Dorchester Reporter

"The News and Values Around the Neighborhood"

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50¢



While other parishes have struggled to stay open, St. Ambrose Catholic Church in Fields Corner finds itself booming these days as a large Vietnamese population and remaining Irish and Italian members have blended seamlessly to create a new, and vibrant parish life. Last weekend, hundreds attended a special Mass to celebrate the Tet (Lunar) New Year, one of many Masses that can attract up to 1,000 people.

Dzung Nguyen photo

Vietnamese sparking a boomtime in parish life at St. Ambrose parish

By Seth Daniel Reporter Correspondent

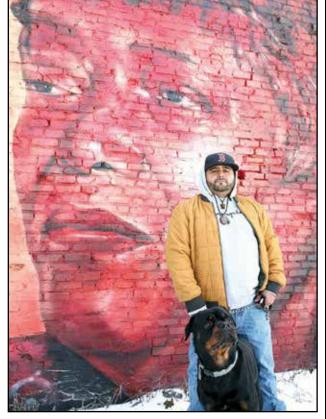
In the world of church communities in Dorchester, most of the news is about closings, lower attendance, and contraction, but the story coming out of St. Ambrose Church in Fields Corner is much different. Parishioners are bursting at the seams and riding a unique wave of momentum.

Parishioners new and old say the growth comes from an open-mindedness and an accepting of everyone throughout the parish — embracing faith ahead of differences. The once-dwindling Irish and Italian congregation has found a resurgence in blending well with a massive, multi-generational Vietnamese population uncompromising in their faith spurred by (Continued on page 18)

Artists hail Boston's Black History by featuring leaders on Grove Hall mural

By SETH DANIEL REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

For decades, visitors entering Grove Hall from Roxbury by foot, car, or bus were greeted by a derelict brick wall and an overgrown empty lot next to the neighborhood's busy Post Office and business district. It was hardly the first impression that community members were looking for. Today, thanks to a grass-roots effort of volunteers and artists, those coming into Grove Hall are greeted with a new mural whose portraits convey the strength and character of Boston's great Black leaders throughout history. Gone are the brambles and broken bricks; in their place are images of Malcolm X, Ella Collins, Melnea Cass, Frederick Douglass, the escaped slave whose activism was key to the abolitionist movement in Massachusetts and New York - he gave multiple speeches in Boston, and a square is named in his honor in Roxbury – and many others. "I like doing portrait work and I was ready to get on this," said Ricardo "Deme5" Gomez, a Four Corners native who also worked on the acclaimed "Roxbury Love" mural. "I was really inspired to paint Freder-(Continued on page 12)



Genaro "Gio" Ortega with his dog, Turtle, in front of his portrait of Boston's Ruth Batson, a life-long champion of school desegregation in Boston and across the United States, on the Grove Hall mural. Seth Daniel photo

Another opening for Wu: Cassellius to leave school post at end of June

By Gintautas Dumcius Managing Editor

The search for a new Boston Public Schools superintendent – the sixth in the last 10 years – will get underway formally at next week's School Committee

meeting as Dr. Brenda Cassellius, who took the job in 2019, readies to step down by the end of the school year in June.

With the search for a permanent police commissioner ongoing, Cassellius's leave-taking opens up another top job for first-year Mayor Michelle Wu to fill.



Brenda Cassellius

Wu called Cassellius's impending departure a "mutual decision" reached after "careful deliberation" between her, Cassellius, and Jeri Robinson, chair of the Boston School Committee.

At a Tuesday morning press conference outside Brighton High School, Wu acknowledged additional open cabinet posts, including chief of planning to

(Continued on page 13)

Sportsmen's Tennis Club looks to expand; plan would add indoor courts, solar setup

By SETH DANIEL REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

Faced with growing demand for tennis space, the Sportsmen's Tennis & Enrichment Club (STEC) on Blue Hill Avenue announced it will proceed with an expansion project to enclose three outdoor courts, add outdoor lighting to existing courts, and bring on a new solar array.

STEC CEO Toni Wiley appeared at the Greater Mattapan Neighborhood Council (GMNC) meeting on Monday night to discuss the project that has been a long time in the making, but now ready to start.

"We have been on a \$4 million fundraising campaign for some time and this past summer we secured most of that and are looking at the design now," she said. "We hope to get approvals for the first leg of the expansion and in the fall of 2022, we'll hopefully be able to operate the first leg of this expansion. That includes one fabricated metal building over some of our outdoor courts. In a couple of years, we're looking for the expansion to increase capacity on our soft

(Continued on page 10)

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THE REPORTER

Police, Courts & Fire



The Boston Fire Department reported that firefighters responded to Corona Street off Geneva Avenue for a fire on first- and second-floor porches that extended into the rest of the building around 5:25 p.m. last Saturday. The department reported that the blaze displaced nine people and estimated the amount of damage at \$200,000. There were no injuries, the BFD said, nopting that the cause is under investigation.

BFD photo

Detectives nab Dot man in Savin Hill market heist

Boston Police detectives arrested a man with "a sizeable kitchen-style knife" just as he was reaching into the cash register of the Pleasant View Market on Savin Hill Avenue at Pleasant Street last Thursday afternoon (Feb.1).

Police say the detectives were staking out the area around 4:45 p.m. due to a spate of recent armed robberies at the market when they spotted Haitham Kheir, 42, of Dorchester, "walking up and down the street, looking into the store as he passed."

the store as he passed."
They added: "Detectives then observed Kheir enter the store, reach over the counter, manipulate the cash register, and knock over several displays."

The detectives rushed in and, after charging him with armed robbery, determined he was the person who had also robbed the store around 12:30 p.m. on Jan. 28.

They charged him for that as well.

Police records also show a robbery at Savin Hill Avenue and Pleasant Street around 5:30 p.m. on Feb. 1.

Two men were arrested near Uphams Corner on Sat., Feb. 5, after police saw their vehicle blow through two red lights during an ice storm. The men, it turned out, were each wanted on outstanding warrants and one, according to police, was found to be carrying a loaded Glock handgun.

The incident unfolded around 2:15 a.m. when, Boston Police say, they arrested Tavarge Thomas, 24, and Rondell Pennant, 27, who was allegedly sought for a felony warrant issued by Brockton District Court. Thomas, according to a police report, was found to be carrying the gun. Both men were to be arraigned in Roxbury court.

on Jan. 28. court.

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Wu lays out city's metrics for lifting Covid-driven restrictions

As coronavirus numbers continued to trend downward, Mayor Wu on Tuesday said that city officials are eyeing the easing of pandemic-driven restrictions such as requiring proof of vaccination at certain indoor venues. The relief is based on hospitalizations, ICU capacity, and the local positivity rate, according to Wu.

Appearing at an unrelated event outside Brighton High School, the mayor said the numbers are heading in the "right direction." The community positivity rate stands at 7.4 percent, down from 32 percent in early January.

The thresholds Wu and public health officials are looking for before they lift restrictions: Fewer than 95 percent of ICU beds are occupied, fewer than 200 COVID-19 hospitalizations a day, and a community positivity rate below 5 percent.

The proof of vaccination requirement applies to customers and staffers at indoor restaurants, bars, gyms, and entertainment arenas, where a mask mandate also remains in place.

"We have matched this proactive public health policy with equitable access to vaccines, and because of this multilayered approach, I am optimistic about where our city is headed during this pandemic," Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, executive director of the Boston Public Health Commission, said in a statement. "The City of Boston's Covid-19 response has always been driven by science and data, and we will remain ready to adjust our strategy, guidance, and requirements as needed to keep everyone safe."

The release of the metrics comes as city officials are locked in a legal battle with several public safety unions that oppose a vaccine mandate for the city's 18,000 workers. Workers can request an exemption.

According to data the city provided to WBUR, Boston has approved fewer than half of the requests it received from city workers who claimed a medical or religious waiver.

The city said it has received 360 medical or religious exemption requests as of Thursday. About a third cited medical reasons and the rest relied on religious grounds. Some workers submitted both medical and religious requests.

Boston has approved

41 percent of the 155 requests it has reviewed so far. Boston said it has yet to process the remaining 205 requests. The city provided the figures in response to a public records request from WBUR.

"Each decision (approval or denial) is unique in that each request is unique," Boston Public Records Director Shawn Williams said in a statement to WBUR on Friday. "Approvals are granted for different periods of time and for different types of arrangements — all depending on what accommodation is requested and what medical providers have recommended."

Several public safety unions have filed a lawsuit challenging the mandate. Though a Superior Court judge rejected the suit, the state's appellate court last month ordered the city to suspend the mandate until it can review the case.

Wu's office has said that 95 percent of the workforce is fully vaccinated, leaving approximately 900 of the city's 18,000 workers unvaccinated. That suggests the majority of unvaccinated workers have yet to seek a waiver.

A spokesman for Bos-

ton's firefighter's union said he didn't know any firefighters who have had their applications approved.

"Most of the accommodations that were requested, it's my understanding, were rejected, so it's been a very frustrating situation," said Marc Sanders, legislative agent for Boston Firefighters Local 718. Sanders said more than 91 percent of firefighters are vaccinated.

The firefighters union is one of three public safety unions that sued Wu and the city over the vaccination requirement. The Boston Police Detectives Benevolent Society and the Boston Police Superior Officers Federation, which represents sergeants, lieutenants and captains, also filed suit.

The unions say Wu's directive violates their collective bargaining rights, and reneges on an agreement that allowed workers to submit to weekly testing in lieu of getting vaccinated.

"Boston firefighters feel like we've done the right thing for the last two years," Sanders said. "We've honored our agreement with the city and we would expect the same on their behalf."

Wu said the city is prepared to enforce the vaccine mandate, pending approval by a judge.

WRIE AND

– WBUR AND REPORTER STAFF

Old Sozio store gets appeal board okay for cannabis delivery service

By Reporter Staff

The Zoning Board of Appeal on Tuesday of this week approved plans to turn the former Sozio store in Neponset Circle into what could become the state's first marijuana delivery service.

"It's almost Uber Eats for cannabis," Zip Run's attorney, Lesley Delaney Hawkins, told the board. Zip Run initially plans delivery to customers within 10 miles of Neponset Circle, but might extend that to 15 miles.

However, unlike Uber Eats, drivers will be fulltime company employees and will use only company vehicles equipped with lock boxes to deliver orders from Neponset Circle to customers send-



Gabe Vieira

ing orders through the company's online portal.

Like customers of existing liquor-delivery services, customers will have to prove they are 21 or older. The company vehicles will not have signboards or other indications that they're making marijuana deliveries.

The old Sozio building will be upgraded with numerous security features, including both internal and external cameras and a secure area for stor-

ing marijuana, Hawkins said, adding the company expects to employ 30 people in full- and parttime jobs.

Zip Run CEO Gabe Vieira of Mattapan has agreed to not later seek to turn the well-known location into its own retail store. Drivers will also be prohibited from driving on nearby neighborhood streets.

The company is technically seeking two state licenses - one to provide courier services to other retail stores, and the other to provide delivery of its own products.

Board members expressed concern about the prominent billboard that now rises above the building-as well as about

the general state of the former Sozio property, which has been in decline since the store closed several years ago.

"I don't think just repairing the old chain link fence is going to do it," board member Eric Robinson said, calling for a detailed "design review" by the BPDA.

Vieira said he will not be using the billboard and that the landlord retains full control of it.

City Councilor Frank Baker submitted a letter of "non opposition" to the application. As it now does, the mayor's office expressed no opinion on the proposal. The Boston Cannabis Board has approved the proposal as well.

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.ly/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.

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. A walk-in vaccine clinic will be held at BC High in Dorchester on Sunday, Feb. 13 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. No pre-registration is required. Doses of vaccines are available for adults, teens and children 5-11. Boosters are available for those who are 12-plus years of age. Call 857-302-4958 or email info@icbwayland.org for more info.

