"The News and Values Around the Neighborhood"

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50¢



A rendering published as part of a new filing with the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) this week shows how the proposed Dorchester Bay City's compound of buildings and open space might look when it is fully built-out, a process that could take until 2040 under the current plan outlined by its development team. In the foreground is Moakley Park and Kosciuszko Circle, the often-clogged traffic rotary. How and when the transportation system around the \$5 billion redevelopment project will be updated is still an open question, even as the BPDA begins a more robust review of the 36-acre proposal this week.

Image courtesy Accordia Partners

# 'Dorchester Bay City' plan now includes teachers' union parcel

By GINTAUTAS DUMCIUS Managing Editor

Developers behind the \$5 billion effort to transform 36 acres on Columbia Point into "Dorchester Bay City" notified city officials this week of a new parcel they plan to roll into the project and offered details about their plans to use that space for a cluster of life science and technology companies just steps from the JFK/UMass MBTA stop.

In a 1,700-page filing with city planning officials, developers revealed the addition of three new buildings to their project, the result of an agreement with the Boston Teachers Union, whose headquarters are adjacent to the parcel. The new buildings will offer a mix of retail, commercial, and research space.

The Dorchester Bay City project originally included the former Bayside Expo Center property and 2 Morrissey Boulevard, which sits across Mt. Vernon Street and houses Santander Bank's corporate offices. Accordia Partners and Ares Management Corporation are jointly managing the entire Bay City development. The team signed a 99-year lease with UMass Boston for the former Bayside property in 2019.

In the wake of the agreement, the BTU property will be subdivided, with Dorchester Bay City taking over 98,720 square feet,

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### **AVAILABLE: HISTORY IN NEON**

#### Q. For Lower Mills: What to do with old Baker sign letters?

By Grace Mayer REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

Until it was taken down last month in a nod to irreparable decay, the Walter Baker neon sign had towered over Lower Mills for nearly a century, standing tall even after the eponymous chocolate factory closed 56 years ago, leaving hundreds jobless and the buildings empty.

Blacked out since 1965, the sign remained firmly in place as the old complex, with its administrative offices and mill buildings intact, was transformed into a sprawling residential village through which the Neponset River, as always, made its way to Boston Harbor.

Now, while a new sign is being welded out of aluminum and re-



The eleven-lettered sign that was once fastened atop the Walter Baker administration building in Lower Mills is shown after it was lowered to the ground along Adams Street in November. A new, replica sign will be installed in the spring, but what to do with the vintage letters from the old sign remains an open question. Image courtesy Stokle Photography

lighted, there's an ongoing discussion locally about the fate of the original letters.

"Once we knew they couldn't all be fixed, we started to focus on the question of what to do with these

very large, kind of rotted out, but fascinating, 100-year-old letters?" said Terry Dolan, a 30-year resident of the Baker complex, the secretary/ treasurer of the Lower Mills Civic

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## Retailers seeing opportunity as shoppers eye deals closer to home

By SETH DANIEL REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

Despite supply chain headaches and increasing food costs, Dorchester retailers and restaurants are reporting a great start to the holiday season as shoppers stay close to home to avoid crowds - a trend merchants hope will continue throughout the month and beyond.

Following 2020's move to online gifting as holiday shopping fell in the path of Covid's "second surge" – largely at the expense of local business - this year is markedly different, according to some retailers in the neighborhood.

"We're already having a really good season," said Lynda Watson of Streamline Antiques in Lower Mills. "The fall was really good for us and so far, it looks like we're going to have a really good holiday as well. I think a lot of people are staying close and are really into the buying local

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## It's wait-and-see time for Essaibi George

By GINTAUTAS DUMCIUS Managing Editor

Annissa Essaibi George's time inside City Hall is winding down, but the Dorchester native and former mayoral candidate is staying busy amid chatter about her political future.

She turned 48 last Sunday, and the night before, at the Polish American Citizens home, she held a birthday poverty. celebration. Several hundred people passed through that night, many of them bringing unwrapped toys and winter coats that Essaibi George, a former teacher, is distributing to shelters she has worked with during her six years as a city councillor at-large and to Catie's Closet, a nonprofit

Club a few blocks from her focused on students living in

The day before her last council meeting, Essaibi George stepped inside the Stitch House, her Dorchester Avenue yarn shop, the place where she first received word in November 2015 that she had won one of the four at-large seats on the 13-member City Council. She

(Continued on page 4)



Outgoing City Councillor Annissa Essaibi George speaking at a recent news conference outside the Henderson Upper Seth Daniel photo School.



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Police, Courts & Fire

# Man caught, charged in summer murder of teen

A man who had been sought by police in the fatal stabbing of a 17-year-old teen last summer during a street festival near Franklin Park has been captured and charged with the murder.

In Suffolk Superior Courton Monday, Omara Shears, 44, pleaded not guilty to a charge of first-degree murder during his arraignment and was ordered held without bail. He stands accused of killing Javare Sommerville, on Aug. 28

Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins's office said Sommerville was watching a Caribbean festival when Shears stabbed him in the neck at around 9 a.m. The office said the two had no known connection to one another.

Sommerville was rushed to Boston Medical Center where he died from his injuries. Shears, who was captured on surveillance video with the knife in his hand, was located by the Boston Police Department's Fugitive Unit last Friday. He is due back in court in January. His lawyer said he's in the early stages of preparing his client's defense. (AP)

A55-year-old Dorchester man was arrested on Mon., Dec. 13, on gun



Omara Shears: First degree murder charge

and drug charges after police say they recovered a loaded gun from his person while arresting him on an outstanding warrant for an illegal gun violations. Joseph Bartley was taken into custody in the area of Mora and Washington streets around 12:40 p.m. According to police, he was carrying a handgun and "two plastic bags containing crack cocaine." He was set to be arraigned for the new charges in Dorchester court this week.

Transit Police arrested a man for allegedly assaulting a woman at Andrew T station on Dec. 6. Police say officers on patrol at Andrew heard screaming from the area of the busway around 9:30 p.m. The suspect, Erik Conroy, 30, already had 19 outstanding warrants for assaults issued in courts downtown, Roxbury, West Roxbury, South Boston, and Dorchester.

# Senate okay in hand, Rollins to depart DA's office for top US prosecutor post

By Gintautas Dumcius Managing Editor

Rachael Rollins is set in the coming weeks to take up the post of US attorney for Massachusetts, becoming the state's top federal prosecutor and leaving her post as Suffolk County district attorney.

As the second woman and the first Black person to hold the job, she'll be making history upon taking the statewide office as a federal official. No date has been set for her swearing-in ceremony.

Her nomination cleared the Senate by one vote on Dec. 8 with Vice President Kamala Harris stepping in to break a party-line tie.

In July, President Biden nominated Rollins, who was first elected as Suffolk district attorney in 2018. GOP senators sought to stop her nomination, with Texas Sen. Ted Cruz calling her "lawless," "radical," and "left-wing."

But statistics show violent crime in Boston remains down, unlike other parts of the country. In a recent appearance on GBH's "Greater Boston" show, Rollins



Rachael Rollins: Approved, ready to go

pointed to the numbers.

"I believe we have a proof of concept here in Suffolk, and I believe it should be brought up to scale for the rest of the Commonwealth," she told the show's host, Jim Braude. "Why shouldn't Lowell and Lawrence and Holyoke and Springfield and Worcester benefit from the excellent work that the Boston police, the State Police, Transit, Winthrop, Chelsea, and Revere police do with the Suffolk county DA's office?"

Her confirmation drew cheers from among the city's elected officials.

"Looking forward to your leadership on an even bigger platform for justice, fairness and opportunity across our communities," said Mayor Wu. State Rep. Nika Elugardo, affectionately referred to Rollins as Thanos, the supervillain who faced off against the Marvel Comics superteam known as the Avengers, due to Rollins's 2018 election in which she "obliterated the competition," which included four candidates in a Democratic primary.

"She brings this energy of fierce, unstoppable commitment to getting done whatever the vision is," Elugardo said. "And the vision is dismantling structural racism."

Rollins is data-driven, according to Elugardo, as evidenced by the improvements in crime statistics. "She's able to do that in a way that honors our first responders, honors the elements within policing and criminal justice who are defending us, and holds accountable those who are using that position by design to harm us, either based on how we look, or the color of our skin," she said.

City Councillor Atlarge Annissa Essaibi George said she's gotten to know Rollins over the last couple of years and wishes her luck in the new role. "She understands this city," the councillor said.

Rollins was previously an assistant US attorney in the years between 2007 and 2011. She also worked in legal positions at the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and Massport, the independent state agency that runs Logan International Airport.

"In this new role, we have every confidence that she will continue her partnerships with law enforcement, community advocates, and other key members of the legal community to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all of the people of the Commonwealth, and we look forward to the renewed energy and innovative vision she will bring to the US Attorney's office," Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey said in a joint statement.

Rollins's departure means that Gov. Baker, a Republican, will pick someone as an interim Suffolk County prosecutor.

Material from State House Service was used in this report.

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# Boston confident that snow-clearing workforce will be up to the storms

While municipalities around Massachusetts try to recruit enough snowplow operators before the first big winter storm hits, officials in Boston say they're confident they have sufficient staffing to clear the city's 850 lane miles when the snow flies.

"Currently we're well-staffed. We have yet to see that loss of personnel that people are talking about statewide. But we also have to keep an eye on that as this winter unfolds," Superintendent of Streets Michael Brohel said Monday at Mayor Wu's winter preparation press conference.

Many Massachusetts municipalities, as well as the MBTA, dealt with a shortage of school bus drivers this fall and have been



Mayor Wu greeted city workers at the Public Works Yard on Frontage Road on Monday to discuss Boston's winter preparedness. Jeremiah Robinson/

Mayor's office photo

ratcheting up financial incentives in hopes of avoiding a similar labor shortage when it comes to plow drivers. Brohel said Boston has nine snow-clearing contractors and that all nine have given the city "firm commitments" that they will have the necessary drivers to man their plows.

And if the city has to put its fleet of plows into operation during the school week, students in Boston can most likely look forward to snow days rather than an unplanned day of remote learning.

"So far, we have been encouraged and are encouraging our schools to really focus on in-person learning," she said. "So, as we head into snowstorms, the plan right now, as I understand it, is that there will be snow days rather than remote days."

– COLIN A. YOUNG SHNS

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

There will be several vaccine clinics taking place for Boston residents in Dorchester, Hyde Park, Mattapan, Roslindale, and Roxbury over the next few weeks, including on Sat., Dec. 18, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. at Melnea A. Cass Recreation Complex, 120 MLK Jr. Blvd., Roxbury. Gift cards will be available for those who attend. Other local venues include Morning Star Baptist Church, 1257 Blue Hill Ave., Mattapan, Fridays 9 a.m. -4 p.m. Codman Square Health Center, 637 Washington Street, Dorchester, on Fridays 12-6 p.m. and Tuesdays 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Immigrant Family Services Institute, 1626 Blue Hill Ave., Mattapan, 10:30 a.m.-1:45 p.m., Friday, Dec. 17. Gallivan Community Center, 61 Woodruff Way, Mattapan, Mondays 2-6 p.m. Prince Hall Grand Lodge 24 Washington St., Dorchester, Tuesdays 12-7 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m.-3

Boston Centers for Youth & Families, and the City of Boston's Public Facilities Department and the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services will host a

second community meeting to explore options for a new community center in Dorchester. The meeting will be held via Zoom on Tuesday, Dec. 21 at 6 p.m. To participate, please register at bit.ly/BCYFDorchester. Translation services can also be requested when registering. This study will consist of several community meetings to establish the types of uses and activities the community would like to see in a new center. The study is also exploring location options to build any potential centers on. To learn more about the study and review the presentation from the first meeting, visit Boston.gov/BCYF.

Members of the First Baptist Church in Dorchester invite the community to join them for its annual Christmas candlelight service on Sun., Dec. 19 at 7 p.m. The service will feature scripture, candlelight, and recorded carols. We will follow Covid-19 safety protocols and will remain masked with spaced seating. The multicultural congregation comes from many places – including the U.S.,

the Caribbean, Puerto Rico, Asia, and the continent of Africa – all of whom welcome you to join us in Christmas fellowship. The church is located at 401 Ashmont St., Dorchester.

The BPDA hosts a virtual public meeting on Wed., Dec. 15 at 6 p.m. to kick-off a review process of the Dorchester Bay City project. Please register in advance by going to the link: bit.ly/DBCDec15. Additional, topic-specific public meetings are planned in the new year.

Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corp's winter auction is taking place through Dec. 20 online. Go to 32auctions.com/csndcwinter to bid on holiday gifts or treat yourself to some amazing items. Contact Laurene DaRosa for more info at laurene@csndc.com.

The National Center of Afro-American Artists (NCAAA) presents Black Nativity at the Emerson Paramount Center, 559 Washington St. this weekend, Saturday and Sunday matinees at 3:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday evening shows at 8 p.m. Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention guidelines are followed. An art auction and gala will occur virtually. Written by Harlem Renaissance poet, essayist, and playwright Langston Black Nativity Hughes, retells the birth story of Christ through Black vernacular speech, Biblical narration, dramatic and gospel music, Black Nativity dance. was first performed on Broadway in 1961. The Boston production began in The 51st season of Black Nativity is presented in collaboration with ArtsEmerson. It is pleased to count among its sponsors and supporters the Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation and the Museum of Fine Arts. Tickets range from \$25 - \$80 and may be purchased online at blacknativity.org/59 emailing give@bostonabcd.org.

