public any specific tenants planned for retail spaces in the project.
Image courtesy Stantec/Samuels & Associates/Wintergold, LLC

Feeney bids City Hall goodbye after 34 years

(Continued from page 1)

“It just seemed like the right time,” she said, when reached by phone on Tuesday at her City Hall office. Her husband Larry, an attorney who once worked for the state’s veterans affairs department, is already retired, she noted.

The Cedar Grove resident said she made the decision just before Christmas, as a new mayor was settling into the executive suite, and as the City Council was readying to take on five new members. She notified Wu and Ed Flynn, the City Council president, after the Jan. 3 inauguration.

Her plans to resign were first reported by GBH News.

In the 1980s, Feeney had left the insurance industry to work for Dorchester Councillor James Byrne, who is now a district court judge in Chelsea. Feeney had never worked in the public sector before. “I can remember saying to him, ‘You’re going to pay me?’ I thought I was going to just go to community meetings for him,” Feeney recalled.

Byrne encouraged her to run for his seat when he opted against another two-year term. She was first elected



City Clerk Maureen Feeney presided over the inauguration ceremony at Boston City Hall on Jan. 3, 2022. Feeney, who served as a Boston City Councillor from 1993-2011 will retire from city government next month. Photo courtesy Mayor’s Office/Jeremiah Robinson

to the Council in 1993, and was re-elected nine times, each time by ward margins.

Feeney said she is most proud of her role in the merger of Boston City Hospital and Boston University Hospital that created Boston Medical Center. As a councillor, she worked on the legislation that allowed the merger, which occurred in July 1995, following labor protests over a public hospital being converted into a private one. In 2009, she donated her papers on the merger to UMass Boston.

“The most important thing for me is the friendships, the amazing people I’ve met,” she said. “So many department heads and mayors. It’s

been an amazing journey. It’s hard to pinpoint any one moment.”

A close ally of the late Mayor Thomas Menino, she was twice elected City Council president, the first time in 2007. She was the second woman to have held the job, after Louise Day Hicks in 1976.

Feeney has served on the boards of Boston Medical Center, Bay Cove Human Services, the Dorchester Boys and Girls Club, and the Boston Home.

In a statement, Wu wished her well in retirement and called her a “trailblazer” across city government. “Maureen Feeney exemplifies public service,” the mayor said.

Matt O’Malley, who recently left the City Council after more than a decade representing West Roxbury and Jamaica Plain, first met Feeney when he was an intern for Councillor Peggy Davis-Mullen. “She’s a legend,” he said. “It’s a huge loss, but I’m very happy for her.”

Even before he was in City Hall, O’Malley had heard of Feeney. He recalls attending a block party in Neponset when he was in high school. In line for the ice cream truck with a friend, O’Malley heard two little boys pointing her out in the crowd. “Even the kids know her,” O’Malley said. “She has a heart as big as the city she loves. She knows everyone.

She’s unfailingly kind. She can be tough. She sticks to her guns and was an effective councillor and an effective clerk because of it. The institutional knowledge she possesses could fill City Hall ten times over.”

O’Malley ran for office years later, and he would often run into Feeney while on the campaign trail and at civic association meetings, which abound in Dorchester, the city’s largest neighborhood. “She was there night after night, and she loved it.”

In April 2011, Feeney said she would not run for another council term, sparking an intense campaign to replace her. Savin Hill’s Frank Baker, a former city employee, won the November election, and Feeney stepped down soon after as part of an effort to take the city clerk’s job. In December, the City Council voted 10-1 to give her the job.

The clerk’s office, which employs 15 people, oversees business certificates, public notices, and the city archives. The City Council chooses the clerk, who creates the council agenda and maintains meeting minutes.

Feeney recalled when as a city councillor she watched with interest

how her predecessor, Rosaria Salerno, herself a former city councillor and the clerk for 16 years, handled it. She said she hopes the assistant city clerk, Alex Geourntas, will be picked to succeed her. She noted he helped train her for the job when she took over in 2011. “We have worked as a team for the last 12 years,” she said.

She also departs as her daughter, Kaitlin Passafaro, has just left City Hall, where she served as director of the Mayor’s Office of Intergovernmental Relations, to take a government relations job with Berklee College of Music.

“It is strange, having worked with her for 13 years, to have her out of the building,” Feeney said. “We were sort of a tag team while we were here.”

As for what’s next, Feeney said, “I suspect my grandchildren will have a major role.”

Does she plan on staying in Dorchester? “You can count on it,” she said, noting that the families of her son Matthew and her daughter live in Dorchester. “This is where I was born and I hope to spend every moment of my life here because it has given me so much,” Feeney said.

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15 Washburn LLC	Francis X Joyce RET	15 Washburn St	12/22/21	1,120,000
21 Mt Vernon LLC	Courtney, Mary	21 Mount Vernon St	12/20/21	1,431,000
Tendong, Thomas	Frazier, Mattie R	231 Itasca St	12/23/21	515,000
Bastien, Marie N	Mascary, Jean-Marie	59 Cedar St	12/22/21	450,000
Underwood, Lincoln A	Daniel, Nancy G	12-A Rockway St	12/22/21	429,000
Avitabile, John	Torres, Robert	19 Bellflower St #6	12/17/21	819,000
Luchette, Krista	McAuliffe, Shaun R	87 Roseclair St #1	12/20/21	400,000
Chase, Lauren	81 Homes Ave LLC	81 Homes Ave #1	12/23/21	534,900
Watson, Zachary	Dinescu, Stefan	944 Dorchester Ave #41	12/23/21	525,000
Gras, Slawomir	17 Vane Winkle LLC	17 Van Winkle St #2	12/17/21	515,000
Belen, Anthony J	139 Freeport Street LLC	330 Savin Hill Ave #330	12/21/21	1,205,753
Aylward, Kelly	177 W Seventh St RT	1173 Adams St #201	12/21/21	730,000
Stoney Brae Dev LLC	24 Elder Street RT	24 Elder St	12/22/21	325,000
Rosa, Emily M	Yale Investments LLC	14-16 Lena Ter #2	12/23/21	660,000
Madigan, Audrey P	Lindberg, Emily	77 Draper St #2	12/23/21	492,000
Hussaini, Zainab	138 Centre Street LLC	138 Centre St #1	12/23/21	550,000
KBK Holdings LLC	Barbour, William	257 Quincy St	12/30/21	850000
Nguyen, Tran	Robertson, Phillip K	53 Stoughton St	12/30/21	475000
Nguyen, Tran	Robertson, Phillip K	57 Stoughton St	12/30/21	475000
ARJ Investments LLC	Mclendon, Howard A	60 Ridgewood St	12/24/21	1000000
Whittaker, Dennis	Whitted, Leonard	8 Whitman St	12/30/21	630000
Tran, William Q	Blandino, Karen T	393 Ashmont St	12/30/21	1210000
Ha, Kinh G	Mcdonough Family LP	368 Gallivan Blvd	11/04/21	760000
Thach, Solay	Frederika Street LLC	6-8 Frederika St	12/27/21	978000