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Court OK's seizure of gun that officer first saw on Snapchat video

By Adam Gaffin Universal Hub

The Supreme Judicial Court has ruled that Suffolk County prosecutors can use as evidence a gun seized from a man outside a Dorchester gym after a gang-unit officer watched him displaying the weapon in a Snapchat video.

Averyk Carrasquillo's attorney had argued that the way the officer watched and videoed his Snapchat "story" without a warrant was a violation of his constitutional right against improper search and seizure, in particular because he set his Snapchat channel as "private."

Carrasquillo's request stems from his 2017 arrest outside a gym on Ellsworth Street in Dorchester - about a month after a gang-unit officer had sent him a Snapchat friend request, which he accepted. In May of that year, the officer watched two videos Carrasquillo, a Roxbury resident, had posted, one showing him apparently holding a gun while wearing a distinctive pair of pants, the other showing the interior of the gym on Ellsworth Street in Dorchester.

Other gang-unit officers went to the gym, spotted Carrasquillo wearing the distinctive pants, then frisked him, finding a loaded gun in one of his pockets. He was arrested on the spot on various gun charges, including possession of a gun after a prior conviction.

In its ruling, the state's top court agreed that social-media users have certain privacy rights, and that users of Snapchat, in particular, have some expectation of privacy given the way postings on the platform are designed to disappear, either immediately after a single viewing or after 24 hours, depending on the settings. Carrasquillo, the ruling continued, might have expected a further level of privacy



The logo for Snapchat, the social media platform at the center of this decision.

because he had set his account to be "private."

But, the court said, he basically threw that right away when he accepted a friend request from a user he did not know – the gang-unit officer – who used a made-up name and the default Snapchat user icon. (In a footnote, the court said the situation might have been different if the officer had assumed the name, or something close to the name, of a person Carrisquillo knew).

"The defendant's privacy interest in this case was substantially diminished because, despite his asserted policy of restricting such access, he did not adequately "control access" to his Snapchat account. ... Rather, he appears to have permitted unknown individuals to gain access to his content. For instance, Connolly [the officer] was granted access to the defendant's content using a nondescript username that the defendant did not recognize and a default image that evidently was not Connolly's photograph. By accepting Connolly's friend request

in those circumstances, the defendant demonstrated that he did not make "reasonable efforts to corroborate the claims of" those seeking access to his account. ...

"The nature of the government intrusion in this case further counsels against a determination that the defendant retained an objectively reasonable expectation of privacy in his video recordings, because the asserted government intrusion took place with the defendant's permission.

"Connolly was able to view the defendant's stories precisely because the defendant gave him the necessary permissions to do so. That the defendant not only did not exercise control to exclude a user whose name he did not recognize, but also affirmatively gave Connolly the required permissions to view posted content, weighs against a conclusion that the defendant retained a reasonable expectation of privacy in his Snapchat stories."

The court started its decision by saying it was rejecting the requests by both defense and prosecution to take absolute or "bright line" stances on the issue of social-media privacy – that police need a warrant at all times or that they don't need any at all, saying each case needs to be decided on its merits.

As they have with other digital privacy issues, the justices struggled with adapting legal concepts written in an age of physical objects with the digital age. In this case, they began by considering the importance of privacy in the US in general and in Massachusetts in particular, and the implications for that related to the Fourth Amendment and the equivalent section of the Massachusetts constitution. And they concluded that even social-media users have privacy rights.

"Government surveillance of social media, for instance, implicates conversational and associational privacy because of the increasingly important role that social media plays in human connection and interaction in the Commonwealth and around the world. For many, social media is an indispensable feature of social life through which they develop and nourish deeply personal and meaningful relationships. For better or worse, the momentous joys, profound sorrows, and minutiae of everyday life that previously would have been discussed with friends in the privacy of each others' homes now generally are shared electronically using social media connections.

"Government surveillance of this activity therefore risks chilling the conversational and associational privacy rights that the Fourth Amendment and Art. 14 seek to protect. ... Accordingly, the constitutional solicitude for conversational and associational privacy extends to the realm of social media."

Because of the way it works, they continued, Snapchat might have to be considered differently than other social-media networks, where messages don't simply disappear: "Thus, if a text message is akin to a letter, a Snapchat story is akin to a letter written in disappearing ink. In this way, too, the defendant retained a level of control over his stories. In sum, the defendant's relative level of control over the video recordings, combined with his other protective measures, weighs in favor of his argument that he had a reasonable expectation of privacy in the posted stories."

But then they returned to the specifics of Carrasquillo's case and concluded he had no case, at least as far as privacy goes.



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Councillor Arroyo joins DA race; Fifth Suffolk campaign underway

By GINTAUTAS DUMCIUS Managing Editor

Ricardo Arroyo, a Hyde Park city councillor whose district includes parts of Mattapan, is running for Suffolk County district attorney. The son



of Felix D. Arroyo, the Suffolk County register of probate and himself a former city councillor, Ricardo is a former public defender who worked for the

Committee for Public Counsel Services. He kicked off his campaign on Tuesday at the Birch Street Plaza in Roslindale.

Kevin Hayden, the former chairman of the state's Sex Offender Registry Board, is serving as interim Suffolk DA. Gov. Baker appointed him after Rachael Rollins was named US attorney for Massachusetts. Hayden



Councillor Ricardo Arroyo announced his intent to run for Suffolk County district attorney on Tuesday.

Photo by Jesse Costa/WBUR

has indicated that he will bid for the permanent seat.

Suffolk County includes Boston, Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop.

Arroyo was first elected to the District 5 seat on the 13-member City in 2019, beating his opponent by about 700 votes in a race to succeed Tim McCarthy. He won re-election last year, taking 75 percent of the vote against John White, a former laborer with Dorchester's Local 223.

Arroyo's district includes Hyde Park, Readville, Roslindale, and parts of Mattapan's Ward 14 and Ward 18. He doesn't have to give up his Council seat to run for the DA job, but if he wins, a special election will be held to replace him in District 5.

Arroyo has \$89,000 in cash on hand in his campaign account, according to the latest numbers from the Office of Campaign and Political Finance.

His first meetings as a candidate, according to his campaign, will be with the Dorchester-based Louis D. Brown Peace Institute, which offers help to families of homicide victims, and the Gavin House, which provides addiction recovery services.

Chris Worrell in fund push for Miranda House seat

The race to replace Liz Miranda in the Fifth Suffolk House seat is also

Chris Worrell, a staffer at the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA), has started fundraising for his campaign.

Miranda, joined by fellow state Rep. Nika Elugardo, is running for the Second Suffolk Senate seat, which opened up after Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz opted to run for governor.

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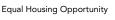
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Former City Councillor Andrea Campbell launched her campaign for attorney general at Codman Square Park last week.

Photo courtesy Campbell campaign/Twitter

The 36-year-old Worrell, the assistant director of diversity, equity, and inclusion at the BPDA who previously worked as director of constituent services for state Sen. Nick Collins of South Boston, reported raising \$3,260 earlier this month in a filing with campaign finance regulators. He is the younger brother of Brian Worrell, who won a City Council seat in November representing Dorchester and Mattapan.

He could soon be joined in the race $by \, Daniels on \, Tavares, who \, has \, worked$ as the city of Boston's chief diversity officer. The Bay State Banner reported that Tavares is expected to his entry

He served as an aide to ex-state Rep. Carlos Henriquez, then joined the Walsh administration in City Hall where he was a special assistant to the mayor and deputy chief of operations before Marty Walsh promoted him to chief diversity officer.

Tavares immigrated from Cape Verde when he was a child. He went to Boston public schools and UMass Amherst.

The Democratic primary is in September, and if no Republican runs, that result will be determinative for the November election.

Campbell enters AG race

Former Boston mayoral candidate Andrea Campbell last week launched her statewide campaign for attorney general. The 39-year-old former City Councillor joins a field that already includes a labor rights attorney and a government lawyer.

Campbell, who as District 4 councillor represented Dorchester and Mattapan for six years and placed third in the 2021 mayoral preliminary, kicked off her bid at Codman Square Park as Rep. Brandy Fluker-Oakley (D-Mattapan) and state Sen. Lydia Edwards (D-East Boston) stood behind her.

She then headed west to the Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance and the Boys and Girls of Club in Worcester, and the White Lion Brewery in Springfield.

"I've dedicated my life to fighting for greater equity and opportunity, and that's what I'll do as attorney general because the attorney general is not just the top law enforcement official of the commonwealth, she must be an advocate for fundamental change and progress," Campbell said in a statement. "From Boston to Springfield, and Lawrence to the Cape & Islands, I will be an attorney general for justice and opportunity for all – no matter who you are, where you come from, or where you live."

Campbell, a Boston Latin graduate who grew up in Roxbury, lives in Mattapan. She was eight months old when she lost her mother, who was going to visit her father in prison. She met her father when she was eight years old and he was released from prison. She later lost her twin brother Andre when he died in custody of the Department of Corrections as a pre-trial detainee.

A graduate of Princeton University

and UCLA School of Law, she worked for Proskauer LLP and as general counsel for the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission, as well as serving as Gov. Deval Patrick's deputy legal counsel.

In 2015, she knocked 30-year incumbent Charles Yancey out of the District 4 seat and became City Council president in 2018, the first Black woman to hold the gavel.

A statewide poll of 504 registered voters, conducted by MassINC Polling Group in January and released this week, showed Campbell with a lead in the race for attorney general that was thrown wide open after Maura Healey, the current AG, announced her run for governor.

Campbell led with 31 percent, while labor attorney Shannon Liss-Riordan and government lawyer Quentin Palfrey, the 2018 Democratic candidate for lieutenant governor, drew 3 percent and 2 percent, respectively.

Liss-Riordan launched her campaign earlier in January from the Ironworkers Local 7 hall in South Boston.

All of the candidates running are Democrats.

Wu inaugural fund crosses \$1m mark

The fund for Mayor Michelle Wu's inaugural is now up to \$1.03 million, according to filings with campaign finance regulators.

It pulled in \$142,000 in the latest filing, with a number of bold-faced names pitching in: New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft came up with \$25,000, as did Delaware North, the company behind TD Garden, home of the Celtics and Bruins.

Other companies included Mass-BIO, the biotech industry trade group, Beth Israel Lahey Health, The Home Depot, and the political action committee for Dell Technologies. Developers, the Red Sox, and the Teamsters union have previously donated to the fund for the festivities.

The inaugural was originally set for January, but it has been postponed until the spring. A new date hasn't been announced.

Healey swings by **IBEW Local 103**

Attorney General Maura Healey, days after picking up the endorsement of IBEW Local 103, visited the electrical workers' union in Dorchester and took a tour of its training center.

As is customary with its endorsements, the union put Healey's logo on its digital billboard that is visible from I-93.

The union, which says its membership includes 8,500 current members and 2,500 retirees, has previously endorsed Joe Kennedy III in his unsuccessful bid against US Sen. Ed Markey and Ayanna Pressley in her successful challenge of US Rep. Mike Capuano. In the most recent mayoral election, Local 103 backed Dorchester's Annissa Essaibi George over Michelle Wu, who won the November contest.

'Long journey for a little building' A new purpose for comfort station in Uphams Corner

By Samuele Petruccelli Special to the Reporter

For dozens of years, a city-owned building roughly the size of three college dorm rooms that is sandwiched between a Colonial-era cemetery and Columbia Road in Uphams Corner sat abandoned, featuring for public view gaping holes in its roof and containing extensive water damage.

Come summer, things will be different: The building will offer Dorchester residents affordable, high-quality food from around the world.

