

Dorchester Reporter

"The News and Values Around the Neighborhood"

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50¢

MIDNIGHT GLOW



Father Marcos Enrique of St. Mark parish has revived the traditional Midnight Mass at the church. "Every year it continues to grow," he says. *Seth Daniel photo*

St. Mark's renews a tradition

By SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

Several hundred St. Mark parishioners, sleepy-eyed but spirit-filled, are expected to come through the doors of their Dorchester Avenue church late this Saturday night to celebrate the ongoing renewal of the parish's Christmas Midnight Mass tradition.

While most Catholic parishes now opt for Christmas Eve services in the afternoon or early evening, the Midnight Mass has a passionate advocate in Father Marcos Enrique, who arrived at St. Mark's four years ago. A year later, in 2019, the revival brought in

a surprising number of worshipers—about 200.

"Maybe it's my own experience, but when I became a priest and arrived here, there was no Midnight Mass," said Fr. Marcos, a native of Spain. "I felt it was important and asked if we could do it again."

In 2020, during the pandemic, the Mass drew even more people, and more volunteers. The same was true last year.

"We can understand Christmas intellectually but making that decision to venture into the night and enter a

(Continued on page 4)

Opponents target Pine Street bid for hotel conversion with sidewalk protest at the site

By SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

While city officials review a Pine Street Inn plan to convert the Comfort Inn at 900 Morrissey Blvd. into housing for formerly homeless persons, neighbors who oppose the idea staged a protest last Saturday on the sidewalk in front of the hotel.

Between 50 and 75 neighbors gathered there over the duration of the event, with some holding up homemade signs calling for saving the future of the neighborhood while others used the occasion to criticize the ownership of the hotel.

The 900 Morrissey plan calls for Pine Street Inn and The Community Builders (TCB) revamping the 131-room hotel into 104 studio apartments with support services for formerly homeless persons and 24-hour security. The project comes amid a regional housing crisis and low supply of low-income units.

The comment period for the project, which is under review by the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA), ends on Jan. 6.

Neighbor Tim Murray said that no one is disputing the good work Pine



Protesters Jen Gillis and Maggie Mancuso said Dorchester deserves better than what is planned for 900 Morrissey Blvd. *Seth Daniel photo*

Street Inn does, but he said he hasn't seen any plans to guarantee the surrounding areas will not suffer spill-over effects from what he described as essentially a 104-unit homeless shelter. Pine Street officials have said repeatedly that the converted hotel will be permanent supportive housing, not a shelter.

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As she takes leave, Chang-Diaz looks back at accomplishments

By GINTAUTAS DUMCIUS
MANAGING EDITOR

When asked what's next, outgoing state Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz has a tongue-in-cheek answer ready: Eat all the leftovers from all the farewell get-togethers.

Her last day with an office under the golden dome of the State House is Jan. 3. Her successor, state Rep. Liz Miranda, takes the seat over after winning the race for the Second Suffolk Senate seat, which includes parts of Dorchester and Mattapan, as well as Jamaica Plain, Hyde



Chang-Diaz: No set plan post-Senate. *WBUR/Jesse Costa photo*

Park, Mission Hill, and Roxbury.

A Democrat who lives in Jamaica Plain with her husband and two children, Chang-Diaz was first elected in 2008,

when she toppled longtime incumbent Dianne Wilkerson in a bitter primary. Wilkerson was arrested on federal corruption charges weeks later.

The first Latina elected to the state Senate and a former public school teacher, she recalls entering the State House at an intense time. Corruption aside, the economy had plunged into what would become known as the Great Recession. "There was a lot of wear and tear on people's faith in the in-

(Continued on page 15)



Hasani Little *Seth Daniel photo*

Third grader cited as fire-alert hero

By SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

Hasani Little, a third grader at the Shaw Elementary School, played a big man's role on the morning of Dec. 2 when fire broke out at his home on Lucerne Street.

He was asleep when he became aware of the fire in the three-decker he shares with his mom and four siblings. He first

woke up his family, then alerted his neighbors as well, including a mother and her newborn baby. Then, he made sure everyone was evacuated from the house before he came out and let the fire crews take over.

On Monday morning, Boston Fire Union Local 718, city councilors, and the Boston Public Schools honored Little for his bravery in a small ceremony

in the Norfolk Street school's library.

"Any time you see a firefighter, we're there to make things better," said union president Sam Dillon. "Sometimes, we even need help, and that's where our friend stepped in. We know what he felt like and that he must have been scared, but he still made sure everyone

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Police, Courts & Fire

Police probing firearms incidents in Fields Corner

Detectives from the Boston Police C-11 precinct are investigating a shooting incident at the end of November that was followed by a flurry of activity nearby. Officer Mike Keaney told members of the Fields Corner Civic Association that three incidents unfolded just after 10:30 p.m. on Sun., Nov. 27.

The first call came in for “shots fired” around 10:30 p.m. on Lindsey Street. Minutes later, a man arrived at the C-11 station on Gibson Street with a gunshot wound to the chest. He was given first aid and then transferred to the hospital. He is expected to survive, Keaney said.

Minutes later, police were called to a home on Mather Street after a resident reported a man banging at the back door. He fled, but a resident observed him hide something in the driveway, where officers found a bag under a vehicle containing three Glock firearms, one loaded with 11 rounds.

An ask for info on cat confirmed as rabid – Last Monday, Boston Animal Care and Control Division responded to a call from a concerned resident who reported that there was a cat exhibiting neurologic behavior in the front of 132 Glenway St. in Dorchester. The cat was impounded by a Boston Animal Control officer, transported to Angell Animal Hospital, where it was confirmed rabies positive by the State Rabies Lab.



Rabies is a fatal but preventable viral disease. It can spread to people and pets if bitten or scratched by a rabid animal. Animal Control is asking that anyone who recognizes the cat, an unneutered male orange and white Domestic Shorthair, contact Boston Animal Care and Control at: 617-635-5348, or call 311.

The department would also like to be in contact with anyone in the area who has encountered a cat matching this description in the past 21 days or after the Thanksgiving holiday, especially if they’ve been bitten or scratched. Please call the Boston Public Health Commission at 617-534-5611.

Tidal flooding will hit Morrissey this week – High tides are likely to prompt lane closures along Morrissey Boulevard through this weekend, according to state officials, who say the coastal roadway could be closed outright at peak times. The anticipated high tide events begin on Thursday (Dec.22) at 9:38 a.m. Other high tides are expected on Friday at 10:29 a.m.; Saturday at 11:21 a.m.; Sunday at 12:14 p.m.; and Monday at 1:08 p.m. Motorists are advised to seek alternate routes during those periods.

Council okays Wu’s ZBA overhaul



The City Council approved most of Mayor Wu’s slate of ZBA nominees, including Sherry Dong and Alan Langham of Dorchester, and Shavelle Olivier of Mattapan. Courtesy photos

City councillors last week unanimously approved most of Mayor Wu’s nominees to the Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA), which 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 individuals from the world of architects, construction unions, and the building/real estate sectors.

Councillors signed off on eight of Wu’s 13 nominees in unanimous voice votes at their last meeting of the year on Dec. 14. Two nominees were previously approved by the Council, and three are awaiting an up-or-down vote.

“Thank you to the City Council for confirming these new members, who will play a crucial role in

our work to build more housing and address the regional affordability crisis, support equitable and resilient neighborhoods, and shift to planning-led development,” Wu said in a statement Thursday.

“These board members represent the diversity, talent, and expertise of our communities to ensure Boston’s growth helps address our greatest challenges.”

The terms run for three years.

The new board make-

up includes Sherry Dong, a Tufts Medical Center employee living in Dorchester; Roslindale architect Hansy Better Barraza; Alan Langham, a lifelong Dorchester resident who has also served on the executive board of the Laborers Local 22 union; Shavelle Olivier, the executive director of the Mattapan Food and Fitness Coalition; Norm Stenbridge, a Roxbury resident with a career in banking; Giovanni Valencia of West Roxbury; David Collins of Roslin-

dale; and Katie Whewell of the West End.

Jeanne Pinado, a strategic brokerage adviser at Colliers who lives in Jamaica Plain, has not had a hearing yet. The other two nominees awaiting a Council vote are Alaa Mukahhal, a transportation planner in Mission Hill, and Thea Massouh, an architect living in Brighton.

The two ZBA nominees previously approved by the Council are David Aiken, a real estate professional from East Boston, and Raheem Shepard, a building trades representative from Hyde Park.

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.

– REPORTER STAFF

Commutation makes murderer in 1971 Dorchester homicides eligible for parole

By SAM DORAN
STATE HOUSE
NEWS SERVICE

The Governor’s Council last Wednesday approved a sentence commutation for convicted murderer Ramadan Shabazz, opening the door for the 73-year-old to win parole 50 years after he was initially sentenced to death for a pair of Dorchester homicides.

The unanimous vote came a day after councillors interviewed the Old Colony Correctional Center inmate at the State House. Several members focused on Shabazz’s service in Vietnam, subsequent drug addiction, and the many rehabilitation, education, and service programs he has participated in behind bars.

In 1971, Shabazz (then known as James Hall) and an accomplice ambushed two men who were refilling a Dorchester grocery store’s cash supply. They shot them and made off with nearly \$20,000.

Before voting for the commutation, which reduces Shabazz’s conviction from first-degree murder to second-degree, Councillor Joseph Ferreira said Wednesday that he had “mixed feelings” about his vote.

“If you commit murder with extreme atrocity or cruelty, or pre-meditated, deliberate malice of forethought – you lied in wait and you killed somebody – you’re there for life. And that’s exactly what he did,” Ferreira said, before adding that he was ultimately moved by the convict’s rehabilitation and by the lack of opposition from victims’ relatives or prosecutors.

Councilor Marilyn Pettito Devaney said it was “all about” drugs. “Going to Vietnam, he got involved in drugs, and that’s what happened with the tragic incident that he was involved in,” Devaney said, referring to the homicides. “But in the 51 years, he has not only rehabilitated himself, but other peo-

ple – and has been such a role model.”

Gov. Baker last month recommended commuting Shabazz’s sentence so that he could be eligible for parole, writing that while the crime was “horrific,” he “has not only taken full responsibility for his actions but has also dedicated his life in prison to bettering himself and serving as a mentor to others in prison.”

“I caused both men’s deaths. I’m the reason why Mr. [Calvin] Thorn and Mr. [Harry] Jeffreys didn’t return to their families on Aug. 14, 1971,” Shabazz said Tuesday. “Because of my actions, ... the only way Mr. Thorn’s and Mr. Jeffreys’s grandchildren can see them is at their grandfather’s gravesite in the cemetery. Because of me,” he said, adding that on past prison furloughs, he would visit the site of the Dorchester grocery store to “say a prayer to Mr. Thorn and Mr. Jeffreys.”

He said he has tried to participate in “every program available” at the correctional facilities he has been incarcerated in. A Parole Board report shows he is currently enrolled in groups for prison fellowship, anger management, trauma and resiliency, veterans, and Islamic services and studies. Prison programs, he said, have led to “internalization of personal growth and learning.”

It was in Vietnam that he became addicted to LSD within days, he said -- “my body just absorbed it” – and, he said, he was on LSD when he committed his crimes in Dorchester.

“I never was a drug user, alcohol, anything. I was a hard-working young man at the time when I was drafted. ... Got to Vietnam, morale there at the time I got there was very, very low. Men were refusing orders, men were still dying. ... Everyone was on drugs,” he said.

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UPCOMING CIVIC MEETINGS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library hosts a free Celebrate! performing arts program for families on Tues., Dec. 27 at 10:30 a.m. Ezekiel’s Wheels Klezmer Band featuring Ashkenazi music and songs will perform traditional klezmer tunes played on clarinet, violin, trombone, and double bass with Yiddish lyrics.... Also coming up at the JFK Library on Monday, Jan. 16: Ben-kadi Drum and Dance performs traditional West African rhythm and movements on Martin Luther King Jr. Day at 10:30 a.m. Make reservations online at jfklibrary.org/celebrate or call 617-514-1644.

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

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 12-8p.m.; Thursdays from 9a.m.-5 p.m.; **Bruce C. Bolling Building:** 2302 Washington St, Roxbury. Open Tuesdays-Saturdays from 12-8p.m.; **Lena Park Community Development Corporation:** 150 American Legion Hwy, Dorchester. Open Sundays from 10a.m.-2p.m.; Mondays from 9:30a.m.-5:30p.m.; Wednesdays from 12-7p.m.; and Fridays from 9:30a.m.-5:30p.m. For more information about where to find a COVID-19 vaccination or testing clinic near you, visit boston.gov/covid19.

