Dorchester Reporter

"The News and Values Around the Neighborhood"

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50¢



Emersyn, a second-grade student at the P.A. Shaw School, worked at her desk. Her mother, Brenda Ramsey, is among a group of parents and teachers who oppose a BPS plan to merge the Shaw and the nearby Taylor school.

Emily Piper-Vallillo photos

BPS merger plan met with resistance at P.A. Shaw School

BY EMILY PIPER-VALLILLO SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Emersyn sits with her classmates in a circle on the rug. The second graders greet one another—"Hi Emersyn"—and count the days of school with the help of dots on the wall.

What Emersyn loves most about her school, the P.A. Shaw on Norfolk Street, is that the people in the building know and care about her.

"My teachers love me," she says, "even if I'm having a hard time." So, when Emersyn learned that Boston Public Schools planned to merge her elementary school with another school twice its size, the idea worried her. She did not want her community to fracture.

"I don't want to lose my friends."
The merger of the Shaw school is part of the district's effort to combine small schools that face declining enrollment. With 187 students averaging 30 per grade according to district data, the

Shaw is a small school. And it's not

(Continued on page 12)



Sabine Ferdinand, a second-grade teacher at the P.A. Shaw.

Walsh to leave Biden cabinet for NHL union post

By Gintautas Dumcius Managing Editor

Marty Walsh, President Biden's labor secretary and a Lower Mills resident, will leave his federal post to head the NHL's players union, according to multiple media reports Tuesday. The news was first reported by Daily Faceoff, a hockey outlet.

TSN, a Canadian sports channel, first reported the news that Walsh was a candidate for the high-paying position last week.

Walsh himself has stayed mum on the job. He appeared on CNN on Feb. 3, and when asked about the potential move, said, "I'm not going to make any personal news today."

If he does indeed make the move, the 55-yearold Walsh would succeed Donald Fehr, 74, who has served in the job since 2010. His salary is expected to be \$3 million, up from the \$203,000 he earns as labor secretary.

Walsh has served as the secretary of the US Labor Department since March 2021, when he left Boston City Hall's top job for the Biden administration. He has maintained his residence in Dorchester, where his longtime partner Lorrie Higgins and his mother Mary still live.

He will be the first cabinet-level member of the Biden administration to leave. The news broke as the

(Continued on page 15)

Alleged drug dealer charged in murder of 13-year-old boy

By Reporter Staff

An alleged gang member arrested on federal drug charges on Friday was charged Monday with murdering Tyler Lawrence, 13, near the corner of Babson and Fremont streets in Mattapan on Jan. 29.

Csean Alexander Skerritt, 34, was charged with murder and various firearm and ammunition charges, as well as being a Level 3 armed, career criminal, the DA's office reports. In 2017, he was found not guilty of first-degree murder for a 2014 shooting death on Dorchester Avenue in the Ashmont neighborhood.

Skerritt was arrested Friday by federal agents on a charge of distributing 40 or more grams of fentanyl after he allegedly sold the drugs to a "cooperative witness" working with the FBI. Even as local authorities were charging him with the boy's murder Mon-



Csean Alexander Skerritt

day, he was appearing in US District Court in Boston to face that charge.

According to an affidavit by an FBI agent on the case, Skerritt, also known as Shizz Grimmy, sold 55 grams of the drug for \$1,500 to the informant on Feb. 1 - three days after he allegedly gunned down the boy.

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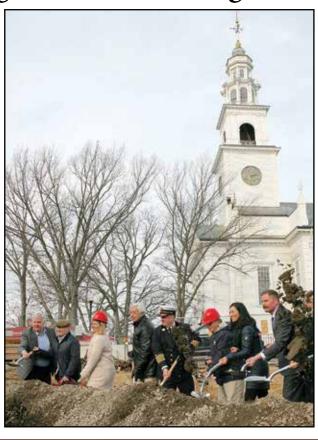
City breaks ground on new Engine 17 firehouse

the only one

By SETH DANIEL News Editor

On an ancient hill in Dorchester, all signs pointed to the future Monday when city officials broke ground on what is only Boston's second new fire station in 40 years.

 $The\,new\,Meeting house$ Hill Fire Station got underway late last year with construction crews blasting away at solid ledge rock for several weeks. Work is now underway on the station's foundation. With that milestone, elected officials and Boston Fire officials conducted a groundbreaking for the project on Monday afternoon. The property sits in front of the existing Meetinghouse Hill (Engine 17) Station and was sold to the city by First



Left: Dignitaries are shown at a Monday ceremony at the future site of the Engine 17 firehouse on Meetinghouse Hill next to First Parish Church. Seth Daniel photo

Parish Church years ago. The Church used it as a parking lot for decades. The lot was once occupied by Lyceum Hall, which once served as the seat of government for the town of Dorchester before it was annexed to Boston in 1870. The building was demolished in the 1950s.

Mayor Michelle Wu touted the health benefits and environmental sustainability of the new station, but said she hoped it would also be a hub in the community.

"We just saw over the weekend the heroism of our first responders and (Continued on page 11)

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Police, Courts & Fire

Two arrested for illegal gun possession

Police officers on the beat in Area C-11 took two illegal weapons off the streets of Dorchester in the last week, according to reports made public by Boston Police. On Monday, police say they were patrolling Mount Vernon Street on Columbia Point in response to "recent robberies stemming from Facebook Marketplace." According to their account, they spotted a car with "an occupant fitting the description of a suspect." After a traffic stop, police say they found one passenger—later named as 19-year-old Mohamed Jalloh—carrying a loaded Smith and Wesson handgun.

Last Monday, Boston Police took a 22-year-old Dorchester man into custody after they were called to the corner of Quincy Street and Coleman Street for a report of "a person with a gun." When they checked, police say they found the suspect — John Murrain— was carrying a loaded Taurus gun in his coat pocket. Both men were expected to be arraigned in Dorchester District Court.

Wu taps ten for reparations panel

Mayor Wu has named ten people to serve on the city's new Reparations Task Force, a group with a focus on studying the lasting impacts of slavery in Boston. Wu assembled the task force to include a variety of leaders in academia, education, organizing to "encompass the Black experience in Boston," according to a Tuesday press release from her

The task force's creation comes after Wu's signing of a 2022 City Council ordinance, sponsored and led by Councillor Julia Mejia.

"Our administration remains committed to tackling long standing racial inequities and this task force is the next step in our commitment as a city to advance racial justice and build a Boston

for everyone," Wu said in a statement.

The task force will be chaired by Joseph D. Feaster, Jr., Esq, Dorchester resident and current member of City's Black Men & Boys Commission. Other members include Denilson Fanfan, L'Merchie Frazier, George "Chip" Greenidge, Jr., Dr. Kerri Greenidge, Dr. David Harris, Dorothea Jones, Carrie Mays, Na'tisha Mills, and Damani Williams, an 11th grader at Jeremiah E. Burke High School.

According to Chairman Feaster, the group seeks to find recommendations for grappling with Boston's past while also "charting a path forward" for Black people. For more information on the task force, visit boston.gov/reparations.

- IZZY BRYARS

Alleged drug dealer charged in murder of 13-year-old boy

(Continued from page 1)

Skerritt originally planned to use his mother's house as the place to conduct the sale, but later changed to another location a couple blocks away. The affidavit does not say where in Boston this was.

Skerritt, familiar to FBI agents and BPD officers for his other past crimes, got into a gray Altima with California plates and drove to the new location to make the sale, the affdavit reports.

At his initial appear-



Tyler Lawrence

ance in federal court Monday, a magistrate judge ordered him held in federal custody until at least a probable cause hearing on Feb. 14.

In 2010, Skerritt was arrested on gun charges on Olney Street, for which he was later convicted.

In announcing the charges against Skerritt, DA Kevin Hayden praised Boston Police detectives for "their extraordinary, nonstop work on this case, and the US Attorney's Office for the seamless inter-agency cooperation."

Hayden added: "There is much we still don't know about this terrible crime. But we do know that a 13-year-old boy was gunned down on a city street on an early Sunday afternoon, and we know that such a monstrous event has shaken our city to its core... As I stated before, we must draw no assumptions about Tyler Lawrence from the intent of the shooter in this crime. The best reflections of Tyler should be drawn from yesterday, from the words and presence of so many who turned out for his memorial. Their attestations truly captured the essence of Tyler and the tragedy of his loss.

Developers behind Dot projects among advisers on mayoral reforms

Developers who are steering two large projects in Dorchester have signed on as advisers to Mayor Michelle Wu as she seeks to overhaul the city's development

Wu on Friday announced the members of an advisory committee focused on the "Article 80" review process for development in the city.

Adopted by the city's zoning commission in 1996, Article 80 lays out requirements for certain development projects and offers the community an opportunity to offer feedback. The process varies depending on a project's size and complexity. Large projects are defined as new construction exceeding 50,000 square feet, or a change of use without significant new construc-

At her "State of the City" speech on Jan. 25,

Wu said the advisory committee is part of a slew of reforms to planning and development as she eyes a city reaching a population of 800,000 people. The current population stands at just over 650,000 people.

The committee includes Kirk Sykes, whose Accordia Partners is overseeing the mixeduse redevelopment of the 36 acres, including the former Bayside Expo Center site and the Santander offices on Morrissey Boulevard. The \$5 billion project is known as "Dorchester Bay City."

Kairos Shen, executive director for MIT's Center for Real Estate, is also on the committee. Shen, who advised Wu in her search last year for a chief of planning, spent 22 years at the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA).

The committee also

has a member in Steve Samuels, founder and chairman of Samuels & Associates, the developer behind the \$200 million "Dot Block," a fouracre apartment project bounded by Dorchester Avenue and Hancock, Pleasant and Greenmount streets.

Other members include:

- Joseph Bonfiglio, business manager of the Massachusetts and Northern New England District Council, which represents 25,000 construction workers
- Anthony D'Isidoro, president of the Allston Civic Association
- Fernando J. Domenech, Jr., president of **DHK Architects**
- Colleen Fonseca, executive director of the Builders of Color Coalition and former adviser to Providence Mayor Jorge Elorza
- Beyazmin Jimenez,

urban planner and director of diversity, equity, inclusion, and culture for Northeastern University's planning and real estate department

– Matthew Kiefer, land use attorney at Goulston & Storrs

"From reforming planning and updating our zoning code, to streamlining development review and strengthening compliance, we are taking action to set Boston on a course for sustainable growth so all our communities are included in the city's opportunities," Wu said in a statement.

Wu has also said she plans to move staffers of the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA), as the BRA is now known, into a new city planning department as she reworks the "urban renewal" powers of the BPDA.

- REPORTER STAFF

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New plan for Blue Hill Ave. restaurant space

The Boston Licensing Board last week approved plans for a proposed restaurant at 879-881 Blue Hill Ave. in Dorchester that would feature Dominican and Spanish food in a large space with 240 total seats, including in a lounge and a function

& Lounge also hopes to serve rum daiquiris and Spanish wine, but that would depend on whether the city has any liquor licenses to hand out. If not, the restaurant could wait - and likely wait and then wait some more - or purchase a license on the open market, wnere tney El Punto Restaurant now go for prices around and steak place run by

\$400,000, because there is more demand for liquor licenses in Boston than the number of licenses allowed by the state legislature.

The new place would go in the space outfitted for Royalty Iron Grill, what was supposed to be an elegant barbecue

a Worcester entrepreneur and the owner of a chiropractic clinic in the building, who did work to refurbish an even earlier spot that featured an indoor waterfall, pool, map of the Amazon and a ceramic lion, but that restaurant never opened.

UPCOMING CIVIC MEETINGS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Neponset River Watershed Association (NepRWA) will host a site visit to Tenean Beach on Sun., Feb. 19 from 9-10:30 a.m. to observe the high tide's effects along the coast. Please register at Neponset.org/KingTide.

Codman Square Health Center is offering free tax preparation clinics for Boston residents at 450 Washington St., Dorchester throughout the tax season. Drop by the clinic on Mondays and Tuesdays from 4-8p.m. or Saturdays 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Call 617-822-8182 for more

The community is invited to attend a special Fireside Chat event on Thurs., Feb. 23 from 9:30 a.m.- noon featuring UMass Boston Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco and local leaders as they reflect on the university's new 10-year strategic plan.

Free. Continental breakfast provided. Campus Center Ballroom, third floor. RSVP at umb.edu/firesidechat.

Children, parents, and caregivers are invited to join the Boston Parks and Recreation Department for February school vacation week. Online registration and more information on all these free family activities can be found at boston.gov/parks.

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department will present the annual Children's Winter Festival on the Boston Common Parade Ground on Wed., Feb. 22, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The free festival is open to all and offers music, giveaways, winter activities, treats, and crafts. Featured attractions include large inflatable installations such as the All-Star Challenge, Everest Climb 'N' Slide, and a Fun House Maze. Kids and their caregivers can also enjoy rides in the park on the Trackless Train, a ski lift photo booth, slap shot hockey, snow throw, pop-up mural activity from the Mayor's Mural Crew, a LEGO build activity with a Master Model Builder, and much more. Visit boston.gov/ winterfest for more information about this family-friendly school vacation week

The New England Women's Leadership Awards, hosted by Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester, will be held on Monday, May 15, 2023. NEWLA was among the first events of its kind in the Boston area, and so far has recognized 134 outstanding women. To learn more about NEWLA, visit bgcdorchester.org.

The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum offers several family-oriented activities throughout Presidents' Day week, including its signature Presidents' Day Festival on Feb. 20 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. featuring storytelling, activities and performances, with actors portraying Presidents John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and Abraham Lincoln, and First Lady Abigail Adams. The Celebrate! family performing arts program performance of Tales from African Traditions by Valerie Tutson on Feb. 23 at 10:30a.m. brings to life an assortment of myths, folktales, and historical accounts from the African continent and the African Diaspora. Visit ifklibrary.org/ PresidentsDay for a detailed schedule of the Presidents' Day Festival offerings. Registration is recommended.

SEND IN EVENT NOTICES TO **NEWSEDITOR@DOTNEWS.COM**

Electric school bus pilot called 'largest of its kind' in the Northeast

By Samuele Petruccelli WBUR

Boston's new electric school buses are quiet — so quiet they emit only a soft buzzing noise when in motion.

And for passengers, the ride might not smell like a regular diesel bus: no fumes from a tailpipe, and therefore, less pollution.