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No bids for city's ask on Strand, library, housing package

(Continued from page 1) surprised by the lack of any response, noting that there is simply too much being asked for in one package.

The Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) said this week that it is “currently working closely with the Uphams Corner Working Advisory Group (WAG)” to determine how best to proceed. In a statement, officials wrote, “We continue to hear strong interest in the potential of this site from the development community and are optimistic that after re-evaluation, a new RFP for Site 1 can be successful in creating a model for housing with public assets and development without displacement.”

The request for bids for 555-559 Columbia Rd., which was issued in September, included a request for mixed-income housing above two floors that would host the new branch library – part of the city’s new Housing with Public Assets initiative. It also asked for an experienced operator for the Strand Theatre that could make it a destination venue for the district.

City Councillor Frank Baker indicated last fall that he felt the RFP was a little too ambitious. Last

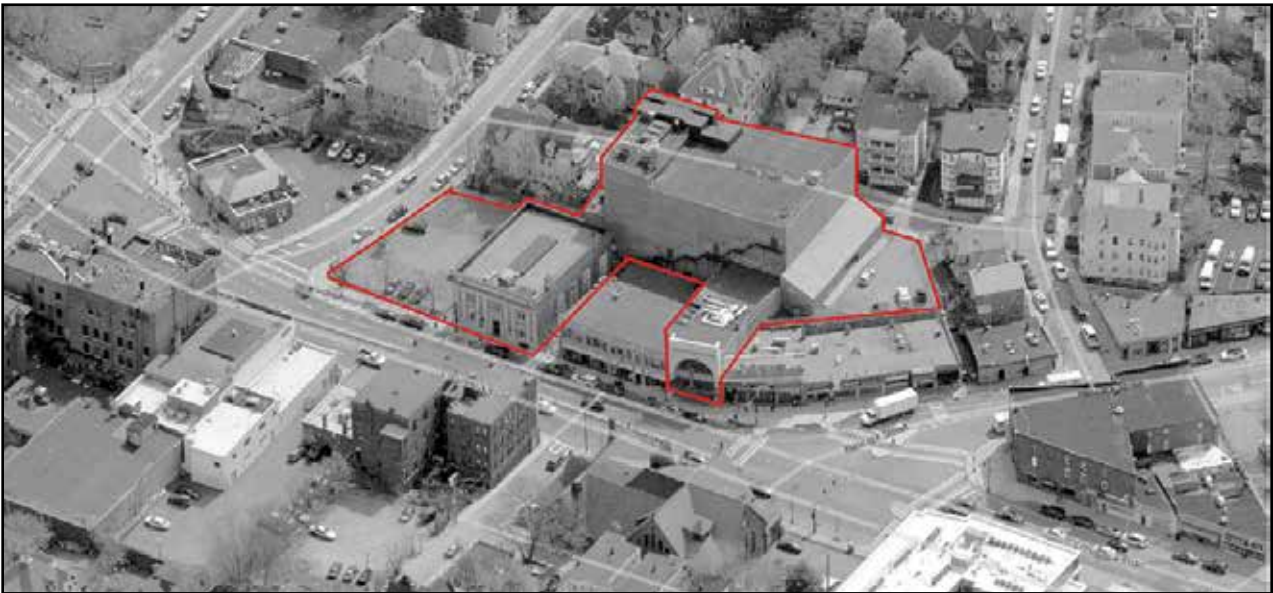
week, he said he wasn’t surprised that no proposals had been submitted.

“You’re going to need to offer a developer some incentives to be able to operate the Strand and do the housing and library,” he said. “I don’t see any incentive with this RFP for going in and taking the risk and probably getting pushback from the community at meetings...It’s asking a lot.”

He added: “If we’re serious about getting this kind of development, then we have to be realistic.”

Most of those in the development and arts community seemed to agree, and some who spoke to the *Reporter* said they were either a housing developer or an arts organization – but not both.

Beth O’Donnell, director of Real Estate for the Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation, said that while it is a big player in development of all kinds in Uphams Corner, this was one proposal the group didn’t think they could deliver on. Dorchester Bay has several projects in the works for the area, including being designated to develop the old Citizens Bank building across from the Strand. This three-part offering,



A map issued by the city of Boston as part of a Requests for Proposal last year shows one of the sites it hopes to redevelop with help from private investment sources. The RFP includes the re-use of the former Bank of America building located at 555 Columbia Rd., below. *BPDA images*

however, was maybe a little too complicated.

“There is a lot going on at that site,” said O’Donnell. “We didn’t know what it would look like when the RFP came out and there were a lot of moving pieces... We reviewed it and considered it and, in that time, we were not able to identify a strong partner for the Strand. It’s not a core competency for Dorchester Bay to operate a theatre. We don’t have skills in-house to do that. We decided that given how important this is...we were not going to respond to the RFP as presented.”