Taken under the wing of Historic Boston Inc., a nonprofit that helps bear the cost of restoring bygone buildings, the derelict property received care from award-winning architects then found its way into the hands of immigrant-entrepreneurs looking to open a restaurant: Comfort Kitchen.

After renovations are completed, Biplaw Rai, Nyacko Pearl Perry, Kwasi Kwaa, and Rita Ferreira will open the former public restroom to the neighborhood.

"We are actively building community through food," said Rai, managing partner of Comfort Kitchen. "Rather than just having a sub or pizza or a rice bowl, Comfort Kitchen is going to offer a whole list of global comfort food that might hit a chord with a lot of people in the city."

As soon as Historic Boston took on the project, the building, which was put up in 1912, showed its age, meaning there would be a hefty price tag for its rehabilitation.

"Immediately it was a far more expensive project than we could have imagined," said Kathy Kottaridis, executive director of Historic Boston, citing a little more than \$1.9 million as the cost for turning the space into a restaurant.

"That's a lot of money for what is 1,200 square feet of space," Kottaridis said.

Her organization approaches charitable sources and uses historic tax credit allocations to raise money and save deteriorated properties from demolition.

"It has an economic value that goes above and beyond making a living over a cash register," Kottaridis said. "It's also about helping folks get to become real estate owners."

Historic Boston plans to transfer ownership rights to Comfort Kitchen five years after it opens for business, giving the group of small-business owners a real estate asset. "Uphams Corner is in for a big treat," Kottaridis said.



This former rest area for streetcar passengers in Uphams Corner is on track to re-open as a restaurant this summer through a project led by Historic Boston, Inc. The Comfort Kitchen team includes (left to right): Nyacko Pearl Perry, Biplaw Rai, Kwasi Kwaa.

Photos courtesy Historic Boston, Inc.

Before Comfort Kitchen, Nyacko Pearl Perry worked on a community project doing interviews asking people what additions they would like to see come to Roxbury and Dorchester. A recurring theme, she said, was a desire for food to bring people closer to connect.

Now, looking to offer her neighborhood healthy food, she's working through a new question: "How do you create new spaces without displacement? Part of the reason why we want to open our own restaurant is so that we can have control over some of these major decisions,' she said. "Specifically, how much are we going to be able to pay employees? How are we able to just actually live out some of the values that we're seeing have been lacking?"

Before the latest idea for 611 Columbia Rd. came to pass, Utile Architecture and Planning designed a proposal for a



accessible space. "We

tried to strike as much

of a balance in terms of

maintaining the historic

character of the building,

restoration that would be occupied by a hybrid café/bicycle shop. Michael LeBlanc, a principal at Utile, was well aware of the building as a vagrant element in the neighborhood.

"I used to live right there in the neighborhood, less than a couple hundred feet away," he said. "I used to walk my kids right by there all the time, look at that building and always wonder what will ever come of it."

Abandoned buildings impact communities in a profound, negative way, LeBlanc said, adding that anytime one can be brought back online is especially important.

Nick Buehrens, associate principal at Utile, noted that the challenge for this building was that it was not designed to be an open, publicly

but also adding some increased levels of visual accessibility," he said.

The restaurant will

The restaurant will open for café and lunch service in the morning until early afternoon, then close briefly to prepare for dinner, Raisaid. Chef Partner Kwasi's cuisine has already won widespread acclaim, including from Eater Boston as the best new pop-up of 2021. "Imagine if you're grandmother's cooking," Kwasi said about what flavors to expect.

The seasoned chef said that Comfort Kitchen will take a "global comfort food concept," using "ingredients that are found all over the globe and really highlighting them in stories that we can put into curated dishes."

Michael Mawn has been a contractor with Historic Boston for nearly 40 years. He says doing restoration work keeps things interesting, with harder challenges compared to new construction. At the Comfort Station, he replaced its exterior windows and laid a new Spanish clay barrel tile roof.

"A lot of the millwork around the corners is new, custom millwork to match existing profiles," Mawn said. "On the Spanish tile, we went to considerable expense and trouble to get to match the original." With help from another architecture firm, Supernormal, the building's basement will be outfitted with a kitchen.

"It's going to be a real point of pride for the neighborhood," Kottaridis said. "It's been a long journey for a little building."

For Perry, the challenges of starting a new restaurant in Uphams Corner are compounded by a mission to correct the course of an unjust profession. "The whole model of the food industry is not built on equity," Perry said. "We are creating our own model."

A business model that balances offering affordable food of high quality with well-paid employees is a challenge, Perry conceded, but she says she remains motivated by the neighborhood and the building itself.

"They've hit on something," Kottaridis said.
"Both in terms of the cuisine they've chosen, but also the idea of creating work experiences for people from within the community is really terrific."

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LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

To: Nuestra Comunidad
Development Corporation

Jada Tavares has filed a

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

Published: February 10, 2022

COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
SUFFOLK DIVISION
24 NEW CHARDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
DOCKET NO. SU21D1719DR
DIVORCE SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING
BRITTNEY MIREYA BECKHAM JACKMAN

RICKY GIOVANNI BECKHAM JACKMAN
To the Defendant:

To the Defendant:

The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant 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 matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. Set Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.

You are hereby summoned and

required to serve upon: Mithra D. Merryman, Esq., Greater Boston Legal Services, 197 Friend St., Boston, MA 02114 your answer, if any, on or before 03/24/2022. 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. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.

Date: January 20, 2022 Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate Published: Februry 10, 2022

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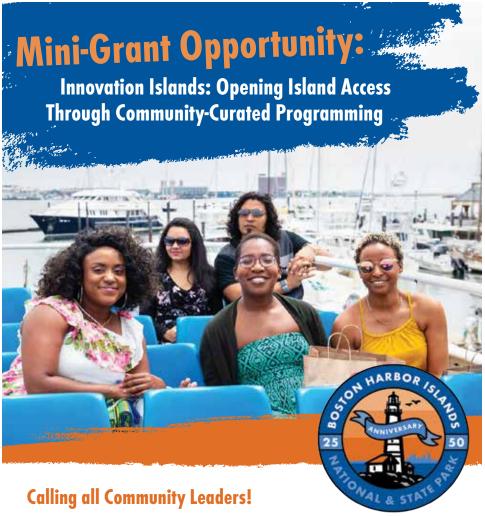
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Reporter's People

News about people in and around our Neighborhoods

Lewis to lead Boston's Boys & Girls Clubs

Robert Lewis Jr. will take charge as president and CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston next month, becoming the 16th leader of the nine-club-organization, which includes facilities in Mattapan and on Dorchester's Talbot Avenue.

Lewis joins BGCB from The BASE, a Roxbury-based organization he founded in 2013 to harness the untapped potential of urban talent and build pathways to success through a passion for sports.

"It truly takes a village to create equal opportunity for urban youth and I am honored to join the Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston to empower even more kids, teens, and their families in our city," said Lewis. "My life's work has been dedicated to building relationships and partnerships that level the playing field and provide access and opportunities for of our city's talented young people... I can't wait to get started."

His previous roles include serving as a senior vice president with City Year's National Operations, executive director of City Year Boston, president of the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ), and executive director of the Boston



Robert Lewis Jr.

Centers for Youth and Families (BCYF).

As vice president for programs at The Boston Foundation, he directed the distribution of more than \$18 million in discretionary grants annually and was the chief architect of two ground-breaking initiatives: StreetSafe Boston, the country's only privately funded anti-gang violence prevention program, and CHAMPS Boston, which provided professional-level training for over 5,000 youthsports volunteer coaches in New England.

"Robert is a proven builder and convenor, vital qualities for BGCB's leader as we continue tackling new challenges that require creative, cross-functional solutions," said Dave Johnson, chair of the Board. "His values and passions mirror those of BGCB, which has served the Boston community for nearly 130 years with the mission to be there for our members and families, no matter what.'



Devine Rink was rockin' Tuesday night for the first annual Dorchester Youth Hockey (DYH) Girls Hockey Nite, and a crowd showed up to support girls hockey in Dorchester and city-wide. Those in attendance took in a tilt between Boston Latin Academy girls and the Archbishop Williams High School girls and watched history as Dorchester women's hockey pioneer and legend, Stephanie O'Sullivan, had her jersey officially retired while surrounded by family and scores of girl hockey players. She was the first female player to have her jersey retired by DYH and she was the first female player in the organization. Scores of female hockey players past, present and future turned out to uplift the DYH girls program. Here, Stephanie O'Sullivan shows off her retired jersey alongside fellow DYH standout alums Patrice Guerard, Katie Nolan, Lily Galvin, Paige McEachern, and Maisie Whalen. All noted that they followed in the footsteps and example of O'Sullivan when they chose to play hockey. See next week's Reporter for more coverage and photos.



The Latin Academy girls track and field team celebrated their city league championship on Tuesday, Feb. 4 at the Reggie Lewis Track Center in Roxbury. The team was propelled by the speed of eight-grade-student Neve Flynn, who finished first in three events: the 2-mile, 1-mile and 1,000-meter, earning her an MVP trophy for the event.

Patrick O'Connor photo



Jordan J. Atkinson, of Dorchester, received an honors citation for his academic performance at St. Sebastian's School. He is a junior at the Needham-based school.

YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE

Dorchester Historical Society Walter and Wilbur Lansil

Today's illustration includes a photograph of 101 Maxwell Street from the late nineteenth century. It shows that the house had an outbuilding, which disappeared from the atlases between 1918 and 1933. The modern photo of the house, located across from the former Frank V. Thompson School, now the Boston International High School, is from Google Street View. The man at the gate is Walter Lansil. He and his brother Wilbur were artists. Walter's portrait photo appears above Wilbur's in the illustration.

Walter Franklin Lansil, who was born in Ban-



gor, Maine, first studied under Jeremiah Pearson Hardy, then moved to Boston in 1872 with his younger brother and fellow painter Wilbur Lansil (1855-1897). In 1888 the brothers sailed to Europe, where Lansil studied at the Académie Julian in Paris and became enchanted with Venice, a city about which he painted for the rest of his life. By 1891 the brothers had returned to Boston and were holding joint exhibits at their studio in Dorchester.

Walter was a mem-

ber of the Boston Art Club and The Society of Sons of the Revolution. Although the New York Times described him in 1897 as "the celebrated Venetian painter," he also painted marine and battle scenes, and did portraits. In 1914 he published a memoir entitled "A Trip to Venice." Wilbur is best knownforhislandscapes and paintings of cattle.

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

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

Editorial

South Bay store dodges

a misguided missile
On Jan. 27, the Boston Licensing Board voted to approve a proposal by the national liquor retailer Total Wine and Spirts to open for business in what is now an empty storefront in the South Bay Mall. It will fill a 23,000-square-foot hole left empty by

The proposal to site a "big box store" operation in the one of the city's largest shopping centers – one that was literally created to house "big box stores" - shouldn't have been controversial. But it turned into a heated debate, much of it cooked-up by a so-called grassroots group calling itself the "Save Boston Small Businesses Coalition."

The entity emerged on Facebook last fall, collected signatures, and launched an online petition - all for one objective: to block Total Wine. Some who joined the cause warned that a liquor store too close to the Mass & Cass area was a bad idea. Others claimed, without documentation, that the mall operators had pledged to never allow a liquor store to open there. (Edens, the mall's owner, emphatically denies that.) On its Facebook page, the "coalition" posted links to news stories seeking to paint the company in a negative light. It also paid for several stories to be presented as "sponsored content" on a South Boston blog that did nothing but smear Total Wine without offering any counterpoints.

The campaign drew some political support. At a November hearing, several city councillors – Frank Baker, Julia Mejia, Michael Flaherty, and the exiting Annissa Essaibi George – and then-acting Mayor Kim Janey all voiced opposition.