Those were just a few features Boston Mayor Michelle Wu touted Monday morning as she welcomed the arrival of the first couple of electric school buses to service Boston's schools. Later this month, BPS will phase in a total 20 electric school buses in a pilot program Wu called "the largest of its kind in the Northeast."

The buy is part of Wu's Green New Deal plan to make the city more environmentally friendly.

"We want to set up a city where health is a given, and the jobs that come with this green economy are also a given," Wu said at the Readville bus facility in Hyde Park. The school district is in the process of installing charging stations at the bus yard.

Boston schools plan to keep adding electric school buses until its entire fleet is fully electric by a target date of 2030. For now, the pilot pro-



BPS Director of Transportation Dan Rosengard makes a statement during a press conference announcing the addition of 20 new electric school buses to the Boston Public Schools' fleet.

Jesse Costa/WBUR photos

gram will serve around 2,500 children across 42 schools, including the Rafael Hernández Dual Language K-8 School in Roxbury and Mary E Curley School in Jamaica Plain

Boston currently has a fleet of 620 traditional buses that transport around 21,000 students on a daily basis.

"The routes are set. They're actually going to be traveling through basically every neighborhood of Boston," BPS Director of Transportation Dan Rosengard said of the electric buses. He added that routes were



One of the 20 new electric buses being added to the Boston Public Schools' bus fleet.

selected based on "servicing the economic justice neighborhoods within Boston" and finding routes that "make the

most sense, given traffic conditions."

The first 20 buses were purchased with \$7 million in COVID relief

funds. City officials said the cost per vehicle is around \$350,000, or three-times the price of a diesel bus. But they expect cost savings over the long run due to less maintenance.

The initiative comes in tandem with a new curriculum at Madison Park Technical Vocational High School that trains students on how to service electric vehicles.

"This will give our young people a head-start on the skills necessary to secure solid, well-paying jobs in a green economy," Wu said.

Improving ride reliability

The new buses are equipped with something called "regenerative braking," a technology that increases battery capacity. Rosengard, BPS' director of transportation, said it will take roughly three to four hours to fully charge the buses.

"One charge should be able to do a full day of routes," he said, "but we'll also be bringing them back to the yard in the middle of the day to do a top-off charge."

Boston is not the first district in Massachusetts to power students' commutes with electric buses. Beverly Public Schools was among the first districts in Massa-

chusetts to introduce the greener technology. Still, fewer than 1 percent of the nation's school buses are electric, a 2022 report found.

The electric bus pilot comes amid heavy scrutiny of Boston's existing school bus transportation infrastructure. Buses are frequently delayed, causing tardy arrivals to school. A recent audit of BPS transportation by an outside firm concluded that various school start times - and need to transport private and charter school students - contributes to the frustrating delays.

School officials said the new electric buses are "one piece of the puzzle" for improving on-time performance of BPS buses. New buses can feature technology upgrades that better capture bus ridership, they said.

BPS Superintendent Mary Skipper said the electric buses represent a new chapter for Boston students.

"This is truly exciting on so many levels," she said, calling the buses "a wonderful model, an example of what's to come in the future."

This article was first published by WBUR 90.9FM on Feb. 6. The Reporter and WBUR share content through a media partnership.





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Councillors team up in bid to rescue city's taxi industry

By Gintautas Dumcius Managing Editor

Ride-hailing companies like Uber and Lyft have settled into cities after burning through investor cash to subsidize customer rides at low prices and skirting local laws to establish their dominance. The convenience of hailing a vehicle with the swipe of a finger, rather than a wave in the street, has helped give Uber and Lyft the upper hand as the incumbent taxi industry, made up of small-business owners, has continued to struggle.

The issue has united two city councillors who have typically been at odds on other topics, Dorchester's Frank Baker and Jamaica Plain's Kendra Lara. The two are cosponsors of a hearing order, rolled out at last week's City Council meeting, with the recovery and revitalization of the taxi industry as its goal.

Lara said the hearing is meant to 'get the ball rolling on having conversations" about the future. Roughly 677 individuals own one to four "medallions," which are essentially operation permits overseen by a division within the Boston Police Department. Many of them come from immigrant families.

But as Uber and Lyft have continued to corner the market, according to Lara, the taxi industry has seen a lack of support, with 825 cab drivers "at an economic disadvantage and tied them to an investment that is likely to continue to lose strength."

Baker wants to offer regulatory relief to the drivers. "We can do our part to save this industry," Baker said.

"The city of Boston allowed the taxi industry to get crushed," he added. "We're still dealing with Uber and Lyft and figuring out how we build our city around their business model."

Before Uber and Lyft, a medallion could cost between \$400,000 and \$600,000 according to Baker. Now the



Jaqueline Sanches, Rep. Pressley's guest at President Biden's State of the Union speech on Tuesday.

city has thousands of medallions up for grabs, and one can be had for \$35,000, meaning medallion owners have lost equity that they worked hard for.

City Council President Ed Flynn and City Councillor At-Large Michael Flaherty both signed on in support and suggested pulling in unions as part of the eventual solution. Flaherty, a former Teamster, said Local 25 should be part of the discussions.

Councillor Kenzie Bok, who represents Back Bay and Fenway, agreed that the city "betrayed" the taxi drivers. "We said this was a regulated space you had to pay to enter and then we said, 'never mind,'" she said.

She noted that some medallion owners exploited their drivers, but most are small business owners. "I don't think we should give up on reforming

The hearing order was sent to the Council's planning, development and transportation committee, which is chaired by Baker. A hearing date has not yet been scheduled.

Mattapan woman is Pressley's guest at State of the Union

Jaqueline Sanches, a Mattapan resident and early educator, was Rep. Ayanna Pressley's guest at President Biden's "State of the Union" address. Lawmakers often invite guests to the "State of the Union" to make a political or policy point.

In the case of Sanches, Pressley sought to highlight needed investments in early education and care, through Head Start, paid leave, and higher wages for early educators. "Policies like these will allow folks like Jaqueline—an immigrant mother who has dedicated her life to caring for and educating our youngest children—to thrive," Pressley said in a statement Monday.

A Cape Verde native, Sanches is an Early Head Start teacher and has worked for nine years at the Dimock Center in Roxbury.

Lynch, Pressley reappointed to **Financial Services Committee**

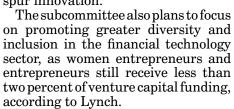
Stephen Lynch and Ayanna Pressley, who both represent Boston in Congress, are back on the House Financial Services Committee after the switch to Republican rule.

The results of the November election put the GOP at the top of House committees, with Democrats back in the minority. The top Republican is Patrick McHenry of North Carolina, while Maxine Waters of California is the ranking Democrat.

Lynch (D-South Boston) recently announced that he'll be the lead Democrat on a subcommittee focused on digital assets and financial technology, including the oversight of cryptocurrencies. Lynch said he aims to "ensure that continued developments in digital currencies, online payments, mobile investment applications, and other merging financial technologies are guided

by a regulatory framework that maximizes consumer protection while con-

tinuing to spur innovation."



Pressley (D-Hyde Park) is serving on the housing and insurance subcommittee and the financial institutions and monetary policy subcommittee.

She previously served as vice chair of the consumer protection and financial institutions subcommittee, focusing on predatory lending and reforming consumer credit reporting.

All-Star Effort

City Councillor Brian Worrell is making a push to bring the 2026 NBA All-Star game to Boston, which hasn't hosted the event since 1964. Worrell, who filed a request for a hearing, said the 2022 event generated \$248.9 million to Cleveland.

"With the Boston Celtics leading the league in breaking down racial barriers and paving the future for equity and civil rights, we have a tremendous opportunity to again showcase Boston on the national stage," he said. "The impact of this opportunity, both for fans and in regional economic impact is significant, which is why we as a City must address improvements needed to bolster the City's application standing to bring the 2026 NBA All-Star Weekend back to Boston.'

- SETH DANIEL

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Codman's free clinic helps Dot residents file taxes, find savings

By Izzy Bryars

Special to the Reporter As tax season returns, so does Codman Square Health Center's free tax clinic, which provides free tax preparation, filing and financial guidance to income-eligible Boston residents. The clinic—housed at 450 Washington St.—churns out 2,000 tax returns per season, and as many as 50-60 returns on a busy day.

"The hope is that everyone in the community deserves the same level of service as someone who's paying," said Jason Andrade, a Certified Financial Planner who has supervised the clinic for 15 years. Codman serves eligible individual residents and their dependents who earn under \$75,000 annually.

As participants walk into the clinic at 450 Washington St, a financial guide, like ten-year tax consultant Kiara Kerr, greets and prepares their required paperwork—such as a social security card and valid ID, W2s or 1099 forms, bank statements, and tax summaries for rideshare drivers.

"I come from a corporate background, so I know a lot and I have a lot of information to give," said Kerr. "I appreciate being able to give it to people [for whom] I know it really matters."

Another key part of the process, Kerr said, is the financial advice that participants receive from volunteers as they prepare documents and review their credit scores.

"If they need help with



From left to right, tax clinic coordinator, Jonathan Georges, supervisor Jason Andrade, financial guide Gladys Durham, and lead financial guide Kiara Kerr are shown at the Codman Square Health Center tax clinic's opening night on Feb. 6.

Izzy Bryars photo

assistance, immigration, legal services, we can, as a guide, after seeing their situation and doing their check-in, we can push them to get other resources around," she said.

After the volunteers finish filing, it usually takes 24-48 for it to process, after which they will contact participants with any questions or follow up.

Volunteering at Codman serves not only as a way to give back to the community, but also to connect with it. Ellen Chace, a retired electronic engineer, started volunteering at the clinic in 2013

"I always did my own taxes, but I didn't have

a tax background," she said. "It gets me out during the winter."

For first year financial guide and Dorchester resident Gladys Durham, getting certified as a volunteer is not only a chance to give back but also a learning experience of her own.

"I thought I knew a lot, but I learned a lot too," Durham said while referring to the required credit building workshop volunteers take. "So, all of that knowledge that I received in that class, I'm now able to, one, use it for myself and use it for my kids. I just wanted something to give back to my community and that sounded like something

right up my alley."

The clinic specializes in helping lower-income earners realize tax credits, which can be as much as \$14,000 per year for some filers.

"That's alot of money," said Andrade. "So, this program is meaningful to me because we're helping people who are working really hard from diverse backgrounds, where there's a lot of

predatory services out there that charge a lot for tax services, and what we hope is we're helping those people save money, and can keep more money in their pocket."

Codman provides the tax clinic as one of many resources they offer to address social determinants of health, according to Christine Leccese, Codman's Communications Director.

"And one of those is financial stability," she said. "We're a health center, but we offer a lot more than doctors. Stability is very important to someone's overall health. You know, they don't have enough money, then they don't have enough money to buy healthy food and to have stable housing and so on."

Andrade, a Dot native of Cape Verdean descent, echoed how his involvement with the clinic has brought him closer to his hometown in unexpected ways.

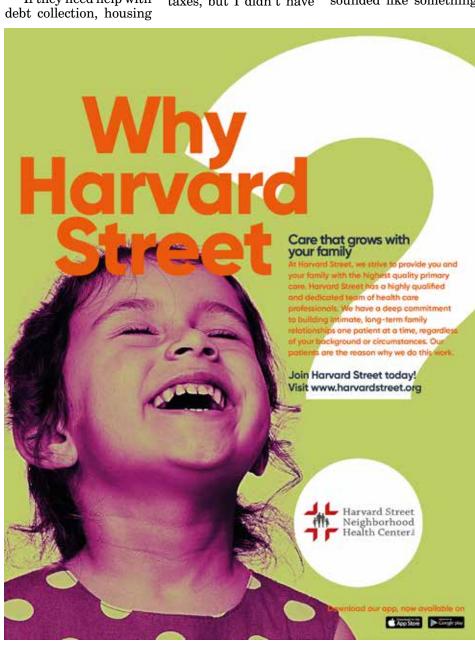
"People are so grateful about you doing it and what's cool for me is I don't live in Dorchester anymore, but if I'm in the Dorchester community, sometimes people will see me and be like, 'You're the tax guy. You did my taxes."

Qualifying residents looking to file their taxes as well as anyone interested in volunteering can walk in during operating hours and learn more about offered services and opportunities. The Washington St. clinic location is open Monday and Tuesdays from 4 p.m.-8 p.m. and Saturdays from 9am-1pm. For more information on documentation necessary to receive free tax prep, visit codman.org.

AllofUs

Mass General Brigham

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Mildred Avenue center launches new senior program

By Seth Daniel **News Editor**

Mattapan senior citizens have always been active and on the move, but starting this week they won't have to look far to find a high-quality program geared towards their age group.

The Mildred Avenue Community Center debuted a renovated and repurposed space in their facility, which is connected to the Mildred Avenue School, last week to a host of local senior citizens. This week they expect to begin a full slate of programming.

"Just think about having a place to go from 9:30 to 1:30 p.m. on a Tuesday or Thursday when you don't want to stay home and watch Maury Povich or Jerry Springer, but you want to get out and socialize,' said Mattapan's Barbara Crichlow, who has helped lead the effort to start the program. "The program will be a safe space to go and a place you'll enjoy going to...I have friends that go all the way to the Kroc Center (in Uphams Corner) for the pool, or to Geneva Avenue for



Jeff Jackson, Mildred Avenue Community Center director, gives several Mattapan senior citizens a tour on Jan. 31 of the podcasting/flex space room that will be part of the new Mattapan senior program.

various activities, or even to the Y in Roxbury. Now we'll have a center in our own neighborhood, and we don't have to go somewhere else."

BostonCenterforYouth and Families (BCYF) director Marta Rivera and Mildred Director Jeff Jackson walked the seniors through the repurposed facility on Jan.

LEGAL NOTICES

AVI ODYANS PIBLIK

Otorite Redevlopman Boston [Boston Redevelopment Authority d/b/a Boston

Planning & Development Agency ("BPDA"), dapre Seksyon 87-10.4(a) Kòd Zonaj

Boston ("Kòd la"), bay yon avi ke li pral òganize yon pwogram Odyans Piblik Vityèl

nan Jedi 16 Fevriye 2023 nan 6:00 p.m., ki televize sou Boston City TV (Xfinity

31 and announced the program would operate from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. with a lunch component. Mattapan has several adult daycare programs that require one to qualify financially, and it has some senior programming, but the BCYF did not have a drop-in program in the neighborhood for seniors



Mattapan resident Barbara Crichlow said they have been trying to put together a Mattapan senior citizen program for more than a year because the neighborhood doesn't have one. Many seniors in the neighborhood travel to other areas to access programming. Seth Daniel photos

until Crichlow and the late Thelma Burns began advocating in 2021. A first meeting occurred on Dec. 8, and there was unanimous approval for the idea. Seniors listed programming like computer training, exercise, a lunch component, knitting classes, and more opportunities to socialize.

