

# Dorchester Reporter

"The News and Values Around the Neighborhood"

Volume 39 Issue 50

Thursday, December 15, 2022

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A rendering from the most recent iteration of the Dorchester Bay City proposal shows how a new Pavilion (foreground) would be situated close to what planners call the Dorchester Esplanade.

Image courtesy Accordia Partners, LLC/Stantec Architecture

## Latest plan for Dot Bay City adds a waterside 'Esplanade'

Developer drops building for 3.5-acre green space

By BILL FORRY  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

A massive proposal to transform 36.5 acres of Dorchester's Columbia Point waterfront into a mixed-use community was updated this week with significant changes to plans for affordability, open space, and public amenities.

The latest iteration of the Dorchester Bay City (DBC) initiative put forward by Accordia Partners, LLC, on Tuesday reflects changes suggested in a series of public meetings held in coordination with the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) over the last two years.

Once approved, the project would be built out in phases, much of it on land

leased from the University of Massachusetts, which stands to realize more than \$200 million in payments over time. If fully built out as envisioned, the DBC footprint would include 1,957 residential units, more than 4 million square feet of office and research space, and over 180,000 square feet of retail and restaurant space across 21 development blocks bisected by Mount Vernon Street.

This latest version of the project also calls for nearly 20 acres of open and green space, including a "Dorchester Green and Dorchester Bay Esplanade" — a 3.5-acre waterside open space that the development team says is an important new element of the plan.

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## FRUSTRATION, FEAR, AND VIOLENCE Dot, Mattapan residents air experiences

By SETH DANIEL  
NEWS EDITOR

Statistics kept by Boston Police show that shootings and gun violence are at an all-time low across Boston. But, in pockets of Dorchester and Mattapan, residents say that fear and anxiety about shootings is at an all-time high. Grappling with how those two realities can both be true at the same time was a central theme at a City Council-sponsored hearing last Thursday evening at the Lilla Frederick Middle School on Columbia Road.

The hearing was organized by City Councillors Brian Worrell and Tania Fernandes Anderson in the midst of a long stretch of shootings, homicides, and aggravated assaults. However, it was a broad-daylight shooting on Dec. 5 in front of the Joseph Lee K-8 School on Talbot Avenue just after school



Police Commissioner Michael Cox and the city's senior adviser for public safety Rufus Faulk, above, were all ears as residents like Marvinna Patterson aired their frustrations at last Thursday's meeting. "I don't go to restaurants in my neighborhood because I'm fearful of what might happen when I'm there," she told them.

Seth Daniel photos

hours that grabbed the spotlight in the moment. "The question we have



to ask is who is Boston safe for," said Worrell. "Outside the Joseph Lee School in District 4 on

Monday more than 25 shots were fired...Kids took cover in buses and under desks and the school was on lockdown. Two people were injured by gunfire."

He added: "Crime stats may be on the downward trend, but this kind of violence looms large for District 4. I am tired of offering thoughts and prayers. There should be zero shots fired. One shot fired each year is too many."

Mayor Michelle Wu, who did not attend the hearing, talked about the issue with the Reporter afterwards. "People's memories and life experiences stretch back to include all of those incidents for many lifelong Bostonians, particularly when the fear of violence affects your life more than what any numbers would tell anyone," she said.

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## City unveils its 'action plan' for upgrades across Franklin Park

By SETH DANIEL  
NEWS EDITOR

Franklin Park spreads across 527 acres where Dorchester, Roxbury, and Jamaica Plain meet, and a new 400-page city document made public on Tuesday features upgrades over decades on just about every foot of that green space, a key link in Frederick Law Olmsted's Emerald Necklace.

The Franklin Park Action Plan is a roadmap for using a \$23 million infusion of money delivered through the 2017 sale of a downtown garage to improve and maintain the parkland. In an official ceremony on the "ruins" that were once the location of the original Elma Lewis Playhouse, city officials and community members discussed the opportunities presented by the bountiful funding.

"Our goal is to ensure that Franklin Park today is as beautiful and accessible as any space in the city — one that really reflects the roots of this Ol-



City's chief of Environment Mariama White-Hammond.

Seth Daniel photo

(Continued on page 13)

## ZBA overhaul teed up for councillors to vote on

By GINTAUTAS DUMCIUS  
MANAGING EDITOR

A slate of Mayor Michelle Wu's nominees for the Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA), a powerful city panel, was set to advance through the City Council this week.

A critic of the ZBA on the mayoral campaign trail, Wu put forward the slate in September,

proposing to reappoint just three people who served under previous administrations.

The ZBA has 14 members, with seven serving "primary" roles and seven as "alternates," who serve when the primary members are unable to participate at a hearing. State law calls for the panel to include

people from the world of architects, construction unions, and the building/real estate sectors.

The nominees require approval from the City Council, which could vote to approve the names Wednesday afternoon, at their last meeting of the year. The panel's planning and development committee, chaired by

Dorchester Councillor Frank Baker, heard testimony from 8 of Wu's 13 nominees, a mix of appointments and reappointments, on Monday.

The terms run three years and members receive a stipend of \$200 a day, maxing out at \$24,000 per year.

Two of Wu's proposed reappointments — Sher-

ry Dong of Dorchester, who began serving under Mayor Walsh in 2021, and Hansy Better Baraza, a Roslindale architect — appeared before Baker's committee.

Dong has worked for 20 years at Tufts Medical Center, serving as senior director of community benefits and health

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Police, Courts & Fire

## BPD, feds raid Minot St. unit, find a rifle, ammo; two men held on charges

Two men were arraigned in Dorchester court on Monday on separate gun cases following a search warrant raid last Friday morning at an apartment on Minot Street. DA Kevin Hayden said the target of that raid, Ariel Wiggins, 23, is accused of possessing a 7.62mm rifle, three high-capacity magazines, and several rounds of ammunition. Hayden said that federal agents from the Boston office of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives and members of the Boston Police Youth Violence Strike Force executed the search. Wiggins is due back in court for a hearing on Jan. 26.

Separately, a 41 year-old Dorchester man, Cory Robinson, was arraigned Monday following his arrest on Saturday night near Mattapan Square after police looking for a suspect in an armed robbery attempt on Blue Hill Avenue spotted him near the Mattapan T station on River Street. Once in custody after a brief foot chase, police say they found a loaded Taurus handgun in an alleyway. Robinson is accused of tossing the weapon as he ran. Police say he has a “lengthy criminal record, including firearm convictions dating back to the early 2000s.” He’s also been charged with pistol-whipping the person he tried to rob in the earlier incident on Dec. 8. Robinson was ordered held without bail pending a dangerousness hearing scheduled for Dec. 19.

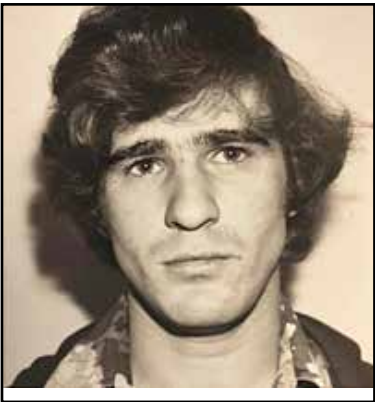
“These arrests and arraignments underscore yet again the presence of high-capacity weaponry on our streets and the constant danger these weapons pose to law enforcement officers and the residents of our neighborhoods,” Hayden said.

•••

Boston Police will host a “no questions asked” gun “buy-back” this weekend at several sites across the city, including two Dorchester locations. People who drop off a firearm will receive a \$100 gift card in return, according to police, who say that the weapons can be turned in anonymously between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. The locations in Dorchester are Prince Hall Lodge, 24 Washington St., and New Life Restoration Temple, 38-40 Centre St., Codman Square. Call 617-343-4827 for more info.

### A cold case from 1979

Boston Police posted an appeal this week for information about a decades-old missing person case out of South Boston. Joseph Patrick Breen was 23 years old when he disappeared on the evening of Nov. 12, 1979. “He has not been seen or heard from since,” the BPD says. Breen was described as a white male, 140 pounds, 5 feet, 6 inches tall, with black hair and hazel eyes. If anyone has any information about his whereabouts, please contact the BPD’s Unsolved Squad at 617-343-4470. Or call or text in a tip anonymously to 1-800-494-TIPS.



A elementary school girl brought a firearm to school in a backpack last Friday (Dec. 9) at the Saint John Paul II Columbia Campus in Dorchester, according to Boston Police and the archdiocese of Boston. Police officials said that before the start of the school day, staff members spotted a gun in the student’s bag and summoned police to the scene. Further inquiry found that the bag belonged to another family member, and the girl –said to be 7 years old – mistakenly

## Early flu season taking a toll at schools, hospitals; rates for over 65 rise steeply

BY GABRIELLE EMANUEL  
WBUR REPORTER

Influenza is hitting Massachusetts early and hard. According to new data from the state’s Department of Public Health, its severity is estimated to be “very high.” There were 5,462 new cases recorded last week, nearly double the number from the week before and significantly more than at this time in any of the past three years.

Flu hospitalization rates have also been rising steeply, with the highest among adults over 65. But children have also been hard hit, the report noted, with the second highest rate of hospitalizations among children up to age 4 and pediatricians reporting a surge of patients visiting their offices with flu-like symptoms.

“It’s been about 10 years since a really, really, really bad flu outbreak, and we’re there again,” said Mary Beth Miotto, president of the Massachusetts chapter of the American Academy of Pediatricians.

Last Thursday, the Boston Public Health Commission warned

residents of a rapid and “concerning” rise in flu cases in the city. Last week alone, the agency said, there were more than 700 cases reported, a number nearly three times as high as the worst week during the prior flu season.

Flu infection rates have been muted over the past couple of years, experts said, as many people continued to wear masks and take other precautions to slow the spread of Covid. Now that fewer people are taking those steps to avoid infection, respiratory viruses — including flu and RSV — have increased.

Since the start of the current flu season in October, more than 1,700 flu cases have been reported in Boston, with Black and Latino residents disproportionately impacted, the data show.

City health officials also noted a rapid increase in influenza-related pediatric hospitalizations last week. Nearly 60 percent of all flu cases identified in Boston have been in children and teens.

The numbers do not surprise Miotto. They mirror what she has been seeing among her patients at the Mattapan Community Health Center, where she’s a pediatrician. Last week, “It was flu, flu, flu, Covid, and flu, flu, flu, flu,” she said. “I think I had one patient who didn’t have flu.”

Miotto said that pediatricians are managing the influx of respiratory viruses, but their offices are busy, adding that families may need to be patient with staff and pharmacists who are working hard.

Cathryn Hampson, president of the Massachusetts School Nurse Organization, said respiratory viruses are “running rampant” in schools and keeping school-based nurses busy. Many staff and students are out sick, she noted.