She added, “It’s an exciting opportunity, but Dorchester Bay just wasn’t confident we could succeed in meeting all of the requirements.”

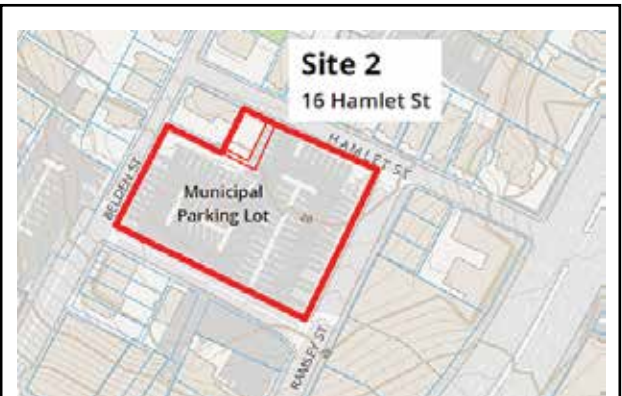
In the arts community, Gary Dunning, executive director of the Celebrity Series of Boston, said he attended the pre-bid conferences out of curiosity. While the group had done some presentations at the Strand in the past, it’s not on their regular list of venues. He said they were just interested in hearing the city’s plans.

In the end, though, he said, “All of the arts groups I spoke to felt that the Strand was an afterthought in the RFP process” and that the guidelines were rather vague for the risk that would be taken.

“Right now, the city seems to want arts groups to step up to volunteer to go into the arena with unmotivated developers and do the best they can,” he added. “That’s a very tough position for most arts groups who don’t have the capital to negotiate from any position of strength.”

At the same time, Dorchester Bay said there were things they did like about the RFP. “We do think putting the housing on top of the library is a good idea,” O’Donnell said. “Absolutely, we would still be interested and will follow it closely and review whatever the city puts out there... We look forward to seeing how it emerges.”

The city offered no timeline as to when it might release a “streamlined” or new RFP package for the Strand operation or the library/development site next door.



The site of the current city-owned parking lot behind the Uphams Corner business district on Hamlet Street. *BPDA image*

Dorchester Bay EDC in bid for Hamlet St. lot

While there were no bids for the Columbia Road/Strand Theatre development site, the BPDA did report that it had received a proposal from a second RFP that went out to develop the city-owned parking lot behind the Uphams Corner business district on Hamlet Street.

Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation confirmed that it had put in the proposal with Preservation of Affordable Housing (POAH). “The Mayor’s Office of Housing (formerly DND) received one response to the Site 2 RFP that was released for affordable housing and commercial space at 18 Hamlet St.,” read a statement from the BPDA. “That proposal is currently under review for responsiveness, and a community meeting will be held later this winter for community members to review and weigh in on the proposal.”

Dorchester Bay said they and POAH had proposed a mixed-use building but gave no further details. “It’s going to transform that area,” said Beth O’Donnell of Dorchester Bay. “Whether it’s our project or another project that prevails on that site, it will be transformative and that’s exciting.”

The site is currently in use as Municipal Lot #19, a city-owned surface parking lot with approximately 88 spaces. The RFP requires that those spaces to be replaced as part of any development proposal in addition to providing parking to support additional uses on the site.

-SETH DANIEL



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Court upholds conviction in '18 Lonsdale Street rape case

By Reporter Staff
The Massachusetts Appeals Court last Friday upheld Charles Duncan's 12-to-15 year prison sentence for raping a woman as she was walking home from the Shawmut T stop in 2018, saying he got a fair trial. The court, however, did strike his conviction for kidnapping as legally "duplicative" of his aggravated-rape conviction.

The latter ruling does not affect how much time he has to spend in prison because his kidnapping sentence was set to run concurrently with his rape sentence.

Duncan was also con-

victed of unarmed robbery because he took the woman's phone. He is currently imprisoned in the Old Colony Correctional Center in Bridgewater.

According to the court's summary of the case, the woman was walking home from the T stop around midnight on May 24, 2018 and when she got to Dorchester Avenue and Lonsdale Street several blocks away, Duncan approached her from behind, put a hard object up to her head, and forced her down Lonsdale Street.

He claimed the object was a gun and demanded her phone, which she gave him. He then forced

her into a Lonsdale Street backyard, where he raped her, told her to never walk down Lonsdale again, then let her get dressed and leave. She went home, called 911 and was transported to Boston Medical Center for an exam.

Meanwhile, the court continued, Duncan wasn't feeling so well. After walking down Lonsdale away from Dorchester Avenue, he called 911 - on the victim's phone - from Florida Street to request an ambulance because he was "experiencing back pain and anxiety." He told 911 he did not know the phone's number because it belonged to somebody else.

EMTs came, and even though they described him as "disheveled" and concluded that he didn't appear to actually be in any physical distress, they took him to Carney Hospital anyway, where, as they were wheeling him into the emergency room, one of the EMTs learned that police were looking for a rape suspect with a description matching their patient's. They also had taken a cell phone with the same number he had used to call 911.

Police were summoned, and Duncan was arrested. The victim positively identified him

from a series of photos and the DNA from semen found in the woman matched his. The woman told police she had tried to dissuade him from raping her by saying because she was on her period, and blood was found on his penis during a medical exam.

In his appeal, Duncan's attorney argued that there wasn't enough evidence to convict him of the rape.

The court disagreed, saying, there was more than enough evidence. In addition to the DNA matches, the blood, the victim's identification and the phone evidence, prosecutors presented surveillance video showing the victim walking down Dorchester Avenue followed by a man wearing the same clothing that she and the EMTs described.

Although there were some differences in his appearance in court and what the victim described - whether or not he had a chipped tooth - the court said they were minor, and that "those variations were for the jury to consider in assessing the credibility of the victim's testimony that she 'got a good look at [the] person' who raped her and of her description of that man."