For all that, before the board voted unanimously to approve Total Wine's license last month, board chairperson Kathleen Joyce made it clear that none of those anti- arguments held up to scrutiny. The board, she said, had received "thousands" of signatures both pro and con, but Joyce then raised a pointed question about how they were gathered. She had personally encountered petitions at rival package stores that used over-the-top language suggesting that Total Wine would somehow ruin the neighborhood. She was quick to point out that the Andrew Square Neighborhood Association had backed Total Wine because it was exasperated with two existing package stores in the neighborhood with "deplorable" conditions, including predatory sales of "nips" to the homeless. (Total Wine has pledged not to sell the minibottles at all.) Another board member noted that Total Wine's opening was in concert with the intent of the Legislature, which in 2017 voted to set aside 15 new licenses for restaurants specifically doing business in South Bay.

After weighing it all, the board made the right call and Total Wine will open in South Bay. And don't be surprised if that's the last you ever hear of this supposed "coalition" that was in actuality a front set up by other liquor interests to block a competitor.

Sadly, this "fight" is not completely over, at least not for Councillor Mejia and a few of her colleagues who support an ill-conceived idea to amend the zoning code. They want to ban chain stores from opening "in residential neighborhoods" and "make their development in commercial zones conditional." This, despite the fact that earlier attempts by city government to enact such broad control over private businesses have already been struck down in multiple court decisions. If we aren't going to let big-box retailers open up in big-box malls, where should they go exactly?

Why not let Boston consumers decide if they want to patronize a liquor store in the mall or visit one on the nearest corner. Or, call up a delivery app. Time for the council to move on to more pressing matters, you say? Totally. - Bill Forry

The Reporter

"The News & Values Around the Neighborhood"
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Published weekly on Thursday mornings

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Letter to the Editor

I'm going to be fired. How do I explain that to my Special Education students?

To the Editor:

Dear Boston Public School families,

I am writing to let you know that hundreds of my colleagues and I may soon be terminated from

As a special education teacher I want to tell you how much this career has meant to me.

After months of working closely to help your children re-acclimate to a classroom setting after the devastating effects of remote learning, watching your children make valiant progress to recover lost learning time as they begin to learn to read again and perform math operations with improving accuracy, I will need to leave my students.

I have had the privilege of supporting your children in this highly specialized education setting as they learn to communicate with ease both verbally and non-verbally, to develop their own sense of self, and to assist them in mastering life skills toward a life of independence. I cherished the opportunity to address and implement vital IEP (individual education plans) modifications that have been neglected during shutdown to assist your children on their journeys toward their life goals and dreams.

Due to Mayor Wu's vaccination mandate, hun $dreds\, of\, BPS\, staff and\, other\, city\, of\, Boston\, employees$ and first responders will be fired because they are unable to receive a mandated medical procedure. I speak on behalf of my peers, including a disproportionate amount of educators of color, bilingual educators, and educators with disabilities.

I also share this out of consideration for the thousands of affected students, the ones who will pay the most, and who have continually paid the most during this pandemic. Once again, their needs will be neglected and their emotional security trivialized. Many older students are aware they may be losing their teachers and have written heartbreaking letters pleading for the mayor not to fire their teacher.

Many students with severe special needs and socio-emotional considerations will need to undergo yet another deeply damaging transition in a school

year that has already been profoundly challenging.

And, lastly, I share this to give a voice to those of us who were denied, without a way to appeal, our pleas for exemption consideration due to religious and medical exemptions. All religious exemptions were rejected without appeal; a majority of medical exemptions were also rejected.

How will we tell your children that we are being fired over religious and disability discrimination? How will we explain to our students that so many educators of color are being terminated when we devote ourselves to teaching our students that they can achieve their dreams regardless of race, religion, and disability?

We are heartbroken that the ones paying the price for this will be children. I cannot continue to provide special education services to my severely disabled students after months of building relationships with them, learning their communication styles, discovering how to adapt learning materials to help them flourish, and creating a warm and welcoming learning atmosphere for students who were deeply harmed emotionally and academically as a result of virtual learning.

We are alarmed as to why our rights to be free from workplace discrimination involving religious concerns and medical needs are being violated. What is most troubling is that it comes at a time when the virus has become manageable, mandates are being dropped, and even the CDC is telling us to move on.

The balcony of the Old State House is where the Declaration of Independence was read publicly for the first time on July 4, 1776. Here in Boston, we agreed on the inalienable rights man possesses.

Today, in City Hall, just a few feet away from that building, the mayor plans to fire us despite those very inalienable rights. What will we tell our students when they ask us why we are leaving?

I hope you stand in solidarity with us and contact your elected official to end to this discriminatory and harmful mandate.

Deirdra Dostou is a Special Education teacher in the Boston Public School system.

Commentary

I was 'Charlie on the MTA' during The Blizzard of '78

By Lew Finfer SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

So we dug our way out of the blizzard last week while shuddering about whether there was going to be another one coming along soon. I think anyone who lived through the Blizzard of 1978 gets worried when snow is forecast, even if it's going to be an inch or so. My wife's uncle reminded us last week that his mother, my wife's grandmother, who lived in Codman Square, got a certificate reading, "I lived through the Blizzard of 1978.

Many of us know the great Boston song, "Charlie on the MTA."

"Well, did he ever return? No, he never returned, and his fate is still unlearned (Poor Old Charlie) He may ride forever 'neath the streets of Boston

And he's the man who never returned."

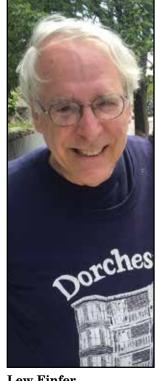
"Poor Old Charlie's experience kind of happened to me on Mon., Feb. 6, 1978, the first day of the blizzard. I was in my Dorchester apartment and had heard that there was a big snowfall set for the whole day. I thought about the big proposal for funding due for the Somerville United Neighborhoods community group that I directed back then and about how the draft proposal was on the desk in my office. I said to myself, 'I can spend the day working on that proposal when nothing else will get done. And do battle with the pesky white-out sheets for correcting typos.

So, I left my apartment on Stockton Street in Codman Square, walked down to Ashmont Station and got on the subway headed downtown. I changed to the Orange Line at Washington Street/Downtown Crossing. I planned to get off at Sullivan Station and take a bus to my office on Broadway in Somerville. But the doors didn't open at Sullivan; the train just kept going. I was stuck on that train!

"Charlie handed in his dime at the Kendall Square station And he changed for Jamaica Plain When he got there, the conductor told him, "One more nickel" Charlie couldn't get off that train!"

 $It\,proceeded\,to\,the\,next$ station, Wellington in Medford, where the announcement said that the train wasn't going any farther and everyone had to get off the train. We all trooped upstairs to the station lobby where we were told that we might get taken back to Boston at some point.

We waited a while (was it two hours sitting on that floor?). They finally loaded us on a bus that slowly made its way to Haymarket Station where, underground, we boarded a Green Line



Lew Finfer

trolley that only went a little way before breaking down. We then were told to get out and walk along the tracks in the MBTA tunnel to Government Center Station.

"Now, all night long Charlie rides through the

Crying, "What will become of me? How can I afford to see my sister in Chelsea Or my cousin in Roxbury?"

When we got to Government Center, they said "no more train service." So I had to walk home from downtown Boston to Codman Square. I kid you not. I got to my apartment on Stockton Street about 5:30 p.m. I'd spent the whole day riding the trains, waiting, and walking a very long way home. I was cold and very wet. I never got to my office to finish that proposal that was due. Yes, on that day I was "Poor Old Charlie" on the MTA.

Lew Finfer is a Dorchester resident.

Commentary

The case for reparations in Boston

The following was offered to the Reporter by City Councillors Julia Mejia, Tania Fernandes Anderson, and Brian Worrell.

Our offices last week filed an ordinance that would create a Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans. Co-authored by community members, the ordinance would create a 15-member panel to define reparations as it relates to the reality of the Boston community, collect data and document historic harms and inequities experienced by African Americans in Boston, and develop a report with specific reparations proposals to address historic and contemporary inequalities resulting from structures and policies that have produced harm.

Letter to the Editor

Focus needed on recovery services, and labor shortages

To the Editor:

Recent data confirm what many of us in the recovery space feared: National data from 2020 shows opioid related overdoses are at an all-time high.

There are many reasons for this troubling statistic. Massachusetts is a national leader in curbing the opioid epidemic, but the ongoing pandemic continues to disconnect people from support services. Societal and political turbulence places an undue burden on mental and emotional health, driving people into the grips of addiction.

Simultaneously, recovery services are suffering labor shortages that hamper our ability to adequately staff programs and meet the growing demands on local services.

Thankfully, there is a movement afoot in Massachusetts to boost funding for recovery services, including Gov. Baker's budget with a \$53 million increase in addiction prevention and treatment. Also, more than half of Massachusetts municipalities filed a federal lawsuit seeking further damages from McKinsey for the Purdue Pharma settlement for their role marketing OxyContin.

But even with more funding, we must focus on getting more people into the recovery services workforce so municipalities can meet demand and again stem the tide of addiction. Opioids are a complicated issue without an easy solution, and we must work together to save more lives.

John McGahan President and CEO of South Boston-based Gavin Foundation.

State sending \$500 payments to 500,000 low-income workers

About a half-million low-income workers across Massachusetts will get a \$500 payment from state government next month as the Baker administration rolls out the first phase of the first premium pay program of its type in the nation, the Executive Office of Administration and Finance announced Tuesday afternoon.

The premium pay program was created in the \$4 billion Covid-19 relief law that Gov. Baker signed in December. His team has been assembling the program after he vetoed sections favored by the Legislature that would have created a 28-member panel to design the program and determine eligibility. His veto has stood.

Residents will be eligible for the payment if their 2020 income from employment was at least \$12,750 (the equivalent of working 20 hours a week for 50 weeks at the 2020 minimum wage of \$12.75 an hour) and their total income put them below 300 percent of the federal poverty level (\$38,280 for a single filer). An A&F official said there will be a state website to help people determine their own eligibility, but that most people would find out when they get a check in the mail. No one who received unemployment payments in 2020 will be eligible.

An administration official said Tuesday that eligibility for the first round of payments was limited to income thresholds because it was a faster, simpler, and more inclusive way of getting the payments out the door. The official also said that the spirit of the vetoed section is preserved because lower-income workers were far more likely to have worked in person early in the pandemic.

- SHNS

As expected, when we submitted our proposal, detractors dusted off the same tired rhetorical points we have been hearing for centuries. And while it wouldn't be useful to try to counter every opposing argument presented, there is a general tone to a large number of them, and it is this: That we have somehow moved beyond the need for reparations. It's history, all in the past. We fought a civil war, and when racism arose again, we passed the Civil Rights Act. Job done, right?

But history isn't like a notebook, where you can turn over a new page and start completely fresh. History is ongoing and never-ending. And while Boston's roots in slavery may feel far away, the social, political, and economic segregation of the Black community is much closer and lives on to this day.

Merchants in Boston, and anyone else who used free slave labor, profited immensely off of the enslavement of Black people, which led to more property ownership and generational wealth in white families.

A 2015 report prepared for the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston found the net worth of a Black family in Boston to be just \$8, compared to \$247,500 for White families. Redlining and blockbusting practices devalued property owned by Black residents, leading to lower generational wealth. Nowadays, homeownership rates for Black residents is half that of White residents, and Black households are valued 17.1 percent lower than similar homes owned by white households. Our parents' generation grew up before the Civil Rights Act. Their parents lived through the era of redlining and blockbusting and

their parents' parents were old enough to have been born into slavery. These are very real, present-day inequities that reparative justice seeks to define, call-out, and eliminate.