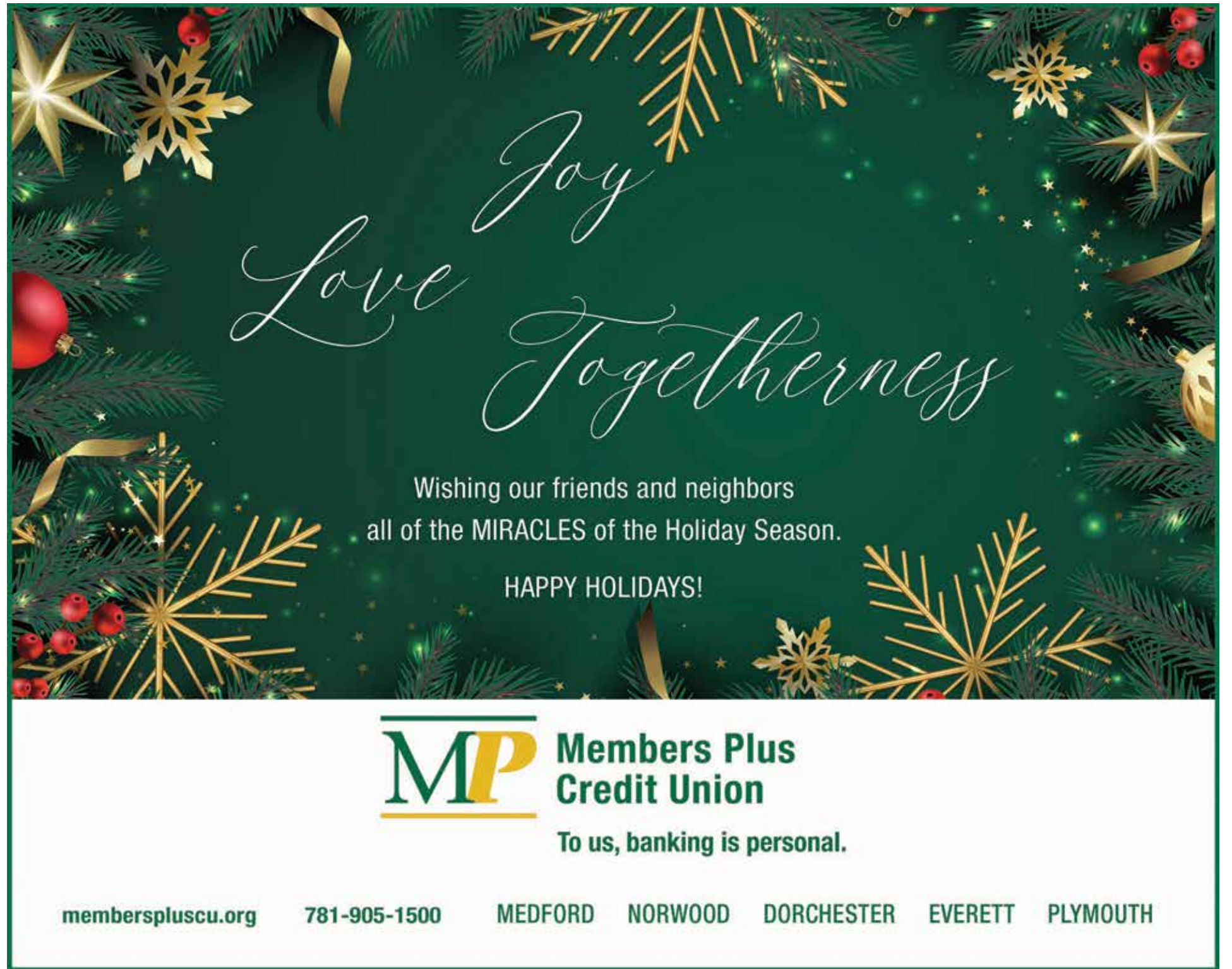
The Salvation Army locations across Boston are still accepting applications for holiday assistance through its annual Boston Christmas Castle distribution. Boston residents are encouraged to apply

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.

In honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Franklin Park Zoo and Stone Zoo will offer free admission on Mon., January 16 throughout the day, there will be keeper chats, animal encounters and more to explore! Guests are invited to write messages of hope and peace on murals located within the Tropical Forest Pavilion at Franklin Park Zoo and within the Animal Discovery Center at Stone Zoo. For a schedule of activities, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. visit zoonewengland.org..

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NEWSEDITOR@DOTNEWS.COM

“While we are traditionally skeptical of government regulations placed on the real estate industry, we hope that policies like IDP reform may prove successful if they allow the real estate industry creativity and flexibility in their approach to zoning,” he said. “Ensuring that the real estate industry may creatively and flexibly approach zoning is critical to driving increased production in the Greater Boston area – one of the most important steps needed to help us address the housing crisis.”



Christmas trees in short supply this season; blame put on drought and Great Recession

By SIMÓN RIOS
WBUR REPORTER

If you're just starting your Christmas decorating, you may have a harder time finding the perfect tree for your living room this year.

Many places in Greater Boston have already sold out or have sparser supplies than usual. And even when you can find a tree, expect to pay more.

Christmas tree seller Dannie Kelly in Roxbury said he ordered 500 to 600 trees but could only get 400. "I'm going to be in trouble," he said, "because that's all they could give me."

Experts say the Christmas tree shortage has its roots in the Great Recession more than a decade ago, when money was tight and many consumers trimmed back on holiday decorations, including trees. Growers in turn cut back on planting new ones.

But now that the fully mature trees are ready to be harvested, there aren't enough to go around. "Christmas trees na-



Dannie Kelly assisted Latisha Kenner with picking out a tree at Kelly's Trees in Roxbury.

Jesse Costa/WBUR photo

tionwide have been in a tight supply since 2016," said Jill Sidebottom of the National Christmas Tree Association.

The shortage grew even worse this year, in part because of a drought in the Northeast that's hitting tree sellers across the country, including in Volante Farms in Needham.

Owner Al Volante says he can no longer find enough trees for all his customers. Last year, he even ran out a couple days before Christmas — and couldn't restock.

"I was shocked because normally if we run short, we can go find trees," Volante said. "Somebody's always stuck with them."

But not last year. "There wasn't a tree to be found in New England," he recalled.

And the shortage may be worse this year. At least 20 tree farms in Massachusetts have already sold out this year and shut down for the season, said David Morin, who owns the Arrowhead Acres tree

farm in Uxbridge and is a spokesman for the Mass. Christmas Tree Association.

He said the drought has been particularly devastating for some farms, damaging trees that would have been ready to harvest and preventing some from opening altogether.

"It'll probably take

them a year to get back to normal," he said.

Many merchants, like Volante, rely on outside suppliers from places like Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. But those trees are in short supply as well. And expect to pay more, both because of the supply shortage and broader inflation that has driven up costs of growers and merchants alike.

Unfortunately, sellers say, the great Christmas tree shortage is likely to last a few more seasons.

And Volante has one key piece of advice if you are still looking for a tree: Don't wait until Christmas Eve.

"It might be tough to find a tree," by then, he said. "Normally we would always have trees right to the bitter end."

But not this year.

This article was first published by WBUR 90.9FM on Dec. 14. The Reporter and WBUR share content through a media partnership.

Parishioners flock to the church as St. Mark's renews Midnight Mass

(Continued from page 1) church that's kind of dim — that has a power that you see and feel," he said. "There's a transition from dark to light. It's especially interesting in Boston because it could be snowing outside. ... As a person you are making a decision to do something out of the ordinary and have experiences you wouldn't have if you went to a 4 p.m. or evening Mass."

Judy Greeley, a lifelong St. Mark Church parishioner and current parish office manager, said they still had Midnight Mass, a long-time happening in the 115-year-old parish, in the 1980s and 1990s, but then moved it back to the 10 p.m. hour.

"That's when you used to get calls asking, 'What

time is your Midnight Mass?'" she said. "I think we stopped having them altogether in 2015... Slowly each church one by one would stop having them. Then there weren't any."

Greeley said she has enjoyed the revival of the Mass because it reminds her of when she was young and "it was such an intense feeling. Then you go home, and Christmas has begun."

Shamus Hyland, who has been in the parish for nine years, said Father Marcos approached him in 2019 and asked if he would volunteer to play the organ at midnight on Christmas Eve. It was an odd request of an amateur organ player, but one he was excited to fulfill.

"I had never been to

a Midnight Mass that was truly at midnight, so I was pretty excited," he said. "It's an ancient tradition. The first time I went I felt very connected to all my ancestors' generation after generation who had attended Midnight Masses. It was kind of reviving a lost tradition for me in a small way."

He also said he enjoyed the slowdown of the worship service after the hectic weeks before Christmas.

Fr. Marcos said he tries to encourage families to attend as a way to show children and teen-agers that church isn't only about getting up on Sunday morning and coming to the building. The Midnight Mass offers a unique change of pace.

"We're fighting against a culture where the focus is elsewhere," he said. "If we don't really focus on what the meaning of Christmas is about, then it turns into an excuse for getting up and taking pictures in our pajamas with family and posting them to social media... The Midnight Mass has to do with the image of the shepherds keeping watch over the night."

Most families in Dorchester, however, have moved to celebrating not in the wee hours of morning, but in the early evening. Father Jack Ahern of St. Gregory's parish in Lower Mills said Christmas Mass has become an early evening event for most Catholics in the neighborhood.

This year, Fr. Ahern said, the archdiocese is



Father Marcos Enrique

reverting to a pre-pandemic schedule with Christmas Eve Masses starting later in the day. Still, he expects the largest turnout to be at the 4 p.m. Mass on Saturday, though they offer a Mass at 6 p.m. as well, and at 7 a.m. and 10 a.m. on Christmas Day.

"More and more, Christmas has become an eve feast," he said. "People like to celebrate Mass on Christmas Eve and then arrange their dinners afterwards."

St. Gregory's Dorchester Avenue church, which dates to 1863, will be adorned with wreaths, ribbons, Poinsettia plants, and trees arranged by husband-and-wife volunteers Mike and Bobbi Skillin, who each year spend their days leading up to Christmas outfitting the church with festive decorations.

"It's simple, but it's elegant and beautiful. Bobbi and Mike make it happen, just the two of them," said Ahern. "They know what they're doing, and they do it with great love. People are thrilled."

"We buy everything

local from Cedar Grove Gardens for the creche and the flowers. They always treat us great, too," he said.

There will be an extra emphasis on music, too, at St. Gregory's, under the direction of James Busby, who selects and arranges the songs for the feast day. Fr. Ahern, the pastor, gets a chance to review the program, of course, but he says Busby is the key to its success. "I only insist upon one thing," he said: "I want 'Silent Night' at the end of Mass."

Come midnight, when the parishioners from St. Gregory's will probably be deep in slumber, up the avenue at St. Mark's, they'll be singing and celebrating well after 1 a.m.

"It's not like after the Mass is over everyone just disappears," said Fr. Marcos. "They're excited and chit-chatting and I have to often make people leave the church because we have to prepare for the Mass in the morning."

Reporter Executive Editor Bill Forry contributed to this report.



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Dot Eagles 12U team finishes third in its Pop Warner Super Bowl group

**By SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR**

The Dorchester Eagles Pop Warner program took another trip to Florida this month to participate in the national Super Bowl tournament and came back with a third-place trophy and a new name.

The 12U Eagles, one of eight teams in the nation in their Division 1 category, started off the tournament with a 32-20 win over defending national champion Santa Cruz (CA) Seahawks on Dec. 4. Three days later, they went down, 14-0, against the Dowingtown (PA) Young Whippets, the eventual national champions who defeated the Portage (IN) Indians.

Eagles President and Coach Terry Cousins said it was a hard defeat to stomach, as this team had all the momentum up to a point, which came in the third quarter with the score

knotted at zero. The Eagles were on the Whippets' one-yard line, when a fumble and a penalty gave Dowingtown the ball, which they took down field for a touchdown. They added another score very late in the game for the 14-0 result.

"I really feel if we'd have scored on that play at the one-yard line, it would have changed everything about that game," Cousins said. "To lose to the team that ended up winning and we held them to eight points most of the game – that says something. It was 0-0 at halftime and we had a chance to score first."

Standouts for the team included Xavier Blackmon and Christian Simmons, with the coaching staff including Tony Hurston, William Finkley, Darryl Simmons, Swayne Blackmon, Vadell Clark, and Bonae Swayne-Price.

For the Eagles, it was the

second straight year that they encountered frustration in the Florida championships. Cousins said they are making a charge to parents across the city to bring their kids to the Eagles to combat the "all-star teams" the Dorchester grid-ders often face in Florida.

"We beat everyone from Boston to Connecticut and everywhere else and then we get down there and we are literally playing all-star teams," he said. "Our region is the only region that doesn't allow all-star teams. I respect that, but when you get down there and they're loaded top to bottom and don't have any players subject to the mandatory play rule, it's frustrating."

Now, Cousins said, they will change their program name to the Dorchester Elite Eagles. "There's a difference between recreational football and elite football. We've earned the right



The Dorchester Eagles 12U team enjoyed being in Florida this month and playing in the Pop Warner Super Bowl Division 1 tournament. Photo courtesy Dorchester Eagles

to be called competitive. We've been down there 17 times now. The little kids are recreational, but when you get to 12U and 14U, that's competitive...Our city has elite talent."