Also, according to the

court ruling: "The defendant called 911 from a cell phone with the victim's number and directed the dispatcher to send the ambulance to him on Florida Street, which was in the area where the assault occurred. Later, a red sweatshirt and the victim's cell phone were located in that same area, and the defendant's fingerprint was found on the abandoned cell phone."



Boston Police released a photo of a vehicle they say was involved in a pedestrian hit-and-run incident near Grove Hall on New Year's Eve. According to BPDNews, the car in question — described as a sedan with possible right-side damage — struck a person near 27 Washington St. around 8:30 p.m. on Dec. 31. Anyone who can assist police in identifying the vehicle or driver is asked to call 617-343-5622 or the anonymous Crimestoppers line at 1-800-494-TIPS.

NOTICE

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

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



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

www.dorchesterhistoricalsociety.org

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T proposal adjusts reduced fares, transfer costs

Agency target hybrid workers with permanent FlexPasses

By CHRIS LISINSKI
STATE HOUSE
NEWS SERVICE

A pandemic-driven MBTA commuter rail ticket option aimed at workers with hybrid schedules would become permanent under a new proposal that would also slash the price of a single-day unlimited bus and subway pass.

The suite of fare changes that MBTA officials presented last Thursday at a committee meeting would also allow riders to make more transfers without incurring additional costs and offer additional options for the subset of commuters who qualify for reduced fares.

All of the proposed fare updates are subject to public comment in the coming weeks and would need approval from the agency's board of directors, which will likely vote on the matters at a March 24 meeting. If adopted, most of the changes would take effect July 1.

MBTA General Manager Steve Poflak said the changes would improve equity for riders across demographic groups and prepare the agency for technology changes that will arrive as an automated fare collection system comes online over the next few years.

"If approved by the MBTA's Board in March, these proposals will allow the T to continue to best meet the needs of riders through incremental fare improvements that reflect how they travel now, and in the future, while minimizing revenue implications in this time of continued uncertainty," Poflak said.

The proposal would make permanent the commuter rail "Flex-Pass" mTicket pilot program launched in June 2020. That program offers five days of unlimited commuter rail travel within a 30-day period at a 10 percent discount compared to

standard tickets. The program is aimed at workers whose commuting patterns changed due to the pandemic and the rise of remote work.

T officials suggested lowering the cost of a single-day LinkPass — which offers unlimited local bus, subway, Silver Line, commuter rail Zone 1A and Charlestown Ferry service — from \$12.75 to \$11.

The MBTA offers reduced fares to people with disabilities and Medicare cardholders, seniors ages 65 and older, middle and high school students at schools enrolled in the Student Pass Program, and low-income young adults between the ages of 18 and 25.

The changes include three new options for the riders who currently qualify for reduced fares: launching a seven-day unlimited LinkPass for \$10, less than half the \$22.50 cost for a traditional seven-day pass; offering monthly passes on the commuter rail, ferries, and express buses for about 50 percent of full price; and allowing use of reduced-fare LinkPasses within the commuter rail's Zone 1A and the Charlestown Ferry.

While agency officials will push their new plan to make more ticket types available for reduced-fare riders, they are not seeking to change eligibility criteria or expand the pool of people who can access those options.

Lawmakers and transportation advocates have been ramping up pressure on the T to expand reduced-fare options, particularly amid the Covid-19 pandemic that has wrought disproportionate damage on low-income areas and communities of color.

At the same time, calls

have been growing for public transit to move away from reliance on fares altogether, with Boston Mayor Michelle Wu making the push for fare-free options a centerpiece of her campaign.

Ridership dropped sharply early in the pandemic and remains well below pre-pandemic levels after slow but steady recovery. In December, Poflak told the agency's board that the number of riders hovered between 65 percent and 70 percent of February 2020 levels for bus routes, between 45 percent and 50 percent for subway and commuter rail lines, and between 35 and 40 percent for ferries. The T has been able to offset its plunge in revenues from fares with the arrival of substantial federal Covid relief funds.

Another portion of the fare plan would allow riders to make

additional transfers on a single tap without paying again. Under current policy, most travelers can make one transfer between buses and subways and can transfer twice only if they go from a bus route to the subway back to another bus route. The new plan would allow second transfers in any combination between local and express buses and subways.

MBTA staff presented the proposal on Jan. 20 to the agency's Audit and Finance Subcommittee ahead of a full board meeting scheduled for Jan. 27.

Officials plan a virtual public meeting at 6 p.m. on Feb. 10 and another public hearing at 6 p.m. on Feb. 17 to discuss the proposed fare changes. Online public comment will be accepted through March 3.

State's jobless rate dips under 4 percent

With the news that the Massachusetts unemployment rate in December plunged beneath 4 percent, state officials said on Jan. 21 that employers have added back 537,000 jobs since

employment levels bottomed out in April 2020.

December's 3.9 percent jobless rate matched the national rate, according to the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, and stood more than a point higher than the December 2020 state rate of 2.8 percent.

State officials said employers added 20,100 jobs in December, building on the 14,200 added in November.

The 1.3 percentage point monthly drop in the state unemployment rate is based on a revised November estimate of 5.2 percent — state officials had originally reported that November's unemployment rate was 5.4 percent.

On Jan. 20, officials reported that initial claims for unemploy-

ment benefits rose by 42,277 between Dec. 12 and Jan. 8, an increase of 13,357 claims from the previous four-week period that was fueled by a surge in new claims from workers in the transportation and warehouse, construction, and food and accommodations sectors.

As employers across industries struggle to find workers, the size of the state labor force here fell by 41,700 in December. The labor force participation rate — the number of residents 16 or older who worked or were actively seeking work in the last four weeks — is down 1.1 percentage points compared to December 2020.

