# Dorchester Reporter

"The News and Values Around the Neighborhood"

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The excitement of Tet (Lunar) New Year was in the air this week in Fields Corner as the Boston Little Saigon Cultural District prepared to celebrate its first new year as a designated district. Here, last Friday, Jan. 28, volunteer Luis Sein of Feeney Brothers Utility Services hangs the ceremonial lanterns on Dorchester Avenue in Fields Corner. The New Year fell on Tuesday, Feb. 1, and many of the celebrations scheduled for last weekend were cancelled due to the snowstorm. Most of those public celebrations will now take place this weekend, including a celebration held by Tet in Boston on Sun., Feb. 6 at the Black Falcon terminal in South Boston. Seth Daniel photo

# Popular Viet eateries will combine their efforts in a new Fields Corner restaurant

Introducing 'Pho Hoa featuring Anh Hong Restaurant'

#### BY SETH DANIEL REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

Two powerhouse restaurateurs in the Vietnamese community - Pho Hoa Restaurant and the recently-closed Anh Hong Restaurant - have landed on the same page, announcing this week that they will combine forces on Dorchester Avenue to create a new culinary establishment.

Victoria Nguyen, owner of Anh Hong, which closed suddenly in December due to rental issues, and Tam Le, co-owner of Pho Hoa Restaurant with his father, Thanh Le, said they will open their new eatery in the coming weeks, carrying the name Pho Hoa featuring Anh Hong Restaurant, and Nguyen will assume the equity of Thanh Le, who is looking to retire after operating the landmark Vietnamese eatery since 1992.

"Marking the end of winter and the beginning of spring, Vietnamese New Year is a time of celebration," read a



Victoria Nguyen, owner of Anh Hong and Tam Le, co-owner of Pho Hoa in Fields Corner The new collaboration is expected to premiere in the coming weeks. Seth Daniel photo

statement from both parties. "This year, Pho Hoa Restaurant will also be celebrating its 30th year anniversary. It is only fitting the rebirth of Anh Hong, breathing fresh life into (Continued on page 12)

# After stay on mandate, unions propose a new testing setup for city's unvaccinated workers

By Seth Daniel REPORTER CORRESPONDENT AND GINTAUTAS DUMCIUS Managing Editor

A Massachusetts Appeals Court judge late last week wrote the latest chapter in the ongoing story of Mayor Michelle Wu's move to install a vaccination mandate for all city workers by halting its implementation while a review of an earlier judicial decision on the matter is underway.

Several city unions, including the Dorchester-based Firefighters Local 718, have waged a legal battle over the mandate. A Superior Court judge earlier this month denied their combined motion for a preliminary injunction against the mayor's policy.

But on Thursday, Sabita Singh, a state Appeals Court judge, issued a stay while the Superior Court ruling is being reviewed. The unions involved are Local 718, the Boston Police Detectives Benevolent Society, and the Boston Police Superior Officers Federation.

Edward Kelly, general president of the International Association of



Ed Kelly, president of the International Association of Fire Fighters, joined Local 718 at Florian Hall to protest the city's vaccine mandate for its public Seth Daniel photo employees.

Firefighters (IAFF) and a Dorchester resident, said the judge told the city not to fire any workers on Monday of this week, per Wu's policy-specifically calling on it to justify the mandate in light (Continued on page 7)

## Developers of former Globe HQ pitch new biotech building on site

By GINTAUTAS DUMCIUS Managing Editor

The team behind the redevelopment of the former Boston Globe headquarters is planning to add a building to its Morrissey Boulevard property.

Officials from Beacon Capital Partners and Nordblom Company met with Savin Hill neighbors last week inside the former Globe headquarters at 135 Morrissey Boulevard, which the developers overhauled and rechristened The BEAT, short for Boston Exchange for Accelerated Technology and a nod to the "beat" reporters who once worked in the Globe's newsroom.

At the preliminary meeting, which was also attended by District 3 Councillor Frank Baker, the developers laid out plans for a six-story building spanning 295,000 square feet that would focus on biotech space. The biotech sector is generating high demand for space in Massachusetts, with industry projections calling for 20 million square feet of lab and biomanufacturing space built out by 2024. In the last decade, 21.6 million square feet of lab space has been built.

The proposed building would be positioned behind The BEAT, according to meeting attendees, on a space located between I-93 and Patten's Cove, a wetland area. Several dead-end streets, such as Savin Hill Court and Wave Avenue, are to its south.

Nordblom bought the former Globe headquarters in 2017 for \$81 million and sought to redevelop the building

(Continued on page 8)

## Where do our storm drains lead to? Read the plaques



Aplaque warns of the potential harm caused by dumping into storm drains.

Image courtesy BWSC Dorchester.

By Samuele Petruccelli SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

If you're thinking of pouring cooking grease or car oil down a storm drain on your street, you might find a warning that should give you pause.

On the sidewalk adjacent to many storm drains across Boston lies a metal allov plaque that carries the notice "Don't Dump," along with names of the specific bodies of water that the drainpipes lead to. The design, and its designer, are both distinctly

Some 30 years ago, Elisa Speranza, who then lived in Dorchester and was a project manager at the Boston Water and Sewer Commission (BWSC), saw that other cities had installed cautionary notices telling residents not to drain their hazardous waste into the street. Wanting to do the same for Boston, she spearheaded designing the signs that still mark the city's storm drains today.

"We decided to make it a community involvement type of activity to help raise (Continued on page 10)



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Police, Courts & Fire

### 2 firefighters hurt fighting smoky fire on Bowdoin St.



**BFD** photo

Atwo-alarm fire struck a commercial block at 9 Bowdoin St. around 6:30 p.m. last Thursday (Jan. 28) and responding firefighters, two of whom were injured, were met by heavy black smoke and fire that extended through the roof. They were also hindered by all the ice that formed from their water in the sub-freezing temperatures. The cause is under investigation.

A multi-car collision on the expressway near Columbia Road last Saturday morning was caused by a wrong-way driver who was killed when his Chevy Tahoe slammed into another vehicle, according to State Police. The crash occurred at approximately 2:30 a.m. when the Tahoe's driver, later identified by police as Richard Crawford, 31, of Everett, was traveling southbound on the northbound side. He allegedly hit a Logan Express bus and a pickup before striking a third car. Two of the other drivers were transported by Boston EMS to Boston Medical Center with minor injuries. None of the three passengers on the bus were injured. Crawford was pronounced dead at the scene. The incident remains under investigation.

A 34-year-old man was arrested on firearms violations last Thursday long standoff with Boston at 857-386-2580.

Police who were called to Fuller Street for a report of "shots fired." The incident began around 10:15 a.m. when, a victim told police, a suspectlater named as Bakari Whitt- ended a fight with a single gunshot. Police say Whitt stayed inside a residence near the scene and refused to "comply with verbal commands." After a prolonged standoff that included BPD negotiators and the SWAT Team, Whitt was taken into custody. During a warrant sweep of the residence, police say they found a loaded 9mm gun and a spent shell casing.



The FBI's Violent Crimes Task Force is looking for a man, captured by a bank camera above, they say held up the Santander Bank branch at 780 Gallivan Blvd. around 2:45 p.m. last Monday (Jan. 24). He is described as short, with a light complexion. Anyone with additional imformation is asked to night (Jan. 27) after a contact Trooper Traister

# Landmarks panel to take testimony on proposal for Clam Point development

Boston's Landmarks Commission has scheduled a virtual hearing on Feb. 8 on a proposal to renovate a Clam Point home and add a three-story residential building to the site. Overall, the plan calls for seven townhomes on the site, located at 19 Ashland Street.

The 4-bed, 3-bath multi-family property sold for \$1 million in April 2020, according to Realtor.com. First built in 1800, the home has 3,686 square feet and sits on a 0.36-acre lot

The hearing is set for



A proposed renovation and construction of an addition to the existing building at 19 Ashland St. will be the subject of a Feb. 8 meeting before the Boston Landmarks Commission.

6 p.m. Members of the 301-715-8592 or log on com for the link. public can dial in at via Zoom. See dotnews.

#### BPD officer found dead outside home in Canton

Authorities are investigating the death of a Boston police officer who died at a hospital after being found outside a suburban home early Saturday morning. John O'Keefe was identified by Boston Police as a 16-year veteran of the department.

As the weekend was revving up, members of the Canton Fire Department found his body just after 6 a.m. outside a home in Canton that was occupied by people he knew, according to a statement Monday from the Norfolk district attorney's office.

"He appeared to have been in the cold for some period," the district attorney's statement said, adding that he was taken to Good Samaritan Hospital in Brockton where he was pronounced dead.

An autopsy has been scheduled for this week to help determine the manner and cause of

"John will be greatly missed by his friends and colleagues here at the Boston Police Department as we send our heartfelt condolences to his family, and loved ones during this difficult time," Superintendent-in-Chief Gregory



John O'Keefe

Long said in a statement on the department's

ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Records fuel 'wild ride' in state housing market

By Michael P. Norton STATE HOUSE News Service

Home sales in Massachusetts were up only slightly in 2021, compared to 2020, as the median home sale price raced past \$500,000 for the first time.