He added that they have won with a team philosophy of playing with whoever shows up and coaching them into good players. That, he said, they won't abandon either. "We will still have kids on our roster

that wouldn't be on anyone's team in Florida," he said. "We take them, believe in them, and teach them football."

Cousins thanked US Labor Secretary Marty Walsh, the Martin Richard Foundation, a guy he called Steve, Boston After School & Beyond, the South Boston Pop Warner program, and other special people who believe in Dorchester for their support.

Shaw School third grader honored for heroism during Dec. 2 fire

(Continued from page 1) was safe. His actions showed bravery, courage, and heroism and he put himself in great danger, but they were directly related to the safety and survival of others," Dillon added.

"For Hasani to be so brave, I still can't imagine how he did it," said his mother, Geneva Davis while fighting back tears.

"I didn't know what to do. I couldn't think straight, but he was able to get his siblings, ages 3 to 5, up and out of the home. He saved his siblings, and he saved our neighbor and newborn baby."

Hasani was a young man of few words at the ceremony, but he did offer a clue about his future: "I want to be a fireman."

The ceremony was in part bittersweet for the family, as they lost everything in the fire and have been in domestic limbo ever since. Davis said the school has been instrumental in helping them, as has the Red Cross.

"Our life has been complicated with many different scenarios," said Davis. "The fire couldn't

have happened at a worse time for us, but the support of this school and community has helped us so much...So many people are forgotten and thanks for not allowing us to fall by the wayside. So many people do, but thank you for seeing us and helping us."

In comments afterward, Davis encouraged the city and aid organi-

zations to revise policies when it comes to emergency homelessness and housing.

"Since the fire happened, it's been very hard for me, but I can advocate for myself," she said. "There are others that can't. I urge the city council and the organizations to change the parameters for people who are homeless due to

fire and disasters. I can't qualify for emergency housing because I don't have birth certificates or other documents. They need these documents that we lost in the fire. All homelessness situations are not the same...It's rare that someone has a fire, and they can run back in and grab their important documents."



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MONDAY, JANUARY 2: CLOSED

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Bulleit Bourbon 750ml	29.99	Johnnie Walker Red 1.75ltr ...	29.99	Captain Morgan Rum 1.75ltr .	23.99	Chivas Regal 1.75ltr	49.99	Sambuca Romana 750ml	24.99
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Coors Light	18pk Can	16.99
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Heineken	18pk Can	21.99



Truly Vodka	8pk	16.99
Stella Artois	12pk Btl	16.99
High Noon	8pk	16.99
Bud & Bud Light Suitcase		21.99
Shipyard Pumpkin ...	12pk Can	14.99
Corona Light	12pk Can	16.99
Anchor Xmas	12pk Btl	19.99
Amstel	12pk Btl	16.99

***All Beer Plus Deposit

Opponents target Pine Street bid for hotel conversion with sidewalk protest at the site

(Continued from page 1)

“You saw it spread from Mass and Cass and they have no plan to address that,” Murray said, referring to an area closer to downtown struggling with drug dealing and homelessness. “We already are dealing with the effects of this in many ways. One simple way is if you try to get toothpaste at the CVS, it’s all locked up. If you compare the prices at Stop & Shop here with those in Quincy, they are higher here...We aren’t scared the boogie man will show up; the boogie man has already shown up. This will only magnify it. The people here have invested in this place for generations.”

He added that Dorchester has done its part to address the issues of homelessness and addiction, so perhaps other neighborhoods should be considered. “We shouldn’t be the demonstration project for the mayor, Pine Street Inn, and Community Builders to say they’ve done their part,” he said. “We’ve already done our part.”

Deirdre Wilkinson



Deirdre Wilkinson, right, and Sharon Lupichuk, center, were among the protesters at 900 Morrissey Blvd. project last Saturday morning.

said Dorchester is already saturated with service providers, noting that the conditions at the Roundhouse—formerly a Best Western Hotel—at Mass. and Cass has her worried. It is now being used as a low-threshold housing option for those on Mass. and Cass.

“I worked at the Roundhouse when it was a hotel and I’ve watched it go to what it is now,” she said. “There are so many young kids here in this area and it’s right next to the school and bowling alley and so many activities. It’s always Dorchester, Mat-

tapan, and Roxbury. You never hear about this in West Roxbury, but we’re supposedly all part of Boston.”

Pine Street operates permanent supportive housing facilities in Dorchester, Roxbury, Jamaica Plain, Fenway, the South End, and Brookline.

Another 900 Morrissey neighbor, Maggie Mancuso, said the city should heed the opposition from local residents. “This decision was made behind our backs and without transparency and Dorchester deserves better,” she said.



The scene in front of the hotel at 900 Morrissey Blvd. on Saturday morning
Seth Daniel photos

She was joined by Susan Kelly, who took aim at the owners of the property, the Strazzula and Sammartino families – who also operate Boston Bowl and other properties on Morrissey Boulevard.

“They opened up in Dorchester in 1959 and they’ve been here a long time, and now they’ve left us for Scituate,” she said.

After a BPDA meeting on Dec. 7 that attracted 270 people, the Reporter noted that those speaking in opposition outnumbered supporters by approximately two to one.

A statement from Pine


Street Inn and TCB last Friday reiterated their view that affordable housing is desperately needed and that projects like 900 Morrissey provide safe and stable housing for some of the city’s most vulnerable residents, many of them elderly.

“Future residents at 900 Morrissey will undergo multiple screenings, pass criminal background checks, and will be drawn from a known list of the city’s chronically homeless individuals,” read the statement. “We are grateful for the community support we have received on this project to date. We have been


addressing questions around security and parking and will continue to work with the community and city to come up with the best plan for 900 Morrissey.”

They added they have a long track record of success to point to.


“With 50+ years of experience improving people’s lives across Boston, we are committed to being good neighbors,” the statement noted. “We invite residents of the neighborhood to tour one of our permanent supportive housing locations for a first-hand look at the type of housing we are planning at 900 Morrissey Blvd.”



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- Sen. Nick Collins

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Reporter's

People

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

Wu reappoints Robinson, Tran to School Committee

Mayor Wu last week re-appointed two Dorchester residents, Jeri Robinson and Quoc Tran, to new four-year terms as members of the Boston School Committee.

“Both Jeri and Quoc are champions for all our students and school staff, and they’re committed to digging in and making the systemic changes our communities need,” Wu



Jeri Robinson
said in a statement. “I want to thank them both



Quoc Tran
for their leadership and look forward to continu-

ing our work together.” Robinson has served as chair of the eight-member board, which oversees the city’s schools, since 2021. She is retired, having previously worked as vice president of early childhood initiatives at the Boston Children’s Museum.

First appointed to the School Committee in 2014, she played a key role in Wu’s search for a permanent superintendent earlier this year. The committee voted in June to hire Mary Skipper, a Dorchester resident who was heading up Somerville’s public schools after a long career as an educator in Boston.

Skipper called both Robinson and Tran “trust-

ed and valuable partners” since her return to Boston schools, saying, “I’m thrilled they’ll remain in place as we continue to improve facilities, foundations, and outcomes for students and families across the city.”

For their part, Robinson said the school system is in a “new era,” while Tran said he was “grateful” for the opportunity to keep “building a system that will nurture the next generation.”

Tran, who also is retired, is the father of four BPS graduates. He previously worked as deputy director of diversity and civil rights within the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services and

New Raptor Residence at Franklin Park Zoo

Visitors to Franklin Park Zoo can now immerse themselves in a newly renovated outdoor habitat home for Andean condors. Renamed Raptor Ridge, the unit went through an extensive upgrade this past spring and summer, with one of the focuses being the integrity of the original architecture.

The huge iron and steel structure, originally called the Aquatic Flying Cage, was once home to waterfowl, pelicans, ibis, and a flamingo flock. The aviary was built over 110 years ago, and is one of only two original buildings still standing at the Zoo, alongside the William Austin Bird House (known as Bird’s World).

The renovation, which took seven months to



Zoo New England has opened Raptor Ridge, a newly renovated outdoor habitat home to Andean condors. Amalia Arguello photo

complete, involved replacing 42,000 feet of mesh and using 180 gallons of paint. The landscaping was completely redone with predominantly native plants chosen to have a similar look to the environment where the birds are from. Water plants will be added in the spring.

Additionally, flight paths and perches were added, including closer perching for better visibility when the birds use them. The unit features a 300-foot-long watercourse that drops 12 feet over five waterfalls.

Dot students earn Honors at BC High

The following students have been named to the First Quarter Honor Roll at Boston College High School. Among those receiving High Honors are seniors

Charles Comeau, James Gibbons, Jaron Josephs, Marvin Le, Ezra Richter, Matthew Studley, and Shizan Wang, High Honors; juniors Ruben Berganza, Luke

Hugo, Matthew Hunt, and William Nguyen; sophomores Kenny Vu, Jonason Carvalho, Benjamin Cleary, and freshmen Kise Flannery and Charles Springer.

Among those receiving Honors are seniors Nealon Fernandes, Braedon Finnigan, Connor Nee, and Luke O’Sullivan; juniors Jamari Carvalho, Domenic Cellai, Car-

los Henriquez, Mason Cleary, Anas Tabakh; sophomores Shane Coleman, Conor Forry, Jacob Glynn, Daniel Le, Andrew O’Connell, Marek Powell; freshmen Thomas Ahern, Honors Finbar Brophy, Charles Kelly, Robert Lavey, Nicholas Loschiavo, Michael Lynch, Timothy Nguyen, and Brady Thach.

Mattapan teen’s documentary takes first at Scout Film Fest

‘Mattapan The Documentary’ drew plenty of acclaim in the community for its professional and thorough portrayal of the neighborhood. Now, the production—led by Mattapan teen Moses Sibley—won first place in its category at the Scout Film Festival.

Festival co-founder Anna Colavito said it was the festival’s first year in Boston after being in Vermont for several years. There were more than 3,000 films submitted from 109 countries. Sibley’s documentary won the 18 & Under category for documentary filmmaking.

“When I saw it, I knew it was special not because it was a first-time film, but it has all the qualities of a well-made documentary,” she said.

“We see thousands of these films, and it is really hard to pull off what Moses and his friends did. We really are impressed; it really was one



Mattapan’s Moses Sibley at the red-carpet event for the Scout Film Festival this fall. Photo courtesy of Scout Film Festival

of the highlights of this year’s overall festival.”

Sibley, 14, and his team found out that they won during a screening of the movie at District Hall in the Seaport last fall, with state Rep. Brandy Fluker Oakley – who appeared in the film – breaking the news to the gathering.

“I did get to tell them they won and to see the joy and enthusiasm come

out onto their faces was amazing,” she said. “It was the first film they had done at the Teen Center and the first youth-led film in Mattapan. It was truly joy personified.”

Oakley said the documentary had special meaning to her, noting “it was a time where we could show others that we are not what they say we are.”

Said Sibley: “It was a huge moment for me because Scout Film Festival is an international film festival and gets talented people from all over the world to participate... Winning gained us so much already... It really is a big deal and will open a lot of doors for us as young film makers.”

Moses and those who helped him on the documentary are already working on new projects for this year via the Mattapan Teen Center.

– SETH DANIEL

YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE

DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Fields Corner Municipal Building

From the National Register: The Municipal Building is an example of the work of Boston’s first City Architect, George A. Clough, and is significant for its role in community development. Although the building permits and records no longer exist for the Municipal Building, it is generally thought that Clough (1843-ca. 1916) began designing schools for the city in 1872 and became the first City Architect in 1873. He learned drafting from his father, who was a Maine shipbuilder, and studied under George Snell of the Boston firm of Snell & Gregerson. He opened his own firm in 1869.



Clough’s most prominent buildings are the Suffolk County Courthouse in Pemberton Square 1888-89) and Boston Latin and English High School (1877. He is also credited with designing more than 25 schools for the city.

“Visible from the Fields Corner intersection, looking north-westward along Adams Street is the architecturally significant, High Victorian Gothic Municipal Building at 1 Arcadia Street and 193 Adams Street in Dorchester. This 3.5 story H-shaped building is constructed of red brick with granite trimmings, its roofline characterized by a series of steeply pitched gables. Built as Police Station #1 ca. 1875, this building is one of the most important landmark buildings in the area.

– From the National Register nomination

The Municipal Building is important for its contribution to the civic and cultural history of Dorchester. It was originally constructed as a replacement for the old District 11 Police Station that was located on Hancock Street. The eastern wing of the building, facing Adams Street, housed the new police station, with jail cells (still remaining) in the basement. The rear (western) wing was designed as the Dorchester branch of the Boston Public Library, the first such branch system in the United States. The building also served for a time as a district court.