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INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE
Docket No. SU21P1402EA

ESTATE OF:
PATRICIA JOSEPHINE HONAN
DATE OF DEATH: August 07, 2020
SUFFOLK DIVISION

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

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

Published: January 27, 2022

LEGAL NOTICE

To: Nuestra Comunidad Development Corporation

Jada Tavares has filed a Complaint against you in the Suffolk Superior Court, located at 3 Pemberton Square, Boston, MA, containing claims of negligence resulting in personal injuries. A copy of the Complaint and Civil Action Coversheet can be found in the Suffolk Superior Court under civil action number 2184CV02580. A copy of these documents have been mailed first class to your 2565 Washington St., 2nd Fl., Roxbury, MA address as well. If you wish to defend against this action, you must file your responsive pleading(s) within the time allowed under Massachusetts Rules of Civil Procedure 12(a)(1) following the date of this publication, as Service has been allowed by publication on application of the plaintiff to the Court. If you fail to appear, the relief sought by plaintiff in her complaint may be granted.

Published: January 27, 2022

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Harvard Street Health hires family medicine physician as center’s new medical director

By Katie Pedersen
Special to the Reporter

The Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Center has hired Dr. Simone Ellis, a family medicine physician, as its new medical director.

Dr. Alice Lin has been serving as interim director at the clinic.

A native of Bridgeport, CT with roots in Jamaica and Belize, Ellis first became familiar with the areas served by the Harvard Street center as a medical student at Boston University.

“I spent a lot of time doing community outreach during the time that I was in medical school,” she said. “I fell in love with the Dorchester/Roxbury community. It’s where I would do all of my community health work activities and get my Caribbean

food, get my hair done.”

Ellis earned her bachelor’s degree at Yale University, her medical degree at Boston University, and completed her residency at Georgetown University’s Providence Hospital.

In the three years since finishing and residency, she has worked as a family physician in Washington D.C.

“When I saw this opportunity, I thought it was a great way to return to the community in a different role,” she said. “I was in Boston as a student. Coming back as a medical director is really an honor. I feel privileged to have this opportunity. I’m very happy that I was considered because it’s something that I wanted to do as far as leadership, but I didn’t think that I

would get the chance so young.”

Charles Murphy, the health center’s president and CEO, called her background “very impressive. She’s very interested in the leadership aspect of being a doctor as well as seeing patients.”

He added: “We put on a pretty exhaustive search. When we started, we used a firm. I told them that if I could wave a magic wand, my ideal candidate would be a young doctor who has some experience seeing patients and an interest in the leadership side of the house.”

According to Murphy, Ellis fit the bill completely. “She came up and met the staff and all the other

providers and they loved her. It worked out great. I think she’s going to be welcomed with open arms.”

Sara Callard, the center’s director of communications and grants, pointed to the ways in which Ellis’s cultural background equip her well for the role. “Having a woman medical director that is a person of color is wonderful for us, because she’s reflective of the community and that’s really important,” Callard said. “She understands the people that we serve because she grew up in the inner city herself. She understands personally and she works to overcome the social determinants of health.”

She added that many of the health center’s current initiatives are focused on reducing racial and income-based disparities in health outcomes, a primary interest of the new medical director.

For her part, Ellis looks forward to improving community health through welcoming care and outreach.

“I definitely believe that health care is local,” she said. “This recent pandemic that we’re still dealing with has taught all of us that. As a community health center, we have a unique ability to reach out to the local community and welcome them to our doors and extend ourselves outside of our doors as well. I be-



Dr. Simone Ellis

lieve that the mission is making the community healthier one patient at a time. I can see myself learning the role. Being from an inner city myself and utilizing the local clinics growing up, I want to create an environment at Harvard Street that’s welcoming and feels accessible.”



Harbor Point

Harbor Point Apartments HUD Section 8 waitlist for 1, 2, 3 and 4 bedroom apartments will open from February 1-15, 2022. Placement on the waitlist will be determined by lottery. The income eligibility requirements are as follows:

Number Of Persons	Max. Annual Income	Number Of Persons	Max. Annual Income
1	\$47,000	5	\$72,500
2	\$53,700	6	\$77,850
3	\$60,400	7	\$83,250
4	\$67,100	8	\$88,600

Applicants must be determined eligible in accordance with the regulations of the HUD Section 8 program. Rent is 30% of the household’s adjusted gross income.

Applications can be sent to you via email or mail upon request by calling 617-436-0771 or emailing hfallon@cmjmanagement.com from February 1-15, Monday-Friday 9am to 4pm.

Applications may also be picked up in person at:

Harbor Point Apartments Management Office
Application Box
One Harbor Point Blvd, Dorchester, MA
February 1-15, 9am to 5pm

OR

Harbor Point Security Dispatch
40 Westwind Road, Dorchester, MA 02125
February 1-15: Open 24 Hours

Completed applications must be postmarked by February 15 at 4pm and faxed to 617-287-0873, dropped in the black box outside the Harbor Point Management Office or emailed to hfallon@cmjmanagement.com to be included in the lottery.

The lottery will be held remotely on March 31 at 11:00am.

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Dot Chiefs dominate citywide hockey play



Pee Wee A team: From left, Michael Hughes (kneeling), Martin Kelly, Terrieann Lakes, Eamonn McIntyre, Frankie Armstrong, Sean Thompson, Michael Cloherty, Sam Cunningham, Cullen Ahern, Tommy Lucas, and Henry Donaghey (kneeling). Coaches Greg Kelly, Tommy Lucas, and Adam Cunningham.

(Continued from page 1)
For the Bantam AAA team, Coach Peter O'Sullivan said he and his team, which had just won its district titles, were excited to win the Mayor's Cup.

"We're very fortunate to have a very deep division," he said. "We're excited for what we've done and had a good

season so far. The goal for the season is always to win the Mayor's Cup, win districts, win states, and take the Valley League championship."
Coach Adam Cunningham said his Pee Wee A team was special not because of any great skill levels, but because of the grit and fight within the team.