Jackson walked about 40 senior citizens through the facility on Jan. 31 and showed them a computer room where they can get training on how

to access their medical patient portals and use a specialized printer to design and make their own greeting cards – an immediate hit with those on the tour. Other rooms included flex space for relaxing and meditating, a karaoke lounge for dance parties, a games room with virtual bowling, and larger spaces for guest speakers – perhaps even a senior movie night.

There was even a podcast facility that had some seniors thinking about starting their own shows, while other seniors were smitten by the chance to sing 'Baby Love' at the karaoke lounge.

All in all, it was well-received by all who attended, including representatives from the two veterans' posts in Mattapan – the Carter and the Ramsay/Toy Posts.

Councillor Erin Murphy said she wanted to make sure the space continued to be operated for seniors even if the school suddenly needed more room.

"When the Murphy School (in Dorchester) wanted to go K-8 several years ago, they needed science labs and those that got moved out were our seniors," she said. "It's always a decision between the school and the community center... We have to be able to trust it will stay here. Too often around the city you see the senior space goes first when there's a school need."

Jackson said the space at the Mildred is dedicated to the community center and cannot be used by the school.

"We won't have that issue here," he said.

Councillor Julia Mejia said she would like to see programming that included resources on education and parenting for the many grandparents who are raising their grandchildren - a need that Raia Warfield of the Suffolk County Family Resource Center said she was interested in providing to the Mildred seniors.

Additionally, Mejia said the new space could be an opportunity for innovation.

"I'd love to see some workforce development added into the programming here," she said.
"There are a lot of seniors who might be retired, but they tell me all the time they're not done. Many of them still have great ideas and may be interested in entrepreneurship and a side business. It would be nice for this space to offer them a 'side hustle' opportunity.

Crichlow told the Reporter that the official start date ended up being Feb. 7 and the program will continue every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for now. Some tentative upcoming special programming will include a Valentine's Day Social on Feb. 14, a Black History Trivia Challenge on Feb. 23, and a Boston Fire Department Safety Presentation on March 2.

All programming is free of charge, and Jackson said he envisioned an 8- to 12-week rotation of programming that would change seasonally. Parking is available on the side and in the back of the Mildred Avenue Community Center.

Kanal 24, RCN Kanal 13, ak Verizon Fios Kanal 962) epi difize an dirèk sou boston. gov, pou konsidere Olmsted Village Smart pwopoze a. Plan Devlopman Kwasans "Plan Devlopman an"), nan Distri Olmsted Green Smart Growth Overlay, Olmsted Village Master Developer, LLC ("Pwopozan an") pwopoze, epi ki gen rapò ak pwojè Vilaj Olmsted nan katye Mattapan nan Boston ("Pwojè Pwopoze a"). Pwojè ki pwopoze a planifye pou re-devlopman yon pasèl apeprè 10 kawotè sou ansyen pwopriyete Lopital Eta Boston ("Sit Pwojè a"). Pwojè ki pwopoze a gen ladan sis nouvo bilding nan twa kominote lojman diferan: (1) yon bilding sis etaj ki gen apeprè 127 apatman lojman abòdab pou granmoun aje ak yon sant kominotè ak yon sant gadri nan sousòl la; (2) yon bilding kat etaj ki gen apeprè 60 apatman abòdab ant jenerasyon; (3) yon bilding kat etaj ki gen apeprè 43 apatman fanmi ki gen revni melanje pou pwopriyetè kay (Russell House); (4) de bilding twa etaj ki gen apeprè uit apatman fanmi pwopriyetè kay yo ki nan to mache a; epi (5) yon bilding kat etaj ki gen apeprè 31 apatman fanmi ki gen revni melanje pou pwopriyetè kay ki anfas Harvard Street. An total, bilding sa yo genyen apeprè 343,000 nan sipèfisi etaj brit (GFA). Manm piblik la ka patisipe nan Odyans Piblik sa a lè yo enskri nan https://bit.ly/BPDAFebBoard. Ou ka wè Pwojè Pwopoze a nan lyen sa a: https://bit. ly/3HNiYpWTeresa Polhemus, Direktè Egzekitif/Sekretè

NOTIFICACIÓN DE AUDIENCIA PÚBLICA

La Autoridad de Redesarrollo de Boston, conocida como la Agencia de Planificación y Desarrollo de Boston (BPDA por sus siglas en inglés), según la Sección 87-10.4(a) del Código de Zonificación de Boston ("Código"), por la presente notifica que realizará una Audiencia Pública virtual el jueves, 16 de febrero de 2023 a las 6:00 p.m., transmitida por televisión por Boston City TV (Canal 24 de Xfinity, Canal 13 de RCN, y Canal 962 de Verizon Fios) y en vivo en boston. gov, para considerar la propuesta del Plan de Desarrollo y Crecimiento Inteligente de Olmsted Village ("el Plan de Desarrollo"), dentro del Distrito Superpuesto de Crecimiento Inteligente de Olmsted Green, propuesto por Olmsted Village Master Developer, LLC (el "Proponente"), y relacionado con el proyecto Olmsted Village en el vecindario de Mattapan de Boston (el "Proyecto Propuesto"). El Proyecto Propuesto planea redesarrollar una parcela de aproximadamente 10 acres en la propiedad del ex Boston State Hospital (el "Lugar del Proyecto"). El Proyecto Propuesto consiste en seis nuevos edificios en tres comunidades diferentes de vivienda: 1) un edificio de seis pisos que contiene aproximadamente 127 apartamentos asequibles para ancianos con un centro comunitario y guardería en la planta baja; 2) un edificio de cuatro pisos que contiene aproximadamente 60 apartamentos intergeneracionales asequibles; 3) un edificio de cuatro pisos que contiene aproximadamente 43 apartamentos para familias propietarias con ingresos mixtos (Russell House); 4) dos edificios de tres pisos que contienen aproximadamente ocho apartamentos para familias propietarias según la tasa del mercado: v 6) un edificio de cuatro pisos que contiene aproximadamente 31 apartamentos para familias de ingresos mixtos con el frente hacia Harvard Street. En total, estos edificios alcanzan aproximadamente 343,000 en la superficie bruta del piso (GFA por sus siglas en inglés). Los miembros del público pueden participar en esta Audiencia Pública si se registran en https://bit.ly/BPDAFebBoard. El Proyecto Propuesto puede ser visto en el siguiente enlace: https://bit.ly/3HNiYpW

Teresa Polhemus, Directora Ejecutiva/Secretaria

LEGAL NOTICES

MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
SUFFOLK DIVISION
24 NEW CHARDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
Docket No. SU22D2009DR DIVORCE SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION and MAILING **CLAUDIO De BARROS SOARES** GOMES

COMMONWEALTH OF

LUCELINA DaGRACA GOMES

The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown. The Complaint is on file at the Court. Ar Automatic Restraining Order has beer entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon: Claudio De Barros Soares Gomes, 124 Adams St., Apt. 2 Boston, MA 02122 your answer, if any on or before 03/20/2023. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.

Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First

Justice of this Court.
Date: January 20, 2023

Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate Published: February 9, 2023

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT SUFFOLK DIVISION
24 NEW CHARDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
Docket No. SU22D1090DR
DIVORCE SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION and MAILING EYAN BRUCE

vs. DOREEN BRUCE

To the Defendant:
The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Break Court The Complaint is on file at the Court An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing ou from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon: Sheryl Furnari, Esq., Baystate Law Group P.L.L.C., 1359 Hancock St., Suite 7, Quincy, MA 02169 your answer, if any, on or before 03/23/2023. If you fail to do so, the court vill proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court. Witness, HON. BRIANJ. DUNN, First

Justice of this Court.
Date: January 10, 2023

Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate Published: February 9, 2023

Reporter's People in and around our Neighborhoods

AT&T surprises Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston (BGCB) teen members with 250 laptops at teen career fair



Boston Chief of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion Segun Idowu addresses the hundreds of Ready to Work program teens during the BGCB Teen Career Fair

Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston (BGCB), the city's largest youth-serving nonprofit organization, partnered with AT&T to host its Teen Career Fair, an event to promote and ensure digital access among local families, while giving teens a head start on preparing for their futures.

The event took place on Feb. 2 at the Berkshire Partners Blue Hill Boys & Girls Club in Dorchester.

Dot resident Excels at Springfield College

Springfield College has named Jarrad Coyne of Dorchester to the dean's list for academic excellence in the 2022 fall semester. He has a primary major of Sport Management.



From L-R: AT&T New England VPGM Emily Wiper, AT&T Atlantic Region President John Emra, BGCB Nicholas President and CEO Robert Lewis Jr., and State Representative Russell E. Holmes.

Matt Stone photos

Some 140 teens in the BGCB's Ready to Work program received hands on mentorship through Q&As, mock interviews and workshops about career and college readiness from professionals across

multiple industries. At the end of the event, each teen was surprised with one of 250 laptops being donated to the BGCB by AT&T.

Boston Chief of Economic Opportunity and

Inclusion Segun Idowu joined BGCB Nicholas President and CEO Robert Lewis Jr. and AT&T Atlantic Region President John Emra to address the teens at the beginning of the event.

The Ready to Work program teens also participated in job booths from a wide range of industries, from sales, marketing and media relations to government, law and more.

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<u>Editorial</u>

New firehouse to occupy historic spot



Lyceum Hall as seen before its demolition in the 1950s.

Dorchester Historical Society image

On Monday, officials from across the city of Boston—including Mayor Wu and the Commissioner of the Boston Fire Department Paul Burke—gathered on what has long been a vacant lot atop Meetinghouse Hill as work begins in earnest to build a new stationhouse for Engine 17. The soil which the elected officials turned with their ceremonial shovels has a fascinating history in the local context.

On this corner lot once stood Lyceum Hall, which was built for public use in 1838 when Dorchester was not a neighborhood, but an independent town, and Martin Van Buren was the president of the United States. Its purpose, at first, was to house the assemblies of the town meeting, Dorchester's form of local government from its Puritan origins in the 1630s until annexation to Boston in 1870.

Once dedicated in 1840, the Greek-Revival-styled hall housed gatherings and lectures on "subjects of common interest," according to town historian William Dana Orcutt.

"The idea of having popular lectures was just receiving recognition at this time, and thus Lyceum Hall became a potent factor in educating the minds of the community, and influencing their political opinion," Orcutt writes in his definitive chronicle, "Good Old Dorchester," published in 1893. Among the lecturers who held court: William Lloyd Garrison and others who "caused much excitement in advocating for the abolition of slavery."

When a confederacy of southern white supremacists compelled their states to break away from the Union in 1861, Lyceum Hall became a center of recruitment for some of the Massachusetts regiments that would march south to subdue the seccessionists and restore order. When the triumphant soldiers who survived the battlefields and hospital tents returned home, it was no doubt in Lyceum Hall that their sacrifices were hailed in speech and performances.

Orcutt lamented: "When the town was annexed to Boston the building lost some of its historical fame, being brought into competition with Faneuil Hall and other celebrated antiquities; but it will always remain the same to the old residents of the town."

Alas, that was not quite the resolution. After annexation, custody of the building was eventually passed onto the city of Boston. It would later house a primary school and, in the 20th century, it deteriorated past the point of salvage. It was demolished in 1955.

After laying fallow in more recent decades, the Lyceum lot served a useful purpose again in the 2000s when it served as a temporary home for the steeple top of the First Parish Church, which needed to be lowered and repaired. It was swung back into place in 2013.

For some, the next chapter for this little corner of Dorchester's historic town center will likely prove to be its most useful yet. The men and women deployed from Engine 17's rigs will surely save life, limb and property for years to come from the new stationhouse. A public good, once again.

— Bill Forry

The Reporter

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Commentary

It's time to return to an Elected School Committee— immediately

By Mukiya Baker-Gomez

It is now February 2023 and since 1991, Boston has been the only municipality of 351 without an elected School Committee.

In 2021, Boston voters sent a resounding message that the 30-year experiment is over when they overwhelmingly voted "yes" to return to an elected school body. Even the most optimistic proponent could not have imagined that this question would mark the first time in Boston's storied political history, where a ballot question would win in every ward and precinct in the city's sprawling, diverse citizenry. Boston voters said loud and clear: bring back an elected school committee.

As a lifelong Boston resident, I have lived through it all. I was a student of busing. I am a mother, who like others, struggled to find the world class educational experience for my children.

As a student of Boston politics, I watched the turmoil, disruptive school committee meetings, racial strife and watched as the education interests of Boston's children got sidelined. Ironically, I believed that BPS was just beginning to settle down in 1990 with the addition of the late John D. O'Bryant, Juanita Wade and Dr. Jean McGuire. The Boston School Committee actually began to look representative of the children who attended BPS. Clearly what excited me obviously concerned others; because it was at the very time Black and Latinos began to reach parity in the only elective body to demonstrate such at the time. Others thought it better not to have the ability to elect the Boston School Committee.

Mayor Flynn moved in 1991 to secure the support of the Boston City Council, the state legislature and the signature of the governor and with that, the forward progress was over. Sold on the argument that appointing the committee would bring calm, stability, focus on student achievement and place

The voters in Boston should have the opportunity to vote for representation on the Boston School Committee this fall in the municipal elections.

accountability in one person, the Mayor.

Instead, Boston public schools have existed in a constant state of turmoil, widening racial achievement gaps, turnover in district leadership, dilapidated buildings, low teacher morale, decreased parent and community engagement and culminated in a near state-takeover in receivership in 2022. It's time to move on from the 30-year failed experiment.

I learned the importance and value of meaningful protests and activism and felt absolute pride in what I had learned, which became the foundation of my life's work to grow our community's political empowerment and strengthen our democracy. While we rightfully celebrate the political advancements achieved in Boston in 2021 (which most recently delivered the most diverse Boston City Council ever), the reality is that the 1991 elected Boston School Committee was a forerunner in the City's diversity as it had as many elected members of color 30 years ago.