“If we had seen this prior to Covid, school nurses might have been overwhelmed,” Hampson said. But, after the stress of the pandemic and the demands of daily coronavirus testing, “the bar for being overwhelmed kind of moved up,” she said.

Nationally, flu-related

hospitalizations at this time of year are higher than the country has seen in a decade, said Rochelle Walensky, director of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She noted that health experts have been comparing this year’s numbers to 2009-2010, when H1N1, or swine flu, swept the country.

Unfortunately, Walensky said, “We are seeing lower rates of flu vaccination compared to this time last year.”

While most people recover from flu without hospitalization, the illness can be dangerous. So far this season, 21 children have died, according to the CDC.

Miotto urged everyone to return to the strategies learned during the pandemic to slow the spread of infectious disease: Get the flu vaccine, wash hands often, wear a mask in busy public places, and stay home when sick.

“We’ve forgotten that we have tools,” said Miotto. “I was so impressed with the public in that first year of Covid; we all really pulled together, and I think maybe people are tired.”

## Gun found in girl’s backpack on St. John Paul II Columbia campus

brought it to school. It has not been revealed if the gun was loaded.

The family member who had the gun was licensed to have the firearm but was summoned to court on charges that were not made available to the *Reporter*. No arrests were made in the case.

In a letter from the central office of Saint John Paul II Academy, Regional Director Catherine Brandley said that “The Boston Police were contacted immediately, and they came to the school to

assist with the matter. At no time was there a threat or danger to the students, staff, or anyone.”

— REPORTER STAFF

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Opinion/Editorial/Letters .....	8	Published Weekly Periodical postage paid at Boston, MA.
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## UPCOMING CIVIC MEETINGS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Gov.-elect Maura Healey and Lt. Gov.-elect Kim Driscoll plan to hold their inaugural celebration at TD Garden on the night of Thursday, Jan. 5.** Healey and Lt. Governor-elect Driscoll have attached the theme “Moving the Ball Forward” to their inaugural, a reference to their time as college and professional basketball players. “The inaugural team said Wednesday that tickets will become available “in the coming weeks” as well as details about the timing, ticketing, program, and additional events. The new Legislature will be sworn in on Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2023, and Healey and Driscoll will be sworn in on Jan. 5. Gov. Charlie Baker said this fall in a radio interview that he plans to take the traditional “lone walk” down the front steps on Jan. 4, a day before he officially leaves office. - Michael P. Norton/SHNS

**Hearts, Hugs & Hope: A Virtual Alzheimer’s support group offered by**

**Standish Village Assisted Living and Memory support community meets on Thurs., Dec. 15 at 6 p.m.** Dealing with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementia isn’t easy, so it is helpful to share your concerns and personal experiences with others who completely understand what you’re going through. You will also learn about proven strategies to help you better care for your family member. Email Director of Compass Programming Joe Cawley at [jcawley@standishvillage.com](mailto:jcawley@standishvillage.com) for the virtual meeting information.

**Whittier Street Health Center hosts a Clean Teeth for Toys event on Friday, Dec. 16, 3:30-6:30 p.m.** at the second-floor community room. Bring your child between the ages of 0-17 to get a toy from Santa. For more info, call Xiomara at 617-989-3112.

**Members of the First Baptist Church at 401 Ashmont St. in Dorchester invite members of the community to attend**

**a Christmas Candlelight Service on Sunday, Dec. 18 at 7 p.m.** The service will feature scripture, candlelight, and recorded carols. Light refreshments follow the service.

**The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) encourages residents to get their COVID-19 booster and annual flu vaccination.** The updated boosters are available for everyone ages 5 and older. BPHC operates several free, walk-in clinics that offer COVID-19 testing, vaccines, boosters, and flu shots. No insurance, no IDs, and no appointments are needed at these sites. Locations include: **BCYF Hyde Park Community Center:** 1179 River St, Hyde Park. Open Tuesdays from 12-8 p.m.; Thursdays from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; **Bruce C. Bolling Building:** 2302 Washington St, Roxbury. Open Tuesdays-Saturdays from 12-8 p.m.; **Lena Park Community Development Corporation:** 150 American Legion Hwy,

Dorchester. Open Sundays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Mondays from 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Wednesdays from 12-7 p.m.; and Fridays from 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. For more information about where to find a COVID-19 vaccination or testing clinic near you, visit [boston.gov/covid19](https://boston.gov/covid19).

**The Salvation Army locations across Boston are still accepting applications for holiday assistance through its annual Boston Christmas Castle distribution.** Boston residents are encouraged to apply as soon as possible given that spots fill up quickly. To register for holiday assistance and for other resources, Boston residents should visit their local Boston Salvation Army Corps Community Center or visit [salvationarmyma.org/bostonholidayhelp](https://salvationarmyma.org/bostonholidayhelp).

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# BPS teacher planning run for District 3 Council seat

**BY GINTAUTAS DUMCIUS**  
**MANAGING EDITOR**

Joel Richards, a Boston Public Schools teacher and pastor who ran for the District 4 City Council seat in 2021, says he is planning to make another run for office next year. But this time he'll be running for the District 3 City Council seat. Councillors redrew the political boundaries of the nine Council districts as part of the process known as redistricting, and Richards now lives in District 3.

Frank Baker, who has represented District 3 since 2012, has not yet publicly said that he is running for reelection, though he raised nearly \$30,000 last month. The 2023 municipal election cycle will feature the City Council on the ballot; the mayorship isn't up again until 2025.

The redrawn District 3 has



**Joel Richards, a teacher and a pastor who ran for District 4's Council seat in 2021, is setting his sights on District 3 in 2023.**  
*Image via Facebook*

lost most of the Neponset area, while gaining precincts in South Boston. It also includes a part of the South End.

A teacher at Blackstone Elementary School in the South End, Richards has served as president of Fields Corner Main Street and he is a board member of Little Saigon, also located in Fields Corner. He helped create and plan Dorchester's Juneteenth celebration.

"I've seen how inequality pervades our society and creates barriers for so many," he said in a statement. "But I've also seen through scripture the inherent good in all of us and our ability to address these issues. But when fractured politics and personal quibbles get in the way, we lose our vision and we do not do justice for the city of Boston. We need a unified council that acts with the urgency and efficiency that the problems affecting our working families require."

Richards was one of nine candidates who ran for the District 4 seat in 2021. It opened up after incumbent Andrea Campbell launched a run for mayor. Campbell is now attorney general-elect.

Richards didn't make it past the preliminary, coming in third behind finalists Brian Worrell and Evandro

Carvalho. Worrell won the November final in District 4, which includes Dorchester and Mattapan.

Baker, who lives in the Columbia-Savin Hill area, had his own challenger that year: Stephen McBride, a Pennsylvania native living on Jones Hill. The incumbent handily won reelection, 63 percent (8,518 votes) to McBride's 37 percent (4,972 votes).

Baker currently has \$87,700 in cash on hand, according to public filings with the state Office of Campaign and Political Finance (OCPF). In November, he raised \$28,000, including \$500 from the Boston Police Detectives Political Action Committee (PAC), \$250 from the Greater Boston Real Estate Board PAC, and \$100 from John O'Toole, his opponent in 2011.

## DA Hayden names transition team

Suffolk District Attorney Kevin Hayden, who was appointed to the job by Gov. Charlie Baker before winning the post in the election this fall, has named a transition and community advisory panel that will offer recommendations on the operation of the DA's office, advice on policies, and seek to increase community engagement.

The panel has three co-chairs: East Boston state Sen. Lydia Edwards, nonprofit leader and former prosecutor Robert Gittens, and Rev. Dr. Ray Hammond, co-founder of Bethel A.M.E. Church and chair of the Ten Point Coalition, an anti-violence group.

Other members include: Andrea Cabral, a cannabis company CEO and former Suffolk sheriff; Annissa Essaibi George, president and CEO of Big Sister Boston and a former city councillor and candidate for mayor; Darryl Smith, co-founder of the Communities of Color coalition and former chair of Mayor Thomas Menino's neighborhood response team.

Also, John McGann, president and CEO of the Gavin Foundation; Joseph Feaster Jr., chairman of the Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts; J.W. Carney Jr., criminal defense attorney who famously

represented the South Boston gangster James "Whitey" Bulger; J. Larry Mayes, senior vice president of government and community relations at Catholic Charities for the Archdiocese of Boston. Linda Dorcena Forry, former state senator and representative for Dorchester, Mattapan, and South Boston. She is the wife of Dorchester Reporter executive editor Bill Forry.

Lisa Holmes, UMass

Boston lecturer and former Boston police officer.

Also, Louis Elisa, former president of the NAACP's Boston branch; Marjorie Pauleon Tynes, attorney and former Suffolk prosecutor and victim witness advocate; Michael Kozu, co-director of Project RIGHT; Nick Collins, state senator for First Suffolk District, Paulo DeBarros, director of the teen center at St. Peter's Church in Dorchester.

"This is an extraordinary group of individuals with extensive knowledge of administrative functions and city and county issues ranging from legal system operations to civic engagement," Hayden said in a statement. "I'm deeply grateful for their willingness to help shape our approach over the next four years."

— REPORTER STAFF



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**Let's get to work.**

# Holiday spirit fuels Halfway to Dot Day 5k

The 7th annual Halfway to Dot Day Road Race took place on Saturday, Dec. 10, on the Neponset Greenway and in Pope John Paul II Park. More than 500 registered for the event, which has no connection to the Dorchester Day Parade but does mark the halfway point on the calendar. More than 100 school-kids from the Murphy School and others participated in the Road Race as part of the Boston Public Schools Soul Train Running Group. The race is put on by the Dorchester Running Club (DRC), and President Stefanie O'Shea said they had chosen five youth organizations in the neighborhood to support with proceeds from the race. Those benefiting included ADSL, Miss Linda's School of Dance, Dorchester Youth Soccer, MR8 Challenger League, and Youth Enrichment Services (YES).  
*Seth Daniel photos*



City Councillor Erin Murphy with DRC President Stefanie O'Shea and other DRC members in Florian Hall preparing for the start of the race on Saturday, Dec. 10. More than 500 people signed up to run the charity race.



Declan Harrington and Tom Mannion bundle up for the race.



And they're off! Runners take off at the starting line in Neponset on Saturday, Dec. 15, in the 7th annual Halfway to Dot Day Road Race.



Isaque Alves Depina-Mendes and Jayden Medina, with teacher Chet Lang – all the Murphy K-8 School – were running with the BPS Soul Train group. The group has been participating for several years and had more than 100 runners register this year.



Long-time runners Bob Johnston, Jack Graney, John Cullan, and Glen Mullen with Rudolph before the race.



From Elliott Physical Therapy, Seneca Spargo and Amanda Issler took time to pose with Frosty, Santa Claus and Rudolph.



Standing tall in stripes were Brian and Margo Fannon as they warmed up at the starting line.