"We don't have any Wayne Gretzkys, but they don't give up," he said. "The kids wanted it and put in the effort and never gave up. It was all about the hearts of these kids on the ice."
Coach Mike Devlin said his Mite AA team took a hard path to the Mayor's Cup, losing to Charlestown early and finding



The Mites AA team: From left at bottom: Mia Myers, Lucas Higgins, Goalie Colin Holt, Charlie Hobin, and Bridget McLaughlin; back, Coaches Liam O'Donnell and Christina Myers, players Audrey O'Donnell, Evelyn Baker, Garrett Spence-Fenton, Christopher Stock, Gianni Sacilito, Michael Walsh, Conor Devlin, and Coach Mike Devlin. Not pictured: Thomas Coughlin.

themselves in the Loser's Bracket. "They had to fight their way back," he said. "They ended up beating a tough Park-way team and the faced Charlestown again and beat them for the Cup. It was a good battle."



The Bantam AAA squad: From left, Tommy Misilo, Max Ryan, Colin Rogers, Desi Sweeney, Kevin Fitzgerald, Timmy Ryan, and James McFarland. Goalie Will Ferraro (with trophy) and Connor Gillis (injured, red sweatshirt) are also pictured. Coaches are Michael Hampton, Patrick Hampton, Nolan O'Sullivan, and Madelyn Murphy.

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BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF DORCHESTER

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF DORCHESTER





BGCD Marr-Lin Swim Team Hosts Meet with Billerica Club: See details below.

CONNECT THE DOT:
BGCD Marr-Lin Swim Team Hosts Meet with Billerica Club: This past weekend, Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester hosted the Billerica Boys & Girls Clubs for a swim meet at our Marr Clubhouse on Deer Street. Congratulations to all of our Marr-lin swimmers who improved on their best times at the meet, keep up the good work! The next meet will be against the Blue Hill Boys & Girls Club. BGCD always encourages our members to stay active and healthy by trying new sports and programs to participate in. We want each child to find active ways that help promote good choices that will develop and build on healthy lifestyles. We offer a wide range of opportunities and programs in athletics, nutrition and overall wellness. For more information on the Marr-lin Swim Team, please contact Aquatics Director, Doreen Manna at dmanna@bgcdorchester.org.

FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE:
BGCD Teens Celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day with Fun Activities & Service Project: Last week in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, BGCD teens came together to celebrate in a very special way. Teens discussed how MLK Day events are celebrated and reflected on the meaning behind some of his well known quotes. The teens also played a game of Jeopardy to quiz their knowledge about Martin Luther King and of his place in history. As a special service project, our teens created superhero capes for other children in the neighborhood. This day of reflection helped our teens learn more about Martin Luther King, Jr., his important legacy, and understand his impact in the world and in our community. For more information on Teen Programming, please contact Teen Director, Evelyn Nunez at enunez@bgcdorchester.org.



BGCD Teens Celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day with Fun Activities & Service Project: See details below.

DID YOU KNOW:
BGCD & Let's Get Ready Partner to Offer S.A.T. Prep Classes to High School Students: Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester is pleased to once again partner with our friends at Let's Get Ready to offer an S.A.T. Prep course this Spring for our High School students! The online classes will take place February 28 - April 29 with sessions from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m on Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday.

To apply today, please visit www.tfaforms.com/4942650. There are a limited number of spots reserved for BGCD members. When registering, select Community Program/ Organization then select BGCD from the menu to reserve your spot.

For more information, please contact Education Strategist, Tricia Chapple at pchapple@bgcdorchester.org.


UPCOMING EVENTS

Fresh Films Program Session Begins February 3

Elevate Youth Outing February 5

Let's Get Ready SAT Prep February 28 - April 29

Cupcakes for Caring for First Responders February 21



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RECENT OBITUARIES



ALEXANDER, Regina (Glineckis), 98, of Brockton, Braintree, Dorchester, and South Boston. Wife of the late Julian S. Alexander (Arlauskas). Mother of Juliana Vanick and her husband Stephen, John Alexander and his wife Cathi, Gerard Alexander and his wife Cleo and Richard Alexander and his wife Diane. Grandmother of 11; great-grandmother of 4. She was the daughter of the late John and Sophie (Gurklys) Glineckis. Sister to the late Leonora Jarvis and the late Sr. Eugenia, CJC. She also was the sister-in-law to the late Albie Jarvis

and the late Alphonse and Pauline Alexander. Memorial contributions can be made in Regina's name to: The Massachusetts Commission for the Blind c/o Chief Financial Officer, 600 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02111, or St. Peter's Lithuanian Church, 75 Flaherty Way, South Boston, MA 02127 - sbscatholic.org/giving.

AVEY, Albert A. of Dorchester. Husband of the late Julia (Connolly). Brother of Mildred Halloran of Medford and the late Francis Avey, Corrine Jackson, Doris Ferris, Lorraine Hopper, Claire Pero, Bernard Avey, and Beatrice Hayes. Also survived by many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews. US Army veteran. Remembrances may be made to Boston VA Medical Center, 150 S. Huntington Ave, Boston, MA 02130.

DAVIDSON, Robert W. Robert "Dibber" of



North Scituate and Milton. Born in Dorchester to Arthur Whitfield Davidson and Mary (Keene) Davidson. Survived by his wife of 65 years, Shirley (Murnane) Davidson; his son Brian P. Davidson of New Jersey; and his daughter Janey E. Davidson of Minot. He was the father of the late Peter J. Davidson. He was predeceased by his siblings: Arthur W. Davidson, Jr., Mary Eileen Leary, John P. Davidson, Louise Sullivan and Barbara V. Blackstone. 80-year member of the Savin Hill Yacht Club. Korean War veteran. Donations in Robert's name may be sent for McClain Hospice House - Old Colony Hospice or to Old Colony Hospice Philanthropy Office, 321 Manley Street, West Bridgewater, MA 02379.