The Warren Group on Tuesday morning released data pegging the median home sale price last year at \$510,000, an increase of more than 14 percent from 2020. Sales in 2021 were up 0.8 percent over 2020.

"Last year was a wild ride for Massachusetts real estate, and not necessarily one I would want to be on if I were in the market for a new home," Tim Warren, CEO of The

Warren Group, said. He said demand for homes was high due to low unemployment, a "booming" economy, and the trend of remote work and

"evaporating" commutes. He added: "The yearend median sale price of \$510,000 is a strong indicator that the lack of inventory is increasing competition, pushing prices up, and stretching buyers' budgets thin. Higher mortgage interest rates may moderate the increases in home prices, but they will keep monthly mortgage payments sky-high. Demand remains high as buyers eagerly await the spring market for a wave of new homes coming to market. But many current homeowners are opting to stay put, which is compounding the inventory issue."

For December, home sales were down 13.4 percent compared to De-

cember 2020 but up 12.1 percent compared to the pre-pandemic sales volume of December 2019. December's median sale price of an even \$500,000 was up more than 9 percent from the December  $2020\,\mathrm{median}\,\mathrm{of}\,\$457{,}500$ and 25 percent above the December 2019 median of \$398,750.

Condo sales shot up 17.7 percent in 2021, compared to 2020. The 2021 median condo sale price was \$454,000, a 9.4 percent increase from

"The median full-year sale price of \$454,000 marked an all-time high for condos, and as inventory in the single-family market continues to dwindle, this could yield even more competition in the condo market in 2022 as buyers look at condos as an alternative for single-family homes," Warren said.

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

Boston Harbor Now will host a "Winter Warmer" event at Moakley Park's Field House, 450 Old Colony Blvd. on Sat., Feb. 12 from 2-4 p.m. Free fun in the park with hot cocoa, games, music and more. See bit.ly/ MoakleyWinterWarmer for more info. The Boston Ward 17 Democratic committee will hold its annual caucus virtually, on Wed., February **16.** The purpose of the caucus is to elect delegates to the Massachusetts Democrats 2022 State Convention. Doors open for registration at 5:30 p.m., and all participants must be registered and in the virtual room by 6:45 p.m. All are welcome, and any

registered Democrat in Ward 17 can run and/or vote. To register for the caucus, please visit https://bit.lv/ w17caucus.

The BPDA will host the last in a series of virtual public meetings on Feb.17 at 6 p.m. to review specific topics of the Dorchester Bay City project. The meeting will focus on urban design and open space. Please register in advance by going to the link: bit.ly/3ysaUEy. View more documents related to this project at bostonplans.org.

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

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

**UMass Boston's Office of Community** Partnerships will host a "fireside chat" and breakfast "Our Dorchester: A Home for Place-based Justice Partnerships" on Thurs., Feb. 24, 9:30

a.m. in the campus center ballroom. Yawu Miller, senior editor of the Bay State Banner, will facilitate with guest speakers City Councillor Frank Baker, Lisette Le of VietAID, Stan McLaren of Carney Hospital and Quenette Santos, vice president of BGCD. Guests must provide proof of full vaccination and wear a mask indoors. Register online at umb.edu. For more information, contact ocp@umb.edu.

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# Proposal for Dorchester Fieldhouse gets a public airing

By Gintautas Dumcius Managing Editor

City planning officials last week hosted a virtual public meeting on the proposal to build a youth-focused facility in Dorchester's Columbia Point neighborhood. The Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA), which is reviewing the proposal, held the session on Thursday (Jan. 27) where proponents of the 75,000-square-foot facility, known as the Dorchester Fieldhouse, made their pitch.

The Martin Richard Foundation and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester, two local nonprofits focused on youth development, are collaborating on the proposal, with RODE Architects handling the design. The \$55 million plan for 315 Mount Vernon St. calls for indoor playing fields, an outdoor roof garden, classrooms, a teaching kitchen, a public cafe, outdoor seating, and a 45-vehicle parking lot.

Dot Joyce, a former spokesperson for the late Mayor Thomas Menino and a consultant working on the project, led the proponents' presentation. The pandemic, which drove people indoors at its beginning and caused schools to shut down for weeks, sharpened the argument for youth-focused facilities such as the Dorchester Fieldhouse, she added.

The indoor fieldhouse is an amenity that doesn't exist in the area, and children are often forced outside in the winter months, said Joyce.

The site, adjacent to the



A rendering shows the proposed Dorchester Fieldhouse on Mount Vernon Street.

Image courtesy RODE Architects

McCormack Middle School and Dever Elementary School, has 1,000 student neighbors next door and 50,000 young people within three miles, Joyce said. "This is a very intentional site."

The current footprint, compared to the original design, is now farther away from the sidewalk, more angled and taller in order to maximize outdoor space, Joyce said, in response to public requests for more green space for the McCormack and Dever campuses.

The BGCD and the Martin Richard Foundation are leasing the property, a former schoolyard, from Boston Public Schools.

RODE Architects' Kevin Deabler, a Savin Hill resident, attended the Jan. 27 meeting and said the site, once built out, would create a publicly available "front yard" for Mount Vernon Street.

Referring to the Dever and McCormack schools, Deabler said, "The geometry of those two buildings is something we've had to grapple with in how to position this building and over time expand and enhance as much open space as possible."

John Forry, who was at the meeting, is a Boston College High School senior and the son of *Reporter* executive editor

Bill Forry. He is a member of a youth advisory group for the project. Linda Dorcena Forry, the former state senator who is married to Bill Forry, is a member of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Dorchester board of directors.

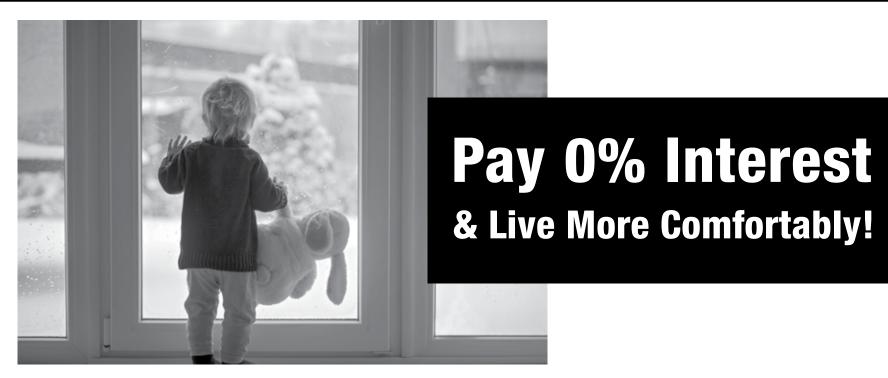
Asked by a member of the public about solar panels, Deabler said they are looking into installing them to help the site achieve low energy use. "We see this building as a teaching tool about sustainability," he said.

Cindy Rosner, a Savin Hill

Cindy Rosner, a Savin Hill resident, praised the design but asked about outdoor water features, such as a splash pad. She noted that she has a niece and nephew who live by Ronan Park, and the splash pad there is popular in the summertime.

Deabler said the water feature question came up the day before during a meeting with BPDA officials. "We've already started working on it," he said.

Depending on the timeline of the city approval process, construction could get underway later this year and finish by late 2023. Quincy's Lee Kennedy, whose family members are on the BGCD board, is listed as the construction manager.



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# What he hears at District 4's front doors is what Worrell takes to the Council floor

By SETH DANIEL

REPORTER CORRESPONDENT As Brian Worrell settles into his role as a newcomer on the City

Council, his plan is to take what he has learned at every front door he knocked on in District 4 and bring that directly to the Council floor.

The 38-year-old Dorchester resident hit the ground running in late 2020 as one of the first candidates to declare for the seat soon to be vacated by Andrea Campbell, who was running for mayor, with a formula of service-first candidacy that developed out of necessity due to the continuing pandemic. The most recent event off that formula was a huge turkey giveaway on Thanksgiving and a door-to-door toy distribution on Christ-

Since formally taking office on Jan. 3, Worrell said, his approach has continued to be shaped at the front doors throughout the district.

"It's doing more of that community building, and showing people we care and are being supportive of families here, especially during Covid-19," he said. "Any way we can be supportive, that's what we want to do. When I

was at the front doors during the pandemic, people wanted to feel their elected officials cared.

He noted that this is the most diverse City Council in the history of Boston and that being a part of that so far has been surreal. "This council is the vision of other Black leaders before us; we're their dream come to fruition," he said.

Worrell is the first District 4 councillor from Dorchester's west side of Washington Street. The seat was created in the 1980s, and previous councillors — Charles Yancey and Andrea Campbell lived on the east side of Washington Street or in Mattapan. Worrell, a life-long resident of District 4, carries a history of the neighborhood with him that is unique in that he attended school in the suburbs, in his case, at Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School as part of the METCO program.

