

Dorchester Reporter

"The News and Values Around the Neighborhood"

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At left: Senior co-captains Alicia Browder, left, and Danielle Cox lead the NHCS girls' basketball team. Right: Tavon Rhodes, 17, leads his division in points scored with 30.1 per game.

Photos by Jen Green/Courtesy NHCS



Neighborhood House Charter School's hoop teams are into 'making some noise'

BY CASSIDY MCNEELEY
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

Tavon Rhodes and Alicia Browder of the Neighborhood House Charter School (NHCS) in Dorchester have spent this basketball season putting up big numbers on the scoreboard.

Rhodes, a small forward on the boys' team, and Browder, a power forward on the girls' team, are senior captains who happen to be leading the state in scoring for their division, with Rhodes averaging 30.1 points per game and Browder averaging 18.4.

"It's putting a target on my back, more pressure throughout the game," said the 17-year-old Rhodes. "Me being the number one scorer is pretty cool, but I'd rather just win the game and worry about my

team. I'd rather have my teammates score 30 points than me."

This humble attitude is consistent among all athletes and coaches at the NHCS. Browder, likewise, cares more about her team's success than her statistics.

"It is harder because coming into the game, [the other team] knows I'm the top scorer. So, they try to double-team me. They see me in the paint, and they try to stop me from scoring at all costs. It's harder, but it has opened up opportunities for my teammates to score as well."

The tuition-free charter school has not been especially known for its sports program, but rather it is

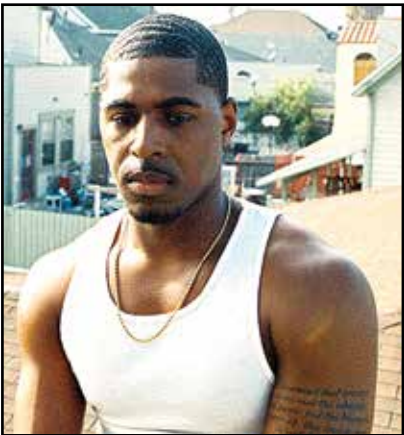
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Dot-born Khamari, a R&B prodigy, takes off on his first headlining tour

BY CORY UTSEY
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

Khamari has always been a lover of music.

In his days as an adolescent growing up off Blue Hill Ave., the singer, born Khamari Barnes, played instruments ranging from the guitar to the French horn. An alumnus of Swampscott High School through the METCO program, Barnes has lived in Dorchester for years, along with his family. He studied classical music, piano and jazz while bumping the likes of Stevie Wonder, Usher, The Beatles and J.Cole. His early exposure to



Khamari
Shamaal Bloodman photo

the arts and love for music made one thing clear to him – he *had* to be an artist.

Though he studied for a short period of time at Berklee, he left to pursue music full time in 2017 and eventually moved to LA to integrate himself with the entertainment industry.

Now, with a voice that embodies the essence of rhythm, blues, and soul, the Dorchester native is headlining "A Brief Nirvana Tour," named after his debut album released in 2023. It kicked off on Monday of this week with

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Financing deals will stabilize operations at facilities across state, says Steward

BY ALISON KUZNITZ
STATE HOUSE
NEWS SERVICE

Despite facing major financial challenges, Steward Health Care is not currently planning to shutter any of its Massachusetts hospitals, a company executive said last Friday in response to elected officials sounding the alarm about potential closures that could harm vulnerable residents throughout eastern Massachusetts.

Steward "has agreed upon the principal terms for a significant financial transaction to help stabilize our company," Steward Executive Vice President Dr. Michael Callum said in a message to colleagues. Callum's message was shared by a nurses' union, and a Steward official confirmed that it was sent to employees on Friday morning.

However, Callum indicated in his letter that some Steward facilities may eventually come under new ownership as the company continues to grapple with its financial issues, including overdue loan and rent payments.

"This bridge financing and the terms of this transaction have been agreed upon and the first tranche of funding is imminent," Callum wrote. "This funding will help stabilize operations, including the resumption of virtually all elective cases, and more importantly allows us to continue operations at all of our Massachusetts hospitals. To be clear: We have no current plans to close any of our hospitals

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\$32m project along Cummins Highway set to start in April

BY SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

A long-awaited \$32 million public works project aimed at improving safety and access along Cummins Highway will begin by mid-April, according to city officials who briefed members of the Greater Mattapan Neighborhood Council on the plan on Monday evening.

Jeffrey Alexis, chief design engineer for the Public Works Department (PWD), said a contractor has been selected and work is slated to begin on April 16. The project, he said, would stretch out over two seasons, with a completion anticipated by late 2025.

"It will be the first significant improvement to the corridor since 1955, when they came in and removed the trolleys in the median," said Alexis.

McCourt Construction will carry out the project along Cummins from Fairway Street to Wood Avenue. It will include full-depth reconstruction and repaving of the roadway, building wider sidewalks, replacing existing traffic signals with more modern

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Police, Courts & Fire

4 charged in mass shooting on Talbot Ave last August

Four men were indicted over the last week in connection to the shooting at last August’s J’ouvert parade on Talbot Avenue that left eight people wounded by gunshots. The four are Hubman Hunter, 31, Gerald Vick, 30, Sebastian Monteiro, 21, and Dwayne Francism 30.

Hunter is charged with 8 counts of assault and battery with firearm (8 counts), illegal possession of firearm (3rd offense), illegal possession of ammunition, carrying a loaded firearm, and possession of a firearm in commission of a felony. He was arraigned in Suffolk Superior court on Feb. 2 and is currently being held without bail.

Vick is also charged with eight counts assault and battery with firearm, illegal possession of firearm (2nd offense), illegal possession of ammunition, carrying a loaded firearm, possession of a machine gun, possession of a large capacity magazine, and possession of a firearm in commission of a felony. He was arraigned on Jan. 29 in Suffolk Superior Court and currently is being held on \$6,000 bail with GPS and home confinement.

Monteiro, now being held without bail, was charged with assault with a dangerous weapon, illegal possession of a firearm, illegal possession of ammunition, carrying a loaded firearm, and possession of a firearm in commission of a felony.

Francis is charged with illegal possession of a firearm, illegal possession of ammunition, carrying a loaded firearm, and possession of a large capacity feeding device. He’s expected to be arraigned in Suffolk Superior on Feb. 27. He is currently held on \$5,000 bail and GPS with a 7-7 curfew.

Said DA Kevin Hayden: “These individuals turned a celebration of Caribbean heritage and culture into a free-fire zone with zero consciousness of where their bullets were flying or whom their bullets were hitting. I think these indictments reflect both the dedication of the investigators to make these defendants answer for their actions, and the commitment of the community to put an end to such reckless, terrifying gun violence.”

...

A 15-year-old girl was ordered held on \$500 bail and had her bail revoked on a pending case after being charged in Dorchester Juvenile Court on Friday for allegedly stabbing a 14-year-old girl at the Jeremiah Burke High School in Dorchester on Tuesday. The girl was charged with one count of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon (knife). She was ordered to have no contact with the victim. The judge also revoked the girl’s earlier bail on a pending case involving resisting arrest and assault and battery on a police officer, meaning she will remain in custody. The girl will return to court on February 21.

...

A Dorchester man was arraigned last Friday on charges that he sent an overnight supervisor for the Boston Transportation Department to the hospital by



The team at Comfort Kitchen. Photo by Stefanie Belnavis of the Diahann Project (@thediahannproject)

Comfort Kitchen in Uphams Corner a semifinalist in Beard Awards voting

The Comfort Kitchen Restaurant in Uphams Corner, which opened last January, has been named a semifinalist for Best New Restaurant in 2023 in the prestigious 2024 James Beard Restaurant and Chef Awards. Overall, the competition involves 30 semifinalists nationwide.

The Beard Awards are considered the gold stan-

dard of the restaurant and culinary world and are bestowed annually on purveyors from coast to coast.

Finalist nominees will be announced on Wed., April 3, and winners will be announced at a ceremony on Mon., June 10, at the Lyric Opera of Chicago.

Established in 1990, the Awards recognize

exceptional talent and achievement in the culinary arts, hospitality, media, and broader food system, as well as a demonstrated commitment to racial and gender equity, community, sustainability, and a culture where all can thrive.

The executive team at Comfort Kitchen includes

Managing Partner Bipalw Rai, Organizational Development Partner Nyacko Pearl Perry, Chef Partner Kwasi Kwaa, Chef du Cuisine Shelley Nason, GM and Beverage Director Kyisha Davenport, and Branding Partner Rita Ferreira.

– REPORTER STAFF

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UPCOMING CIVIC MEETINGS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

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The Neponset River Watershed Association hosts a special ‘King Tide’ program at Tenean Beach in Dorchester on Sat., Feb. 10, at 10:30 a.m. to observe the tidal flooding and its impacts and discuss ways to remediate them. Following a brief talk, attendees will be invited to bike or walk with a guide with the Neponset Greenway Council. Go to Neponset.org for more info. Join the BPDA for a virtual public meeting about Mattapan Squares + Streets Zoning on Wed., Feb. 7, from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Zoom link: bit.ly/MattapanFebruary7. ADSL will be open for February break (Feb. 20-23) for kids ages 5-11. Tuition (\$25 per child) includes breakfast, lunch, and snacks; sports/fitness; competitive gaming, and more. Register today at adls.org. Boston’s Zoning Commission will host a

virtual public hearing on Feb. 14 at 9:15 a.m. about amendments filed by the BPDA to add one new Open Space sub-district to Article 33. The Stadium Open Space (OS-S) subdistrict would create a new stadium and public amphitheater zoning district, in order to enable greater investment and enable more amenities in appropriate areas of the city’s current and future open spaces. Said map amendment would map the newly created OS-S subdistrict in East Boston (East Boston Memorial Stadium) and Mattapan (White Stadium) neighborhoods. This meeting will only be held virtually and not in person. You can participate in this meeting by going to bit.ly/BZC_Feb142024. Copies of the petitions and a map of the area involved may be obtained from the

Zoning Commission electronically, and you may also submit written comments or questions to zoningcommission@boston.gov. The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum offers several family-oriented activities and programs throughout Presidents’ Day week, including its signature Presidents’ Day Festival on Feb. 19 featuring presidential storytelling, activities and performances, and a Celebrate! family performing arts program. The Celebrate! performance of Stories of Hope and Joy with Len Cabral at 10:30 a.m. features folktales, myths, and personal accounts brought to life with humor, wisdom, and compassion by Cabral, the international renowned storyteller. Audiences of all ages will be inspired by stories of the power of hopeful actions in honor of Black History Month.

The main activities will kick off at 11 a.m. Actors portraying Presidents John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and Theodore Roosevelt, and First Lady Abigail Adams will share stories and engage visitors in conversation. Festival goers can enjoy Museum tours and activities that bring history to life for all ages. The Festival will close with a special free concert by the Harvard Din & Tonics, who will perform Kennedy campaign songs and popular music from the 1960s and today. Visit jfklibrary.org/ PresidentsDay for a detailed schedule of the Presidents’ Day Festival offerings. Registration is recommended.

SEND IN EVENT NOTICES TO NEWSEditor@DOTNEWS.COM

City Council backs idea of debt-free college bill

By CHRIS LISINSKI
STATE HOUSE
NEWS SERVICE

The Boston City Council in recent years has not always been known for reaching amiable agreements on high-profile policy debates. But when it comes to a nearly \$800 million higher education funding proposal that Beacon Hill has been hesitant to embrace, councillors are all on the same page.

Councillors last Wednesday (Jan. 31) unanimously approved a resolution calling on the Legislature to enact a bill significantly boosting the state's investment in colleges and universities, aiming to offer debt-free attendance for students and new resources for staff.

The bill would require students or their families to make "reasonable contributions" toward the costs of public college or university and use state funding to fill any specific gaps. It does not outline explicit income restrictions or eligibility.

Council President Ruthzee Louijeune said the bill, which supporters have long upheld as the CHERISH Act, would offer a "transformative approach" to the burden of steadily rising tuition and fees.

"In essence, the CHERISH Act is not only about funding. It's about upholding our commitment to the future generations, ensuring they have access to affordable high-quality education," Louijeune said during the council's proceedings. "It's a call to action for all of us to support the pillars of our public higher education system."