Reparative justice takes many forms. While yes, financial compensation is a part of the process, in reality it is so much more. According to the United Nations, reparation work can include:

- Restitution, which seeks to restore victims to their position before the violations occurred;
- Compensation, which is a financial award for harms:
- Rehabilitation, which seeks to provide care and services for victims beyond monetary payment;
- Satisfaction, which includes symbolic reparations such as public apologies and verifying facts; and
- Guarantee of non-repetition, which assures that this kind of harm shall never be repeated.

There are those who say that we should stop looking toward the past and just work on the future. But where we're going is very much determined by where we've been, and reparative justice seeks to look at what harm has been caused in the past so that we may move forward toward a more just and equitable future. It is about Black liberation, honoring those whose shoulders we stand on, and planning for those who come after us.

The process of determining what a reparative justice model for Boston will look like will take time and patience, and we hope to have the community's support as we move forward.







Pop-Up COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic



Doses Available:

- > Adult & Teenager (12+)
- > Boosters (12+)
- > Children (5-11)

Vaccine Type

- + Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty
- + Moderna Spikevax
- + Jansen COVID-19 Vaccine

Administered by MA Department of Public Health

WALK-IN Vaccine Clinic no pre-registration required

TIME:

11am - 3pm

DATES:

1st Visit: Sunday 13th Feb

LOCATION:

Boston College High School 150 Morissey Blvd, Boston MA 02125

BC HIGH

2nd Visit: Sunday 6th Mar

Contact community organizers for additional information

ICB Wayland Info@icbwayland.org

ICNA Relief New England newengland@icnarelief.org (857) 302-4958

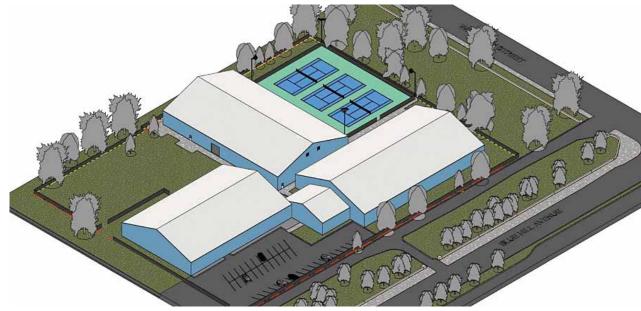
Sportsmen's Tennis Club looks to expand; plan would add indoor courts, solar setup

(Continued from page 1) (educational) programs."

STEC has been operating in Harambee Park (Franklin Field) on Blue Hill Avenue since the 1970s when it was founded by several friends who loved tennis and wanted to teach the game to underserved youth in the area. Since then, a thriving educational component has combined with a high-demand tennis program for youth and adults. The complex currently has seven full tennis courts inside two $buildings, said\, architect$ Peter Roth, and seven full outdoor courts.

The expansion looks to build a third metal building over four existing outdoor courts. That would allow more use of the courts year-round and would keep three existing outdoor courts. Meanwhile, those three outdoor courts would be upgraded with lighting so they can be used seasonally at night and get more use.

"There is just so much demand," said Wiley, who is a Mattapan resident. "There was high demand before the pandemic and there was even more demand during the pandemic



and even now. Also, during the pandemic, four tennis clubs closed, which created even more demand for us as people moved over here to play...It will really expand the ability of the club to work in the winter and serve youth and adults."

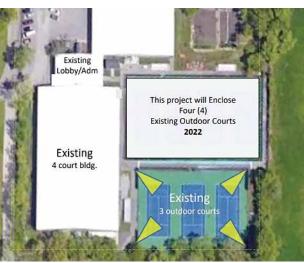
She said the expansion does not include taking up any more of the park, and she doubted they would ever expand their footprint farther into Harambee.

"We use our space by special legislation passed a long time ago by the state, and as much as I would love to



Sportsmen's Tennis Club & Enrichment Center CEO Toni Wiley

expand, the odds of us getting further legislation or being allowed to expand beyond our existing boundaries are



Sportsmen's Tennis Club & Enrichment Center (STEC) discussed plans to proceed with an expansion project to enclose three outdoor courts, add outdoor lighting to existing courts, and bring on a new solar array during a community meeting on Monday.

STEC image

slim," Wiley said.

She said using existing space to expand the soft programs and educational pieces would likely start in 2023 after the construction of the tennis facilities.

As part of the project, the new building would host a large solar array developed by Dorchester's Resonant Energy. On the roof of that building, they would place 432solar panels facing south and capable of generating 233,021 KWh/year. That is enough to power 38 average New England homes, said Isaac Baker of Resonant. Half of the power generated would be directed to STEC and would offset about 90 percent of their energy usage. The other 50 percent would be sold at a 20 percent discount to Eversource ratepayers in the low-income program throughout Greater Boston.

All neighbors who spoke about the project, which is actually in Dorchester just beyond the Mattapan line, gave STEC high marks for its programming and community involvement, which translated into overwhelming support for the expansion proj-



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UMass faculty bring case against Dorchester Bay City to community leaders group

By Jennifer Smith Reporter Correspondent

Members of a coalition at UMass Boston concerned about the scope and impacts of the sprawling Dorchester Bay City development on Columbia Point sought support from the Columbia-Savin Hill Civic Association this week. The civic organization attendees largely expressed solidarity with the representatives, as well as a desire to slow the development process and ensure that the new mayoral administration is made aware of their objections.

Steve Striffler, director of the Labor Resource Center and a professor of anthropology at UMass, told the civic organization at its monthly meeting that the faculty-led group is "concerned" about the 36-acre project and the community engagement process.

The "extremely large" development "woefully lacks affordable housing," Striffler said. The size and location – near the oft-jammed Kosciusko Circle rotary, Morrissey Boulevard, and JFK/UMass station raise a significant risk of traffic problems, he said. Vitally, Striffler said, he is concerned about the lack of "community"

generating institutions" like educational facilities, senior centers, and public spaces.

Having presented their view to the UMass Boston Board of Trustees, he said, "We're trying to get the university to be less of an uncritical cheerleader for the project and more of a better voice for community development."

Bianca Ortiz-Wythe, a PhD candidate in UMass Boston's Public Policy department, focused her critique on the university's response to the project. She said the campus is "drifting from its central mission of providing education to working class students and students of color, advocating for residents and local institutions."

Its response to the Dorchester Bay City project, Ortiz-Wythe said, "is a big red flag that it's no longer about being an anchor institution for students and local institutions but about making money at expense of local residents."

UMass Boston anthropology professor and Polish Triangle resident Tim Sieber noted that thousands of UMass Boston students and stafflive in or are natives of Dorchester and South Boston. "We value this

vibrant and interesting class-and racially-mixed neighborhood we live in," Sieber said.

Dorchester Bay City, developed by Accordia Partners, LLC, he said, "seems like mega-development for newcomers, mostly white, wealthy, and childless," and the affordable housing included is "laughable."

As proposed, the Dorchester Bay City project exceeds city affordable housing requirements for new developments in the area, planning for 15 percent of all units to be made affordable at 60 percent Area Median Income (AMI). Ortiz-Wythe said there should be more deeply affordable units and 50 percent affordable units overall.

Three meetings took place in January on public Zooms hosted through the Boston Planning and Development Agency. Another is scheduled for next Thursday, Feb. 17, at 6 p.m. on the topic of "Urban Design & Open Space."

Civic association members expressed mixed feelings on the openness of the community process.

Donna McColgan said the amount of support expressed in the public meetings felt like Ac-

esting mixed ve in,"



An illustration from a proposal displayed during a recent community meeting on the Dorchester Bay City proposal shows the Columbia Point peninsula as it could look in the foreground.

Image courtesy Accordia Partners/Ares

cordia was "stacking" the gatherings and described the project as "a billionaire's operation for billionaires," echoing others' sentiments that their objections are "not about being against development; it's about the type of development."

Kirill Shklovsky said he "found it very easy to participate in the community processes" through the Zoom meetings. He also raised a more favorable sentiment toward the project as fulfilling housing needs in general.

"We need to build more housing because we need to build more housing stock for every income level," he said, asserting that the home and rental prices are rising in part "because of lack of building houses – we need to be a little more friendly about people coming in and wanting to join the neighborhood." A few

other meeting attendees agreed in the Zoom chat.

Ortiz-Wythe noted that there is a well-documented "digital divide" present in communities where not everyone has access to strong wireless internet, resulting in disproportionately lower participation from low-income residents and often people of color in virtual spaces.

Eileen Boyle said she was concerned about the timeline of the project before the BPDA and possible environmental impacts on the coastline.

"It's another Seaport," she said. "It's horrible. It's a horrible development."

The civic group had reached out to the UMass Boston chancellor's office to request a meeting, Boyle said, but were told that the project was in the city's development process, which she took to mean the university

had essentially "washed its hands of the situation."

The next step, Boyle said, is seeking Mayor Wu's attention "to slow down the process."

The UMass coalition said they sent a letter with demands for more equitable development at the Dorchester Bay City site to local city councillors and the administration of acting Mayor Kim Janey, but did not receive responses. Sieber said the demand letter did make it into the BPDA's scoping document for the project, so it is reflected in the public community process, but they received "no immediate responses from anybody."

They expect to send an updated list of demands, adjusted for project changes, to Wu and to the newly inaugurated city council.

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WHO'S WHO IN THE MURAL LINEUP

The portraits, from left:

•Malcolm X – Born Malcolm Little, he spent his teen-age years living on Dale Street in Roxbury not far from Grove Hall. The home where he lived in Boston was purchased in 1941 by his sister Ella Little-Collins. After being incarcerated in Massachusetts for burglary, he and his family converted to the Nation of Islam and he changed his name to Malcolm X in 1952, going on to become a major leader in the Civil Rights movement and the Nation of Islam before his assassination in 1965.

 Melnea Cass was a long-time community and civil rights activist in Boston who was affectionately known as "The First Lady of Roxbury." She was a key player in the fight to desegregate Boston public schools, and was a board member and president of the Boston chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). She also fought for women's right to vote and did voter registration drives in the 1920s after the 19th Amendment passed.

•Martin Luther King, Jr., the Nobel Prize-win-

longstanding connections to Boston. He attended Boston University and met his wife, Coretta Scott, while attending BU and while both lived in the South End on Massachusetts Avenue.

• Ruth Batson was born in Roxbury to parents who immigrated from Jamaica. Inspired by her mother, Batson was the first Black woman to gain a seat on the Democratic National Committee. She led an early challenge to the Boston School Committee on the segregated, inadequate schools in the Black community.

•Elma Lewis, who lived in her childhood home on Homestead Street, was best known for her great contribution to the arts, including in the field of education and as the founder of the National Center for Afro-American Artists. She was the long-time proprietor of the Elma Lewis School of Fine Arts and a recipient of the Presidential Medal for the Arts in 1983.

•Frederick Douglass was a national figure in the mid-1800s and had deep ties to Massachusetts and Boston. He and his wife, Anna Murray, lived in New ning civil rights activist and martyr had deep and Bedford and Lynn after escaping enslavement in the

South. Many of his greatest speeches were given in Boston, and he wrote his best-selling autobiography, "Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass: An American Slave" while living here.
•Ella (Little) Collins was the sister of Malcolm

X and lived with him in their home on Dale Street in Roxbury. She and her family joined the Nation of Islam in the mid-1950s and helped establish its mosque in Boston, which also contained a childcare center. Well-known for supporting Black and ethnic studies programs in universities all over the country, she founded the Sarah Little School of Preparatory Arts in Boston.

• Crispus Attucks was a sailor who died in Boston on March 5, 1770, when British soldiers fired two musket balls into his chest. His death, along with those of four other colonists, became widely $\bar{k}nown$ as the Boston Massacre. His death instantly transformed him into a martyr for the cause of revolution and freedom. He was born in Framingham and had an indigenous heritage as well.