He recalls coming home to Dorchester at a time when the neighborhood faced many more challenges than it does today. He remembers having to be home before the streetlights came on, and when going to

the corner store, he had to travel in a group. An older cousin or aunt typically accompanied him.

With first-hand knowledge of where the district was, he said he knows where it needs to go. "Growing up like that, you normalize some things," Worrell said. "I went to school in the suburbs and saw what my life was like and what my community was like. I got to see a sharp contrast. Some of my family members might have been locked up or been victims of homicide...A lot has changed. We're not at those stages or that level of poverty and violence in our community. However, there is still so much to work on."

Getting out into the district – showing up all the time - has been a hallmark of his candidacy and his early Council term. Worrell said he is comfortable in every corner of District 4, calling it his "hometown of Dorchester, USA." With that long memory, he said, it will be important for him to embrace everyone in the district.

"I'd like to make sure that individuals that lived through these tough times in the past also reap these benefits and have a good quality of life," he said. "I think we're moving in the right direction."

Right now, he said, the key issues he's hearing a lot about are a new police commissioner — a search that's underway, with  $two\,community\,meetings$ already held virtually and police reform. Worrell was endorsed by the Boston Police Patrolmen's Association (BPPA), one of the largest public safety unions in the city, and he also established great appeal in a majority-minority district with a strong voice on police reform issues. He said what he hears at the doors in District 4 isn't a desire to defund, or get rid of, the police department, but rather to reform it by making officials and officers more about keeping the community safe than "policing" it.

"When I am knocking doors, the biggest thing I always hear is we need police reform," he said. "I believe that reform is needed, and I will be leaning in on that. There's also a need at the same time to help deter some of the issues we face. We need police presence to deter these issues. I honestly don't like the term 'policing.'... They aren't policing the community, but they are there for the safety of the community. Most people I encounter believe in reform."

By reform, he said, what he hears from residents is they'd like to see more Black and brown officers not only in the rank and file, but also in the command staff. Likewise, he said, people want an understanding of community policing and an alternative response to the things Boston Police often confront – such as mental health issues.

"They want to see



At left, above, District 4 City Councillor Brian Worrell, and below with Mayor Michelle Wu, during a visit to Bowdoin Street in December.

Photos courtesy Councillor Worrell's office; Isabel Leon of the Mayor's Office



someone that's more supportive of responses where the only solution isn't getting handcuffs on someone," he said.

When he isn't wearing his councillor's hat, Worrell is a small business owner and a real estate professional, having graduated from Northeastern University with a degree in accounting and entrepreneurship. He said he's building on Andrea Campbell's legacy, especially regarding her push for the creation of wealth and opportunity through redevelopment of the many city-owned vacant lots in the district.

"What I've been hearing from the community and what I'd want to see is homeownership opportunities for everyone – from low-income to middle class," he said. "Many in the community feel they are priced out at all levels. We would like to see those lots used for event spaces and sitdown restaurants, too. If we have a development going up on one of them, let's get businesses or restaurants in place and put them in a position to get a liquor license so they can be successful."
He added, "These va-

cant lots can do a lot for the community. Land is scarce. Once you build on it, that's it."

A third item he's heard at the doors around the district is the need for high-quality schooling with education in the district lining up with the jobs that are coming down the line, like biotech and climate resiliency positions. That is going to be a focus for his office, but, he added, the effort is going to have to start with the basics - notably reading skills.

"It starts with putting our students in a position to take advantage of these jobs," he said, noting that he recently heard only one in four third to eighth grade Black students in Boston can read at grade level. "If our children can't read, then we're not going to be able to put them in a position to be in these programs tha twe as a city will be offering. We have to first make sure that our early childhood education is working. Reading is basic; it's where we start."

But for the most part, Worrell said, residents can expect him to take care of the simple things first, issues like streetlights, sidewalks, rodents, and community violence that often get forgotten amidst bigger systemic issues.

"Whatever I can do to show I listen and care, that's what I'll be doing," he said. "If you can't do the small things, it's hard to do the big things...We all have big ideas and want change to happen, but it's also essential to make sure you're focusing on the quality of life for constituents.

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# Two police oversight panels are now at full strength

#### By Gintautas Dumcius Managing Editor

The mayoral appointments announced outside the Boston Police Department's headquarters in Roxbury last week put two police oversight panels at full strength. The independent groups are the Civilian Review Board and the Internal Affairs Oversight Panel, both within the city's Office of Police Accountability and Transparency, which is headed up by executive director Stephanie Everett.

The office itself came out of a police reform task force's recommendations that were issued in 2020. It is tasked with investigating police misconduct and reviewing departmental policies and procedures.

The nine members of the mayor-appointed Civilian Review Board look at complaints against police. The names of three of its members, including Dorchester's Carrie Mays, were forwarded to Mayor Wu by the City Council. Mays is the board's youth member and is an organizer with the Center for Teen Empowerment.

Peter Alvarez, a former Boston Public Schools teacher, chairs the board, which also includes Natalie Carith-



Mayor Michelle Wu, joined by members of the Boston City Council and The Office of Police Accountability and Transparency (OPAT), briefed the media on Jan. 28 about continuing efforts and work of Jeremiah Robinson/Mayor's Office photo OPAT as well as the appointment of new members.

ers, a former chief of tions such as Upward staff to a Mattapan state lawmaker; Rev. Wayne Daley, director of youth and community services at the Salvation Army; child welfare and juvenile justice advocate Joshua Dankoff; social worker Anne Hernandez; criminal defense attorney Amy McNamee; youth wellness advocate Tara Register; and Chris Sumner, who has worked at community organiza-

Bound the Salvation Army's Ray & Joan Kroc Center.

Hernandez and Register, along with Mays, were the City Council's picks for slots on the board.

Mays, a 20-year-old college student, spoke to the Reporter in December, after the council forwarded her name to

"While I've done many

dialogs about police misconduct, I'm also a victim," she said. "The day before my 18th birthday there was an incident where four of five officers held myself, my grandmother, and my mother at gunpoint in a case of mistaken identity in our own driveway. It really shaped my whole trajectory and response on police accountability."

Noting she is a young Black woman, Mays added, "My peers constantly face police brutality and misconduct daily through hyper-policing and hyper-profiling. We see that a lot and this will be a form of representation and implementation of solutions. It's really about solutions.'

As for the five-member Internal Affairs Oversight Panel, it's chaired by Leslie Harris, a retired associate justice sitting in Suffolk Ju-

venile Court and a former probation officer in Suffolk Superior Court. The other members are Alison Cartwright, a former City Hall attorney and member of the police reform task force; Suffolk University law professor Christina Miller; criminal defense attorney and former Suffolk County prosecutor Julien Mundele; and

Jassie-Fredcia Senwah, a victim witness advocate at the Suffolk County DA's office and organizer providing resources and support to students, women, and children impacted by domestic violence.

The panels are separate from the five-member search committee tasked with finding the next Boston police commissioner. That panel, which hopes to present Wu with a slate of candidates later this year, is chaired by retired Supreme Judicial Court Justice Geraldine Hines.

"With our search for a new Police Commissioner underway and our appointees to the Office of Police Accountability and Transparency boards in place, we are ready to transform the structures of public safetv and health to build community in Boston," Wu said in a statement.



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#### **Editorial**

# Getting the facts on the Blue Hill Ave plan

The Wu administration is advancing plans for a potentially transformative project along a three-mile stretch of Blue Hill Avenue between Mattapan Square and Grove Hall. With an infusion of \$15 million in federal grant money secured by US Reps Ayanna Pressley and Stephen Lynch, the city hopes to improve safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists while also making the corridor a more efficient transit route, particularly for the 20,000-plus people who use T buses—particularly the 28—for their daily commutes.

The \$15 million is likely a small percentage of what will be needed to complete such an undertaking, particularly if planners decide to adopt so-called Bus Rapid Transit— or BRT— along Blue Hill Ave. The concept, which has been raised and rejected in previous planning cycles, would move dedicated bus lanes to the center of the avenue. But that is just one element of what the Wu team and community partners hope to achieve, according to Jascha Franklin-Hodge, the chief of Streets for the city of Boston.

"Blue Hill Avenue is really the heart of Black Boston, and it's a place that's been underinvested in," says Franklin-Hodge. "We want to do what we can to make this road work better."

It's important to emphasize that at this point, there are no "shovel-ready" plans in place. Not even close. The federal dollars secured by our Congressional delegates are intended to support the concept, but they are not yet attached to any specific plan. The Wu team, to its credit, wants to build consensus among people who use the corridor regularly— especially the 58 percent of daily commuters who sit or stand on one or another bus that regularly traverses the road. They are also aware that they'll need to get buy-in from businesses and other stakeholders who want to make sure that any new parking restrictions or re-designs enhance, rather than detract, from commerce.

For all that, the project can still be a perilous endeavor. At a forum on the subject convened by City Councillor Julia Mejia at Morningstar Baptist Church last week, one person wondered if parking meters might be installed along the avenue as part of a re-design. The answer from Franklin-Hodge, who participated in the forum, was a very clear "no."