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

Editorial

Healey can win big by addressing Morrissey issues

The incoming Healey-Driscoll administration will have its hands full over the coming weeks as it endeavors to execute a smooth transition and get a jump on its priorities for successful governance.

But the new Democrat-led executive team would do well to get its best and brightest engaged early and expeditiously on coastal Dorchester, where a confluence of development projects, deferred maintenance, and climate change pressures are about to crash into each other with the force of a tsunami.

If harnessed correctly and with the proper urgency, the new basketball-loving governor and her team can put some big points on her first-quarter scoreboard by paying close attention to what’s happening in our neighborhood.

The most pressing need from the Commonwealth’s perspective is to put some coordination, funding, and leadership into the vulnerable, aging infrastructure along Morrissey Boulevard, the state-owned parkway that runs past the waterfront from Neponset to Kosciuszko circle.

A plan to modernize, elevate, and add sensible elements for safe passage for bicylists and pedestrians has been languishing under the current administration, which seemed content to let the next team figure out the complex and politically sensitive solutions. With thousands of new housing units now in the pipeline along Morrissey — a good many of them now just months away from occupancy — there’s really no cushion left in terms of a timeframe for planning.

The same holds true for the critically important public transit hub at JFK-UMass, which has now gone several decades without a substantial investment in repair or rebuild. And, as the *Reporter* has documented in recent stories, the facility has become more than an embarrassing eyesore. It’s both a hazard and a hindrance in a part of the city that’s about to grow exponentially.

In 2015, a well-meaning group of Boston leaders from business, sports, and politics advanced an ambitious plan to bring the 2024 Summer Olympic games to Boston. Their vision, in part, was to catalyze major investment in infrastructure that could serve the region long after the games decamped. The Morrissey-Columbia Point area would have been ground zero for the effort, with a sprawling Athletes Village planned for the UMass-owned Bayside campus.

Now, in place of the ’24 Summer Games, there’s the \$5 billion, 36-acre Dorchester Bay City development that is quickly heading toward key approvals from city planners, perhaps as soon as next summer. And while the city of Boston and the Wu administration are providing the necessary oversight to the project right now, it will require state leadership to make sure the corresponding needs are met for assets like Day Boulevard, Morrissey, JFK-UMass station and, of course, Kosziusko Circle.

The Healey team might do well to treat this challenge as though the Olympics bid never was scrapped. Apply that same urgency to mobilize a public-private effort that can align engineering prowess, taxpayer dollars, and private funds from massive projects like Dorchester Bay City. It will take an all-star team from the state side — with some personal attention from the governor herself — to make it happen. And it’ll be far from a layup or a quick jump shot. But it would be a huge win for a first-term administration to put its collective back into a hugely important set of projects that will transform this section of Boston for generations to come.

We hope Team Healey will rise to that challenge.

– Bill Forry

Commentary

Veteran teacher, administrator is Healey pick as education chief

**By CARRIE JUNG
WBUR REPORTER**

Governor-elect Maura Healey has named a longtime public-school educator and former superintendent of the Lynn Public Schools as her education secretary.

Patrick Tutwiler is among Healey’s earliest Cabinet appointments to head a major division. As Secretary of the Executive Office of Education, he will oversee policy concerning early education, the K-12 school system, and higher education.

Tutwiler currently works as a senior program officer for education at the Barr Foundation in developing new high school learning models. In a career in education that spans more than 20 years, he has been a history teacher at Brighton High School, assistant headmaster at English High School in Boston, principal at Wayland High School, and superintendent in Lynn, among other positions.

Healey says she hopes Tutwiler’s wide-ranging experience will help ensure that Massachusetts has a high quality and equitable school system. “From his time working as a high school history teacher to leading a large, diverse, urban school district, he has earned his reputation as a con-



Patrick Tutwiler

sensus builder who puts diversity, equity and inclusion at the center of everything he does, and delivers results,” she said in a statement.

Tutwiler says he’s honored to be selected for the role and is excited to start building his team. “Our office is going to be all about the people — the students, the families, the educators and the staff who we serve will drive all of our decision making,” he said in a statement.

The Andover resident earned a bachelor’s degree from The College of the Holy Cross, a master’s degree in education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and a PhD in curriculum and instruction from the Lynch School of Education at Boston College.

Though Healey has not yet released detailed plans for her education priorities, her campaign’s broad goals included closing the

opportunity gap in early childhood education and state university system. Healey also supports investing in K-12 school counselors, recruiting and retaining more teachers of color, and assessing the role of standardized testing.

Multiple education groups applauded Tutwiler’s appointment to the Cabinet post.

Beth Kontos, president of the American Federation of Teachers Massachusetts, believes the governor-elect made the right choice. “Dr. Tutwiler is a professional educator of the highest caliber who puts students and families first, while also respecting dedicated educators in the classroom,” she said in a statement, adding that the teacher’s union looks forward to working with the incoming Healey administration.

Officials with the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents called the move “brilliant,” with Executive Director Tom Scott highlighting Tutwiler’s background working with both high performing suburban districts and urban districts serving large numbers of high-needs students, calling it a unique strength. *This article was originally published by WBUR 90.9FM on Dec. 16. The Reporter and WBUR share content through a media partnership.*

To the Editor

US, not Russia, created Ukraine tragedy

To the Editor:

The report from Hungary and Romania by Lew Finfer (Dec. 8) was notable in two respects: First, the much-needed highlighting of the human tragedy facing Ukrainians and others in the region and, second, the notable lack of any mention of the role played by the US, especially the State Department, and NATO in fomenting the conflict there with a continuing supply of weapons, billions of dollars’ worth. Without these arms, there would not be millions of refugees nor hundreds of thousands of deaths.

His criticism of Hungary’s leader Orban is a head scratcher. Orban was elected in 2022 by a wide margin with no claims of electoral fraud (unlike here in the US) brought by foreign monitors. Orban says Hungarian culture and history is a Christian one and his government will do all it can to protect them. Mass immigration threatens the country’s religious, cultural, and historical legacy. It is not difficult at all to understand why a religious country wants to protect its heritage.

The idea that Orban is promoting anti-semitism with Jewish caricatures of George Soros, a Jewish man, is not backed up by any official policy of the Hungarian government. This is in contrast to the US-supported Ukranaian/Zelensky government’s promotion of Stephen Bandera, an outspoken Fascist anti-semite during WWII. And, regarding the charge of authoritarianism against Orban, the Ukrainian government is no slacker, banning opposition parties, news media, and, just recently, the Christian Russian Orthodox Church. Hungary has done none of this.

Some dates to remember: In 2008, the US an-

nounced its intention that Ukraine would become a NATO member, despite Russia’s declaration that this was an existential threat to the country and could never be allowed. (Imagine the US response if China or Russia announced that Mexico or Canada would become of a member of their military alliance)

In 2014, the unconstitutional and bloody coup against the elected Ukrainian government, resulting in the murders in Kiev’s Maidan Square (90 people killed by snipers) and the burning of the Odessa Trade Union building (50 people either burnt alive or clubbed to death as they tried to flee), was funded with \$5b from the US State Department. During the coup Victoria Nuland, an assistant secretary of the state, was recorded announcing that the US had decided who the next president of the country would be. That is the US Department’s unique brand of democracy and civil government.

And, since 2014, the Kiev government has been at war against its ethnic Russian population in Eastern Ukraine, bombing and shelling the cities and killing more than 14,000 in the process.

US political hubris to control other countries and a seemingly insatiable appetite of the US arms industry for more profits created the Ukrainian tragedy. Not Russia.

If Lew and other Dorchester residents in their Fellows’ program are truly concerned about the people of Ukraine, Hungary, and Romania, they would do better to push their State Department paymasters to stop funding the war.

Joe Ureneck
Dorchester

Rev. McGuffie, longtime CPA turned Catholic priest; at 76

Rev. Jacques A. McGuffie, a native of Haiti who served as a priest in the Archdiocese of Boston from 2013-2017, died on Dec. 9 at age 76. Rev. McGuffie served as a priest in Dorchester at Holy Family Parish and St. Peter parish in 2013-2015 and was a Deacon at St. Patrick’s in Roxbury prior to his ordination.

Fr. McGuffie was a delayed vocation who came to the priesthood after the death of his wife, Marie Clorette Péan, with whom he raised two daughters and two adopted children. After his wife’s death in 2009, McGuffie elected to enter the seminary and suspend his longtime career as a CPA in Dorchester to “pursue a higher calling,” as he wrote in a 2013 article.

“My life as a priest is not one of luxury on easy street; this is not what Jesus promised; but life is good. Then again, being a priest is not about me; it’s about proclaiming the kingdom of God by word and by the way I live my life,” he said.

Rev. McGuffie was also assigned to St Joseph Parish and St Catherine of Genoa Parish in Somerville in 2015-2017. His funeral Mass was celebrated on Dec. 16 at St Joseph Church in Boston. His interment followed at Mount Hope Cemetery.

– REPORTER STAFF



The Reporter

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While slight dip is seen, opioid OD deaths remain at high level

By **SAM DRYSDALE**
STATE HOUSE
NEWS SERVICE

As the opioid epidemic rages on, preliminary data for 2022 show a slight decrease from last year's record high opioid-related overdose deaths in Massachusetts, though cases remain high compared to the last two decades. The rate of fatalities in the state increased 11 percent between 2020 and 2021. The first nine months of 2022 so far show an estimated 1.5 percent decrease compared with the same time period last year, according to the Massachusetts Public Health Council's biannual opioid report released last Wednesday.

In the first nine months of this year, there were 1,696 confirmed and estimated opioid-related overdose deaths. That's about one death every six days, but it's also about 25 fewer deaths than in the first nine months of 2021.

For the last six years, starting in 2016, opioid-related overdose deaths have surpassed 2,000 fatalities every year.

Through the first six months of this year, fentanyl was present in 94 percent of toxicology screens of people who died from opioid-related overdoses. The introduction of the potent synthetic opioid into the state's illicit drug trade has been associated with increasing fatal overdoses for the past few years.

Public Health Commissioner Margaret Cooke on Wednesday also warned of a new drug that has begun surfacing in toxicology screens.

Xylazine, a veterinary pain reliever and sedative that is not considered to be safe for humans, began being significantly detected in toxicology screens this year, and has so far been present in 5 percent of opioid-related overdoses in 2022.

The Federal Drug Administration (FDA) released an alert in November warning health care professionals of xylazine, citing increasing reports around the country of individuals exposed to fentanyl, heroin, and other illicit drugs contaminated with the animal tranquilizer.

"While the prevalence of xylazine is relatively low among opioid-related overdose deaths, it is important to be aware of it, especially for first responders who need to continue to give oxygen in addition to Naloxone for suspected opioid overdoses as Naloxone will not reverse the effects of xylazine," Cooke said.

Naloxone, medicine that rapidly reverses an opioid overdose, was administered in 97 percent of the acute opioid overdose events during the first nine months of 2022, "which is what we are hoping to see," Cooke said.

Baker's health chief files for retirement

Marylou Sudders, who oversaw Covid-19 response efforts and helmed the state's sprawling health and human services secretariat, plans to retire from public service early next year, she told state employees Monday via her monthly newsletter, which she said would be her last.

"Having entered state service in 1978, it has been the privilege of my professional career and an extraordinarily humbling experience to serve as Secretary of Health and Human Services for Gov. Baker and Lt. Governor Polito," Sudders wrote. "In November, 'my papers' for retirement from paid public service were filed with an effective date of January 5."

Sudders was part of Baker's cabinet throughout his two terms and ran a secretariat with a \$27.1 billion budget in fiscal 2022. She wrote that one of her predecessors had pointed out that she

In that time period, from the beginning of this year through September, 72 percent of the 1,340 confirmed Massachusetts residents who have died from opioid overdoses were men, and 28 percent were women.

The largest percentage of those who died in fatal overdoses were aged 35 to 44, representing about 29 percent of all overdoses in the first nine months of the year, followed by age groups 45 to 54 and 25 to 34, who represent 22 percent and 19 percent of fatalities.

Two children below the age of 15 died from confirmed opioid-related overdoses this year.

The large majority of those killed were white, representing 70 percent of the total fatalities.

Since Gov. Baker first took office in 2015, budget spending in opioid recovery programs and harm reduction has increased fivefold across several state agencies from \$119 million to \$597 million in the fiscal year 2023 budget he signed in July.

Baker and Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito said at a roundtable discussion on the opioid epidemic in November that they are proud of looking back at the last eight years of increased funding in this area.

At the same roundtable event, Gov.-elect Maura Healey discussed work she's done as the state's attorney general suing big pharma for their role in the opioid crisis.

"We're going to continue to make progress on getting the resources in place to address substance use disorder, to address mental health issues, which we know for far too long in this country just haven't been given the attention and the resources and the investment that has been needed," Healey said. "But I think we've made great strides as a state to do that."