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# With \$15m federal grant in hand, city set to move on Blue Hill Ave. re-design

By SETH DANIEL

REPORTER CORRESPONDENT City planning officials told the Greater Mattapan Neighborhood Council (GMNC) at a Monday meeting that after receiving a \$15 million federal grant, they are ready to move toward the next level of re-designing Blue Hill Avenue from Mattapan Square to Warren Street while renewing discussions with the community once again.

Charlotte Fleetwood of Boston Transportation Department (BTD) told attendees that "we applied in July for \$25 million and we got \$15 million, which was less than what we asked for but still a substantial amount of money and it gives us confidence we'll have all the funds to complete the project."

Two weeks ago, Congressman Stephen Lynch and Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley announced that they had secured \$15 million from a federal RAISE grant just one year after the government had rejected a grant application for the same project.

State Rep. Russell Holmes reminded everyone that planning for the project, including the center-lane bus configuration, goes back 12 years and that many decisions have been made already.

The project includes a center-lane bus configuration like the one unveiled last fall on Columbus Avenue in Jamaica Plain. On Blue Hill Avenue, the lane would run from Warren Street to Mattapan Square, which will probably mean fewer stops along the avenue. Advocates, though, indicate it would mean quicker trips and more efficient bus operations.

Fleetwood said the "givens" in the project are the center-land bus operations, the increased pedestrian safety measures, and the high-quality bicycle lanes. She said there would probably be important discussions to be had about "tradeoffs,"including changing the angled parking in Mattapan Square to parallel parking resulting in fewer parking slots. She noted the desire for street trees, and said "we would have room for street trees, but we'd have to lose parking. Those are the issues we want to talk about at this meeting and out in the community.'

GMNC Chair Fatima Ali-Salaam said the focus should be a better-functioning Mattapan Square and not just the operations of a center-lane bus. She joked that the red lanes created for center buses remind her of Elmo, the red Sesame Street character. She said that she calls it "Elmo's Mile," adding she is thinking about "a Mattapan Square where I want to go and be with friends and go shopping. That has to be the goal."

Jarred Johnson, executive director of Transit Matters, attended the meeting and said he is an advocate of the center-lane bus.

"At first it looks confusing, but I want folks to visualize a typical clustered and crowded day on Blue Hill Avenue where there is double parking by the bus stop from an UberEATS delivery driver and the bus has to pull in diagonally to get to the stop," he said. "In that, a senior or a young mother is walking off the curb and into street traffic to get to the bus...It takes time to get used to, but for efficiency, you gain a lot from having them center-running."

He noted that in the earlier planning efforts,

the slow ride of the bus from Mattapan Square to Ruggles was an item of great concern, something vastly improved by a center-lane configuration.

Johnson also said he was excited to see that an RFP had been issued by the city for public engagement on the project, and he was hopeful that the team led by ACE and Livable Streets would be chosen.

Fleetwood indicated she would be back at the GMNC meeting in January with some new renderings and ready for detailed discussions.

#### MATTAPAN NOTEBOOK

• Transit Matters Director Johnson came to Monday's meeting to discuss how the neighborhood can and should push for electrification of buses in Mattapan. He noted that the Arborway Yard bus garage project at Forest Hills was being moved up on its construction schedule due to new federal infrastructure monies. What that means for Mattapan, he said, is that advocacy could result in busy lines like the 28 and 22 routes being moved from the South Boston garage to



A rendering from early in 2020 of what a center-lane bus configuration might look like on Blue Hill Avenue in Mattapan.

the Arborway – allowing for electrification of those key Mattapan routes.

The same was said for the Quincy garage that is about two years from construction. Both house buses that run in Mattapan, and both could bring electrification with advocacy. State Rep. Holmes encouraged everyone to attend an online MBTA meeting this Thursday (Dec. 9) about the Arborway Garage project.

• State Rep. Brandy

• State Rep. Brandy Fluker-Oakley reported that she and state Sen. Nick Collins, were able to get \$8 million in the Covid-19 funding bill dedicated to the Haitian Resettlement efforts that are ongoing in Mattapan,

specifically through the Immigrant Family Services Institute. She said they are waiting to see if Gov. Baker will sign the bill with that allocation included - something he has indicated he would do.

• New board members Chad Fletcher, Wes Williams and Azan Reid were voted in by the membership.

• The first residents of Cote Village will move into the 24 townhouses on Dec. 15.

• The Mattapan Teen Center will be holding a coat drive on Dec. 15. They are asking that new or lightly used coats be dropped off at the Center on that day.



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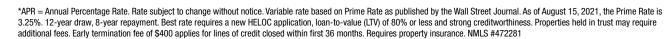
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# BPS data show that incident reports dropped this year

Councillor Baker says that many are not reported

BY SETH DANIEL REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

Data collected by the Boston Public Schools indicate that reports of fights and assaults in the district have dropped significantly so far this year as compared to 2019, the last year that students attended in-person classes.

The statistics, provided to the *Reporter* last week in response to a request made in early November, show a notable decrease in reported incidents between the two years. BPS recorded 852 altercations and assaults between Sept. 1 and Nov. 5, 2019. There were 501 incidents this year during the same period, a decrease of 351 year to year. Enrollment went from 53,094 in the fall of 2019 to the current enrollment of 46,169.

The major pinch-point for incidents that require disciplinary action seems to be occurring at the 9th-grade level, where 55 students were disciplined for fighting or assaults – almost double the number at other grade levels from 7 to 11, which had numbers in the 20s. The 12th graders had fewer than 10 incidents. That was also the case for the elementary grades. BPS does not discipline students in grades 2 and below.

In that same breakdown, 109 students were male and 75 were female, while 159 were economically disadvantaged and 25 were not.

In a statement to the *Reporter*, Supt. Brenda Cassellius said the district is "fiercely committed" to working proac-



One of the new School Safety cruisers deployed in front of the Henderson late last month.

Seth Daniel photo

tively to prevent incidents and that is showing in the numbers. "The health, safety, and well-being of every student is a top priority of the Boston Public Schools," she wrote. "BPS will not condone or tolerate willful acts of violence or misconduct of any kind."

Her statement continued: "The district will remain focused on identifying, mitigating, and eliminating confrontational incidences and is proactive in addressing various incidences in various ways and to the appropriate measure; including a focus on restorative justice prac-

tices, anti-bullying programs, and anti-racist trainings as alternatives to traditional disciplinary measures when applicable. The district has also invested in key social-emotional supports by hiring family liaisons and social workers in each school."

The data provided to the *Reporter* were also supplied to members of the Boston City Council, who had requested more information following the high-profile, violent attack on Patricia Lampron, the principal of the Henderson Inclusion School's upper campus, on Nov. 3.

Information provided to the council's request included incidents requiring a 9-1-1 response between Sept. 1 and Nov. 23 of this year. Of those district-wide numbers, there were 33 cases of some type of assault, 39 cases of indecent assault and battery, 8 cases of possession of some type of weapon, 10 cases of affray, and 11 cases of 'sexting' — the sending of inappropriate images via cell phone text — among many other categories.

Councillor Frank Baker, who filed an information request to get the statistics, said he is convinced that there is a culture of underreporting violence and altercations in school buildings. He pointed to one number provided to him that showed only four incidents at the Henderson School this year and he said he has received word about many more than that.

"What I hear from people in the schools is a lot of 'You didn't hear this from me, but...'," he said. "I get a lot of that. People are afraid to report things. It's a culture of underreporting and a culture that's trying to keep police and public safety out of the schools."

The SEIU 888 union, which represents about 300 staff workers such as secretaries and clerical workers, agrees with Baker. In a statement to the Reporter, the union said: "The district does not voluntarily distribute information on concerning or violent events and appears untruthful and evasive when asked about specific concerning or violent events that have occurred. This consistent pattern showing a lack of transparency District wide is the greatest concern and equates to a cover up."

Last week, SEIU 888 put in a formal legal request to the Boston Police and BPS to get incident reports of these individual events. They have also asked for public information regarding the numbers of students leaving – known as student attrition – the Henderson Upper School.

# It's wait-and-see time for Essaibi George

(Continued from page 1)

first ran for at-large in 2013 and fell short, finishing fifth. In 2015, she ran again and knocked out Stephen Murphy, who had served since 1997 and is now Suffolk County's Register of Deeds.

"It is obviously the close of a chapter in my life which I tremendously enjoyed and have felt pretty productive and successful in," she told the *Reporter* in an exit interview Tuesday.

Asked if she plans another run for public office, including a second mayoral run, Essaibi George said, "I'm not opposed to any idea. I've always said to my students, when I was teaching, you've got to keep the doors of opportunity always open."

Does that include the governor's office? "You've got to keep the doors of opportunity open," she repeated. A source told the *Reporter* earlier this month that she was weighing a run for governor next year.

"Politics isn't a spectator sport for me," the departing councillor said. "I like to be engaged in it because I think I've got something positive and productive to contribute, and so I expect to continue contributing." There is more to come, she added.

For all that, aside from a couple of days around Thanksgiving spent with her boys and husband Doug, Essaibi George has focused on her work on the council.

 $\hbox{``I haven't spent a ton of time'}\\$ 



City Councillor Annissa Essaibi George on the day of the preliminary municipal election last fall.

\*\*Jesse Costa/ WBUR photo\*\*

thinking about next steps," she said. "Obviously there's been lots of chatter about what it might be, but for me, since Election Day, these last couple of weeks have really been about making sure there is a plan in place for my work."

She has stayed away from the holiday tree lightings across the city, she said, so as not to create a distraction as Mayor Michelle Wu made her way across the neighborhoods.

"I want her to be successful. I am going to be in this city for the rest of my life, raising my family here," she said. "I want Boston to be successful, so her success is Boston's success."

Essaibi George said she remains concerned about a number of things: the future of Boston Public Schools as the system sees a decline in student enrollment, the homelessness and opioid addiction crisis at Massachusetts Avenue and Melnea Cass Boulevard, and families grappling with Covid-19 and housing issues.

"The anxiety that I feel is around the work I've done and some of that work that I've kicked off. I worry about it continuing, especially around family homelessness," she said. "I'm really anxious that there won't be the same advocacy."

Coronavirus had somewhat stalled the work of a special city commission formed to try to end family homelessness that was created through an ordinance that Essaibi George worked to push through before the pandemic. But over the last several months, she said, there have been discussions between

shelter providers and key partners, including the city's housing chief, Sheila Dillon.

The discussions are now in a place "where I am confident that work will continue in some respect," she said. Another initiative Essaibi

Another initiative Essaibi George pushed is getting underway: Needle disposal at pharmacies, in kiosks similar to those that allow people to drop off unused or expired medication. "If you are at home and dealing with a chronic illness, if you've got diabetes, if you're taking B-12 shots, or doing any sort of fertility treatments or struggling with an opioid crisis, and using needles, using sharps, they should be properly disposed of," she said. "They shouldn't go into household waste."

She said she has enjoyed resolving for constituents "what I think the world would see as insignificant" issues. "If it was tree limbs that were pulling down wires, we had to make 10 different calls to get that fixed, which is sort of frustrating, but also in the end, when it's done, it's done."

The citywide councillor said she's also proud that her office was able to support families who needed shelter beds. "When I joined the council in 2016, we thought there were maybe 3,000 kids [experiencing homelessness]," she said. "Because of my work, because we started to count them and really see kids who were experiencing homelessness, we realized the number was 5,000."

Essaibi George also highlighted working with the state attorney general's office to protect seniors from fraud and supporting small businesses. Her staffers have pulled together folders on those and other topics she has worked on in order to pass them along to her colleagues and incoming councillors.

"It shouldn't just end; it shouldn't just all disappear because I won't be a member of the body anymore," she said. "Ofcourse, any councillor coming in has their own set of priorities and their personal agenda and pile of work they want to get to, but if there is an interest in taking on any of these topic matters, I certainly want them to not have to recreate the wheel."

The pink wall in her City Hall office, though, may be a different matter. When she joined the council, Essaibi George had a wall of her office painted in the hot pink that can also be found on her clothes, inside the yarn shop, and on her campaign signs. Multiple layers were needed for the office wall, because the concrete kept absorbing the pink paint.

"I'm not sure if anyone will keep it. I think it's great," she said, laughing. "But I imagine that whoever comes into our office next — I don't know who it is — will probably paint over the pink wall. And I imagine it's going to take several layers of primer and paint to coverit."

# Campaign to hike ranks of the health-insured is underway

By Grace Mayer SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

The Massachusetts Health Care Connector is again moving to raise awareness of affordable health insurance plans available to Bay State residents.

"People know to expect us showing up this time of year," said Jason Lefferts, the health connector's director of communications and outreach. "We know some communities have higher rates without insurance, and we want to be in those communities.'