James and Neil Janulewicz getting ready to run.



Councillor Erin Murphy addresses the runners with DRC President Stefanie O'Shea.



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Reporter's

People

News about people... and tigers in and around our Neighborhoods

# Boston Ballet's 'Nutcracker' production includes 4 grade-school dancers from Dot

Four Dorchester young ladies from the Boston Ballet School (BBS) are displaying their dancing talents this holiday season in Boston Ballet's 'The Nutcracker' at the Citizens Bank Opera House.

Mairead and Siobhan Manning, Isabella Robbins, and N ria Silva Zongo are performing in Boston Ballet's "The Nutcracker," which opened Nov. 25 with performances through Dec. 31.

The Manning sisters have been students at BBS for a year. Mairead is dancing as both a reindeer and Polichinelle while Siobhan is cast in the role of a lamb. Robbins, who has been a student at BBS for six years, is performing as a flower seller as is Nuria.

Mairead is a fifth grader at Boston Collegiate and Siobhan is a third grader at the Dr. William Henderson Inclusion School. Both girls play with Dorchester Youth Soccer and serve as buddies with the Martin Richard Challenger soccer program through the Boys and Girls Clubs of Dorchester (BGCD). The sisters participate in many activities at BGCD, including swimming on the Marr-lins swim team. They also run in the Youth En-

richment Services' Track program and compete in tournaments through the Her Move Next chess program.

Robbins is a fifth grader at Saint Brendan School, where she earns high honors and writes for the school newspaper. She has a love for all dance and began taking classes when she was two years old. Besides studying at BBS, she attends Miss. Linda's School of Dance in Dorchester and the Woods School of Irish Dance in South Boston.

At both schools, she has competed in many different dance forms all over New England. This spring, along with Miss Linda's School of Dance, she will be performing at Universal Studios.

There isn't a day of the week when Isabella is not attending a dance class or two, but outside of dance she also enjoys playing ADSL softball, CYO basketball, figure skating, and cheering for her twin brother, Brady.

Nuria, who was born in Portugal, took up English when she came to America five years ago and began studying at BBS in March 2021. A seventh grader at Boston Latin School, where she is a member of the Latin Club, she is learning to play the



N ria Silva Zongo, a 7th grader at Boston Latin School, will dance the part of the Flower Seller in Boston Ballet's "The Nutcracker."

Photos courtesy Boston Ballet

viola. She loves sports, particularly swimming, thanks to the Murphy School swim team.

All children performing in Nissinen's "The Nutcracker" are students of Boston Ballet School and Boston Ballet School's Profession-

al Division at Walnut Hill School for the Arts and are coached by an experienced staff that includes Mikko Nissinen, Children's Rehearsal Director Dalay Parrondo, and BBS's faculty.

Students auditioned and began rehearsing



Isabella Robbins, a student at Boston Ballet School for six years, is performing in "The Nutcracker" through Dec. 31.



Mairead and Siobhan Manning of Ashmont.

for the production in October. As part of this experience, they have earned the opportunity to dance alongside Boston Ballet's 63 acclaimed

professional dancers from around the world.

PNC Bank is the presenting sponsor of this "Nutcracker" production.

# Dot actor and cabaret singer De Lorenzo debuts 2nd CD

The award-winning actor and cabaret singer Brian De Lorenzo, of Dorchester, dazzled Greater Boston audiences with the music from his new CD "I Know More Now" last month at Club Cafe in Boston's South End.



At left, Brian De Lorenzo

Accompanied by Doug Hammer on piano, De Lorenzo performed pieces from the CD as well as excerpts from his first CD, "Found Treasures."

"Nearly 20 years after my first recording, I realized I had songs in

the corners of my mind begging me to record them," said De Lorenzo. "So I said to myself, 'I'm going to take these songs to my friend and collaborator Doug Hammer, and we'll record them in his studio and see what comes of it.'"

According to De Lorenzo, the CD title comes from a line in "No More," from Marvin Hamlisch and David Zippel's "The Goodbye Girl."

For more information, visit [briandelorenzo.com](http://briandelorenzo.com).

## YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE

### DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Col. Charles Barnard Fox (1833-1895)

**His Civil War service**

With the sensationalism garnered in the movie "Glory," we reveled in the drama and impact of the Civil War. However, it also served to remind us of why that war was fought. While the 54th Regiment, led by Colonel Robert Gould Shaw, was the first African American regiment formed in Massachusetts, few of us realize that the all-black 55th Regiment was led by a Dorchester, Mass., resident, Charles Barnard Fox, who was the son of the Reverend Thomas B. Fox, editor of the "Boston Transcript." ... Fox had enlisted in the Civil War at Lyceum Hall on Dorchester's Meeting House Hill, which was the local



Col. Charles Barnard Fox

recruiting office. He received his commission as Second Lieutenant in the Thirteenth Massachusetts Infantry; one year later he was made First Lieutenant. In 1863, he was transferred to the Second Massachusetts Cavalry, with the same rank. That same year he was made Major of the 55th Regiment, an African American regiment, being promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel on Nov. 3, 1863.

The 55th Regiment had been trained at Camp Meigs, and was composed of African American men who had everything at stake in the war. ... Fox's obituary in 1895 noted that "It was abundantly shown in his long and meri-

torious service in the army during the civil war, and especially in his readiness to enter a branch of the service that was not regarded with favor even by many who in theory favored perfect equality between races, and which was not calculated to attract the young soldier powerfully, in comparison with the more popular and agreeable positions in white regiments.

"But Colonel Fox believed in the equality of the black men with the white, and whatever he believed he lived up to, and the relations which existed between him and the colored soldiers in his command were ever the most intimate and mutually respectful nature." ...

Col. Fox served in the Army of the Potomac until after the Battle of Fredericksburg, in the Siege of Charleston and in the Campaign in Florida, the Battle of Honey Hill being particularly gruesome. His record of bravery and courage was made known when he was made brevet Colonel of the 55th Regiment; he resigned his commission on June 25, 1865, two months after the end of the Civil War. ... He is buried in the Fox family lot at Forest Hills Cemetery.

The above was excerpted from information at [forest-hillstrust.blogspot.com](http://forest-hillstrust.blogspot.com) that was posted by Anthony M. Sammarco.

Editorial

# Poll of BPS parents gives Skipper a tool

A comprehensive survey of Boston Public School parents released last week shows that while most are at least “somewhat” satisfied by the school system, they are worried about specific flaws that have emerged as consistent issues over the last few months. The polling data – collected in five waves starting in August by the well-respected MassInc Polling Group with backing from the Shah Family Foundation – should be a useful tool for BPS administrators, most notably the new superintendent, Mary Skipper.



Mary Skipper

The survey, which included 850 parents with at least one child in the system right now, indicates that many of the most pressing problems within the school district are “operational,” according to the polling group’s analysis.

In a summary of the report prepared by MassInc Polling’s Steve Koczela, he writes: “Looking just over the last week, only 31 percent of parents whose

children ride the bus to school say the buses have been ‘always on time,’ while 24 percent report that half or less were on time. Hiring enough teachers and keeping them in the classroom has been another major challenge, with 39 percent of parents reporting their children have been taught by a substitute at least a few times a month (10 percent said every day).”

Even with all of those logistical stresses, roughly one-third of those surveyed said they are “very satisfied” with the district. In total, an impressive 79 percent say they are at least “somewhat satisfied” – a remarkable approval rate for a major urban school district.

There are some indicators that should worry administrators, however:

- About one-quarter (24 percent) of parents say their child has “fallen behind” academically, and of those, more than half (57 percent) “think the schools should be doing more to help students catch up.”
- The report shows that a large share of Black parents account for the lowest level of satisfaction, “with 19% calling themselves ‘very satisfied.’”
- The degree to which parents feel they are unable to exert control and give feedback about their child’s education should prompt some reform within the district. This is not a new phenomenon in Boston, according to the pollsters, who’ve been tracking engagement since 2021. In this report, 82 percent of parents say they want “to be very engaged.” But, under half of those surveyed – 46 percent – say they feel empowered to engage with the district. A smaller number – 28 percent – “strongly agree” that their opinions and feedback matters to school leaders.
- Perhaps the most troubling revelation is the number of parents who are “very concerned” about their child’s emotional and physical safety while they’re at school. According to the poll results, 44 percent of parents say they are “very concerned” about physical safety, while 42 percent are worried about their child’s emotional well-being. More than two-thirds – 69 percent – say they are at least “somewhat concerned.”

There’s a lot to unpack here, and there’s also plenty for the district to be proud of. In the right hands, this survey can help make the new Skipper administration even more effective going into a new year.

– Bill Forry

Commentary

# Time once again for Medicare madness

By BILL WALCZAK  
REPORTER COLUMNIST

This time of year, those of us on Medicare get to decide which version we want to have for the next year. The emergence in 1998 of Medicare Advantage plans, which offered privatized capitation alternatives to the traditional Medicare fee-for-service system led to many different plans from many different insurance companies.

Medicare Advantage is lucrative for the insurance companies that participate. Profits for Advantage plans are typically twice what insurance companies earn from their regular insurance products (\$1,608/covered person for Advantage vs. \$779), and so this time of year elders are besieged with advertising by the insurance companies that offer Advantage programs.

Insurance companies make money by paying out less than they take in or by figuring out ways to get more reimbursement. In the Advantage system, this means recruiting healthier elders, or maximizing billing to the federal government. Maximizing billing can be done by ensuring that patients have accurate diagnoses and services are fully billed, or it can be done through looking for ways to exaggerate billable services, sometimes called “upcoding.”

Unfortunately, the Advantage program has gotten a reputation for the latter. In a recent New York Times article (“The Cash Monster Was Insatiable” – How Insurers Exploited Medicare for Billions” (10/8/22), an investigation disclosed that of the ten largest Advantage insurers, eight have overbilled the federal government, and five have been accused of fraud. Among the worst is the very popular United-healthcare Group, which has been accused of fraud by both the US government and a whistle-blower, and is guilty of overbilling, according to the Inspector General of the US. The best Advantage plans increase profits by better management of patient care and heavy marketing to recruit healthier elders.

Advantage plans typically have a lower monthly cost than traditional Medicare, which is an inducement when on fixed income. But unlike traditional Medicare, many Advantage plans also offer some dental insurance, eye care, and coverage for over-the-counter medications. As a result, Advantage plans this year will enroll a larger share of the insured than traditional Medicare.

The problem is that the cost isn’t just the monthly premium. The overall cost to the subscriber depends on whether the plan is a PPO or HMO; it’s deductibles, co-payments, co-insurance, service area coverage, pharmacy and other “doughnut holes,” fees following deductibles, out-of-network coverage, and charges. These terms are esoteric to most patients and clients.