The council's enthusiasm extended beyond the vote: Members kicked off their hearing by adopting another resolution honoring the Higher Ed for

All coalition, which has been one of the chief proponents of the legislation.

Councillors posed for a photo with Higher Ed for All advocates and turned over the microphone to Jonathan Cohn, policy director of the Progressive Massachusetts group that's part of the coalition pushing for higher education reforms.

"The bill that we're fighting for this session, in particular the CHERISH Act, is something that builds on that vision with debt-free higher education so that students aren't graduating with thousands and thousands of dollars in debt that makes it hard for them when they start out and is damaging for the economy of Massachusetts as a whole," Cohn said in the council chambers.

According to a summary produced by the coalition, the legislation would launch a program allowing students to attend public colleges and universities without incurring debt starting with debt-free community college. It would also invest more money in student support services, make adjunct faculty and part-time staff eligible for state health care and retirement benefits, boost minimum funding levels for public campuses, and explore necessary building upgrades for campuses.

A Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center analyst told state lawmakers last fall that the package would cost around \$790 million, suggesting the implementation could be phased in over multiple years in the way the Legislature did with the \$1.5 billion K-12 education funding reform law known as the Student Opportunity Act.

Councillor Gabriela Coletta said tuition costs are growing faster at public colleges and universities than at private

campuses. "Obtaining a degree from a higher ed institution is increasingly becoming out of reach for many who do not qualify for financial aid, or there are those like me who have taken out thousands of dollars of student loans in hopes of gaining the necessary skills to become a productive member of society," she said.

"We know that there are reverberating effects that impact the economic prosperity of these individuals, like owning a home, buying a car and family planning," she added. "Passing the CHERISH Act means properly investing in the commonwealth's most important engine of democracy, opportunity, and economic prosperity."

The council's vote effectively communicates to top House and Senate Democrats that elected officials in the state's largest city want them to take action, though it's not likely their call will generate a response.

One hundred and eleven lawmakers, reflecting a majority of the 200 across both chambers, have cosponsored either or both versions of the bill. However, it has failed for years to gain

traction among the legislative leaders who control the purse strings.

In the closing days of the 2019-2020 legislative session, the Higher Education Committee sent a predecessor version of the CHERISH Act to a dead-end study. Last term, the panel recommended creating a commission to explore higher education changes necessary to expand student access, but that idea died without action in the House Ways and Means Committee.

Top Democrats have instead targeted narrower changes, such as launching the MassReconnect program that covers unmet community college costs for some adults.

"The state has additional funds now via the Fair Share amendment that is already being used toward our public schools and transportation system and could also be used to assist our working-class students [to] receive needed funds to pursue their education," Councillor Tania Fernandes Anderson said. "These funds could help our students graduate debt-free so that they don't graduate in a five- or six-figure hole before they are even to find a job."

T boss 'welcomes' a study of Red Line tunnel cap idea

MBTA General Manager Phillip Eng said he welcomes discussions about re-casting the Red Line tunnel cap as an extension of the existing tunnel cap pathway from Melville Avenue to Shawmut Station and down to Centre Street.

"The MBTA welcomes ideas that explore the use of the T's existing transit assets to improve the quality of life in the communities served by the MBTA," Eng said through a spokesperson, and at an in-person meeting last month. "The T looks forward to reviewing the feasibility study upon its completion."

The city has put out a Request for Proposals (RFP) for an engineering feasibility study to explore the structure of the tunnel cap to determine what will be possible, if anything, on top of the cap, which is currently fenced off and not in use from Shawmut to Ashmont, and from Fields Corner to Shawmut, and report back before June 30.

The T said that the main thing they will need to understand is the weight-carrying capacity of the tunnel roof, the presence of utilities, and impacts of any proposed plantings on the pathway.

— SETH DANIEL

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Neighborhood House Charter School’s hoop teams are into ‘making some noise’

(Continued from page 1) seen as a solid alternative to traditional district schools. NHCS opened in 1995, but the athletic program did not take off until Scott Urban, now 32, was hired as the athletic director in 2018. Since then, the school has expanded beyond 8th grade and is now a K1-12 grade institution.

“Interviewed six years ago for the PE position and didn’t know that I was going to be the athletic director as well,” said Urban. “We were looking to build something, and I was the guy they chose, and I fell in love with it.”

During his time at NHCS, Urban has grown the athletic department from the ground up. In their first few seasons, the basketball teams, currently managed by senior Sam Cardichon, rarely won games. This season, both teams have won spots in the Massachusetts Charter School Athletic Organization (MCSAO) playoffs.

Urban credits the success of the basketball program to the passionate players and dedicated coaches, pointing to contributors like Kathy Walker, the 8th-grade transitional dean who also is the head coach of the boys’ varsity team.

“Coach Kat is the most thorough coach I have ever met; she goes above and beyond,” the athletic director explained. “We don’t have a gym or facilities on site so that means we are scrounging for space. I have to go out and get permits, whether it be at the Dorchester Y or the Kroc Center. They don’t come until 7 p.m., so Coach Kat stays here from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. every



Karin Richardson, a sophomore, with Head Coach Charlene Fernandes.

night. She is putting her heart and soul into this program.”

This season marks Walker’s third as head coach following five seasons as assistant coach. “It’s been challenging because this school isn’t noticed for winning,” Walker said in an interview with the Reporter. “Once the transition in coaching happened, a lot of things opened up. The boys are receptive to new coaching, new ideas. We’re just making a lot of noise and I want them, as well as the girls, to be celebrated because nobody is talking about charter sports.”

She doesn’t just work with the boys’ team. The basketball program at NHCS, she says, is like one big family. Not only do the teams support each other at their games, but they practice together as well.

“Sometimes we’ll go to our drills, and we’ll get mixed up, girls and boys, so we all just feel connected and have chemistry, too,” said Rhodes,

a Dorchester native. “Sometimes in practice, we’ll scrimmage against the girls and compete hard.”

Danielle Cox, the senior co-captain of the girls’ team, enjoys these combined practices and appreciates getting to work with her team’s head coach, Charlene Fernandes as well as the boys’ coaches.

“I just feel like we’re all very good, coachable people with good coaches. Not everybody is willing to be coached and they’re good coaches who are willing to put in the time and the effort,” said Cox who is also in the running to be the school’s valedictorian.

Sophomore point guard Karin Richardson values Fernandes’s dedication to the girls’ program. Without her, Richardson said, her love for basketball may never have come alive.

“At first, I didn’t really take basketball seriously,” she said. “When Coach Charlene told me that being a point guard



Scott Urban

is a big position, I started taking it seriously and started to take opportunities on the court to show my teammates that I can be a perfect point guard for them.”

Both Walker and Fernandes have similar coaching styles and are recognized for their loud voices on the court. “Coach Kat wants the best in us,” explained the 17-year-old Browder, who also plays volleyball and softball. “When she’s yelling, it may not sound like that, but if you actually listen to what she’s saying, you can tell that it’s coming from the heart and that she truly means what she says.”

Fernandes, whom the players describe as the louder of the two coaches, doesn’t just care about her players while they are on the court, but in all aspects of their lives.

“She is a mom, but she’s also a mom to us. She brings us to practice and then brings us home if we need a ride,” said Cox. “She’s very involved. It’s not always just about sports with her. If we need to talk to her, she’s always there. Just give her a call, text her, and she’ll answer. It doesn’t matter what time it is.”

Even though the players have lives beyond the gym, Rhodes’s unique passion for basketball is a large part of his



Tavon Rhodes slams home a bucket.



Tavon Rhodes with his coach Kathy Walker.

identity. “Usually before and after practice I go to shootaround. I like to think outside the box and there’s not always going to be a practice where you do so much of that

stuff. It’s more conditioning sometimes, so I just want to make sure that when I play games and step on the court I’ll be prepared.”

Having missed his freshman season due to Covid restrictions, Rhodes has been on the basketball team since Walker transitioned to the position of head coach. In just three seasons he has scored more than 1,000 points and leads Massachusetts in points per game.

“I think over these three years at the school, I mentally got stronger, which is making my game physically stronger on the court,” said Rhodes. “I just like to prove people and teams wrong.”

Rhodes and his classmates all express an interest in continuing their academic and athletic careers in college – and their coaches and the athletic director plan to help them achieve these aspirations.

“We shouldn’t only be talking about our program within the community of Dorchester,” said Walker. “Everyone should know that this smaller school in Dorchester is making some noise.”



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Cabinet company’s new showroom on Dot Ave. perfect fit, owners say

**By SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR**

When Metropolitan Cabinets and Countertops was looking for a location in the city, they turned to their founders’ roots in Dorchester and uncovered the perfect location in Savin Hill, where the storefront at 1175 Dorchester Ave. has morphed from housing a Rent-A-Center business into featuring a Best of Boston kitchen design showroom in about a year’s time.

Members of the third generation at the family business couldn’t be happier with their decision. “We had always wanted to be in Boston, but we thought Dorchester would be the best location for us,” said Peter Laufer, vice president of the company, whose wife, Samantha Elfland Lehrer, is also involved in the business. “We had been looking and this opportunity presented itself and we decided to make a run of it.”

Part of the move also had to do with the company’s co-founder, Stuart Elfland, who was born in Dorchester and spent his early years in the neighborhood.

“Stuart has always had an affinity for Dorchester,” said Laufer. “We think there’s a great opportunity in this area because there’s a lot



Peter Laufer, part of a third generation of ownership at Metropolitan Cabinets and Countertops, inside the company’s fifth and newest showroom at 1175 Dorchester Ave. in Savin Hill.



The new Metropolitan Cabinets and Countertops showroom on Dorchester Avenue, which opened last fall.
Seth Daniel photos

of change going on in Dorchester, the South End, and South Boston and there are not a lot of kitchen places around here. It’s not a fly-by-night thing; we’re here for the long run.”

Their showroom, which

opened last fall – it’s the company’s fifth in Greater Boston, and first expansion in about 10 years – is a sparkling example of kitchen design. The location on busy Dot Ave. gives them opportunities to entice possible customers from those who are simply walking by. Their other locations are more like destinations, with customers driving to showrooms from long distances.

With their ‘Best of Boston’ banners displayed prominently, the new urban showroom offers the retail room that allowed them to fashion a customer space that one might find in the tonier suburbs.

“We try to check all the boxes and have something for everybody at all price points,” Laufer said. “From small apartment renovations to a big, full renovation in the South End, we have something for everyone.”

Stuart Elfland and his father Mike, who had long since moved to the Norwood area, started their cabinet and countertop business in 1984. But what sets them apart was a move they made 20 years ago to manufacture all their cabinets and countertops at their Norwood headquarters. That, Laufer said, has

given them an advantage in quality, price, and turnaround time.

“We started on a dream 40 years ago and we are celebrating our 40th year in business this year,” he said. About 20 years ago, we started manufacturing our own cabinets because we were having so many problems with our dealers.

“We’re not just a retail store,” Laufer added. “It’s about finding a well-designed product and pricing. We control pricing because we are the manufacturer. We want to have high quality, good pricing, and great lead times...After the design and price, the only thing that matters in this business is you get it when you want it. Because we’re local and making it here, we’re always going to be on time.”

At their manufacturing facility, they have about 200 local employees working in a state-of-the-art factory constructing Massachusetts-made cabinets and countertops to ship to Dorchester.

The Dot Ave. showroom, where dedicated staff and experienced kitchen designers are ready to help customers with their renovation plans, is open for walk-ins, or by appointment.

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People

News about people in and around our Neighborhoods

'Snow Monstah' is the winner in MassDOT snowplow contest

One classroom of fourth graders at UP Academy Dorchester on Westville Street celebrated a win this winter when a name they submitted for a snowplow was chosen as a winner in a MassDOT contest.

For the second year, MassDOT had challenged students across the state in grades K-8 to submit names for the department's snowplows. The best names in each of the six districts statewide win prizes given out in two categories – grades K-4 and grades 5-8.

UP Academy Dorchester's fourth graders in Kat Brea's and Kierstyn Kahler's classroom came up with 'Snow Monstah' and that took the prize in the District 6, grades K-4 category.

"We're glad Snow Mon-



Fourth graders at UP Academy Dorchester celebrated their winning submission of "Snow Monstah" for the 2nd MassDOT "Name a Snowplow" contest. Photo courtesy UP Academy Dorchester

stah was the winner," said Brea and Kahler. "With the \$100 gift card, we plan to get pencils, notebooks, and folders. Thank you MassDOT."