Since 2016, Lefferts said, the health connector has been going on "business walks" as part of an effort to reach vulnerable populations throughout the state and target communities where health insurance rates are particularly low, including neighborhoods like Dorchester. By applying for health insurance through the Health Connector, Lefferts said, residents and businesses that qualify can save up to several thousand dollars in costs every year.

As of 2019, the rate of uninsurance throughout Massachusetts was 3 percent, significantly lower when compared to the 2020 national average of 8.5 percent recorded by the US Census Bureau.

But when the focus

neighborhoods in Massachusetts, the gaps in health insurance coverage become wider. In Dorchester, the uninsured rate is 6.8 percent, while Boston overall is at of 4.7 percent, according to the Boston Public Health Commission.

Most Massachusetts residents are required to have health insurance, or face paying a penalty.

This Saturday (Dec. 18), the Health Connector is hosting a holiday-themed event in Dorchester to share information about enrolling in health insurance. The event, which will run from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Modern Part Art, 268 Bowdoin St. near the Restaurante Cesaria will feature an artisan craft market, raffle prizes, Santa Claus, and holiday-themed treats. Health Connector navigators will be on hand help people sign up for insurance.

The open enrollment period started Nov. 1 and will run through Jan. 23. But the deadline to enroll in health insurance that would begin in 2022 is Dec. 23. Appointments can be made with the health connector's navigators on its website, mahealthconnector.org, over the phone, or in-person at one of the health

narrows in on certain connector's locations. By the end of the en-

said, the agency will have cations across the state

rollment period, Lefferts placed 2,000 signs in lo-through its business

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Together they organize large volunteer cleanups along the Neponset River, Dorchester Marshes, PJP Park, and Tenean Beach that removes hundreds of pounds of trash from the area. As an important part of the community they also partner with MassDCR and the Neponset River Greenway Council to sponsor fun family events along the Neponset River, like the recent Pumpkin Parade.

Contact: Nancy Fyler Phone: 1-781-690-1205 Website: www.neponset.org

Want to be featured in the East West Spotlight? Reach out to maureen@dotnews.com or 617-436-1222 x17 for more information.

## Elugardo discusses her choice to run for state Senate seat

By GINTAUTAS DUMCIUS MANAGING EDITOR

While the race for governor is sure to dominate headlines in 2022, Boston will also have an open state Senate seat. That's due to state Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz, a Jamaica Plain Democrat, opting



to run for the governor's office instead of reelection to the district she has represented since 2009.

ed since 2009. The race for the Senate

seat known as the Second Suffolk is already drawing interest: State Reps. Nika Elugardo and Liz Miranda declared their candidacies last week, and Dianne Wilkerson, the former eight-term incumbent who lost to Chang-Diaz in 2008, plans to make a decision in January or February about whether she wants to wage another campaign for her old job.

Elugardo's entry into the race comes after she had initially decided to sit it out and support Miranda, a fellow Democrat. "As I thought more about what the district needed and learned more on the ground about what's going on, the community kept asking" her about running, Elugardo said.

With her strong relationships with her Beacon Hill colleagues, and with billions of federal dollars flowing from Washington, and the Legislature shedding a reputation for handling one or two big bills per session, Elugardo sees an opportunity to widen her gaze, she told the *Reporter* in an interview.

"These are extraordinary times and they call for extraordinary



"...several dozen leaders from around the community helped me make the decision," to run for the senate seat.

– Nika Elugardo

leadership," she said, "and I think I can bring that in collaboration with the folks of the Second Suffolk."

Elugardo represents the 15th Suffolk House district, which includes parts of Jamaica Plain and neighboring Brookline. She serves on the budget-writing Ways and Means Committee and the Legislature's Joint Committee on Housing.

Before her time in the House, she briefly worked for Chang-Diaz, focusing on policy areas such as housing and health care financing, as well as setting up fellowship and internship programs.

A graduate of MIT, she holds degrees from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and Boston University Law School. When she ran for the seat in 2018, she beat incumbent state Rep. Jeffrey Sanchez, who had held the seat since 2003.

Her decision to run for Senate after nearly two terms in the House was a hard one to make, Elugardo said. "I'm really good at building leaders, that's how I approached my time at the State House. So, it was heart-wrenching for me to do that comparison and choose myself," she said. "But several dozen leaders from around the community helped me make the decision." She declined to name the community members.

Born and raised in Ohio, Elugardo moved to Boston when she was 17. She recalls meeting Mel King, an activist who served as a state representative between 1973 and 1982. He was the first Black person to run for mayor of Boston, losing to Ray Flynn in 1983.

King tried to get her to run for office in the 1990s, but she balked, citing a dislike of politicians. "I was so offended," she quipped.

But King and others eventually wore her down. Elugardo said she recently saw King and he is "very excited" about her Senate run.

A formal campaign launch is expected early next year, she said.

Boston City Councillor Lydia Edwards defeated Revere School Committee member Anthony D'Ambrosio in a special election primary held on Tuesday to fill a State Senate vacancy left when former Sen. Joe Boncore of Winthrop gave up that seat to lead the Massachusetts Biotechnology Council.

Edwards faces no opponent in the Jan. 11 special election. Her council seat will then be filled by another special election. and is poised next month to fill the seat.

Material from State House News Service was used in this report.



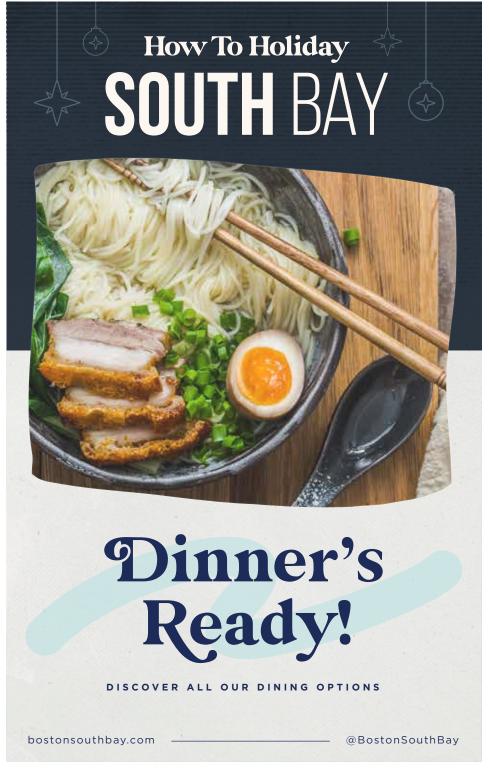
Congressman Richard Neal, chairman of the US House and Ways committee, with US Labor Secretary Marty Walsh in Springfield on Monday. *MassLive.com photo* 

# Walsh 'not speculating' on governor run talk

US Labor Secretary Marty Walsh was in Springfield earlier this week, pushing the Biden administration's infrastructure spending. But the topic a number of reporters were interested in dealt with his political spending.

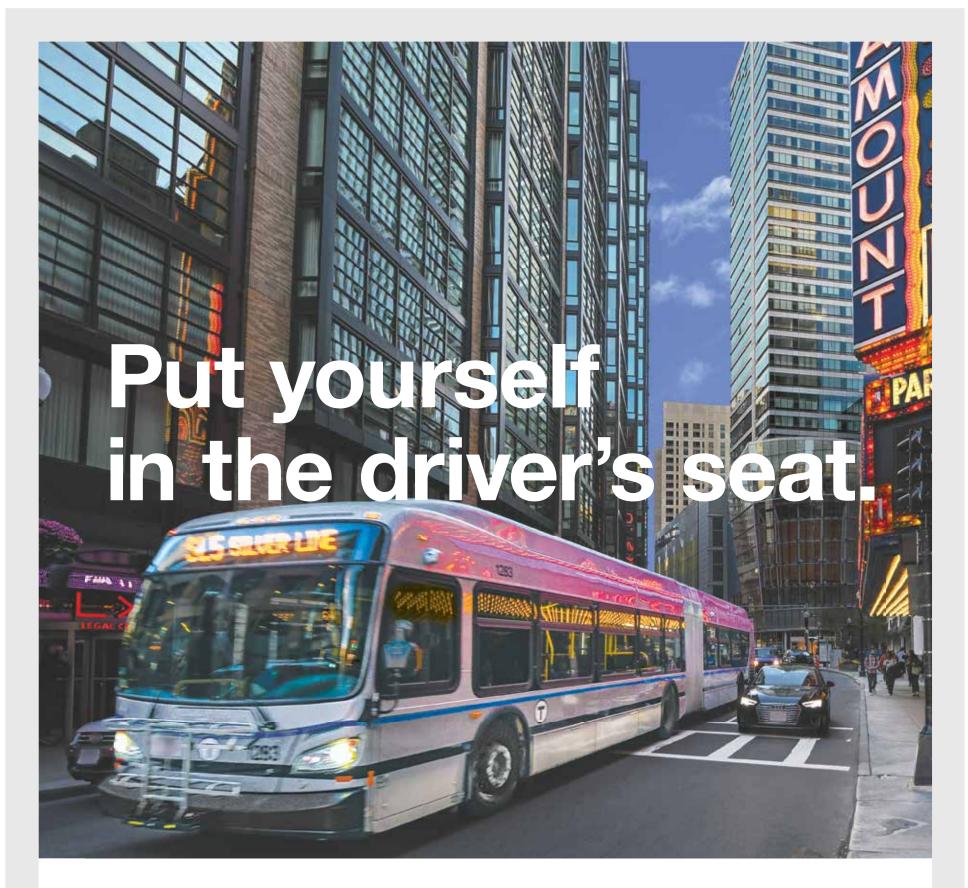
His name has come up as a potential candidate for governor, with Charlie Baker deciding against a run for a third four-year term. Walsh joined the Biden administration in March after cruising through the Senate confirmation process, leaving behind the Boston mayorship, a job he long coveted before winning it in 2013.

"There's a lot of speculation about a lot of things and I'm not speculating on it," Walsh said in Springfield. He added: "I'm working in an administration that is working to move our country forward. I work for a great guy in President Biden. We are laying out a good plan to move forward."





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## In the works for Codman Sq.:'micro forest'

By Katie Pedersen REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

A vacant lot in Codman Square will be converted into a "micro forest" in the coming months, thanks to an effort spearheaded by staff at the nearby Codman Academy.

The city-owned space on Norfolk Street will be re-designed with different varieties of trees and shrubs, stone features, and outdoor classroom space, courtesy of funding and support from the city of Boston, the Fish Family Foundation, and other donors. It will open to the public next spring once its cherry trees are planted.

The project is the brainchild of K-1 teacher Tasha Harris, who studied the Japanese practice of forest bathing or moving mindfully through nature - while on a fellowship in Costa Rica. When Codman Academy founder Meg Campbell mentioned to her that there was a sliver of land available in Codman Square, Harris's first thought was that it would be perfect for a healing micro-forest

"That was the moment when the seed was planted, and it just took off from there," recalled Harris, who, along with colleagues, organized a



A vacant lot on Norfolk Street in Codman Square is currently being transformed into a "micro forest" that will be used by the community and students from Codman Academy. Above right, a design shows the layout of the lot. Images courtesy Codman Academy

series of public meetings to vet the idea and gain public support for making it happen.

"I stood up in front of three community meetings and talk about how we would use the space both as a school and as a community, and that gained unanimous support," Harris said. "Once we realized that this is a viable idea, we got a landscape architect on

The team chose Liz Luc Clowes to come up with a design for the triangular-shaped lot. Luc Clowes brought expertise in carbon sequestration through urban forests to the project, having planted a series of micro forests in Worcester.

'We all know that the climate is changing," said Luc Clowes, a native of Haiti. "What brought me to this work is that I could feel that the climate was changing. People ask me, 'Why are you building a micro forest?' and [I say] it's very directly related to what's happening. It is an educational space, but it is also a nature-based solution to climate change. Climate change is real,

it's here; this is a place you can come to get some relief."

The team has contracted with David Hurst, a Codman Square-born landscaper to supervise construction on the project, which is expected to cost about \$175,000.

Said Luc Clowes: "This was the first time I worked with a Blackowned landscaping company with an all POC crew," an experience she appreciated as a Black woman who owns a landscape design company in Boston.

For her part, Harris is



excited about exposing her students to the social-emotional benefits of nature without the need to take a bus to a different neighborhood.

"Especially during quarantine, the children were deprived of a lot of things," she said. "Missing fresh air, missing gross motor activities, missing human connection. Nature should go hand-in-hand with school."

Thabiti Brown, Head of School at Codman Academy, looks forward to the day when the AP Environmental Science program can collect soil samples and learn about the heat island effect at an outdoor space a block from their school.

"The best way to grow fertile young minds is to give them possibilities for beauty, and advancement, and discovery," said Brown. "We're not going to see that reflected in their math scores tomorrow, but the hope is that they're more full human beings at the end of that."



# Reporter's People in and around our Neighborhoods

# News about people

# Dot Eagles come up short in Pop Warner Super Bowl

BY SETH DANIEL

REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

After blowing through the competition until the final game in the Pop Warner football 14U Division 1 Super Bowl tournament in Florida over the past week, the Dorchester Eagles lost, 31-8, in the championship game the Pine Hill (Florida) team last Saturday.