Julie Burns, president and CEO of RIZE Massachusetts Foundation, a Boston-based nonprofit whose mission is to end the opioid epidemic in the state, released a statement Wednesday thanking the Baker-Polito administration for "staying laser-focused on the overdose crisis" and said she hopes to work with the incoming Healey-Driscoll administration to "continue to build on a data-driven and equity-based public health approach that makes prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery services readily available to anyone."

"Though we are finally seeing a decline in deaths from the staggering figures of the last two years," Burns said, "we cannot forget that each number still represents a life lost too soon and devastation for families and communities across the Commonwealth," Burns said. "Though this is not a moment for celebration, it is one for hope."



Marylou Sudders

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Boston Foundation report: Massive expansion of state rental aid would address housing crisis

BY CHRIS LISINSKI
STATE HOUSE
NEWS SERVICE

Fewer than half of Massachusetts households eligible to receive state rental aid tap into a mix of available subsidies, a disparity policymakers could address by committing to a massive, multibillion-dollar expansion of rental vouchers, researchers concluded in a new report.

Rolling out an extensive analysis of what would represent a dramatic and costly investment, authors said state government could help hundreds of thousands of families navigate the housing crisis by building out the existing Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP).

Opening up universal access to the program for all eligible households would cost about \$3.2 billion per year, according to the report published last week by The Boston Foundation.

That's a hefty price tag — in the fiscal year 2023 state budget, lawmakers and Gov. Charlie Baker appropriated about \$154 million toward MRVP — that authors said would require preparation and

Tab for Fiscal Year 2023: \$150m; For universal voucher option: \$3.5b

a “gradual phase-in.” But they argued that a universal voucher option warrants consideration because of the significant impact it would have on homelessness prevention and family budgets.

“Rental assistance helps renters without hurting landlords; it makes housing affordable without tying developers’ hands; and although it is expensive for the state, it doesn’t impose the kinds of hidden costs that come with alternatives like rent control, which can dampen long-term growth and development,” the authors wrote in their report.

“And while there’s no switch that we can flip to open MRVP to all eligible households, there is a way to get from here to there — with lots of places to stop and confirm that we are avoiding unnecessary troubles and providing effective aid. Fifty years ago, we were the first state to create a rental assistance program. Today, we can be the first state to make it work for all in need,” they added.

The foundation pro-

duced the report in conjunction with the Center for State Policy Analysis at Tufts University, Citizens’ Housing and Planning Association (CHAPA), Metro Housing | Boston, the Regional Housing Network of Massachusetts, and the Mass. chapter of the National Association of Housing & Redevelopment Officials.

To be eligible for MRVP, a household needs to earn less than 80 percent of the median income in their area, though researchers said typical recipients in fact earn less than 30 percent of area median income.

Analysts found that about 585,000 Massachusetts households would qualify today for rental assistance based on their incomes, but only about 250,000 receive any of a range of available benefits, including federal Section 8 vouchers, state and federal public housing, and sub-market housing production.

The roughly \$150 million state government currently spends on MRVP covers only about 9,000 vouchers, leaving

most who are eligible “locked out” in contrast from other government programs like Medicaid.

“With MRVP and Section 8, you can meet all the eligibility requirements and not even be allowed to join a wait list,” the report said. “Indeed, the regional MRVP wait lists have been closed since 2014. And in the brief window when they were open that year, one organization administering the program received 10,000 applications for 54 vouchers.”

Assuming that a universal voucher expansion would not attract 100 percent take up, the authors estimated it would cost \$3.2 billion per year and help support 240,000 new households.

Those figures might swell if greater availability of vouchers encourages people currently living in crowded conditions

to move out and seek their own subsidized rental units or attracts lower-income families to move to the Bay State.

“A state investment of this size would make housing support a pillar of the state budget alongside core priorities like funding for public schools and health insurance for low-income residents,” the report said. “Our estimate is also in line with other transformative proposals, like the push for universal preschool, estimated to cost \$5 billion per year.”

Policymakers would also need to take steps to prevent unintended negative consequences, such as a jump in rents fueled by increased demand once more families seek out housing with the aid of vouchers. Authors said the state could focus on incentivizing new construction, loosening zoning rules, and setting limits on “unreasonable rent” hikes to manage those risks.

Other options authors flagged include ensuring that MRVP vouchers are not “more desirable” than federal aid, noting that keeping Bay Staters participating in the federal Section 8 program will reduce state costs, and expanding cushions that allow people to maintain their vouchers for a certain period of time if they get pay raises that push them above the eligibility.

The “first step” the report recommended is codifying the voucher program’s core rules in standalone law, rather than reestablishing them annually in the state budget. Authors also said a universal MRVP would fare better with a “more integrated, or even centralized” system of oversight and management, a departure from the current model that uses a combination of regional and local housing authorities.

Dot apparel firm signs pact with NFL Combine

The apparel company that is moving its headquarters from South Street downtown into the former Globe headquarters on Morrissey Boulevard, has picked up a prestigious client for its products: The National Football League.

Nobull has signed a five-year contract to be

the presenting sponsor of the NFL Combine, the wintertime (February and March) event in Indianapolis where some 300 players, most of them collegians, strut their stuff for NFL teams before the springtime draft is held. The program includes medical examinations,

on-field workouts, and physical challenges.

According to the company, the “partnership” designates it as the official Combine training partner of the NFL and the official on-field supplier of apparel and headwear for the NFL Combine.

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City officials sign off on 800 Morrissey proposal

By GINTAUTAS DUMCIUS
MANAGING EDITOR

The board of the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) last week approved a project that will see the demolition of the Ramada Inn at 800 Morrissey Blvd and the construction of 229 residential units on the site.

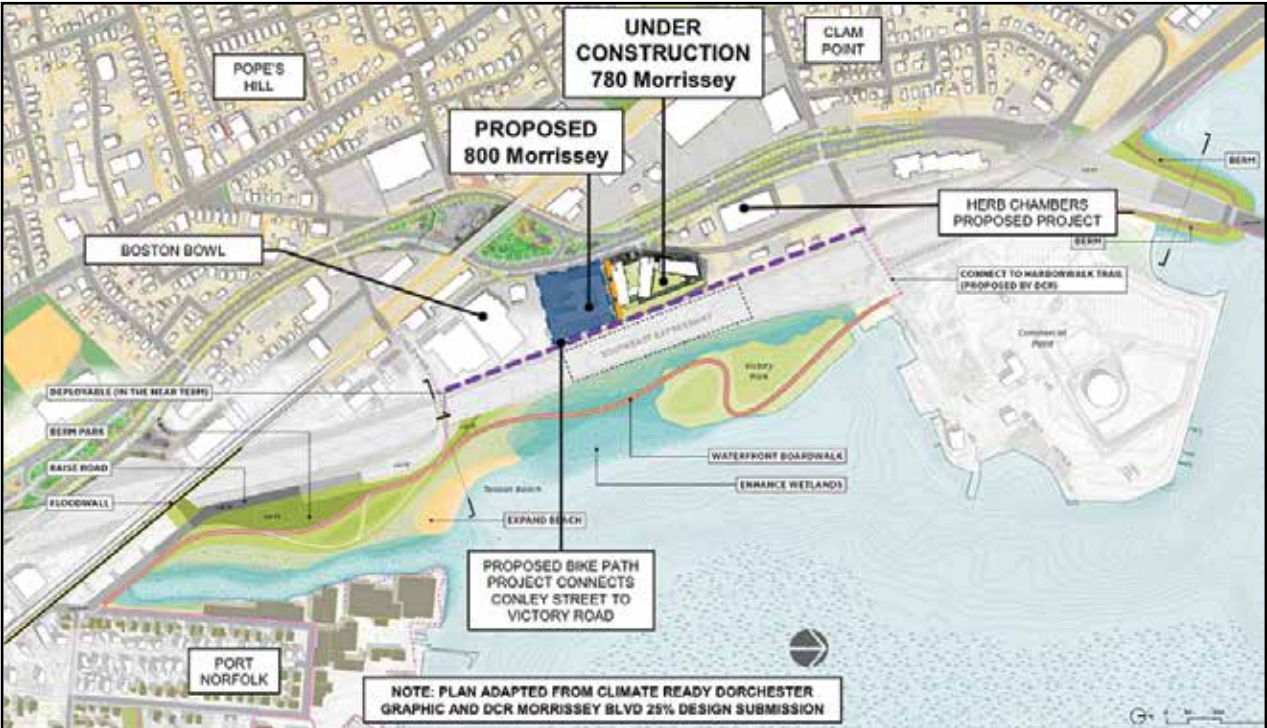
The 800 Morrissey project will rise next to 780 Morrissey, which is under construction after its BPDA approval in January 2021 and will bring 219 residential units into place. Both are six-story buildings.

The construction of 800 Morrissey, which carries a development cost of \$115 million, is expected to create 206 jobs, according to the BPDA.

New Jersey-based Michaels Organization is developing the project, which is sited next to Boston Bowl. The Phillips Group, which operates Boston Bowl and the Phillips Candy House, is the owner of 780 and 800 Morrissey.

Of 800 Morrissey's 229 residential units, 34 will be income-restricted, and 50 percent will be studios. There will be 152 on-site parking spaces.

One of the project's features is flexible office



Above, a map provided by the development team behind 800 Morrissey Blvd. shows the impacted area next to what is now an active construction site at 780 Morrissey. Image courtesy Michaels Development/C3 Architects

Right, a rendering depicts the proposed residential building at 800 Morrissey Blvd.

Image courtesy Michaels Development/C3 Architects

space for remote work, a nod to how the pandemic has reordered company employees' commuting patterns.

The project will also



have electric vehicle sharing service, public

open space, a Bluebikes sharing station, and a

connection to a multi-use public path, part

of an extension of the Neponset Greenway Trail, planned for behind the building by the state Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Department of Transportation. Developers have agreed to maintain the portion of the path that runs behind the building.

A shuttle bus will serve the buildings, traveling to the MBTA's JFK/UMass station, which services multiple bus lines, the Red Line, and the three commuter rail lines.

The proposed community benefits from the project include \$200,000 to The People's Academy Inc., a jobs training program based in Dorchester. The developer has also agreed to contribute \$60,000 toward the design and construction of improvements to the intersection of Morrissey Blvd., Tenen Street, and Freeport Street.

As the 800 Morrissey project has been making its way through the city approvals process, Quincy-based Father Bill's, a homeless shelter operation, has been leasing the Ramada Inn while it builds its new facility, complete with an emergency shelter, in Quincy.

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Seymour, Taylor C		Likosky, Timothy		439 Gallivan Blvd #439	Dorchester	11/18/22	720,000
Calixte, Jwnnw S	Bosquet, Jospeh R	Calixte, Jeanne S		23 Topliff St #1	Dorchester	11/18/22	175,000
Real Estate Boston LLC		Alfonso, Norma		9 Elder St	Dorchester	11/30/22	\$20,000
Truong, Tom	Ly, Thomas	Kaufman Richard A Est	Stevens, Linda A	5 Linda Ln #2-2	Dorchester	11/30/22	251,200
Tran, Hai	Hoang, Ann	19 Midland Street RT	Burke, Kelly A	19 Midland St	Dorchester	11/29/22	830,000
Faubert, Jonathan	Lewenstein, Lena	Anderson, Nancy		31 Ocean St	Dorchester	12/02/22	1,275,500
Kendrick Properties LLC		Mchoul, Donald A		354 Adams St	Dorchester	11/30/22	1,300,000
Mooney, Jared	Miller, Danielle	Ballard Brian H Est	Ballard, Bruce D	9 Moultrie St	Dorchester	12/01/22	710,000
Vuong, Hong T	Tieu-Vuong, Mai	Jablonski, Paul P		76 Everdean St	Dorchester	11/30/22	682,000
Thach, Joe H		7 Crowell Street Dev LLC		7 Crowell St	Dorchester	11/29/22	1,120,000
Real Estate Boston LLC		Jenkins, Edward		8 Wave Ave	Dorchester	12/01/22	1,300,000
Real Estate Boston LLC		Afonso, John		11 Elder St	Dorchester	11/30/22	1,400,000
Tran, Josephine N		Nicasio, Mireya E	Amiama, Rafael E	54 Gallivan Blvd	Dorchester	11/29/22	665,000
Mahoney, David M		M J Bulman Dorchester RT	Bulman, Michael J	701 Adams St #9	Dorchester	12/01/22	370,000
Sobers, Andrew		Silas-Johnson, Annie R	Smith, Adam R	93 Willowood St	Dorchester	11/30/22	800,000
Frankie&Peter LLC		T J Mulhall FT 2017	Mulhall-Massey, Rachel	874 Adams St	Dorchester	12/01/22	800,000
Kelley, William T	Kelley, Kimberly A	St Joseph Of Boston		21 Millwood St	Dorchester	12/02/22	850,000
Neely, Joshua M	Neely, Meggie D	Joyce Flora M Est	Joyce-Bird, Sheila F	5 Marsh St	Dorchester	11/30/22	530,000
Theork, Prosper J		Theork, Melano		24 Fessenden St	Mattapan	11/28/22	950,000
Harper, Shawn S	Jackson, Ernest	Purvis, Sonya	Mims, Ruth	41 Glenhill Rd	Mattapan	12/01/22	462,919
Bellegarde, Maxene	Bellegarde, Simeus P	Cox Miriam G Est	Cox, Barron B	11 Mamelon Cir	Mattapan	12/01/22	740,000
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VF Camilo RT	Camilo, Vivian	BJ Realty LLC		544 River St	Mattapan	11/29/22	390,000
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Perez, Felix		Lemma, Mahelet T		352-R Blue Hill Ave #2	Dorchester	12/02/22	330,000
Hardy, Jeffrey T	Wasserman, Tegan M	Bellal Rea LLC		9 Batchelder St #1	Dorchester	12/01/22	480,000
Erler, Kelsey N	Richardson, Samuel F	45 Dorset Deveopement		45 Dorset St #3	Dorchester	12/01/22	779,000
Rawlins-Pilgrim, Samantha		465 Development LLC		27 Saxton St #2	Dorchester	12/01/22	900,000
Paris, Deric L	Paris, Mark	Mcdermott, Gavin	Mcdermott, James M	1210 Morton St	Dorchester	12/02/22	695,000



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Chang-Diaz looks back at her accomplishments

(Continued from page 1) stitutions of government and Beacon Hill,” she told the *Reporter* in an interview. “That was part of my mission coming in, helping rebuild people’s faith in government.”