FENNELLY, Sheila M. of Hyannis, formerly of Dorchester and Quincy. Daughter of the late Bridget Agnes Bowes and Lawrence J. Fennelly and sister to the late Christine Bowes-Wasilewski. She is survived by brothers Lawrence J. Fennelly and his wife Annmarie of South Yarmouth, Michael H. Fennelly and his wife Helen of Quincy, and Kevin. P. Fennelly and his wife Dale of Maywood, NJ. Also survived by 11 nieces and nephews and 14 grandnieces and nephews. Donations in Sheila's memory may be made to Dana Farber Cancer Institute at danafarber.jimmyfund.org.



FINNERTY, Michael K., 74, in Dorchester, formerly of Rosmuc, Connemara, Co. Galway. Husband of Mary M. (Rosa) Finnerty. Father of Jenelle M. Finnerty of Dorchester. Son of the late Michael and Mary (Holloran) Finnerty. Brother-in-law of Roy and his wife Jeanne Rosa of Swampscott, Margaret and her husband James Sciarappa of Canton, and the late

David Rosa, Janet Dolan, and Pauline Meaney. Mike is also survived by many cousins, nieces, and nephews. Mike was a former member of the Laborers Union Local #223. He was a member of the Sons of Italy in Quincy. Donations in Mike's memory may be made to the American Diabetes Association at diabetes.org.



FINNIGAN, Sr. Eileen, SND, born in Dorchester. Daughter of John A. and Helen F. (Doolin) Finnigan. She was the sister of the late John A. Finnigan, Jr. She leaves behind her cousins Kevin Doolin and Mary Ann (Doolin) Scannell and her Sisters in community, the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. Sister Eileen taught at Notre Dame Academy, Worcester; Saint Gregory High School; Saint Clare High School, Roslindale and Notre Dame Education Center, South Boston. For the past 11 years she was the bookkeeper for the Common Market Restaurants in Quincy. Memorial donations may be made to the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, 351 Broadway, Everett, MA 02149.



GRANT, Marjorie A. in Milton. Born in Boston, she was the chief dietician at Carney Hospital, retiring in 2005. Daughter of the late Frederick J. and Elizabeth C. (Dolan) Grant. Sister of Jane Marie Grant of Milton. Marjorie is survived by many cousins and several dedicated caregivers.



GROCHAL, Maria Julianna (Paterok), 85, of Dorchester, formerly of Germany. Wife of the late Czeslaw Grochal. Mother of Mirosław A. and his wife Maggie Grochal of Weymouth. Devoted "Babcia" of 2. Sister of

Barbara Ciba, Felicitas Gradacki, and Teresa Masny, all of Germany.

JOHNSON, Ronald P. of Braintree, formerly of Dorchester, 85. Born in Quincy, Ron grew up in Dorchester, the son of the late Ethel Donovan and John Cleary. Husband of Barbara A. (Nauyokas) Johnson. Father of Jeremy C. Johnson of Braintree, Marc Johnson of NY, and Alison Johnson of UT. Grandfather of 2. He was a thirty year member of AFTRA-SAG.



JOYCE, Paul T. of Dorchester, 81. Born in Portland, Maine, Paul was the son of the late Paul T. and Sophie (Johnson) Joyce. He was predeceased by his brother Robert Joyce and niece Monica Joyce of Germany. Paul is survived by his daughters Shannon and Michelle of Marshfield; sons Paul of Rhode Island and Justin of Boston; nephew Robert Joyce of California, godson David Skillin of Milton; many cousins; dear friends Bobby Devine, and Bobbie and Mike Skillin of Dorchester. US Air Force veteran.



KEADY, Agnes G. (White), 95, of Dorchester, formerly of Sneem, Co. Kerry, Ireland. Wife of the late Thomas C. Keady. Mother of John J., Maureen P. O'Riordan, Michael P., and the late Thomas F. Keady. Sister of John "Jack" White and Mary O'Driscoll. Grandmother of 12. Also survived by 4 great-grandchildren. Agnes was a member of the Irish Social Club and St. Brendan's Church Irish Pastoral Center community.

LEARY, Gayle (Dalton) of Dorchester. Wife of the late Gerald "Judgie" Leary Jr. Daughter of the late Virginia R. (Newell) and James P. Dalton. Mother of Patrick, Kaitlyn, James and his wife Erin, Gerald III (Doobie), Devin, Ryan (Skippy). Nini of 1. Sister of Jamie Walsh, the late Cheryl Jones and Donna Birmingham. Gayle will also be missed by many nieces, nephews, in-laws, cousins

and friends that became family. Please consider making a donation in Gayle's memory to Dorchester Youth Hockey, c/o Phil Olsen, 38 Laban Pratt Way, Dorchester, MA 02122.

LEVIN, Edward M. of Newton Center and Pittsfield, 92. He was born and raised in the Bronx, NY. Husband of Marjorie (nee Bernstein). Father of Edward M. Levin Jr. (Camille Cunningham) and Sarah Bourque (Andre'); grandfather of five. He tutored second and third graders at the Lee School in Dorchester and worked as a volunteer SHINE counselor in Brookline and Needham. He was predeceased by his parents, Sam and Dorothy Levin and his sister Barbara Schumsky. Air Force veteran. Contributions in his honor may be made to the Wounded Warriors Project or to a charity of your choice.



MARRION, Christopher John of Dorchester. Husband of Randall Weston. Son of Robert and Grace (Stone) Marrion. He raised millions of dollars for numerous organizations, including the Boston Lyric Opera, The Silkroad Project, The Hanover Theater and Conservatory, Boston Children's Hospital and AIDS Action Committee. He is also survived by his siblings and their spouses, Ruth, Catherine, Tom, Gwen and Faith Marrion and Bob Doffek. Please remember Chris in a donation to a local arts organization. In the Boston area, consider giving in remembrance of Chris to the Hanover Theater & Conservatory (thehanovertheater.org), Boston Lyric Opera (BLO.org), or an organization that is important to you would honor and continue his life's work.