Fielding one of the best teams to come out of the storied youth football program in Dorchester, the Eagles 14U team, led by what Coach Tony Hurston called the "three-head-ed monster" tandem of Isaiah Simmons, Mahki Dodd, and Jamari Robinson, had shown itself to be a strong team nationally – advancing to the championship game after beating the Richmond Heights (PA) Conquerors, 35-0, and



The Dorchester Eagles 14U Pop Warner football team steamrolled through most of the competition in Florida over the past week but couldn't get any momentum in the championship game in losing to Pine Hill of Florida.

Pine Hill eleven.

In spite of the loss, all the coaches said the kids

the Hartford Hurricanes had an incredible time 29-0 before bowing to the competing and having fun in the Sunshine State Florida over the past two weeks-includ-

ing attending the Pop Warner party. Eagles program director Terry Cousins said they took careful Covid-19 measures and it paid off with everyone returning healthy. He said they thanked all of those who donated to the team's cause and gave a special shout out to US Labor Secretary Marty Walsh, and clothing designer Calvin Leon.

For all that, the loss in the final left a sour taste with Eagles staff members.

"That was the first time the Citrus Bowl hosted the Pop Warner Super Bowl and the refs set a record by throwing 10 penalties in the first 10 minutes of the game," said assistant coach Darryl Simmons. "It changed the momentum of the game. Hats off to Pine Hill because they were definitely a good team, but we couldn't win. They had the refs, the cheerleaders and the hometown cooking."

Cousins said that the

league has had three teams advance to the championship game in the last 20 years, and 16 teams travel to Florida for the Super Bowl finals-and there's always  $\hbox{``funny business'' against}$ the northern teams.

"It bothers me as a grown man to watch our kids cry and feel they didn't get a fair shake," he said. "The coaches try to keep it professional, and we don't complain because we don't want to get in trouble and want to set a good example, but it's frustrating...The northern teams don't get respectful treatment when we go down to Florida.

"My coaches and I are going to look at our different options," he said. "I'm going to speak to our league folks and guys I know who care about us and talk to our board about what we do moving



Dorchester residents Aaliyah Gonsalves, 5, and her aunt, Meghan Gonsalves, were on hand for the 80th Annual Boston Common Tree Lighting on Dec. 2. This is the 50th year that Nova Scotia has given a Christmas tree to the people of Boston as thanks for relief efforts following the Dec. 6, 1917, explosion of a munitions ship in Halifax Harbor.

Jon Seamans photo



Mayor Michelle Wu made her inaugural visit to Adams Corner for a holiday/Christmas tree lighting on Sunday., Dec. 5. A large crowd of spectators were on hand for the annual Enchanted Trolley tour stop, which typically makes its final visit of the season at the Dorchester village to light a tree across from the Old Dorchester Post and the Eire Pub. John Wilcox/Mayor's Office photo

#### YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE

**DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY** 

The illustrator Elisha Brown Bird (1867-1943)

Elisha B. Bird, a native of Dorchester, was known for posters and bookplate designs. In her book, "E.B. Bird and His Bookplates (1904), Winifred Porter Truesdell wrote: "Mr. Bird is a Boston man, and a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and from his experience there gained his first knowledge of light and shade, the handling of color, and systems of pen work. After his graduation he became head designer for the Boston Photogravure Company and later was with the Art Publishing Company, which he left to go into business for himself.

"While at the Institute he was always associated





Elisha Brown Bird and his poster, "The Red Letter" (1896)

with the college publicain the illustration, and superintended the issue of many college annuals throughout the country. During the recent poster craze he was one of the foremost designers, his bold style being very convincing. He has also an enviable reputation as a cartoonist, being at the head of this branch of art on football matters.

"His ideas in book-plate making are to get away from the old rectangular shape and general ideas taken by most designers and turn out something new both in shape and handling of the subject."

In its obituary of the artist, the Boston Globe noted that "For more

than 15 years prior to tions, and has assisted his retirement in 1939, he was in the art department of the New York Times. Permanent exhibitions of his bookplates are on display in the Boston Public Library and in the libraries of Harvard and Yale."

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

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#### **Editorial**

# Let's err on side of common sense—and mask up

It's our least favorite fashion accessory and no one is going to win a popularity contest for saying it, but it's time to get those face masks back into the regular rotation, regardless of one's vaccine status. That should extend to a new indoor mandate, statewide, to help convince people that they can stem the rising tide of infection and illness.

That recommendation came this week from the state's leading voice of medical professionals— the Massachusetts Medical Society, which pointed to an "alarming upward trend" in Covid-19 cases and hospitalizations in recent weeks.

"Wearing masks while indoors is an effective and appropriate way to slow transmission of the disease, especially with the holiday and cold and flu seasons upon us," said Dr. Carole Allen, president of the Massachusetts Medical Society. "We must all work together to take steps to confront and stem what could be a continued rise in cases, hospitalizations, serious illness, and death."

The stats from the state's Department of Public Health underline the problem: There were 11,078 new cases over the weekend and 1,355 people hospitalized. On Tuesday, the state confirmed 61 new deaths from Covid. The new strain of the virus is one reason for concern, enough for other states with a similar trajectory like New York and California, to reinstate their indoor mandate. (New York 's requirement allows exemptions in venues that require proof-of-vaccination for entry.)

But, we also have to weigh our cold-weather climate and the increased volume of people congregating in restaurants, entertainment venues, and other spaces. The Archdiocese of Boston this week renewed its own mandate to have congregants masked while at Mass. Schools locally are weighing new restrictions and even remote learning options for the post-Christmas break.

So far, Gov. Baker has resisted calls for him to reconsider a new mask mandate, pointing to the state's impressive record to date in getting our population vaccinated. And he's right about that: According to DPH, more than 5.7 million people in Massachusetts had taken at least one dose of a vaccine — and almost 5 million are "fully" vaxxed—roughly 90 percent of those eligible. That's well above the national average in all categories.

The governor prefers to let local cities and towns take the lead on setting guidelines for businesses, he said. And he's made a good call in ordering up free test kits for some 2.1 million residents in hard-hit communities, including our own, to help monitor and stem the growth of the infection rate.

But Massachusetts is one of the leading states in the nation, in part, because we've followed the guidance of scientists and epidemiologists who know what to look for and how to best protect our citizens. We may not be thrilled with the prescription—but now is the time to double down and take their advice to heart: Masks offer the most sensible and best protection to interrupt the spread of Covid and other seasonal illnesses.

We've all got them—let's use them, whether or not there's an edict from Beacon Hill. After all, we don't wait for an executive order to don gloves, scarves, and boots when there's a chill in the air and snow underfoot. It's just the not-dumb thing to do. Let's add masks back to our winter wardrobe.

Bill Forry

#### The Reporter

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# Hospitals in state seeing vaccinations as clear guide to higher Covid resistance

#### By Martha Bebinger WBUR Reporter

If you're vaccinated and you get Covid-19, the chance you'll need hospital care is still very rare. In Massachusetts, the rate of all vaccinated people who have been hospitalized is 0.05 percent. But as cases surge, hospitals are reporting a significant portion of patients who've had their initial vaccine shot — or shots — and a few who've received a booster as well.

At major hospitals around the state, anywhere from 25 to 43 percent of patients tested positive last week for the coronavirus, according to daily numbers provided by the hospitals. In a few cases, the main reason for hospitalization was something other than the coronavirus. It is also worth noting that the vast majority — in some cases 75 percent of patients — reported that they were unvaccinated.

Within Mass General Brigham, the state's largest hospital network, one daily census taken this week found that 70 percent of Covid patients were not vaccinated. In the network's ICUs, only 22 percent were vaccinated.

Among patients at Beth Israel Lahey Health, the state's second largest hospital system, a recent daily count found 43 percent of Covid patients were vaccinated; in ICUs, it was 27 percent.

"Here we are in one of the most vaccinated states in the country dealing with another surge of Covid," said Dr. Eric Dickson, president and CEO of UMass Memorial Health, where a daily survey taken this week found that 40 percent of Covid patients had been vaccinated along with 25 percent in the ICU.

"The only way that could really happen is if there's waning immunity from the vaccines that most of us received last year, and that's clearly happening," Dickson said.

Hospitals have not done a thorough assessment of the types of vaccinated patients who are hospitalized, but Dr. Erica Shenoy, the associate chief of infection control at Mass General, says patients whose immune systems are weakened by cancer treatment or frail elders are still at greater risk for a serious case even after they are vaccinated.

"We know vaccines are very effective at preventing hospitalization and death, but they're not 100 percent," said Shenoy. "The benefits are very, very clear. I can't stress that enough."

Ellie Murray, an assistant professor of epidemiology at Boston University School of Public Health, says the math helps explain why the percentage of vaccinated patients in the hospital is rising — there are many fewer unvaccinated people in the state. In Massachusetts, 87 percent of residents, including children, have had at least one shot, and 72 percent are fully vaccinated. Murray says serious illness is still much more likely for residents who have not been jabbed.

"Despite fewer than 13 percent of adult Massachusetts residents being completely unvaccinated, the unvaccinated individuals make up 57-75 percent of hospitalized Covid cases," Murray said in an emailed exchange. "When viewed from that perspective we can see that unvaccinated people are much more at risk of being hospitalized than vaccinated people."

And they face a higher risk of landing in an ICU. At Tufts Medical Center, 25 percent of Covid patients are vaccinated. None are in an ICU. At Boston Medical Center, 32 percent of patients are vaccinated, and just one is the ICU.

Dickson, at UMass Memorial, says the hospital numbers show a need for increased vigilance: more vaccinations, boosters, masks indoors (he recommends a KN95), limited time in large crowds, and testing at the first sign of symptoms.

"Every single one of us has a role we can play in stopping the spread of this horrible disease," he said.

This article was originally published by WBUR 90.9 FM on Dec. 10. The Reporter and WBUR share content through a media partnership.

# State delivering 2.1m free rapid tests to cities and towns for distribution

#### By Matt Murphy State House News Service

Cities and towns representing more than half of the state's population will begin receiving free, rapid Covid-19 tests this week to distribute to residents as part of a new strategy Gov. Baker detailed Monday to control the spread of the virus this holiday season.

Baker said that beginning Tuesday the state would start distributing 2.1 million at-home rapid tests purchased from a California-based lab to 102 communities with the highest percentages of families living in poverty. The governor's hope is that people will use these tests before gathering with friends and family, especially in indoor settings when not everyone's vaccination status is known.

The administration is also working with manufacturers on a "bulk, cheap purchasing deal" that would allow all municipalities to purchase tests at a fixed, state-negotiated price for distribution to residents, Baker said. The governor expects the purchasing program to be up and running by January.

"This massive distribution effort and the longterm bulk purchasing agreement will make a real difference here in the state," Baker said.

The move comes after states like New Hampshire have taken similar steps to send rapid antigen tests directly to residents, and Boston Mayor Michelle Wu announced last week that she would be sending 20,000 tests and free masks into select neighborhoods.

In New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu last month made 800,000 rapid tests available for residents to request and have delivered to their homes, and the inventory was scooped within a day. Baker said rapid tests, which can give a result in 15 minutes, can be an important part of stopping the spread of the virus during the holiday season.

The free test kits will be distributed this week by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency and the National Guard and were procured from iHealth Labs for \$10 million, or about \$5 a test. Baker would not say what price per test he's hoping to negotiate with manufacturers, but said it should be "as cheap as possible." A two-pack of BinaxNOW rapid antigen tests was selling Monday for \$14 on Walmart's website.

"The most important element in this is about making rapid tests available on a broad scale to communities that have, in many cases, a lot of people who aren't going to be able to purchase these on our own, to make these tests available so they can test themselves before they go to gatherings or other large indoor events," Baker said at a State House

press conference.

Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito and Secretary of Health and Human Services Marylou Sudders briefed municipal leaders on the proposal on Monday morning, and the administration will be relying on communities to get the tests into the hands of residents. The tests come in packs of two, and the communities receiving the free kits this week count 3.7 million residents.

Polito also noted that moving forward the billions of dollars in funding from the American Rescue Plan Act that went directly to cities and towns can be used to purchase additional tests under the deal being negotiated with manufacturers. The state plans to seek reimbursement through the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the tests it has already purchased.

In recent weeks, Covid cases have been on the rise and the state has been forced to take steps to preserve hospital capacity by limiting non-essential procedures and providing increased flexibility from mandatory nurse-to-patient staffing ratios and for the utilization of non-traditional hospital spaces for acute-care beds.

The Department of Public Health reported 5,007 new cases on Friday, and hospitalizations from the virus climbed to 1,238. The seven-day average positive test rate has also climbed above 5 percent, as high as it has been since Jan. 21.

Baker said that more than 100,000 tests a day are being performed in Massachusetts, as well as an additional 70,000 to 80,000 rapid antigen tests being administered each week in K-12 schools as part of the state's "Test-and-Stay" pooled testing program for students and teachers.

Expanding access to free or cheap at-home tests has the potential to dramatically increase the volume of testing being done by residents at-home, but the state would not say whether it had any estimates of how many at-home rapid tests are already being used or how many positive cases being detected that way are then being confirmed through a reported PCR test.