The public’s cynicism about Beacon Hill is still there, and it’s not entirely unearned, according to Chang-Diaz, who has clashed with colleagues over various bills and initiatives. But she recalls running into constituents who thanked her for responding to their notes, telling her, “It made me feel like someone in government cared about me.”

Her list of big-ticket accomplishments over 14 years runs the gamut: At the top is the Student Opportunity Act, passed into law in 2019, which seeks to send \$1.5 billion into the state’s preK-12 schools. There also were reforms to the cannabis industry, the state’s Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) system, and in policing through the creation of an independent agency to handle statewide certification for law enforcement.

“One of the hardest things in this job is the judgment calls about when you say yes to a compromise, and



Outgoing state Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz, who is moving on from the State House after giving up her seat and campaigning for governor, plans to focus on spending time with her family before deciding on her next job.

State House News Service file photo

when you hold out for something stronger,” Chang-Diaz said, pointing to the Student Opportunity Act as a prime example in her eyes. “Fourteen years into this job, I can’t offer any sort of pat recipe of when you choose one.”

Talks between the House and Senate over the bill collapsed behind closed doors in 2018, with Chang-Diaz accusing House leaders of “ratio-

nalizations and double standards,” according to WBUR. Roughly a year later, the bill emerged and was signed into law by Gov. Baker. “The decision to hold out and say we’re going to come back stronger next year was an agonizing choice, but the right one,” she said, arguing that the final version was 500 times bigger than what was on the table in 2018.

Whether the law will

help school districts like Boston remains an open question. Chang-Diaz said she has a “healthy dose of humility” in what she can know about the future. “No one person in the policy making ecosystem can ensure things are going to happen,” she said. “This is going to sound corny, but it truly is a partnership between state and localities.”

There are no guaran-

tees, she added. “You have to put conditions in place for success but real people in the real world have to implement it,” she said. Different districts are going to do different things with their money, and that’s by design, she said.

Looking ahead to the next few weeks, Chang-Diaz said she and her staffers have been working to give Miranda a “running start,” though “I think she’s got a great handle on the needs of her district.”

Does she have advice for her successor? Hire good people, Chang-Diaz said. “Those are decisions that are worth investing time and energy in,” adding that her office has seen an “incredible” pipeline in talent that includes Nika Elugardo, who ran in the Democratic primary against Miranda and came in second.

She stayed neutral in the race, she said, due to a “deep and meaningful relationship” with both Elugardo and Miranda.

Wilkerson came in third, ahead of a former federal housing official, Miniard Culpepper. Chang-Diaz said her relationship with Wilkerson is now “cordial,” and they run into each other at community

events. Before the 2008 arrest for corruption and the ensuing stint in prison on bribery charges, Wilkerson did “pretty great things,” Chang-Diaz said. “No one can be encapsulated by one action or decision in their life and I’m a big believer in that.”

Her seat opened up due to her decision to run for governor, though she dropped out of the Democratic primary in June, clearing the way for Maura Healey, the attorney general who went on to win the November general election after trouncing a Republican challenger.

Returning to the question of what’s next, Chang-Diaz said she had no plans, nothing lined up, aside from spending more time with her family.

“I promise you I’m not trying to be coy,” she said when asked if she plans to run for public office again. “After an election is not a good time to make major life choices. You have to let time pass. I don’t think so, is my guess, but I truly don’t know and I’m trying not to make big decisions right away.”

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



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MBTA targeting Widett Circle as new Boston layover facility

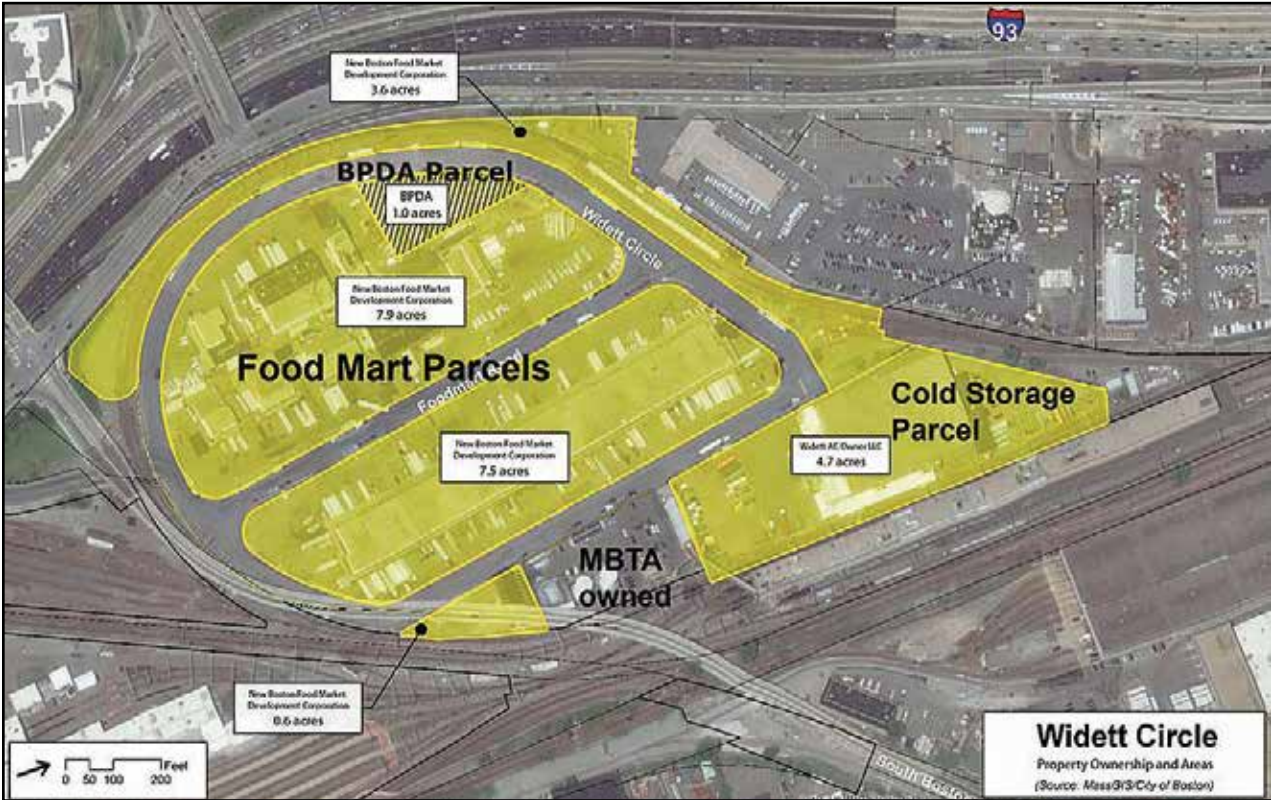
By CHRIS LISINSKI
STATE HOUSE
NEWS SERVICE

MBTA officials gave the green light Thursday to begin the work of acquiring a 24-acre plot of land in Boston, where they hope to build a commuter rail layover facility that will be “foundational” to future expansions and service improvements.

The MBTA Board voted unanimously in favor of launching negotiations to take control of a Widett Circle parcel, tucked up against Interstate 93 about one mile south of South Station, for potentially more than \$100 million.

That land has a long list of upsides for the MBTA, officials said at a board meeting, including its location so close to a major commuter rail hub and directly adjacent to an existing T service and inspection facility.

If the acquisition is successful, the MBTA would use the plot to construct a new location to store trains during midday layovers, which chief real estate officer Richard Henderson said would scale back the use of South Station platforms by idling trains, increase capacity on the network, and reduce con-



A map MBTA officials presented Thursday of the Widett Circle parcel they hope to acquire to build a new commuter rail layover facility.

gestion on the Fairmount Line.

Existing commuter rail facilities are already “at or beyond capacity,” Henderson said.

He noted that the T is seeking to acquire a 19.4-acre parcel owned by the New Boston Food Mart Corporation and a 4.8-acre parcel that was formerly a cold storage facility. The agency will work to provide relocation services to holdover

licensees.

The T and state Department of Transportation have had their eyes on parcels near Widett Circle for “decades,” according to MBTA Chief Administrative Officer David Panagore. Officials believe the site would serve as a linchpin for planned changes to the commuter rail network, which include a long-term transition to electrified trains and more frequent service.

“This is a foundational element for a lot of the ideas and a lot of the thinking about the future of commuter rail,” said MBTA General Manager

Steve Poftak. “They are not creating new land in downtown Boston, and this is the opportunity to secure this parcel once and for all. For many of us, this has been a quest that has spanned across multiple years, perhaps multiple administrations, and we are now in a position to get it done.”

“There’s tremendous amount of interest and

work to do for the future of rail. There is no scenario that does not depend on this central site,” added Transportation Secretary Jamey Tesler. “This has truly been decades in the making.”

It’s not yet clear how much the MBTA will spend on the project. MBTA spokesperson Joe Pesaturo said the cost to acquire the land “is

to be determined based on negotiations with the current owners, followed by concurrence by the Federal Transit Administration.”

During Thursday’s meeting, Henderson said a previous interagency services agreement between the MBTA and MassDOT authorized \$100 million in state funding for the transaction. The board’s vote on Thursday increased that amount to \$155 million.

“We’re able to move this forward with no needed help from any additional T resources other than those already programmed and planned,” Tesler said.

MBTA negotiations are not targeting city of Boston roads and a Boston Planning and Development Agency parcel, and T officials will communicate with city leaders about the future of Boston assets in the area, Henderson said.

The agency included plans for a rail yard at Widett Circle when it filed documents for its South Station Expansion project, and both state and federal agencies approved permits for the rail yard through that process.

Mattapan Square cannabis shop wins zoning approval

The Zoning Board of Appeal on Tuesday

approved the Pot, a marijuana shop proposed for 532-542 River St. in Mattapan Square. The shop, which won approval of the Boston Cannabis Board in October, now goes to the state Cannabis Control Commission for the last major approval it needs before it can open for business.

Dru Ledbetter, the applicant, said the store would be open from 10

a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday.

The Greater Mattapan Neighborhood Council and City Councillors Ricardo Arroyo, Ruthzee Louijeune, and Erin Murphy supported the proposal. Nobody spoke against it.