But over the weekend, contributors to a rumor mill on social media insisted that the opposite was true. In spreading the falsehood, some of the rumormongers tossed out ugly, anti-Asian sentiment targeting the mayor.

Let the record show that, in fact, there is absolutely no plan for parking meters on Blue Hill Avenue or Dorchester Avenue, for that matter, according to Franklin-Hodge.

"That question was asked and was immediately shot down," confirmed state Rep. Russell Holmes, who attended the event and offered helpful background on past efforts to revitalize the corridor. He was dismayed to see the online dialogue descend into falsehoods and slanders against the mayor.

"It is ridiculous that this [lie] has become a reality online," he said.

It's sad to say, but such is the world we live in. Which is why it's critical that Wu administration officials and trusted community stakeholders like the Greater Mattapan Neighborhood Council be supported in their future efforts to hold open, transparent and, ideally, representative forums to get out the facts and solicit well-informed input. Look for more meetings — and other grassroots outreach efforts intended to guide this opportunity— in the weeks to come.

-Bill Forry

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Frederica Williams, president and CEO Whittier Street Health Center, spoke at a media event to announce the city's B Together policy on Jan. 15 as Mayor Wu and City Council President Ed Flynn looked on.

Isabel Leon photo/Mayor's Office

# Dot's health center leaders discuss what they learned dealing with Covid

By BILL WALCZAK REPORTER COLUMNIST

Community health centers were started about 50 years ago as an innovation in the medical care



Bill Walczak

system that allowed mainly low-income urban and rural Americans access to primary care providers. When the neighborhoods of Boston lost much of their middle class populations to the suburbs, they also lost the private physicians who followed their patients to the suburbs. Unable to get access to medical care, new city residents turned to emergency rooms

for their basic health care needs. This was seen as both a misuse of emergency rooms and bad for any continuity of care.

As a result, here in Dorchester, with the support of hospitals and government, community health centers were built to bring medical providers into the communities that had lost them. Eventually, ten health centers dotted the Dorchester landscape, led by community boards and directors and operating out of storefronts, trailers, and the basements of municipal buildings.

Over the past 50 years, Dorchester's health centers, now eight in number, have become major providers of clinical care for the majority of Dorchester residents. They are large institutions with multi-million dollar budgets in state-of-theart facilities with hundreds of employees that have developed comprehensive clinical and preventive services and adopted the latest innovations and technology and demonstrated excellence in clinical care.

Beginning two years ago, health centers have been tested by the Covid-19 pandemic hit. They have performed extraordinarily well, adjusting systems of care to accommodate thousands of Covid patients, adjusting again when tests became available, then again when the vaccines were introduced.

As we enter Year 3 of Covid, I have been discussing the lessons learned and plans for the future with some health center leaders who are very appreciative of their staffs for their ability to change systems of care quickly, and of state government for adjusting systems to allow the health centers to maintain financial stability while the clinics quickly adjusted all their systems for Covid.

The general sense is that the coronavirus will be declared "endemic" soon. Endemic means that Covid will continue to be here, but that it will be largely under control because most people, through vaccines, will be at low risk for hospitalization or death, and there are and will be treatments that will

So where does that leave the health centers? Chuck Jones, CEO of Harbor Health, discussed the importance of learning from our Covid experience to be better prepared the next time, saying that the health care system needs a "more nimble response process" to ensure that appropriate services and

lower the death rate for those who get the disease.

process" to ensure that appropriate services and staffing can be made available more quickly. He added that "we had to make decisions quickly that were good for the circumstances, which opened the eyes of management on what could be accomplished."

Dr. Panage Crickley, which medical efficient at Cod.

Dr. Renee Crichlow, chief medical officer at Codman Square Health Center, is focused on building the health center's capacity for "the foundational needs of the community for health care, and a chronic care system for Covid. We need to shape the future so the community is not just safe, but also thriving." She added: "Covid is still here, but when it has been put in our ancestral memory in a few years, vaccination will continue to help decrease severe Covid, and Covid may eventually have better treatments than we currently use to treat flu."

Whittier Street Health Center CEO Frederica Williams noted that Covid has caused additional health care problems that Whittier is focused on, including ensuring care for patients with pre-existing health conditions and for people who have delayed care. "We are seeing increased rates of mental health issues in children, increased substance use disorders, and gaps in wellness and prevention." Williams sees the need for education of community residents so that vaccination rates can increase. Whittier Street has been holding community focus groups to learn how to best engage the community.

Jones discussed balancing the needs of the thousands of patients with chronic disease with the demands of Covid treatment, pointing out the need for education efforts for both patients and staff.

Crichlow said her "biggest lesson" of the pandemic was "realizing that the most important thing we can do is to create a unified view of community." She said that our country's "polarization has prolonged the pandemic," and that we need to build "trust in public health and science. The public needs to understand how science works," and that "as data changes, science is moving toward doing the next best thing."

Williams pointed to the need "for many community partnerships to work together to achieve health equity," and to support the community's efforts to organize itself. Jones and Williams both mentioned that the Commonwealth had recently recognized the necessity of investing in community health centers by passing a \$125 million increase in rates. This will help ensure that health centers, which have performed so well in meeting community need during the pandemic, can be sustained and prepared for the next phase of Covid and to innovate when the next health crisis comes.

Bill Walczak is the founding president and former CEO of the Codman Square Health Center.

# Baker's chiefs urge colleges to lead state 'into an endemic'

By Colin A. Young State House NEWS SERVICE

Two Baker administration Cabinet secretaries late last week urged college and university presidents to eschew strict campus-wide Covid-19 protocols and instead put their institutions at the forefront of the state's transition of the pandemic "into an endemic, a highly contagious virus that is manageable and allows us to regain a sense of normalcy."

Health and Human and veered on the side Services Secretary Marvlou Sudders and Education Secretary James Peyser warned in a letter of a "twindemic" of Covid and social isolation and said that with "virtually all students and staff vaccinated," higher education institutions can lead the shift back to 'near normal' by rolling back Covid-related restrictions and investing in mental health services.

"Early in the pandemic, we made trade-offs,

of remote learning and isolation. Overly strict protocols that inhibit any level of social interaction are counterproductive, at this time. Now is the time to reconsider these protocols to help promote a return to healthy social interactions, including: remote learning: restricting or discouraging group activities; overly aggressive surveillance testing; and mask type requirements," the secretaries wrote in Friday's letter, which was circulated Monday by state health and human services officials who added:

"Colleges and universities should accelerate their efforts to transition back to 'near normal' conditions, which include focusing on individuals who manifest symptoms and test positive, and especially those who are particularly at risk for serious illness and hospitalization."

In an op-ed in the

Boston Globe, professors from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and Lowell campuses wrote that their students "need a return to normal instructional environments and an engaging college experience now" and that campuses should rethink Covid mitigation measures. "As faculty on the front lines in January 2022, we see a decline in student mental health that is driven, at least in part, by the policies of our own universities. We

are sounding the alarm," they wrote.

"We have seen firsthand the toll that pandemic-related restrictions at our Massachusetts universities are taking on students. A burgeoning student mental health crisis existed prior to the pandemic, but there is no doubt that two years of isolation, disconnection, and punitive restrictions have dramatically worsened this crisis."

# After stay on mandate, unions propose a new testing setup for city's unvaccinated workers

(Continued from page 1) of existing collectively bargained contracts.

"Today, the Appeals Court justice said, 'Take a pause; take a pause.' You can't just fire these people," said Kelly, flanked by leaders of the three unions. "They have rights, and they have a right to be heard. We've been saying that all along. ... they have collective bargaining rights and collective bargaining contracts that they've worked under every single day and lived up to their end of the contract."

Earlier last week, Wu had said that 94 percent of the city's workforce, or 18,270 employees, were in compliance with the city's vaccine mandate. She had twice extended the deadline for having at least one shot of the vaccine, from Jan. 15 to Jan. 24, and then to Jan. 30.

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2222 Dorchester Ave.

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Last year, under Acting Mayor Kim Janey, agreements with unions called for city workers being able to submit to weekly testing instead of providing their vaccination statuses. Last week, Kelly raised the possibility of including a comprehensive testing regimen for non-vaccinated union members. He noted that in many cases, the members believe testing is a more effective measure for stopping the spread of Covid-19.

"I think we currently have, and are working on, a policy that...if you're not vaccinated, you're subjected to testing," he said. "What we've found is that the testing that our non-vaccinated members do at the beginning of a tour of duty protects the public even greater because we know now that

vaccinated people have contracted Covid and carry Covid and work with Covid even when they don't realize they are sick.'

He said the three unions hoped to be able to go back to the table over the next few days to work toward that solution with the mayor.

For their part, city officials have until Thursday of this week to respond to the stay as the fate of the mandate lies with the court.

In a statement after the judge issued her stay, Wu said that her policy "has already helped us reach 95 percent vaccination across our city workforce, an overwhelming support for public health and the safety of our colleagues and the communities we

She added: "Vaccination is our most power-

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ful tool in this ongoing public health emergency, and we look forward to filing our response with the court."