The contest is for names for the 12 MassDOT snowplows that will be in service during this 2023/2024 winter season. The purpose is to help recognize the hard work and dedication shown by public works employees and contractors during the winter season.

Other winning submissions were Flower Flower, Edward Blizzardhands, Glacier Gobbler, Polar Pathmaker, Snow B Wan Kenobi, The Snolar Express, Sleetwood Mac, Snow Place Like Home, Snow-hemian Rhapsody, The Mayplower, and Fast & Flurryous.

– REPORTER STAFF

A new grand master for Prince Hall Grand Lodge



The Honorable Justin A. Petty Photo courtesy Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts

The Honorable Justin A. Petty was installed as the Grand Master of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge last Saturday (Feb. 3) at William E. Reed Auditorium in Dorchester. The Masonic lodge is the oldest Black organization of its kind in the United States, dating back to 1775, when Prince Hall and 14 men of color were installed as masons in a lodge that was mainly composed of British soldiers stationed in Boston.

Petty, who is the 74th Grand Master, is a native of the US Virgin Islands and a longtime professor and department chair of Broadcast Media Technology at Roxbury Community College. He also is the co-founder of the steel band group Pan Loco, which performs through New England.



Members of the Latin Academy swim team celebrated their big win in the Boston City League championship held on Thursday, Feb. 1. The Dragons won 7 of the 11 events and the MVP award was presented to Melinda Field (inset), a junior at BLA, for her strong showing in the 100-yard backstroke event. Patrick O'Connor photos



Local experts appointed to Housing Advisory Council

Gov. Healey recently swore in members of the Housing Advisory Council, a group that includes construction and affordable housing professionals with Dorchester ties.

Established through executive orders filed in conjunction with the Affordable Homes Act, the Council will bring together a broad range of stakeholders from across Massachusetts to advise the Healey-Driscoll administration on strategies to address the state's housing challenges – substantially increasing housing production, pre-

serving and upgrading existing housing stock, supporting individuals and families struggling with homelessness, and using housing to create economic mobility for all.

Local members of the Council include Joseph Byrne, North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters; Symone Crawford, Mass Affordable Housing; Kenan Bigby, Trinity Financial; and Nicole Obi, executive director of the Black Economic Council of Massachusetts.

–REPORTER STAFF

YESTERYEAR ARCHIVE

DORCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Community Church of Neponset

On Nov. 1, 1927, the Appleton Methodist Episcopal Church (organized March 1848), combined with Trinity Congregational Church (organized May 11, 1859), to form the Community Church of Neponset at 51 Walnut Street. It was sometimes called the Church of the Unity.

The top photo in today's illustration shows a picture of the church published in a flyer about services resuming in the first decade of the 20th century. The bottom photo shows the church as it looks today.

From a study of atlases, the building seems to be the original, as remodeled at some point in the 20th century. But no building permit was found for the alterations. We are not sure when the name



of the church was changed to Community Church of Neponset. These posts can be viewed on the blog at dorchesterhistoricalsociety.



org. The Society's William Clapp and James Blake Houses are open to the public on the third Sunday of the month from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Editorial

Amid Steward crisis, health centers are critical

Concerns continue to swirl this week about the viability of Carney Hospital, even as their corporate overlords at Steward Health Care claim they have a “significant financial transaction” in place to keep the Dorchester facility and its other Massachusetts assets open.

That’s good news, if it’s true. No one wants to see the Carney close, although there are plenty of people who’d like to see it change hands, especially given the opaque nature of Steward’s business dealings that has permitted it to skirt scrutiny from state regulators.

That has also led to uncertainty about just how well Carney and other under-funded, debt-laden hospitals in the Steward constellation can stabilize their operations— and for how long.

It’s against that murky backdrop that other health leaders must map out their next steps. And, in the local context, that very much includes Dorchester and Mattapan’s network of community health centers, which are already bracing for – and experiencing – what a Carney meltdown might portend for their facilities.

Once upon a time, Carney was a partner of the community health center movement in our neighborhood and, in fact, was the fiscal agent for a few as they started up in the 1970s and 1980s. But that was long before the Steward era. Over the decades, Carney has lost its direct affiliation with health centers that once served as a vital feeder-network for the hospital. As Carney falters, it’s now the health center system that is stepping up to absorb the potential overflow.

Health centers, as presently constituted, can’t replace all of the services that patients need and can typically find available at Carney’s emergency department, for example. But they are already meeting critical demands for urgent care appointments, dental visits, vaccinations, pre-natal care, and even filling prescriptions. They’re also essential hubs for hosting primary care physicians (PCPs) in an environment where that’s becoming hard to find, even in a scenario in which Steward is operating as “normal.”

Michelle Nadow, CEO at Dot House Health in Fields Corner, says the Steward crisis and what it could mean for Carney is very much on their minds at DotHouse: “We’re empathetic and concerned about the patients and staff, of course. It’s been a local resource for so many people, for the convenience and the access, plus the language access that they offer.”

She reports that her facility is already seeing an increase in demand.

“Urgent care is seeing tons of folks and it’s far outpacing what we had budgeted for volume at this point in the year,” said Nadow. “There’s a huge crunch with people trying to see PCPs.”

DotHouse Health is one of the places where there’s legitimate hope for meeting that demand. Nadow and her team have nine new physicians on their roster who are taking on new patients. It’s the result of DotHouse Health planning for this model for several years, investing in its building, and getting the financial support it needs with “foresight from our board,” Nadow says.

DotHouse and other key health centers in and near Dorchester – Harvard Street, Codman, Uphams, Neponset, Whittier Street, Harbor Health, Mattapan, Bowdoin Street – are essential to the system in Boston’s neighborhoods and we’re fortunate to have them, particularly in this moment.

As we witnessed in real time throughout the Covid crisis, no response to a public health emergency in this Commonwealth will be effective without including community health centers as a central part of the plan. It’s critical that policymakers at the city, state, and federal level keep this in mind as they think through their strategies to address this ongoing Steward crisis.

–Bill Forry



The way it was, and is: Waiting at the lights at Freeport St.

The empty tracts of land aside, traffic on the northbound side of Morrissey Boulevard on Oct. 14, 1958, was a forecast for the way things would be 65 years later every weekday morning at rush hour: multiples lanes full of cars as far as the eye can see and twists and turns and mixups at the traffic lights at the boulevard’s intersection with Freeport Street.

This photo, posted on the Facebook page “Originally from Dorchester” by Sandra Shields, was likely taken from a vantage point on the newly constructed Southeast Expressway above Morrissey as it runs down to Columbia Point.

Stage set for Senate and House to finalize firearms laws overhaul

BY SAM DRYSDALE
STATE HOUSE
NEWS SERVICE

The Senate last week approved a sweeping overhaul of state firearms laws, setting up talks with the House that could lead to a major new law later this spring or summer. The Senate bill seeks to rein in untraceable ghost guns, bans carrying firearms in government administrative buildings, gives firearm licensing authorities access to some of an applicant’s mental health hospitalization history, and expands the list of people who can petition the court to take away someone’s guns if they are deemed dangerous. It passed the Senate on a 37-3 vote shortly after 8 p.m. on Feb. 1.

“Although proud that Massachusetts has one of the lowest rates of gun violence in the nation, the members of this body are concerned by every incident of gun violence, every firearm suicide, and every accidental gun injury that occurs in the commonwealth,” said Sen. Cindy Creem of Newton, the main author of the bill.

The package filed by Majority Leader Creem hit the Senate floor at 12:30 p.m. Thursday and Minority Leader Bruce Tarr wasted no time pointing out some of the issues that Republicans see with the bill, including that it did not get its own public hearing.

Creem’s proposal represents the Senate’s long-anticipated response to the bill that cleared the House last fall.

Tarr argued that lawmakers were headed down “a very dangerous path” by not holding a public hearing on the Creem proposal, which was assembled following many private meetings. Creem said the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security held a hearing on other gun bills last year, giving people interested in the topic an opportunity to be heard.

Creem said the principles underlying the bill were “concern for the safety of our residents, respect for the Second Amendment, and a focus on the root cause of gun crime and gun accidents, and a commitment to equity underlies each of the policies included in this comprehensive bill.”

She added that her proposal is supported by both gun safety advocates and law enforcement.

The Massachusetts’ arm of the National Rifle Association called the bill “punitive” and didn’t support it or any of the 79 amendments senators filed, claiming the bill was “so convoluted that there is no way it can be fixed with amendments.”

Creem said she consulted with experts “who specialize in Second Amendment-related issues, including the attorney general’s office,” and was confident that the bill meets constitutional muster.

The Senate bill targets ghost guns – untraceable firearms that can be bought online in parts and assembled at home – by requiring the serialization of gun frames and receivers and classifying those

individual parts as firearms, and explicitly prohibiting the use of 3D printers to manufacture or assemble firearms without a license.

The bill would also codify the state’s ban on assault weapons, prohibit devices that convert semi-automatic firearms into fully automatic weapons, ensure that gun dealers are inspected annually, and allow health care professionals to ask a court to temporarily remove someone’s firearms if they are deemed dangerous.

Tarr highlighted an amendment (#63 filed by Sen. Patrick O’Connor of Weymouth and supported by the entire minority caucus) that he said included the topics that Republicans “think can be the subject of near unanimous, if not unanimous, consensus in this chamber.” He said the Republican caucus is also concerned with ghost guns, Glock switches, data collection, and more.

“And while we may come to this discussion with some variations on how we would achieve those common goals, the fact remains that we share a similar commitment. And I want to dispel any notion that might be out there that we do not share that commitment,” Tarr said. “It’s our belief that if we move forward with that package, that we would have the best chance of achieving success on a number of the subjects that I just made reference to.”

O’Connor, a Republican, made a point about needing to create a bill that is legally defensible, should Second Amendment rights’ groups challenge the legislation in court.

After his amendment was rejected, O’Connor voted against the bill alongside Republican Sens. Peter Durant and Ryan Fattman. Tarr was the only Republican who voted in favor of the bill.

The minority leader praised several amendments to the bill, which he said took it in the right direction.

Under a Sen. John Velis of Westfield amendment, repeat offenders of crimes related to gun violence would be detained until their trial if they violated conditions of release from arrest.

“In my district, in October of this year, in Holyoke, three individuals started a gunfight, a firefight in broad daylight at high noon, and a stray bullet hit a completely innocent pregnant woman on a bus driving by. The woman was rushed to the hospital, where her newborn baby was delivered, but tragically did not survive,” Velis said. “If this tragedy was not horrific enough, one of these individuals involved in this firefight had been arrested a week prior – a week prior – on unrelated firearms charges, and had been let out on bail to walk the streets of Holyoke.”

Velis said the amendment would “finally create consequences” for those charged with unlawful violence and would help protect community members who fear gun violence. He added that this violence is more likely to affect minority-majority communities and stopping the “revolving door for repeat gun offenders” would help keep these neighborhoods safe.

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Financing deals will stabilize operations at facilities across Massachusetts, officer at Steward asserts

(Continued from page 1)
in Massachusetts.”

Steward owns hospitals in Dorchester, Brockton, Haverhill, Methuen, Taunton, Ayer, Norwood, Fall River, and Brighton, all of which serve a high volume of Medicaid and Medicare patients. Earlier last week, the Department of Public Health held a public hearing about Steward’s previously announced plan to close New England Sinai Hospital in Stoughton in April due to losses incurred there.

“Moreover, the Company is advanced in an M&A process that would bring in a significant equity partner to our physician organization, and the Company has already received very significant bids as part of this process,” Callum added. “The bridge financing will get the Company to the closing of the M&A process and will provide the necessary capital for a robust national physician group and the time needed for Steward to consider transferring one or more of our hospitals to other operators.”

Those arrangements should allow Steward to get through “this challenging time,” Callum said. “We are committed to working collaboratively with leaders in the state towards the shared goal of providing exceptional service to our patients.”

Congresswoman Lori Trahan said Steward should disclose more details of its financing plans. “I’m glad that families in Haverhill, Methuen, the Nashoba Valley, and beyond can go to sleep tonight knowing their community hospital will still be open in the morning,” she said in a statement. “These are critical facilities that people depend on for all types of care, and Steward executives owe it to their 40,000-plus patients and 16,000 employees in Massachusetts to be absolutely clear about what the next steps are. These families deserve to know the timeline for this bridge funding, the details of this transaction, and what it means for the future of care in the Commonwealth.”