Sudders said there is no public health reporting requirement attached to the use of the free test kits being distributed by the state, though she said anyone testing positive should quarantine for 10 days and notify close contacts. She also encouraged people to sign up for MassNotify, which can be enabled on any cellphone and notifies close contacts who have been in proximity with someone who self-reports a positive test. About 25 percent of residents have enabled this feature on their phone, Sudders said.

# Boston could be next to weigh reparations for Black residents

#### By Darryl C. Murphy WBUR Reporter

At the end of Boston's Long Wharf is a glass and metal slab that tells a story of the city's role in the trans-Atlantic slave trade. The monument stands to remind those walking along the waterfront that Boston was a hub for ships carrying African people who were sold into slavery.

The marker could be seen as a symbol of how the city is grappling with its past. But when it comes to slavery, and the centuries of systemic racism that followed, folks like NAACP Boston president Tanisha Sullivan want more than symbols for Black people — they want reparations.

"This is a conversation that is a long time coming, and action that is a long time in coming," she said.

Some cities and towns across the country have begun initiatives to address reparations for Black residents who have been impacted by systemic racism, and Boston could soon join them

At-large City Councillor Julia Mejia is leading an effort in City Hall to establish a commission that would examine the negative effects of slavery and racial dis-



At-large City Councillor Julia Mejia wants to establish a commission to examine the negative effects of slavery and racial discrimination on Boston's Black residents.

Seth Daniel photo

crimination on Boston's Black residents and how the city can repair the damage.

"Even though slavery happened years ago, this is so much more than just slavery," said Mejia. "It's really about [addressing] the harm that has been caused and how we continue to pass on generational poverty year after year to Black Bostonians."

Mejia recently hosted a hearing where supporters of reparations called for the commission. She said her goal is to pass a bill to establish the group next year.

"We have to allow government a little bit of grace," she said. "Because things sometimes move like molasses, but my hope is to act with a sense of urgency. That is what the people have called for and that's what our office committed to

The US House of Representatives is considering legislation that would establish a federal reparations commission to study the impact of slavery and its legacy on Black Americans and offer ways to remedy the damage. The idea was first introduced more than 30 years ago. Congress has never approved it, and it's likely to fail again this session.

But that hasn't stopped local officials from places like nearby Cambridge and Amherst; and, further afield, San Francisco and Asheville, North Carolina, from pursuing reparations initiatives of their own.

"This is a federal issue and nationally we need to wrestle with and reckon with the issue of our history," said Sullivan, who is working with Mejia to get the commission established. "But there's also work that can be done at the local level. We don't have to wait for the federal government to take action."

Boston's role in slavery can be traced back to 1638. Slave ships sailed from the city even after Massachusetts outlawed slavery in 1783. And though slavery was outlawed in the state, Black Bostonians were continually denied the same rights and privileges that allowed their white counterparts to prosper. That discrimination has tangible consequences today as the city's Black communities lag behind in areas like wealth, education, and health.

Yvette Modestin, of the National African American Reparations Commission, also known as NAARC, is working with Mejia on the reparations effort. She says slavery may be over for Black people, but their freedom is still in question.

"We don't have the chains around our ankles and our hands anymore," said Modestin. "But there is a chain still there."

People often associate reparations with the idea of cash payments to Black people from the government. That's one way to do it, but some municipalities are taking different approaches.

Cambridge is exploring a reparations program that would provide money to Black-owned businesses. Officials in Amherst recently established a reparations fund and created a group to develop a plan for the money.

The city council in Evanston, Illinois, voted back in March to use \$400,000 of a \$10 million reparations fund, also funded by revenue from cannabis sales, to provide housing grants to its Black residents. The program would give applicants up to \$25,000 for the purchase of a home, renovations, or mortgage assistance.

Evanston has been hailed as the first US city to pay reparations to its Black residents. However, Alderwoman Cicely Fleming is not on board.

"Evanston is a place that likes to be the first at things," said Fleming, who cast the only dissenting vote against the program. "It also likes to kind of meet the standard of being very diverse... This definitely fit into that narrative."

Fleming said Evanston basically launched a housing program that is only available to a select few residents disguised as a reparations program. Also, she said, the program doesn't give Black residents the freedom to decide how to use the funds.

The alderwoman said Evanston's reparations program should not be a model for other cities. "I would say don't model it, but people have their own communities," she said. "I don't know [what] their community needs. I don't know what the harms have been in their community by their local government, but I would say at least have something fleshed out to make sure you can meet the needs of all the residents, of which we do not have at this point."

While the idea for reparations in Boston isn't new, Sullivan said, now that a city council hearing has been officially documented, future proponents have something to build on.

"For the very first time," said Sullivan, "we are building a structure around which a record can be established on this issue of reparations for the descendants of formerly enslaved Black folks."

This article was published by WBUR 90.9FM on Dec. 1. The Reporter and WBUR share content through a media partnership.

DO YOU OWN A HOME IN BOSTON AND NEED HELP WITH HOUSING EXPENSES (LATE MORTGAGE PAYMENTS, CONDO FEES OR UTILITY BILLS)? BOSTON'S FORECLOSURE PREVENTION EMERGENCY FUND MAY BE ABLE TO HELP.

¿ES USTED PROPIETARIO DE UNA VIVIENDA EN BOSTON Y NECESITA AYUDA CON LOS GASTOS DE LA MISMA (PAGOS ATRASADOS DE HIPOTECAS, CUOTAS DE CONDOMINIO O CUENTAS DE SERVICIOS PÚBLICOS)? EL FONDO DE EMERGENCIA PARA LA PREVENCIÓN DE EJECUCIONES HIPOTECARIAS DE BOSTON PUEDE AYUDARLE.

您是否在波士顿拥有自己的房子,并且在住房费用方面需要帮助(抵押贷款还款、公寓费用或水电费逾期未缴)? 波士顿的赎回权丧失预防应急基金或许能助您一臂之力。

BU TEM UN KAZA NA BOSTON Y BU STÁ TA PRESIZA DI APOIU KU DESPEZAS DI KAZA (IPOTEKA ATRAZADU, PAGAMENTUS, TAXA DI KONDOMINIU Ô SERVISUS PÚBLIKU)? FUNDU DI IMERJÉNSIA PA PREVENSON DI IZEKUSON IPOTEKARIU DI BOSTON TA PODI DJUDA.

QUÝ VỊ CÓ SỞ HỮU NHÀ TẠI BOSTON VÀ CẦN GIÚP ĐỐ CÁC CHI PHÍ NHÀ Ở (TRẢ TIỀN THẾ CHẬP CHẬM, LỆ PHÍ CONDO HOẶC CÁC HÓA ĐƠN TIỆN ÍCH) KHÔNG? QUỸ KHẨN CẮP NGĂN CHẶN TỊCH THU NHÀ BOSTON CÓ THỂ GIÚP ĐỐ QUÝ VỊ

VOCÊ É PROPRIETÁRIO DE UMA CASA EM BOSTON E PRECISA DE AJUDA COM AS DESPESAS DE MORADIA (ATRASOS NO PAGAMENTO DE HIPOTECAS, TAXAS DE CONDOMÍNIO OU CONTAS DE SERVIÇOS. O FUNDO DE EMERGÊNCIA PARA PREVENÇÃO DE EXECUÇÕES HIPOTECÁRIAS DE BOSTON PODE AJUDAR.

ÉSKE W SE PWOPRIYETÉ KAY NAN BOSTON EPI W BEZWEN ÉD AVÉK DEPANS POU LOJMAN YO (PEMAN IPOTÈK KI ANRETA, FRÈ KONDOMINYÒM OSWA BÒDWO SÈVIS PIBLIK)? GEN POSIBILITE KE FON DIJANS POU PREVANSYON SEZI (FORECLOSURE PREVENTION EMERGENCY FUND) NAN BOSTON KA EDE W.

يراقعلا نهرلا طاسقاً ديدست) ناكسإلاا فيلاكت يف ةدعاسم يلاٍ جاتحتو نطسوب يف اَلـزنم كالـتمت له ؟(تامدخلا قفارم ريـتاوف وأ ققشلا موسر وأ قرخأتملا

.ةدعاسملا يلع أرداق نطسوب يف نوهرملا راقعلا يلع زجحلا عنمل عراوطلل ةيلاملا تاصصخملا قودنص نوكي دق

POSSÉDEZ-VOUS UN DOMICILE À BOSTON ET AVEZ-VOUS BESOIN D'AIDE POUR VOS DÉPENSES DE LOGEMENT (PAIEMENTS HYPOTHÉCAIRES EN RETARD, CHARGES DE COPROPRIÉTÉ OU FACTURES DE SERVICES PUBLICS) ? LE FORECLOSURE PREVENTION EMERGENCY FUND DE BOSTON EST PEUT-ÊTRE EN MESURE DE VOUS AIDER.

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## Q. For the Lower Mills community: What to do with old Baker sign letters?

(Continued from page 1) Association, and one of the community leaders behind the restoration

After reaching out to donors who have helped to fund the work and talking with residents, Dolan said the response to preserving the old letters has been enthusiastic. There are countless ideas for what to do with them, she added.

When the sign was removed. Catherine Infantino, office administrator at New Atlantic Development, the construction manager for the project, was approached by a number of individuals who were curious about what would happen with the remains.

'We've definitely gotten interest from people," she told the Reporter. "We'll take [things] under advisement to see what makes the most sense.'

For her part, Dolan has reached out to half a dozen people who donated over a thousand dollars to the relighting project and asked if they would like to acquire one or more of the letters, which range from four to five feet tall, in return for their donations.



'I'd hate for them to just go to nothing when they could preserve some history," says Walter Baker Lofts resident David Stokle, who captured images of the vintage signage as it was dismantled on Nov. 10. Stokle is among those who would like the old letters to be re-purposed.

happens with that approach and interest from others with ideas, but Dolan says that in the end, if the letters aren't all scooped up, she will reach out to the Dorchester Arts Collaborative and the Dorchester Art Project to see if they might be willing to take the letters and consider using them creatively with Dorchester-based artists.

"They're kind of rusty. They're kind of strange looking. But they're pieces of art," she said.

Another Baker Chocolate Company condo resident, David Stokle. would like to see the old letters repurposed in some way.

"I'd hate for them to

they could preserve some history," said the artist, photographer, and sculptor who lives in an apartment below where the sign had sat since

While his plan is tentative - he has to acquire the letters first and assess their condition -Stokle is thinking of what he describes as a totem pole design featuring a vertical sculpture that starts off stacking letters turned on their sides and mirroring each other two As, two Es, and two Rs-almost resembling a person, he said. At the top of the two As, which Stokle described as the arms of the figure, would sit the "T" in "Walter," flipped to resemble a Time will tell what just go to nothing when head or top hat. The design would then switch from this symmetrical pattern to a staggering of the remaining letters along the bottom half of the pole.

Earl Taylor, president of the Dorchester Historical Society, said using the letters in an art installation like Stokle's design would help to tell part of Dorchester's history. "If they were just the letters, they probably wouldn't be of much interest," he said. "But to use them in a new installation would bring attention to them" in a positive way.

Ultimately, Dolan and the Lower Mills Association along with New Atlantic Development will have the final say in what's done with the



Dolan has a lifelong connection to the factory complex; she grew up less than a mile away from it.

From 1765 until 1965, the Baker Chocolate Company was a booming cocoa business, until its owner, the Postum Cereal Co., moved the operation to Delaware

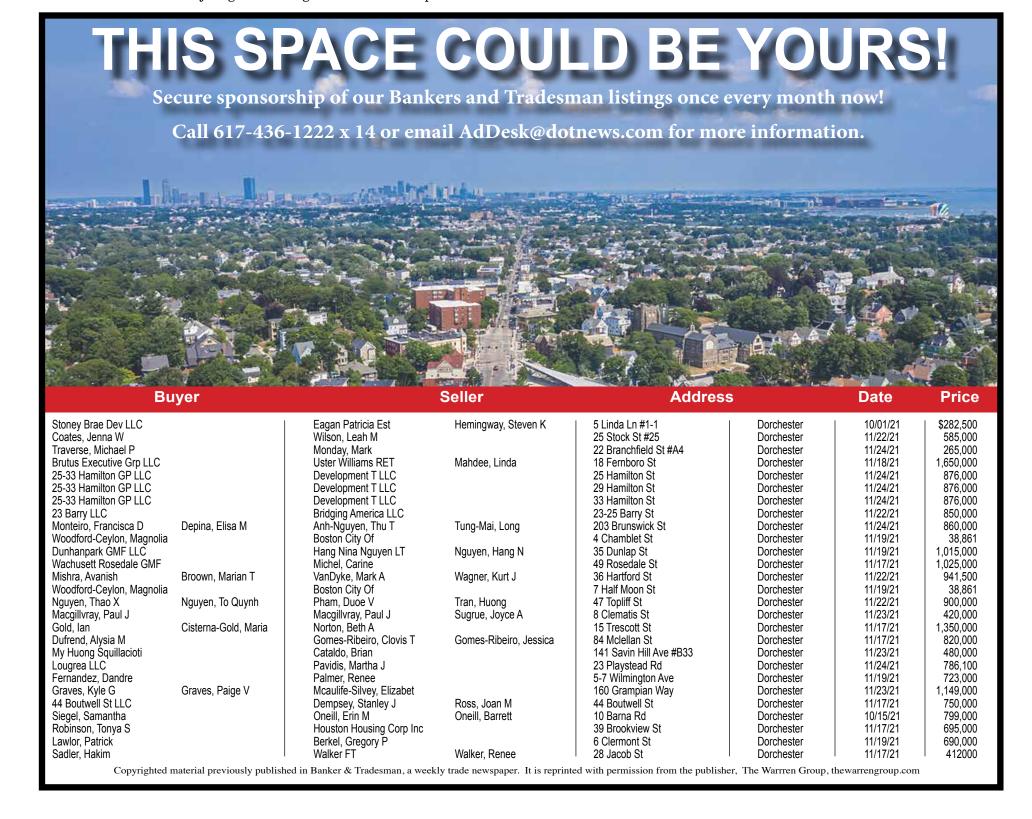
But the neighborhood started to revive in the 1980s as the conversion of factory space into apartments began in earnest. By 2010, more than 200 condominiums and apartments had been opened across the fetch of the factory's uniform rust-colored brick buildings. Since then, dozens of small businesses have taken their places in the surrounding neighborhood and residents have come and gone, just like the factory. All the while, the Walter Baker sign, though in daylight only, sent out a clear message that a man named Walter Baker had made history in the Lower Mills section of Dorchester.