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- 2

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- 3

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- 4

Complete the Consent to Get DNA Results
- 5

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- 6

Have your measurements taken (height, weight, blood pressure, etc.) and give blood and urine samples, if asked

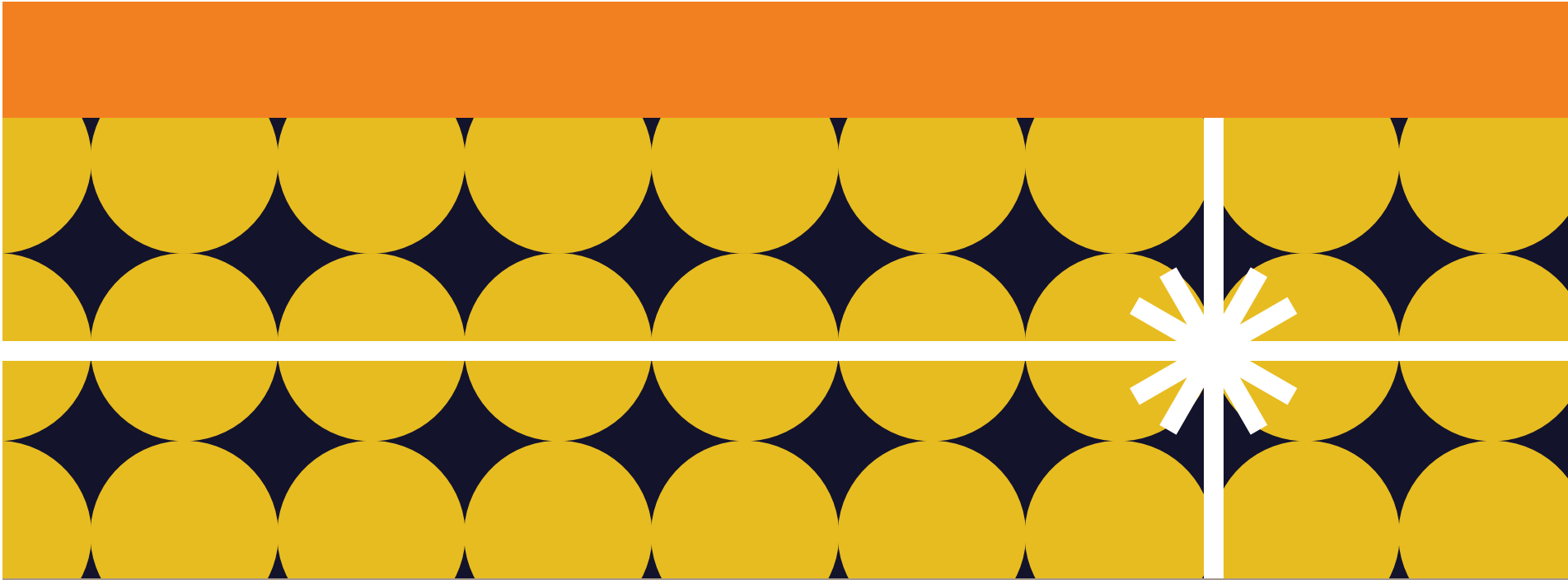
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Dell EMC Volunteers Help Host Annual BGCD Gingerbread Making Event: See details below.

CONNECT THE DOT: Dell EMC Volunteers Help Host Annual BGCD Gingerbread Making Event: This holiday season, Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester partnered with our friends at Dell EMC to host the Annual Gingerbread House making event for 75 of our members. It was a night full of holiday fun and laughter for all who participated.

Over 30 Dell EMC volunteers helped our members use a variety of frostings and candies to create their very own special holiday themed house that they were able to take home after. Thanks to our friends at Dell EMC for making this annual event possible. You help make this holiday season brighter for our members!

For more information on BGCD membership programming, please contact Brendan McDonald at bmcdonald@bgcdorchester.org.

FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE: BGCD Celebrates Holidays with Caroling & Festivities for Harbor Point Welcoming Wednesday: This past week, Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester's Walter Denney Youth Center in Harbor Point hosted a festive holiday edition of our Welcoming Wednesdays.

Friends and families from the Harbor Point community gathered together to spread some holiday cheer with caroling around the neighborhood. Even our very own special guest, The Grinch, joined in on the fun! After caroling, the holiday festivities continued at the Denney Center to take part in some activities and pizza.

For more information on Welcoming Wednesdays and the Harbor Point community, please contact Tricia Chapple at pchapple@bgcdorchester.org.



BGCD Celebrates Holidays with Caroling & Festivities for Harbor Point Welcoming Wednesday: See details below.

DID YOU KNOW: Help BGCD This Year-End Giving Season with a Gift Today!: You can make sure every child who walks through the doors of our three Clubhouses in Dorchester finds safety, fun and a sense of belonging. Our mission is to always welcome and connect young people and families to opportunities that embrace diversity, nurture growth, and inspire success. It is generous donors and partners like you who make this happen. Appreciated stocks, bonds, and mutual funds held for more than a year is a great giving vehicle. When a donor gives an appreciated security they will receive a tax deduction for the full market value of the security and save on Capital gains tax. Consider making a monthly gift that gives all year! Please consider a gift before December 31st at <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/bgcddeoy>. Thank you from all of us at BGCD for your support!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Urban Nutcracker Trip
December 21

Teen Holiday Party
December 22

Member Holiday Party
December 23

*Invite only

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December 23 - January 3

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Learn more at bhcc.edu/saturdays



COVID-19 vaccination required for on-campus courses and visits to campus.

*You must register to attend Start Now Saturdays to be eligible for Door Prize drawings that include two opportunities to win a free course. More details at bhcc.edu/saturdays

METCO is offering new options for prospective students

Hundreds of parents attended the first-ever METCO Showcase of Schools in the Blue Hill Boys & Girls Club on Talbot Avenue Dec. 10. *Seth Daniel photo*

**By SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR**

Earlier this month, hundreds of parents filed into the Blue Hills Boys & Girls Club on Talbot Avenue to look at the first-ever showcase of suburban schools in the METCO program – a racial balancing organization that sends Boston students by bus to suburban districts for classes. With changes to the program that allow for more choice, parents and suburban educators were able to meet and talk directly for the first

time. While parents and students arrived, and district representatives unloaded placards, violin music played by METCO students filtered out to the street from the club’s foyer.

Not lost on anyone was the fact that 100 yards away a few afternoons earlier, several Boston Public School (BPS) elementary students were witnesses to a scene where more than 25 gunshots were fired near the Lee School – injuring two people and sending kids in after-school programs

under desks for cover.

Inside the showcase, there was the promise for parents of a more peaceful environment and a choice that could help young city kids find successes. Yet, with the METCO choice, most – including Executive Director Milly Arbaje-Thomas – said there must be consideration given to the sacrifices.

“In general, parents are being more thoughtful of other school choices because there are many more choices than back in the day,” said Arbaje-

Thomas. “Between the pandemic and all the other factors, they are playing a role in the choices parents make in their children’s education...METCO is its own different ballgame because you’re leaving your community. The commute is a sacrifice and you’re going to a space where you might be the only one that looks like you. There are many things to consider.”

METCO, formally the Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity, was established in 1973 by state law and is funded under the state’s Racial Imbalance Act, which allows for 3,100 students to go to 33 different suburban school districts. Some are as close as Brookline, while others, like Concord-Carlisle, can be more than an hour away. Though long-established, the program is going through a re-birth of sorts. In 2020, ten new suburban districts inquired about adding Boston students in their schools, and in 2021, about 85 new students were allowed to be funded for existing programs in Lynnfield, Reading, and Westwood.

“Particularly in Westwood, they only went to the middle school and up, and they opened up to all grades and it was the first time in the history of their participation in METCO that they expanded,” said Arbaje-Thomas. “Reading expanded by 40 students, which was the largest jump in one year. There was a new superintendent there and a new METCO director and they wanted to increase diversity.”

Under Arbaje-Thomas’s leadership, gone are the days when people would put their child on the wait list shortly after birth or stand in long lines outside the Dimock Health Campus for a wait-list spot. Instead, METCO has instituted an online process, a lottery, and discarded the list.

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Melinda and Dayna Kennedy were representatives for the Swampscott Schools, where Dayna is a junior. Seth Daniel photo

(Continued from page 20)

Parents can apply for their children at age 4, and they can also now choose three suburban districts preferences. Before, they simply got what became available, and they could either take it or leave it. Applications increased by almost 400 in the first year online, and the process has been streamlined. The changes will hopefully prevent METC parents and students from feeling “boxed in,” said Arbaje-Thomas.

“Before, people came out of the hospital with the baby and onto the METCO wait list,” she said. “The list was enormous and not accurate. Now they apply when the time comes for school, and we have eliminated the old wait list. We decided to have parents make decisions about their children’s education when the right time comes – the year before they turn 5.”

To accentuate those changes, the first-ever Showcase of Schools on Dec. 10 allowed suburban schools to talk directly with prospective parents. The event highlighted the great educational opportunities, the high-level sports programs, safe schools, award-winning music ensembles, and better college opportunities. The trade-offs are the long commutes and the fact that students may feel alienated due to their race or ethnicity.

Kary Cabrera of Mattapan had her two young girls with her at the showcase looking at Wayland Schools—one of the longer commutes for the program. “My girls are in a very good school in BPS, but I also know kids in my neighborhood aren’t doing very well,” she said. “I have a teenage stepdaughter and when she got to middle school, she became another person...I think it’s because of friends at school. I think I want to get my other kids in another school that could be better for them, espe-

cially as they get older.”

At the same time, she said, she likes to be a mother that’s involved and helping around the school. “Because these schools are so far from my house, I wouldn’t be able to do that, and I have to think about that. We’ll see what happens,” she said.

Students like Terrence Monroe – a fifth grader who goes to Brookline Public Schools and lives in Allston-Brighton, has thoroughly enjoyed his school, the education, and the family’s integration into the Brookline community. His mother,

Alia Benmusa, grew up in Hyde Park and commuted to Concord-Carlisle within the METCO program from grade 2 to graduation and wants her son to access a better education.

“Last year returning from Covid-19 at fourth grade, he had fallen behind and wasn’t reading at grade level,” she said. “He was given extra support and was at grade level by Christmas. They really identified that and helped provide support to get at grade level and beyond.”

Melinda Kennedy sent her daughter Dayna to the Swampscott Schools in the sixth grade after she had been at the Mason K-8 School. With an older daughter at the Dearborn School in Roxbury, she said, she saw things that she wasn’t comfortable with.

“I just felt there was no way I wanted my daughter to be in that environment,” she said. “It wasn’t so much the education, but the students. I knew that because of the students her education would suffer and I didn’t want that to happen...It’s a sacrifice, but it’s the sacrifice we felt like we would want to make.”

For Dayna, now a junior in high school, the culture shock has been significant, and she cites incidents of racism as something that students

endure. But, she added, the education and opportunities are like nothing she could have had in Boston.

“I didn’t know what my mom had gotten me into, but when I came home, I felt like I learned a lot of things I wouldn’t have learned at a BPS school,” she said.

“There are tough things with racism, especially because of misconceptions. The kids have a misconception

that we come on a bus because we can’t afford a car and that all kids from Boston are poor. I don’t know if it’s gotten better. We do have good opportunities to educate people in the school and the community, though.” She suggested that parents look to get their kids into METCO at a very early age to establish deeper connections with the other students and the community.

Arbaje-Thomas said

that many of the students find a great home despite the sacrifices, and noted that METCO students must be particularly focused.

“You don’t get up at 4 a.m. and get ready and get to the bus stop at 5 a.m. and not put your best foot forward and not get the best you can out of it,” she said. “It’s taken a few years to get here, but I’m really proud of the move in the METCO program,” she added.

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EOE

LEGAL NOTICES

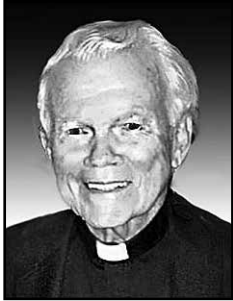
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
SUFFOLK PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
24 NEW CHARDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
Docket No. SU22D1926DR
DIVORCE SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING
COREY T. EASTER
vs.
LESLIE B. LIPSCOMB
To the Defendant:
The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for 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: Corey T. Easter, 907 Washington St., Dorchester, MA 02124 your answer, if any, on or before 01/20/2023. 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: December 7, 2022
Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate
Published: December 22, 2022

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
SUFFOLK PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
24 NEW CHARDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
617-788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME
Docket No. SU21C0407CA
IN THE MATTER OF:
CHRISTOPHER DWIGHT ANDREWS WIDEMAN
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Christopher Dwight Andrews Wideman of Boston, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:
Christopher Dwight Andrews Wideman
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 date of 01/12/2023. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 13, 2022
Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate
Published: December 22, 2022

LEGAL NOTICES


COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
SUFFOLK PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
24 NEW CHARDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
Docket No. SU22P2085GD
IN THE MATTER OF:
JAMES JEFFERSON, JR.
of DORCHESTER, MA
RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated Person
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by VA Boston Healthcare System of Boston, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that James Jefferson, Jr. is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Wayne DeVaughn of Revere, 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 01/03/2023. 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 30, 2022
Published: December 22, 2022

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
SUFFOLK PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
24 NEW CHARDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
Docket No. SU22P2674PM
IN THE MATTER OF:
KATHLEEN HAMILTON
of DORCHESTER, MA
RESPONDENT
(Person to be Protected/Minor)
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Boston Medical Center of Boston, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Kathleen Hamilton is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve Without Surety on the bond.
The petition asks the Court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed Conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.
You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 02/27/2023. 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: December 14, 2022
Published: December 22, 2022



CARRIGG, Reverend George A., 91. Fr. George, as he was fondly called by his parishioners, was born in Brockton, son of the late Thomas F. Carrigg and Mora (Swift) Carrigg, the fourth of six children. He is probably best known for his tireless work at Saint Christopher Parish in Dorchester, on the Columbia Point Peninsula, for over 48 years. Fr. George is survived by his 2 younger sisters, Anne Carrigg and Mary Carrigg, both of Brockton; along with nephews Thomas, John, William, Joseph, Christopher and Paul Carrigg; and one niece, Kathleen Butler. He also leaves several grandnieces and grandnephews; and he was predeceased by his 3 older brothers, Thomas Carrigg, Jr., John Carrigg, and William Carrigg (Fr. Bill).