Katie Murphy, president of the Massachusetts Nurses Association, expressed relief over the deal but signaled that more discussion is needed to respond to the crisis. The union represents 3,000 nurses and health care professionals at eight Steward hospitals.

“We are relieved to see that a deal has been reached to temporarily preserve access to desperately needed health care services provided by the hospitals owned by Steward Healthcare, as the loss of any hospital or service at this time would be devastating for the vulnerable communities served by these facilities,” Murphy said. “While we appreciate this temporary reprieve, decisions must be made in the coming weeks to ensure the orderly transition of Steward facilities so that these communities continue to receive the care they need and that surrounding hospitals are not overwhelmed by the prospect of potential closures.”

1199SEIU Executive Vice President Tim Foley said that his union’s workers also welcomed the news and added that it “will provide additional time to create a long-term solution to preserve community care across the Commonwealth.”

“The care provided by the 5,000 members of 1199 throughout the Steward system and their co-workers is essential to the communities they serve, sometimes being the only hospital in the area for patients,” Foley said. “We must protect community care and avoid exacerbating health inequities. We remain ready to work with the Healey-Driscoll administration, the Massachusetts Legislature, and all stakeholders to ensure that Massachusetts patients can continue to receive quality care in the community hospitals they know from the caregivers they trust.”

Health and Human Services Secretary Kate Walsh said on Friday afternoon that the Healey administration is “actively engaged in contingency planning as Steward navigates its

financial challenges, not only for Steward as a system but for each specific community where Steward operates in Massachusetts.”

“The Healey-Driscoll administration is keeping in close contact with Steward regarding all aspects of their operations, with specific attention to the patient care and access challenges created by their financial situation,” Walsh said in a statement released hours after Steward’s update. “We are fully committed to ensuring that patients have access to high-quality care across our state, focusing on the local and regional care Steward provides. We are working together with Steward to maintain stability for both patients and staff, including safety and quality monitoring by our own Department of Public Health teams on the ground at Steward sites. We know the critically important role our hospitals and health care providers play in our communities.”

Since last Wednesday, surveyors with the Department of Public Health have been conducting daily on-site visits at three of Steward’s hospitals: Good Samaritan Medical Center, St. Elizabeth’s Medical Center, and Holy Family Hospital, which has campuses in both Methuen and Haverhill. Officials have been reviewing hospital staffing, daily patient census and supplies and services provided, according to the Healey administration.

DPH and the Executive Office of Health and Human Services are also conducting “planning and capacity analysis” that involves determining other providers’ capacity for patients and staff, the administration said.

“This includes geographic information (i.e., where patients and staff are coming from) for a comprehensive understanding of regional needs,” EOHHS officials wrote in a press release. “The administration is not only looking at data; as future prospects become clearer for different facilities, we will also seek community input to ensure regional needs are met.”



Ralph de la Torre

Hospital closures in recent years have prompted state lawmakers to rethink the essential services process, including giving the state more authority to keep facilities open if they are deemed essential for patient safety.

The Joint Committee on Public Health solicited written testimony this week on a Rep. Natalie Higgins proposal (H 4230) that would block hospital services from shutting down for three years should the Department of Public Health decide that the proposed closure is “necessary for preserving access and health status in the hospital’s service area” following a public hearing.

Higgins filed the bill in response to the controversial closure of a birthing center at Leominster Hospital.

“We were encouraged by the unprecedented steps the Massachusetts Department of Public Health took during the Essential Services Closure process to call out the inadequacies in UMass Memorial’s closure plan and to demand a new plan and a new closure date,” Higgins said in her testimony, which she shared with the News Service.

“While we thought we had the perfect storm of events to delay the closure of the Birthing Center, UMass did not listen to the concerns of the DPH and closed the unit. Our community was devastated that the DPH did not further intervene.”

White Stadium zoning issue rises up before Feb. 14 vote

By SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

A proposed zoning amendment that targets White Stadium is drawing concern from several activists and organizations as a related plan to re-purpose the city facility for use by a professional soccer team continues to work its way through the BPDA review process.

The zoning change is on next Wednesday’s Zoning Commission agenda and would be implemented if approved. Opponents say it’s happening too fast, with a draft released on Dec. 18, a lone meeting on Dec. 19, and a comment period that ended on Jan. 8.

Since then, a series of contentious BPDA meetings unfolded in mid-January revealing significant resident opposition to the plan for a private entity to lease the stadium for use by a women’s pro soccer team.

The Emerald Necklace Conservancy (ENC) called for a pause on any vote on a zoning change at Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) board meeting on Jan. 18. The vote went ahead anyway and was passed 3-0, sending the matter to the Zoning Commission this month.

“It feels like the process is very fast and is being planned for construction as early as this winter – and that is very, very fast for a park,” said ENC Director Karen Mauney-Brodick. “The re-zoning is complicated for everyone to understand, and also why it’s required now.

“Perhaps it’s because of the plan for alcohol sales in the Stadium. But what I think is most important for folks thinking about the park and open

space protections is how this zoning will affect the park and will it provide protections [under state law] that all our parks enjoy.”

“We want to make sure we’re protecting the public areas and the park. This is a lot and it’s complex and these important meetings played out over the holidays,” she continued.

The zoning amendment, as explained by Zoning Director Kathleen Onufer, would create a new Stadium and Amphitheatre Open Space subdistrict that would apply only to White Stadium (and East Boston Memorial Stadium) – taking it from the Open Space Recreation district, which is the zoning setting for the rest of Franklin Park.

“It also reflects planning recommendations that came out of the Franklin Park Action Plan that the Playstead, including the Stadium, are a major magnet for the park with a need for amenities and investments,” she noted.

For White Stadium, the change would allow for more investments, including accessory retail, restaurant serving alcohol, and entertainment uses only administered by a non-profit or government entity. At White Stadium, the boundaries would include the Stadium, the Grove, and the basketball/tennis court areas adjacent to the Stadium.

“The stadium open space district enables investment like the redevelopment of White Stadium,” said a spokesperson for the BPDA after the vote. “This is part of our commitment to ensuring zoning is in place for planned development, rather than relying on project-by-project exceptions, as a part of larger zoning reform.”

But some neighbors wonder why it was done now and separate from the White Stadium process.

“The re-zoning is very odd to us when you’re talking about White Stadium, because like the golf course and the zoo, it is part of Franklin Park and to take it out of the rules of Franklin Park itself

divorces White Stadium from Franklin Park,” said Fatima Ali Salaam, chair of the Greater Mattapan Neighborhood Council (GMNC). “It places it outside of the park oversight...I understand the stated purpose; I just don’t see why this zoning in particular is needed for that purpose.”

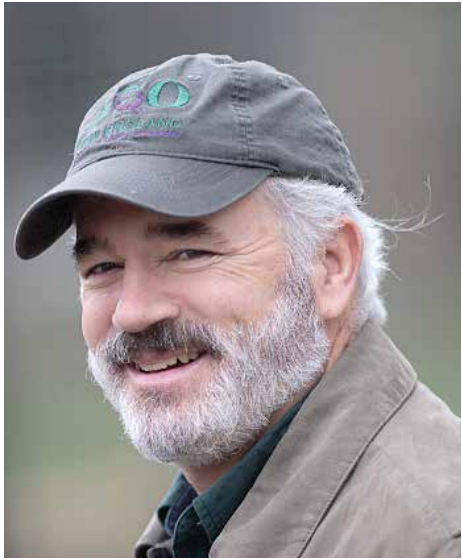
Zoo leader wants ‘delay’ in White Stadium review

The man in charge of Franklin Park Zoo is sounding the alarm on the White Stadium review process and calling on the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) to delay any approvals.

“We are not suggesting the renovations to White Stadium shouldn’t happen,” said Zoo New England President/CEO John Linehan in a six-page letter dated Jan. 31 and sent to the BPDA. “However, the Project could produce significant negative impacts on the area. These potential negative impacts have not been fully evaluated and require further study. Until these concerns are fully evaluated, approval from the BPDA would be premature. We ask the BPDA to defer consideration of the project until further studies have been conducted.”

He added, “There currently exists a lack of parking for Park users, Franklin Park Zoo visitors, and golfers.”

Linehan raises concerns about the reliance of 95 large satellite parking buses and an “undisclosed number” of shuttles from Orange Line stations. He also calls for a Massachusetts



Zoo New England President/CEO John Linehan
Franklin Park Zoo photo

Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) environmental review, usually a quite lengthy process, as well as an Article 97 open space protection law review.
– REPORTER STAFF

\$32m project along Cummins Highway set to start in April

(Continued from page 1)

equipment, introducing safer crosswalks, new street lighting, separated bike lanes, 115 new street trees, installing raised crosswalks at all side street entrances, and building a unique roundabout at the complicated Weybosset/Greenwood Street intersection.

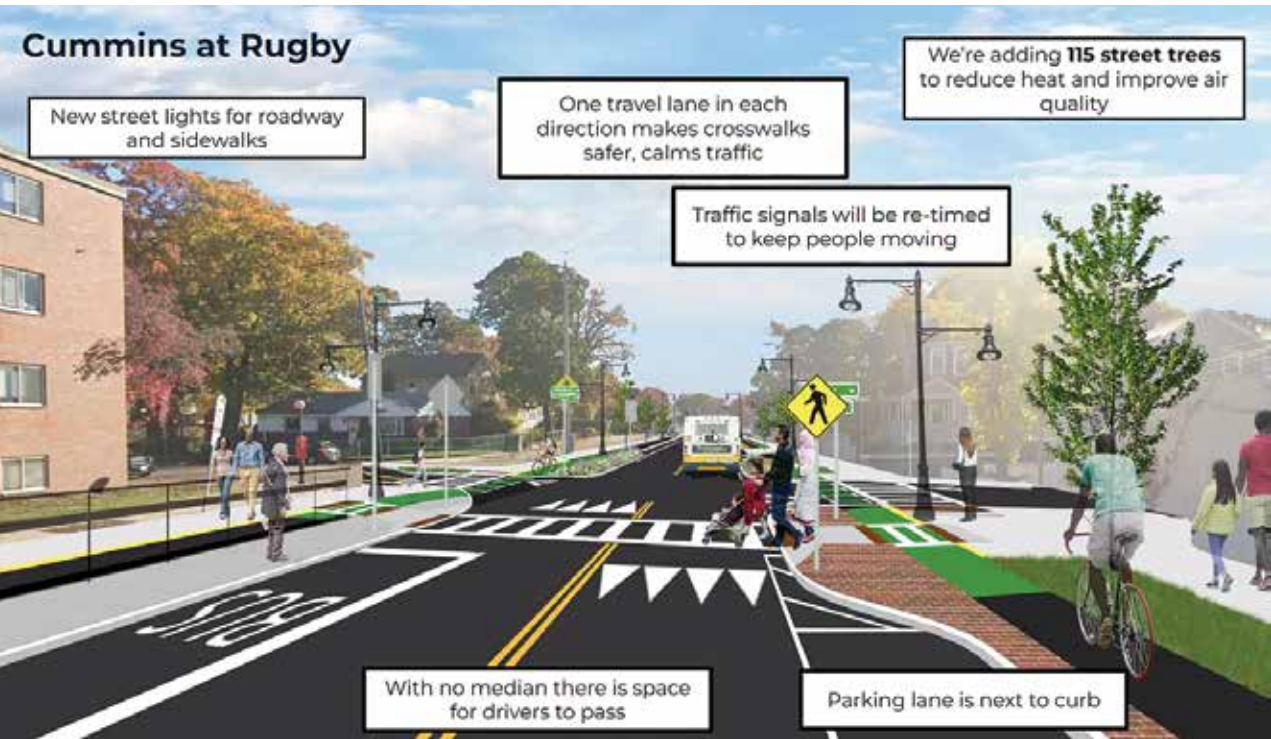
Attendees on the virtual GMNC meeting were able to see final design renderings during the discussion.

A key component will be the removal of the median strip that currently bisects the road, with a new-and-improved road going down to one lane in each direction.