People who have many health needs, or who don’t worry about cost, will likely choose traditional Medicare with a higher cost Medigap insurance. The result is that while you may pay upwards of \$350 per month for Medigap and pharmacy benefits on top of your Medicare Part B premium from the federal government, you won’t be paying anything out of pocket.

I spent 42 years running health care organizations, and I am mystified by much of this. I can’t imagine what a person who is not affiliated with the health care system makes of it all. Perhaps they just believe the massive advertisements and go with what a friend or family member says. This probably works for most

people, who may not have much need of healthcare, but for those who do, inadequate insurance plans can cause a major drain on finances. Even after all the efforts to increase access to health insurance, 66.5 percent of US bankruptcies are related to medical issues. This is no way to run a healthcare system, but it’s what we have available to us as Americans.

So, what did I do?  
I reached out to a state program called SHINE that helps seniors navigate Medicare and I spoke with marketing people from a few insurance companies. I learned a lot. For instance, an HMO plan I was considering would not cover me beyond New England; the plan I currently have does not cover me outside the US; there are copayments for skilled nursing services that are beyond complicated; the pharmaceutical benefit for traditional Medicare is expensive; and the experts I spoke with had gaps in their knowledge of Medicare.

I got past the notion that it’s all about gambling on how healthy you plan to be. (To mis-quote Dirty Harry, “How lucky do I feel, punk!”) I assumed that I’ll likely be relatively healthy, maybe requiring an emergency room visit or two, maybe a CT scan or two, several visits to my primary care doctor at Codman Square Health Center, a few specialty visits, and the likelihood that I’ll still be on the same generic pills. I’d like to get an eyecare exam and dental visit.

I decided that an Advantage plan would give me most of what I need and save me money, as the monthly premium for Advantage plans range from zero to \$100/month. If I’m wrong and need hospitalization, the copayments can be \$200-300/day, though there is a maximum annual out of pocket expense which ranges from \$3,000 to \$8,000. My gamble is that I’ll be pretty healthy in 2023 and can change the plan for 2024 if necessary.

I only looked at Blue Cross and Tufts PPO and HMO Advantage plans. Both are ranked very high for quality and performance by Medicare. Both insurances have premiums that range from \$0-100 per month, with limits on maximum annual out-of-pocket expenditures and dental and eye care benefits.

I went back and forth between the Blue Cross PPO and the Tufts HMO plans, and initially chose the Tufts plan with a \$0 monthly premium and a five-star (the highest) ranking by Medicare. Then I found out that Brigham and Women’s Hospital, where I receive some of my care, is out of network, so, in the interest of preserving greater choice, I went with the four-star Blue Cross PPO Blue Value plan. It has a \$75 per month premium, but preserves greater choice. In case I’m sicker than I think/hope I’ll be, I am somewhat comforted that the maximum annual out-of-pocket expenditure is \$4,900. Primary care visits have no copayment, specialties have a \$40 copayment, emergency room is \$90. And if this choice is a mistake, I can change plans for 2024.

It took me weeks to determine my best option. But my assumptions could be completely wrong, which makes this system of providing health care preposterous. None of us can predict what our health will be next year. We all know people who were suddenly diagnosed with a dreaded disease. What we need to preserve our health or deal with disease should determine what health services we get, which is how most developed countries’ health care systems operate. That would be a real Medicare advantage.

# Former Savin Hill resident is elected to Congress in Oregon

US Rep.-elect Val Hoyle (D-Oregon), a New Hampshire native who called Dorchester her home in the 1980s, returned to Boston and Cambridge last week to participate in a program for newly elected members of Congress at Harvard. She also visited Bunker Hill Community College to speak with leaders in student government.

Hoyle lived in Savin Hill in the 1980s, was a parishioner at St. William’s Church, and coached the CYO girls’ softball team. She worked at the Parker House and attended Bunker Hill Community College and Emmanuel College. Following her college graduation, she moved to Oregon for a job and stayed there.

Hoyle learned a lot about politics from her father, who was president of the Nashua (NH) firefighters’ union. She joined him in supporting political campaigns starting at age nine, which she describes as “the weirdest after school program ever.”

In Oregon, she continued her involvement in Democratic politics, gaining election to the state’s House of Representatives in 2010. In 2018, she was elected Commissioner of Labor and Industries by Oregon’s voters. On Nov. 8, she was elected to represent Oregon’s 4th district in Congress.



Val Hoyle

Bunker Hill CC is immensely proud of her accomplishments, as she is the first student from the college to be elected to Congress. She spoke about how important being at Bunker Hill and her involvement in its student government was to her development as a leader. She told the student leaders that most elected officials and their staffs have a background in student government and said that she was available to them, should they need her help or advice.

Hoyle is a progressive and labor Democrat, supporting abortion rights, free community college, apprenticeship programs, clean air, water and energy, investment in public housing, worker rights, and supporting the John Lewis Voting Rights Act.

“Wherever I’ve gone in life, I always remembered my roots and my time living in Savin Hill,” she said. “Those lived experiences helped me to be a voice for those who aren’t always represented at the table. So, my message is, never forget where you came from and never be afraid to follow your dreams.”

– BILL WALCZAK

## The Reporter

“The News & Values Around the Neighborhood”

A publication of Boston Neighborhood News Inc.

150 Mt. Vernon St., Dorchester, MA 02125

Worldwide at dotnews.com

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Next Issue: Thursday, December 22, 2022

Next week’s Deadline: Monday, December 19 at 12 p.m.

Published weekly on Thursday mornings

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West Side Stories



The city’s Parks and Recreation Department held a final design meeting in late November to premiere the latest design for the Norwell Street Park. There are lots of highlights, including walking paths, trees, a sound stage, and more. The downfall is there used to be a dry cleaner on the property, and harmful chemicals need to be removed at a steep cost before any work on the park can commence. The quest continues.  
*Photo courtesy Boston Parks and Recreation*

Nothing says Christmas like an Amazon box at your door

By SETH DANIEL  
NEWS EDITOR

Celebrating Christmas and the holidays West of Washington – and in most neighborhoods, for that matter – has become less about contemplating the ethereal moment of God on earth, and more about waiting for the Amazon, UPS, or FedEx man to pull up with another box of cool stuff.

It’s early December, and West of Washington we’ve already begun welcoming masses of delivery drivers whizzing about the side streets and parking in front of fire hydrants to get parcels into the hands of expectant revelers. Santa no longer comes by sleigh, as they say; rather he comes by a Dodge RAM ProMaster painted blue...or brown...or purple and orange. Like it or not, Christmas now comes in a corrugated box.

Yet there’s no forgetting the unique mishaps that come with e-Christmas. There are any numbers of things we’ve had delivered to the house since e-commerce took hold of yuletide. I’ve gotten huge tins of cheddar popcorn from an aunt (which for some reason only tastes good during Christmas), toys of all kinds, exotic loaves of sweet bread from long-lost friends and, once, a large floor rug.

My father, on the other hand, sends beef.

One early December morning, I happily took delivery of my annual subscription of beef in a Styrofoam cooler, and at the same time the UPS man dropped a separate box proclaiming its contents to be 20 premium Angus beef patties. What a bonus! I took the box straight to the cellar freezer with a mind to rediscovering and sizzling them some lazy July afternoon.

That same year, my father ordered the kiddoes a Lego emergency helicopter set – 1,500 pieces – that would probably end up being the downfall of my bare feet (ever step on a Lego?). But, alas, the Lego set never came. We turned the house over. It was nowhere.

He called and gave the Amazon folks his two cents, and they insisted that it had been delivered. Yet, it had vanished. Amazon relented and sent another one that came in early January, but that didn’t offset the tears of disappointment on Christmas morn.

But the humbling part of e-Christmas is that every so often it’s our own foolishness that has taken the Claus out of the cause.

In the case of the Lego controversy, one Saturday six months later, on an evening ideal for a hamburger feast, I remembered my bonus burgers. I hurdled down to the cellar two steps at a time, grabbed the box in the freezer that had been waiting since December and opened it. To my surprise, no Angus patties, rather a Lego emergency helicopter set. Apparently, what’s on the box isn’t always what’s in the box. Amazon 1, West Sider 0.

It was a very disappointing outcome

as I had enjoyed roasting Amazon after their alleged mishap. Now I had to figure out how to gracefully save face. More crucially, there was the disappointment of not having the bonus burgers I’d looked forward to. I came up with a nice compromise, and you’d be surprised how much a good BBQ sauce can improve the taste of grilled Lego.

**TERROR AND THE FLEX-POST**

There have been a lot of changes along the roads in the neighborhoods on the west side of Dorchester. I have trouble keeping it all straight because most of the roads hadn’t changed in their particulars for 50 or 60 years prior. One of the hardest crawls is American Legion Highway.

About three weeks ago I was loaded down with a cornucopia of canned food in my back seat – boxes stacked four high containing corn, chili, Beef-a-Roni, peaches, spaghetti packs, and black-eyed peas. All of it was going to the church food drive, but I had yet to take it there. Most things I plan to drop off have a curing period of about two weeks in the car before they make it to their intended destination, and this was no exception.

In ferociously pouring rain, I drove down American Legion in the dark one evening and approached the right on Canterbury. Between the swish of the windshield wipers and the driving rain, I maneuvered into the turning lane. Or what used to be the turning lane...but is now a bike lane.

Suddenly, my headlights flashed on the reflective tape of the Bike Lane Flex-Posts, and then I felt a rhythmic thud as I plowed over them. I screamed for my life and stomped on the brakes. Cans of chili, corn, and peaches came toppling over, bursting out of the box, and clanging all over the dashboard. A parcel of spaghetti broke open and was strewn about my hair and lap. I skidded to a stop at the curb, my heart in my throat, and took stock. I was unblemished, aside from the canned mess. The Flex-Posts were not damaged, and my car was A-okay. After a deep breath, I carried on. Surely, I’m not a singular fool on the issue.

**Catching up for the New Year**

We’re keeping it simple West of Washington for 2023 resolutions. We want peace. We want to be fruitful in the New Year. We want an end to the violence around the corner and up the street. But the major thing I plan to pull off in 2023 is using all the ketchup packets that have accumulated in the refrigerator. Maybe you’re like me; I get tons of those packets and from where, I don’t remember. With a firm Great Depression mentality deeply in play, I can’t bear to waste them, but I don’t use them: too hard to open and too little ketchup.

So, I resolve to restrict the purchase of ketchup bottles until we use all 476 packets residing in the cheese drawer. Keep me in your prayers.

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The

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Chisago Oga by Liza Voll.

# Latest plan for Dot Bay City adds a waterside ‘Esplanade’

(Continued from page 1)

“A key comment we heard throughout the process is that we were not sufficiently maximizing the potential impact of pairing green space on our site with existing publicly accessible space managed by the state’s Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the city of Boston,” said Kirk Sykes, one of the principals at Accordia. “Our team pushed the envelope in revamping the design to create a truly spectacular, inclusive, and multipurpose space in this location.”