Among the major departments, Boston Police and Boston Public Library had posted vaccination rates at 95 percent, while Inspectional Services and Parks departments had 96 percent and 97 percent, respectively. Boston Public Schools stood at 94 percent, while the Fire Department was at 95 percent.

Despite the high vaccination rates among city workers, Kelly noted that some members are still in danger of being fired. "We can't accept a solution that leaves even one of our members terminated," he said. "It's not fair and it's not right. They have rights...Let me tell you what else they have: they have families. They have jobs they care about. Just like... anybody else, if you were losing your job, that's a tough reality to face. Our members aren't ignorant people. They're very educated people, and some have very strongly held beliefs about this issue."

As the battle over the mandate has played out in court, a small group of anti-mandate protesters has continually harassed Wu outside

CODMAN SQUARE HEALTH CENTER

her Roslindale home, shouting out names like Adolf Hitler. "We join the mayor in condemning those actions," Kelly said. "We've conducted ourselves professionally and will continue to do

The Appeals Court judge's stay of the mandate came a day after members of Boston Police Patrolmen's Association (BPPA), the city's largest police union, voted down a proposed mandate agreement with the city. BPPA leadership drew criticism from other unions, including Local 718, for its negotiations with administration officials.



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# Boston land deal eyed for MassBiologics expansion

By Katie Lannan State House News Service

MassBiologics, a division of the UMass Chan in Medical School and the country's only nonprofit vaccine manufacturer licensed by the US Food and Drug Administration, is eyeing a four-acre parcel of land adjacent to its Mattapan site for future expansion.

Frank Fazio, deputy executive vice chancellor of MassBiologics, pitched the State Administration and Oversight Committee Monday on a Rep. Russell Holmes bill that would authorize a transfer of the land to the Worcester City Campus Corporation, which Fazio described as a nonprofit corporation whose purpose is to support UMass.

"If enacted, this legislation will enable Mass-Biologics to grow and I believe provide a significant benefit to the community," he said. MassBiologics has a history of more than 125 years, Fazio said, and was established in its present form in 1997 through a law that transferred the Department of Public Health's biological laboratory to UMass. It

currently manufactures and distributes tetanus and diphtheria vaccines. Its Mattapan campus, on the site of the former Boston State Hospital, consists of 90,000 square feet of research and administration space and a manufacturing facility. MassBiologics also has a vector manufacturing facility in Fall River.

The bill (H 4317) leaves the price for the

land transfer to be determined by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance in keeping with the state law dealing with the Boston State Hospital site.

Under the legislation, the Worcester City Campus Corporation would be responsible for all costs related to the transaction, and would sign a land disposition agreement with the

commissioner requiring the medical school to "provide educational components, courses, internships, and other opportunities to students including, but not limited to, the elementary and high schools in the surrounding area and Roxbury Community College, to gain experience in biomedical manufacturing and supporting functions."

# Developers of former Globe HQ pitch new biotech building on site Project would sit opposite Savin Hill

(Continued from page 1) into a creative office, lab, and retail space spanning 695,000 square feet. The overall parcel that The BEAT sits on is 16.6 acres and sits steps from the Red Line and JFK/UMass MBTA Station, and a short ride away from Cambridge's Kendall Square, which is an biotech industry

hotspot that is tight on space.

Flagship Pioneering, a venture capital firm focused on the biotech sector, and fitness apparel company Nobull, were in talks to lease space inside The BEAT. Attendees of the preliminary meeting on the new building were told that a third of The

BEAT space has been leased. The development team has previously said they expect companies to move into the space this spring.

David Manfredi, the CEO and founding principal of the architectural firm Elkus Manfredi, also attended with some renderings of the building, as did Todd Fremont

Smith, Nordlbom's senior vice president of development and director of mixed-use projects.

If developers go ahead with the project, it means more cranes dotting the skies of Dorchester. DotBlock, a project that involves 480 residential units in the Glover's Corner section of the neighborhood, by Dorchester

Avenue and Hancock Street, is steadily rising. Dorchester Bay City, which involves a massive commercial, residential and lab project on Columbia Point, is undergoing scrutiny from city planning and development officials.

Two residential complexes, totaling 459 units, are set to go up

between Morrissey Boulevard and I-93, down by Boston Bowl. The "Neponset Wharf" project, recently approved by the board of the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) in January, will add 120 residential units and office space, along with some retail and an overhauled marina.



# VACCINE HOTLINE

If you have concerns about how safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines are

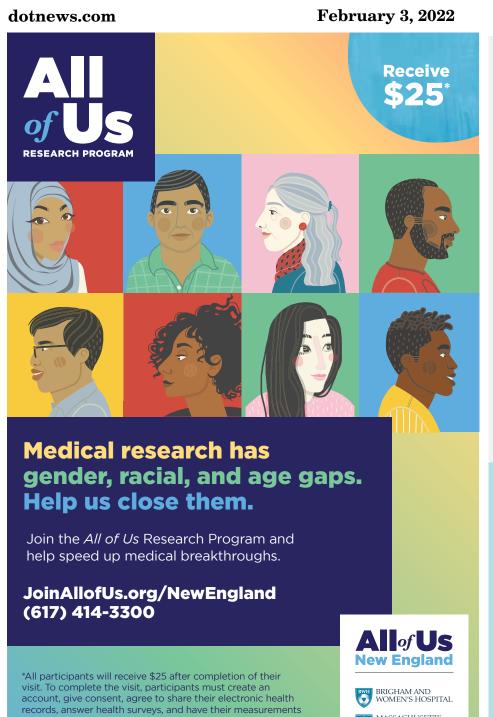
Call or Text a Nurse Volunteer

1-617-514-2121

HOURS: Monday - Saturday 7:00 am - 7:00 pm



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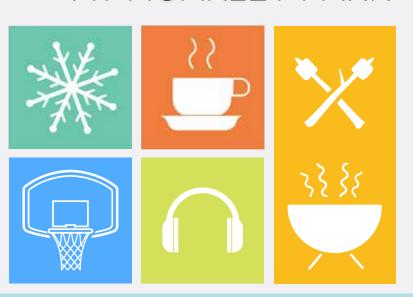
taken (height, weight, blood pressure, etc.), and give blood and urine samples, if asked.

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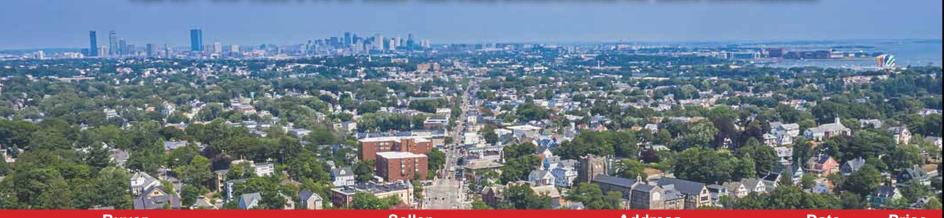




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# Where do our storm drains lead to? Read the plaques

(Continued from page 1) awareness to where the drainage went," Speranza said. "And also, we just wanted to raise the general level of awareness of people and their connection to the rivers and to the harbor."

Beginning in the summer of 1991, Speranza coordinated her community in a volunteer activity to stencil "No Dumping" signage, advertising in community newspapers, and calling on neighborhood associations.

"It was a very grass-roots effort," said Speranza, who has spent 35 years in water-related businesses. "We provided the stencils, and we provided the paint and the instructions of how to do it, and then we just sent them on their way."

Those with an attention to detail and some knowledge of Boston's marine wildlife will notice the choice of the fish species in the design is no accident.

"We had seen the design in other cities and usually it was a generic fish," Speranza said. "But we wanted it to be a little bit more local. and the flounder was the most well-known and charismatic fish in Boston Harbor."

Flounders had been crucial to tracking the



Elisa Speranza, a former Dorchester resident who now lives in New Orleans, led the effort to create the localized 'Don't Dump' plaques. Photo courtesy

Elisa Speranza

city's water quality, Speranza said. The fish could be found with deformities and tumors in their livers, indicative of the polluted water that infected the waterways around Boston. Other plaques feature an Alewife, a fish common to Massachusetts waters.

The clarity of the painted signs last but a few years, mainly due to snowfall and street sweeping, she said. It was after she left the agency that BWSC began installing metal alloy plaques with her design. New ones are installed whenever the sidewalk is torn up from construction.

Originally from Lynn, Speranza lived in Dorchester for eight



On Hallet Street in Dorchester, some storm drain plaques feature an Alewife, a common fish in Massachusetts waters. Samuele Petruccelli photo

years and now resides in New Orleans, where she has a consulting practice and plans to publish a book, "The Italian Prisoner," in April.

"You go through your career, and you're involved in all kinds of projects, and to have something like that with such staying power and to be so universally recognized is really gratifying," the 61-yearold Speranza said. "Especially to know that they're still doing it."

In addition to routine new installations of the plaque, BWSC engages the city's youth in storm drain-marking activities.