“This infrastructure was built as a highway for those passing through the neighborhood. ... It was not built for the residents of Mattapan,” said Alexis. “We are rebuilding this street for generations to come—for the residents and the people that live on Cummins Highway. Mattapan has a lot of homeowners who have been here a long time and will be here in the future. This project is for you.”

Along the Cummins corridor, residents can expect to see a thinner roadway for vehicles, but brighter lighting, better sidewalks, and a bike lane built on porous materials to enhance drainage via green infrastructure. The city is stressing it will be a “tree-lined” corridor that won’t be as stark and uninviting for those using it.

There will also be raised crosswalks on each side street coming into the corridor so that drivers and cyclists



A rendering of the final design for Cummins Highway at Rugby Road, showing a thinner roadway, larger sidewalks, and raised crosswalks.

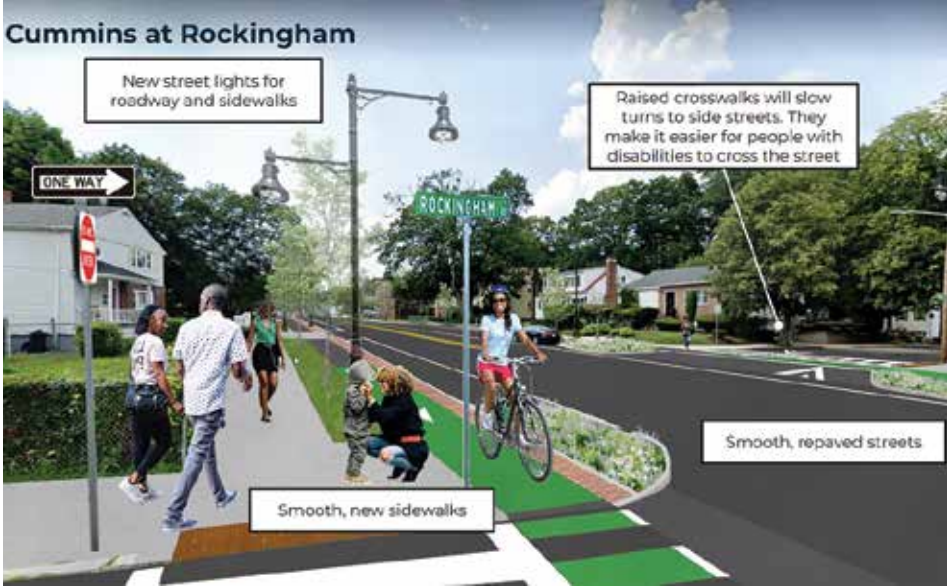
will have to slow down to enter the Cummins roadway.

“If they try to enter or exit the corridor at a high speed, they will just damage their vehicles,” said Alexis.

The project ends at Fairway Street, and the ongoing Blue Hill Avenue re-design project will pick up at that point when the eventual rehab of Mattapan Square is finished. However, Alexis said, they will keep two lanes of traffic open to and from Mattapan Square from Fairway Street.

During a pilot project in 2020 using temporary features like flex-posts and water-filled barriers, he said, the city learned that to keep traffic moving, they need those two lanes going into the Square.

“We want people to slow down in their vehicles and we want it to



At Rockingham Street, new separated bike lanes and wider pedestrian walkways with much brighter lighting will help prioritize the corridor for residents and not commuters, city officials said. Renderings courtesy City of Boston

be safer for pedestrians, but we still want to move traffic through,” he said.

The project team began working on a plan to re-design Cummins Highway in 2019 with three meetings at the Mattahunt Community

Center that did not go very well initially. That led to the pilot program in 2020 that got mixed reviews, but helped the city learn what does and doesn’t work. That was followed by exhaustive community conversa-

tions through 2021 and 2022 – with 12 detailed meetings on various subjects like traffic movements, public art, and safety for the elderly and disability community. It was the most engagement, Alexis said, he has ever seen in a city project.

From those meetings and the pilot they learned a lot, he noted. They found that drivers would use the side streets along Cummins Highway, particularly south of the corridor, as cut-throughs to avoid traffic calming. He said the city has committed to installing speed humps through its Safety Surge initiative on all those streets as an adjunct to the overall project. Similarly, they learned that the side streets on both sides of the corridor are in rough shape, with neglected roadways and, in some cases, no sidewalks. He said that after this project, or maybe during it, the city will to rebuild those streets.

One point of concern from many at the online meeting was pedestrian safety at the new roundabout planned for Weybosset/Greenfield. While that intersection will be made much easier for vehicles and cyclists, there was concern from several attendees that pedestrians at the unsig-

nalized crossings would be in danger.

“The crosswalk looks very close to the roundabout and the closeness of that pedestrian crosswalk to drivers coming off the roundabout is where I’m concerned,” said Mattapan resident Ruth Georges.

Added Gisella Soriano: “I echo the concern about the roundabout. Yield signs should be placed there absolutely....at a minimum because otherwise people are not going to yield. I’d like to get a better understanding of this.”

Lokita Jackson said she has witnessed several “horrible, horrible” accidents where drivers have hit people at unsignalized intersections on Blue Hill Avenue. She suggested yield signs with flashing lights, known as Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacons (RRFBs) that blink robustly when pedestrians are using the crosswalk.

“I go to other neighborhoods in Boston and I know I have seen these flashing lights when pedestrians are in the crosswalks,” she said.

Alexis said their analysis did not reveal a need for RRFBs on the corridor, but neighbors were adamant that they would like to see them added within or after the project.

Other pinch points identified during the GMNC meeting were the two funeral homes on the corridor, particularly the George Lopes home. Both businesses rely on Cummins Highway for parking during services. While the city is not eliminating any “legal parking spots” on the corridor, illegal parking will now become impossible.

“This is not going to work for the funeral homes,” said resident Aretha Mauge. “Agreed,” said Alexis. “George Lopes Funeral Home, they don’t currently have legal parking on Cummins Highway... They have been parking on Hollingsworth Street and illegally parking on Cummins Highway. We’re not maintaining or removing any legal parking in regard to the funeral home.”

The GMNC and the city did commit to including both funeral homes in upcoming discussions about the project and in the Construction Management Plan – which has yet to be hammered out and will determine the details and order of construction.

Alexis assured residents that the new configuration will handle traffic volumes on the corridor and will allow the 10,000 to 18,000 vehicles per day to “flow efficiently” alongside the new amenities.

ENROLLMENT FOR SEPTEMBER 2024 IS NOW OPEN Application Deadline is February 29th

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Sluggish movement on Morrissey plan gets the attention of some in Columbia-Savin Hill civic

BY TAYLOR BROKESH
REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

Concerns about the lack of progress made by a state-run commission charged with planning improvements to the Morrissey Boulevard corridor filled the air at Monday evening's meeting of the Columbia-Savin Hill Civic Association (CSHCA).

The group, which meets on the first Monday of each month, voted to create a new Government Affairs committee to track developments related to the commission, as well as other matters that could impact the neighborhood.

Jake Wachman, who is serving as state Sen. Nick Collins's designated member of the Morrissey Boulevard Commission, will head the newly formed committee.

"We want to ensure that our community's interests are represented at the city and state level," Wachman said. "We'll partner with the city and state to drive outcomes, and, if needed, engage the community to advocate for change."

During a discussion of the committee at Monday's meeting, Wachman said that the Morrissey panel, which is managed



Former city councillor Frank Baker, center, spoke during Monday's meeting of the Columbia-Savin Hill Civic Association at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Dorchester's Paul McLaughlin Center. About 25 people attended in person, while another 40 people participated virtually. Photo courtesy CSHCA

by officials who work for MassDOT, should adhere to the original 2022 state law that mandated its work and timeline. Commissioners are facing a June 1 deadline to complete its work and make recommendations to the Legislature about funding priorities, and Wachman said some commissioners are worried that not enough progress has been made to date.

"The purpose of the commission originally was to evaluate and recommend transportation and infrastructure improvements, identify short-term investments, develop a comprehensive

plan for the Morrissey Boulevard corridor, improve mobility for pedestrians, transit users, cyclists and motorists and strengthen climate resiliency at Kosciuszko Circle," Wachman said. "And so far, they've only touched on that first goal."

At the second commission meeting, held last Tuesday at UMass Boston, some in attendance expressed disappointment in the lack of progress and transparency from MassDOT. Wachman said he "took it upon himself" to gather many of the community's requests, including the

need for an interactive online portal for project discussion outside of meetings, updates to Kosciuszko Circle in the project, and 3D visualizations for future presentations of the boulevard's design, among several other recommendations.

He said he wants local legislators to press for these improvements in future commission meetings. He is also urging state officials to schedule and publicize the date and time of the next commission meeting, which is expected to be held in March, as soon as possible to increase local participation and awareness.

Last week's meeting, the second of four planned sessions, was poorly attended and came with only one week's notice to the public and to some commissioners.

"The Morrissey corridor has incredible untapped potential. Dorchester deserves an exceptional waterfront just like the rest of Boston, and our community is rich with ideas to achieve this vision," said Wachman.

Other items discussed at Monday's meeting included:

An announcement of a new Public Health Committee, which was

formed after January's discussion of water quality concerns in Savin Hill Cove. In a separate water-related matter, officials with the Boston Water and Sewer Commission came to the meeting to talk about changes coming to residential water bills. The BWSC estimates that about 60 percent of customers will see a reduction in their bills to account for the amount of square footage of impervious surfaces on customers' property. Residents can check how their bills might change by going to bwsc.org/stormwater and using their Bill Estimator tool.

The civic voted to approve a letter to the Boston Planning and Development Agency to update their language related to the city's new Squares and Streets zoning proposal, and okayed a letter asking MassDOT to publicize its schedule for graffiti removal.

Association members used the occasion to thank former city councillor Frank Baker for his longtime service to his constituents in District 3.

The next CSHCA meeting will be held on Mon., March 4. See columbiasavinhillcivic.org for more info.





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Dot man wins \$2.7m in a case against two real estate brokers

BY REPORTER STAFF
A Suffolk Superior Court jury last month concluded that two Stoughton real estate brokers took advantage of an uneducated contractor with mortgage problems to force him out of his home on Greenbrier Street in Dorchester and turn a tidy profit on the property.

In a verdict reached last month, the jury awarded Christopher St. Louis, formerly of 27 Greenbrier St., \$1.5 million in damages and \$1.2 million in interest in the suit that St. Louis first brought in 2017, two years after he signed over the house to brokers Mitra Ghobadi and Richard Fitzgerald of Stoughton in a “short sale.” The jury rejected St. Louis’s charge of conspiracy against a third broker from Jamaica Plain in a case that the Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly first reported on.

St. Louis, who left school in sixth grade, charged that Ghobadi told him that in exchange for selling her the three-family house for \$122,000, far less than it was assessed at, she would take care of his back-mortgage payments and he could stay in the house for free, doing home repairs for them until he got back on his feet, at which point she would sell the house back to him.

The three-family house had been in his ex-wife’s family for 35 years, and she still lived in one of the units, while St. Louis lived with a roommate in another, and his ex’s brother lived in the third.

St. Louis said that as part of the deal - made orally, with nothing on paper - Ghobadi agreed that the ex-wife and her brother could stay in their units for \$1,000 per month.

Instead, St. Louis said, just three months after he sold the house to Fitzgerald’s firm, at a steep discount, Fitzgerald sold the house to a Dorchester real estate firm, which was then managed by Fitzgerald’s daughter-in-law, for \$310,374.22. The deed filed with that sale was notarized just ten days after St. Louis signed over the house.

The Fitzgerald firm then sold the house in 2017 for \$650,000 after, St. Louis’s suit charged, Ghobadi had worked as a listing agent for the property.

Through the process, St. Louis charged, somebody repeatedly forged his signature on documents he never saw as part of the paperwork for the deals. Also, because he sold the house for far less than its assessed value, he suddenly owed the IRS up to \$120,000 in taxes. The IRS charge was initially recorded against the house, but somebody, St. Louis said, forged his name on a request to the IRS to make him responsible for paying it.

Not long after taking over the house, the Fitzgerald firm, which St. Louis had originally sued as well before a judge dropped it from the case before trial, ordered him and his family members out of the house and moved his stuff to a Newmarket Square self-storage place, breaking many items, including some of his nearly three decades worth of contractor tools, in the process.