The Boston City Council is expected to get a home rule petition on the Mayor's desk shortly. Mayor Wu must sign and forward it to the legislature without delay. The voters in Boston should have the opportunity to vote for representation on the Boston School Committee this Fall in the municipal elections. To do anything less will amount to a blatant disregard of Boston's voters. Change cannot wait any longer. We need real political leadership on this matter. Now!

Mukiya Baker-Gomez Is a life-long Boston resident, BPS graduate and mother, who lives in Hyde Park.

Let's just abolish the School Committee

By Ellen Guiney Special to the Reporter

The definition of insanity, the saying goes, is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result. In Boston, we've tried both electing and appointing a school committee. Neither got good results for the city's students. It is time to abolish outdated, ineffective oversight of our schools.

The moment is ripe for radical change: make the schools a city department with the superintendent a department head answering solely to the mayor and the mayor answering to the voters.

Proponents of returning to an elected committee make two main arguments: We must return accountability to voters and parents and we must restore democracy. Past committees, both appointed and elected, have not been held accountable. Not only did an elected committee defy a state law to integrate the schools and continue to be elected, but its more diverse, better-intentioned successors elected after the 1983 city charter change failed as well if one uses student outcomes and evidence of learning as a measure.

Here is the record: Under the appointed committees, only two members have ever lost their seats, and then only because they made disparaging comments about parents. Among the elected committees in the last fifty years, only two incumbents have been defeated: one who turned in needed qualifying signatures in alphabetical order in the same handwriting, and one who was defeated by an opponent who sided with the racist majority at that time. Despite failing schools, historically, members are always re-elected.

I write as a Boston resident who closely watches the schools and as a former BPS parent and director of the Citywide Education Coalition (CWEC). In the '80s, CWEC staff attended almost every Boston School Committee meeting. We chronicled the incoherence created by parochial interests, the lack of attention to student learning and progress, and the frequent absurd antics and posturing of members. Chronic education problems – poor student outcomes, the disparity in achievement by race and other factors, the high school graduation rate – were rarely, if ever, discussed. Meeting time – which CWEC clocked precisely — was largely spent on pet issues of members or on personnel issues. It is difficult

to make the case that accountability to voters and parents was or ever will be achieved with a large committee representing different constituencies in the city or even a small one elected city-wide.

The other issue raised to support an elected committee is democracy. Why shouldn't Bostonians like the rest of the state — be able to vote for a committee that oversees their schools? The answer is nearly the same: because the rest of the state's school districts, with a few exceptions, do not have the same record of failure over half a century that Boston does. The democracy argument implies that diverse, representative voices having a seat at the decision-making table will ensure excellent education. There is no evidence from anywhere in the country, let alone Boston, that electing school committees ensures excellent education. thinking subordinates the well-being of the city's children to an ideal of electing representatives to every responsible city position.

Let's not go back to what has not worked before: diffusing power between the mayor and an independent committee, whether elected or appointed. The moment is ripe for radical change: make the schools a city department with the superintendent a department head answering solely to the mayor and the mayor answering to the voters. Establish a standing committee of parents (chosen by parents), teachers, and others with whom the mayor and superintendent meet monthly.

With a strong mayoral system, there would be at last a chance for accountability. It makes no sense for the mayor to not control the largest item in the city's budget — \$1.4 billion this year – especially since the City Council has budgetary power and exists as a check to the mayor.

It also makes no sense to have a free-standing bureaucracy that operates independently from the departments responsible for the well-being of the city's children: libraries, parks, health, police, housing, youth services, children and families, even planning and development. Making the schools a city department would bring coordination and create a whole greater than the sum of its parts. Vesting the responsibility in a single person who might actually be responsible -- the mayor -- is overdue. We cannot have a city with equitable opportunity for all without great schools, and we cannot have great schools with unaccountable governance.

Ellen Guiney is the former director and current board member of Boston Plan for Excellence (BPE). The views expressed in this article are her own and are not intended to represent the views of the organization or other board members.

Commentary

Linkage fee hike can be key to affordable homes

By Symone Crawford

If you are a renter or a homebuyer struggling to stay in Boston where the average rent for a 1-bedroom apartment is over \$3,000 and starter homes are out of reach for all but the most affluent, the last thing you need is for new lab space to make the situation worse. This is especially true for Black, Latinx, and Asian renters whose household incomes are roughly one third the incomes of White renters. Lab and life sciences development can be a benefit to all, but it must come with new private sector Linkage resources to offset its potentially destabilizing effects.

Linkage is a very targeted Development Impact Fee designed specifically to help fund affordable housing and job training. Our government must strengthen the policy to ensure that it more adequately addresses housing costs directly attributable to projected commercial development and enables our neighbors to train for family sustaining jobs. Without the right housing and job training supports, our residents won't get the high paying jobs coming to our neighborhoods. Instead, we will see increased housing competition force more of us out of the city.

A recent study commissioned by the Boston Planning and Development Agency quantifies the effect of future commercial development on Boston's affordable housing and job training needs. It concludes that a Linkage fee of \$80.20 per square foot (sf) would be required to offset added government housing costs. According to the same study, an additional \$4.19 to \$5.32 would be needed to fund job training programs to prepare our community members for promising careers in new labs and other newly constructed work spaces. Mayor Wu is asking the development community to bear about one third of that cost through a new Linkage fee of \$30.78/sf for research and development labs, and a fee of \$23.09/sf for other commercial buildings.

Instead of agreeing to increase their commitment to alleviate the undesirable impacts of their projects, developers and their lobbyists are falsely claiming that these Linkage adjustments will sink all development in the city. They have sought to sow doubt by raising questions as to whether the modest increases Mayor Wu has proposed would cause developers to go elsewhere, but they have not publicly presented evidence that these fees would be a significant factor in location decisions or the viability of projects. The BPDA study shows that the facts are squarely on the side of the mayor's proposal.

The proposed changes are an important step toward a more appropriate development policy. We believe additional action should be taken to further strengthen the policy. As it stands now, long-term development projects scheduled to be built over 20 or 30 years can lock in their linkage rates when the initial proposal is filed. This will result in some of our largest developments paying Linkage fees that are years or even decades out of date. Eliminating this loophole would level the playing field for developers and allow Linkage payments to adjust as market conditions change over time.

We have the ability to ensure that our residents – including our Black, Latinx, and Asian neighbors – benefit from new industry coming to Boston. It's time for Linkage to do more of what it was designed to do - mitigate the increased housing pressure and displacement of low- and moderate-income residents caused by large-scale commercial development, and train people for better jobs in new buildings. We urge the Boston Planning and Development Agency and the Zoning Commission to immediately adopt Mayor Wu's modest proposal, and we hope our elected leaders will continue to update Linkage as market conditions change.

Symone Crawford is the executive director of the Dorchester-based Massachusetts Affordable Housing Alliance.

Letters to the Editor

Trinity project can improve flow on Centre Street

To the Editor:

I'm writing in support of the Trinity Financial development proposed for 150 Centre St. I live .2 miles from the site.

I'm writing this letter from the comfort of my home, same as I'm sure practically all if not every of my neighbors who oppose this project write from theirs. I'd prefer to see as many future neighbors as possible at 150 Centre St. get the chance to benefit from home ownership as we all have - we'd all be better for it.

It's indisputable. Boston needs more housing. Project opponents' objections seem to be for one of three reasons: size, aesthetics, and traffic.

In the Reporter from 11/24/21, I see their recommended project size is roughly 30 units. That was tried by developer Travis Lee with 26 units, but rent couldn't cover the land and building costs. More units are necessary to make a financially viable project. Despite that, in negotiations, Trinity has come down from the 91 units originally proposed to 74.

Aesthetically, while it's important to know and respect our history, it's also important to not get locked in place with limited older housing stock driving up prices. Look anywhere in the city for buildings of different ages built for different purposes sitting side by side and together making sense in

today's Boston.

Traffic is very concerning. Centre Street is narrow and best avoided at certain times of day. The intersection at Allston is particularly cramped. The yellow center lines don't even line up on Centre when you look down it. Often, cooperative driving is necessary where drivers have to pull over to let others pass. I think this project would be a terrific opportunity to improve traffic flow in the area. I'm particularly interested in seeing Centre Street become a one-way emptying out onto Dot Ave as it already does for a block as Centre Ave.

Trinity is a local developer which has done good work in Ashmont developing both the Carruth and Treadmark buildings. Their plans often strike me as not only about money but community driven. In this case, they are going well over the affordable housing ratio of 13 percent required by the city and offering 45 units as affordable or 61 percent. I feel Trinity recognizes 150 Centre isn't on Dot Ave like its nearby recent developments, and it can thread the needle fitting the building they propose with care into the surrounding neighborhood.

When wrestling with the question of helping ourselves or helping others, too often we can forget helping others is helping ourselves. Opponents' opposition concerns pale in comparison when stacked

up against the desire of potential neighbors to simply be homeowners. The Reporter from 11/24/21 paraphrases one abutter opponent as saying, "... this project helps no one but the developer." Reading that, I have a hard time believing this opponent was thinking about anything other than himself because clearly potential home buyers stand to benefit tremendously from this project.

Most opponents are long-time residents, and there's much to learn from them. That said, they bought at a time when buying was simply put much more possible. How many of them without the good fortune of being born as little as one decade before their potential neighbors would be on the opposite side of this debate?

– Mike Ritter

Neighbors want Epiphany school to control Shawmut site

To the Editor:

I've known Mike Prokosch for over 50 years, and have tremendous respect for his contributions to the Dorchester community over many of those years, so I want to take his question seriously: what is the character of the Melville Park community, where the proposed Fitzpatrick Motors development is located. In a few words, it is a community with a preponderance of Victorian architecture with lots of trees and gardens surrounding the houses. It is very diverse in race, gender, and sexual orientation, and even to a lesser extent in income.

I live on Lyndhurst Street, with home for single mothers directly across from me, a double three-decker (that is, a 6-unit house, now condominiums) next door, and a large single-family house now converted into multiple apartments diagonally across. None of these threaten the neighborhood character because they blend in architecturally and have gardens.

Mike has taken five pictures of nearly all the different-looking buildings in the neighborhood. Two of them are schools, which no one expects to look like houses (and the Epiphany School is shot at an odd angle, it is much more attractive than that). Fitzpatrick Bros. and the small brick building on Clementine Park are old commercial buildings in an attractive school; and the latter has a beautiful mural on the side and a lovely garden in the summer. The apartment building on Melbourne Street is ugly, and what we are trying to avoid.

Anyway, the issue is not housing. The community supports development of housing on the site by the Epiphany School, but does not trust the intentions of Trinity Financial. Perhaps Trinity should sell its interest to the school, so that this project could move forward.

Dot Ave is proper place for larger developments

To the Editor:

As is often the case, hindsight is better than foresight. I wish the neighbors proximal to Shawmut Station could have met to develop a shared vision of development. I would predict we would agree on the values of increasing affordable housing and reducing global warming - summarized succinctly by my neighbor as "people, good; cars, bad."

Myself, I would have loved to see a solar village of 8 or so 1 to 3 family homes – affordable obviously – sharing solar resources, giving pride of ownership, and providing a premier vision of Mayor Wu's Green New Deal. The juices start to flow; could it be linked to other green living resources? (Little known fact-the Shawmut Gardens are a medicinal garden – after winter come to the Saturday morning clean-ups to learn more). But then again, as a gerontologist, my mind also goes to cutting edge senior housing and services to "age-in-place" on the red line. I could keep going and I would love to have heard my neighbors' visions. "You live in Dorchester, you throw a stone, you hit a community activist." It seems everyone here is involved in a non-profit and has great ideas for enhancing the community.

Alas, now we are stuck responding to a 400-page proposal and taking sides, with those who worry about impact being called NIMBY-ish names. Count me as one of the people worried about traffic and parking – but please don't read that as being pro traffic, parking, or cars and against people "in my backyard." I would love to T to work, walk to the grocery, and not have lost countless hours in parental chauffeuring (although it is the best time to

learn about teen life). Taking the T to work would double my commute time with transfers. Getting the weekly groceries would require a very large push-cart and good all-weather clothes to haul the groceries a mile from Lamberts and beyond. I'm sure someone could point to other solutions for the parental chauffeuring and other trips. But now my mom hackles are getting raised. It's okay to ask for more from working parents as long as you don't value a person's (usually a woman's) time.

I admit it: I own a (hybrid!) car and I drive. And alas, I get stuck on Centre and Allston – the intersection of the proposed project. It is two-way traffic with one lane of travel, a Dorchester oddity which still frustrates my Midwest sensibilities, while I like the "let me wave you on" friendliness it can imbue. That is my lived experience; please keep your NIMBY in your pocket.

The proposed building - 74 units, 100-200 people, no in-house amenities, narrow not-Dot Ave streets - seems unlikely it will have the "zero" impact on traffic which Trinity insists upon given the cars we still sometimes need and the ever-increasing deliveries we now receive. Moreover, it feels like a missed opportunity for creating a radically innovative and community unifying asset that achieves the goals of affordable housing and transportation equity, while leading on the "Green new-deal" right here in good old Dorchester. Trinity's project at Ashmont was innovative at the time, but I don't agree we should duplicate it here. Can we innovate 2.0 for Shawmut?

- Jenny Moye Mather Street, Dorchester

-John Berg Lyndhurst Street

Report: Federal funding drove spike in rental assistance

By Izzy Bryars SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Metro Housing Boston provided more than \$162 million through its Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) program in 2022, with almost half of funds going to rental arrears assistance and over a third of total Boston-targeted grants going to Dorchester households, according to a report released by the agency last week.

The surge in demand for rental assistance— much of it due to COVID-related impacts— is evident in the "unprecedented" increase in RAFT distributions, which increased by \$100 million in 2022 compared to 2021. Much of the funding was supplied by new federal programs, which were largely added as post-COVID relief for 2021-2022.

Metro Housing facilitated RAFT assistance to 18,317 households across 14 Boston neighborhoods and 31 surrounding communities during FY '22, in comparison to the 10,251 families who saw a total of \$63 million of assistance throughout FY21.

Steven Farrell, Metro Housing's COO, said the agency went to great lengths to ensure that assistance was available to as many people as possible with prolonged stability issues caused by the pandemic. To do so, they raised the income level eligibility from the previous benchmark of 50 percent area median income (AMI) to 80 percent AMI. They majority of funds still went to folks below



Staff and volunteers at Metro Housing Boston assist residents with their RAFT applications for emergency rental assistance at in person workshops last year. Applications are available online and more information is available through resourceline@ metrohousingboston.org, or by calling 617-425-6700. V2 Visuals photo

50 percent AMI, he said.