Many who lived that history, like Susan Coffey, a nurse at Carnev Hospital and a member of the Milton Historical Society, recall the days when the factory was alive with workers. After living in Florida for a few years, Coffey returned to Dorchester last year and moved into one of the Baker Chocolate apartments, citing the complex's history, architecture, and her own roots in the community as the reasons for her choice of living space.

Looking out her window at where the Walter Baker sign was, Coffey, 65, talked of the smell of chocolate from the factory that overspread the south end of Dorchester depending on weather patterns.

"It's almost a rite of passage," she said. "If you ask anyone in my age group who grew up here 'what do you remember about Lower Mills?' the answer was 'the smell of the chocolate."

Coffey, who supports plans to repurpose the old letters, said, "To be honest, I would love to get one of them. To just toss them would be terrible. People need to remember the history. and that's just all part



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# Local retailers see opportunity as shoppers eye deals closer to home

(Continued from page 1) idea. I've heard people say that. They are just very eager to be out and about after last year and that has translated into people buying locally," she said.

Her biggest seller has been vintage bar ware, vintage and modern jewelry, and unique Christmas ornaments.

Meanwhile, in Fields Corner, Main Streets director Jackey West Devine said many small businesses are doing well as people avoid crowds this holiday season, but she couched that with a warning about rising food prices in restau-

"We definitely see this as a time when our small businesses could be celebrated," she said. "In a lot of ways our local businesses have done well because people are home and don't want to be in big crowds. They don't want to go down-town as much."

Devine said that supporting eateries by buying gift cards is a good option.

"A \$50 gift card at one of the retailers, such as the many Boba tea shops, that's going to get you a number of visits," she said. "You get to experience the menu. For students and young people, that's a real treat.'

She added that it is best to pick up take-out orders during the holidays as opposed to using delivery services."If you're looking to go the extra step during the holidays, it makes a difference to go to the restaurant to get takeout. It's just an extra step of generosity," she said.

It has been a shopping season tied to global supply issues for Jack Pelletier at Ashmont Cycles, who said delays earlier in year have left him with a lot of inventory for the holidays.

"I have been telling people if you see some-

#### **LEGAL NOTICE**

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS** THE TRIAL COURT **PROBATE & FAMILY COURT** FFOLK PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT 24 NEW CHARDON STREET BOSTON, MA 02114 617-788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME Docket No. SU21C0512CA IN THE MATTER OF: WAYNE LEE KNIGHT

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Wayne Lee Knight of Dorchester, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

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Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Suffolk Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/31/2021. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this

proceeding. Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court. Date: December 14, 2021 Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate

Published: December 16, 2021



Though supply chain issues have complicated many things, Jack Pelletier of Ashmont Cycles said uncertain deliveries last summer left him with a lot of bike inventory this holiday season that many online retailers don't have. Seth Daniel photo

thing and we have it, they should buy it," he said. "Don't go home and think about it. What we're hearing is the supply chain situation is going to be the same in 2022 as it was this year. For the holidays for me, I have bike inventory, which is great. I do try to tell people this coming year is forecast to be as unpredictable as this past year with bike deliveries...It's just a lot of 'Who knows?'

One of the key advantages for small businesses in the neighborhood is that they can take shipping uncertainties out of the equation as they have items available on the spot. That's opposed to questions this season around shipping schedules for online retail. Pelletier said he's hearing that dynamic playing out among his customer base.

"I've had many people say to me that they could order it from Amazon, but if they can get it from me, they would prefer to do that. That's a general thought that comes across a lot more...An online vendor, their business is to sell things and

not so much to provide customer service like a brick-and-mortar shop in the neighborhood."

Greater Ashmont MainStreet director Jeanne Dasaro said there is a good opportunity for boutique vendors in the district, as they have inventory on the shelves.

On Small Business Saturday in late November, she said, they held a holiday pop-up at Ashmont Station with several local vendors, and it went well. That was a big lift for many of those sellers, and an easy shopping trip for those in the neighborhood.

"Many of them also during Covid-19 started to have an online presence and they are increasing that too,' Dasaro added.

Like all the local retailers, Pelletier said he is grateful for the support from the community. "It's coming up on 11 years for this business and I'm just grateful the community has continued to be so supportive," he said.

Holiday time win-win for vendors, the Mather School Success for the Mather School Parent Council and a group of local Dorchester product makers came in the form of a box this holiday season.

Teaming up with local vendors, Mather parents captured lightning in a bottle this holiday season to help raise money for field trips and to help local businesses and vendors sell more during the holidays through 'Made in Dorchester' boxes.

sale of slightly more than 200 boxes for the holiday fundraiser, an effort that ended on Dec. 15.

Jane Donaghey, president of the Mather Parent Council, said they were trying to figure out a way to raise money for field trips and extras at the Meetinghouse Hill school, and at the same time somehow support local businesses and ven $dors\,still\,struggling\,from$ 

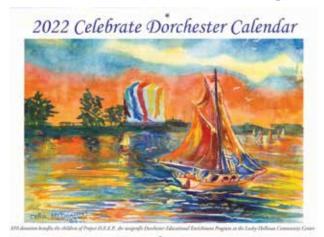
The remedy was 'Made in Dorchester' gift boxes.

come up with fundraising ideas because our group has been grappling with the pandemic over the past year," said Donaghey. "We wanted

The effort led to the

the effects of Covid-19.

"We were trying to to be able to have funding



The 2021 "Celebrate Dorchester" calendars to benefit Project D.E.E.P. are on sale for \$10 at College Hype, Cedar Grove Gardens and Coleen's Flower



The Mather School Parent Council teamed up with a group of Dorchester-based product companies and businesses to offer the first 'Made in Dorchester' Seth Daniel photo boxes for the holidays.

available for things like field trips and wanted a creative way to do that. We decided to try to contact several local Dorchester-made product companies and get people to know what's made in Dorchester and help them to know what to buy that's local. We've located all these great vendors and businesses, so people don't have to do the legwork of finding out who these great local vendors are."

The featured vendors included Top Shelf Cookies, Triple Decker Candle Co., Goodnow Farms Chocolate featuring Boston Harbor Distillery spirits, Vietnamese Coffee roasted by Reign Drink Lab, Dot Bee Co, home.stead bakery,

Jesse Haley Gifts, and Renovation Husbands.

"We think it's a great mix of food and created things from the neighborhood," she said. "The vendors thought it was a greatidea and we've gotten a great response. It's been a rush, but everyone responded quickly."

She said the numbers of orders has led to a great fundraiser for the school and a lot of sales and publicity for Dorchester-made products and vendors.

"We are the first publicly funded school in the nation. At the same time, it might help people come to know these Dorchester products, and hopefully they like them and see all the good that's happening here."



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	19 ¼ x 48 ¼	21 ¼ x 48 ¼	23 ¼ x 48 ¼	27 ¼ x 48 ¼	30 ¼ x 48 ¼		33 ¼ x 48 ¼	35 ¼ x 48 ¼	
18 ¼ x 52 ¼	19 ¼ x 52 ¼	21 ¼ x 52 ¼	23 ¼ x 52 ¼	27 ¼ x 52 ¼	30 ¼ x 52 ¼		33 ¼ x 52 ¼		39 ¼ x 52 ¼
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# Air quality monitors will be installed along Cummins Highway rehab work

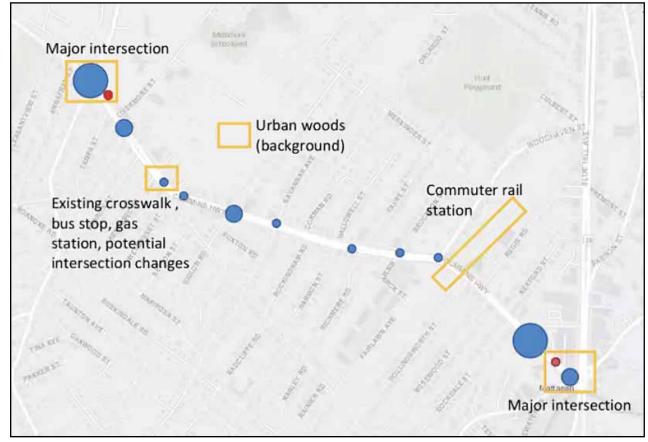
BY SETH DANIEL REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

Today's technology allows pinpointed access to weather reports to nearly everyone at the touch of a button, and if all goes well, pinpointed air quality readings could also be available to residents in that same immediate fashion.

As part of Mattapan's Cummins Highway reconstruction project, several city agencies have combined efforts to deploy 10 new air quality sensors, eight of them along the Cummins route.

"We're aiming to build an open data dashboard that everyone can look at any time," said Yo Deshpande, of the Office of New Urban Mechanics. "These are similar to state air quality sensors you can look at any time. However, we hope that with these sensors, you'll be able to see the air quality right up the block in real time."

The team of city officials that included Deshpande and members of the Environment and Public Works departments, unveiled the pilot program at the Greater Mattapan Neighborhood Council (GMNC) last week. Because Cummins Highway is a city-owned reconstruction project, and because there are concerns about air quali-



The suggested locations at the moment for the eight air quality sensors along Cummins Highway. The city is looking for resident input on where to put each one.

ty along the corridor, officials said it was chosen to be the first to try out these new sensors. If it goes well, the monitors could become a standard part of every such road reconstruction project in Boston.

"This is a first for Boston deploying air quality sensors on a project like this," said Nayeli Rodriguez, also of the Office of New Urban Mechanics. "We do want to do this

At right, a look at the Clarity Node S air quality monitor that will be part of the air quality sensor pilot program on Cummins Highway.

elsewhere in the city, but we are going to start here and see how it works out."

Kat Eshel, of the city's Environment Department, said the sensors are not at the same level as the state air quality sensor on Von Hillern Street in Dorchester, which is deployed for official air quality readings; rather these are mid-grade sensors for use by the city and residents. She also said



the technology for air quality sensors has improved rapidly, making high-quality sensing available in a "shoebox size" instrument that runs on solar power with a battery back-up.

The city is working with the company Clarity, which already has worked with communities like Denver in deploying air quality sensors. The data gathered help in planning road projects and providing important data

to residents. With that previous experience, they will help Boston avoid early pitfalls, and will provide the Clarity Node S sensor – which detects particulate matter (PM) and Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2).

The pilot program has also been a first for bringing so many departments together in City Hall – including Environment, New Urban Mechanics, Boston Transportation Department, and the Public Works Department, among others.

The city hopes to deploy the sensors in a manner that will help them to plan mitigation measures for roadways, such as green spaces, where levels are high, and other such ideas. For residents, it's also an opportunity to know how the air is outside at any given moment. Some days, with the proper information, it might be best to stay inside if there is extremely poor air quality.

At the GMNC last week, the idea was embraced wholeheartedly. "We need to measure the pollution from vehicles on Cummins Highway because it is significant," said Vivian Ortiz.

Others said they would like to see the program expanded to the Blue Hill Avenue reconstruction project if all goes well on Cummins.

"We will evaluate them for other locations like Blue Hill Avenue," said Eshel.

Right now, the city is looking for input on where the 10 sensors should go. Two of them are deployed already – one for calibration at Von Hillern Street and the other in a nearby park for control readings. The remaining eight will be placed along the corridor using input from the community.

For more information or to suggest a location, residents are urged to e-mail apcc@boston.gov.



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# Herb Chambers

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Buy for **29,998**Stk# BH79437A, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 21,015 mi.

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Stk# BH23672, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 122,141 mi. 2011 NISSAN JUKE SL	\$10,998
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Stk# BH79398A, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 73,144 mi. 2013 NISSAN ROGUE S	, .,
Stk# BH79428A, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 92,418 mi.	
2013 NISSAN SENTRA SV	\$11,998
Stk# NH23664, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 70,401 mi. 2011 HONDA CIVIC LX	\$12,998
Stk# BH23594A, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 100,644 mi. 2018 MITSUBISHI MIRAGE G4 ES	\$13.998
Stk# BH23657, 4 dr., 3 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 46,363 mi.	
2015 FORD FOCUS SE	\$14,998
Stk# BH23645, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 47,320 mi. 2015 HONDA CR-Z	\$15,898
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Stk# BH23579, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 87,106 mi.	\$15.898
Stk# BH23600, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 72,930 mi. 2015 HONDA FIT LX	, .,
Stk# BH23593, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 46,285 mi. 2016 CHEVROLET MALIBU LT	\$15,998
Stk# BH79217B, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 99,329 mi.	