In a pre-trial filing, his lawyer summed up his case for damages, including \$680,000 for the loss of the house and \$280,000 for work he says that he lost, including the value of repairs he made on the Greenbrier Street property before he was kicked out.

“Plaintiff was the victim of a foreclosure rescue scam in which Defendant Mitra Ghobadi and a team of her agents including the co-Defendants successfully conspire to buy the Plaintiff’s family home for hundreds of thousands of dollars below market value and resell it for a five hundred percent profit. The Defendant Mitra Ghobadi had an agreement with the Plaintiff that she would purchase his home and re-sell it to him once he completed various repairs. Further, the agreement required that the Plaintiff be allowed to remain in the home. The Defendant did not have any intentions in re-selling the home to the Plaintiff, as she immediately sold the home to Five Realty LLC, which was owned by her husband, Defendant Richard Fitzgerald. Further, the Defendant Mitra Ghobadi forced the Plaintiff to leave the home, discarded all of his personal items, including the tools he utilizes to make a living, and never compensated him for the improvements he made.

“The Defendants have profited financially while the Plaintiff and his family have lost their home and the tools required for the Plaintiff to make a living and continue on with his life.”

In their pre-trial statement, Ghobadi and Fitzgerald said the case was completely frivolous: “The Plaintiff had not made mortgage payments on the property in ten years. It was just a matter of time before the bank foreclosed on the property.” The jury disagreed, setting the damages before interest at \$1 million for Ghobadi and \$500,000 for her husband.

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Dot-born Khamari, a R&B prodigy, takes off on his first headlining tour

(Continued from page 1)

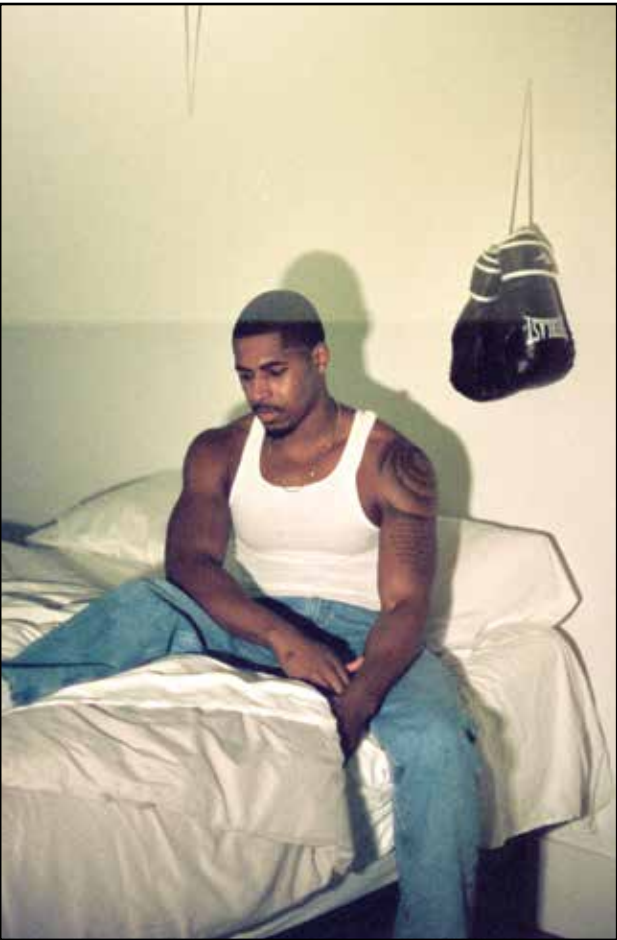
a show in Houston. He'll be traveling across the country to cities like Atlanta, New York City, and Chicago, along with his current home of LA, and then across the Atlantic to the UK. The singer is so in-demand that tickets were nearly sold out prior to the start of the tour.

At the top of the year, he was added to Spotify's 2024 R&B Rising Artists to Watch list, an unexpected and surreal experience. He's excited to share his music – including some new tunes – with fans on his first headlining tour.

"It's been a long time coming, so I'm hype," he told the *Dorchester Reporter*. "I'm ready."

Khamari sees music as an expression, and a huge part of his love for the medium stems from a genuine interest in all parts of what makes a great record. A multi-hyphenate, he is a singer, songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, and producer.

"Being able to pick up and put down different parts of musicality and putting things together in different ways, in different parts, and at different times is really interesting to me," he said. "I like one minute being hyper focused on the production and studying producers and what moves they make, and then the next minute, [studying] song-



Khamari Barnes, who performs simply as Khamari, finds inspiration in artists like Stevie Wonder, Usher, The Beatles and J.Cole. "I'm ready," he says of his first-ever headlining tour of the US and UK.

Rachel Blackman photo

writers like Billy Joel and Stevie Wonder. I just like figuring out ways to improve in that aspect."

"A Brief Nirvana" has been well-received. Not only did he have an opportunity to perform one of the record's most popular tracks, "These Four Walls," on A COLORS SHOW, but he also performed at New York's

better at kind of digesting those things and then spitting them out in your own interesting way," he said.

"I felt like it was very early for me on 'Eldorado' in terms of where I was at creatively," he said, "and how I wanted to vocalize some of the things musically. 'A Brief Nirvana' was just a step up from that."

His growth as an artist is clearly drawn, with tracks like "Doctor, My Eyes" and "A Sacred Place" expressing a vulnerability and rawness that most lovers of R&B look for. He most enjoyed working on "On My Way," a song that samples Al Green's "Love and Happiness" and paints a picture of his journey to LA– one where he questions if he's running "to or from" as he works toward love, happiness, and success in the City of Angels.

"Production-wise, I felt like that was when I was in my pocket," he said. "That's when I felt like I was really confident in terms of my production and my level of taste."

In a 2023 interview with New Wave Magazine, he described "A Brief Nirvana" as "a moment without all the things that make you anxious." Now, as he treks along his headlining tour, he hopes to not only evoke this sense of calmness but also curate

an authentic moment to truly experience the album.

"It's like we're all going through those emotions that we went through when we were listening to it on our headphones, but live," he said. "It's just like a present way of going through those experiences, whether it's like moving to LA, losing relationships, growing through relationships; all the high and low points on that album."

To young people from his home neighborhood chasing big dreams, he advises them to expand their horizons as much as possible– even if it means leaving the familiar behind for new experiences.

"I think it's really im-

portant to not just get lost in doing the same thing or seeing the same people. If you want more for yourself, you have to find it– no one's going to hand it to you," he said. "Make sure that you're growing your taste and growing your palate in terms of experiences."

Though he would describe "Yesterday" by The Beatles as the soundtrack to the current phase of his life, it has been through the continual pursuit of tomorrows that the singer has seen successes he would not have imagined a few years ago. At times, he misses that East Coast energy, but this Dorchester kid is taking the world by storm– one melody at a time.

City-led Black History Month events include parties at Florian, Chez Vous

Mayor Wu and the City's Equity & Inclusion Cabinet are providing various ways that residents, families, and visitors can celebrate Black History Month across the city. The list includes a series of programs, some of which will take place in Dorchester, inspired by the theme of "African Americans and the Arts."

Said Wu: "Boston's Black communities are foundational to the fabric of our city, and we

honor their contributions during Black History Month and throughout the year."

While programs across the city began on Tuesday, the first in Dorchester will take place this Friday from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Florian Hall, where The Black Employees Network-sponsored event will connect Black City employees and leadership to celebrate the achievements of the Black diaspora.

Next week, families are invited to roller skate to '90s music at Chez Vous Skating Rink on Sat., Feb. 17, from noon to 3 p.m. The Melanin Roll encourages those interested in attending to dress in '90s clothing and costumes.

The skating rink will hold a second event on Feb. 22 for children 17 and under. Here, kids can skate around and play trivia with friends and family from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The final event in Dorchester will take place at Prince Hall Lodge on Feb. 24 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. This event, hosted by the Mayor's Office of Veteran Affairs, will celebrate and honor Black veterans and share awards with deserving veterans at an appreciation brunch.

More information about these events, as well as those throughout the city, can be found at [boston.gov](https://www.boston.gov).

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Outdoor Play Spaces Project at Bridge Boston Charter School in Boston, MA

The Bridge Boston Charter School in Massachusetts invites sealed proposals from Contractors for the Outdoor Play Spaces at the Bridge Boston Charter School in Boston, Massachusetts. The work includes but is not limited to installation of play equipment, as well as resilient safety and artificial turf surfacing for two outdoor play spaces at the Bridge Boston Charter School. General Bids will be accepted until 2:00PM on Friday March 1, 2024. The estimated cost of the work is \$450,000.

This project is being electronically bid (e-bid) and all bids shall be submitted online at www.projectdog.com. Hard copy bids will not be accepted by the Awarding Authority. Tutorials and instructions are available online at www.projectdog.com. For assistance, contact Projectdog, Inc., at (978) 499-9014.

Bidders may obtain bid documents online at www.projectdog.com starting Friday, February 9, 2024 after 11:00 AM by entering the project code 859930 in the project locator box and selecting "Acquire Documents". New users must first select Sign up to create an online account.

A pre-bid conference will be held for all interested parties on-site Thursday, February 15, 2024 at 11:00AM. Meet at 435 Warren Street, Boston, MA 02119. Attendance at this pre-bid conference is strongly recommended for parties submitting a bid.

If you have any questions, please contact Nicole Dorn at ndorn@bridgebostoncs.org or 617-515-6183.

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BPS begins free admit program into major cultural institutions

By **OLON KELLEHER**
WBUR

When Boston Public School students and their families got free admission to several of Boston’s cultural institutions last Sunday (Feb. 4), it marked the launch of a pilot program called BPS Sundays, which will run on the first two Sundays of each month through August.

BPS and the city of Boston have partnered with the Museum of Fine Arts, the Institute of Contemporary Art, the Boston Children’s Museum, the Museum of Science, the Franklin Park Zoo, and the New England Aquarium,

along with private funders.

Check-in appeared to run smoothly on day one at the New England Aquarium. A family of four approached the outdoor ticketing booth in front of the Atlantic harbor seals’ habitat. They handed over a printed confirmation of their timed-entry reservation, which they made using a BPS student ID number that was sent out to parents via email. With no money exchanged, they received a pass that allowed entry for the student and three guests.

The more the merrier, according to Anne Clark, partnership liaison for

BPS. She emphasized the importance of family support in a child’s education. “One of the goals of this program is connecting to families as fellow partners in their students’ education,” she said. “We always say that the schools work in partnership with BPS families, and we hope that families taking advantage of this opportunity and in being part of students’ learning will enhance that partnership as we move forward.”

The ICA handled their check-in process slightly differently, asking walk-up visitors to fill out a form on an iPad that gathered information like the student’s name, school, number of family

members and whether the visitors would like to receive email communications from the ICA.

Louis Fichera, his wife and two children visited the ICA for the first time on Sunday.

“We’ve been living in Boston for a while,” he said. “We have wanted to see the ICA forever. I guess we never had the chance because it’s always busy with kids and everything. Then we learned about the BPS program, and we were like, ‘Hey, we were waiting for a sign and probably this is the sign. Let’s go. Let’s check it out.’”

Fichera said his 5-year-old son Matteo has an interest in art and design that the family hopes

to cultivate by going to places like the ICA. “More generally, you know, I think it’s nice to go around to museums,” he said, also noting the effect it has on himself. “I like to think it makes me a better human being.”

Colette Randall is the chief communications and marketing officer at the ICA, which has several accessibility programs, including free youth admission for visitors 18 and under. “A major part of the ICA’s outreach to our audiences falls under a strategy that we call ‘radical welcome,’ which means that we really strive to remove barriers to participation and for any person to come to the ICA and feel a sense of discovery, a sense of feeling a part of this community that we are creating around contemporary art,” she said. Outside of the BPS

Sundays program, all visitors 18 and under can visit the ICA at no charge, and if they are a youth member (a program that’s also free), they get a free plus one.

On the program’s first day, 1,902 students and family members visited the six participating institutions. For many of the kids and parents, they discovered someplace new; according to Boston Children’s Museum, 40 percent of the students who visited there said it was their first time.

The museums will share attendance numbers with the city to evaluate expanding the program beyond its current planned run through August.

This article was originally published on Feb. 5 by WBUR, 90.9FM. The Reporter and WBUR share content through a media partnership.