Sykes said that the signature esplanade space would “seamlessly connect to the DCR’s Dorchester Shores Reservation and Harborwalk to anchor the southern end of Carson Beach.”

To make room for the open waterfront space, the updated



A ground-level view of the re-designed Dorchester Bay City site on Columbia Point. Image courtesy Accordia Partners LLC/Stantec Architecture

proposal eliminates a large building that was included in an earlier version, thus remov-

ing about 350,000 square feet of density. In its place, there is now a smaller, 6,300-square-

foot Pavilion building, which will house “multiple public amenities and public facilities.” In addition, two other buildings have been moved “landward by 15 to 30 feet, increasing the setback from the property line adjacent to DCR land” to facilitate space for the esplanade.

Another big change included in the filing: Accordia has agreed to market 20 percent of its nearly 2,000 residential units as “affordable” at 70 percent of Area Means Income (AMI), a jump from 15 percent in the previous plan. The city of Boston currently requires 13 percent affordable units in similar large projects.

With the updated formula, 391 units in the development would be affordable under the city’s present definition of the term.

Other notable changes, according to the Accordia team:

- A commitment of \$18 million to fund “workforce training and economic opportunity programs.”

- A total of \$36.8 million in “contributions to offsite transportation infrastructure improvements” which the Accordia team argues will “catalyze a number of multi-modal infrastructure projects prioritized by the community.”

- The “creation of an 8,000-square-foot learning and innovation center offering training for higher paying jobs.”

The BPDA continues to review plans for the project, which it expects would create as many as 25,000 construction jobs during the building phases. Accordia estimates that between “13,000 to 17,000” permanent jobs would be created through the project.

## Legislature ok’s liquor license for Strand; governor has last word

After years of trying for more liquor licenses, Boston is on the verge of getting five more – one for the Strand Theatre in Uphams Corner and four for the Bolling Building in Nubian Square.

The state Senate last Thursday gave its final approval to a measure to let the Boston Licensing Board grant the new licenses, following passage in the House of a measure sponsored by

state Rep. Chynah Tyler of Roxbury. After one last formal look by the House, the measure will then go to Gov. Baker for his signature.

The licenses would be restricted to use in the two buildings and, unlike most other Boston liquor permits, could not be sold on the open market, but would instead have to be given back to the licensing board to re-issue to new applicants from the

specific buildings.

The city owns the Strand, and is hoping to revitalize the 1919 facility, which despite more than \$10 million in renovation work under the Menino administration, frequently sits unused. Earlier this year, the Wu administration announced \$200,000 in grants to local performing-arts groups for performances there.

One of the first to apply

for one of the new Bolling licenses will be Jazz Urbane Cafe, which was before the Zoning Board of Appeal on Tuesday for zoning approval to open in the old Ferdinand and furniture showroom that is now part of the overall Bolling Building. The bill started as a home-rule petition by the City Council.

At-Large City Councilors Ruthzee Louijeune and Julia Mejia initial-

ly proposed asking for four new licenses for the Bolling Building in March, arguing they would spur further development of Nubian Square and help equalize the number of licenses between Roxbury and wealthier areas along the water, downtown, and Back Bay, where restaurant and bar owners are better able to pay the high price of a liquor license in a city

where their numbers are restricted by the Legislature.

The last time the city won permission to issue new liquor licenses was in 2014, when then-Councillor Ayanna Pressley shepherded legislation that got Boston 75 permits, most of them for neighborhoods outside downtown, the North End, the Back Bay and the waterfront.

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# ZBA overhaul teed up for council vote

(Continued from page 1) equity. She previously worked in Mayor Menino’s Office of Neighborhood Services.

During her portion of Monday’s hearing, City Council President Ed Flynn, who represents South Boston-based District 2, said he has regularly worked on economic development and public education with Dong.

“Every experience I’ve had with her, she’s been very professional, honest, hard working, dedicated to the residents of Chinatown but also the AAPI (Asian American and Pacific Islander) community throughout Boston,” he said.

Dong, who lives in the South Bay area, said she reads through the documents, including letters of support and opposition, on the matters that come before the ZBA, which hears 1,100 cases annually that can involve dormers and new decks or larger proposals.

“Obviously the goal is to listen to community residents, the district councillors, and other public officials who are hearing directly from residents about those concerns,” she said.

Asked by District 4 Councillor Brian Worrell, who represents Dorchester and Mattapan, how she balances the goals of climate resiliency, community engagement, and affordable housing development, Dong said, “I don’t think there’s one approach. Not all projects are the same.” She reiterated that’s why it’s important to hear from those most affected by the project.

Monday’s hearing also featured new appointees to the ZBA. Alan Langham, a lifelong Dorchester resident who has also served on the executive board of the Laborers

Local 22 union, said he is interested in serving on the panel “so I can help not just my community, but everybody’s community.”

District 8 Councillor Kenzie Bok, who represents Back Bay and Mission Hill, asked him about parking, a hot topic at ZBA meetings. Last year the City Council approved, and zoning officials concurred with, an amendment to the city’s zoning code that eliminated off-street parking minimums for affordable housing developments.

Langham said he lives on a “tight street” in Dorchester. “It would be nice, somehow, some way, to have more parking in the city of Boston,” he said.

Bok noted that in the Fenway neighborhood, which is in her district, residents are fighting to reduce parking at new projects, fearing that more of it will draw cars from outside the neighborhood.

Baker, the committee chair, called parking a “balance” and a “case-by-case” situation. “I’m more in line with you,” he said to Langham, noting his union background. “You’re a carpenter, you’re not carrying your stuff on the train.”

ZBA nominee Shavelle Olivier, the executive director of the Mattapan Food and Fitness Coalition, has lived in the neighborhood for 18 years. Parking has also come up in her discussions, she told councillors. It’s a balance in trying to cater to people who need to use a car to get to work or drop children off at school as well as ensuring the city’s streets can be used by everyone, not just those who drive.

Norm Stembridge, another new ZBA nominee,

who grew up in Roxbury and has been involved in the neighborhood’s planning initiatives, had a Dorchester connection: During his time in the banking industry, he worked at the Bank of America building on Columbia Point, now occupied by Santander.

He knew Arthur Jemison, Wu’s planning chief, from when Jemison worked for the state’s economic development office under Gov. Deval Patrick. Jemison called him on behalf of Wu to ask him if he was interested in serving on the ZBA.

“Thank you, I think, was my answer,” Stembridge quipped to councillors.

Parking also came

up during Stembridge’s testimony. “That’s how America was developed. ‘Everyone’s going to have a house, everyone’s going to have a car, and life will be wonderful,’” he said.

A ban on parking isn’t happening, so it’s up to the ZBA to figure out a better solution, he said.

Stembridge also noted that the response from the neighborhood to new development often is right off the bat, “no.” He said the ZBA has to work through people about what the issues are.

“This is Boston, we have long memories,” he said. “Was it something that happened in 1970 and people still have issue with that?”

In a separate interview with the *Reporter* after

the committee hearing, Stembridge said Boston has people who are either wildly open to change or widely opposed.

“Sometimes there seems to be no middle,” he said. “It’s necessary to reach that middle ground to move forward.”

Stembridge said he was drawn to the ZBA because they’ve done “good work,” even amid the controversies that have hit the panel, including a bribery scandal in 2019.

“Any controversy that’s happened, I’m not going to downplay it, but it seems to be a pretty small number compared to everything they’ve been asked to do and have done,” he said.

Aside from Dong and Barraza, Wu’s other proposed reappointment, Jeanne Pinado, a strategic brokerage adviser

at Colliers who lives in Jamaica Plain, has not had a hearing yet.

The Council has already okayed two Wu appointees, David Aiken, a real estate professional from East Boston, and Raheem Shepard, a building trades representative from Hyde Park.

Aside from Dong, Barraza, Langham, Stembridge and Olivier, the list of nominees who had a hearing on Monday before Baker planning committee included Giovanni Valencia of West Roxbury, David Collins of Roslindale, and Katie Whewell of the West End.

ZBA member Kerry Walsh Logue’s appointment expired in November, but Wu has not put forward a replacement. Logue is a building trades representative on the panel.

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# City unveils its ‘action plan’ for upgrades across Franklin Park

(Continued from page 1)

msted treasure and one that will have a solid foundation for years and generations to come,” said Mayor Michelle Wu, who earned applause when she noted that a dedicated Franklin Park administrator would be hired to manage daily operations and projects across the park.

Ryan Woods, the city’s Parks Commissioner, said that the renewal effort began three years ago at a packed in-person meeting in the park that was followed by numerous online sessions and other forms of outreach. The vital spark was ignited by the city’s sale of its vacant Winthrop Square Garage downtown, with \$28 million from the sale going to Boston Common operations, and \$28 million set aside for Franklin Park.

Woods said that \$5 million of the money designated for the park has already been put into an endowment that will be used for repairs and maintenance. Already, he noted, some \$400,000 has been used this fall for maintenance needs.

“We’re excited to have a plan with funding already attached to it,” said Woods. “It’s not a plan that will just go on a shelf. We have money behind it. We will need more money, though. When you have such a big plan and a park with 527 acres, \$23 million will go quickly. We are



Franklin Park Coalition President Rickie Thompson and Mayor Michelle Wu. *Seth Daniel photo*

going to need philanthropy and funding in the capital budget, too.”

Landscape architect Liza Meyers said it would be a constantly evolving plan. “I think it’s safer to say this is a forever plan,” she said. “The plan looks out 20 to 30 years. But we’ll always want to hear about people’s priorities and changes in needs.”

One high-priority, early action item popular with Dorchester and Mattapan folks is the build-out of a new Elma Lewis Playhouse. Woods noted that community input frequently mentioned the days when the Playhouse was in the “ruins” and jazz legends like Duke Ellington played there.

While the Franklin Park Coalition has kept that spirit alive with Tuesday night concerts in the summer, the setup requires a diesel generator for power and a portable stage that must be organized every week. The Action Plan contemplates building a permanent structure where the old Playhouse used to be.

“The idea is to keep that positive energy but move it back into the area that was the original Playhouse and have it amongst the ruins and put in a stage and have electricity,” said Woods. “Once the infrastructure is in place, it can be anything, and host anything.”

At the ceremony, Franklin Park Coalition President Rickie

Thompson said he and his organization were really looking forward to a refurbished Playhouse. “We plan to be part of supporting the implementation of this plan,” he said in noting that the “Coalition sponsors many of the events in Franklin Park, including the Elma Lewis Playhouse... That’s why we’re particularly interested in the restoration of this site, where the original Playhouse was established in 1966 by Elma Lewis herself.”