– REPORTER STAFF

Artists hail Boston's Black History by featuring leaders on a mural in Grove Hall

(Continued from page 1)

ick Douglass...I was inspired to learn about his dedication to learning and teaching his people. In the end, his goal was to reach the minds of the masses. Paintings like these teach us about the amazing people central to this city. I'm not a scholar but I can understand how important all of these people were to the city we're in today and that's what I tried to reflect in my work."

While the mural has been in place since September, the artists - particularly Thomas "Kwest" Burns and organizer Jamarhl Crawford - felt it appropriate to highlight the mural in a big way in honor of Black History Month 2022.

"Kwest was the first to put out the SOS to all of the artists," said Crawford. "He told everyone it was poppin' and that we have this opportunity now. It all just came together. This is completely grassroots; there wasn't any funding or any budget, but people coming together. Cats did the work first and other folks pitched in." Crawford said he started advocating for a mural on the wall back in 2013 when he was running for public office and had set up a trailer in the lot as his headquarters. He said he began talking to the property owner about putting the Nelson Mandela mural there, an effort that was blocked by the fact that a federal agency, the Post Office, occupied the building.

Then, last year the idea for a mural, this one depicting Boston's historical Black leaders, was re-kindled. This time, Crawford said, the Post Office didn't have the same concerns as it did seven years earlier. Still, before any paint could hit the bricks, there had to be a major clean-up effort.

"The first part of this project was a landscaping project," said Crawford. "There was so much to remove from here and we had to level this place out." For Kwest, getting the project going artistically and then completing it last summer was a labor of love bringing something to the community that would be a point of pride and not just another vacant lot. This wall has been like this for so long and sitting empty right in a part of the city where if you're caught in traffic, you see that wall and field prominently," he said. "When Jamar-hl called for heads to come through, I jumped...The other artists jumped right on, too. It was a beautiful thing... It made quite a transformation of this wall that's just been sitting here. As many times as people come back and forth here, it brings a new dimension to the community - and long overdue." Added Genaro "Gio" Ortega: "These are some of Boston's best graffiti artists working to memorialize some of the greatest leaders in Boston. I've seen this wall empty for years and I used to live not far from here in my 20s. The wall was always calling for some life and some color." The mural captures eight Black leaders from Boston, or those have a deep connection to Boston, including Malcolm X, Melnea Cass, Martin Luther King Jr., Ruth Batson, Elma Lewis, Frederick Douglass, Ella Collins and Crispus Attucks. Each leader is highlighted in a natural panel break in the wall running backward from Warren Street. Each panel uses a distinct and vibrant color to capture the individual portraits. A scroll at the beginning identifies the leaders and the artists. Community response has been favor-



The new Boston Black History mural in Grove Hall has been in place since last fall, but artists and organizers are drawing new attention to the improvement now in honor of Black History Month. Shown here are Ricardo "Deme5" Gomez, Thomas "Kwest" Burns, Genaro "Gio" Ortega, Jeremy "Sobek" Harrison, and Jamarhl Crawford. Several other artists participated but could not be in attendance for the photo. Seth Daniel photos

able since last fall, and the artists and community leaders hope that even more people will pay attention to during Black History Month. Ed Gaskin, executive director of Greater Grove Hall Main Streets, the mural is a great new entry point to the community. "We used to get so many complaints from residents about the lot and the wall," he said. "Now people coming into the Grove Hall business district will have a much better first impression." Said Jeremy "Sobek" Harrison – an artist who has been working on numerous things in the community, including the annual 'Graffiti in Grove Hall' event: "I wanted to be like these guys as a kid, and now to be able to work

with them on this side-by-side is such a blessing to me as an artist," he said. "This mural is also such a blessing because I'm born and raised in this area. Driving here and going to church up the street I always saw this wall sitting here. It looked like that since I was nine or ten years old. Now it's a light and a blessing for the community." The artists and their work include: Sobek - Malcolm X: Alvin "Acoma" Colon – Melnea Cass; "Mar" – Martin Luther King, Jr.; Genaro "Gio" Ortega - Ruth Batson; Jason "SWAT" Talbot-Elma Lewis; Ricardo "Deme5" Gomez - Frederick Douglass; Lee Beard - Ella Collins; Thomas "Kwest" Burns - Crispus Attucks; and Ivan Richiez – Scroll lettering.

Survey: Pandemic spurs unmet demand for mental health in state

By Deborah Becker WBUR REPORTER

The coronavirus pandemic has profoundly affected the mental health of Massachusetts residents, especially young adults of color, according to a new survey published on Tuesday.

The survey, commissioned by the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation, looked at behavioral health care needs and access to care from January of 2020 to March of 2021. Researchers that more than one in three Massachusetts residents over the age of 19 reported needing behavioral health care

for themselves or a close relative. Among those who reported needing care, 26 percent said they were not able to get it and 64 percent of those who said the pandemic exacerbated their need for behavioral health care services

"We definitely have a behavioral health crisis that has come along with the pandemic,' said Audrey Shelto, foundation president and CEO. "This is really intended to get a comprehensive real, snapshot from people themselves reporting on what has been their experience in terms of behavioral health needs and in terms of accessing behavioral health services."

The survey was done by NORC at the University of Chicago and gathered information from more than 1,700 Massachusetts adults about their experiences with behavioral health care during the first year of the pandemic. The respondents included both those with commercial insurance and those with public insurance.

The level of need identified for behavioral health care was higher among three groups: young adults between the ages of 19 and 39, people of color, and lower-income populations.

Respondents also said the pandemic increased their financial stresses and substance use. Almost half of those surveyed reported job losses or pandemic-related disruptions. More than a quarter of the respondents reported an increase in alcohol or cannabis use since the start of the pandemic, with 17 percent saying that alcohol and cannabis use caused "serious problems with their personal responsibilities" over the previous year.

The foundation report on the survey also cites efforts by the state to improve care, such as the Baker administration's so-called "Roadmap for Behavioral Health Reform." The "Roadmap" will be implemented over the next few years through several steps designed to improve access and the delivery of behavioral health care.

Among other things, the "Roadmap" is expected to create a new 24/7 behavioral health help line, launch urgent care centers for behavioral health and create community behavioral health centers. Some of the funding for the plan was included in the governor's budget proposal for the next fiscal vear.

"We are in a really unprecedented window

of leadership commitment across the commonwealth on Beacon Hill to address these problems," Shelto said. "I've been working in the field of behavioral health for a very, very long time, and the focus on these issues, the understanding of the urgency of the behavioral health needs of people in the commonwealth and the commitment that I hear from the leaders of the commonwealth are unprecedented.

of opportunity in terms

This story was first published on Feb. 8 by WBUR 90.9FM. The Reporter and WBUR share content through a media partnership.

State study finds higher likelihood of citations for non-white drivers

By Todd Wallack **WBUR**

A government study released Monday found that state and local police departments in Massachusetts were more likely to search non-white drivers and give them criminal citations after a traffic stop in 2020. However, the same study also found no evidence that police in Massachusetts were more likely to stop nonwhite drivers in the first place, using a technique that has been used to test for racial bias in other

The state Executive Office of Public Safety and Security hired Salem State University and Worcester State University to analyze police traffic stops for potential

For the Year 2020

racial bias to comply with the 2019 statewide "hands-free driving law." Researchers used data from more than 280 police departments, each of which conducted more than 100 traffic stops.

The report found that 1.2 percent of non-white motorists were subjected to a non-discretionary search, compared to 0.7 percent of white drivers. a difference it found to be statistically significant.

The data also found that 18 percent of Hispanic drivers and nearly 14 percent of Black drivers received criminal citations after a stop,

 $compared \, to \, less \, than \, 10$ percent of white drivers. Black and Hispanic drivers were also more likely to be arrested, while white drivers were more likely to be let go with

a warning, the report

found.

Nationally, researchers have previously found that Black drivers nationally are less likely to get pulled over at night when their race is obscured by a "veil of darkness." But in Massachusetts, the Salem State researchers found that non-white motorists were actually 36 percent less likely to be stopped during daylight hours than white drivers, the report said.

"This finding means that no support was shown for a pattern of racial disparity based on the [veil of darkness] analysis for the state as a whole," the

report said.

The report did find that non-white drivers were more likely to be stopped by one state police troop in Foxborough and local police departments in Hadley and Ludlow. But the report's authors cautioned that there could be additional factors that might account for the discrepancy at those departments, including the drivers' behavior.

"We caution that our findings do not confirm racial profiling and any incidents of statistical significance could have a variety of explanations other than officer bias," said Salem State researcher Gina Curcio in a statement.

The public safety office plans to hold public hearings on the analysis on Feb. 28, and March 1 and 2.

Another opening for Wu: Cassellius to leave school post at end of June

(Continued from page 1) reform the Boston Planning and Development Agency, chief of human services, chief information officer, and chief of the climate change office.

Robinson, the school committee chair who lives in Dorchester and served as a Boston Children's Museum vice president, said the Feb. 15 $meeting\,of\,the\,committee$ will offer additional insight into the search for a new superintendent.

"We look forward to beginning this process," she said at the press conference. For her part, Wu said, "We need someone who can truly hit the ground running immediately."

Cassellius used the press conference to offer some insight into what moved to her to leave the \$311,000-a-year post. "Nobody could've anticipated a pandemic and three mayoral changes and just an incredible amount of headwind," she told reporters.

After being hired by Mayor Marty Walsh, she saw her contract renewed for two years in June under Acting Mayor Kim Janey. She is now set to depart months after Wu won the November mayoral election.

Asked if she was pushed out, Cassellius said, "Nothing's pushing me out of the door. I'm still here for five months."



Superintendent Brenda Cassellius and Mayor Michelle Wu outside Brighton High School on Tuesday, the day after Wu said Cassellius would be stepping down at the end of the school year. (Screenshot)

turned to Wu and asked if she had asked Cassellius to leave. "No," Wu said, adding that Cassellius led the district through three of the most challenging years "we have ever seen in Boston."

The mayor called the Boston Public Schools an "incredible district" and an "incredible place to build a career." It's not a silo, she added, saying the next superintendent will partner with the city's various sectors and members of her cabinet. "This is not about creating the expectation that any amazing individual is going to step in and save the world."

Wu stressed that the

Another reporter be handling the search "For my part, we are ready and are starting from a very strong place to launch this transition process.'

Added Robinson: "It will be a community process." In a Monday morning

message to parents announcing Cassellius's departure, Wu said she is focused on early childhood education expansion, "reimagining" Boston schools to "advance learning," and "ensuring excellence across the district," including the high schools. The next superintendent will also face the task of reversing a decline in student enrollment.

Casssellius came to School Committee will Boston after holding

jobs in Tennessee and Minnesota, where she served as commissioner of education. In her own message to parents, Cassellius

education leadership

wrote that she remains "fully committed to BPS until it is time to pass the baton" in June.

Referring to her tenure, Cassellius said, "It is nothing short of remarkable that in the midst of it all we also developed a community-wide vision for equitable and excellent schools in every neighborhood of Boston; made historic steps forward in expanding access to our nation-leading exam schools; implemented a rigorous set of high graduation standards for every high school in the district with adoption of the MassCore; and put in place more just and transparent attendance, code of conduct, student privacy, and grading policies.'

The timeline for Cassellius's departure means there won't be an interim superintendent.

After Dr. Carol Johnson, who served between 2007 and 2012 under Mayor Thomas Menino, John McDonough served as interim superintendent before Mayor Walsh tapped Dr. Tommy Chang of Los Angeles. Laura Perille then served as interim before Walsh hired Cassellius in 2019.

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BGCD Takes Fun Winter Outing with Program Partner Elevate Youth: See details below.