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Sanchez, Anaceilys	Taveras-Corona, Juan C	Daniel, Silva A		65 Loma Rd	Mattapan	01/17/24	830,000	
Tietjen, Rhonda A	Tietjen, Thomas	Haley, Jessica	Haley, Brendan	51 Stow Rd	Mattapan	01/16/24	725,000	
Fernandez, Francisco	Fernandez, Jose	Frye, David		8 Faunce Rd	Mattapan	01/17/24	371,000	
Ozzella, Matthew		Oconnell, Matthew J	Oconnell, Maxine	22 Tolman St #2	Dorchester	01/17/24	539,000	
Mccoy, Christine		Rist, Timothy D	Rist, Alysa L	94 Alban St #1	Dorchester	01/17/24	588,000	
Leber, Alexandra S		Sullivan, Riley O		834 Dorchester Ave #2	Dorchester	01/16/24	637,500	
Chester, Allison F	Cooney, Travis P	Mccarthy, Andrew L	Mccarthy, Julie A	36 Grampian Way #36	Dorchester	01/18/24	1,264,000	
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Caregiver charged with draining elderly client’s bank account and forcing her home into foreclosure

A personal care assistant (PCA) for a 95-year-old woman in Dorchester faces charges that she withdrew \$120,000 from her client’s bank account, stole \$30,000 in rent payments from a tenant in the woman’s house, and then forced the house

into foreclosure by taking out a reverse mortgage on it.

The Suffolk County District Attorney’s office reports that Dominique Emmanuel, 41, of Brockton, faces arraignment on Feb. 22 in Dorchester Municipal Court on one

count of medical assistance fraud by provider and larceny over \$1,200 by a single scheme, following an investigation by Boston Police, the state Attorney General’s office and the federal Department of Homeland Security.

Researchers uncover disparities in Massachusetts arrest records

Arrests of young people dropped by two-thirds in Massachusetts over roughly the past decade, but people of color made up an increasing share of those arrests in the same span, according to new research.

In an analysis of federal data, researchers with the Emerging Adult Justice Program at Columbia University’s Justice Lab said they found a pair of noteworthy trends in the Bay State that moved in

opposite directions between 2013 and 2022.

The number of arrests of Massachusetts residents under the age of 21 dropped 67 percent over that span, researchers found. At the same time, racial inequalities deepened, with Black and Hispanic or Latino young people representing a larger share of arrests in 2022 than in 2013.

“We are calling this the ‘Good News/Bad News’ study, because the arrest

reductions show that crime is decreasing and more young people are thriving in our communities,” said Lael E.H. Chester, director of the program. “The representation of Black and Hispanic/Latinx youth rose, however, and research suggests that’s not because young people of different races are behaving differently; it’s because our systems treat them differently.”

How the criminal justice

system treats young adults has increasingly emerged as a point of debate for policymakers. The Massa-

chusetts Supreme Judicial Court last month ruled that it is unconstitutional to sentence defendants

to life without parole for crimes they committed when they were 18, 19, or 20.

– REPORTER STAFF

US growth lifts confidence of Massachusetts employers

By CHRIS LISINSKI
STATE HOUSE
NEWS SERVICE

Massachusetts businesses kicked off the new year with a sunny disposition as business confidence among employers surveyed by Associated Industries of Massachusetts (AIM) rose in January to an 11-month high. The business trade group attributed the boost to national economic growth, inflation that has cooled off from past levels, and the chance that the Federal Reserve will reduce interest rates. AIM’s business confidence index, which is measured on a 100-point scale where a score of 50 denotes the line between pessimism and optimism, increased 0.9 points last month to 53.5. That’s a touch above the rating one year earlier and matches the high recorded in February 2023.

“The US economy grew at a surprisingly robust pace in the second half of 2023, outpacing the economies of Europe and other developed countries,” said Sara Johnson, chair of AIM’s Board of Economic Advisors.

“Businesses expect more subdued US growth in 2024 amid multiple geopolitical risks. Thus, Massachusetts employers are becoming more cautious in their hiring decisions.”

The index, based on a survey of more than 140 employers, has been close to or above the midpoint for the past year, dipping

just below the 50-mark in May and June and again in September.

While the overall business confidence index was several points into optimistic territory, AIM said January’s results “highlighted a growing confidence gap between manufacturing companies and non-manufacturers.”

Among manufacturers, the score slid deeper into pessimistic territory, falling 3.4 points in January to 46.4. The score for all other companies rose three points to 57.

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To all interested persons:
A Petition for S/A - Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Marilyn Johnson 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: Marilyn Johnson of Dorchester, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/05/2024.

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.
Date: January 31, 2024
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate

Published: February 8, 2024

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
SUFFOLK PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
24 NEW CHARDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304
Docket No. SU24P0213GD
IN THE MATTER OF:
SALVATORE ABBRUZZESE of DORCHESTER, MA RESPONDENT

Alleged Incapacitated Person
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Mass. Dept. Of Mental Health of Westborough, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Salvatore Abbruzzese is in need of a Guardian and requesting that (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond.

The petition asks the Court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 03/04/2024. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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

Witness, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.
Stephanie Everett
Register of Probate
Date: January 31, 2024

Published: February 8, 2024

AVIZU DI AUDIÉNSIA PÚBLIKU

Boston Redevelopment Authority (Autoridadi di Rikualifikason di Boston), ta izerse atividadi komu *Boston Planning & Development Agency* (“BPDA” – Ajénsia di Planiaméntu & Dizenvolviméntu di Boston), ta aviza ma el sa ta ben rializa un Audiénsia Públiku virtual, kinta-fera, 15 di febreru di 2024, 5:30 di tardi, transmitidu pa *Boston City TV* (Kanal 26 di Xfinity, Kanal 13 di RCN, y Kanal 962 di Verizon Fios) y transmitidu au vivu na boston.gov, pa analiza Pididu di Aprovason di akordu ku Kapítulu 121A, Sekson 18C di Leis Jeral, pa Prujétu di Kapítulu 121A di 90 Cushing Avenue, pa konsentiméntu pa forma Dos parseria limitadu di Rikualifikason Urbanu, ku objetivu di rializa Prujétu di 90 Cushing Avenue, konxedu pa *St. Mary’s Center for Women and Children*, aprizentadu pa *90 Cushing North Four Limited Partnership* y *90 Cushing North Nine Limited Partnership* na BPDA, pa autorizason y aprovason di un prujétu di akordu ku Kapítulu 121A di Leis Jeral di Massachusetts y Kapítulu 652 di Leis di 1960, tudu dos ku kes alterason ki fazedu, pa Prujétu di 90 Cushing Avenue na zóna di Dorchester, Boston. Ménbrus di públiku pode partisipa n’es Audiénsia Públiku, é sô inskreve na: <https://bit.ly/BPDAFebruary2024BoardMeeting>
Bu pode konsulta Prujétu Prupostu na siginti *link*: <https://www.bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/st-marys-center-for-women-and-children>

Teresa Polhemus, Diretora Izekutiva/Sekretária,
Boston Redevelopment Authority

THÔNG BÁO VỀ BUỔI ĐIỀU TRẦN CÔNG CỘNG

Cơ Quan Tái Phát Triển Boston (Boston Redevelopment Authority, tên hoạt động là Cơ Quan Hoạch Định & Phát Triển Boston (Boston Planning & Development Agency, hay “BPDA”), đã gửi thông báo họ sẽ tổ chức một Buổi Điều Trần Công Cộng ảo vào ngày thứ Năm, 15 tháng Hai, 2024 lúc 5:30 chiều, được truyền hình Boston City TV (Kênh Xfinity 26, Kênh RCN 13 và Kênh Verizon Fios 962) và được phát trực tiếp trên boston.gov, để xem xét Đơn Xin Phê Duyệt theo Luật Chung Chương 121A, Đoạn 18C cho Dự Án 90 Cushing Avenue Chương 121A, để đồng ý thành lập Hai công ty hợp tác hữu hạn Tái Phát Triển Đô Thị cho mục đích thực hiện Dự Án 90 Cushing Ave, còn gọi là St. Mary’s Center for Women and Children, do 90 Cushing North Four Limited Partnership và 90 Cushing North Nine Limited Partnership đệ trình lên BPDA để xin phép và phê duyệt một dự án theo Luật Chung của Massachusetts, Chương 121A và Đạo luật năm 1960, Chương 652, cả hai đều đã được sửa đổi, cho Dự Án 90 Cushing Avenue trong khu láng giềng Dorchester ở Boston. Công chúng có thể tham gia Buổi Điều Trần Công Cộng này bằng cách ghi danh tại: <https://bit.ly/BPDAFebruary2024BoardMeeting>
Có thể xem Đề Án Đề Nghị này theo đường nối sau đây: <https://www.bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/st-marys-center-for-women-and-children>

Teresa Polhemus, Giám Đốc Điều Hành/Thư Ký,
Cơ Quan Tái Phát Triển Boston

Rich history a gift to 21st century members as Polish American Citizens Club hits 100

By SETH DANIEL
NEWS EDITOR

The Polish American Citizens Club on Boston Street held its annual installation of officers for the first time since 2019 last Wednesday, Jan. 31. The session marked a continuation of the trend toward bringing back old traditions that had slipped away over time at the club.

The club building in the heart of Dorchester's Polish Triangle is now 84 years old but the founding of the organization is technically 100 years old, the result of a group of Polish American citizens coming together to form a neighborhood club in the winter of 1924. It was officially incorporated in 1928.

Due to the Covid pandemic, the club had held off the dinners beginning in 2020, but the tradition had only been revived in 2017 in a nod to the past when the event each January was a hot time on the social calendar in Dorchester, drawing multitudes to the various club functions.

"Since the dawn of the club in the 1920s, they always had huge installation events with big politicians coming as well, and hundreds would come in the 1930s and 1940s," said Erica Manczuk Stocks, the club secretary. "In 2017, we decided to revive it and bring it back. It might not be as big as it was in the past, but it is a lot of fun."

President Stasia Kacprzak and club members have put a great amount of effort into reviving the club in its membership, and in its physical appearance. The renovated bar area is now top-notch, as is the

function room upstairs. Manczuk Stocks said they have been reaching out to long-time members, most especially Polish Americans.

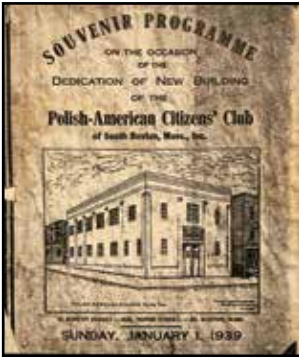
"It's the second- and third-generation Polish Americans we're really trying to reach because many want to reconnect with their heritage and learn more about Polish culture and history," she said.

Ten years after the founding, a group of Polish World War I veterans banded together to buy an old shoe factory on Boston Street and built the club's home with community contributions in buying "bricks." At its height, the club boasted more than 700 regular members.

Of international note, the club was central to the defection of close to 30 Polish sailors who had been on fishing vessels in Boston Harbor in January and December of 1988 at the height of massive worker strikes in communist Poland. A few of them jumped over the side into harbor waters while others took flight while on shore leave.

They gained refuge at the club and from there they began the process of seeking freedom in America. Some of the sailors, club members recalled, remained within the club's walls for some time, sleeping in the basement.

Officers installed on Wednesday were Kacprzak, president; Eric Basile, vice president; Manczuk Stocks, secretary; Peter Dziedzic, treasurer; and directors Joanna Curry, Dawn Morris, Jay Judas, Keith Stocks, and Steven Poftak.



The souvenir program from the dedication of the club building on Jan. 1, 1939, on Boston Street – 20 years or so before the Expressway was built.



Rev. George Zebrowski, of Our Lady of Czestochowa in South Boston, gives the blessing for 2024.



President Stasia Kacprzak took the oath of office from Vice President Eric Basile during the 2024 installation of officers at the Polish American Citizens Club in the Polish Triangle on Jan. 31. The Club has revived the installation dinner tradition, a celebration that at one time attracted some 1,000 people to the club.



Taking the oath of office were directors Joanna Curry and Steve Poftak; Eric Basile, vice president; Erica Manczuk Stocks, secretary; and directors Keith Stocks and Dawn Morris.



Councillor John FitzGerald, state Rep. John Moran, President Stasia Kacprzak, Council President Ruthzee Louijeune, and Secretary Erica Manczuk Stocks.