"A lot of people don't realize that the water that goes into those catch basins goes to our waterways," said Adri-ana Cillo, educational programs coordinator at BWSC. "They think it goes someplace to be cleaned and then it's let go. Well, that's not the

Cillo works with groups of children aged eight and up to teach them about the negative impacts of improperly disposed household waste. She said the kids often pass along what they learn to their parents.

"You know, you created a general here," Cillo said a mother told her. "She looks at me when I cook to see where I throw the oil and the grease."

Speranza said labeling storm drains is a practice that both educates kids and rallies the community. "Generations have



Cheryl Breen made winning bids for three plaques at a Boston Harbor Association auction fundraiser. They can now be found as stepping stones in her Photo courtesy of Cheryl Breen

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Published: February 3, 2022

come and gone since we first did that project," she said. "To me, it's a small effort that has a lot of ripple effects and it's very gratifying to see people recognizing that."

The plaques can serve other purposes, too. Cheryl Breen, of West Yarmouth, was attending an annual Boston Harbor Association auction fundraiser when she saw three of them going up for bids. She made winning offers, and gave the plaques new lives as stepping stones in her garden.

"I love it because it's gonna last forever," Breen said. "I like the fact that it says where the waste is going and then the little fish design."

The plaques in her garden once listed drain destinations that would have led into the Neponset and Charles rivers and Boston Harbor. Though all eventually route into Boston Harbor, only about 1,500 catch basins drain directly to Dorchester Bay, according to figures provided by BWSC. Around 4,600 drain into the Neponset and 14,000 into the Charles River.

"What I see in the story is how a middle manager starting her career, makes a decision like this, and how much it impacts the greater public," said Jeannie Doherty, a friend of Speranza and a Dorchester native.

"So much about what she did as a public employee while she was here in Boston has had so much effect on peoples' day-to-day life. But her legacy is this plaque, which is everywhere," she said, adding, "So, when you talk about plaques and things that are embedded in our sidewalks and our streets, 'Don't Dump in the Harbor' signs are one of a few. They are absolutely part of the fabric of the city and its neighborhoods."



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Early Support & Recovery (ESR) Group (Mondays 10am-11am) ESR is an orientation process that screens individuals with substance abuse into further treatment. Please call to register: (617) 989 - 3009 or (617) 989 - 3127

Whittier Street Health Center COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic Whittier's COVID-19 vaccine clinic, located on the 2nd floor of the 1290 Tremont Street location, operates Monday-Friday from 9am-8pm and from 9am-5pm on Saturdays. 1st and 2nd doses are available for ages 5 and up. Booster shots are available for ages 12 and up. Walk-ins are welcome. Call (617) 858-

Black History Month Celebration & Annual Meeting (February 17, 12pm-2pm)

Join us to celebrate the legacy of Black scholars, medical practitioners in Western medicine and other ways of managing health and wellness throughout the African Diaspora. This year's theme is "Black Health and Wellness" and will feature Keynote Speaker, Dr. Bisola Ojukutu, Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission.

Whittier Street Health Center Frederica M. Williams Building

1290 Tremont Street Roxbury, MA 02120 (617) 427-1000 Monday-Friday 8:30am-8:00pm Saturday

9:00am- 5:00pm

Pharmacy (617) 606-3777 Monday-Friday 8:30am-8:00pm Saturday 8:30am-5:00pm

Whittier Street Health Center **Blue Hill Satellite Clinic** 278 Blue Hill Avenue Roxbury, MA 02119 (617) 858-2550 Monday-Friday 8:30am-5:00pm





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# Reporter's People

### News about people in and around our Neighborhoods

Jenkins-Scott is named interim



City crews were out Monday night and Tuesday throughout the neighborhood cleaning up sidewalks and curbs to make it easier to get around. Crews were busy on Dorchester Avenue, Neponset Street, Blue Hill Avenue and Washington Street. Here, Derek Houston clears away one of the corners near the Second Church in Codman Square.

# New chief medical officer, a geriatric physician, is on the job at Harbor Health

Harbor Health has welcomed Dr. Monera Wong as the Dorchester-based non-profit organization's new chief medical officer. She comes to the clinic with a reputation as an experienced clinical leader with a strong commitment to improving healthcare delivery for older adults and vulnerable populations.

"Dr. Wong's experience and success as a physician leader will  $contribute \, greatly \, to \, our \,$ work," said Chuck Jones. president and CEO of Harbor Health. "I am grateful to have a leadership partner with her depth of experience and passion for bringing exceptional care to the most vulnerable members of our communities."

Wong previously sitional Care and chief in 2018.



Dr. Monera Wong

of Geriatric Medicine at Atrius Health and interim chief of Geriatric Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH). While at MGH, she also was the medical director of the Geriatric Primary Care Practice.

She was appointed an assistant professor in medicine, part-time, at served as chair of Tran- Harvard Medical School

As chief medical officer, Wong will lead Harbor's community health centers and Elder Service Plan, a Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE).

Her expertise in geriatric medicine across various care settings is timely as Harbor explores innovative ways to enhance support for frail elders in the community.

"I am looking forward to strengthening Harbor Health's existing system of care delivery to our older generations," said Wong. "Having the ability to connect with and see that all vulnerable populations in the communities we serve have greater access to exceptional healthcare and social supports is truly inspiring to me as

#### president at RCC Jackie Jenkins-Scott will assume the office of interim president of Roxbury Community College (RCC) next Mon-

day. She was approved by Commissioner of Higher Education Carlos Santiago after the college's board of trustees unanimously nominated her in December.

Jenkins-Scott brings more than three decades of experience in senior and executive leadership positions in higher education and public health, including 12 years as president of Wheelock

"Having served as president and CEO of Dimock Health for 21 years, Jenkins-Scott is

already an expert on the RCC community," said Board of Trustees Chairman Steven Tompkins, the sheriff of Suffolk County. "Her existing relationships in the community coupled with her higher education accomplishments ensure that the College will continue its important mission as we search for a permanent president.

Jenkins-Scott has served on the board of directors of The Boston Foundation; the Kennedy Library Foundation and Museum; the Boston Plan for Excellence; WGBH; the National Board of Jumpstart; the Council on Social Work Education; Cen-



**Jackie Jenkins-Scott** 

tury Bank and Trust Company; and the Tufts Health Plan.

A nationwide search for the permanent president is expected to launch this year.

# **Arts Academy** student cited for her theatre achievement

### Dot's Zayda Adams, 17, wins prestigious YoungArts award

A 17-year-old Boston Arts Academy (BAA) student has been named a 2022 YoungArts award winner for her work in theatre. Zayda Adams was chosen after submitting two filmed monologues for her application. The award gives her access to one of the most comprehensive programs for artists in the United States with opportunities for financial, creative, and professional development support throughout her career.

'We are proud of Zayda's extraordinary achievement," said Anne R. Clark, BAA's head of school. "She is an exemplary artist, and this honor is well deserved."

Adams joins a distinuished group of past YoungArts awards winners such as Camille A. Brown, Timothée Chalamet, Viola David, and Hunter Schafer. This year's award winners will have the opportunity to learn from leading artists such as vocalist La Tanya Hall, visual artists Loni Johnson and Yashua Klos, and the award-winning writer Dr. Joan Morgan.

"YoungArts empowers artists to pursue a life in the arts beginning at the critical time when many are faced with decisions about life after high school," said executive director Jewel Malone. "We are proud to support these young artists at the beginning of their journeys and look forward to becoming a resource for them at all stages of meir careers.

YoungArts award win-



Zayda Adams

ners become eligible for exclusive creative and professional development support including a wide range of fellowships, residencies, and awards; microgrants and financial awards; virtual and in-person presentation opportunities in collaboration with major venues and cultural partners nationwide; and access to YoungArts Post, a free, private online platform for YoungArts artists to connect, collaborate, and discover new opportunities.

#### YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE

DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY Wooden Snow Shovels

Many of you woke up to the task of dealing with the snow from Saturday's storm. Today's photo shows snow shovels in the collection of the Dorchester Historical Society that are displayed in the barn, which has a large collection of agricultural implements owned by the Clapp family.

The other photo is from 1920, when a blizzard dumped a lot of snow on New England.





The fire station at Peabody Square is visible in the middle of the scene behind the trolley car.

Think how lucky we are to have light-weight snow shovels, not to mention snow blowers.

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

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

# Popular Viet eateries will combine their efforts on a new restaurant on Dot Ave in Fields Corner

(Continued from page 1)
Pho Hoa, is happening during Vietnamese New Year - giving us even more to celebrate this

coming year."
The Vietnamese, or Lunar, New Year started on Feb. 1.

The coming together of the two mainstay eateries is nothing short of fate, both said in an interview with the *Reporter* this week.

Anh Hong was a very successful regional and neighborhood restaurant, winning many awards over the past seven years since Nguyen took it over. However, a dispute with the building's landlord led Nguyen to close suddenly at the end of December. It was heartbreaking for Nguyen and the community at the same time.