Another key change under the plan is a new “Front Porch” design for Peabody Circle at Blue Hill Avenue across from Columbia Road. Like the Bear Dens area in Jamaica Plain, Peabody Circle is owned by the state. Meyers said the first steps in the process will be to attempt to transfer state ownership of both parcels to Boston Parks and Recreation. After that, they hope to open the Blue Hill Avenue entrance and make it more inviting as the park’s “front porch.”

“The plan includes ideas for integrating a terraced sitting area in the part that comes down from Refectory Hill,” she said. “That section with Blue Hill Avenue is the only business district up against the park. There are commercial activities and community spaces along the avenue, and we want to think about how we make connections to help people feel invited into the park. We’re not going to remove the wall, but there might be places where the wall can be more open.”

The same can be said for the plan’s treatment of the corner of Seaver and Blue Hill Avenue – making sure there are better pedestrian connections to established entrances.

For all the positive vibes, there is some budding controversy between the JP side of the park and the Dorchester side over what to do with Circuit Drive. The Action Plan contemplates closing the roadway to cars periodically, or even permanently, a notion that is unpopular on the Dorchester side of the park. Many have said a lack of input from Dorchester and Mattapan led to that being included. On the other hand, it is a very popular idea coming from those on the JP end of the park.

Mariama White-Hammond, Boston’s chief of Environment, said many studies must be done before anything concrete happens, but she acknowledged that some change will occur.

“I know we’ve all needed to get somewhere quickly and have not always treated Circuit Drive like it is a promenade through a park,” she said. “We do need to study more, but at a minimum there will be things like traffic calming to prioritize pedestrians and people in the park and not just turn this into a parkway that people drive through... At a minimum we need to slow those speeds down so individuals walking, running, or sitting in the park don’t feel like it’s dangerous to move from one side to the other.”

Woods and Meyers said the future of Circuit Drive isn’t an early action item and is something they are studying, but they said closing the road either short-term or long-term is in the plan, but it’s not a Phase 1 plan or something that will happen right away.

The Action Plan has been posted online at the project website, with the comment period ending on Feb. 10. Wu said they wanted to get as many comments as possible before the deadline as they need “immediate first steps to feed into next year’s Capital Budget.”

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# Residents in Dot and Mattapan vent their frustrations and fear at a Council hearing

(Continued from page 1)

“That is what we really need to connect with our communities on,” she said. Part of our responsibility is not just to understand and track data, but to get out in the community and ensure we are in constant dialogue and planning and working alongside community members block by block.”

While her administration has been criticized in Dorchester and Mattapan for seeming distant or uninterested in the impacts of violence, Wu said, “I take every single safety incident in our city extremely personally,” she said. “It’s our kids that we’re all responsible for. It’s our family members, our community, and my priority is ensuring that we’re not just running to respond to each incident after it’s happened, but changing the system...”

About 100 people, including police officers, residents, and non-profit leaders turned out for the hearing, which was driven mostly by testimony from people in the community. In his remarks, Police Commissioner Michael Cox affirmed that he cares deeply about the situation, and that the BPD is working to stop the violence. His presentation included words from crime analyst Shea Kelly, who noted that crime numbers citywide were headed for a historic low in 2022.

She noted that there had been 173 fatal and non-fatal shooting victims in Boston this year, a number that is on track to be the lowest in 22 years. That said, she produced a map that tracked shootings and noted that the “hot spots” were becoming smaller and more concentrated – leading to small pockets that feel a constant barrage of violence.

“There are spots that



Councillor Brian Worrell.

are consistent,” she said. “The concentrations are in Roxbury, Dorchester, and Mattapan, but specifically Franklin Field, Grove Hall, and Four Corners. The exception is in Uphams Corner, where it’s the lowest we’ve seen in [a long time].”

One key concern is the number of juveniles being arrested with firearms, which is up 82 percent over last year. There have been 130 juvenile firearm arrests, and of those, 21 individuals were arrested twice. Meanwhile, repeat illegal gun offenders of all ages were a problem as well, with 39 percent of those arrested for firearm offenses having had prior arrests in Boston for the same thing. Of that percentage, 79 people had three or more firearm arrests in Boston.

Rufus Faulk, the mayor’s outgoing senior advisor for public safety, fought back emotion when recalling the scene last July on Ellington Street where 15-year-old Curtis Ashford was murdered.

“What I saw there I’ve never seen before, and I’ve been doing this a long, long time,” he said. “There were about fifty 13- to 17-year-olds standing there drinking Don Julio (tequila). It was almost performative in that they were doing what they thought they



Former Roxbury resident and street outreach worker Jed Hresko returned for the hearing to offer his thoughts.

were supposed to do on a scene and like a badge of honor in that they could wear a pin commemorating their friend. For me, it was eye opening that our young people were that hurt.”

He added: “When I was growing up, I might know what happened in my neighborhood, but I didn’t know what was happening in other parts of the city. We’re overexposed with social media and re-traumatized every time, so it feels we’re in a constant state like Baghdad...As service providers, we’re traumatized as hell.”

Police behavior was not off the table at the meeting. Residents were not calling for the abolition of the police as much as they were calling for the police to respond quicker and to understand the community better.

“I don’t go to restaurants in my neighborhood because I’m fearful of what might happen when I’m there,” said Marvina Patterson. “But I went to a restaurant on Washington Street in May because it was recommended, and I found gentleman outside a barber shop and the restaurant smoking weed and drinking. I remember telling [a police officer on the scene] that if this were in Brookline or Cambridge, it wouldn’t happen. He told me that



Transit Police Detective Mark Gillespie talked about a program they run quietly to help identify young people in need of assistance.

we weren’t in Brookline or Cambridge. At that point, I nearly caught a case myself...We are looking to alleviate the violence when we call for these things and for loud parties and no one cares.”

Asked Grace Richardson, whose son Chris Austin Jr. was murdered on Ashmont Street in 2017: “What will you give to our children who are scared to walk the streets and may be arming themselves to feel safe? This has been going on since the 1990s. They say we live in a place where our children are marked for death. We need to stop people from profiting off the lives of our people. It’s not about people getting funding...We need to have the data. You’re funding programs – let’s see the data. If it’s not effective, don’t fund it.”

Trepetta Simmons called on the police to forge ties with the community as strong as they do among themselves. “I don’t need you to protect me,” she said. “Just be a real person; come here and be a real human being and acknowledge you have tough times, and we have tough times. The bond you have between each other with the Blue Line; you need to expand beyond that Blue Line and come over on the Black side as well. Get to know who we are.”



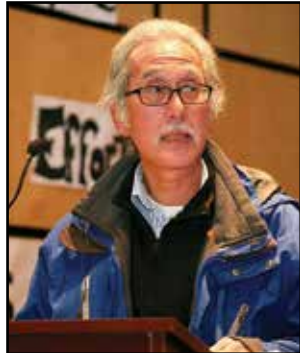
Grace Richardson, whose son was murdered in Dorchester in 2017, said violence has been going on since the 1990s and assistance programs need to be better evaluated for success.



Lisa Searcy, a community activist and liaison for Councillor Erin Murphy, shone a light on the fact that many youths are hurting, and they are also dying from drug overdoses and suicide.



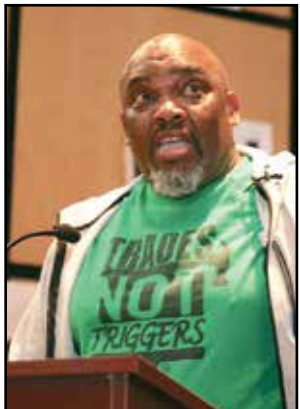
Rev. Dr. Bernard Coulter said the community needs to re-learn how to value life.



Grove Hall’s Michael Kozu asked everyone not to ignore adult behavior by pinning all the bad news on the area’s youth.



Radio show host Melinda Aguilera said the proper resources won’t arrive in the community until white people are also regular victims of violence.



T. Michael Thomas runs the ‘Trades Not Triggers’ program that he said has been ignored by the city.

A major piece of the discussion was also about adult criminal behavior, with several residents noting that dysfunctional adults are shepherding wayward youths.

“Many adults are doing this violence as well and we need to address that, too, and not just put the blame all on the young people for what is an adult problem,” said Mike Kozu of Grove Hall’s Project Right.

Added Shamika Woumm, a city street outreach worker and resident of Grove Hall, “You need programs where the young people don’t age out...You might be 30 in age, but mentally you’re not there. If you go to prison at 17 and don’t come out until 27, you’re still 17 mentally. You just aged 10 years physically.”

Some attendees talked about programs like Trades Not Triggers, which is run by T. Michael Thomas, that are seemingly not recognized by the city, while others asked the city to do more to identify the “special education to prison” pipeline in the schools.

Many audience members and presenters noted that the entire community needs to have a private conversation about overall behavior and well-being, a point made by Faulk:

“We have to have a closed-door conversation as a community without the cameras about this culture and how we talk and how we talk to each other – how we backbite each other...That’s another conversation, but not a City Council conversation,” he said.

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# Wu appoints new adviser for ‘community’ safety watch

**BY SETH DANIEL**  
**NEWS EDITOR**

In Boston's world of community violence prevention, Rufus Faulk has seen it all. In his capacity as senior adviser on public safety to the mayor for the last three years, he has attended hundreds of funerals and celebrated successes when people and neighborhoods have improved. Come Feb. 3, he plans to step aside.

His successor is Isaac Yablo, who grew up in Cambridge and now lives in Hyde Park and most recently worked at the Mayor's Office of Black Male Advancement. A graduate of Howard University in Washington, D.C., he received his master's degree from UMass Boston, where he is now a PhD candidate.

Yablo has worked as a data specialist with the city's street outreach teams, as well as at the Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency in community building roles.

Th 40-year-old Faulk was born and raised in Roxbury and still lives there. He previously led the celebrated Ten Point Coalition for 12 years before taking a job with the Department of Corrections. He also ran unsuccessfully for the District 7 Council seat in 2017.

In 2019, he took the public safety post under Mayor Martin Walsh, and remained there after Michelle Wu took office just over a year ago.

Faulk's move to step aside comes as violence has hit parts of Dorchester and Mattapan particularly hard, with a rash of shootings and homicides stretching back to the early summer months. The most recent occurrence came

last Monday (Dec. 5) when, according to prosecutors, two juveniles—one from Jamaica Plain and one from Mattapan—fired more than 25 rounds at someone on Talbot Avenue, hitting two bystanders at a tire shop. The shootings occurred in broad daylight—like others in the last six months—just outside of the Joseph Lee K-8 School, where students were inside at after-school programming.

Faulk was not immediately available for comment for this article, but City Hall sources consider his pending departure as amicable and not the result of any policy or personality differences. Rather, they say, Faulk decided it was time to move on to other things.