Pattie McCormack, state Rep. John Moran, City Councillors Erin Murphy and Ed Flynn, Linda Zablocki, and Councillors John FitzGerald and Enrique Pepen.



Secretary Erica Manczuk Stocks with long-time member Walter Crchocki.



From DJ's Market, Kyle Sunter, Dawn Morris, Alina Morris, Dan Morris, and Eric Warsaw.



Linda Frontczak, Stasia and Bogdan Kacprzak, and Mirek Frontczak.



Andy Warot, of Veterans Post 37, Rev. George Zebrowski, Maria Seasiewicz, and Chris Planeta.

Seth Daniel photos



BGCD & Martin Richard Foundation Host Challenger Sports Winter Basketball Series: See details below.

CONNECT THE DOT:
BGCD & Martin Richard Foundation Host Challenger Sports Winter Basketball Series: As a part of our Winter programming, Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester partners with the Martin Richard Foundation for inclusive Challenger Basketball Sports. There are two sessions offered on Sunday mornings which run through the end of February. Our staff and volunteers have a great time playing while learning important skills of the game. The Challenger Sports program also offers Soccer, Swimming and Baseball throughout the year. We would also like to thank the Boston Police Department's Bureau of Community Engagement for their ongoing support of the program as well as all the Volunteer "Buddies" who assist the Athletes. For more information on Inclusion programming at BGCD, please contact Erin Ferrara at eferrara@bgcdorchester.org.

FIND OUT WHAT'S INSIDE:
Sponsorships Now Available - BGCD to Host New England Women's Leadership Awards: BGCD will host this year's New England Women's Leadership Awards (NEWLA) at the Seaport Hotel, Boston on May 20, 2024! The event is a celebration of the remarkable achievements and contributions of women in our region. We use this platform to foster collaboration, mentorship, and the advancement of women as well as provide role models for our youth at BGCD. This year's theme is "Inspire Excellence" which we strive to do each and every day at our Clubs through our programming and partnerships. If you would like to become a sponsor, please contact Patty Lamb at plamb@bgcdorchester.org. Sponsorship info can also be found at www.bgcdorchester.org/newla. Make sure to look out for our 2024 honoree announcement soon!



Sponsorships Now Available - BGCD to Host New England Women's Leadership Awards: See details below.

DID YOU KNOW:
Quest Diagnostics Holds Art Supply Drive for BGCD Fine Arts Program: Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester would like to thank our friends at Quest Diagnostics for hosting an Art Supply Drive for our Fine Arts program. The Drive was organized by the Quest African-American Business Leaders Employee Business Network. Thank you to all the employees who participated and helped deliver so many wonderful items to use in our Fine Arts Program. With your support, our members can learn an appreciation for artistic expression that keeps them engaged and eager to come back for more. Is your company or organization interested in supporting the members at BGCD? For more information on getting involved with BGCD, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Macy Pierce at mpierce@bgcdorchester.org or visit bgcdorchester.org/volunteer.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Cupid's Disco Inclusion Dance
February 9
*More info: eferrara@bgcdorchester.org

President's Day - BGCD Closed
February 19

Elevate Youth Cross-Country Skiing
February 23rd
*Pre-registration required

Black History Month Living Museum
@ Walter Denney Youth Center
February 29

Winter Dance Showcase
March 8

617.288.7120 | 1135 Dorchester Ave. | www.bgcdorchester.org



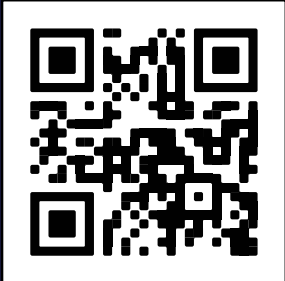
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RECENT OBITUARIES



DUNSON, Lenore, 56, of Mattapan. Daughter to the late Mr. Perry and Mrs. Patricia Dunson. She worked as a paralegal, then relocated to Connecticut to accept a state job. She attended Blaine’s School of Hairdressing and became a professional hairdresser. She is preceded in death by her parents Mr. Perry and Mrs. Patricia Dunson. Lenore is survived by two brothers, Bernard Dunson and Kelvin Dunson, and one sister, Karen Dunson: a host of nieces, cousins, aunts, uncles, and three godchildren.



FEENEY, Edward “Eddie” “Eamon”, 63, of Dennis Port, formerly of Dorchester. Husband of Ann M. (Dillane) Feeney. Son of Mamie T. and the late Edward J. Feeney. Brother of Kevin (Dale), Margaret Kershaw (Paul), Sean (Christina), Peter (Patti), and the late Anne Marie. Eddie is also survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins, dear friends, and his dog Max. Please consider making

a donation in memory of Eddie to the National Kidney Foundation or to the Cancer Center at Massachusetts General Hospital.



ITRATO, Joseph A., 76, of Dorchester. Husband of Julia (Berchtold) Itrato. Brother of Gertrude “Chickie” Daly and her husband Arthur of Dorchester. Son of the late Benjamin and Mildred (Rizzo) Itrato. Also survived by many cousins and his auntie Margie. Joseph was predeceased by a large family. Please consider making a donation in memory of Joseph to St. Martin de Porres Parish (St. Brendan’s Church) 15 Rita Rd., Dorchester, MA 02122.



JAMES, Anne M. (Hughes) of Dorchester. Mother of Stephen H. James of Toronto, Canada. “Ima” of 1. Daughter of the late Gerald F. and Helen M. (McColgan) Hughes. Sister of Gerald F. Hughes, Kathleen A. Manna, Theresa C. Conroy, Stephen P. Hughes, Christine F. Burke, Michael R. Hughes, Bernadette M. Connolly, M. Laurette Hughes, Joseph

C. Hughes, Francis X. Hughes, Peter A. Hughes, and the late Mary Ellen Burke and John J. Hughes. Survived by many nieces and nephews. Donations in Anne’s memory may be made to the Alzheimer’s Association at act.alz.org



MCDONOUGH, Paul F. 63, of Rhode Island, born in Dorchester and raised in Milton. He was an Engineer/Steam Operator for Clark-Cutler McDermott in Franklin. Paul was predeceased by his father Paul L. McDonough. He is survived by his mother Mary McDonough, loving partner Lynne Kulsch, siblings Janice (Marianne) McDonough, Karen (Alan) McGrath, Joe (Kellie) McDonough, Brian (Shauna) McDonough, Kristen (Mike) Phinney.

MULKERRIN, Bridget in West Roxbury, formerly of Dorchester and Callowfeenish, Car-na, Co. Galway, Ireland. Daughter of the late Peter and Margaret (Connolly) Mulkerrin. Sister of Winifred Faherty, Anne, Margaret, Peter and John Mulkerrin and the late Mary McGoldrick, Morgan and Thomas Mulkerrin. Aunt of many nieces and nephews. Donations in memory of Bridget may be made to Catholic Charities, 275 West Broadway, South Boston, MA 02127.

REDDICK, Brenda C., 79, of Dorchester, born in Bluefield, West Virginia to Samuel Hairston and Ethel (McDowell) Hairston. Former wife of Arthur L. Cain. She later married Sgt. Paul Reddick. She worked for the Boston School Department as a teacher’s aide, Daycare Centers as an assistant with the children and she worked for the MBTA driving



buses around the Boston area. She is predeceased by her son Arthur L. Cain (Sherry Cain) of Atlanta, GA and daughter Sandra D. Cain. Brenda is survived by her brother Delano Hairston of Georgia, her daughters Cartrenia Cain-Simon (William B. Simon) and Wanda Cain-Minsy (Fereando Minsy) both of Boston; 10 grandchildren and a host of great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.

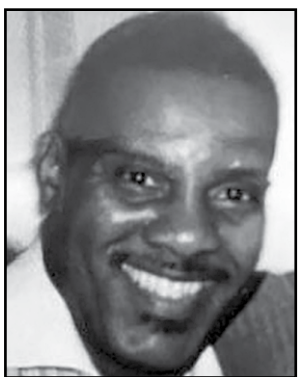


SAIA, Paul J. Jr., 89, of Dorchester. Husband of the late Sally M. (Dehm) Saia; father of Michael Saia and his fiancée, Sharlene Wulleman, Mark Saia and David Saia and his wife, Dianne, and also his daughter, Michelle; grandfather of 3; and brother of Kenneth Saia. Contributions may be made in his memory to Care Dimensions, 75 Sylvan St., Danvers, MA 01923.

SPACCO, Francis James, 99, (BFD Retired). Born in Dorchester, Frank was the son of the late James and Concettina (Stringi) Spacco. He found love twice, first with Gladys (Bergstrom, d. 1998), and then with his wife Ruth (Nason, d. 2019). He was predeceased by his son Steven, his daughter Susan, his son Francis Jr., his daughter Mary, his grandson



Eric, and his brothers Paul, Joseph, Sylvester, Rocky, Louis, and Salvatore. He is survived by his sister Marie Kempton, his son Walter and his wife Sharon of Maryland, and his daughter Cathy and her husband Kenneth of Florida. Grandfather to 5, great-grandfather to 8, and also leaves two great great-grandsons. World War II US Navy veteran.



TALLEY, Alfred George, 79, of Dorchester and formerly of Georgia. He was preceded in death by his father, Arthur Curtis Talley, and mother, Morabell Alexander Talley. He was as a Computer Program Analyst for Converse, Gillette, MFS, Stone & Webster. Alfred also started a ServiceMaster franchise. He leaves his wife Hattie, his sons Trevor and Arthur, his daughters Sandra (Dallas) and Kathy, and was preceded in death by his son Ronney. Brother of Alice, twin Alfreta (William) and Arnez, brother Arthur, Jr (Jackie), and Charles Earl Talley (Jer-alene) who preceded him in death. He leaves to cherish many nephews and nieces, his many grandchildren, and great grandchildren. US Army veteran, Vietnam.

WALSH, Margaret “Mary” (McCarrick), 84, of Dorchester, native



of Coolbock, Riverstown, Co. Sligo, Ireland. Daughter of the late John and Maggie (Jinks) McCarrick. Wife of the late Martin “Matty” Walsh. Mother of Margaret M. “Peggy” and her husband Christopher Carroll, Barbara A. Walsh, and Kathleen T. Walsh, all of Dorchester, and the late Una Connolly. Mother-in-law of Michael Connolly of West Roxbury. Nana of 4. Sister of Benny McCarrick, Bridie Fallon, Rosie and her husband Richard Hunter, Patrick and his wife Mary McCarrick, and the late John McCarrick, Jimmy McCarrick, and Kathleen Horkan. She is also survived by many sisters and brothers-in-law, nieces, and nephews. Donations in Mary’s memory may be made to Boston Catholic TV at catholicstv.org


WINCHESTER, Charles C. “Chuck” III, 61 of Randolph, formerly of Milton. US Marine Corps veteran. Father of Michael Goggin of Stoughton. Son of Janet M. (Lyons) Winchester of Milton and the late Charles Clayton Winchester, Jr. Chuck is also survived by his siblings Christine Winchester of Braintree, Mark Winchester and his wife Jacci of Colchester, Vermont, Joan Sachs and her husband Jeffrey of Marblehead, Stephen Winchester of Dorchester and Matthew Winchester and his husband Russell Pierce of New Orleans, Louisiana. Chuck also leaves behind several nieces and nephews, many aunts, uncles and cousins and several life-long friends. Donations may be made to Father Bill’s & MainSpring, 430 Belmont Street, Brockton, MA 02301.

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Contact the office for information on the cost of burial needs, memorial benches and memorial trees. The Cemetery office is open Monday – Friday 8:00 to 5:00, and Saturday 8:00 to noon. The Cemetery grounds are open year round 7:00 am to sunset – weather permitting.

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LEGAL NOTICE

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THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE & FAMILY COURT
SUFFOLK PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
24 NEW CHARDON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02114
617-788-8300

CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME
Docket No. SU22C0280CA
IN THE MATTER OF:
ELIJAH MALIK CORBIN IRVING
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Elijah Malik Corbin Irving of Boston, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:
Solaris Iilhi Yemoya

IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Suffolk Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/01/2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
Witness, HON. BRIAN J. DUNN, First Justice of this Court.
Date: January 29, 2024
Stephanie L. Everett, Esq.
Register of Probate
Published: February 8, 2024



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| Danvers | Milton | Westborough |
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