Meanwhile, Tam Le had just recently helped his father, who wanted to retire, celebrate his 70th birthday, but lingering issues in the restaurant had been bothering Tam Le, and it wouldn't be easy to keep things going without his father helping out. With so many other projects eating up his time, Tam Le said,  $the\,special\,neighborhood$ charm of Pho Hoa was being eroded.

A chance meeting of



The creators of a culinary partnership in Fields Corner: From left, Tin Le and Victoria Nguyen, owner of Anh Hong; Tam Le, co-owner of Pho Hoa, and Baothach Dinh.

Seth Daniel photos

Nguyen and Le at the home.stead café in Fields Corner changed both of their fates and brought the two together for what they expect to be a dynamic new culinary experience in the heart of Dorchester.

"God closed one door and he will open another door," said Nguyen. "I believe everything happens for a reason. When we met in the coffee shop, there was something different about that encounter than any other on any normal day." Tam Le said he saw the possibilities instantly when he heard Nguyen's story about having to close. One day after the restaurant closed, Nguyen agreed to take a meeting with Tam Le.

"When Tam told me his idea, I wasn't really ready yet," said Nguyen, noting that she had been considering offers in Somerville or Quincy. "I thought maybe in the summer...Anh Hong closing had really upset the neighborhood...The subject of Anh Hong clos-



The existing Pho Hoa restaurant on Dorchester Avenue in Fields Corner.

ing is very hot out there. People are still talking about it. He didn't want to wait and said summer might be too long – people will forget, and it will be harder to get them back. He said we needed to start things while the story is still hot."

Tam Le said he understood Nguyen had lost her business rather suddenly, so he knew there was some grieving that needed to be done, so he gave her about two weeks and then came back with the idea again.

"My 'M.O.' is usually to be relentless," he said. "I knew for this I had to have some restraint. To have a business you had so long die is something that brings a grieving process. I had to give her time to grieve."

Nguyen said after the two weeks were up, she

realized the potential of a quick turnaround, and especially with an established entity like Pho Hoa and its attractive, spacious dining room. The thought of collaboration "woke her up," she said.

"After the closing, you feel down and there is maybe wrong information out there," she said. "It's a sadness inside you. Coming back now is very exciting. I woke up the next day after we talked, and I was a totally different person. I'm motivated and ready. It's going to be great for the Vietnamese community and the neighborhood."

Added Tam Le, with a laugh, "It's like the Avengers. It's all for good and we're coming together."

Tam Le said his father started the restaurant when Tam was 11, and he recalls the 80 and 90-hour weeks his father put in at the beginning. Like Nguyen, it was his "baby," and both are on the same page with that kind of renewed commitment to revive Pho Hoa and Anh Hong in the same space. They will update the décor and make any repairs that need to be made. Both have unique specialties, such as Pho soup for Pho Hoa, and family-style Seven Courses of Beeffor Anh Hong. Fortunately, none of the specialties overlap, and key staff members from both entities will be retained to keep combined menus top-notch.

"One of the most important things coming out of this is the quality staff from Anh Hong and Pho Hoa will keep their jobs and will work together," said Tam Le. "The two owners and two staffs working together will be special."

Both also said their families share a common theme, having immigrated to Dorchester in the early 1980s from Vietnam. While their elders worked tireless hours to pursue the American dream, Nguyen and Tam Le said they represented the next generation, and they hoped the collaboration would build on the solid ground that their elders laid down in the neighborhood.

"There are two important themes shared by Anh Hong and Pho Hoa: Creating a special place for the community to enjoy and ensuring that the Vietnamese culture is preserved for future generations," they both said

As part of the agreement, both said that Pho Hoa founder Thanh Le will be able to fully retire but will stay on as an advisor as Nguyen takes on the title of general manager.

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# **NOTICE**

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

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



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

www.dorchesterhistoricalsociety.org

# Rent All site developer working on a revised plan for proposed building on Adams Street in Lower Mills

#### By SETH DANIEL REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

After some neighbors expressed concerns after an initial peek into the plan for developing the Rent All of Boston property on Adams Street in Lower Mills, the developer is now working on a revised concept.

The proposal was unveiled at a Dorchester Lower Mills Civic Association meeting and in the Reporter earlier this month by 6M Development's Bill Caulder. His plan then called for 33 units of condo housing with 29 parking spaces under the building.

Some have suggested in meetings that the plans should involve single-family homes while others have said that the design and size make them feel like they are disappearing in their own neighborhood.

George Deveney, who said he lives on Adams Street and isn't against a development there, feels like this one might be too big as it stands

"I'm not in the camp of it being a single-family home; I'm fine with it



being something but 33 units seems like a lot," he said. "I would love to see what comes out of something not as tall and hopefully that would also mean a more manageable number of

He added that traffic is really one of the biggest concerns, and that the project relies on a trolley that isn't reliable. "If this is for public transit and bike utopia, I don't know if we're there yet," he said.

Neighbor Joyce Line-

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han said she looks forward to hearing the entire proposal and added that she's glad at least that it meets the threshold of including affordable housing.

"I live close to the site, and I am glad it's not yet another proposal for an eight- or nine-unit building," she said. "There are a lot of those around. If you build ten units or more in Boston, you are required to build some affordable. So, if someone shows up in your neighborhood ask-

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VS.

SATIRO VEIGA

a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown of the Marriage. The Complaint is on file at the Court. An Automatic Restraining

Order has been entered in this matte preventing you from taking any action

which would negatively impact the cur-rent financial status of either party. SEE

Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.

required to serve upon: Jhanel Potts, 79

Lenox St., #2, Boston, MA 02118 your answer, if any, on or before **03/10/2022**.

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. BRIANJ. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.

Published: February 3, 2022

Register of Probate

Date: December 24, 2021

The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant

To the Defendant:

rent proposal for the Rent-All of Boston property in Lower Mills. Artwork courtesy

A rendering of the cur-

**Spalding & Tougias** 

them to build ten."

In response, Caulder said that he understands the sentiment of it being too big, but he noted that single-family homes aren't an option. He pointed out that that would be counter to the city and state's housing production edicts - adding that the site has high walkability, transit, and bike scores.

"Most people I have interfaced with thus far agree and welcome new multifamily housing on the site, but there are a few voices - and always are - that are critical of the proposed development," he said. "There are some who want development and think the building 'feels too big' and so we are working to address this monolithic 'big' feel from the street through some reduction of scale in the architecture."

He said he will continue to reach out to abutters and those in the neighborhood. "A revised concept will be presented to abutters in the coming days to get further feedback, which we welcome," he said.

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### RECENT OBITUARIES

CROWLEY, Harold F., 90, of Boston. Survived by wife, Donna; children, Dante Vallance, Myles (Steve Auger), Neil (Cindy), Deirdre and Owen; 5 grandchildren; 1 great-grandchild; brothers, Rev. Daniel J. Crowley, Rev. Richard P. Crowley, Charles S. Crowley; and extended family and friends. Predeceased by brother Rev. John D. Crowley. Artist-photographer, 34yrs Comm. of Mass.



CURLEY, Kenneth. 78, of Dorchester originally from Somerville. Son of Owen Curley who passed away in WWII,

Warren Talbot and Pauline (Yeaton) Talbot. Survived by his wife Mary (Pantano) Curley. Father of Christine (Curley) O'Connor of Quincy and Kenneth Curley and his partner Suzanne Dagenais both of Dorchester. Kenneth is also survived by 3 grandchildren.



McAULAY, Donald F. Jr., 67, of Mattapan. Husband of Donna Collins McAulay (McLaughlin) and son of Joanne McAulay of Westwood. He is survived by his children, Courtney Patterson (McAulay) and her wife Brooke of Avon,

wife Renee of Bellingham, Joseph Collins and his wife Yeantying (Helen) of Franklin. He was the brother of Sue Ellen McKinnon and her husband Mark of Braintree, Mary Jane McAulay of Simsbury, CT, John McAulay of Simsbury, CT, Joanne Boehl and her husband Werner of Scituate, Jennifer Maher of Boston, and Karolyn Sokolosky and her husband Richard of Needham. Don also leaves behind 3 grandchildren; sisters-in-law, Patricia Chamberlain and her husband Dennis of Warwick, RI, Karen McLaughlin and her partner Michael Manfredi of Plymouth.

James Collins and his



McGUIRK, Mildred of Dorchester, formerly of Somerville and Connecticut. Mother of Diana and Bill Cannon of Stoughton, Darrell and Debbie Bartlett of Tyngsboro, Gail Higgins of Weymouth, and Payson Bartlett; as well as 9 grandchildren; and a bevy of nieces and nephews. She also is survived by her brother Ralph Robar of East Hartford, CT.