MARSHALL, Anne M. (Hourihan) of Dorchester, formerly of South Boston. Anne was the wife of the late H. Douglas Marshall. Sister of the late Joseph Russo, Helen Rocco, and William (Bill) Conley. Mother of Lisa Griffin and her husband Richard of Randolph and Michael Marshall and his wife Denise of Weymouth. Grandmother of 3.



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Online school finder offered as tool to help BPS parents

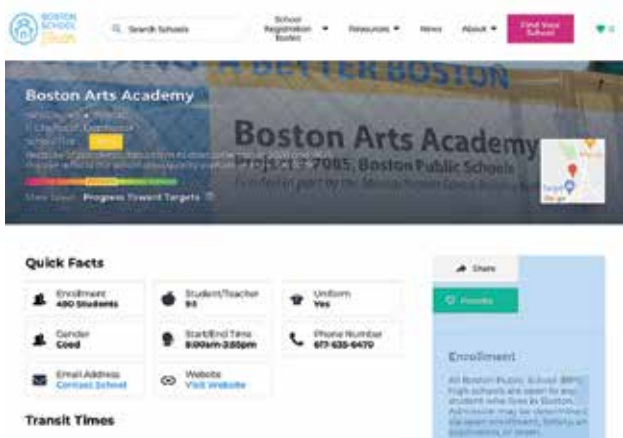
BY KATIE PEDERSEN
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER
Priority registration for the Boston Public Schools is underway, with the period for students for full-day kindergarten and grades 6, 7, and 9 closing this Friday, Jan. 28.

Priority registration for all other grades starts on Feb. 7 and ends on April 1.

For the sixth year running, the Boston Schools Fund is offering to help simplify the school choice process through its website, which provides centralized information on more than 225 Boston schools. Along with translations into Spanish, Haitian Creole, Portuguese, Chinese, Vietnamese, Arabic, and Somali, the site includes enrollment and registration resources for families to work with.

Founded in 2015 by Will Austin, a former teacher and principal, the Boston Schools Fund seeks to support initiatives aimed at reducing educational inequities. Its board includes chair Lisa Jackson, the head of social ventures at the philanthropic group known as Tides, and Stephen Chan, chief of staff in the president's office at Northeastern University.

According to the Boston Schools Fund, 71 percent of white families



The Boston School Finder website offers helpful guidance on how to navigate the school assignment process in the city of Boston.

apply in the first round of BPS registration, while only 50 percent of Black and Latino families do.

Those disparities in priority registration ensure that many students of color are shut out of high-quality schools, a phenomenon the fund seeks to disrupt through the Boston School Finder site, the organization says.

“I was a teacher-slash-principal for a long time, and a lifetime resident of the city,” Austin said. “Knowing what educational opportunities were available for some kids but not for all kids—particularly for Black and Latino kids in the city—I wanted to move into the world of teaching to address that. I taught middle school at Roxbury Prep for many years and then moved

into a school leadership role there.”

Later in his career, Austin founded Boston Schools Fund “with the idea that, as a city, we commit ourselves to expanding access to high quality schools.” The Boston School Finders site, according to Austin, fits squarely into that goal.

The site is “partially based on my own personal experiences,” he said. “I’m a parent to three kids. I remember when I was first going through the school choice process for my oldest son – just the complexity of the process. The number of applications, the number of timelines. The way that different schools have different ways to apply. I remember saying to myself at the time, ‘Given all of the experi-

ence and social capital I bring to this, the fact that this is so challenging and difficult for me tells me that we’re really not setting families up for success in this process.”

Austin and his group polled families and conducted research over a period of six months. “We engaged about 70 nonprofit organizations and community organizations to better understand how and why families pick the schools they do,” he said. “Based on that information, we built a website not to tell families what to do but to give them the information they want and the supports that they report they need to make the best decisions for their kids.”

Austin said for city residents, there isn’t a level playing field to make such a big choice. “Part of the reason the tool is translated into many languages is to level that playing field—to make sure that all families have access to information to make the best decisions for their kids.”

High quality, high-demand schools tend to fill up quickly. “What research from Northeastern has shown is that since Boston went to this assignment system, Black and Latino families are disadvantaged in the process,” he said. “They are disproportion-

ately assigned to schools that are lower quality, and that Black and Latino families typically do not finish the enrollment process as quickly as their peers.”

One local parent who has used Boston School Finder with success is Dorchester’s Liz Walczak.

“I’ve gotten to know Will and Boston Schools Finder through my own work,” Walczak said. “I work in the education field thinking through different aspects of education and youth development in the city. I knew that the school finder was a good resource. When it came time for me to figure out the school process for my own daughter, a kindergartener, I went to the site to see what information was there.”

Despite her own work in education in Boston, Walczak found the school choice process daunting. “Boston has a really complex landscape of schools,” she said. “It’s a good thing to have a lot of great options, but it can also become difficult to navigate as a family. For our family, we were committed to finding a public option for our daughter in our neighborhood. I went to the Boston Public Schools and I knew there would be high-quality options, but nothing was a guarantee, and I knew I

needed to enter lotteries, and there was more than one. The school finder was really helpful for us to understand the different options in the community.”

In particular, Walczak liked that the site “pulled information together in one place so you can see how all the pieces fit together and what the options are for families in the city.” She said that Boston School Finder also offered information on registration, links to learn more about schools, deadlines for different lotteries, and reminder emails for deadlines. Walczak said that the Boston School Finder was especially helpful in a year in which many in-person school visits were curbed due to the ongoing pandemic.

Austin hopes more families use the Boston School Finder site. “The thing that I find really heartening about school finder is that it continues to grow,” he said. “We’ve had more and more families use it every year. We had almost 3,000 users last year, and we expect that to grow this year. Especially during the pandemic, when the traditional ways of learning about schools are more limited for families, having these virtual tools are more and more important.”



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