"I think it's the fact that 92 percent of the funds went below 50 percent AMI suggests that the original or the older income levels are the right places to focus on," Farrell said.

One of the people who received RAFT assistance is Ayanna, a Dorchester resident and mother of three, who spoke to the Reporter about her experience, but asked that her surname not be published. She recalled the difficulty of first applying for assistance during the pandemic, citing long wait times over the phone and finicky income guidelines that ultimately didn't approve her application.

"I remember one time I was like the 50th call in the queue. And then I ended up at 10th and then it just hung up," she said.

Metro Housing centralized its application process in Sept. 2021 and saw an increase in applicants. Ayanna received housing assistance for FY22 and found the new application process much more user-friend-

"They have a really good computer system," she said. "It updates you with all the information if they need something, they will just push it through to the computer system. Or they will call you personally.'

She also gave advice to any incoming RAFT applicants and residents thinking about applying, saying: "Look it up and try to apply for it and don't think you make that much because vou never know."

She also explained how important it is to ensure all necessary documents are uploaded to the application website, including needed forms that landlords must enter into the system.

"Just be patient with the process," she said. "All they want to do is just try and move along as quickly as possible. And if they're holding it up, it's only because you didn't provide something so just make sure you provide all the right information the first time and it'll be easy."

Of the \$73 million in aid provided to Boston neighborhoods alone in 2022, over a third of funds went to Dorchester residents-around \$25 million.

This was partly made possible, Farrell said, because of community organizations Metro Housing partnered with to ensure that as many people as possible were referred to RAFT and got assistance.

One of those organizations was VietAID, an initiative for the Vietnamese community in Fields Corner. George Huyhn, the group's newly appointed executive director of VietAID, said they helped over 100 households in Dorchester connect to RAFT services last year.

"From my lens you know, just in housing in general, as interest rates continue to rise and home values, and estates. you know, more or less steady at historical highs, homeownership is still a luxury," Huyhn said. "And, of course the city of Boston and local CDCs have been working in tandem to provide more affordable housing."

Further, Huyhn and VietAID hope to continue helping workers and families at financial risk by working with Metro Housing and more recently, drafting a report of their own about protections for workers in the nail salon industry.

"Most of our clients are Vietnamese and Vietnamese speaking and they need help with language access and navigating these systems that are kind of inaccessible to them," Huyhn said. "We've been around for some time, and I'm just excited to continue the work to reform and serve our immigrant communities as Fields Corner is quite diverse."

Farrell says the agency is presently working to ensure that ample federal funding will stay intact to continue helping vulnerable households.

"A year from now there'll probably be conclusions about the drawdown of the federal funds: when those zeroed out, how did that impact RAFT? And those are conversations we're having with the state, with [the Dept. of Housing and Community Development] and with legislators as well, because we don't want this resource to dry up and then leave people who previously knew about this as an option for them when they were housing unstable to suddenly have no resource at all. That's the conversation. Those are conversations we're having with DHCD and elected officials now."

If you or someone you know is in need of housing assistance, consider applying to RAFT through Metro Housing Boston at metrohousingboston.org.





City breaks ground on new Meetinghouse Hill fire station

(Continued from page 1) our firefighters in the extreme cold that we all experienced," she said. "Firefighters made 1,834 runs over the weekend in calls for service. Our firefighters responded to everything from burst pipes to everything in between. In our community's greatest time of need, they were there. This building will deliver them the supports and resources they deserve."

Mayor Wu also detailed a public art project that will adorn the tower of the new station – a mural that will be community centered and will depict the relationship between $the\,neighborhood\,and\,the$ fire house. She noted that she inherited a lot of hard work from neighbors and the Walsh administration, which took the project from inception to design.

Fire Commissioner Paul Burke said the existing station house next door opened in 1928.

"I think we can all agree on two things - the old firehouse has served the community well in its time, but it is also time for something new," he said. "That station became part of the neighborhood and served the community as a place to have bicycle's repaired, to put air in a basketball and they even used to give haircuts."

He said the new building will serve people in a new way - but not necessarily by giving haircuts.

"I'm not sure is having scissors close to a child's head is the best idea anymore," he laughed.

Commissioner Burke noted Meetinghouse Hill is known as a firehouse with some of the most talented firefighters who often have to attack and extinguish difficult fires



Fire Union Vice President Leroy Heyward, Jr., State Rep. Chris Worrell, and Fire Union President Sam Dillon.



Fire Commissioner Paul Burke, Retired Firefighter Leo Sullivan and Mayor Michelle Wu.



Councillors Michael Flaherty and Erin Murphy speak with Fire Union President Sam Dillon about the new station. Seth Daniel photos

in three-deckers and older commercial buildings.

Public Facilities director Kerrie Griffin emphasized it was only the

second firehouse built in Boston over the last 40 years, with the first completed last year on Columbus Avenue in Jamaica Plain.

"We now know firefighters come back from fires and they bring back with them carcinogens,'



City Chaplain Rabbi Korff gives the blessing on the new Meetinghouse Hill Fire Station

she said. "This design will include a zoning sequence so they can come back and get rid of those carcinogens. It's built so there's a healthy in and a healthy out. They shouldn't go home bringing carcinogens to their families. These designs going forward are all about the health and safety of our firefighters."

The new design includes red, neutral, and green hazard zones for firefighters to safely decontaminate when returning from fires.

City Councillor Frank Baker said that he was present during negotiations between the First Parish Church and the city for the land deal, which he said seemed like "a hundred years ago." He said he was very happy to see the investment in the community on infrastructure to help first responders to serve the community.

"What a great day for Dorchester and what a great day for the Fire

Department," he said. State Rep. Chris Worrell said in a statement: "I am so excited to have this fire station — one of the busiest in Boston get the investment that matches the caliber of our



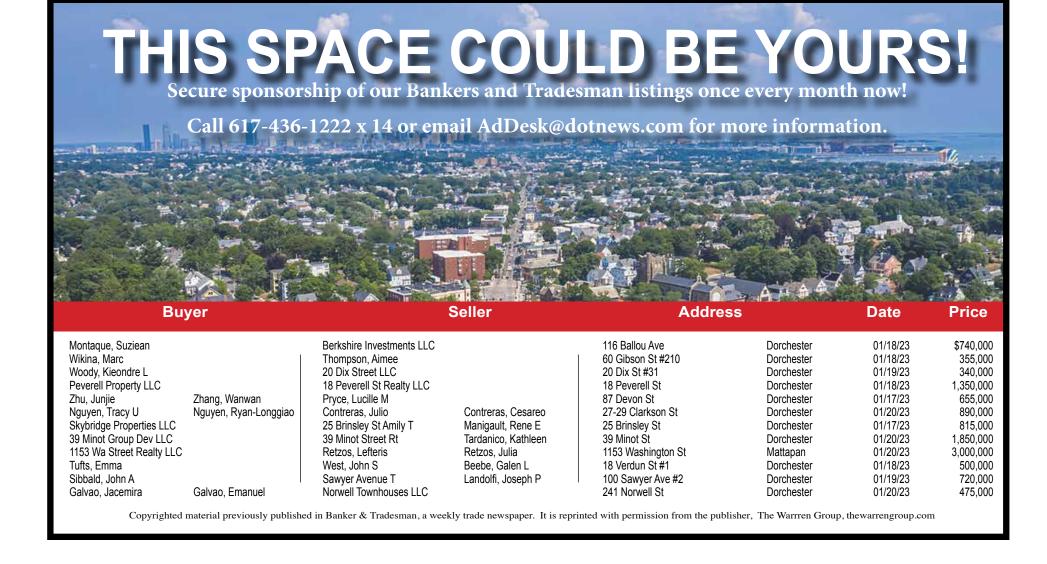
District 3 Councillor Frank Baker said it was a great day for Dorchester and the Boston Fire Department to get the new investment underway.

brave men and women."

Other officials in attendance included Councillor Erin Murphy, Councillor Michael Flaherty, Council President Ed Flynn, and City Chaplain Rabbi Korff.Cedar Grove resident Sean Weir will serve as the Clerk of Works on the project - keeping a careful eye on the project and its progress.

The new building will run on energy efficient boilers and features two apparatus bays facing Winter Street and one chief's bay on Parish Street. Second floor spaces include an open concept kitchen and dayroom, fitness area, lockers, and sleeping and office spaces for the staff. Large windows will introduce daylight into program spaces and create a welcoming entrance to the building. The design uses brick and stone to complement the surrounding area.

The existing firehouse will remain in operation during construction, but city officials weren't immediately sure what would be done with the old firehouse once the new one opens in spring 2024.



BPS merger plan met with resistance at P.A. Shaw School

(Continued from page 1)

The district has six smaller elementary schools that are not being merged. They all have fewer Black students, fewer Latinx students, and more white students than the Shaw.

Emersyn's mom, Brenda Ramsey, says she would like to think the district isn't treating her daughter's school differently because of the race of the students. "But if I don't think that," says Ramsey, "I'm just being naive."

An issue of equity

Last May, Mayor Michelle Wu announced a Green New Deal for Boston Public Schools, a \$2 billion investment to upgrade facilities for 21st-century learning and sustainability.

Investment in school buildings is long overdue. Two thirds of Boston's schools were built before World War II, according to the district's online data dashboard. But the $first\,concrete\,plans\,in\,the$ Green New Deal don't involve construction. They involve merging small schools, like Emersyn's, with larger ones.

The Green New Deal plan discusses a long-promised new PreK-6th grade school that would house students on the west side of Dorchester and Mattapan. However, according to the Green New Deal website, building that school will require looking at merging several small neighborhood schools.

That new school had been promised in 2021, but a site could not be located. Under the Green New Deal, the city would commit funding, site selection would be accelerated, and the design work would be launched. Talks with the various schools about mergers, and potential closings, were to start this year, but there is no indication that has happened at all of the schools - which included not only the Shaw and Taylor, but also the Sarah Greenwood, the Joseph Lee Academy, the Kenny School and the Oliver Wendell Holmes School. Others also mentioned to the Reporter by sources have included the Russell Elementary School and the Roger Clap Elementary, both in Dorchester.

The district officially proposed three school mergers last May, one of which they postponed indefinitely. Those remaining would combine the Sumner with the Philbrick in Roslindale and the Shaw in Dorchester with the Taylor in Mattapan.

Roughly 1,000 students would be impacted by the two mergers, 40 percent of whom are Black. Of the 545 students who would be impacted by the Shaw-Taylor merger, 70 percent are Black (28 percent of the overall



Edith Bazile, the executive director of the Black Advocates for Educational Excellence and a former Shaw educator, spoke at a recent rally alongside Shaw students. "Some communities hoard resources, and others get nothing," she says. "How can you say this is not about race?"



Shaw teachers huddle up in a fourth-grade classroom. From left: Morgan Keohane, Tracy Curtin, and Sabine Ferdinand. Emily Piper-Vallillo photos

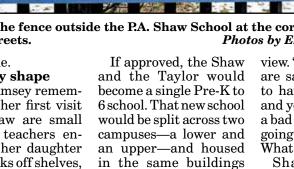
district's students are

The proposal will come before the school committee for a vote in May, according to BPS Superintendent Mary Skipper. If approved, the Shaw-Taylor merger would be complete by the fall of 2024. Many are still uncertain of what is happening with the discussions around the other small Dorchester elementary schools.

The district says mergers are an issue of equity.

"This proposal would support our district-wide shift to ensure all of our students have predictable pre K-6 pathways in safe, healthy buildings that meet our quality guarantee," Skipper wrote in an email to families.

Ramsey agrees—this is a matter of equity, and Emersyn deserves a great school. But in her eyes, Emersyn has a great school. It's just in an outdated building. It's the process of merging these schools and its disproportionate impact on Black students like her daughter that is the



currently occupy. Shaw second-grade teacher Sabine Ferdinand does not understand how the merger would lead to the improved facilities promised by the Green New Deal.

that the Shaw and Taylor

there was a new building being constructed," Ferdinand said in an inter-

view. "But right now they are saying you're going to have a bad building, and you're going to have a bad building, but we're going to put you together. What's the benefit?"

Shaw fourth-grade teacher Tracy Curtin agrees. "Both of our buildings are in pretty sorry shape," she said, noting that neither the Shaw nor the Taylor has a gymnasium, a cafeteria, a library, or an auditorium. The Shaw has a classroom that functions as a library, but not an actual library. Shaw librarian Morgan Keohane bought



Morgan Keohane, the Shaw's librarian.



Fourth-grade teacher Tracy Curtin.

the books with grant money, without funding from the district.

In contrast, the other proposed merger would allow the Philbrick and the Sumner to move into the newly renovated Irving building, according to Mayor Wu's office. Wu has not shared plans for new or upgraded facilities for the Shaw and the Taylor, which combined have three times as many Black students as the Philbrick and the Sumner.

To Edith Bazile, the executive director of the Black Advocates for Educational Excellence and a former Shaw educator, the lack of resources allocated to the Shaw-Taylor is typical.

"Certain communities are not valued equitably," says Bazile. "Some communities hoard resources, and others get $nothing. \, How \, can \, you \, say$ this is not about race?'

Neither the district nor the office of the mayor responded to requests for comment.

In one meeting, Curtin remembers district officials encouraging Shaw and Taylor teachers to creatively reimagine how to use the two buildings.

"But there was no talk about any resources that were going to be given," she said. "I was sitting at the meeting thinking, 'Would you ever bring this to the suburbs?""

Families leave

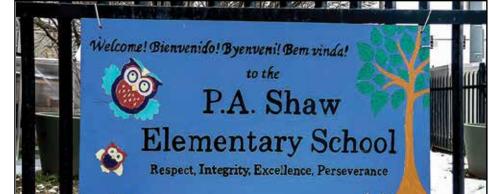
Over the last decade. district enrollment has declined by about 18 percent—even as the number of school-aged children in Boston has remained static.

When schools are funded to some degree on a per-pupil basis, as they are in Boston, fewer students means less money for teacher salaries and academic resources.

The district says merging schools would allow them to better use limited funds. Instead of hiring two math teachers for two different schools, for example, they could hire one math teacher and use the money saved for something else.