I		BUY FOR
	2018 NISSAN ALTIMA 2.5S	\$15,99
	Stk# BH23522, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 79,784 mi. 2018 NISSAN SENTRA SV	\$15,99
	2014 HONDA ACCORD EX	\$16,99
	Stk# BH23545A, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 114,775 mi. 2015 JEEP CHEROKEE LATITUDE	\$16,99
ı	Stk# BH79446A, 4 dr., 6 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 109,860 mi.	, .,

2016 CHEVROLET TRAX LT\$16	,998
Stk# BH79427A, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 51,916 mi.	
2014 CHEVROLET EQUINOX LT \$16	,998
Stk# BH23627, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 70,762 mi.	
2019 MITSUBISHI MIRAGE G4 ES\$16	,998
Stk# BH23647, 4 dr., 3 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 31,104 mi.	
2014 HONDA CR-V LX\$17	,998
Stk# BH23580A, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 79,044 mi.	
2013 INFINITI G37X\$17	.998
Stk# BH23611A, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 80,660 mi.	,
2019 FORD FIESTA SE\$17	998
Stk# BH23643, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 66,085 mi.	,000
	,998
	,550
Stk# BH23527, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 88,412 mi.	, 000
2014 KIA OPTIMA EX\$17	,998
Stk# BH23653, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 82,764 mi.	
	,998
Stk# BH23673, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 78,701 mi.	
2017 CHEVROLET TRAX LT\$18	3,898
Stk# BH23577, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 73,047 mi.	
2016 HONDA CIVIC LX\$18	,998
Stk# BH23648A, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 54,641 mi.	

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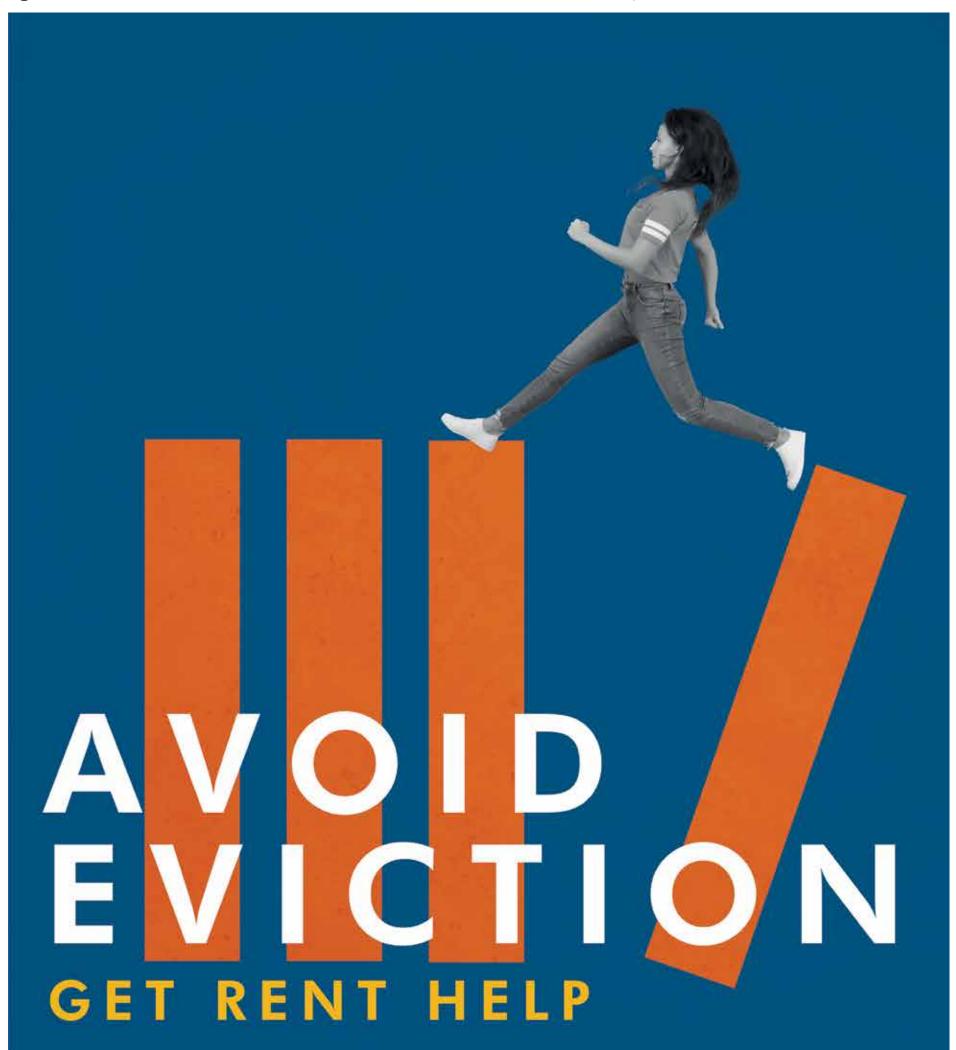
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# **BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF DORCHESTER**

fy o in You Tube



**BGCD Partners with Dell EMC for Gingerbread House Making Fun:** See details below.

# CONNECT THE DOT: BGCD Partners with Dell EMC for Gingerbread House Making Fun: Last week, Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester partnered with our friends at Dell EMC to host a very special gingerbread house making workshop

at Dell EMC to host a very special gingerbread house making workshop for 75 of our members. Members were provided all the decorating materials and gingerbread supplies to create their own gingerbread houses.

Dell EMC volunteers came to our Marr Clubhouse to help our members create their special masterpieces. After the event, members were able to take home their creations to share with family.

Thank you to all of the Dell EMC volunteers who joined us for this special holiday event and for your continuous support of Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester. You've helped make this holiday season brighter!

FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE:
BGCD Partners with Tufts School
of Dental Medicine for Hygiene
Clinic: This past week, Boys & Girls
Clubs of Dorchester hosted volunteers
from the Tufts University School of
Dental Medicine for a session with our
members on dental hygiene.

Members were able to take part in small group information sessions while learning about various dental hygiene techniques and enjoyed fun dental themed competitions. At the end of the clinic, each member left with a take-home dental kit to promote great dental hygiene that they learned throughout the clinic.

Thank you to all the volunteers from the Tufts University School of Dental Medicine for spending the afternoon with us. For more on our partnerships, please contact Brendan McDonald at bmcdonald@bgcdorchester.org.



DID YOU KNOW:
BGCD Thanks Local 223 of
Dorchester for Holiday Toy
Donation: BGCD would like to thank

the Leadership and the Membership of Laborers' Local 223 of Dorchester for their generous donation of toys and gifts for Club members for the holidays.

The members of Local 223 stopped by this past weekend to drop off all of the donations just in time for our on-site celebrations for our members.

A special thank you to all of our friends at Laborers' Local 223 of Dorchester for their continued support. Your generosity and donation will help create an amazing holiday season for the members of BGCD.

For more information on holiday giving, please contact Mary Scannell at mscannell@bgcdorchester.org.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Ugly Sweater Party - Harp & Bard December 16

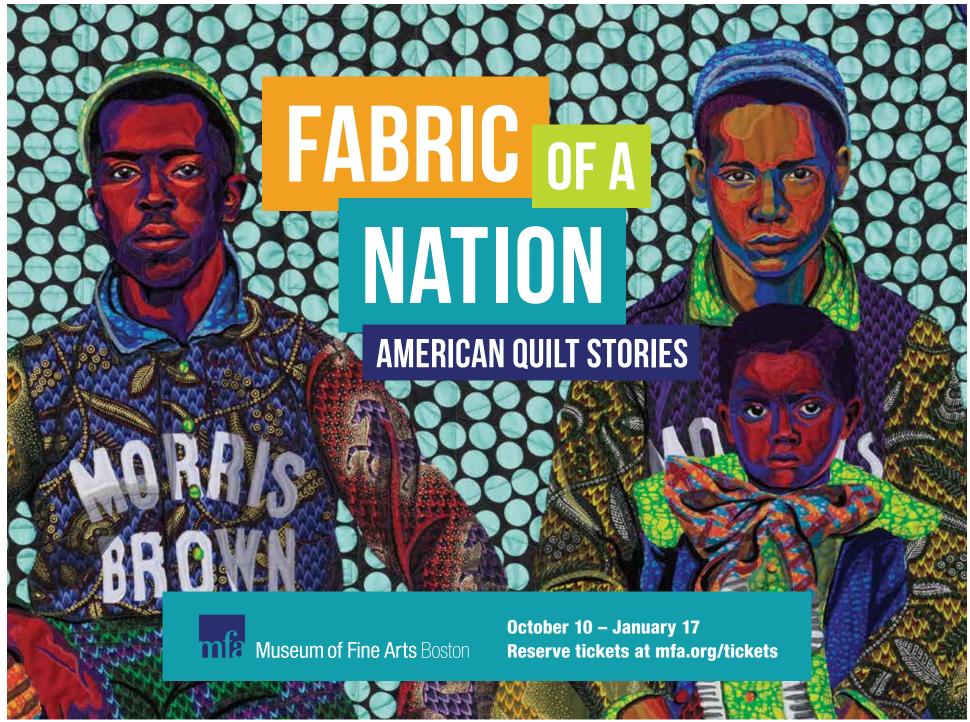
**Christmas Eve - Closed December 24** 

New Years Eve - Closed December 31

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



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# 'Dorchester Bay City' plan now includes teachers' union parcel

or 2.27 acres, of space. The union will retain 19,000 square feet for a new headquarters – a five-story office building with 80,880 square feet of space after its existing building is demolished.

On Friday, the developers filed a draft project impact report (DPIR), which included the news of the BTU agreement. The filing became public on Monday.

The union will develop, finance, and operate one of the three buildings, independent of the "Dorchester Bay City" project. "The addition of the BTU property to the Project Site greatly improves the connectivity of the street layout toward the Dorchester Shores Reservation, Day Boulevard, and Moakley Park," developers said in their filing.

In 2015, the union notified city and state officials of their intention to build a new headquarters, saying they planned a 52,000-square-foot office building and a two-story garage. But that plan saw little public movement. The union has been in the building since 1972, and it currently is one level, with 32,000 square feet and 138 surface parking

"As our union has developed, so has the necessity for a building that meets our members' needs, especially as the existing building has aged," Erik Berg, BTU vice president, said in a statement on Monday. "We are pleased that our engagement with Accordia Partners will allow us to construct a new headquarters so that we can meet our organizational mission and vision for future generations of BTU educators."

With the BTU parcel, "Dorchester Bay City" will have three new buildings with 188 residential units, 390,000 square feet of office and research space, and 17,300 square feet of retail and commercial space.

The total number of proposed residential units now stands at 1,970, and the proposed amount of open space at 15.4 acres. The plans call for 2,865 parking spaces, 165,000 square feet of ground floor retail and commercial space, and 4.3 million square feet of office, research, and development space.

Developers are in discussions with state and city officials about state financing for the design and construction of improvements to the shore-

(Continued from page 1) line to guard against sea level rise, as well as improvements to Kosciusko Circle, as well as upgrades to JFK/UMass MBTA station.

"Any such public funds would complement private financing to be generated by the Project as well as other private developments in the area, all of which will benefit, either directly or indirectly, from such off-site infrastructure improvements," developers said in their Dec. 10 filing.

The filing calls for the project to be constructed in five phases, starting with the area adjacent to the Harbor Point Apartments and ending with 2 Morrissey, which will be demolished to make way for new buildings.

"Early phases are aimed at regrading portions of the Bayside Site to provide early stage flood protection for the proposed buildings and installing utility infrastructure, including a new stormwater man-agement system," the filing said. "These early efforts will also include creating the initial portions of the street/bicycle lane and sidewalk network that will be created at the Project as well as a temporary open space for public access.'

After it is complete, the project is expected to provide between 13,000 and 17,000 jobs, and add \$78 million in net new property tax revenues.

Developers also plan an "urban woodland" that will serve as a pedestrian route between the JFK/UMass station  $and\,Boston\,College\,High$ School, as well as the Mc-Cormack Middle School. "A new covered public walkway at the ground floor of the new buildings along Morrissey Boulevard will provide a secondary route for students at Boston College High School during inclement weather," the filing said.

The project also expects to have 12,500 square feet of civic, community, or cultural space across multiple buildings, serving as a community art gallery, arts workshops, or a small performance space for concerns and speakers' series.

As part of their proposal, the developers have committed \$10 million to the Massachusetts Affordable Housing Alliance, a non-profit focused on homebuyer education and matched savings for buying a home.