"Safety continues to be an urgent priority and I'm grateful that Dr. Faulk has spent so many years of his career



**Rufus Faulk will be stepping down as the mayor's senior adviser on Public Safety on Feb. 3.**

with the city of Boston helping us rethink our approach,” Mayor Wu told the *Reporter*. “He has really laid a foundation for redefining violence prevention and intervention work that’s grounded in the public health approach and addressing the entirety of someone’s life. ...He is passing the baton over to someone that knows this field and this city inside out.”

In an interview with the *Reporter*, Yablo said he considers himself a “hometown kid,” despite hailing from Cambridge. He said that he is excited to begin adding to the foundation of community violence prevention

built by pioneers who came before him. "It is tough and tiring work and work that needs to be done and work that at the end of the day I can go back to my family and talk about the impact I've been able to have on the city of Boston," he said, adding:

“I think efforts should be driven by data...I’ll be paying attention to data to look for patterns like on Talbot Avenue. I’m also very strong on policy impact and making sure those affected by policy should be able to drive policy. ...

"It's a very small number of individuals committing these acts of violence," he said. "The



**Isaac Yablo, 28, will succeed him.**

***Seth Daniel photos***

residents of the Talbot Avenue area are an amazing community...I want to shine a light on these amazing residents and people in that area. I would specifically work there to address this uptick."

Wu said she supports Yablo's vision for furthering holistic work as a cabinet member. "Isaac is an incredible leader and I know his focus will continue to make sure we are centering those most impacted

in violence in our city while we bring people together and refuse to settle for anything less than everyone in the city being part of this effort and experiencing the safe and healthy communities we all deserve," she said.

"We've had conversations about his vision for this role and this work," Wu said. "His vision is to broaden this and not just call it a role focused on public safety but on community safety. This

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# Redistricting lawsuit moves to federal court

By GINTAUTAS DUMCIUS  
MANAGING EDITOR

The legal battle over the recent redrawing of City Council district lines has moved to federal court. South Boston civic groups, joined by some Dorchester and Mattapan residents, are suing over the new map, which carves up Dorchester's Neponset neighborhood and shifts large parts of District 3 into District 4, saying it violates the city charter, the US Constitution, and the Voting Rights Act. Proponents say the map passes legal muster. Seeking a balance in population between the nine districts, Council mapmakers argued that District 2, anchored in South Boston, needed to lose population, while Dorchester-based Dis-

trict 3 needed to gain residents. Working with the NAACP's Boston branch and other groups, they said the map also meets the goals of the federal Voting Rights Act because it has districts where there is opportunity for communities of color to elect the representative of their choice. The plaintiff group had previously argued that councillors violated state Open Meeting Law in their gatherings, a claim that councillors who support the map have dismissed as false. The lawsuit was first filed in Suffolk Superior Court, but City Hall attorneys requested it be moved to federal jurisdiction. The next court date is Jan. 23, with US District Judge

Patti Saris. Mayor Wu's administration has tapped two outside law firms, Anderson & Kreiger and Hemenway & Barnes, to defend the map, which Wu signed into law on Nov. 7 after it passed on a 9-4 Council vote. The lawsuit was filed by Robert O'Shea, chairman of the Ward 6 Democratic Committee in South Boston, former city clerk and District 3 councillor Maureen Feeney, Mattapan resident Rita Dixon, and Caribbean American Political Action Committee vice chair Shirley Shillingford, among others. "The City Council re-districting process was flawed and unfair to the most vulnerable residents of the City, particularly public housing

residents, immigrants and language minorities," the lawsuit says. The lawsuit also claims the map is "designed to diminish the voting power of white voters" in District 3. Council President Ed Flynn, who represents District 2 and is among the four councillors who had opposed the map, argued that public housing complexes, made up of communities of color and immigrants, should stay united in District 2. Congressman Stephen Lynch of South Boston also registered his opposition to the map, citing the division of the public housing developments. The new map moves most of the public housing complexes into District 3, while District 3 sheds most of the Nepon-

set area at Dorchester's southern border with Milton and Quincy. The moves also drew angry condemnations from District 3 Councillor Frank Baker, who voted against the map. The lawsuit says the map creates a "complete disruption of District 3, by removing the core of its district from its historical home — something which does not need to happen." Under the new map, there are "no clear boundaries" for District 3, unlike the last 40 years, when boundaries included Dorchester Avenue and the Neponset River. "The proposed map not only destroys District 3, but it also causes significant harm to other communities, including South Boston, which will

be carved in half, and Mattapan, which will dilute the African-American voting power in District 4," the lawsuit added. The filing also contends that the deadline for a new map, Nov. 7, was "artificial" and the only explicit deadline in the city charter is Aug. 1, 2026. Councillors who supported the map argued that the Nov. 7 deadline was indeed real, in order to allow contenders for district council seats to know which district they're living in a year before the municipal election. Flynn, Baker, and City Councillor At-Large Erin Murphy filed affidavits in support of the lawsuit. *Universal Hub's Adam Gaffin contributed to this report.*

# New data shed insights on voting methods, turnout

By CHRIS LISINSKI  
STATE HOUSE  
NEWS SERVICE

Mail-in voting and expanded early voting hours proved popular during the Covid-19 pandemic, when lawmakers allowed it to be deployed as a temporary measure to help limit possible transmission of the virus at polling places. This cycle marked the first time those options

**News Analysis** were available on a permanent, non-emergency basis, and while voting by mail continued to draw widespread interest, the most common choice for Massachusetts voters was the more traditional step of heading to a polling place on Election Day, according to the Secretary of State's post-election report. State residents cast

more than 1.38 million ballots in person on Nov. 8, representing 55.1 percent of all votes in the general election. About 937,000 ballots, or 37.4 percent, were submitted by mail, and 188,175 or 7.5 percent were cast during in-person early voting hours. Total turnout beat Secretary of State William Galvin's election eve prediction by about 300,000

votes, or 6 percentage points. His office pointed to "a larger than expected turnout on Election Day" — not to any of the reforms that advocates have long tied to better voter engagement — as the reason for the surprise. Use of mail-in ballots fluctuated across the state, with pockets of greater interest in wealthy suburbs to the

north and west of Boston, on Cape Cod, and in communities around Amherst. The highest rate of mail-in voting was in Gosnold, a tiny municipality covering the Elizabeth Islands to the northwest of Martha's Vineyard, with 42 of the 55 votes counted in the town came via mail, representing more than three-quarters. Other than the outlier

of Gosnold, no city or town received more than 57 percent of its votes via mail. Rounding out the top 10 mail-in voting rates were Acton (56.95 percent), Bourne (55.97 percent), Orleans (51.4 percent), Amherst (50.5 percent), Lexington (49.9 percent), Wellesley (49.8 percent), Brewster (49.7 percent), Ashland (49.7 percent), and Eastham (49 percent).



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

- ☒ **GIVE A HUG**  
Do you notice weight changes, increased frailty?
- ☒ **OBSERVE HER SOCIAL LIFE**  
Are there signs of active friendships, or isolation?
- ☒ **OPEN THE MEDICINE CABINET**  
Is Mom taking her medications as prescribed?
- ☒ **CHECK THE MAIL**  
Look for unopened mail or unpaid bills.
- ☒ **INSPECT THE KITCHEN**  
Look for expired food, broken appliances.

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

Bring Mom in for a tour and get a Brain Healthy Meal, to-go! Text Arielle at 617-298-5656 to schedule.



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**The Barking Crab Annual Jingle & Mingle to benefit Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester:** See details below.

**CONNECT THE DOT:**

**The Barking Crab Annual Jingle & Mingle to benefit Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester:** On December 8th, the Barking Crab hosted the annual Jingle & Mingle holiday event. The Club was happy to be back for this festive event after a three-year hiatus due to Covid. The Barking Crab owner and BGCD Board Member, Lee Kennedy Sr. and his Director of Operations and former Club parent, rolled out the red carpet for attendee's. The night was full of festive holiday fun including delicious food, specialty cocktails, raffles, photos with the Grinch, and much more. All proceeds raised that night benefitted BGCD. A huge thank you to The Barking Crab for your continuous support. Also thank you to everyone who joined us at this very special holiday event, as well as donated. For more information on BGCD's special events, please contact Patty Lamb at [plamb@bgcdorchester.org](mailto:plamb@bgcdorchester.org).

**FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE:**

**Mark Wahlberg Youth Foundation Hosts Holiday Party for BGCD Members:** This past weekend, a large group of Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester members attended the Annual Mark Wahlberg Youth Foundation Holiday Party which was held at Lombardo's in Randolph. Thanks to all of the participating groups which included: P448, Soles4Souls, Skechers, Amazon and Operation Warm. Our Club was joined by 15 other BGC's from the Boston area and over 150 kids were able to participate. The kids enjoyed lunch, games with Nikki Alliegro, Melissa Davis and DJ Magic Mic, face painting from Fancy Faces of New England, and a visit from Santa. Thanks to the Mark Wahlberg Youth Foundation for hosting this amazing event. For more information on partnering with BGCD, please contact Mike Joyce at [mjoyce@bgcdorchester.org](mailto:mjoyce@bgcdorchester.org).



**Mark Wahlberg Youth Foundation Hosts Holiday Party for BGCD Members:** See details below.

**DID YOU KNOW:**

**BGCD Keystone Clubs Assists at Keolis Polar Express Event:** This past Saturday, 18 teen members of Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester's Keystone Club spent the day volunteering at the Keolis Commuter Polar Express Event at South Station. Our Keystone members volunteer every year and spend the day helping to decorate the trains, assisting with pre-ride activities and helping to chaperone the ride.

A special thanks to our friends at Keolis Commuter Services and the M.B.T.A. for hosting the event and for providing tickets for 200 BGCD members and parents to attend. Everyone who attended was able to have a fun and festive day.

For additional information on our Keystone Club, please contact Chad Hassey at [chassey@bgcdorchester.org](mailto:chassey@bgcdorchester.org).

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Ugly Sweater Party**  
December 16  
Scan the QR code below to purchase tickets!



**Milk Street Cooking Class**  
December 19

**Urban Nutcracker Trip**  
December 21

617.288.7120 | 1135 Dorchester Ave. | [www.bgcdorchester.org](http://www.bgcdorchester.org)

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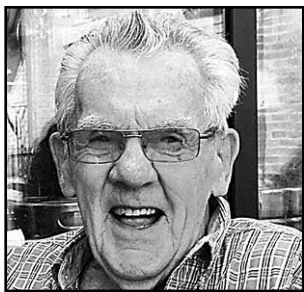
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RECENT OBITUARIES



**BARRON, James R. “Jim”** of Stoughton, but OFD. Son of Patrick Barron and Agnes Ryan Barron. Husband to the late Patricia (Smith) Barron. Father of Dion Barron, Donna Ryan, Denise Schepis, and Laura Morrison. Grandfather to 3. He is survived by his children, partner, Diana Downey; siblings, Allen Barron of Maryland, and Marie Burns of Massachusetts. He was predeceased by his parents, wife, Pat; and brothers, Harold, Leo, Ronald, Kenneth, William, Patrick, and Robert. ath to his love of food. Veteran,

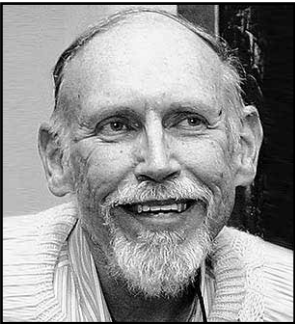
US Air Force. Please consider making a donation in Jim’s memory to the Greater Boston Food Bank. See gbfb.org



**BORTOLOTTA, Maria E.,** 87, of Dorchester. Daughter of the late Tina and Ernesto Bortolotto. She was predeceased by her brother Gino; and she leaves behind her nieces, Pia and Marjorie; her nephew, Ernest; and many loving, lifelong friends.