Ruby Reyes, executive director of the Boston Ed-

(Continued next page)



A sign on the fence outside the P.A. Shaw School at the corner of Morton and Norfolk streets. Photos by Emily Piper-Vallillo

equity issue.

Sorry shape

What Ramsey remembers from her first visit to the Shaw are small moments: teachers encouraging her daughter to take books off shelves. the principal greeting her with a smile, her daughter whispering, "Mommy, she looks like me.'

It's hard for her to believe that dismantling this communitywhere Emersyn feels seen and respected—is about what's best for her daughter, especially because the plan seems counterintuitive.

"I could understand if

BCLA-McCormack merger on Columbia Point delayed; now set for 2024-2025 class

By SETH DANIEL NEWS EDITOR

When current high school seniors at the Boston Community Leadership Academy (BCLA) were recruited years ago for the new BCLA-Mc-Cormack 7-12 School on Columbia Point – they were promised that they would move onto a fully renovated Dorchester campus from Hyde Park and graduate from the merged school community this year.

Those dreams were shot this week for those seniors and for rising seniors still at the BC-LA's Hyde Park campus, when BPS Supt. Mary Skipper sent a letter to families of the BCLA-Mc-Cormack School noting that seniors would not be attending or graduating from the Dorchester school until the class of 2024-25. Instead, they will remain at the Hyde Park location and graduate from there.

The merged campus was originally promised to be fully implemented by September 2022 under a School Committee-approved plan formulated two superintendents and three mayors ago, and

before the pandemic.

"The timeline for bringing your full community together on the Columbia Point campus has seen some stops and starts, and we recognize that this transition has been challenging," Skipper wrote in a letter dated Jan. 27. "Limited space and other operational constraints continue to cause delays in fully merging onto one campus for the 2023-2024 school year.

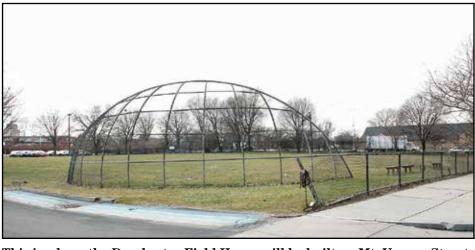
"For next year, we recommend that rising 11th graders remain on the Columbia Point campus as planned and that rising 12th graders continue learning on the Hyde Park campus until they graduate at the end of the 2023-24 school year."

A virtual meeting with the school community is planned for Feb. 9, but Skipper affirmed that the district remains committed to the BCLA-McCormack plan and building out a high-quality space on Columbia Point. She said the BPS Capital Planning and Facilities teams have assessed all options and recommend the continued delay in merging.

Right now, some of the grades are attending the McCormack Middle and former Dever Elementary School site on Mt. Vernon Street while students at the high school are at the old BCLA site in Hyde Park (the former Hyde Park High School).

The new configuration was to house grades 7-12 in one facility on Columbia Point. It was a plan that was highly touted and discussed favorably in 2018 when school officials decided to phase out stand-along middle schools (grades 6-8) in favor of 7-12 middle and high school sites. BCLA-McCormack, after a lengthy battle by the school community against closure, became the first foray into that new plan, with the idea being to create a pipeline closer to home for Dorchester, Mattapan, and South Boston students instead of having them commute to Charlestown, Brighton, and East Boston High Schools.

However, things soon came to a standstill with leadership changes in the city and the advent of the pandemic-despite many



This is where the Dorchester Field House will be built on Mt. Vernon Street.

Seth Daniel photo

families being heavily recruited into the new school with the promise of one campus in Dorchester by 2022. Skipper's letter was the first mention of the BCLA-McCormack plan in a few years, and the announced delays are expected to be met with disappointment at the Feb. 9 meeting.

In the letter, Skipper did lay out some progress on what she describes as Phase 1 in the merger process. Chief among the items is an agreement for BCLA-McCormack students to use the soon-to-be built Dorchester Field House, which will be operated by the Boys and Girls Clubs of Dorchester (BGCD).

Access for students at BCLA-McCormack has been a controversial pinch-point for the Fieldhouse project, and the agreement, which allows for the "exclusive use of the Martin Richard Field House by BCLA-McCormack students during the school day," is being well received.

"Once the facility opens, students will be able to enjoy indoor athletic fields and courts, a walking track, fitness and training rooms, and more," wrote Skipper.

Other improvements at the school include upgrading two new science labs with more advanced technology and equipment. The labs with newly hired teachers were to come online this month but it wasn't apparent if the work had been completed yet. The superintendent also mentioned Life Skills Room upgrades, working with the Red Cross, Catie's Closet, and the Back

Bay's Trinity Church.

The letter reiterated the district's commitment to "building a physical environment on the Columbia Point campus that not only fits the full BCLA-McCormack community but is also designed with student and community needs in mind.

"As part of the Green New Deal for BPS," Skipper wrote, "we are working with our city partners to develop updated options for Phase 2 of the project to provide our students with learning spaces that are safe, healthy, resilient, and inspiring."

The meeting on Feb. 9 will present the current recommendations and seek input from students and parents. It will start at 5:30 p.m. in an online format.

BPS merger plan met with resistance at P.A. Shaw School

(Continued from page 12)

ucation Justice Alliance, views enrollment differently. When people talk about decline, she says, they often act as if the only solution is closing schools. But it would be better to investigate why students are leaving the district in the first place and try to get them to stay.

It's hard to say precisely why students are leaving—the district does not conduct exit interviews. But according to district data, the majority of those leaving are Black. Emersyn's older sister, Nisariah, was one of them. Like her sister, Nisariah attended the P.A. Shaw.

For many parents, enrolling their children in a school can feel like a leap of faith. For Ramsey, the leap was even greater—the district had a habit of closing schools in Dorchester.

"Boston Public Schools has closed so many schools in this area without conversations," Shaw K1 teacher Carla Johnson said. "The Shaw was one of them."

In 2008, the school committee voted to close the school—along with five others—under then-superintendent Carol Johnson's plan to consolidate the district.

"The school was a thriving community," Johnson recalled, "and it was closed."



In the following years, the community pushed for a neighborhood elementary school and in 2014, the district allowed the Shaw to re-open with a pre-kindergarten and kindergarten classroom.

That's when Emersyn and Nisariah enrolled.

Each year, the district said, the school would add a grade until the Shaw went from Pre-K to 5. But in 2018, the city reneged on its promise and did not allow the school to add a fourth grade.

For educators and community members, that broken promise was painful.

"There's a lack of trust due to the nature of this community's relationship with BPS," Johnson said. "When you've had the rug pulled out from under you enough times, you start to think, 'Well, it doesn't matter what I say.' I don't ever want my students to feel like what they say doesn't matter."

When Nisariah completed third grade, there was no fourth-grade classroom for her at the Shaw. She transitioned to another school, but it wasn't a good fit. So Ramsey enrolled her in a charter school, and Nisariah became one of the

15,000 Black students who left the BPS system in the last 20 years.

The threats

The Shaw's embattled history—the closing, the re-opening, the stymicing—also impacted enrollment.

Since its 2014 reopening, the Shaw's enrollment has increased every year. But in 2018—when the district stopped the school from expanding—the enrollment declined for the first time.

"When you threaten schools with closing, you create instability," Edith Bazile said. "Parents say, 'What is my child going to do for fourth and fifth grade? Maybe I should find a school where they can stay."

Morgan Keohane, the Shaw librarian, feels the district is inaccurately blaming the school for its enrollment.

"There's not an acknowledgment that some of the district's decisions have led to low enrollment," Keohane said. "When you disregard family's opinions, of course, they're not going to trust you, and of course, they're going to send their children somewhere else. Why would they feel safe sending

their kids to a place where their voice isn't heard?" **No real information**

The district is required to use a six-step "Racial Equity Planning Tool" for any major decisions. During initial community meetings about the mergers, district leaders

did not reference the tool.

"It's part of the process," explained Sam
DePina, the district's
deputy superintendent
of operations, at a budget
hearing. "The first part
is stating the designated
outcome."

The initial step of the "Racial Equity Tool" involves identifying "desired results and outcomes." The tool instructs district officials to frame this initial step "through the experience of those most impacted" and describe how the merger would-among other things—impact Black and Latinx students and families, address racism, and close opportunity gaps.

During community meetings, district officials described an outcome—the two-campus school merger. But their three-minute presentation did not explain how this outcome would impact students of color or address racism and opportunity gaps. No demographic data was referenced. The words race and racism did not come up.

"They do not fill the

[tool] out," said Barbara Fields, a retired Boston Public School administrator and member of the Black Educators Alliance of Massachusetts. "They don't give you the information required by that document so that you can assess the equity."

In subsequent meetings, snapshots of the Racial Equity Tool were included in PowerPoint presentations, but Keohane said the district never completed it.

"No real information came from it," she said. "There was no discussion about how [this merger] would impact our students of color."

District officials say they are now on step three—"stakeholder engagement"—but families and educators say the district has yet to provide the information required by step one.

"That's not community engagement," Bazile said. "It's telling the community that you're going to do something you've already decided to do and thrusting it upon them without allowing them to have real input."

History repeating itself

itself
Wu is not the first mayor to pledge investment in school infrastructure.
The district's history is littered with forgotten facilities plans—like "Redesign and Reinvest" under former mayor Thomas Menino, and the

"BuildBPS" campaign of former mayor Marty Walsh.

Despite promises, children have entered and exited the school system without witnessing a single new building or major renovation resulting from these plans. Instead, they saw schools close.

In the last two decades, the district has shuttered 37 schools, according to a spreadsheet compiled by Boston Latin Academy teacher José Valenzuela. The majority of these schools were in predominantly Black neighborhoods, and 13 of them—or 35 percent—were in Dorchester.

Mayor Wu's office has emphasized that the Green New Deal is not a continuation of these earlier plans. Yet according to Charles Grandson, the chief equity and strategy officer at BPS, aspects of the proposed mergers are holdovers from previous administrations.

"It is institutional racism," Fields said. "History is repeating itself."

This article was reported and produced in partnership with the Boston Institute for Nonprofit Journalism. The author, Emily Piper-Vallillo, is a writer and researcher who holds an M.Ed from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Reporter news editor Seth Daniel contributed to this report.

Morrissey's Beades Bridge eyed for \$122M replacement

By Gintautas Dumcius Managing Editor

State transportation officials plan to completely replace the crumbling John J. Beades Bridge on Morrissey Boulevard as they continue to contemplate a large overhaul of the coastal roadway.

The replacement of the bridge, located by National Grid's rainbow gas tank, received the green light to move into the design phase. Officials with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) say a full replacement is likely

necessary due to the age of the bridge, but caution that the project is years away from construction.

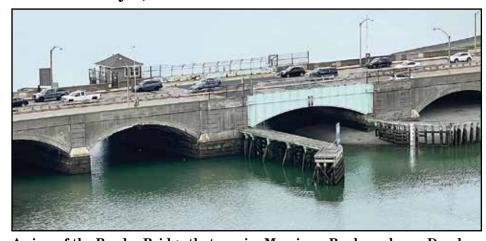
The six-lane span, which functions as a drawbridge to allow boats to pass in and out of Savin Hill Bay, last saw significant fixes in 2001. At the time, it was under the purview of the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC), which no longer exists. The agency was absorbed into the state Department of Conservation and Recreation years later.

First built in 1928, the

VALENTINE'S DAY IS FEB. 14th

drawbridge was named for a Dorchester state senator. A report from the MDC in 1998 said the bridge needed to be completely replaced, since it was only built to last for 50 years. But smaller fixes followed instead, with \$1.3 million between 1995 and 1999, and then a \$9.1 million renovation in 2001.

Problems continued as the drawbridge has sometimes stalled in the "up" position and caused traffic delays. The drawbridge's breakdowns add to commuter frus-



A view of the Beades Bridge that carries Morrissey Boulevard over Dorchester Bay as seen from a vantage point atop the National Grid rainbow tank on Commercial Point.

Bill Forry photo

trations, as drivers also Morrissey Boulevard's frequent flooding.

A complete overhaul could cost \$122 million, according to a posting on MassDOT's website. The project has been assigned to Canadian engineering firm WSP.

MassDOT officials sent on Jan. 26 a letter to Jascha Franklin-Hodge, Mayor Wu's chief of streets, saying the Beades Bridge is on a list of projects that have been evaluated and now considered eligible for federal highway funding. The letter notes that the eligibility determination is "not a commitment of state or federal funding to the project, nor is the decision to commit funding solely MassDOT's."

MassDOT sent a copy of the letter to local law-makers, including state Sen. Nick Collins and state Rep. Dan Hunt, who both represent the area around Beades Bridge.

The other bridges on the list, according to the letter, are parts of I-93 that are close to Beades Bridge, the southern approach to the Tobin Bridge, and the deck replacements slated for Beacon Street above I-90 and Massachusetts Avenue over I-90 and MBTA tracks.

Asked about the letter, a MassDOT spokeswoman said the project will be coordinated with the ongoing planning efforts for Morrissey Boulevard. A state commission, created through a transportation bill signed by Gov. Charlie Baker last year, is expected to take a deep look at the Morrissey corridor, which is facing rising sea levels, thanks to climate change, while also seeing an influx of development up and down the main thoroughfare.

Rep. Hunt said the Beades Bridge project is in its infancy "but we would all advocate for it to continue to be a navigable waterway." Hunt pointed to the Dorchester Yacht Club and other potential public moorings in the area.

But whether that means it remains a draw-bridge, or a higher bridge to accommodate boats, remains to be seen. The bridge must also ensure that Savin Hill Bay has healthy swimming water, since some of the bridge's bays are full of rocks and

sediment, which block the bay from fully flushing out water after a high tide, according to Hunt.

"As I continue to advocate for the Morrissey project, the Beades Bridge is an important piece of that," Hunt said.

The Morrissey commission, with the governor's transportation and environment chiefs as its co-chairs, has not yet met. Since past efforts to remake the boulevard into a pedestrian-friendly roadway have fallen apart, commission members, including Hunt, want to set up the panel as a place "where everyone gets together and gets on the same page."

Hunt noted that Gov. Maura Healey's transportation secretary, Gina Fiandaca, had previously served as Boston's transportation chief, and she is well-acquainted with the problems with Morrissey Boulevard and the troublesome rotary off I-93, Kosciuszko Circle.

"All parties at the table want to get this done," he said.