BEHAN, William “Bill” H., Jr., 79, of Dorchester. Son of the late William H. Behan, Sr. and Mary (O’Connor). Brother of Paul Behan and his wife Christine of Middleborough, and Gemma Behan of South Yarmouth. Bill also leaves behind many caring extended family and friends. Bill was a retired member of Plumbers & Gasfitters UA local 12 and Peninsula Yacht Club.



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CONCANNON, Bridie (Conneely), 77 of Dorchester formerly of Co. Galway, Ireland. Wife of the late Patrick Concannon. Mother of Barbara Killen and her husband John of Braintree, Maureen Evans and her husband James of Hanson, and Kathleen Charbonnier and her husband Steven of Braintree. Sister of Patrick “Padraic” of Dorchester, Timothy, Kathleen, Peter, Julia, Ann, Nora, Bertie all of Ireland and the late Una. Grandmother of 7. Donations in memory of Bridie may be made to the Alzheimer’s Association – Boston, 309 Waver-

LEGAL NOTICE

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. SU02P2482AD1
ESTATE OF:
MANUEL PINA MENDES
DATE OF DEATH: 09/20/2000

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Appointment of Special Representative has been filed by Maria Rocha Mendes of Dorchester, MA and Maria A. Barros requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that Maria Rocha Mendes of Boston, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised 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 01/25/2023.
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 14, 2022
Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate
Published: December 22, 2022

ley Oaks Rd., Waltham, 02452, alz.org




CHABEREK, Tadeusz, 79, of Dorchester, formerly of Poland. Husband of Sylvia (Sokowska) Chaberek. Father of Agnes and her husband Joe Fallis of Wilmington, Elizabeth Chaberek of Dorchester, and Derek Chaberek of Dorchester. “Dziadzio” of Macayla, Lucas, Lucy, and Joey. Tadeusz is also survived by many nieces and nephews.



DWYER, Gail M., 77, of Milton, formerly of Dorchester. Gail was the daughter of the late Thomas J. Dwyer and Margaret (Conlon) of Boston MA. Sister of the late Thomas E. Dwyer, Albert “Albie” Dwyer and

Jane Dwyer-Ryan, all of Dorchester. Aunt of many nieces and nephews.



ESTABROOK, Deamie T. (Lacey) of Quincy, formerly of Dorchester. Mother of Lisa Henaghan and her husband Jack of Dorchester. Grandmother of 3. Sister of Sheryl Williams and her late husband Skip, Russell Lacey and his wife Karen, Paul Lacey and his wife Carol, Theodore Lacey, Charles Lacey and his wife Julie, and Phillip Lacey. Please consider making a donation in memory of Deamie to Old Colony Hospice, 321 Manley St., West Bridgewater, MA 02378.

PUGSLEY, Richard W. Sr., 83, of Dorchester. Husband of Mary Anne (Sullivan) Pugsley. Father of Marianne and her husband Vincent Pastore of Reading, Andrea and her husband Kevin Lema of Duxbury, Richard W. Pugsley Jr. and his wife Donna of Pembroke, Jennifer and her husband Edward McDonald of Kingston, Sean and his

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
SUFFOLK, ss.
Docket No. SU22E0122

To Kimchi Tran of Dorchester in said county of Suffolk and to all other persons interested.

A petition has been presented to said Court by Tuan A. Dinh of 11 Copper Beech Circle, West Bridgewater in the County of Plymouth County representing that he holds as Tenant in common an undivided part or share of certain land lying in 29 Adams Street, Dorchester in said County Suffolk, and briefly described as follows:

PETITION TO PARTITION

RESPECTFULLY REPRESENTS Tuan A. Dinh (hereinafter “Petitioner”), of 11 Copper Beech Circle, West Bridgewater, Massachusetts, that he holds as tenant in common an undivided part or share of the following described land situated in Boston, Massachusetts, in the County of Suffolk (hereinafter “the Land”), which he wishes to hold in severalty:

The land with the buildings thereon, situated on and now known as and numbered 29 Adams Street, in that part of Boston known as Dorchester and being shown as Lot A on “Plan on land in Boston/Dorchester, dated April 18, 1922, Apsinwall & Lincoln, Civil Engineers, recorded with Suffolk Registry of Deeds, Book 4370, Page 32, and bounded and described as follows:

NORTHEASTERLY: by Adams Street, seventy-five and 85/100 feet (75.85) feet; NORTHWESTERLY: by land now or formerly of Mary L. Gavin, as shown on said plan, ninety-nine and 92/100 (99.92) feet; SOUTHWESTERLY: by land now or formerly of Isabella L. Bissett, et al and land now or formerly of Mary E. Churchill et al, Trustees by two (2) bound measuring fifty-seven and 12/100 (57.12) feet, and five and 08/100 (5.08) feet; SOUTHEASTERLY: by Lot B, as shown on said plan, one hundred ten and 79.100 (110.79) feet; Containing 7081 square feet of land according to said plan.

Being the same premises conveyed to Petitioner by Deed of KimChi Tran dated December 16, 2015 and recorded in the Suffolk Registry of Deeds in Book 55470 at Page 156.

The street address of the Land is 29 Adams Street, Dorchester, Suffolk County, Massachusetts 02125. The common title to said Land is derived under Deed of KimChi Tran dated December 16, 2015 and recorded in the Suffolk County Registry of Deeds in Book 55470 at Page 156. The Petitioner further represents that the names and residences of all the tenants in common and their respective shares and proportions and the nature thereof, are as follows:

Kimchi Tran, 50%, 29 Adams Street, Apt. A, Boston, MA 02122
Tuan A. Dinh, 50%, 11 Copper Beech Circle, West Bridgewater, MA 02379.

These persons are or claim to be mortgagees, lienors, attaching creditors or other persons having encumbrances on the Land:

N/A

The Petitioner desires that all of said Land be ordered to be sold at private sale for not less than Eight Hundred and Thirty-Three Thousand and Six Hundred Dollars (\$833,600.00) dollars.

Accordingly, the Petitioner prays that the land be partitioned according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make the partition by division of the land or by sale, either public or private, and conveyance of all or any part of the land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided, the commissioner to distribute and pay over the net proceeds of any sale in such manner as to make the partition just and equal.

The Petitioner, Tuan A. Dinh, hereby certifies under the penalties of perjury that the statements are set forth above and are true to the best of his knowledge and belief.

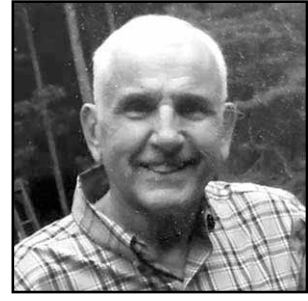
Setting forth that she desires that – all the following described part – of said land may be sold at private sale for not less than \$464,000.00 dollars Felix D. Arroyo setting forth that Tuan A. Dinh desire that - all the following described part - of said land may be sold at private sale for not less than Eight Hundred and Thirty-Three thousand and Six Hundred Dollars (\$833,600.00) dollars.

And praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof.

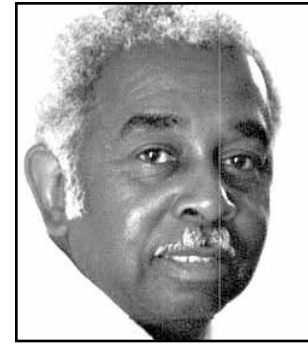
IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY SHOULD FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT BOSTON BEFORE TEN O’CLOCK IN THE FORENOON (10:00 AM) ON the 17th day of January, 2023, the return day of this citation.

Witness, BRIAN J. DUNN, ESQUIRE, First Judge of said Court, this 7th day of December, 2022.

Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate
Published: December 22, 2022



wife Jennifer Pugsley of Dorchester, and the late baby Richard W. Pugsley Jr. Brother of John Pugsley of Scituate, Dorothy Miller of Abington, and the late Arthur Pugsley, Deacon Stanley Pugsley, Ernest Pugsley, Robert Pugsley, and Charles Pugsley. Brother-in-law of Martin “Joe” Sullivan of Dorchester. “Bumpa” of 19. Great-grandfather of 2. Richard is also survived by many nieces and nephews. Donations in Richard’s memory may be made to Cops for Kids with Cancer at copsforkidswithcancer.org.



VICKERS, Carlton Ulric of Dorchester. Father of Janet Cox and her husband Richard of Haverhill. Companion of many years of Faith Jackson of Dorchester. He is predeceased by his sisters Bernice Taylor and Kathleen Ridgley, and brothers William and Charles Vickers. Uncle of Wesley Taylor, Mark and Greg Vickers and, Karen Ridgley. He leaves a host of grand nieces and nephews, extended family and friends.

LEGAL NOTICE

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. SU22P2673GD
IN THE MATTER OF: KATHLEEN HAMILTON of DORCHESTER, MA
RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated Person

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Boston Medical Center of Boston, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Kathleen Hamilton is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Jennifer Ryan of Quincy, 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 01/10/2023. 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: December 01, 2022
Published: December 22, 2022

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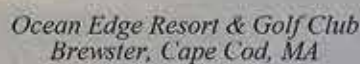
Insured by NCUA | Member MSIC *Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is accurate as of 12.21.2022 and subject to change at any time without notice. Minimum to open and earn APY is \$500.00. A penalty will be imposed for early withdrawals. Fees may reduce earnings. Account requires new money; to satisfy this requirement, an additional \$5,000 in external funds must be added to transfers from existing Metro Credit Union accounts. For online account opening only: Maximum funding amount is \$25,000. Visit MetroCU.org for current rates, terms and account requirements.

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Bring the Whole Family to the Kennedy Library!



Ezekiel’s Wheels Klezmer Band

Exploring Klezmer: Ashkenazi Music and Songs

Tuesday, December 27, 2022
10:30 am - 11:30 am

Join in the fun! Learn about different musical instrument families (woodwind, string, and brass) and sing along to a lively set of traditional klezmer tunes played on clarinet, violin, trombone, and double bass. Band members will share klezmer music and its significance in secular Ashkenazi Jewish culture both in Eastern Europe and in the United States. Sing along to songs with Yiddish lyrics and discover popular Yiddish words!



Benkadi Drum and Dance

Martin Luther King Jr. Day



Monday, January 16, 2023
10:30 am - 11:30 am

With vivid costumes and uplifting energy, the multicultural Benkadi Drum and Dance group performs traditional West African rhythm and movements to celebrate the spirit of coming together in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Join us for singing, dancing, and drumming. Watch as a folktale comes to life before your very eyes!

RESERVATIONS AND INFORMATION:

In order to optimize your comfort and enjoyment, reservations are recommended for all visitors to this free program. Make reservations by visiting jfklibrary.org/celebrate or calling 617-514-1644 and leaving a message. Children are seated on the carpeted floor with their caretakers. Space is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Limited seats are available for people with disabilities, seniors, and others unable to sit on the floor. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

We encourage audience members to wear masks to boost the comfort level of the staff and your fellow participants.

With generous support from:



Last chance to visit this special exhibit!

The exhibition *First Children: Caroline and John Jr. in the Kennedy White House* looks at the public’s fascination with the President’s progeny, a fascination fed by the media. Through photos, articles, commercial products, and film, the faces of the Kennedy youngsters helped cement the new President in the public’s collective mind as a national figure with whom anyone could identify. While President Kennedy saw value in this humanized imagery, Mrs. Kennedy sought to protect her children from the public eye by focusing her efforts on creating “normal” childhoods for them in the midst of world attention.

The majority of the over 120 objects, images, and ephemera shown are from the Library’s museum collection and archives—most are exhibited for the first time. Included are selections from the gifts sent to the Kennedy children by both heads of state and the public at large; memos that reveal their mother’s efforts to balance media access and privacy; photographs and film footage of the family in both official and private capacities; and games, magazines, comic books, and trading cards created to capitalize on the status of the “First Children” within American celebrity culture.

Don’t miss the activity book, *A Tour with Tony: A White House Mouse* and explore this temporary exhibit which features artifacts, photographs, video, and documents related to President and Mrs. Kennedy’s young children.



The *First Children* exhibit closes on January 8, 2023.



Presidents’ Day Festival ★ Monday, February 20, 2023

Save the date! The Kennedy Library will be hosting its *12th Annual Presidents’ Day Festival*. Join us to learn about the highest office of the United States government on Presidents’ Day with Museum tours and presidential storytelling to bring history to life for all ages. You can ask our historic guests a question!

More programming details will be shared at JFKLibrary.org/PresidentsDay.

Columbia Point, Boston • 617-514-1600 • www.jfklibrary.org

General admission to the Museum is \$18. Children 12 and under are always free. Additional student, military, senior, and EBT discounts available.

Red Line to JFK/UMass to Shuttle