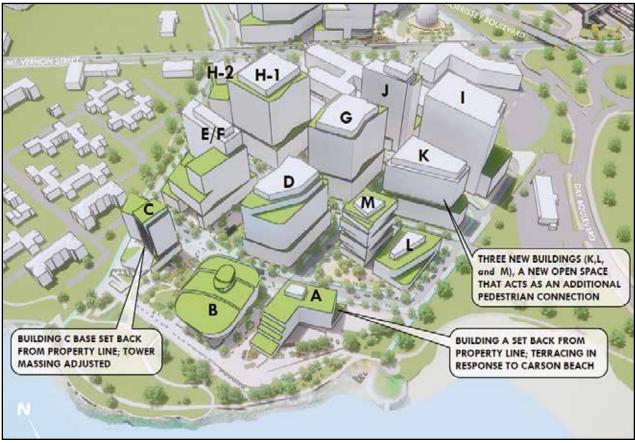
Construction of the project, which requires signoffs from a variety



The purchase of a portion of the Boston Teachers Union property at 180 Mt. Vernon has led to changes in the "Dorchester Bay City" development proposal. The project is adding three new buildings, labeled as K, L and M in the latest renderings. The newest filing from the developers lays out the mix of office and research, and residential space ( $\bar{t}op$ ). The bottom rendering showcases the changes developers made after first proposing the project in 2020. The middle rendering offers a look at Mount Vernon Street from JFK/UMass MBTA, which is currently not known to be pedestrian-friendly.

Renderings courtesy of Accordia Partners





of city and state agencies, is expected to get underway in the second

quarter of 2023 and wrap up in 2040. A virtual meeting on

the project, hosted by the Boston Planning and Development Agency

(BPDA), was set for Wednesday after the Reporter went to press.

## As stimulant use, deaths rise, panel is asked to find out why

#### By Martha Bebinger WBUR REPORTER

The long shadow of the opioid epidemic hides a twin problem: the rising use of, and deaths from, stimulants such as cocaine, crack, and methamphetamine. In Massachusetts, a state commission is looking at who is most affected, why, and what can be done about it.

The panel was formed amid increasing concern about meth, including a 2020 report that showed stimulant overdose deaths up more than 400 percent since 2010. Data presented on Dec. 8 at the commission's first meeting offered more specifics: Most of the meth supply is in the Boston area, and meth users are predominantly white. About 25 percent of men who have sex with men report using a stimulant, usually crystal meth. And 10 percent of admissions to addiction treatment programs so far this year are for meth use, up from 1.4 percent in 2005.

The latest statewide numbers point to cocaine as the main concern when it comes to stimulants. Of all overdose deaths currently involving stimulants, 86 percent show the presence

to an analysis presented to the commission, Latino patients enrolled in drug treatment programs report crack and cocaine use more often than whites. Drug users surveyed say cocaine is cheaper than meth.

The main reason deaths traced to cocaine are higher right now in Massachusetts than those involving meth may be the powerful opioid, fentanyl. Traci Green, with the Opioid Policy Research Collaborative at Brandeis University, has been testing residue from discarded drug supplies in Quincy, New Bedford, Lynn, Lowell, Boston, and Berkshire County. She found fentanyl in 25 percent of powder cocaine samples; none in samples of meth.

"This, potentially, is unwitting exposure for someone who might be snorting cocaine," said Green, who is also a member of the meth commission.

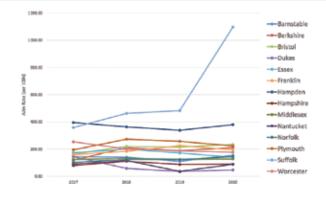
Green warned about a range of illicit drug issues beyond meth and stimulants. She also found fentanyl in 26 percent of counterfeit pills, typically pain medications, sold on the streets. A fake Adderall

of cocaine. According pill contained meth, and a fake benzo included an anti-anxiety medication not approved in the US.

**December 16, 2021** 

Together, these findings suggest the state needs to do a lot more outreach to recreational drug users who may not know that fentanvl can cut off breathing within minutes. Green told the commission that people who use drugs can check what they buy with fentanyl test strips, they must not use alone, and they should carry naloxone, the drug that reverses an opioid overdose.

A very small fraction, only 7 percent of the Stimulant-Related ED Admission Rates by County (FY2017-2020)



When examining th data on ED the spike in ED admissions related to any stimulant were driven by a large spike in Suffolk county, while trends remained flat.

1,400 samples Green has tested to date, included meth. However, Green reported seeing a more deadly form of fentanyl, 4-Flurofentanyl, which can trigger a fatal overdose within seconds. And she's finding something she calls strange: samples sold as dope or heroin are actually all meth or include meth.

"This is a twist on the story that I had not anticipated," Green said, "but there may be multiple pathways that people are

exposed to methamphetamine. This is important for treatment."

The panel is scheduled to hold three more meetings and send a report to the Legislature by the end of March.



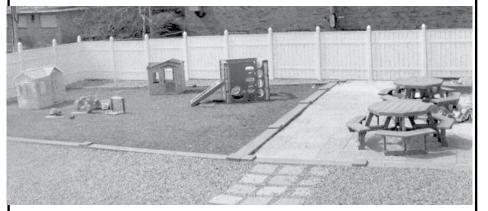
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## RECENT OBITUARIES

BAIONA, Kathleen E. (Waters) of Roslindale. Wife of William Baiona. Mother of John Baiona of Roslindale. Sister of Joanne Waters of Chelmsford, Patricia Callahan of Medfield and the late Thomas Waters, Michael Waters, Kevin Waters and Noreen Pero. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Contributions in Kathleen's memory may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis,

TN 38105 (Stjude.org). **BAKER, Rachel A.**,
32, of Quincy, formerly of
Dorchester. Wife of Edson Ferreira. Daughter of Maryann L. (Linnell) Baker of Morrill, Maine, and



the late R. Louis Baker. Sister of Michael Baker of Las Vegas, Erin and her husband David Scalli of Maine, Irene Baker of Maine, Joseph Baker of Dorchester, and the late Brooke J. Baker. Step-mother of Klivian Ferreira of Quincy. Rachel is also survived by many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

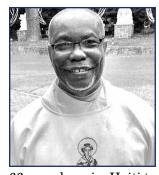
BROWN, Gerald

R., 75, of Dorchester. Son to the late Stanley W. and Shirley (Horne)



Brown. Over the years he worked as a florist in and around Dorchester. Mr. Brown leaves behind his brother, Richard and his wife Julia and their four children. He was predeceased by his brother, Stanley H. Mr. Brown is survived by Stanley's wife, Gail of Milford and their four children. Memorial donations can be made in Mr. Brown's name to the Animal Rescue League of Boston, 10 Chandler St., Boston MA 02116.

DORLUS, Joseph Emmanuel "Manno,"



66, was born in Haiti to the late Marinette Saintilus and Philoxene Dorlus. Manno is survived by his wife, Marie CW Legerme; his daughter Gaëlle Dorlus and son Gidley Dorlus. Also, his two adopted daughters, Daphnide and Floredith Legerme. In addition, his mother-in-law, Madeleine Legerme, and his sister Orphelia Voltus. Manno also leaves behind a host of cousins, nieces, and nephews. He was very active at Saint Angela's Parish, now Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, and over the

years held many leadership roles. Manno was the former president of La Sainte Famille (Holy Family group). He was also a Catechist, teaching confirmation classes for high school students. He participated in the RCIA program. In 2015, he was ordained as a permanent Deacon and continued to work as a pastoral associate at the church until the end of his life.



FLOWERS, Peter T.,76, of Quincy. Born in New York City, NY, raised and educated in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. He lived in Quincy for seven years, previously in Milton for over twenty years, and earlier in Dorchester for fifteen years. Husband of Mary (D'Aloisio) Flowers. Father of Ashley F. Fleming and her husband Liam of Braintree, Jake L. Flowers of Berlin, Germany. Grandfather of 2. For those who wish, donations in Peter's memory may be made to John Adams HealthCare Center, 211 Franklin St., Quincy, MA 02169. JOHNSON, Ronald



Edward of Dorchester. Educator and guidance counselor, Boston Public Schools for 47 years. Husband of Valarie-Jean Brown-Johnson of Dorchester. Father of Stephan Brown of New York, NY, and Brandon Johnson of Boston. Son of the late Lillian C. Johnson and Croal

beth Johnson of Boston and the late Croal Johnson, Jr. He is survived by a host of extended family, colleagues, and friends Donations in Ron's memory may be sent to https://gofund. me/13dbb832.

L. Johnson. Brother of

LaVerne Johnson of Boston, Martin Johnson

of New York, NY, Lisa-



KING, Margaret M. (Fitzgibbons) of Dorchester. Wife of the late Patrick J. King. Mother of Peggy Tomasini and her husband Raymond of Dorchester, Matthew F. King and his wife Robin of West Roxbury, Patrick J. King, Jr. of Quincy and Joseph F. King (Ret. M.S.P.) and his wife Jamie of Canton. Grandmother of 6. Sister of the late Jack Fitzgibbons. If desired, contributions in Margaret's memory may be made to the charity of your choice.



PEARSON, Barbara (**Brown**), 73, of Boston,. Daughter of the late William and Queen Esther (Joyner) Brown. Wife of the late James Pearson. Mother of Paula Pearson. Grandmother of 2. Sister of Ernest Joyner, Ruben Joyner, Jesse Singleton and Perry Jesse Brown. Also survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.



PROVOST, Ann M. (Tayne), 92, of Westwood, formerly of North Attleboro and Dorchester. Wife of the late Norman Provost and sister of the late Catherine M. Griffin, Henry J. Tayne, Jr., and Edward J. Tayne. She is survived by her sister-in-law Barbara Tayne of Franklin, and her many nieces and nephews. Ann worked for Boston Edison for over 30 years. Donations in Ann's name can be made to The Friends of the Westwood Council on Aging, 60 Nahatan St., Westwood, MA 02090.

### **Bridge Boston Charter School**

**LEGAL NOTICE** 

has released a

#### **Request for Proposals**

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Responses are due by 5pm on Friday, January 7, 2022.

All responses can be emailed to Nicole Dorn at

#### ndorn@bridgebostoncs.org.

Bridge Boston reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.

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#### **LEGAL NOTICE**

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT SUFFOLK PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT 24 NEW CHARDON STREET BOSTON, MA 02114 617-788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION CITATION ON PETITION
FOR SALE OF REAL ESTATE
BY A PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE
Docket No. SU19P1395EA
ESTATE OF:
PAUL ANGELO MACELLO, SR. Date of Death: 12/06/2007

Date of Dearn: IZUWZUW.

To all interested persons:
A Petition For Sale of Real Estate has been filed by: Paul A. Macello, Jr. of Hull,
MA requesting that the court authorize the Personal Representative to sell the decedent's real estate at a private sale.

MPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court You have a right to object to this proceeding.
To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/22/2021.

of 12/22/2021.

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

Date: December 06, 2021

Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate Published: December 16, 2021









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19 Crimes Cabernet **Chateau Haute Cabanieux Medoc** 

Casillero del Diablo Chardonnay Freixenet 750ml

**Chateau Grand Versennes Bordeaux** 

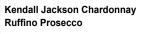
RELAX





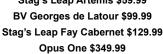


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Moet Nectar Imperial \$54.99 Austin Hope Cabernet \$49.99

'Ace of Spade Rose" \$349.99



**Angeline Pinot Noir** Harveys Bristol Cream 750ml Woodbridge Varietals 1.5ltr

**Dreaming Tree Cabernet Cockburns Ruby Porto** 



Josh Chardonnay Josh Pinot Noir Josh Sauvignon Blanc Josh Cabernet



Kim Crawford Sauvignon Blanc Drouhin Beajolais Village La Marca Prosecco





Bacardi Silver 1.75ltr Smirnoff 1.75ltr E&J Brandy 1.75ltr

Aperol 750ml Seagrams Seven Crown 1.75ltr Hiram Walker Coffee Brandy 1.75ltr









Stella Artois	12pk Bt
Sam Adams	12pk bt
Cisco	12pk Car
Blue Moon	15pk
Goose Island	15pk
Smutty Nose	12pk Car
Amstel Light	12pk Bt
Corona	12pk Car
Guinness Stout	12pk Bt
Modelo Especial	12pk Bt
Angry Variety	12pk Bt
Strongbow	12pk Bt

Wachusett	12pk Can .	\$14.99
Lagunitas IPA	12pk Btl	\$14.99
Founders IPA	15pk	\$14.99
Harpoon Rec League	15pk	\$14.99
Bud & Bud Light	18pk Can .	\$14.99
Down East	9pk	\$14.99
Magners	12pk Btl	\$14.99
Bevy Long Drink	12pk	\$14.99









Basil Hayden 750ml \$33.99 Jim Beam 1.75ltr \$26.99 Johnnie Walker Black 1.75ltr \$59.99 Caravella Limoncello 750ml \$16.99



Captain Morgan 1.75ltr \$23.99 Casamigos Blanco 750ml

John Jameson 1.75ltr \$44.99 Jose Cuervo Gold 1.75ltr \$32.99

Glenlivit 15yr 750ml \$69.99 Glenfiddich 12yr \$39.99 Tanqueray Gin 1.75ltr \$34.99 Hennessy 750ml \$39.99

#### **All Liquors Stores Will Be Closed** on Christmas Day Day



**Sale Effective** 12/16/21 to 12/31/21