**FINNIGAN, Janet,** 68, of Weymouth, formerly of Dorchester, Janet had been married

to Joseph Finnigan of Melbourne, FL, mother of Brian Finnigan (deceased). She is survived by her daughter-in-law, Susan of Braintree; and her granddaughter, Janet was the daughter of Barbara (Holmes) Robare and Wyatt Robare (both deceased) stepdaughter of J. Vincent McDonald (deceased). Also survived by sisters, Linda Young of Bridgewater, Barbara and her husband, Bob Eaton of Weymouth. Along with many nieces and nephews and cousins.



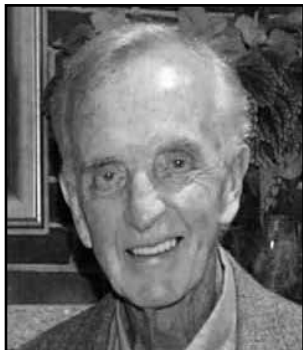
**HAAS, Robert H. “Bob,”** 78, of Dorchester.

LEGAL NOTICES

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
THE TRIAL COURT  
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT  
SUFFOLK DIVISION  
24 NEW CHARDON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02114  
Docket No. SU22D1658DR  
DIVORCE SUMMONS  
BY PUBLICATION and MAILING  
YOJANNI ARIAS  
vs.  
RICKY MATOS  
To the Defendant:  
The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown. The Complaint is on file at the Court. An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.  
You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon: Yojanni Arias, 91 Ames St., Apt. 50, Boston, MA 02124 your answer, if any, on or before 01/24/2023. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.  
Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: November 23, 2022  
Felix D. Arroyo  
Register of Probate  
Published: December 15, 2022

He was predeceased by his parents, Harold and Margaret (Trost) Haas. He is survived by his brother, Russell; and sister-in-law, Christine; cousin Stephen Gitter; nephew Roland; nieces, Katherine and Valerie McKay; and grandnephew, Remi McKay. He served as a leader at Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation for 14 years and then at the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative, where he was a founding member, director, and dedicated volunteer. Concurrently, he served as founder and president of the Uphams Corner Westside Neighborhood Association for almost 30 years and a founding member of Upham’s Corner Main Streets. Donations can be made to St. Cecilia Church or to the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative (DSNI).

**KEARNS, Deborah Ann (Cataldo),** in Dorchester, formerly of Roslindale and Cape Cod. Wife of the late Robert J. Kearns. Mother of Scott, Faith and Brian Kearns. Sister of Alfred Cataldo. Daughter of the late Alfred and Dorothy (Murphy) Cataldo. Niece of the late Gerald and Alice (Murphy) Vasil.



**LANE, Paul M.,** of Milton, formerly of Dorchester. US Army veteran. Husband of Theresa (Bourke). Fa-

ther of Paul M. Lane and his wife Michelle Kelliher-Lane of Wellesley and Gregory Lane and his wife Sara Flynn Lane of Milton. Grandfather of 7; great- grandfather to 2. He is also survived by his sister Mary Anne Merrigan, and brothers Patrick Joseph, Thomas, William and James Lane. He was predeceased by his sister Therese Carroll and his brother John Lane. Donations are appreciated in Paul’s memory to My Brother’s Keeper, P.O. Box 338, South Easton, MA 02356 ormybrotherskeeper.org

**MALONEY, Linda M. (Joyce),** 63, long-time resident of Mansfield and formerly of Dorchester, most recently of East Falmouth. Wife of Francis X. “Frank” Maloney, Jr. Mother of Brian F. Maloney and his wife, Michelle of Foxborough, Paul T. Maloney and his wife, Lauren of Norwell, and Patrick J. Maloney of Memphis, TN. Grandmother of 2. Please consider making a donation in Linda’s memory to the American Diabetes Association, 330 Congress Street #501, Boston, MA 02210 or Saint Mary’s Church, 330 Pratt Street, Mansfield, MA 02048.

**OLSZOWY, Janine L.,** 64, of Dorchester. Daughter of the late John Olszowy, Jr. and Victoria (Warjas). Sister of John Olszowy, III of Dorchester Ctr., Andrew Olszowy and his wife Catherine of Westford, and the late Carol Welch. Sister-in-law of George Welch, Jr. of Kingston.

**ROMAN, Edward S. “Eddie”,** 62, of Weymouth formerly of Dorchester. Father of Richard Roman of Braintree. Son of the late Benjamin and Helen (McFeely). Brother of Margaret “Peggy” Ca-



terer and her husband Glenn of Weymouth, Joseph Roman of Plymouth, Helen Marie Quinn and her husband Tony of Naples, FL., John “Jack” Roman and his wife Susan of Milton and the late Richard Roman. Also survived by several nieces and nephews.



**POOLE, Melanie,** 63, of Dorchester. Melanie was the wife of Ronald E Perry. Mother of Ronasia M. Perry of Quincy.



**SAWICKY, John,** 82, of Milton, formerly of Dorchester. Husband of Mary. Father of John (John’s wife, Pooja, and their two children, Julian and Asha of Lexington), and his son Andrew of Milton.



**SMITH, William E.,** 83, of Brockton. Husband of Alice (MacKinnon) Smith; father of Sheila Smith and Patricia Malanson of Auburn, William Smith and Marlene of Sweden, Susan Coffey and Mark of N. Easton, Kevin Smith and Nancy of E. Bridgewater; brother of Richard and Ellen of Medfield, Marion Ferguson of Dorchester, Sandra Smith of Gloucester, the late John Smith and his widow, Mary of Chelmsford, the late Gladys Harney, Helen Broderick, and Oscar Smith; and grandfather and uncle of many. Memorial gifts may be made to Brockton VNA Hospice or Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.



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Contact the office for information on the cost of burial needs, memorial benches and memorial trees.  
The Cemetery office is open Monday – Friday 8:00 to 4:00, and Saturday 8:00 to noon. The Cemetery grounds are open year round 7:00 am to sunset – weather permitting.  
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LEGAL NOTICES

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
THE TRIAL COURT  
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT  
SUFFOLK PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT  
24 NEW CHARDON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02114  
617-788-8300  
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME  
Docket No. SU22C0566CA  
IN THE MATTER OF:  
LOREAL JEYONIA GREEN  
A Petition to Change Name of Minor has been filed by Loreal Jevonia Green of Boston, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:  
**Loreal Green-Roach**  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
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 12/23/2022. 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: November 25, 2022  
Felix D. Arroyo  
Register of Probate  
Published: December 15, 2022

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
THE TRIAL COURT  
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT  
SUFFOLK DIVISION  
24 NEW CHARDON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02114  
Docket No. SU21D1815DR  
DIVORCE SUMMONS  
BY PUBLICATION and MAILING  
SALVADOR GOMEZ GUTIERREZ vs.  
ETELVINA PEREZ y PEREZ  
To the Defendant:  
The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown. The Complaint is on file at the Court. An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.  
You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon: Salvador Gomez Gutierrez, 33 Mount Ida Rd., Apt. 1, Dorchester, MA 02122-1223 your answer, if any, on or before 01/18/2023. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.  
Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: November 23, 2022  
Felix D. Arroyo  
Register of Probate  
Published: December 15, 2022

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
THE TRIAL COURT  
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT  
SUFFOLK PROBATE & FAMILY COURT  
24 NEW CHARDON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02114  
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304  
Docket No. SU21P2181GD  
IN THE MATTER OF:  
STEVEN NATHANIEL BODDEN McFIELD  
of BOSTON, MA  
RESPONDENT  
Alleged Incapacitated Person  
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Meleny Michelle McField of Boston, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Steven Nathaniel Bodden McField is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Meleny Michelle McField of Boston, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond.  
The petition asks the Court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.  
**You have the right to object to this proceeding.** If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 01/05/2023. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person’s right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.  
Witness, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.  
Felix D. Arroyo  
Register of Probate  
Date: November 17, 2022  
Published: December 15, 2022

LEGAL NOTICES

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
THE TRIAL COURT  
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT  
Suffolk Probate & Family Court  
24 New Chardon Street  
Boston, MA 02114  
(617) 788-8300  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION  
Docket No. SU22P2760EA  
ESTATE OF:  
MICHAEL LEE WATSON  
DATE OF DEATH: 01/11/2022  
To all interested persons:  
A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Keri A. Connolly of Quincy, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Keri A. Connolly of Quincy, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in supervised administration.  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/23/2023.  
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.  
**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**  
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.  
Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: December 12, 2022  
Felix D. Arroyo  
Register of Probate  
Published: December 15, 2022

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
THE TRIAL COURT  
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT  
Suffolk Probate & Family Court  
24 New Chardon Street  
Boston, MA 02114  
(617) 788-8300  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION  
Docket No. SU22P0600EA  
ESTATE OF:  
EARLINE PATRICK  
DATE OF DEATH: 10/08/2021  
A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Patricia Gilbert of Tupelo, MS requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/29/2022.  
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.  
**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**  
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.  
Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: November 17, 2022  
Felix D. Arroyo  
Register of Probate  
Published: December 15, 2022

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- 4 persons, \$140,200
- 5 persons, \$151,450
- 6 persons, \$162,650

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Homes are sold by lottery. Only qualified applicants may enter. The property is deed-restricted; owner-occupancy requirements apply. Income and asset limitations apply. **Requirements:** First time homebuyer. Homebuyer will need to complete an approved homebuyer education course prior to closing. Minimum household size requirement is number of bedrooms minus one. **Preferences:** Boston Residency preference. Preference for one (1) person per bedroom. Income limits for qualified buyers are based on 100% Area Median Income Limits as defined by HUD. **Please note:** Persons with disabilities and those with limited English language proficiency are entitled to request a reasonable accommodation.



Ocean Edge Resort & Golf Club, Brewster, Cape Cod, MA



Keystone Apartments, Dorchester, MA



Savin Hill Apartments, Dorchester, MA



Harbor Point on the Bay  
Boston, MA

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CITY *of* BOSTON