The next steps for the Beades Bridge will be "to progress the design, develop estimates, and incorporate it into the MassDOT capital plan," said the spokesperson, Kristen Pennucci. "At this point construction has not yet been funded nor has a date been assigned for construction."

MassDOT expects construction won't move ahead "any sooner than 2028."

Executive editor Bill Forry contributed to this report.

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FREE ESTIMATES

Walsh to depart Biden team for NHL union

(Continued from page 1)

administration geared up for Biden's "State of the Union" speech on Capitol Hill.

For a brief moment in January, Walsh's name was in circulation for the post of White House chief of staff, a job that ended up in the hands of Jeff Zients, who coordinated the administration's COVID-19 response.

Walsh won two terms as mayor. He beat out 11 other candidates vying to succeed Mayor Thomas Menino, who opted not to run for a sixth term. His second term came after he beat then-Councillor Tito Jackson in 2017.

Walsh's seven years as mayor followed 17 years

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Suffolk Probate & Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Docket No. SU239021978

Docket No. SU23P0212EA ESTATE OF: GISEL DAWN THERESA THOMAS DATE OF DEATH: 02/27/2020

DATE OF DEATH: 02/27/2020
To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy
and Appointment of Personal Representative
has been filed by Raphael A. Thomas of
Dorchester, MA requesting that the Court
enter a formal Decree and Order and for such
other relief as requested in the Petition. The
Petitioner requests that: Lorelei F. Thomas of
Dorchester, MA be appointed as Personal
Representative(s) of said estate to serve
Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised

Without Surety on the bond in unsupervise

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court.

You have a right to object to this proceeding

To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day

of 03/16/2023.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION

INDERTHE MASSOCH USETTS

UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS
UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed unde the MUPC in an unsupervised administration

is not required to file an inventory or annua

accounts with the Court. Persons interested

in the estate are entitled to notice regarding

in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.

Date: Experience 02: 2023

Published: February 09, 2023

Felix D. Arrovo Register of Probate

Date: February 02, 2023

of 03/16/2023.

Beacon Hill. During his time as a lawmaker, he was also a labor leader, ascending to the top post at the Building and Construction Trades Council after following his father into Laborers Local 223.

as one of Dorchester's

state representatives on

Walsh is also a longtime Boston sports fan, and widely known for buying season tickets to the New **England Patriots.**

Rep. Dan Hunt, who succeeded Walsh in representing part of Dorchester in the state Legislature after Walsh entered City Hall, called the move a "great selection." "I think he's shown extremely effective leadership in his role as labor secretary," Hunt said.

In testimony before Congress in April 2022, Walsh said his vision as labor secretary is "to empower workers morning, noon and night." He noted that the Labor Department recovered \$230 million in back pay for more than 190,000 workers, working out to an average of \$1,200 per employee.

Walsh will be following former Gov. Charlie Baker into the sports arena after a lengthy career in politics. The NCAA announced in December

that Baker, who left terms, would become its the governor's office at the beginning of January after two four-year

president.

HELP WANTED

Whitehead Institute in Cambridge hiring Tech. Assist I to conduct cellular and functional genetics studies in cultured human cells to understand the mol. mechanisms of kinetochore proteins & chromosome segregation. Req. skills: DNA/RNA isolation, manipulation, & analysis; mol. cloning; PCR; gel purification; FACS; Western Blot, Light & fluorescence & confocal microscopy; Immunohistochemistry staining & exp. with GC-MS, strong exp. w/ tissue culture of cancer cell lines, generation of recombinant retroviruses & RNA interference. BS in Biol/ related field w/ strong knowledge of cell biol, + 2y. working in cell culture and mol.r biol lab. Apply at www.wi.mit.edu.

ACTION FOR EQUITY

COMMUNITY ORGANIZER—Full-time

Action for Equity is a community-based coalition working in the greater Boston region, focusing on racial and class equity. As a coalition of community-based and social justice organizations, we are working for all people to have quality housing, good jobs and job access, environmental quality, and transportation access, among other things as steps to reach the society we want.

We are focused primarily on racial and class equity in housing, transit, and jobs at this time. We are led primarily by people of color. Take a look at www.action4equity.org

The Community Organizer will support Action for Equity's activities by organizing residents, promoting community advocacy planning and helping to implement equitable housing, transportation, and jobs policies, and otherwise supporting the goals and objectives of the organization.

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES

- · Assist in neighborhood planning initiatives including building local committees
- Help plan and implement organizing campaigns
- Door to Door Organizing
- Assist with mailings and other office work

QUALIFICATIONS

- Must have experience in community, tenant, or labor organizing. Transportation or Environmental Justice advocacy helpful.
- Some college preferred
- Computer skills
- · Strong oral and writing skills
- Able to work with diverse populations
- Must be available to work evenings and weekends

COMPENSATION

Starting Salary \$55,000. Health Benefits. Paid

Please respond by sending resume by mail (367 Washington Street, Dorchester, MA 02124) or email to marvin@action4equity.org. Contact Per-

Vacation.

son: Marvin Martin, Executive Director

LEGAL NOTICES

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE
Docket No. SU23P0085EA
ESTATE OF: MARIA LOUISA DILLON a/k/a: MARIA DILLON DATE OF DEATH: September 24, 2022 SUFFOLK DIVISION

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitione Janet Sweeney of Braintree MA a Will has been admitted to informal probate. Janet Sweeney of Braintree, MA has been informally appointed as the Person al Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond. The estate is being administered

under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representative appointed under informal procedure. A conv of the Petition and Will, if any, can

Justice of this Court

Felix D. Arrovo Register of Probate Published: February 9, 2023

BPDA Income-restricted Home Ownership Opportunity

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(set by the BPDA + based on the household size + AMI)		
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1	\$78,550	
2	\$89,750	
3	\$100,950	
4	\$112,150	
5	\$121,150	
6	\$130,100	
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	

Maximum Asset Limits 80% AMI \$75,000

Does not include retirement. Does include Real Estate

To learn more about eligibility + the BPDA screening requirements, please visit: http://www.bostonplans.org/housing/faqs#application-lottery-questions

Applications are available online or via email from February 11th, 2023 - February 25th, 2023.

To request an online application or to have one sent by email visit https://bit.ly/CondorLottery or call (617) 306-4540 or email flatsoncondorlottery@nemoves.com

If you cannot complete the application online, please call us at (617) 306-4540, to request that we mail you one and to ask us for any support or guidance you might need to complete the application or email us a es.com for assistance.

DEADLINE: Applications must be submitted online or postmarked no later than February 25th, 2023 Mailed to: Rich Hornblower c/o Coldwell Banker Realty, 399 Boylston Street #200, Boston, MA 02116

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- Preference for Households with at least one person per bedroom.

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LEGAL NOTICES

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate & Family Court 24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114 BOSTON, MA UZ114
(617) 788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
DOCKET NO. SU21P0645EA
ESTATE OF:
EMILY C. TASTE-DICKERSON
a/k/a: EMILY DICKERSON **DATE OF DEATH: 11/18/2020**

To all interested persons: A Petition for S/A - Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Persona Representative has been filed by Caro Pearson of Boston, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition The Petitioner requests that: Carol Pearsor of Boston, MA be appointed as Persona Representative(s) of said estate to serve on the bond in unsupervised administration IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court You have a right to object to this proceeding To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/20/2023.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline

by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding if you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit o objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION
UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS
UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
APersonal Representative appointed under
the MUPC in an unsupervised administration
is not required to file an inventory or annual
accounts with the Court. Persons interested
in the estate are entitled to notice regarding
the administration directly from the Personal the administration directly from the Persona Representative and may petition the Cour in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

.....เอเลเบเน. Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First stice of this Court. Date: February 06, 2023

5 Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate Published: February 09, 2023

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT ffolk Probate & Family Court 24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU22P2819EA
ESTATE OF:
ODETTE A. INNOCENT-PIERRE
DATE OF DEATH: 10/29/2022

has been filed by Jennifer V. Samson of Dorchester, MA requesting that the Courl enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Jennifer V Samson retitioner requests trial. Jeffiller V. Sarisoni of Dorchester, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised

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

of 03/13/2023. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION

UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS
UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

Personal Representative appointed und the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annua accounts with the Court Persons interested accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Persona Representative and may petition the Cour in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses o

administration. Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, Firs Justice of this Court Date: January 30, 2023

Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate Published: February 09, 2023

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate & Family Court 24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Docket No. SU23P0236EA ESTATE OF: JOYCE KELLEY DATE OF DEATH: 11/24/2022

A Pretition for Personal Representative has been filed by Stephen Kelley of Boston MA requesting that the Court enter a forma Decree and Order and for such other relier as requested in the Petition. The Petitione requests that: Stephen Kelley of Boston, Ma be appointed as Personal Representative (so f said estate to serve Without Surety of the bond in unsupervised administration.

the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court You have a right to object to this proceeding To do so, you or your attorney must file vritten appearance and objection at thi Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return da f 03/13/2023

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further project to you. LINCUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION

UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS
UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) ersonal Representative appointed u

the MUPC in an unsupervised administration s not required to file an inventory or annua accounts with the Court. Persons interested accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Persona Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of activisate of the court of the cour administration.
Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First

Justice of this Court. Date: February 06, 2023 Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate Published: February 09, 2023

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT Suffolk Probate & Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
DOCKET NO. SU2290156FA Docket No. SU23P0156EA ESTATE OF: ALBERTO RODRIGUES ANDRADE DATE OF DEATH: 11/09/2022

with Appointment of Personal Renres manapolitimentor eriscilane presentative nas been filed by Ernesto L. Andrade of North Dartmouth, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Ernesto L. Andrade of North Dartmouth, MA, be appointed a Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court You have a right to object to this proceeding To do so, you or your attorney must file written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/16/2023

of **U3/16/2023**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. I vou fail to file a timely written appearance an objection followed by an affidavit of objection within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION

LINDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed unde he MUPC in an unsupervised administration

s not required to file an inventory or annua accounts with the Court. Persons intereste n the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Pe Representative and may petition the Cour in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First

Justice of this Court. Date: February 02, 2023 Felix D. Arrovo Register of Proba Published: February 09, 2023

Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and

be obtained from the Petitioner. Published: February 9, 2023

BY PUBLICATION and MAILING JENNIFER LARA-ARIAS ELIAS LARA-ARIAS To the Defendant: The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint fo Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown The Complaint is on file at the Court An Automatic Restraining Order has een entered in this matte you from taking any action which would

COMMONWEALTH OF

MASSACHUSETTS

THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT

SUFFOLK DIVISION 24 NEW CHARDON STREET BOSTON, MA 02114 Docket No. SU22D0119DR

DIVORCE SUMMONS

negatively impact the current financial status of either party. SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411. You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon: Jennifer Lara-Arias, 85 Monument St., Charlestown, MA 02129 your answer, if any, on or before 03/13/2023. If you fail to do so the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also equired to file a copy of your answer. if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.

Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Date: January 19, 2023



Thank you to our local legislators

St. Mary's Center for Women and Children is a multi-service human services organization serving over 500 women, children, and families experiencing homelessness each year in the Boston area. Our wraparound supportive services focus on four key pillars: housing, life skills, education and workforce development, and behavioral health and family medicine. Through these four pillars, we partner with families to address their own unique needs and join with them on their journey toward a more thriving, stable future.

Our work relies on the strong. collaborative support of city and state leaders. We are incredibly grateful for the recent support from some of our local elected officials whose partnership and advocacy help to increase access to critical support services for our families.

Thank you Boston City Councilor At-Large Erin Murphy and Mayor Michelle Wu for providing \$200,000 in city ARPA funds to St. Mary's Center. This funding will support trauma-informed behavioral health and substance use supportive services for our residents.

Thank you to State Representative Dan Hunt and Senator Nick Collins for securing \$100,000 in earmark funds to support St. Mary's Center's behavioral health and education and workforce development services.

These critical wraparound services provide St. Mary's Center residents with the supports they need to break down barriers and achieve emotional stability and economic independence.

To learn more about St. Mary's Center, please visit

www.stmaryscenterma.org



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Ward 7 Boston Democratic Ward Committee

will hold the quarterly meeting at 7:00 PM on Thursday, February 9, 2023 at the Iron Workers Local 7 Union Hall 195 Old Colony Avenue **South Boston**

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE & FAMILY COURT SUFFOLK DIVISION 24 NEW CHARDON STREET BOSTON, MA 02114 BUSTON, MA 02114
Docket No. SU23D0030DR
DIVORCE SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION and MAILING
MARCUS MARTIN WHINT

vs. TANISHA ANNETTE WHINT

The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown. The Complaint is on file at the Court An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.

You are hereby summoned and

required to serve upon: Marcus Martin Whint, 82 Fairmount St., Boston, MA 02124 your answer, if any, on or before 03/09/2023. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudica tion 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 18, 2023

Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate Published: February 9, 2023

COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE and FAMILY COURT
Docket No. SU20P0388EA
Suffolk Probate & Family Court
24 New Chardon St., Boston, MA 02114
617-788-8300
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR ORDER OF
COMPLETE SETTLEMENT
ESTATE OF:
CHRISTOPHER WAYNE THOMPSON
a/k/a: CHRISTOPHER THOMPSON
DATE OF DEATH: 05/03/2019

arika: CHRISTOPHEN I HOMPSON
DATE OF DEATH: 05/03/2019
A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement
has been filed by Stephanye Fullard of
Doston, MA requesting that the court ente
a formal Decree of Complete Settlemen including a determination of testacy and heirs at law, RTD: 03/13/2023 and other such relie as may be requested in the Petition.

atlaw, RTD: 03/13/2023 and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Courtbefore 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/13/2023.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.

Date: January 30, 2023

Felix D. Arroyo

Felix D. Arroyo

Register of Probate Published: February 9, 2023

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT **PROBATE & FAMILY COURT** SUFFOLK DIVISION 24 NEW CHARDON STREET BOSTON, MA 02114 Docket No. SU21D1898DR DIVORCE SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION and MAILING JOSE EDUARDO PEREZ

VS. KATHERINE ALTAGRACIA ORTIZ MEJIA

The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown. The Complaint is on file at the Court. An Automatic Restraining Order has An Audinitation Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.

You are hereby summoned and required to serve unor; lose Eduardo.

required to serve upon: Jose Eduardo Perez, 293 Belgrade St., #1, Roslindale, MA02131 your answer, if any, on or before 03/20/2023. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer if any in

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, 2023

Register of Probate



Everyone's House Has a History Curious to know about yours?