CONNECT THE DOT:
BGCD Takes Fun Winter Outing with
Program Partner Elevate Youth: This
past weekend, Boys & Girls Clubs of

Dorchester partnered with our friends at Elevate Youth for a fun winter outing. Elevate Youth's mission is to empower youth from underserved neighborhoods through regular outdoor experiences with the support of positive adult role models. A group of 13 BGCD members enjoyed an outdoor Scavenger Hunt followed by toasting marshmallows and making s'mores by a campfire.

We are so excited for our upcoming adventures, which will be Cross-Country Skiing on 3/5 and Alpine Skiing on 3/12.

We are so thankful to our program partner, Elevate Youth who shares in our mission of providing opportunities that engage our members in healthy outdoor activities throughout the year.

FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE: **BGCD Kicks Off Black History Month with Inspiration Memorials** in Our Clubhouse Lobbies: February is Black History Month which is an annual observance originating in the United States that celebrates African- American history. To kick off our celebration, our Front Desk staff created inspirational displays in all three of our Clubhouses. Each display honors past and present heroes that have paved the way for so many in our country and serve as role models for our nation. These displays are not only beautiful to look at, but serve as an educational tool that allows our young members to learn more about those who have paved the way for change. At BGCD we encourage our members to learn and grow and to be able explore how they too can make a positive impact in their community and to be the change they want to see in the world.



BGCD Kicks Off Black History Month with Inspiration Memorials in Our Clubhouse Lobbies: See details below.

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Dorchester is pleased to announce that
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Martin Richard Challenger Basketball

program indoors.

On Sunday mornings at the Marr gym, there is a group at 10:00 a.m. for ages 5-11 and another group at 11:00 a.m. for ages 12 and older. A huge thank you to all the Challenger athletes and buddies for a great day of fun together.

Thank you to the Martin Richard Foundation for all their continuous support of BGCD and the Challenger program. For more information on the Challenger Sports program or to register your child, please contact Erin Ferrara at eferrara@bgcdorchester.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

College Fellows Event February 15

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Boston University Basketball Clinic February 28

> Elevate Youth Outing X-Country Skiing March 5



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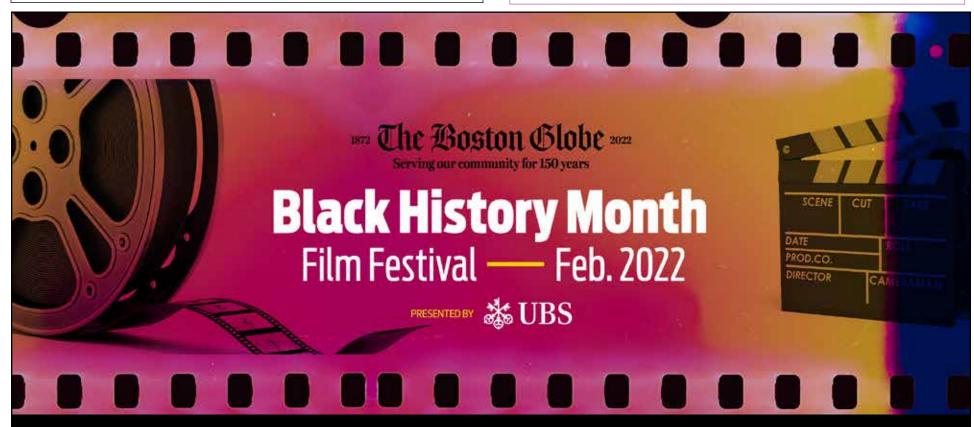
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Now in its second year, The Boston Globe's Black History Month Film Festival will honor and celebrate the lives, culture, and creativity of Black Americans through film. Both classic and new works will be made available for virtual viewing throughout the month. Each screening will also be followed by a virtual panel event to provide insight and context for these stories of strength, joy, and love.

For film lineup and to RSVP for FREE go to Globe.com/Events















Fed infrastructure dollars flowing for projects in Dot

By Gintautas Dumcius Managing Editor

Billions of federal dollars for infrastructure improvements and projects are headed to Massachusetts, with a number of Dorchester bridges on the list for funds recently outlined by Gov. Baker. Some of the projects were already authorized and federally funded.

Over the next five years, the bipartisan infrastructure law signed by President Biden last year is set to send \$9.5 billion to Massachusetts. States can also seek funding for transportation projects out of a \$110 billion federal pot.

The Baker administration's list of projects slated for federal funding includes the long-awaited proposal for a shared-use path from Tenean Beach to Morrissey Boulevard, connecting the Neponset River Greenway, from Milton to Mattapan and creating a link to South Boston's Castle Island.

The 0.7-mile project, for which the Baker administration is setting aside \$8.2 million, includes a 670-foot boardwalk over the salt marshes of Dorchester Bay and close to National Grid's iconic gas tank with the rainbow swash.



A rendering shows how an elevated boardwalk will carry a portion of the Neponset Greenway trail to Morrissey Boulevard, bypassing a hazardous expressway off-ramp. **BSC** Group graphic

The project was included as part of a Baker administration release and a list of 146 bridge projects that will be funded through a \$3 billion bridge program that will comprise money from the bipartisan infrastructure law and the state's bridge improvement program.

Additionally, the list of projects includes \$11 million for the replace $ment of I-93 \, lighting \, from \,$ Neponset Avenue to the South Shore's Braintree

'Significant investments are going to be made in transportation



The expansion of Codman Yard next to Ashmont station is one of the state projects included in a funding announcement by the Baker administration MBTA photo

infrastructure thanks to both reauthorized and increased feder-

al funding within the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and

Plumbing

these investments will be transformational," Baker's transportation chief, Jamey Tesler, said in a statement.

MBTA-owned projects located in Dorchester are also on the list. The expansion of Codman Yard, a storage and maintenance site south of Ashmont MBTA station, will be financed through reauthorized funds in the bipartisan infrastructure law. The \$78.7 million project is set to get underway this spring, and expected to be complete by 2025.

The expansion will add six new tracks, upgrade a crossover track for traffic flow throughout the yard, and "neigh-borhood-friendly" LED lighting meant to reduce the effect on nearby residences, and improve signaling within the yard.

Bridges on the MBTA's Fairmount Line, which runs from South Station to Readville and includes the Blue Hill Avenue and Uphams Corner stations, are up for fixes. The budget for the East Cottage Street and Norfolk Avenue bridges stands at \$22 million, with construction completion scheduled for the summer and fall.

The replacement of the Dorchester Avenue bridge, north of Kosciuszko Circle and near the Dorchester-South Boston border, is set for this fall, with a budget of \$37 million. The project received a notice to proceed in November 2021. The rehabilitation of the Von Hillern Street retaining wall is set for 2023.

"For those of us in the infrastructure business, today is like Christmas," Baker's highway administrator Jonathan Gulliver said at a Feb. 4 event outlining the federal funds. "We've been waiting for this for a very long time and whether it's a bridge replacement, a clean water project, or a brownfield remediation, this law will touch every corner of the commonwealth over the next five years."

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

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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

RECENT OBITUARIES

Mary Lou Flaherty

Mary Lou Flaherty of Dorchester, died peacefully surrounded by her loving family on January 31, 2022 after a brief illness.



Beloved daughter of the late Paul F. Flaherty and Rita E. (Gleavy) Flaherty.

Loving sister of Anthony J. Flaherty of Dorchester and his late wife Catherine Flaherty, Edward B. Flaherty of Dorchester, Barbara A. and her husband Stephen Black of Bridgewater, Paul F. Flaherty Jr. and his partner Donna

LeBlanc of Quincy, and the late John W. Flaherty. Mary Lou is also survived by many nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews, and the late Catherine "Katie" Flaherty.
Family and friends will honor and remember

Mary Lou's life by gathering for a visiting hour in St. Peter Church, 311 Bowdoin Street, Dorchester, on Friday morning, February 11th, at 10:00 A.M. Followed by a Funeral Mass at 11:00 A.M.

Burial will follow in Cedar Grove Cemetery, Dorchester.

Mary Lou attended St. Peter Grammar School and then graduated from Monsignor Ryan Memorial High School in Dorchester, Class of 1961. She received a Bachelor's Degree from Northeastern University and worked as a medical records administrator at Mass Hospital School in Canton for 20 years. She then retired after working as an administrative assistant at St. Peter Church for 30 years.

Mary Lou became the Flaherty family matriarch after her mother died. She was very proud of her Irish heritage. She enjoyed listening to Irish music and travelling to Ireland, especially to County Galway, from where her family came.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Mary Lou's memory may be made to St. Peter Church, 278 Bowdoin Street, Dorchester, MA 02122.

For guestbook, please visit www.jmurphyfh. com. Arrangements by the Murphy Funeral Home, Dorchester.

BOUTIN, William Jr. "Bill". Son of the late Alfred William Boutin Sr. and Mary E. (Courtney) Boutin. Brother of Harry Boutin of Dorchester and Joseph Boutin and his companion Susanne of Taunton. He is also survived by many cousins. US Army veteran. He was a retired employee of the Boston Globe for over 40 years.



COREY, Mary "Maureen" (Co (Costello) of Waltham. Wife of the late Earl E. Corey; mother of Earl M. Corey (Beth) of Middlebury, VT, Judy M. Dolan of Waltham and Daniel J. Corey (Nora Leary) of Milton: also survived by 11 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren; sister of Anne Lacey (late Thomas) of Kingston and the late John Costello and Peggy Doyle; also survived by nieces and nephews. Memorials in her name may be made to: Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted Parish, 880 Trapelo Road, Waltham, MA 02452

DANCY, Anna Mae, 90, of Mattapan. Daughter of the late Jim Sanders and Anna Ella Tardy-Sanders. She was the



youngest of 9 children. (Cleve, Gillis, Carrie, Booker, James, Clifford, Jemella, Liddell). She taught at the Martin Luther King School, the Solomon Lewenberg Middle School, Boston Technical High School and Madison Park High School. Wife of James Dancy, Sr. She leaves her 7 children: Deborah Denise, Adrience Celeste, James, Francine Anita, Shenia Marie, Delfredia Jemise, Anna Marie and our sister Carolyn Scott; her 14 grandchildren; 6 great grandchildren; her sister-in-laws: Myrdell and Frances; Her son-inlaws, Dana, Ron, and Emerson; along with a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.



DEVINE, Sara "Sally" Margaret (Hurley), of Harwich Port, formerly of Bellingham and Dorchester. Daughter of Christina "Ma" Hurley

(Kearney) of Baltimore, Ireland and Jeremiah J. Hurley of Boston. Member of the St. Brendan's Choir and the all-women singing group The Misty Mrs. She is survived by her husband Donald Leo Devine, her children Christine Devine of Strafford, NH, Kevin Devine of Marlborough, Rita Horan and her husband Mark of North Attleboro, Lawrence Devine of Bellingham, Leo Devine of Boston, and Carole Karlowicz and her husband Derek Karlowicz of Franklin.Grandmother of 6; great-grandmother of 1.



GIBBONS, Edward P., 74, of Boston. Husband of the late Marilyn (White) Gibbons. Son of the late Alice (Finley) and Edward Gibbons. Father of Pamela Gibbons, Edward "Teddy" Gibbons Jr., and Jeffrey Gibbons, all of Dorchester. Grandfather of 3. Brother of the late Catherine A. LoPresti, Alice DiMaggio, Anne DiMaggio and James Gibbons. US Army veteran. Edward worked for Peerless Market and the US Postal Service. He was a member of the Old Dorchester Post. Donations in Edward's name may be made to the American Cancer Soci-

ety, at cancer.org.

JUITT, Dorothy N. (Goldberg), 90, of Mattapan. Wife of the late



Joseph E. Juitt. Daughter of the late Harry and Ida Goldberg (Carpenter). She was the mother of Mark D. Juitt and his former late wife Monica of Middleboro, Robin J. Omar and her husband John of Brockton, and David N. Juitt and his former wife Laura of Arlington. Sister of the late Golda Goldberg. Grandmother of 3.