MARTIN, Essie Mae, 79, of Dorchester. Wife of the late Roosevelt Martin. Mother of Annette Jackson, Curtis Jackson, Loretta Martin, Darlene Martin, Patricia Martin and Priscilla Martin. Sister of Joyce Jackson, Dorothy Jackson, Ruby Dudley, Robert E. Jackson and the late Mary Hall, Edward Jackson, James Jackson, Jr. and grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

Larry Jackson. Essie

is also survived by 12

MILLER, Shirley Virginia Hunt, 91, of Dorchester. Daughter to Constance E. Hunt and Albert Bryan. Shirley was the wife of the late Albert Miller; mother of 4: Curtis Albert Miller(deceased), Sharon Diane Miller Mason, Robert Anthony Miller and Wayne Roosevelt Miller. Siblings included 5 sisters and 1 brother: Judith Hunt(deceased) Mansfield, MA, Gloria Waddie (deceased), Marylou Flood and Irene Price of Cambridge, MA, Patricia Shelton and Albert Watts of Boston; 7 grandchildren: 14 great-grandchildren, 3 great-great grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.



O'SULLIVAN, Michael Francis of Dorchester. Son of the late John and Ann (Stanton) O'Sullivan. Brother of Shaun and his wife Julie (Fahey) of Dorchester, Mark O'Sullivan of Dorchester, Thomas O'Sullivan and his wife

Kristin (Glueck) of Mission Viejo, CA, Peter O'Sullivan of Dorchester, Stephanie O'Sullivan of Dorchester, Ann O'Sullivan of Hyde Park, Christopher O'Sullivan of Dorchester, Denise and her husband Damon Smith of Long Valley, NJ, Julia O'Sullivan of Dorchester, and David O'Sullivan of Dorchester. He is survived by his aunt Mary Stanton of Hyde Park, uncle Richard and Norma Stanton of Scituate and Edgartown, MV, and Uncle George Stanton of Mission Hill. He is also survived by his ten nieces and nephews. Donations in Michael's memory may be made to Dorchester Youth Hockey, c/o Phil Olson, 38 Laban Pratt Way,

Dorchester, MA 02122. **PAYNE, Eustace D.** Sr. lifelong Boston resident, retired MBTA bus driver. Son of the late Ethelbert and Violet Payne. Husband of Bernice Payne of Stoughton. Father of Eustace Payne, Jr., with his wife Teresa, Carla and Renee Payne, Lisa Haynes with her husband Rev. Randy Haynes, and Terri Simmons-Bozeman. Grandfather of 10; and great-grandfather of 10. Brother of Eleanor Perryman; and brother-in-law of Shirley Payne, Barbara Caruthers-Payne, and Eugene Wright. He is survived by a godchild, Muminah Sabree and a host of extended family and loved ones.



PITTS, Mary Catherine, 64, of Jamaica Plain. Wife of Paul J. Pitts of Jamaica Plain. Mother of Megan E. Pitts and partner Chris W. Amaral, Paul M. Pitts and fiance Brenda Osta, Matthew R. Pitts, and Ralph the family dog. Daughter of Helen Connolly and the late Martin C. Connolly, Sr., of Dorchester. Sister of Patricia A. Faria and her husband Joe of Cape Elizabeth, ME, Margaret E. McK-een and her husband William of Dorchester, Martin C. Connolly Jr., and his partner Trisha Hardiman of Dorchester, Teresa H. King and her husband James of Quincy, Aileen M. Connolly and her wife Sasha Tyler of Dorchester, and the late John J. Connolly. Sister-in-law of Marilyn (LaMothe) Connolly of Quincy. Donations in her memory may be made to Last Chance Animal Rescue https://lcarescue. networkforgood.com/ projects/144029-lcar-on-

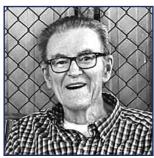
line-giving-fund. REGAN, Briant Patrick, 64, of Portland, OR.



Briant was the youngest of the five children of the late Lt. Col. Daniel Regan (USMC) and the late M. Felice (Deveau) Regan, both of Dorchester. Briant is survived by his wife Mary Cooksey Regan, his siblings Kevin Regan and his wife Patricia of Lisbon Falls, ME, Felice Regan of Somerville, Dennis Regan and his wife Diane of So. Portland, ME, and Thérèse Regan Benzinger and her husband, William of Gordonsville, VA. Many nieces and nephews are left to cherish his memory. The family asks kindly that you consider a donation in Briant's name to Providence Hospice of Portland, or the ALS Oregon and SW Washington Chapter.



ROPER, Elizabeth L. (Flanagan) of Dorchester. Wife of the late Alfred T. Roper. Mother of James H. Roper and his wife Lynne P. of Bedford, NH, Janet M. Donahue and her husband David F. of Scituate, and the late John J. Roper and his surviving wife Deborah Roper of Manchester, NH. Elizabeth is survived by 11 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. Sister of the late Mary Flanagan, Helen Clinton, Margaret Langelier, and Doris Wallace. Donations in Elizabeth's memory may be sent to St. Gregory Church.



WHITE, Richard Nelson, 85, of Dorchester, originally from Charlestown. Son of the late Clayton and Mary Ella White. Husband to Evelyn Pamela White. Dick is survived by 5 children, 14 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren. Preceded in death by his eldest daughter Ellen Mary (Wilkins) Beggs. US Air Force veteran. Please consider a donation in his name to the Alzheimer's Association alz.org/donate.

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# **BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF DORCHESTER**

F V O in You Tube



Centerline Development & EVO Boston Raise Over \$17,000 for BGCD: See details below.

# CONNECT THE DOT: Centerline Development & EVO Boston Real Estate Raise Over \$17,000 for BGCD: Last week,

Centerline Development and EVO Boston hosted a special "Brews For A Cause" event at Dorchester Brewing Company in support of BGCD and the Martin Richard Foundation Fieldhouse project. The evening had a wonderful turnout of friends, family, colleagues and supporters who helped make the event such a success which raised over \$17,000 for BGCD. A special thank you to Michela and Karina from the EVO team and to Adam and Brian from Centerline who put this event together on behalf of BGCD. Your support of the project is so important, and we look forward to our continued partnership helping our Community thrive. A special thank you as well to Kendra Scott Jewelry who also supported the event The Club could not do what we do every day without friends like you!

FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE:
Opportunity for High Schoolers
to Join BGCD's College Fellows &
Career Prep Program: Boys & Girls
Clubs of Dorchester's College Fellows &
Career Prep Program has kicked off for
the month of February! High schoolers
can join us on Tuesdays and Thursdays
for upcoming workshops and events.

Upcoming events include: February 8 - Career Speaker Series February 15 - College Fellows Meeting February 8 & 15 - Scholarship Help Thursdays - Teen Art Classes

Please note our College Fellows session is open to all high school students and they do not need to be enrolled at the Club.

For more information or to RSVP to any of these programs, please contact Tricia Chapple at pchapple@bgcdorchester.org.



New England WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP Awards 2022

### MAY 18, 2022

Save the Date For Our New England Women's Leadership Awards - Wednesday, May 18, 2022!: See details below.

#### DID YOU KNOW:

Save the Date For Our New England Women's Leadership Awards Wednesday, May 18!: On May 18, 2022, BGCD will host this year's New England Women's Leadership Awards (NEWLA). NEWLA is one of the first events of its kind in the Boston area that celebrates the accomplishments of women who make a positive difference in their businesses and communities. For nearly 30 years we have recognized remarkable women who meet the challenges they face with confidence, persistence and compassion and make a priority to give back to others. Our honorees are role models and mentors for our members. Their stories inspire our young girls and boys to dream big, work hard and succeed. Make sure to look out as we announce honorees soon! For more information, visit www.bgcdorchester. org/newla, or contact Patty Lamb at plamb@bgcdorchester.org.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Fresh Films Program Session Begins February 3

> Elevate Youth Outing February 5

Cupcakes for Caring for First Responders February 21

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# Honda in Boston's Qual

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**BUY FOR** 2019 Honda Civic LX... ..\$21.998 Stk# BH79350B, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 36,115 mi. .\$22,998 2017 Honda Accord Sport. .\$22.998 Stk# BH23687A, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 86,631 mi

**BUY FOR** 2016 Toyota Rav4 XLE. \$22,998 Stk# BH79610A, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 61,245 mi. 2019 Honda Civic LX ..... .\$23.998 Stk# BH79663A, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 62,551 mi. 2019 Honda Civic Sport..... .\$23,898 Stk# BH79261A, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 35,910 mi. 2019 Honda Civic LX. \$23,998 Stk# BH79619A, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 18,101 mi. 2020 Honda Civic EX..... .\$24.945 Stk# BH23711, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 13,204 mi. 2018 Honda Accord LX 1.5T..... .\$24,998 Stk# BH79579A, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 32,875 mi. 2020 Honda Civic LX. .\$24,998 Stk# BH23717, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 16,233 mi. 2020 Honda Civic LX ..... .\$24.998 Stk# BH79439A, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 29,220 mi 2019 Honda Civic Sport..... .\$24,998 Stk# BH79303B, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 56,303 mi. 2020 Honda Civic LX. .\$24,998 Stk# BH79562A, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 25,951 mi. 2019 Honda Civic LX..... .\$24.998 k# BH79578A, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 7,394 mi.

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