Request a House History from the **Dorchester Historical Society!**

Our volunteer researchers use extensive online resources to look for information about the original owner, year of construction, previous occupants, and more, for houses in Dorchester and Mattapan. A written report documents their findings for you.

Go to www.dorchesterhistoricalsociety.org and click House History dropdown to request individual house research and see completed histories.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF DORCHESTER

F Vou Title



Christopher Kimball's Milk Street Continues BGCD Partnership with Winter Sessions: See details below.

CONNECT THE DOT: Christopher Kimball's Milk Street Continues BGCD Partnership with Winter Sessions: Boys & Girls

Clubs of Dorchester was excited to return to Christopher Kimball's Milk Street this past week as part of our Winter session. Milk Street has been a dedicated partnersince 2016. Milk Street began this program to teach teens how to prepare low cost, healthy meals that they would in turn be able to teach to other members and their families. During the most recent session, our teen members created a Curry Chicken dish while learning valuable culinary and nutrition skills. Thanks to our friends at Christopher Kimball's Milk Street for making this long running partnership available to our teen members.

For more information on partnerships, please contact Mike Joyce at mjoyce@bgcdorchester.org.

FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE: BGCD Marr-lin Swim Team Composes in 2022 Sectionals

Competes in 2023 Sectionals: BGCD's Marr-lin swim team had 47 swimmers compete in the 2023 Sectionals held at the Worcester BGC. We'd like to congratulate the Team for placing 5th overall out of 13, and to our individual swimmers that achieved personal best times. Congratulations to all who placed 1st, 2nd & 3rd: Alex G., Vivan D., Alex C., Erin G., Ben G., Hanna M., Elias J., Siobhan M., Mairead M., Kevin M., Karina R., as well as Relay Teams that placed in Top 3: Girls 8 &U Medley, Girls 100 Yard Free, Girls 11-12 200 Yard Medley, Girls 11-12 200 Free, Boys 11-12 200 Free, Boys 13-14 200 Free.

BGCD is so proud of all of our swimmers for their hard work at Sectionals. For more information, please contact Doreen Manna at dmanna@bgcdorchester.org.



DID YOU KNOW:

BGCD Music Clubhouse Hosts Winter Music Lesson Sessions: BGCD is currently hosting the Winter session of Music Lessons which includes Drums, Piano, Bass, Guitar, Saxophone and Acoustic Strings (Ukulele, Banjo, Mandolin and Resonator Guitar/Dobro). Participants must be BGCD members ages 10-18 and willing to attend all scheduled classes. Please note there is no cost to take lessons. The Music Clubhouse also offers classes and workshops focusing on Beatmaking, DJing and Synthesizers/Electronic Instruments. In addition, Thursday evening enrichment time is dedicated to any member wanting to work on showcasing their particular talent for our monthly Open Mic Night which is held on the last Thursday of each month. For more information, please contact Music

Director Carleton Burke at cburke@

bgcdorchester.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Marr-Lin Swim Team 10&U Invitational Meet February 11

Outer Space Dance Party February 17

February School Vacation February 21 - 24 *Pre-registration required

Benjamin Institue College Visit February 22

Black History Living Museum February 23

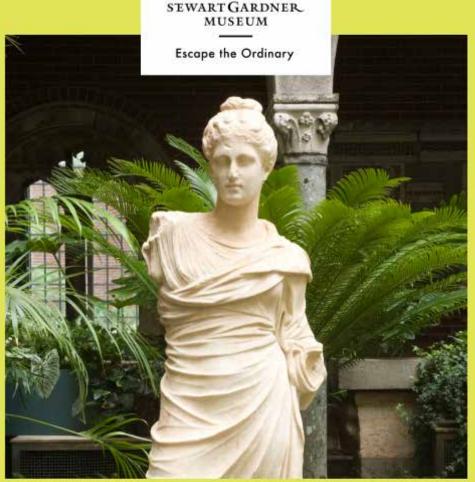
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RECENT OBITUARIES



CIARMATARO Gloria M. (Pozzi), 93, of Dorchester. Wife of the late Samuel Joseph Ciarmataro. Mother of Donna McLaughlin and her late husband Thomas McLaughlin of Stoughton, Mark and his wife Donna Tracey of Bridgewater, Denise Leonard of Dorchester, Joanne and her husband Michael Pendleton of New Hampshire, William Ciarmataro of Braintree, Karen Tracey and David Arce, both of Dorchester, and the late Joseph P. Ciarmataro.

Sister of the late Irene J. Pozzi. "Grandma" to 13 grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Donations in Gloria's memory may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105, or at stjude. org.



CUNNINGHAM, Arleen C. of Dedham, formerly of Mattapan. Daughter of the late Edward and Catherine Cunningham. Sister of the late Joan Larrabee. She is survived by her brother-in-law, Joseph

Larrabee of Cohasset. Nieces Julie Larrabee and her husband, James Powers of S. Boston and Joanna Larrabee and her husband, Charlie Cotter of Quincy. Also survived by several great-nieces and nephews.



DOHERTY, Brian **J**. of Cincinnati, OH and Marshfield Hills, originally of Dorchester. He was the husband of the late Irene (Fiola) Doherty; and father of Garrick Doherty and his wife, Peg of New Salem, MA, Kyle Hodgkins and her husband, Robert of Cincinnati, OH, and Megan Moses and her husband, Edward of Orlando, FL. Grandfather of 2. Brian was predeceased by his parents, Joseph and Bridget Doherty and his brother Edward. Contributions in his memory may be made to the North River Arts Society, PO Box

307, Marshfield Hills, MA 02051 or your local Alzheimer's Association.



FOLEY, David Gerard, Jr. of Brighton, formerly of West Roxbury. Father of Shane Foley. Son of Kathleen (Farrell) and David Gerard Foley, Sr. Brother of Deirdre Foley of Framingham and Rory Foley (BPD) of Dorchester. David is also survived by many loving aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. USM. veteran. Donations in David's memory may be made to Brighton Marine, 77 Warren Street, Brighton, MA 02135 or to Soldier On at wesoldieron.org



GREENE, Kathleen A. of Milton, originally from Charlestown and formerly of Dorchester. Wife of the late John J. Mother of John Greene and his wife Danielle of Lancaster, SC, Robert Greene and his wife Robin of York, ME and Kathleen M. Pettenati and her husband Richard of Abington. Grandmother of 4. Donations may be made in her memory to

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital at www. stjude.org or to NVNA Hospice 120 Longwater Dr. Norwell, MA 02061.



Har-MACLEAN, **old M.**, 77, of Dorchester. US Army Veteran. Husband of Mary Ellen (Pimental) MacLean. Father of Scott, Sean, Brian and the late Robert MacLean. Son of the late John and Anne (Spedding) McEachern. Grandfather of Conner, Madison, Tyler, Caitlin, and Nolan. Father-inlaw of Courtney Whelan and Christine MacLean. Brother of Carolann Falasca, Richard MacLean, Steven McEachthe late John McEachern, Jr. and Linda Ahl. Brother-in-law "Maggie" Margaret McEachern.



PERFETTI, John W., 73, of Hull, formerly of Humarock, Canton and Mattapan. Son of the late Renato and Anna (Rowan) Perfetti. Husband of Frances (Sobel) Perfetti of Hull. Brother of Renato Perfetti of Walpole and

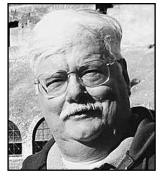
Christopher Perfetti and his wife, Sharon of Humarock. John is also survived by many nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. Memorial contributions may be sent in John's name to Yankee Golden Retriever Rescue, Inc., ygrr.org/ donate



ROSA, Jose Antonio, 42 of Dorchester. Husband of Janina (Silva) Rosa. Son of Atanasio Rosa and Isaura Depina. Father of Josiah, Jaylen and Jade Rosa. Brother of Andre Mc-Millan, Elizabeth Lopes, Anthony Rosa, Sandy Yarde and Manuel Rosa.



STANTON, Richard Joseph III, 80, of Milton, formerly of South Boston and Neponset, Son of the late Richard Jr. and Mary (Murray) Stanton. He is survived by his wife Annmarie (O'Connor) Stanton of Milton; father of Christine Stanton of Milton and Paul (Katy) Stanton of Medfield; Papa of 3. Brother of David Stanton (Debbie Fitzler) of Lexington, Dr. Julie Stanton (Dr. Ted Lawlor) of Amherst and the late Laurie Stanton. Retired Lt. Commander US Naval Reserve. Contributions may be made to Autism Services Association, 47 Walnut Street Wellesley, MA 02481.



THOMSON, Harold **David**, 76, raised in Dorchester, lived many vears in Braintree, MA then moved to Rowley, Harold is survived by his wife Joyce (Lima) Thomson; their children, David (Deirdre) of Hopedale, MA and Carolyn of Braintree; 3 grandchildren; and many more family members and friends. Son of late Anna (Lombard) and Harold Thomson.

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Cedar Grove Cemetery

Contact the office for information on the cost of burial needs, memorial benches and memorial

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LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
SUFFOLK DIVISION 24 NEW CHARDON STREET BOSTON, MA 02114 BOSTON, MA 02114
Docket No. SU22D1765DR
DIVORCE SUMMONS
BY PUBLICATION and MAILING
MARIE RICHEMOND JEAN-LOUIS

vs. MONTEUS JEAN-LOUIS

To the Defendant:
The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown. The Complaint is on file at the Court.

An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. SEE Supplementa Probate Court Rule 411.

You are hereby summoned and re-quired to serve upon: Charles T. Geneva, Esq., Law Offices of Ernst Guerrier, 299 Gallivan, Dorchester, MA 02124 your answer, if any, on or before **03/14/2023**. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.
Witness, HON. BRIANJ. DUNN, First

Justice of this Court. Date: January 10, 2023

Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate Published: February 9, 2023

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE & FAMILY COURT SUFFOLK PROBATE & FAMILY COURT 24 NEW CHARDON STREET

24 NEW CHARDON STREET

BOSTON, MA 02114

CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF
PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT

OF CONSERVATOR OR OTHER
PROTECTIVE ORDER PURSUANT

TO C.L. 1000 85-204 8-54-06 TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304 & §5-405 Docket No. SU22P2891PM IN THE MATTER OF: LYDIA HEALEY of DORCHESTER, MA

RESPONDENT (Person To Be Protected/Minor) interested persons, a petition has been filled by James R. Healey, Jr. of Dorchester, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Lydia Healey is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that James Healey of Dorchester, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve Without Surety on the bond.

The petition asks the Court to determine

The petition asks the Court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that the a protective order and appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 02/23/2023. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance i you object to the petition. If you fail to file you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filling the written appearance, you or your attorney mustfile a written afficiavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both The above-named person has the right to asl The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense. Witness, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice

Felix D. Arroyo Register of Probate Date: January 05, 2023 Published: February 9, 2023

COMMONWEALTH OF COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
SUFFOLK PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
24 NEW CHARDON STREET 24 NEW CHARDON STREET BOSTON, MA 02114 CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON URSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304 Docket No. SU22P2890GD IN THE MATTER OF: LYDIA HEALEY of BOSTON, MA RESPONDENT

Alleged Incapacitated Person To the named Respondent and all other by James R. Healey, Jr. of Dorchester, MA by James R. Healey, Jr. of Dorchester, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Lydia Healey is in need of a Guardian and requesting that James Healey of Dorchester, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond.

The petition asks the Court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this

appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain

specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date or u2/23/2023. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance i you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date action may be taken in this matter withou further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance you or your attorney written appearance. vritten appearance, you or your attorne nust file a written affidavit stating the specifi acts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask or a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense. Witness, Hon. BrianJ. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.

Register of Probate Date: January 05, 2023

Published: February 9, 2023

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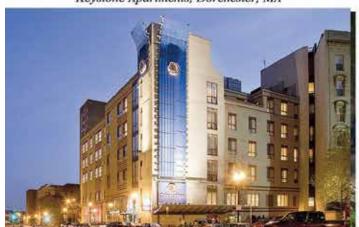
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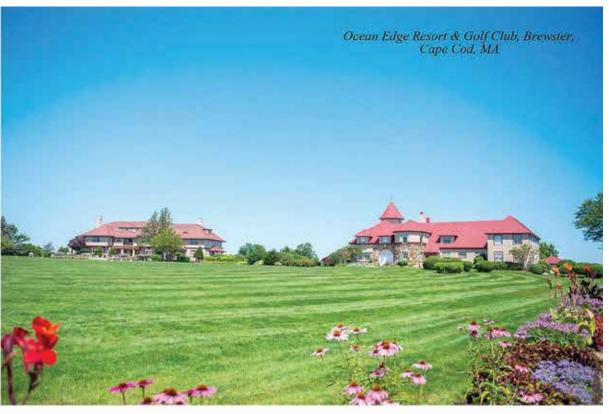
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Herb Chambers





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2020 Toyota Camry LE	\$12,298
Stk# BH80631A, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 95,823 mi.	
2015 MINI Hardtop	\$12,498
Stk# BH24214XX, 2 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 97,843 mi.	
2018 Chevrolet Malibu LT	\$13,998
Stk# BH24215XX, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 94,047 mi.	
2013 Hyundai Santa FE Sport	\$14,898
Stk# BH24142XX, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 89,532 mi.	
2014 Honda Accord EX-L	\$14,898
Stk# BH80167A, 4 dr., 6 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 123,995 mi.	
2019 Ford Fiesta SE	\$15,898
Stk# BH80636A, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 27,699 mi.	
2014 Kia Sorento SX	\$16,498
Stk# BH24203XY, 4 dr., 6 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 63,331 mi.	
2017 Volkswagen Golf SportWagen SE	\$17,298
Stk# BH80633A, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 86,668 mi.	
2015 Honda Accord LX	\$17,898
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	Stk# BH80615A, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 31,702 mi. 2019 Honda Civic LX	\$22.998
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2020 Honda Civic LX	. \$23,498
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2020 Honda Civic LX	. \$23,498
Stk# BH80481A, 4 dr., 4 cyl., auto, p/s/b, a/c, 12,340 mi.	
2019 Toyota Avalon XLE	. \$23,898
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2016 Mercedes-Benz E350	. \$23,898
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2020 Honda Civic LX	.\$23,998
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2018 Honda Civic Sport	.\$23,998
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