KANE, John T. "Jacky," 67, of South Boston. Son of the late Tony and Babe (Hurley) Kane. Father of John and Colleen Kane of South Boston. The love and light of his life, Dianne Paull, of 30 years and her children Danielle Preston and Bill Paull. Brother of Bill Kane of Dorchester, Catherine Gray and her husband Thomas of New Hampshire. Peggy Collins and her husband Earl of Colorado, and the late Anne

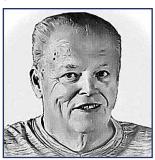


Whalen and her husband Thomas of Dorchester. Along with many nieces and nephews. He also leaves behind his loving feline, Roxie (Soot), who was always by his side. Many, many loyal friends. Jacky retired from the Boston Edison (Eversource) after 43 years of service as a conduit inspector, Local 369, UWUA. The family requests those who wish to express sympathy to consider making a do-nation to Tufts Medical Center in Jacky's name, at giving.tuftsmedicalcenter.org/give.



MOORE, **Edward** Arnold, 69 of Dorchester. He was the second of 3 children of the late Alzater Gaines Moore and Edward H. Bland. Brother to his surviving sister Pearl P. Moore and his late brother Lawrence R. Moore and sister-in-law Marilyn Moore. Edward was also, half-brother to the late Iris (Bland) White and James Bland. Former husband of Dorothy and her son Edward Lawrence (Little Eddie).

Along his life's path, Edward met Dorothy and her son Edward Lawrence (Little Eddie); they married and had a beautiful daughter Ati-



O'CONNOR, J. Kevin of North Quincy, formerly of Dorchester. Husband of the late Jean M. (Melody) O'Connor. Father of Rev. Chris O'Connor, Pastor of St. Michael Parish in Winthrop, Erin and her husband Scott Vadala of Stoughton, and Jonathan O'Connor of North Quincy. "Grampy" of 4. Brother of Maureen and her husband Bob Blazuk of Marshfield, and Evelyn and her husband David Pearson of Holbrook. Brother-in-law of Judy Melody of Dorchester, Mary Melody of Florida, Barbara Melody of Colorado, and the late Elizabeth Gorham, Brian Melody, and Phillip Mel-

ody. Survived by many nieces and nephews. US Army veteran.He was a retired controller for Gillette Co., Nachem, and Aquanor for many years. Donations in Kevin's memory may be made to St. Michael Parish, 320 Winthrop St., Winthrop, MA 02152.



PRENDIVILLE, Doris L. (Lundell), 96, of Quincy, formerly of Dorchester. She was the daughter of the late Axel V. and Signe D. (Nelson) Lundell. Wife of the late Timothy W. Prendiville. Mother of Christine Prendiville of Quincy. Dear cousin of Dorothy

Fredrikson of Framingham; and preceded in Father to his Atiya Moore Britt. Preceded in death by her siblings: Allen Walter and Harold Louis Lundell. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be sent in Doris' name to Habitat for Humanity by visiting: habitat.org" target="_new" rel="no-follow">https://www.

habitat.org.

ROUSE, Alan A. in
Dorchester, formerly of South Boston. Father of Courtney, Alexis, John and Alan J. Rouse. Brother of Cheryl Itri of Braintree and the late Matthew Rouse. Son of the late Andrew and Patricia (Curtis) Rouse. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Donations in memory of Alan may be made to the South Boston Neighborhood House, 136 H Street, South Boston, MA 02127.



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Vietnamese sparking a boomtime in parish life at St. Ambrose parish

(Continued from page 1) the religious persecution they faced before coming to Boston.

Father Linh Nguyen, pastor of St. Ambrose. said the parish has more than 300 kids attending religious education classes (CCD). It also has eight Legion of Mary groups, a youth dance group with 50 members, a choir of 70 that can barely fit into the sanctuary, and sometimes as many 1,000 people at a Mass - particularly on special occasions like last weekend's special Tet (Lunar) New Year

"The Masses are all standing-room-only," said Rev. Linh. "Space is such a challenge for us. We've contemplated expanding or coming up with other ways to create more space in the church...On a big day, like the New Year right now, we have to have a livestream downstairs in the hall. On Christmas this year, it was packed in both spaces. It can be more than 1,000 people at a Mass."

That last is not a problem many parishes are facing in Greater Boston, particularly in Dorchester as many Catholic parishes and other Christian congregations strain to attract regular members. The Vietnamese resurgence started in 1985 when the first community was established at St. Peter's Church on Bowdoin Street. Later, St. William's Church became the place many Vietnamese attended. When it closed in 2006, many Vietnamese migrated down to St. Ambrose, which the archdiocese of Boston has designated as a place of worship for the Vietnamese.



Life-long St. Ambrose parishioner Mary Whalen said her life and faith have been inspired by the Vietnamese community. She said the church has followed the urging of Pope Francis to be open and accepting and create a "cultural synthesis."

Seth Daniel photo

Father Linh came to Dorchester from Vietnam when he was 14 and settled at St. Peter's. He says he always wanted to be a priest. Catholicism was a way of life for him before he immigrated here, with the faith being introduced to the Vietnamese around 1530 by Jesuit missionaries. However, during the troublesome times in the 1970s and 1980s. Christians were persecuted. That, more than economics, is what landed the faithful at St. Ambrose, he said.

"We are very family oriented," he said. "That keeps us together and we're able to preserve the values that we treasure. That comes with faith. Faith is of utmost importance for the Vietnamese community. That's one of the main reasons the Vietnamese came here was for religious freedom. It's not economics... It was a pilgrimage here for religious freedom."

Nowadays, Fr. Linh said, the parish is nearly 85 percent Vietnamese, and it runs in collaboration with St. Mark's Parish due to lack of available space for the Vietnamese, English, and Spanish communities. Despite the large numbers of Vietnamese, Father Linh said, there is not a sense of "taking over," but of appreciation for those who came

"We're not looking to replace, but to build up what the people before us built - the foundation they left us," he said. "We are the caretakers and we're here to keep the church for them. That's all."

Bridging Past And Present

At her life-long home on Dorchester Avenue, Mary Whalen can still remember getting a call from her late brother who worked for the Boston Fire Department on a cold evening in 1984 while she was at the kitchen table grading papers for her teaching job. He told her to go out on the Avenue and look at the church because it was on fire.

One step out the door, Whalen said she could see the fire taking her beloved church up in flames. She grew up at St. Ambrose Church, went to the school there and "basically have spent all of my sacramental life at that church."

She was on the committee to re-build after the fire, and her late mother was honored at the groundbreaking in 1986. They had salvaged the massive stainedglass windows depicting The Last Supper, but all else was new.

It wasn't long after that when the church numbers got lower, and her neighbors kept moving to the suburbs, causing a generation to be lost at the parish grammar school-eventually leading to its closing. "They were consolidating and closing churches and we were just holding our breath that we would be next," she said.

Then came the Vietnamese.

"Initially St. Ambrose was a refuge for Irish immigration," she said, noting that she still serves on the Parish Council. "Now in this period of time we have welcomed the Vietnamese people who also came for an opportunity, but they also came for different reasons. The Irish and Italians could always worship and weren't persecuted. The Vietnamese are from a culture where they suffered religious persecution. They want to improve economically and educationally, but their true desire is to practice their faith openly. They do not take that for granted.

"I've been so enriched in my life by the Vietnamese community and their faith," she continued.

Whalen is part of a group of long-time parishioners who stayed on and welcomed the Vietnamese to St. Ambrose, and now they are welcomed into the vibrant church life that fellowship has brought on. Sometimes, she said, she even attends the packed daily Vietnamese Masses.

"I can tell from the cadence of the voices and looking at my prayer book what they're saying," she remarked.

She said that she and those remaining followed the call of Pope Francis to be open and accepting and create a "cultural synthesis" in



Father Linh Nguyen has been the pastor of the St. Ambrose congregation for about six years and was recently renewed for another six years. Seth Daniel photo

world. "Was there pushback? Yes, and that's because what's left of the old Irish and Italians who stayed here felt they would lose their identity," she said. "They have their perceptions of new people instead of having an open mind and reaching out...St. Ambrose is an example of what is going on throughout Boston with its growth and diversification of people...I think it's wonderful – faith imbued."

Nowadays, Whalen delights in Tet New Year festivals, the English Masses, and some of the special societies. She said that after she embraced the Vietnamese at first, they have come to embrace her. In fact, she said, if there's a snowstorm, community members from the church will have shoveled her driveway before she can even think to ask.

"Because of the persecution in Vietnam, they all embrace their faith here, and it's been great for St. Ambrose," she said.

Keeping church life alive

Long-time parishioner Hiep Chu came to Boston when he was 11 and has been part of the St. Ambrose community for decades – he says he is part of the "bridge" generation trying to keep the church, and the culture, alive.

The key to that is the youth, he said. He said the Vietnamese stress CCD classes, with parents being the teachers, but also feature Vietnamese language classes and fun social and cultural events - such as the dance group.

"Kids don't necessarily like going to Sunday program, but when they are there, they do like it,' he said. "That's why we have at least 300 kids in the program. It's an opportunity for us to hold on to what we have...I

churches around the have accepted that we're going to lose the language, but our hope in teaching the language in church is to hold onto it a little longer...It's part of holding on to the second and third generation and the kids are happy when they're here."

> Fr. Linh added that it is a point of pride in the parish to have such a vibrant youth and young adult ministry. "We have to work in tandem to accomplish this," he said. "If we lose the kids, we lose the parents...It's not only religious stuff or serious classes, but also social activities and fun things with their friends and that's how we keep them together with their parents too."

> Chu said he has also been very inspired by parishioners like Whalen, and how they've embraced parish life amid change.

> "I am stunned and inspired by the older generation at St. Ambrose," he said.

> Meanwhile, both said they see what happened in the past at St. Ambrose with dwindling numbers, and maybe there are glimpses now of going down that path.

> "We are at the point here we can keep these values of that new tradition alive, but we see glimpses of the same path that our Irish brothers have gone through; maybe 10 to 20 years from now that will be something we have to face as well," Father Linh said.

> Added Chu, "The role of the church is to find out how to make people go to church and Mass. When you don't have a direct relationship between family, kids, and the church, people don't see that it's worth their time to associate themselves and their kids with church."

> At this point, that prayer is being answered weekly at St. Ambrose Church.



Young parishioners at St. Ambrose Church in Fields Corner participated in a celebration of the Tet Lunar New Year observances at the Dorchester parish last weekend. Dzung Nguyen photo

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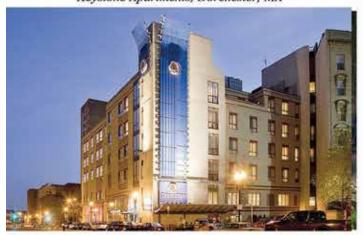
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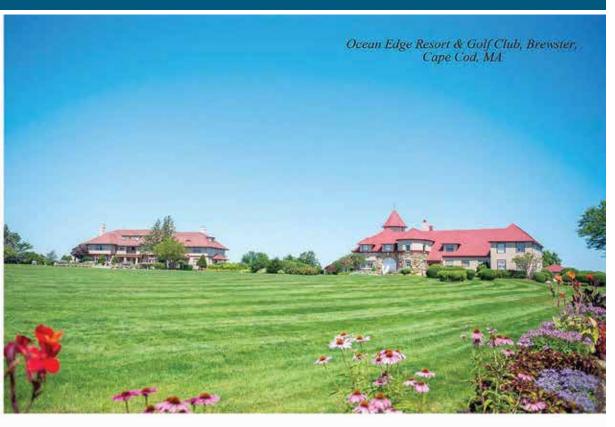
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